

Players Attributes

In this article I would like to talk about what sort of attributes players need to play effectively in certain positions.

There are a lot of people who wonder what club scouts may be looking for when watching the games.

Most of these attributes will be relevant to older players. Coaches and parents should try to be realistic as to whether the children you are working with are old enough to carry out the skills and techniques.

If you do work with younger players it will give an idea of certain things they can look to work on as they progress and become more experienced players.

1. Defenders

Moving towards "own" goal, control the ball and turn to pass out of trouble or kick clear.

Volleying a pass or clearance over their shoulder.

Intercept a pass cleanly or change that move into a tackle.

Tackle from the front or from the side with or without a slide.

Pass accurately "down the line", long and short.

Pass "outside to in" safely and deceptively.

Understand the principles and the practice of marking, tracking and covering.

Compete to head the ball from positions to the side of or from behind opponents.

2. Midfield Players

Receive, control and turn with the ball while shielding it effectively.

Lay off first time passes backwards and to the side with accuracy and "touch".

Aerial control and second touch pass or shot, volley or half volley.

Shooting with accuracy and power.

Deceptive and accurate ground passing.

Long passing with high accuracy.

Pass interception.

Understanding forward and defensive responsibilities and appreciation of counter attacking possibilities.

3. Strikers (Central)

Facing own goal, with a feint, control and turn to shoot, or pass or run the ball.

Facing own goal, control in the air and turn or lay ball off, a back pass.

Facing own goal, lay off back pass first touch.

Facing opponents goal, control and move forward with one touch to dribble, pass or shoot.

Give and take simple wall passes in the air or on the ground.

Control and shoot, two touches maximum, to hit the target.

Whenever receiving the ball, can shield it effectively from challenging defender.

Understand the requirements of penetration and how to lose markers.

Know how to gain an advantage to head for goal.

4. Strikers (Wide)

Cross the ball on the run, from the goal line areas, to hit prime target areas.

Turn back and with the "inside of foot" deliver passes accurately.

Shoot on the run with both inside and outside of feet.

Run at and past opponents (dribble) with the use of one trick and one option.

Set up and deliver simple wall passes.

Collect the ball, in the air or on the ground, with one touch and take it into effective crossing or shooting positions.

Understand the need for optimum width and its effect on space availability for other players and the effectiveness of positional interchange.

Those coaches who are responsible for moulding young players should recognise that it is important to inspire those players to experiment freely.

They should be encouraged to find out what they can do, and not be taught what they can't do; they will find that out soon enough.

The greater our expectations for team success the greater the limitations and pressure placed upon players.....at all levels.