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U15 - U19

SOCCER ITALIAN STYLE

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Coaching Session from the Academies of the Italian Serie ‘A’

Written By the Soccer Italian Style Coach’s

Mirko Mazzantini
Simone Bombardieri

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Meet The Coaches of Soccer Italian Style

Mirko Mazzantini
ACF Fiorentina Academy Coach

Mirko Mazzantini coached for Empoli FC for 10 years, at almost all the main age groups of the academy level. In 2010 he was then recruited by AFC Fiorentina working with the U14/U15 Academy teams. During the 2010/11 season Mirko won the U15 Italian Academy Serie ‘A’ championship. UEFA ‘B’ Coach and author of many coaching publications, articles, books and DVDs.

Simone Bombardieri
Empoli FC Academy Coach

Simone Bombardieri played as a player in the Empoli FC club for 5 years. He then started his career as a coach being recruited by Empoli FC where he has been coaching the academy age groups in the last 9 years from U9 – U14. This coming season Simone is in charge of the U15 Academy team. UEFA ‘B’ Coach and author of many coaching publications, articles, books and DVDs.

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Soccer Italian Style was born in 2005. Mirko Mazzantini (ACF Fiorentina) and Simone Bombardieri (Empoli FC) are both professional academy coaches of the Italian Serie 'A'. They have combined due to their great passion for youth development and they have embarked on a joint project that has taken them to various other parts of the world such as the United States, Canada, France and Norway.

The Soccer Italian style philosophy is made up of the principal features of the Italian style series and Mirko and Simone's vast experiences of professional training in Italy and football worldwide. The book outlines a training methodology that is simple and efficient which the authors have personally tested over time throughout their careers in Italy. They have been highly successful in producing top players who are both technically and tactically astute.

The success of this program has been demonstrated by the numerous academy victories against the main teams in Italy and European football with far greater resources. Mirko's Under 15 team at Fiorentina won the Italian Academy League in 2010-11 beating teams such as AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus to the title.

Many players who have been trained using this exact program in Italy have gone on to professional careers and have been capped for the Italian national teams in various age groups, where before this was simply not the case.

This book contains 12 training sessions with each session focused on fundamental technical or tactical coaching that is analysed throughout the 6 practices. The 12 sessions have been developed to demonstrate the need of progressions in training, using the basic principle “from simple to complex”.

Inside the two volumes there are general team exercises that are useful for all coaches and players in every position, but there are also many specific exercises that are designated for individual roles or positions within a team (e.g. attackers, midfielders or defenders).

Mirko and Simone have a high expertise in technical training and they have developed activities that are open to numerous variations which means that the 12 sessions can be used over and over to make this program of training even more complete.

This passion has driven the pair to “write on paper” what they have learned and experienced up to today, with a great hope that this method will be greatly enjoyed by the readers and used throughout the world to create top quality professional players.

Soccer Italian Style
Mirko Mazzantini & Simone Bombardieri
U15 - U19 Training Session

Session Objective

To develop passing, possession, team tactics by build-up play from the bank and transition play

- Possession and Transition Warm-Up
- Psycho-Kinetics Possession of the Ball - Dynamic Game
- Team Tactics - Build-Up Play from the Back
- Build-Up Play in a Small Sided Game
Possession and Transition Warm-Up

Players are divided into two groups. The object of the game is to keep the possession of the ball in a field composed of four squares. Possession starts in one of the squares. After five passes, the team with the ball must transition to another square with a long pass. In this case, it is important that after the fourth pass, one or more players will make a run to another square, ready to receive the long pass.

The coach will be in the middle of this field with some balls. He can decide whether to introduce another ball into the field changing exercise when he wants and also make adjustments to the size of the square and the particular game situation the practice is simulating.

Stretch after 5 and 15 minutes

Objective
To develop possession of the ball and transitions with long passes.

Description
Players are divided into two groups.

The object of the game is to keep the possession of the ball in a field composed of four squares. Possession starts in one of the squares.

After five passes, the team with the ball must transition to another square with a long pass. In this case, it is important that after the fourth pass, one or more players will make a run to another square, ready to receive the long pass.

The coach will be in the middle of this field with some balls. He can decide whether to introduce another ball into the field changing exercise when he wants and also make adjustments to the size of the square and the particular game situation the practice is simulating.

Stretch after 5 and 15 minutes
Psycho-Kinetics Possession of the Ball -
Dynamic Game

The team is divided into three colours inside a 30 x 30 yard area. This is a dynamic possession of the ball practice with a two colour team against a one colour team. If, for example, the Blue team loses possession, the game continues with the Red and Yellow trying to keep the ball with the blue trying to recover it.

As a coach you should try to enforce a conditional maximum of two touches only.

Objective
To develop possession of the ball using Psycho-Kinetics in a dynamic game.

Description
The team is divided into three colours inside a 30 x 30 yard area. This is a dynamic possession of the ball practice with a two colour team against a one colour team. If, for example, the Blue team loses possession, the game continues with the Red and Yellow trying to keep the ball with the blue trying to recover it.

