

### **2014 National Hockey Coaches Symposium**

# Developing Young Goalies as an Individual – Thoughts out of Finland

Tommi Niemelä, Pelicans Lahti U20 Head coach IIHF Mentor Goalie coach





#### **The Result**



























#### **Finnish System**



- 1) Goalie coaching education of FIHA
- 2) Work on the club level
- 3) Working with an individual goalie
- 4) Tools to use with an individual



#### **Goalies Are Weird!**







# Goalie Coaching Education FIHA



- FIHA has its own Goalie Coaching education program with 2 levels + STARTcourse for parents
  - Start-course
  - Sport specific technical and tactical skills (Level 1)
    - Run by Mentor goalie coaches in 8 regions
  - Level 1 includes also 2 courses that are in common for goalie coaches and player coaches
    - Physical training
    - Sensitive period training
  - Holistic coaching of the goalie (Level 2)
    - Run nationwide by Chief goalie coach + National team goalie coaches



# Goalie Coaching Education FIHA



- •1 Chief goalie coach
- 8 Mentor goalie coaches in 8 regions
- 4 goalie coaches in National teams
  - Only the Chief goalie coach is not working in a club, the only full paid of FIHA



# How it is Applied on the Club Level



- Finland's hockey-system is based on the work in club levels
- Professional men's teams develop their own players in the junior and youth system of the club
  - Mens SM-league
    - 4 14 clubs
  - Mens Division 1
    - 10 clubs
  - Every club has its own program from U7 until U20
    - U16 is the first age-group that plays for the Finnish Championship
  - Smaller clubs develop players for bigger clubs in their area, and run recreational hockey in older age groups.



### How it is Applied on Club Level – as an Example Pelicans Lahti



#### Pelicans Lahti

- Mens Elite League (SM-League) + Junior and youth organization
  - 1-3 teams in every age-group starting U8 until U20
  - Every age group has its own goalie coach
- 2 Full-time goalie coaches
  - 1 responsible for Men's team and U20 and mentoring goalie coach from U18
  - 1 responsible for U18 and mentoring goalie coach from U16
- 9 goalie coaches in addition who work as volunteers
  - 1 goalie coach is responsible for mentoring goalie coaches in age-groups U12 to U15
  - 1 goalie coach is responsible for mentoring goalie coaches in age-groups U8 to U11



### How it is Applied on Club Level – as an Example Pelicans Lahti

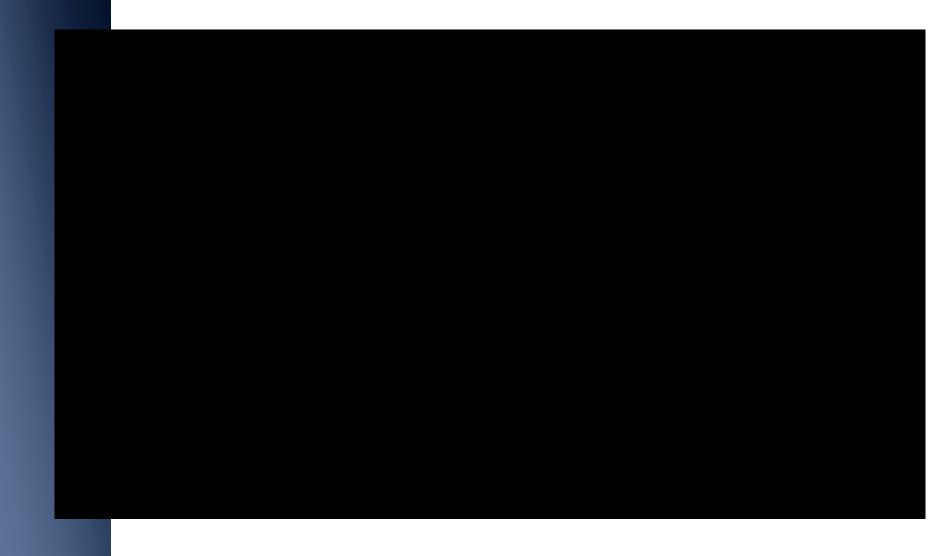


- Club's head goalie coach runs 1
   Start-course every year in their own club
  - If they are not licensed by the FIHA, a regional Mentor coach will do the course in the club!
- Every goalie coach can attend regional courses of Level 1 every year
  - Paid by the club!



### How it is Applied on Club Level – as an Example Pelicans Lahti











# WORKING WITH THE INDIVIDUAL GOALIE



#### **Qualities of an Individual**



An individual has certain qualities and skills

**TACTICAL** KNOWLEDGE

**TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE** 

**GOALIE** 

**PHYSICAL** ATTRIBUTES ATTRIBUTES

**MENTAL** 



#### **Qualities of an Individual**



• The development of all four qualities is the goal in every practice. These are the ones that define how the goalie performs in a game situation.



#### Tactical knowledge

 Recognizing the situation > making the decision according the game situations goal



#### Technical knowledge

- Movement skills
- Basic puck stopping skills
- Stickhandling skills



#### Physical attributes

 Speed, power, stamina balance, mobility



#### **Tactical Knowledge**



#### • Recognizing the game situation

- How many players are in the zone? Is the situation for our team equal, outnumbered or overnumbered?
   Communication with players.
- Does the opponent have the puck in control or is it bouncing?
- What options does attacking player have?

