

# CONTENTS

Preface .....	8
Introduction.....	11

## PART 1: LOOKING BACK

1 The dancing refrigerators – From the depression of the turn of the millennium to the fourth title .....	15
1.1 The first step – An extensive network of DFB centers .....	17
1.2 Talent development at youth performance centers .....	22
1.3 Star wars – Ensuring quality at youth performance centers .....	23
1.4 Reformation 2.0 .....	23
1.5 Visible progress .....	24
1.6 German in-house production: The local player .....	26
1.7 To the top of the world .....	26
2 A word from Germany's top coach – Interview with Frank Wormuth .....	31

## PART 2: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

3 The wellspring of the future – Youth performance centers .....	37
3.1 Introduction .....	37
3.2 Training at VfB Stuttgart – Tradition obliges .....	46
3.2.1 The newly constructed youth performance center – An important foundation for the future .....	47
3.2.2 A conversation with Rainer Adrion, athletic director at the youth performance center .....	49

**CREATING WORLD CHAMPIONS**

- 3.3    The Kroos family – A down-home success story ..... 52
  - 3.3.1    Interview with Roland Kroos ..... 53
- 3.4    The Berlin way – Training top talent for pro soccer ..... 57
  - 3.4.1    Introduction ..... 57
  - 3.4.2    Frank Vogel talks ..... 58
- 3.5    School, Chelsea, and the fight for the dream – Maurice Neubauer of U19 of FC Schalke 04 ..... 65
- 3.6    VfL Wolfsburg – Holistic thinking as the key to youth development ..... 69
- 3.7    Interview with Werner Mickler, DFB psychologist ..... 76
- 3.8    BVB – Practiced consistency ..... 84
  - 3.8.1    Insights into BVB’s approach by U19 coach, Hannes Wolf ..... 86
  - 3.8.2    Youth soccer coach as a full-time job ..... 88
- 3.9    Diligence, international flair, and blood, sweat, and tears – Schalke 04’s youth division builds pros ..... 91
  - 3.9.1    Interview with Schalke’s director of youth development, Oliver Ruhnert ..... 91
  - 3.10    At the threshold to pro soccer – Life after the youth performance center ..... 98

**PART 3: EXAMPLES**

- 4    Many roads lead to the top ..... 105
  - 4.1    Manuel Neuer – The boy from Buer starts the goalkeeper revolution ..... 106
  - 4.2    No name – European vagabond – world champion – The crazy tale of Shkodran Mustafi ..... 112

4.3	Sebastian Rode – From a parking lot to FC Bayern .....	118
4.4	Debuting with a club record – Maximilian Arnold .....	121
4.5	Back to his roots – The path of Marco Reus .....	124
<b>5</b>	<b>Individual training units of star players .....</b>	<b>129</b>
5.1	Ralf Fährmann .....	130
5.2	Shkodran Mustafi .....	134
5.3	Sebastian Rode .....	137
5.4	Marco Reus .....	140

## **PART 4: AMATEUR SOCCER**

<b>6</b>	<b>Recreational sports form the base of the path to the Top – Amateur soccer .....</b>	<b>145</b>
6.1	Started small, made it big – Some national team players and their beginnings .....	149
6.2	Project TuS Haltern – A different kind of amateur club .....	152
<b>7</b>	<b>Between Bernabeu, Arena Berlin, and Stauseekampfbahn Stadium – Interview with vice world champion, Christoph Metzelder .....</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>A look ahead .....</b>	<b>169</b>
8.1	“Germany will dominate European soccer in the next 10 years” .....	170
8.2	More investment to stay on top .....	173
	<b>References .....</b>	<b>178</b>
	<b>Photo credits .....</b>	<b>183</b>