



Module 3: Analysis and Scouting. Football Player Profile. Succession Planning



- Unidad 3.1 Presentation of Technical Department (TD) Components, and Conclusions, and Market Control

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Image 1. Scouting



Source: Unpublished own file.

Micki Albert

- I am Miquel Albert, known in the world of football as “Micki Albert.” I am a former player of FC Barcelona “C”, FC Barcelona “B”, and made my debut with the first team in the 2000 Copa Catalunya final.

- Since 2011, I have been serving as a member of the Technical Department at international professional football level, and I am responsible for several South American and European markets.
- Over the seasons, I have worked with various sports managers learning from each of them and continuously developing my expertise.
- Currently, I am responsible for managing talent <18 and oversee the following markets:
 - Level 1: Germany and England.
 - Level 2: Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.
 - Level 3: Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Finland, and Iceland.
- Previously, I managed the markets in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and some in the USA. I have had the opportunity to witness various South American championships live.
- My role at the Club involves monitoring the assigned leagues, including both professional and youth players from the age of 16, as well as the corresponding international teams.
- My goal is to identify exceptional talent to integrate seamlessly into our playing model.
- My work involves, among other tasks, going to the Club (also from home or on trips), and do the following:

- Observe players from the relevant markets and others provided by big data or agents, using the Wyscout platform.
 - Travel to observe players live.
 - Prepare reports using our COR programme.
 - Conduct department meetings.
 - Create objective lists.
- In terms of market analysis, Germany and England are two of the most powerful football markets globally. We aim to monitor the senior leagues, reserve teams, and youth squads. Many senior players are available for both the first and reserve teams. As clubs are highly competitive and sign many high-level players for immediate impact, young players often have limited opportunities, making it crucial to spot high-level talent that may have contract gaps.
 - Conversely, at Level 2, in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, the main focus is on young players who are making a mark in their teams, national teams, or have debuted in the first team.

Given our level and that of these leagues, it is very challenging to find older players and integrate them directly into our first team. The primary goal is to find top players for investment purposes.

- At Level 3, in Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Finland, and Iceland, the focus is primarily on monitoring lower-tier international teams, as the senior championships do not meet the required level. The aim is to identify exceptional young players for potential investment.

Image 2. Micki Albert

FC BARCELONA

MICKI ALBERT

JUGADOR
FCB 1999-2001

SCOUT FCB 2011 - ACT.

MERCADOS

- NIVEL 1: ALEMANIA E INGLATERRA
- NIVEL 2: DINAMARCA, SUECIA Y NORUEGA
- NIVEL 3: ESCOCIA, IRLANDA, GALES, FINLANDIA E ISLANDIA

EUROPA

The infographic is set against a red and purple background with white and blue accents. At the top left is the FC Barcelona crest and name. Below it, the name 'MICKI ALBERT' is written in large white letters. To the left of the name is a photo of Albert in a blue FC Barcelona kit on a football pitch, with the text 'JUGADOR FCB 1999-2001' below it. To the right is a photo of Albert in a dark jacket and scarf, with the text 'SCOUT FCB 2011 - ACT.' below it. A blue curved arrow points from the player photo to the scout photo. Below these photos is a list of 'MERCADOS' (markets) categorized into three levels. To the right of the list is a map of Europe with various countries highlighted in different colors and overlaid with their national flags: Germany (yellow and black), England (white with red), Denmark (red and white), Sweden (blue and yellow), Norway (red, white, and blue), Scotland (white and green), Ireland (green, white, and red), Wales (red and white), Finland (white and blue), and Iceland (red, white, and blue).

Source: Own elaboration.

TRADUCTION IMAGE 2

FC BARCELONA: FC BARCELONA

MICKI ALBERT: MICKI ALBERT

JUGADOR FC BARCELONA 1999-2001: FC BARCELONA PLAYER 1999-2001

SCOUT FC BARCELONA 2011- ACT: FC BARCELONA SCOUT 2011-PRESENT

MERCADOS: MARKETS

NIVEL1: LEVEL 1

ALEMANIA E INGLATERRA: GERMANY AND ENGLAND

NIVEL 2: LEVEL 2

DINAMARCA, SUECIA Y NORUEGA: DENMARK, SWITZERLAND, AND
NORWAY

NIVEL 3: LEVEL 3

IRLANDA, GALES, FINLANDIA E ISLANDIA: IRELAND, WALES, FINLAND,
AND ICELAND

EUROPA: EUROPE

Jerome Bigot

I have 3 market categories.

