

Individual player profiling based on the playing style philosophy of a high performance soccer academy: An applied perspective

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Introduction

An individual position specific player profile in a combined written, statistical and audio-visual report was created based on the playing philosophy of a professional soccer academy.

Methods

Six U16 players were analysed in a total of 18 league matches that contained a total number of 2592 actions. Profiles were created through the use of percentile ranks so that players could be compared to other players. The playing philosophy was analysed and KPIs were selected based on the club playing style and on the data obtained from the questionnaires answered by the coaches of the academy. Two different analysts carried out the analysis and an acceptable level of error was achieved on all variables in both intra- and inter-reliability tests ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion & Conclusion

Profiles were created and used to describe tactical and technical patterns of each player and to establish a baseline for each position. These profiles can also compare players from the same position, which are useful to coaches for team selection and in weaknesses detection to plan individualised training sessions. They also help clubs in player acquisition due to the knowledge of the players they provide. These profiles are therefore a useful tool that merges objective data from competition in a visual design together with video footage of players to be able to watch players in action, allowing practitioners to perfectly evaluate players.

References

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