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Coaching The 4-2-3-1



Synopsis

The 4-2-3-1 is the favored formation of many top teams in world soccer at both club and national team level. This fluid, attack minded system has come to the forefront thanks to it's success at the highest levels. Most notably, Spain utilized the 4-2-3-1 in winning both the 2008 European Championship and the 2010 World Cup. Top club sides Arsenal, Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Bayern Munich have also had success with the system. In this book, Wayne Harrison breaks down the 4-2-3-1 and discusses the principles, player roles and responsibilities, variations and adjustments based on the opponent's strategy. He also offers a complete coaching plan to implement this system including specific training exercises complete with detailed diagrams and coaching points. This is the most comprehensive coaching manual dealing specifically with the 4-2-3-1 ever written.

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Customer Reviews

I am the assistant coach of a really good high school team. My head coach decided to move to the 4-2-3-1 formation this year and I decided to use this book as a resource for tactics and training sessions as I am more of a proponent of the 4-3-3. This is not a book for a novice coach or a youth league team. The concepts will help coaches who have adolescent club teams, high school teams, college and pro. I would recommend reading this before you implement the system if you never have played the 4-2-3-1 before. Getting it right is difficult which is why very few teams are successful with it.

Could be a little more user friendly as this mostly has positional placements of players under various

(a ton of) markings and attack. The upside is it was easy to use some of the positional stuff to eek out a lesson for my high school team on various aspects from marking to defensive shape to build up through the midfield and running off the ball to get them used to this formation after years of having the 4-4-2 beaten into their heads. Usually, we'll drop this on a team when they switch to a 3-5-2 or try to overload our midfield in a 4-4-2 and they don't know what hit them. And our outside backs love that they can now get in on the attack much more easily. You'll see a lot of the Champions League teams running this formation, and it's still not fully utilized or understood here in the States at the High School level. I won't complain.

Excellent book covering the 4-2-3-1 system. It sets out different ways of playing the system and how to develop coaching sessions with a view to implementing the system with your team. This is a book for the more experienced coach and would be useful for a coach working at a professional or semi professional level. The 4-2-3-1 system set out requires a high level of technical ability and tactical understanding among players involved in order to fulfill its potential. A useful tool for any coach to have even if they don't intend to use this system with their players. Only criticism was I had to purchase kindle version.

Wayne Harrison is the guru of the 4-2-3-1 and much more. He uses his experience to compare and contrast the system with others. In addition, he analyzes team play at professional level relative to the 4-2-3-1.

This is an outstanding read from cover to cover. There is no finer book that covers the 4-3-2-1 system of play. Starting from the basic team structure it works methodically through each of the positions on the field and covers, in depth, the attributes required by each player. Then the book breaks down the starting system structure and builds the play through four phases into the final attacking sequences. Each player's role is covered in detail in every phase of play and drills for coaching each aspect of the individual and team play is covered. Defending, transition and attacking is further broken down into small sided games and drills, working across units, and building up from 9v9 to 11v11. Flexible formations are described clearly and applied to game scenarios. How to play against different formations is also covered, as well as how to change the basic system to meet the changing requirements of different game situations. There is enough material here to take any coach from novice to expert in the 4-2-3-1 system, and that is quite a feat!

The objective I bought this book was because I'm taking an internship next Summer for the World Cup held in Brazil, I want to hone my foundation of some professional knowledge. This book provides many diagrams of how the author shows his professional tactics towards the 4-2-3-1 formation. Having read about 100 pages, I think this book really matters if you are doing something related to soccer tactics. I never thought the goalkeeper is that important in the overall tactics in a team.

I received this book and began to read it during the 2013 Gold Cup which the USA dominated. Everything I read in the book I could see implemented by the US team. Klinsman could sell DVDs of the US games as a companion to this book. The tactics described are not just theoretical, they are being used by top professional and national teams. Both the defensive and offensive concepts are presented clearly and fairly easy to understand if you have a background in soccer coaching. The author uses players from Real Madrid and Barcelona as examples how the different positions are used. If you watch those teams it is easy to see how the tactics are deployed. There are training plans presented but this is not the best book if you are looking for training ideas. This is really about the role of each player in this system. To implement this at the youth level I believe it would certainly be a time consuming task and more appropriate for advanced club teams.

I don't coach at an age where this formation is required but the book has given me a much better understanding of how teams play the modern game. With a better understanding, I now enjoy watching the movements and tactics of quality football more.

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