Level 1: France

Including

Ligue 1, Ligue 2 (1st and 2nd divisions) + UEFA competitions.

Youth leagues: U-17 league, U-19 league, and Copa Gambardella (French Youth Cup).

National teams from U-16 to senior level.

Observations

Ligue 1 is known in France as "The League of Talents."

There are very few top global players in Ligue 1 over the age of 24 (except at PSG [Paris Saint-Germain Football Club]), but the level of young players is very high.

The U-17 and U-19 leagues are highly competitive, with strong youth teams in France.

The area around Paris (11 million inhabitants) produces the most players in Europe. It is essential to know where to search, select the

best from the good, and identify which academies are performing well (e.g., Rennes, Lyon, etc).

Understanding players' contractual situations is crucial. There are different types of contracts: Training Contract, Aspirant, and Professional. Each has varying costs.

Level 2: Switzerland, Austria, Croatia

Including:

First divisions of these countries and UEFA competitions.

National teams from U-16 to senior level. Travels to these countries when targeting specific objectives.

Observations

These countries have few talents, but they do exist. The leagues are weaker, so international matches (UEFA Cup, Youth League, national teams) are crucial for evaluation. Hajduk Split reached the Youth League final in 2023. Markets for investing in very young talents, but it is essential to arrive early and be aggressive (e.g., Gvardiol, Faye, etc).

Identify the three or four key names worth watching.

Level 3: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro

Including:

National teams from U-16 to senior level.

Observations

These markets are weaker, with talents often captured by the leading teams in these countries (e.g., Partizan, Red Star Belgrade, etc). Observe these prominent teams and their national teams against strong opponents to assess their level. Each country has its top player; it is important to be knowledgeable about them.

Ferrán Cedrón

He is currently responsible for the markets in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, the United States, Mexico, and Southern Portugal.

Market Control: What Do We Do and How We Do It?

1. **Control and Monitoring:** We conduct thorough control and monitoring of all markets, with particular emphasis on Argentina, Uruguay, and Portugal as these countries have historically exported a larger number of players to top leagues.

2. **Weekly Monitoring:** We use databases and technological platforms to monitor all players born from 2001 onwards (in Portugal and Argentina without age restrictions) on a weekly basis. Through this control, we record all minutes played by players of interest and start observing matches of those who stand out for their field participation.
3. **Field Evaluation:** We undertake trips to see the most notable players live at leagues, international tournaments, and national teams.

Analysis of League Characteristics in Different Countries

1. **Mexico:** The absence of promotion and relegation in Mexican professional leagues reduces the pressure for results in the First Division and contributes to lower investment by Second Division teams. This model can negatively impact long-term competitiveness and talent development.
2. **Chile:** In Chile, players tend to debut professionally at a later age compared to other South American countries. While players aged 21-22 from other nations are already participating in major European leagues, this is the average debut age in Chile. This delay may limit Chilean players' opportunities in the international market.

3. **United States:** Major League Soccer (MLS) is experiencing significant growth both in sports and economic terms. Revenue has increased substantially, and the expansion of franchises from 24 to 29 teams has driven this growth. This expansion reflects a strategy for developing and consolidating football in the country, increasing competitiveness, and attracting international talent.
4. **Argentina:** Argentina is one of the leading exporters of footballers globally, ranking among the top two or three countries in this regard. This trend of early talent export can decrease the competitiveness of domestic leagues. However, it also allows young players to gain professional experience at an early age. Argentine football is characterised by its high competitiveness and passion, being a fundamental part of the country's culture and identity.
5. **Uruguay:** Despite its small population of approximately 3 million inhabitants, Uruguay produces a remarkable number of elite footballers. This phenomenon is attributed to a well-organised and competitive formative structure. Uruguayan players often excel in European leagues, outperforming their local performances. Uruguay's football culture and focus on youth development are key factors in this success.

