

Masters of the Modern Game by Grant Wahl

Chapter 1. The midfielders- Pulisic and Alonso

- CP when he signed at 18, rented (not bought) a small apartment with no neighbors or bars near it. He did so mainly because it's a 6 minute drive from the training ground.
- always focusing on his 1st touch being positive
- as a youth player CP focused relentlessly on his 1st touch, specifically beating pressure in his 1st touch
- in the modern game a big role of an attacking midfielder is to decide to press and win the ball back or drop and quickly protect space
- in the modern game, every player should understand the most likely actions the next player will take when you pass them the ball... the Dortmund youth staff always asks "what's next?"
- xabi alonso didn't learn anything new about passing technique after 18 years old
- xabi alonso is a master of risk management when on the ball
- getting better feeds on itself
- after every game CP asks himself: 1.) did he play with confidence? 2.) did he change the game?
- professional soccer player's performances are driven by stats... at half time, post game and the next day each player is updated with many stats that are specific to their position

Chapter 2. The Forward- chicharito hernandez

- CH's movement at times is synchronized with teammates and other times it is what is unexpected by defenders
- CH tries to learn 1 new thing everyday from his coaches
- It's easy to be confident, but it's hard to keep it. Best players remember that the NEXT play is most important one
- the 10 most expected premier league goal scorers roughly score close to 50% of their goals with both feet

Chapter 3. The defender- Vincent Kompany

- VC is also obsessive student of the game
- the modern game is focused on positioning of each player in and out of possession
- VC is provided 15 min of video on the forwards he will face... each forward will present different challenges
- modern defending is not about 1 player, it is always about connecting players
- the art of defending is a thankless task
- no decision takes place in a 1 on 1 vacuum... most decision making is effected by several variables

Chapter 4. The goalkeeper- manuel neur

Chapter 5. The manager- Roberto Martinez

- he prefers a possession style but as a modern manager he is adaptable
- the team influences the coaches philosophy and the coach influences the team at the same time
- role of the manager:
 - 1) roster formation of the 1st team and developmental squad
 - 2) prepare the team tactically for games
 - 3) scouting analysis

4) game day management

5) serve as the public face of the club & interact with the media

- manage through aspiration rather than through fear

- manage individuals so that the team is greater than the sum of its parts

- being a coach can't be viewed as a job; it had to be viewed as a 24/7 passion to help players

- he is constantly trying to analyze situations of numerical advantages

- he watches every single game 10x again!!!

- his staff has watched the opposition 6x... last 3 home and last 3 away games

- you must constantly reassess if your game plan is working as game goes on

- 3 considerations before every substitute:

1. How will this player fit structurally into the defense

2. How will this player help breakdown the opposition

3. Is this player replacing a player who was not 100% when the game started

- In many aspects being an international team coach is easier than being a club manager... no buying and selling of players and no long term systematic strategy

Chapter 6. The director of football - Michael Zork

- responsible for recruiting the coach and all the players... responsible for the philosophy and structure of the entire club from youth teams to 1st team... responsible for selling players, re-signing players... responsible for controlling the soccer related budget for the club... responsible for the recruiting/scouting staff and network

- Borussia Dortmund's model for remaining one of the best teams in Europe while at same time identifying and profiting from young players is exemplary