

Teaching Tactics

Karl Dewazian

- ❖ Tactics begin with these words: “ ball in flight look left and right.” Players must learn to read the game.
- ❖ Fullback role model like William Floyd from 49ers who simply runs over people is wrong for our players. We see in our soccer games where fullbacks are stood in the back and told if it comes down field kick it! When we call them defenders this creates the mentality of only playing without ball.
- ❖ Karl suggests you call fullbacks “backs” - those who when they look back and just see the keeper. Their responsibilities are: 1) when my team gets ball I become attacking back who is cautious in attack because if beat they have a 1v1 with the keeper, 2) if the opponents have the ball the back becomes a defending back who is cautious in defense, staying between ball and goal.
- ❖ If I look back and see a team mate and look forward and see a teammate then I am a midfielder who can take some chances. I become an attacking midfielder when we have the ball. When the opponent has the ball, I become a defending mid.
- ❖ Forwards can see only the goal when they look forward. They need to take risks to do anything and everything they can to score when we have the ball. When the ball is lost they become defending forwards who take the most risks to win ball back.
- ❖ **Stop Light Soccer** - Karl labeled 1/3s of field red (D 1/3), yellow (mid), and green (O 1/3) - , in red zone stop being fancy, in the yellow zone cautiously defend or attack, and in the Green zone any goes.
- ❖ A1 is attacker no. 1 with the ball is to go **APE** – A- attack, P- pass the ball, E-explode
- ❖ A2 (support) – **SOS** (help) – **S**print or **S**ideon means be onside and face ball, **O**- one touch, release ball into space for A1, **S**- support

Alan Maher

- ❖ Both Alan and Karl had recently worked with Dutch Ajax youth coaches.
- ❖ Bill Parcels said you must possess the ball, avoid fouls and penalties, and play to win. We can do the same in soccer.
- ❖ Dutch feel that technique must be in place before tactics instruction is began.
- ❖ You need to develop players with lots of options tactically in many different situations.
- ❖ Player needs a variety of moves for dribbling and driving to goal.
- ❖ Young players have great difficulty with 1v1 – can help solve by adding a neutral player to games or drills. You should have lots of contests with numbers up near the ball.
- ❖ The neutral is restricted from being marked, restricted from scoring, identified with a special colored vest, and rotated to rest.
- ❖ 2 player patterns:
 1. begin with dribble and square pass. Players should learn to receive the ball across their body with inside of foot, and pass with either inside of far foot or outside of far foot. It is important to stress the basics.
 2. dribble pass to player on side and overlap
 3. receive and shield
 4. take over dribble
 5. fake take over
 6. pass and over lap
- ❖ For 3 player patterns do a lot of work with 2 players with a forward player to play the ball to. Suggested the rule that a player making up pass making a run forward and the ball never being passed back to same player. Square support should be behind ball.
- ❖ Move on to 4 player combinations and then to 5 player.
- ❖ Players should create triangles of support for ball all over the field and their support positions should zig zag up the field (no vertical line up field should go thru two players).
- ❖ Alan suggested training in wing groups and a central player group instead of back group, mid group, and forwards. This is especially true for shadow play.
- ❖ Establish pass patterns like short, short, long.

- ❖ Alan's training rules – 1) make it work, 2) make it better/harder (add restrictions of space or touches), 3) introduce opposition.
- ❖ Must stay at a 2 offensive player to 1 defender ratio in all drills for u10 and below.
- ❖ Must have success without opposition before introducing opposition!
- ❖ Karl discussed shadow training in vertical channels. When the ball is played down right channel the mid needs to receive with right foot.