Lluis Lainz Bech

- UEFA Pro Licensed National Coach.
- Creator of the Modern Scouting Department at FC Barcelona (1996), and one of the pioneers in the use of new technologies for football analysis.
- Member of the technical staff for Bobby Robson, Louis van Gaal, Carles Rexach, Radomir Antic, and Frank Rijkaard, serving as a rival analyst (1996-2008).
- Member of the Technical Department with Joan Martínez Vilaseca, Louis van Gaal, Carles Rexach, and Txiki Begiristain, working as a scout (1996-2010).
- Current Head of the markets in **Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Japan, South Korea, and Australia**, with the goal of monitoring professional leagues and youth national teams (ages 16 to 21).

The markets I oversee are diverse, spanning countries with different cultures and, in many cases, a history of football success. However, football is a game played in the present. It is of little use to recall the great Hungary of the 1950s, the Poland that amazed at the 1982 World Cup, or Bulgaria of 1994. Club teams such as Dinamo Bucharesti, Legia Warsaw, Spartak Moscow, Dinamo Kiev, Galatasaray, etc., or players like Kubala, Czibor, Lato, Szarmach, Gadocha, Stoichkov, Penev, Popescu, Hagi, Yashin, Blochin, Shevchenko, Rebrov, Hakan Sukur, Arda Turan, Nakamura, Nakata, Bum-kun Cha, Ji-Sung Park,

Tim Cahill, or Johnny Warren, to name just a few glories from each country.

Today, football in Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Turkey—when grouped into a single European block—is far from the level of its glory years. Yet, these teams continue to work on developing good footballers and have young players who are very interesting and have the potential to emerge and make an impact at major clubs. These markets are relatively accessible if you can stay ahead of competing clubs.

Regarding the markets of Japan, South Korea, and Australia, they share several commonalities, although Asian clubs focus on domestic-born players, and Australian clubs have been looking towards Africa to recruit young talent and complete their development through naturalisation. Japan and South Korea have made significant improvements in their approach to the game, with players showing more conditional, technical, and tactical abilities, but with a tendency towards strictness and little room for improvisation. Australia, in my opinion, still shows its British influences in its football style.

My conclusions are that society has evolved considerably in recent times. Football no longer begins in the streets but in academies. The Bosman ruling of December 1995, the signing of the Schengen Treaty, and the advent of technological tools that provide access to information via the internet have transformed scouting work. There is

now more competition, and all clubs have access to the same information. In these circumstances, one must sharpen their skills to detect young talent before others do. Ultimately, we must acknowledge that there is talent here, but also a vast amount of talent beyond our borders.

José Manuel Barla

Following the Organisation of the Work of FC Barcelona's Technical Department in South America, José Manuel Barla, a member of FC Barcelona's scouting team, provides a detailed overview of the work organisation in South America. This methodological structure allows for a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of emerging talents in the region.

Markets

Brazil:

- **Brasileirão Serie A**
- **Copa Brazil**
- **Brasileirão U-20 and U-17** (with some review of U-15)
- **Copa Brazil U-20 and U-17**

- **Senior, U-20, and U-17 State Championships** (including tournaments like Carioca, Paulista, Mineiro, Baiano, etc.)
- **Club Tournaments** (such as Copinha and Votorantim)

Colombia:

- **Primera División**

Ecuador:

- **Primera División**

Venezuela, Paraguay and Peru:

- **Primera División** (filtered)

Bolivia:

- **General Review**

Additional Competitions:

- **Senior and Youth National Teams**
- **Libertadores Tournaments** (Senior and U-20) and **Copa Sudamericana**

- **Official and Unofficial Youth Tournaments** (both national teams and clubs)

Evaluation Methodology

1. **Daily Monitoring of the Brazilian Market:** Daily tracking of the Brazilian market is essential due to the quantity and quality of players competing there. This market is crucial as Brazil is a natural exporter of talent.
2. **Weekly Monitoring of Other Markets:** The markets in Colombia and Ecuador receive weekly attention, while Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela are monitored less frequently but consistently. Bolivia is reviewed on a general basis.
3. **Creation of Databases and Short Lists:** Weekly and monthly databases and short lists of standout players from each round are created, based on data and video analysis.
4. **Live Evaluation:** The scouting team travels to observe filtered players in person, allowing for a comprehensive and accurate assessment of their performance and potential.

Football Styles

Brazil: Brazilian football is renowned for the quality and potential of its players. Brazil is an exporter of talent by excellence. Brazilian players often seek to leave their teams not only for financial reasons but also to evolve as footballers. Young prospects usually move to top European clubs early in their careers.