#### Making the decision

- Challenging the attacker
- Covering the puck
- Playing it out of the zone
- Reading passes and intercepting them



#### **Technical Knowledge**



- Tools that the goalie uses to execute his personal tactical knowledge
  - Movement skills (stand-up and on the ice)
  - Basic puck stopping skills
    - Butterfly, stand-up, half-butterfly etc.
  - Stickhandling techniques
    - Shooting, passing, intercepting, poke-checks



#### **Physical Attributes**



- In order to be able to play a successful goalie's game, it is crucial to be in very good physical condition.
  - Physical condition is a tool to be able to work with your techniques after the decisionmaking process.
    - Strong legs: getting up and down on the ice, stopping and pushing with both legs, staying in the basic stance for long times
    - Powerful core: balance and control of your body, all saving techniques come from the core
    - Mobility and strength of arms: hands are the most important tools for the goalie (catcher, blocker and stick)



#### **Qualities of an Individual**



• The development of this box should be emphasized

> MENTAL ATTRIBUTES



#### **Mental Attributes**



- Development of self-confidence
  - Discussions about good performances, shutouts!
  - Increasing self-knowledge through selfevaluation, own strengths and weaknesses
  - Showing test results, seeing development through concrete results lifts up self-confidence
- Development of feeling responsible
  - Making the goalie understand his role in accordance to success of the team
    - Sometimes also as a backup
- Development of an optimal arousal level
  - The goalie has to learn to recognize his own arousal level, and when he performs best!
  - Thinking about it and discussing it is the way to learn it!



### **Tools for Development for Qualities of an Individual**



- Long-term development plan with subjective targets of the individual for all qualities
  - In order to go through a long-term development plan, the goalie needs intrinsic motivation
    - Intrinsic motivation contains out of three factors

Feeling competent

Feeling of autonomy

Feeling of fellowship

• An individual goalie has to feel that he is competent!



### **Tools for Development for Qualities of an Individual**

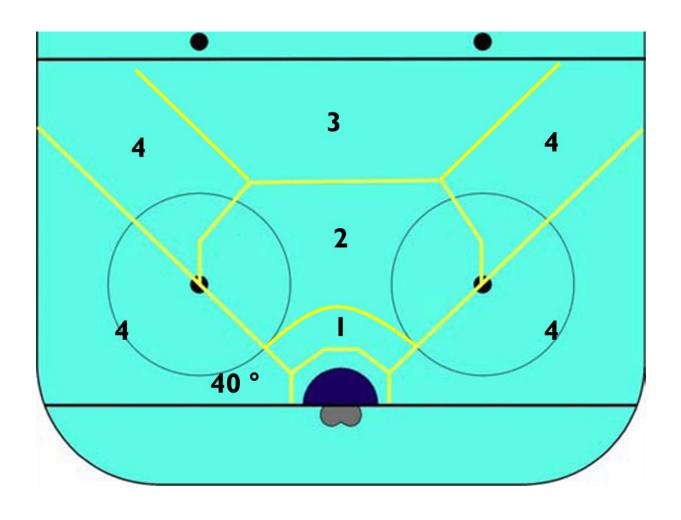


- Game-evaluation through facts
  - The idea of evaluation is to raise the level of self-confidence – not to demolish it!



#### **Scoring Areas**



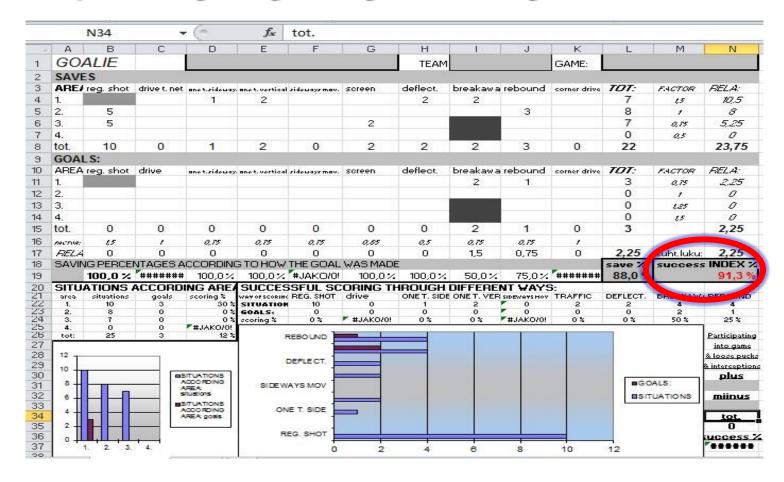




## **Evaluation of Goalies— Game Evaluation Sheet**



- As an example:
  - Young goalies need different facts than just save percentage or goals against average





#### The Growth of the Goalie



- Every individual has the possibility to play all positions in the game until the age of 10-12
  - This ensures enough exercise in the child phase, and gives versatility to the athlete.
  - During this phase it is emphasized to learn only basic movements, where basic skating skills can be easily adapted from the players side to the goalies side and vice versa.
  - The possibility to always play either in the net, or as an player on the field, develops a child much more than to specialize too early and sit on the bench.
- REMEMBER, THAT BEING A GOALIE IS NOT AN EARLY SPECIALIZATION SPORT!!!!!!!



#### **Overall**



- The most important issue for developing the goalie is a feeling of trust, that the goalie coach has to develop with his athlete already when he is young.
  - Without this all the development stages can't be met.
- The goalies should be taught already in younger years the concept of selfevaluation, leads to better selfconfidence!
- Emphasize the fun in the net, it is GREAT to STOP the puck!
- The goalie is at his best when he is 28-35. Not 18!!!



# Just as a Reminder. . . Not Normal Ones!!









#### **THANK YOU!**

**TOMMI NIEMELÄ** 

tommi.niemela@pelicans.fi

+358 50 537 9983