Author: Tom Turner



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<u>Lesson Plan</u>

Topic: Flank Play & Finishing

**Activity Name** Description Diagram **Purpose/Coaching** Points 1 General Warm-up Any activity involving running and striking the ball At the basic level, this practice should provide lots of "varied" technical repetition for crossing and finishing. Coaches should not with the laces and instep. over-analyze every detail; pick and choose your times to interject and take your time! 2 Technical Functional Training GK Organization Basic technical issues 2 midfielders for the wide players should include ball preparation, with soccer getting the hips around the balls 25-35 ball, ball contact point, yards from body balance (opposite XX / XX /XX goal arm), etc. 2 wide Basic technical points players on XX XX for the strikers should each flank include steering versus hammering, timing of 3 "pairs" of . . . . . . . . . runs, organizing and attackers XX adjusting the feet outside of the (balance), taking risks with penalty area non-dominant surfaces. being as efficient as 2 goalkeepers possible with touches. Let them complete the strike, regardless of touch quality. 3 Flank Game

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Age: U14

Numbers 9 v 9 / 10 v 10

- Field size: 75 yds (44 + channel) x half field. For U-14's, this "may" be too much width???
- Offside applies inside penalty area
- Use corner flags at half (common goal)
- Players are arranged as shown below
- Only add the second central pair if the space is not too cluttered. Start with 1v1 in the center.

- Develop some basic ideas on how the wide players (perhaps in combination with a central player or a striker) might combine to get the flank players into crossing positions.
- Early vision from flak players.
- Strikers should not run offside.
- Periodically vary the crossing positions and expected serves. These can include crosses from outside the box, crosses from the end line, balls dropped to the supporting fullback (use 2<sup>nd</sup> flank player); and then we have options for bending balls, driven balls across the face of the goal, balls cut back to the penalty spot, balls flighted to the far post, balls driven in the air to the near post, etc.
- You can also design ways to involve both strikers by playing to the far post first, or by playing an early ball to the 2<sup>nd</sup> striker to find her teammate.
- The three pairs of strikers should rotate to provide for alternating finishing from left and right flanks.
- Develop the shape and, particularly, the timing of runs into the box.

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Flank Game					
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• Outside defender responsible for wide players (initially); outside players responsible for each other (progression)			<ul> <li>Develop functional ideas to maintain team shape and balance</li> <li>Encourage players to control the rhythm of play by circulating the ball through the defenders and midfielder(s)</li> </ul>		
• Goals can be scored at any			circulating the ball	through the defer	iders and midfielder(s)
• Central MF players should stay central			<ul> <li>Encourage the wide players to read the game and attack the goal as opportunities arise; they should not be limited to only crossing the ball at his stage.</li> </ul>		
• No-one is limited to playing in the channel (it is a guide, only)					
• Wide defenders should support the wide players			• Encourage early and often vision of options		
• *Wide players can attack t	41	1 V-			