Colombia: The Colombian league is characterised by a mid-level standard, where powerful and athletic players dominate. Although they need tactical improvement, they generally perform well when they move to Europe.

Ecuador: The Ecuadorian league, also mid-level, stands out for players with high quality and excellent technical skills. Recently, it has been a significant source of talent for European leagues, especially in Belgium, Germany, and England.

Venezuela, Paraguay and Peru: These leagues are modest and present challenging markets to find standout talent as the best players tend to leave at a very young age in search of success elsewhere.


Moussa Kone

Head of African Scouting at FC Barcelona.

Africa is rich in football talent. The collaboration between FC Barcelona and African academies 🌍 is highly beneficial. FC Barcelona is enhancing its efforts on the African continent, catching up with other clubs that have long been scouting for talent.

Project Characteristics

-Which are the advantages of FC Barcelona?

1. FC Barcelona stands to benefit from identifying and developing promising young African talents who could strengthen either the first team or the youth categories. Collaborating with football academies in Africa would allow FC Barcelona to expand its presence and influence on the continent, enhancing its reputation and maintaining the loyalty of African supporters. This collaboration would provide access to natural resources and contribute to the development of African football.
2. Promising players  could potentially join FC Barcelona's first team with a lower initial investment.
3. Players who do not make it to the first team can still increase their value in lower teams, providing significant opportunities for profit. Very good opportunities.

African football academies would benefit from FC Barcelona's experience, infrastructure, and resources, improving their facilities

and aiding in the development of their young players to meet their goals.

The partnership with FC Barcelona would offer African academies privileged access to training, competition, and professional development opportunities, enhancing their credibility and appeal among local young talents.

Several top European clubs are already scouting African players and offering professional contracts once they turn 18.

African Football Talents

Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast are prominent sources of football talent.

Africa is rich in football talent.

Image 3. Map of Mali



Source: <https://www.infoescola.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/mapa-mali.jpg>

Mali is known for its technical and sometimes physical football, depending on the coaching styles.

In recent years, Mali has produced several talents thanks to strong training within its various academies (Seydou Keita, formerly of FC Barcelona, and Mahamadou Diarra, formerly of Real Madrid). Other key institutions include the Salif Keita Center, named after Africa's first Ballon d'Or winner, and the Jean Marc Guillou Academy, which

has produced talents like Yves Bissouma (Tottenham) and Amadou Haidara (RB Leipzig).

Cheick Doucoure (Crystal Palace), Hamari Traoré (Real Sociedad), and Africa Foot Academy have agreements with FC Barcelona. FC Barcelona will provide a coach to contribute to the training of coaches and players.

TB.Etoiles du Mandè is another academy that has a partnership with a Spanish agency and is producing many talents.

Mali has achieved commendable results in CAF and FIFA competitions.

Image 4. Map of Senegal



Source: <https://es.dreamstime.com/>

Senegal also boasts technical football similar to Mali's, with notable academies and footballing history. The country, known for players like Kalidou Fatiga and Elhadji Diouf, has produced world-renowned talents such as Sadio Mané, Kalidou Koulibaly, Sarr, and Lamine Camara.

Young Senegalese players benefit from partnerships between local academies and European clubs. For example, FC Metz in France collaborates with Génération Foot, and Marseille works with Diambar.

Bé Sport Academy has a partnership with FC Barcelona, which involves sending a coach 5 to 6 times a year to assist with the training of coaches and players. This agreement has allowed some young players from the country of the Lions of Teranga to complete their training abroad.