As a coach you should try to enforce a conditional maximum of two touches only.

Coaching Points
1. Open body shape to see all of the playing options.
2. Play quickly (maximum of two touches) considering the overload of players.
3. If needed, create space to get away from the marker.
Team Tactics - Build-Up Play from the Back

20 mins

Objective
To develop team tactics with build-up play from the back.

Description
This is a progression from the previous session 7, practice 5. This time, we will involve 4 defenders (the defensive line) and 4 midfielders (the midfielder line).

The coach will ask the players to develop build-up play up to the halfway line with different kinds of combinations.

Example 1 - Diagram 1:
The goalkeeper passes the ball the to the central defender. He drives the ball into the path of the right winger that is running towards the ball after creating space.

The winger, with only one touch, passes the ball to the central midfielder nearest to, and behind him.

The combination ends with a pass from one central midfielder to the other.
Objective

To develop team tactics with build-up play from the back.

Description

Every two minutes, the coach will ask the players to try some combinations. For example, the blue team has the ball; they try to develop a build-up play combination starting from their goalkeeper.

When the ball is inside the blue half, the red team will be passive (not allowed to tackle); as soon as the ball crosses the halfway line, the real game starts. After 2 free game minutes, the red team will start a combination from their goalkeeper.
Soccer Italian Style DVDs

Ball Control Vol. 1 and 2 DVD Set - Italian Style Academy Technical Skills Training Program - 102 Exercises

This Teaching Method has been Developed in the Youth and Academies of the Italian Serie ‘A’

It has been very successful in team development coaching programs that have produced players with exceptional technical skills.

This 2-DVD Set includes over 100 progressive technical skills and exercises that will help you develop your players technique of feinting, dribbling and change of direction starting from skill based exercises to game situations with the final objective to shoot on goal.

Individual Defending Tactics - Soccer Italian Style Academy Training Program DVD

This Teaching Method has been Developed in the Youth and Academies of the Italian Serie ‘A’

Marking, tackling, intercepting/anticipating, positioning and defending the goal are fundamental elements in the modern game of football.

The Italian Style coaches present more than 40 technical exercises and game situations for the physical and mental development of young soccer players.
Italian Academy Training Sessions Book for U11-14 - A Complete Coaching Program

A Complete Soccer Coaching Program from the Academies of the Italian Serie 'A'

This book contains 12 complete soccer training sessions detailing over 80 practices and progressions as used in the academies of the Serie ‘A’. Each session focuses on technical or tactical elements of training and are structured “from simple practices to more complex game situations”.

BUY NOW

Italian Academy Training Sessions Book for U15-19 - A Complete Coaching Program

This book contains 12 complete soccer training sessions detailing over 80 practices and progressions as used in the academies of the Serie ‘A’.

Each session focuses on technical or tactical elements of training and are structured “from simple practices to more complex game situations”. The sessions outline a complete program which provides a high level of training.

BUY NOW
Soccer Italian Style
Worldwide - Work With Us

SOCCER ITALIAN STYLE is not just an author of football coaching products, since 2005 it has been involved and organiser of youth soccer events in many countries around the world.

If you are a soccer Club executive, a coach or Technical Director or just an individual passionate for the sport and you want your players to live a unique experience, please contact us or visit our web site www.socceritalianstyle.it.

The main events of “Soccer Italian Style“:

- **PROFESSIONAL ITALIAN CAMP**: one soccer week for boys and girls 6 to 18 years old, where fun meets the training methodologies of the best Italian youth professional clubs, with the staff of Soccer Italian Style experienced from working with some of highest level Clubs in Italy.

- **PROFESSIONAL ITALIAN TEAM CAMP**: weekly team camp with the work planned around a highly professional methodology, tested and continuously innovated with the best selections of players in Italy, and adapted based on the level and characteristics of the participating team.

- **SOCCER ITALIAN STYLE COACHING CLINIC**: Soccer Italian Style organizes clinics of different levels and duration, based on a consolidated and proven model that creates lots of interest and enjoyment of the participants. The time spent in classroom is filled with numerous videos from professional training sessions in Italy, and it is supported by on-field demonstrations of the concepts discussed in the classroom.

- **NEW INITIATIVE: SOCCER AND TOURISM IN ITALY** – Soccer Italian Style has partnered with the association “Il Trovatore” to provide a unique experience: improve as a player and sightsee the best parts of Tuscany (Firenze – Pisa – Lucca – Siena – 5 Terre, these are some of the magnificent places waiting for you). If you want your team to live a week of highly professional training and at the same time immerse in the culture of the place and enjoy it, Soccer Italian Style and the Association Il Trovatore are able to plan your trip in details, adapting the itinerary and lodging based on the wishes and necessities of the players and chaperones.

**Soccer Italian Style**
Mirko Mazzantini & Simone Bombardieri

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