

## Klinsman - The fifth pillar of player development? Personal development..



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Thanks to Adriano Allain for this one as well. KLINSMANN: THE COACH MUST PREPARE NOT ONLY THE PLAYER BUT THE MAN

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Techniques, schemes, tactics and training occupy the minds of all football coaches. But one, the German Juergen Klinsmann is more concerned about something extra field: the formation of the player as a man. The personal development of the athlete's career is the challenge of Klinsmann and his speech at Footecon 2007, largest forum for football in Latin America, which closes today in Rio de Janeiro, he showed the scenes of the preparation of the German World Cup team, where he worked inside and outside the field to get the best results and that the players live an experience of life in this sport experience.

"Each coach has his philosophy and my philosophy is simple: make the player better every day. Everyone must be treated individually, from the German team to the second division. Football is a fake life and the athlete must be prepared for real life. The problem is that unlike other professions, the player does not have a football training, an education. At 16, I signed my first contract and all I heard from my coaches was on the moves, schemes and the game," Klinsmann said.

The traditional coaches, according to the German, base their work on the technical, tactical, physical and psychological. But, in my vision, the most important is the personal development. Coaches must educate the players for life and give them more tools than the fundamentals of the game. "It is said that football is a mental game, but whom teaches focus, concentration, which will lead to not trembling when striking a decisive penalty?," Klinsmann questions.

Before the World Cup in Germany, the then coach of the host team, led his players to a factory of watches in Switzerland. They spent four hours learning and mounting watches, fully concentrated. They were impressed by the fact they were able to do it. Another activity that Klinsmann submitted its athletes was the practice of archery. For two hours the only concern of the group was trying to hit the bull's-eye of the target to improve their aim when striking penalties.

Preparing for the World Cup in Germany was a challenge for the coach as he began his career with the huge responsibility of leading a squad in search of a title contested in the country itself. The challenge was listening to the people who had been working for years in the German Federation and at the same time, implement new ideas and new practices. Three delicate moments stood out: ban the eternal holder of the goal, Oliver Khan and call up Jens Lehmann, leaving the captain Ballack out of the opening game, whom was six days without training, and making the defensive mid Frings take the blame for the expulsion against Argentina and encourage the team to move forward.

The video with which Klinsmann illustrated his lecture, Ballack returned to the locker room upset and the coach explaining to the team to not allow that moment to divide the team. Another challenge was to maintain the good relationship between Khan and Lehmann. "Lehmann had a great competition and in the last match against Portugal, I started Khan and he had a spectacular performance," recalled the coach.

Preparing the player for life is in fact the greatest concern for Klinsmann, a romantic vision he compared young athletes to flowers, which barely die: "How do you let a young Brazilian athlete go to Europe if he does not know how to speak the language . he will not be able to communicate, live the day-to-day in the new country and will die like a flower, despite his great talent. "

The professional player lives, according Klinsmann, a life "of lies." People approach the famous athlete, not the man. "Then we have to prepare them for what will come after a life of glamour. At the end of the Cup I commented with my wife that I have never had so many friends. It was incredible the number of people around me. Therefore we have to make the players grow outside of football, so that they learn every day. Responsibility of the coaches is to increase the level of education and knowledge of the athletes, prepare the man for life. "

Learn the interest of each player, to keep the family close, discover hobbies, things to do in moments of leisure, make them use the Internet in their own benefit are tips from the German. "So you can not only make them men but also to get the best out of them."

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