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European Game: An Adventure To Explore Football On The Continent And Its Methods For Success



Synopsis

The European Game is an adventure. Over three months Dan Fieldsend travelled the continent discovering the methods for success used at some of the biggest clubs in Europe, from Ajax and Juventus, to Feyenoord, Inter Milan, Bayern Munich, Benfica, Athletic Bilbao and many more. At each institution he visited, Fieldsend delved to the very heart of what made the club tick, speaking to members of staff all the way up the hierarchical ladder, from scouts and academy coaches to first team managers, analysts and board members, pulling back the curtain to reveal their day to day workings. This book is about travel, about society, about identity and attachment. It comprises leadership, tactics, coaching and scouting as well as politics, finance, fandom and culture. This is a broad investigation into Europe's relationship with football and what nations can learn from one another, celebrating the uniqueness of football clubs around the continent and the culture of their nations, and exploring whether or not the methods they implement with success can be instilled in other domestic leagues.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am giving this book a four star because I think a five-star rating may diminish Jonathan Wilson's 'Inverting the Pyramid', which I think is more comprehensive even though it is about the history

football tactics whereas Fieldsend's book is a more general book. Fieldsend's book is more up-to-date (2017, compared to Wilson's 2013 updated edition), and has more interesting stories about owners of football clubs and how they spend their money. The Qataris Sports Investments (QSI) is an example. QSI has changed the European game when it changed Paris St Germaine. Fieldsend's book is also written in a more accessible style, compared to the drier style of Wilson; but then Wilson was writing a very detailed and specific book about the history of football tactics from all over the world. He compares tactical line ups such as England with a defensive midfielder in Nobby Stiles against Argentina's attacking Midfielder in Onega. Both books provide a treasure chest of information, but you will need patience to fully appreciate Wilson. Fieldsend's book can be enjoyed in a day, and enjoy you will. He has a great deal of information about the history of the transfer market and how it had affected the game. He tells us, for example, things like the average age of players sold, the sales above GBP10m after the Champions League triumph of Porto in 2004, and how Juventus rekindled Carlos Tevez's ambitions. Fieldsend discusses a lot about Pep Guardiola, and perhaps rightly so. We are told that Pep thinks Philip Lamm to be 'the most intelligent player' he (Pep) has met. These are snippets within clear specific chapter titles. Fieldsend belongs on a football fan's book-shelf - alongside Wilson's book. There is a third book, *The Mixer* by Michael Cox, and that is also published in 2017 like Fieldsend's book, but although highly fascinating and full of detailed stories of players and managers, *The Mixer* is a story of the Premier League in England. So a complete collection will probably have to include Cox's book unless, of course, one is not a Premier League fan.

wow I felt that it was a book about european league and i like it very much. everyone should look at it, of course the excellent fans

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