Image 5. Map of Nigeria



Source: <https://escuelademapas.com/mapa-de-nigeria/>

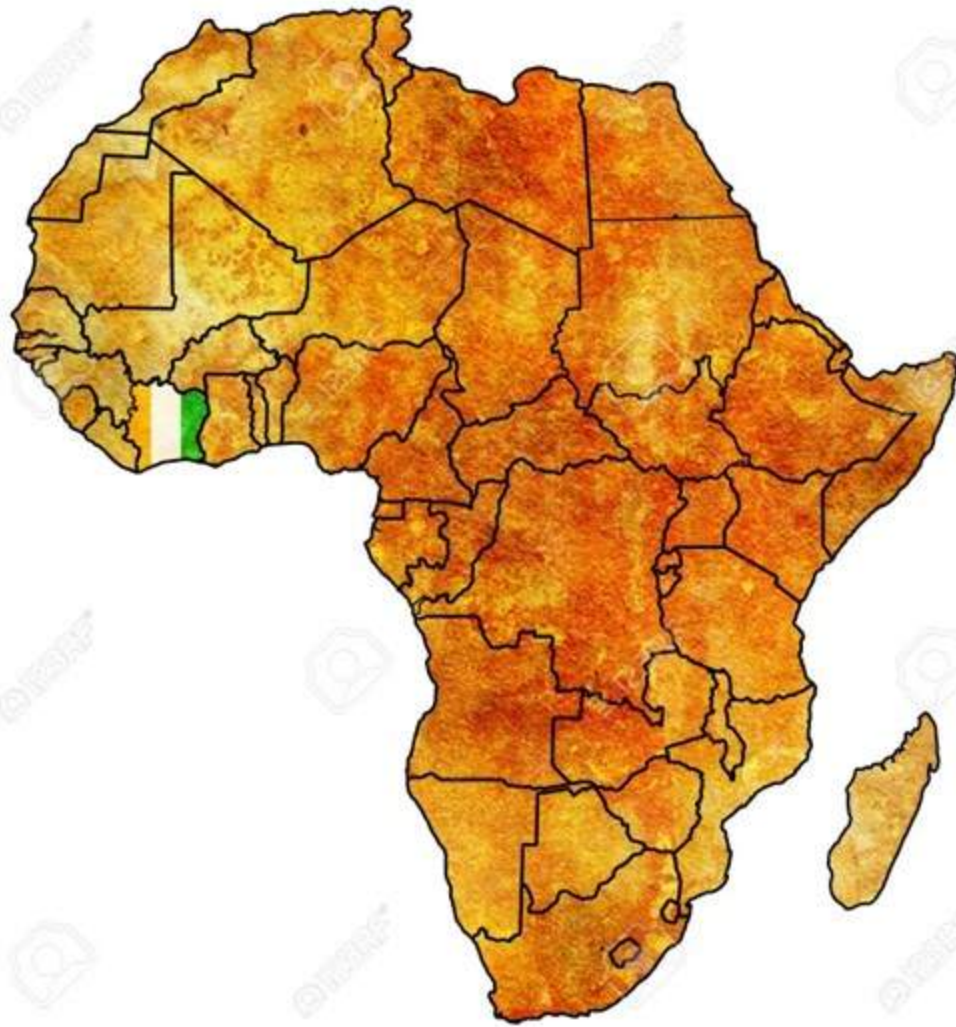
Image 6. Map of Ghana



Source: <https://escuelademapas.com/mapa-de-ghana/>

Nigeria and Ghana share a similar plating style, characterised by both physical and technical skill. These countries have produced standout individual talents including Kanu, Jay-Jay Okocha, Rashidi Yekini, and Victor Osimhen from Nigeria, and Abedi Pelé, Asamoah Gyan, and André Ayew from Ghana.

Image 7. Map of Ivory Coast



Source: https://es.123rf.com/photo_20531758_costa-de-marfil-en-el-mapa-pol%C3%ADtico-de-%C3%A9poca-real-de-%C3%A1frica-con-las-banderas.html

Ivory Coast is also a significant supplier of African football talent, home to notable players like Didier Drogba and Baky Kone. It is where Jean-Marc Guillou began his training with Asec Mimosas, setting a precedent followed by several other academies. Notable players from this generation include Yaya Touré (formerly of FC Barcelona), Kolo

Touré (formerly of Manchester City), and Didier Zokora (formerly of Sevilla). Ivory Coast continues to produce talents.

The 2023 Africa Cup of Nations highlighted young players such as Simon Andingra Fofana, Diakité, Kadsounou, and former FC Barcelona player Franck Kessié.

FC Barcelona has an agreement with the Ivoire Academy, the largest in Africa, covering an area of 40 hectares.

Image 8. African Football



Source: Own file (n.d.)

Image 9. FC Barcelona Delegation



Source: Own file (n.d.)

Image 10. African Football Talents



Source: Own file (n.d.)

Image 11. African Football Players



Source: Own file (n.d.)

Txetxu Rojo

Responsible for overseeing professional football in Spain. Players for Barça B and the first team.

