



An electronic trainer to help soccer teams win

LOCATION: School of Sport Science, Granada

DURATION: 1'44"

SUMMARY: For the first time, scientists have identified the styles of play of various soccer teams from an objective point of view. They conducted an international study, led by the University of Granada, that analyzed 97 teams from Spanish and English leagues. Their conclusions can help to improve coaches and training sessions to prepare for games.

VTR:

In an international study, led by a team at the University of Granada, they are working to objectively identify the styles of play of various soccer teams, something that has never been done before. The results of the investigation could be a new sort of third coach for soccer teams, an electronic coach that helps them to win the league.

LUIS FRADUA

**Researcher at the University
of Granada**

"To identify the patterns used by a team to be able to say that this team play in this way or the other way. It seeks to understand how coaches can train their teams to win"

JAVIER FERNÁNDEZ

**Researcher at the University
of Granada**

"This is a model, although it's not perfect, that serves to determine the different styles of play employed by the teams."

The researchers have analyzed data from 97 soccer teams from the Spanish and English Premier Leagues. They studied the teams in the seasons spanning 2006-2007 and 2010-2011. They have found 12 different styles of play, 8 offense and 4 defense.

JAVIER FERNÁNDEZ

**Researcher at the University
of Granada**

"The types of possession that the players have within the team, and more specifically, in which part of the field that type of possession is most frequent. In addition, other series of events such as stealing the ball."

In this study, assisted by the University of Liverpool, they analyzed, for example, Real Madrid as coached by Mourinho and Barça under Guardiola. The predominant style of Real Madrid was rapid progressions toward the opposing goal while Barcelona received high marks for styles of play while in possession and under high pressure.

LUIS FRADUA

**Researcher at the University
of Granada**

"We are still working to create the context, the way of explaining patterns, to be able to go further and talk more about team and player individualisation, etcetera."

The results could serve to improve the training sessions, to get to know the opposing team, prepare tactics, and even to assist the managers in seeking out new players.