

# The Overseas Coaches Debate Reopens...

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So another international tournament failure leads to a need for a new coach - and apparently the [England players are keen for an overseas appointment](#) (notwithstanding that some of them may not be selected after some of the performances.....)

All home nation rugby union teams are coached by overseas coaches and, on the whole are bringing success in results (England whitewashing Australia, Ireland competing against the Springboks and, despite being blown away by the All Blacks, i think Wales played well across their series) and an England Cricket team who are enjoyable to watch.

However, where does this leave our 'homegrown' coaches? Most of the England players within the Euro 16 squad are (or have been) coached by overseas coaches, and in a system where instant money apparently means instant success....and instant removal when it doesn't happen, there appears to be no time given to embed philosophies, change of playing styles and, crucially, player and skills development.

There is a counter argument to this is that foreign coaches seem to be having success - the top 8 teams are all coached by overseas coaches (and even those who have changed this summer have kept to this policy) with the first British coach in Mark Hughes at Stoke coming in in 9th place....is there a perception that British coaches are inferior, either from employers or the wider publics view...and it isn't just football where this is the case, with examples from both rugby codes.

This seems to be hampering the progress up the system of domestic coaches through the system. This quick failure system of coaches being removed from roles prevent any long term infrastructure being developed - Look at Ferguson and Ancelotti - both would be deemed as failures today in the early part of their career but their generational change of clubs and players has been huge.

There is also the paradox around where our coaches coach abroad (or not as is often the case!) Being a Derby fan (don't bother with the jokes, I'm sure I have heard most of them before), when Paul Clement was appointed last summer, I was very positive. A few mixed results and performances gave way to unbeaten runs, and a climb to the top of the Championship....for whatever reasons, he as sacked in January.

When asked by a colleague of my thoughts early in the season, I commented, somewhat jokingly, he was 'too foreign' in his thinking for some people and players. There may have been an element of truth in my observation. I will be interested in seeing where his next solo coaching role comes next (more than likely after gaining plaudits with Ancelotti in Munich)

So where do we go? Are the foreign coaches making 'us coaches' better in our approach? Are they giving different solutions to the same questions?

Or as Brad Pitt said in Moneyball, we need to adapt or die...

Food for thought!

Jon

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