

Abstract

Title: Determination of criteria for the selection of football talents for the position of central midfielder in selected formations

Objectives: The main aim of this work is to compile a list of the most important criteria, which will allow identifying football talents in the U15 category playing the position of central midfielder in selected game systems from the perspective of the representative agency.

Methods: Qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to create a list of the most important criteria for selecting football talents. In the first phase of the research, semi-structured interviews were conducted with player agents and scouts, which brought a unique insight into the issue of identifying talents and their subsequent care. Based on previous research, a list of criteria observed in a central midfielder was compiled. It was consequently narrowed by scaling each criteria into the final form of the most important criteria for the identification of football talents in the U15 category playing as a central midfielder in selected formations.

Results: The result of the diploma thesis is the compilation of a list of the most important criteria, which will enable the identification of football talents in the U15 age category for the position of central midfielder in selected formations. Semi-structured interviews with scouts and player agents showed the current situation on the player market, the regulation of agents by FIFA, the shortcomings of the Czech football environment in the identification of talents, the possibility of using statistical analysis in the selection of players and the importance of knowledge of foreign languages for young footballers who want to play abroad. Using the scaling method, a resulting list of the 25 most important criteria was created. The quality of the first touch, handling the ball, height, speed of movement, passing, endurance and decision-making speed were among the most important criteria monitored for central midfielders.

Keywords: football, talent, scouting, criteria, central midfielder, formations