Monitoring and follow-up of players on loan.

[Spanish Players Profile](#)

Spanish players are often characterised by their tactical anarchism and street-smart style, particularly in the southern regions of Spain.

They are known for their skill, talent, and technical abilities.

Over time, it has become increasingly challenging to find such players, as the focus has shifted towards more physical play. Although this style is still seen in some regions, it is becoming more unusual.

Generally, Spanish players, regardless of their region of origin, possess a strong understanding of the game and are highly competitive.

David Fernández

Responsible for evaluating information on players under the age of 18.

Markets managed:

Level 1: Italy.

Level 2: Belgium and the Netherlands.

Level 3: Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

Image 12. Map of Italy



Source: <https://escuelademapas.com/mapa-de-italia-diversidad-cartografica-mapas-politicos-y-mas/>

Image 13. Map of Belgium and the Netherlands

4 World Cups and 2 European Championships. It has competitive, physical players with significant tactical abilities. About 15 or 20 years ago, in Calcio, now known as Serie A, the top 8 or 10 teams had world-class players.

After these successes, the league lost some of its level.

Currently, Italian football is in a phase of progression and evolution. Teams now display very defined and different styles or concepts from what was previously seen. Furthermore, the profile of the players fits well with these new ideas.

Examples include: Napoli under Spalletti (22-23), Inter under Inzaghi (22-23 and 23-24), and Atalanta under Gasperini.

There are also second-tier teams with interesting associative proposals.

One reason for this change is the new generation of coaches.

There is a strong predominance of 5-man defensive lines, with Italian central defenders often being physical, powerful, tactical, and competitive.

The role of the wing-back has become consolidated.

There are talented central midfielders playing ahead of the ball.

The mix of specific physical attributes in strategic positions combined with talent makes Italy once again a highly competitive national team.

In recent years, the youth national teams have been showing increasingly better individual, collective, and competitive levels. In the summer of 2023, they won the U19 championship in Malta, with strong players in all positions.

Live football visualization.

Level 2: Belgium and the Netherlands

Being adjacent countries, they present a surprising football contrast.

In Belgium, the pace of play is higher, players are faster, and generally, it is a football of transitions. In contrast, in the Netherlands, the game is more deliberate, more technical, and less physical.

In Belgium, with no limit on foreign players, only 6 Belgian players are required in the squad. This leads to a mix of races, resulting in a more diverse football style. There is significant player movement between clubs during their development phase.

In the Netherlands, associative play generally prevails. PSV and Feyenoord set the highest level. They mix the technical Dutch player profile with players who are decisive in depth and finishing. AZ Alkmaar won the Youth League in May 2023 with a very good generation of players.

These leagues typically feature many goals.

Both countries have strong players in their youth national teams.

We monitor the top and second divisions of both countries, their youth national teams, and specific players from academies in professional teams.

Level 3: Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Slovakia

These countries are monitored based on their teams competing in Europe and their senior national and national youth teams.

All of them have established players in high-level European teams. They are becoming increasingly prolific.

They generally feature a good physical-technical level.

Examples of reference players:

- **Czech Republic:** **Tomas Soucek** (West Ham), **Patrik Schick**, and **Adam Hložek** (Bayer Leverkusen).
- **Slovenia:** **Jan Oblak** (Atletico Madrid), **Benjamin Sesko** (RB Leipzig).
- **Slovakia:** **Martin Dúbravka** (Newcastle), **David Hancko** (Feyenoord), **Stanislav Lobotka** (Napoli).

Football Player Profile

FC Barcelona Football Player Profile

The FC Barcelona player must meet specific characteristics that align with the club's style and philosophy. Below are the skills and competencies required for each position on the field:

General Characteristics

1. **Quick (physically and mentally):** Players must have the ability to react and move swiftly both physically and mentally.
2. **Intelligent:** They should have a clear understanding of the game, being able to anticipate plays.
3. **Technical:** Proficient in basic football actions, tailored to their position on the field.

4. **Winners:** A strong attitude and mentality to overcome challenges and always seek victory.

Position Specific Profiles Below we share the most relevant aspects for the specific position of the player on the field:

Goalkeeper:

With ball:

- Play short passes as the first option.
- Read the game and find the best passing option.
- Provide security and be a reliable passing line.
- Good technique in ball control and striking.
- Effective ball distribution with the hands.

