

Reckers, The “wizzkid” of Louis van Gaal (Translated)

Eindhoven – Max Reckers hadn't officially started with his job, but was reminded by the technical staff that he had to go through the official press service before he was allowed to start the interview.



With a big smile he admitted that the rules that apply in top football were not yet totally clear for the ex-hockey player.

Reckers (27) is not the new centre striker or right winger for the AZ Football Club. He is, next to assistant Edward Metgod, the new right hand for coach Louis van Gaal as a fulltime game analyst. Louis van Gaal asks and he delivers results.

In other words, “I need to translate his words to the digital world” says Reckers, who currently works as a Server & Application engineer at the University of Applied Sciences in Eindhoven. Besides his daily job he's also the assistant trainer and game analyst of HC Rotterdam's Women's team. At night the ex hockey player also works for Sportstec, an Australian company that excels in developing technical tools for the sportsworld.

In Holland many sport associations have found their way to the company, among which are eight premier league soccer clubs. AZ is one of these. The link was made easily, “There are a lot of technicians and a lot of coaches also. But I'm one of the few who can do both. This is what I'm good at” says Reckers in response to the question why AZ contacted him.

Accompanied by the cameraman his job is to gather data within the Sportstec video analysis system called SportsCode. “For example the number of passes, ball contacts

per individual, possession gains and losses or attempts. Whatever Louis van Gaal wants. Everything is possible.”

With a single push (of the button) it is possible to view and compare data and video. “That is unique with this video system.”

He steps into the world of football, but has no real knowledge of the sport. “The only experience I have with soccer is that we always played football in our backyard. But sport is sport. As long as I can understand and respond to what the coach wants it is fine.”

The 27 year old Eindhovenenaar has more experience with hockey. Brother Rob and sister Puck both play at premier league club Oranje Zwart (OZ). The ex-player from Oranje Zwart, Tilburg and EMHC had to give up playing when a shoulder injury prevented him from playing at the highest level. After this, former national coach Gijs van Heumen, asked him to help him out as an assistant coach for the Oranje Zwart Women’s team.

After OZ and a three year adventure with the hockey ladies of Rotterdam, now it’s his new job to go to AZ - for a year at least. He leaves Rotterdam with pain in his heart, “the best club by far”. “We have built something amazing”, but his ambition won over his familiarity.

“I want more and I want it to be the best. AZ wants to be the best with technical developments, that is what attracts me. It is the best or nothing. I currently work with the best hockey coaches, Roelant Oltmans and Gijs van Heumen. In Soccer, Louis van Gaal is one of the best coaches from this country. He is not a easy man, but that’s the same for me or Gijs” he says. “In my vision a coach is never easy, else he will never be one of the best coaches”.

“I can rely on my expertise, that’s my weapon.”

<http://www.eindhovenstadblad.nl/sport/sporteindhoven/article1671056.ece>