Without ball:

- Good positioning relative to the ball and the goal.
- Leadership and decision-making ability.
- Speed to anticipate actions.
- Strong aerial game and blocking ability.
- Agility and quick reaction.

- Effective in 1v1 situations.

Centre Backs:

With ball:

- Open positioning during the build-up phase.
- Good technique in ball control and pass.
- Long diagonal and deep passes.
- Overcome pressure lines with vertical passes.
- Join the attack and create 2v1 situations.
- Quick return and safe build-up after passing.

Without ball:

- Firm and assertive in marking.
- Avoid sliding tackles and aggressive entries.
- Good coverage and marking of the striker.
- Avoid fouls and anticipate actions.
- Good coverage and preventing players from getting behind them.

Full Backs

With ball:

- Widen the field during the build-up phase.
- Receive the ball well-oriented and from the side.
- Join the attack along the flanks.
- Form triangles and demonstrate good technique in passing and crossing.

Without ball:

- Play with their back to the opponent without committing fouls.
- Close the defense when the opposing full-back advances.
- Control the opposing midfielder on the flank.
- Prevent crosses from the opponent and anticipate changes of direction.
- Responsibility on their flank and avoid player from getting behind them.

Central Midfielder

With ball:

- Quickly read game situations.

- Avoid risks when receiving the ball with their back to the goal.
- Lateral movements to facilitate play making.
- Change the direction of the game with good passes.
- Excellent in ball control and passing, always well-positioned.

Without ball:

- Communication and leadership.
- Monitor zones when others advance.
- Maintain good positioning and defensive posture.

Attacking Midfielders

With ball:

- Vision of the game and high technical quality.
- Security in ball control.
- Create goal-scoring opportunities and provide assists.
- Arrive from the second line and demonstrate good direction.
- Constantly offer support between lines.

Without ball:

- Press and recover the ball quickly.
- Strong communication with the holding midfielder.
- Collective defense and continuous support to the central midfielders.

Wingers

With ball:

Wingers in FC Barcelona must be deep in attack. Specific characteristics include:

- Skill in 1v1 situations: Must be fast and skilled, excelling in 1v1 near the area, not on the midfield.
- Accurate crosses: Typically move wide and deliver precise crosses.
- Capitalise on opportunities: Arrive in the box to collect crosses from the opposite side.
- Speed and agility: Wingers need to be fast and agile.
- Decision-making: Intelligent in decision-making.

Without ball:

- Act as the first defender by closing passing lanes.

- Quickly recover their position.
- Play very wide and in depth.
- Cut inside for passes between lines.

Centre Forward

With ball:

- Seek scoring positions and the near post.
- Be a prolific scorer with strong finishing using both head and feet.
- Have game vision and play with back to goal.
- Protect the ball and make depth movements.

Without ball:

- Be the team's first defender.
- Position between the two opposing centre backs.
- Read and press at the right moments.

This profile outlines the skills and competencies that FC Barcelona players should possess for each position, reflecting the club's distinctive style and philosophy.

Succession Planning

We consider this concept as a way to organise a large amount of information in a structured and schematic manner. It is an essential practice that must exist within football clubs.

Succession planning within a first team, or a football club in general, can refer to various aspects:

- Positions on the field: Succession of players in each specific position, for example, the transition of a backup goalkeeper to a starting role, or the promotion of a young centre-back to replace an established first-team defender.
- Age and career cycles: The arrival of young players from our academy to replace older players who are retiring or whose performance is declining due to age.
- Development of academy players: The promotion of youth players from the lower categories of the club to integrate them into the first team.
- Retirement and end of career: The retirement and succession of players who decide to leave professional football, and the search for replacements from our reserve team or U-19 squad to maintain the competitive level of the team.

As a technical department, we must be very clear and focused on ensuring that succession planning exist within our club. It is crucial to know, as mentioned before, the players we have in the youth system and to develop those who we believe will provide strong performances in the future. To nurture their talent, it is necessary to continue their development, and above all, not hinder their progress by signing players who could take away the playing time these youth players need within our club. The technical department is responsible for communicating with the youth academy coordinators and coaches to ensure they can help these players develop, giving them the tools to facilitate a smooth and proper transition into the first team.

CONTINUE