

Week 2 - How do Professional Clubs Scout?

Learning Objective and Assignment:

What's the role of the Chief Scout and how they develop the scouting department?

How do League 2 and 3 teams typically recruit and evaluate players?

Part 1- Identify who you think are 5 of the best U20 prospects in the country that you reside in and why?

Part 2- Pick 3 of the players and explain what club would you recommend each player to and why?

What's the role of the Chief Scout and how they develop the scouting department?

The Chief Scout(CS) is usually a full time employed member of the staff and is responsible for liaising with the clubs technical staff (Technical Director, Academy Director, Manager etc) and setting the scouting assignments for the clubs network of other scouts. The CS will act as a filter and often times give final approval prior to providing the technical staff with reports for the most notable targets, the scouts have found.

In addition to these duties, the chief scout is responsible for managing relationships with football clubs in Leagues both locally and internationally. He will also work with soccer management agencies and foreign soccer development academies.

Scouts are the main assets to increasing player knowledge in any club or association, they are important for scouting new players and talents and will give recommendations on potential transfer targets.

With the financial challenges in the modern game it is becoming increasingly important for all clubs, but especially those in the lower leagues with less resources, to build an extensive database of potential players and make signings that do not deplete already stretched operating budgets.

Sometimes the discovery of a young talent that can be developed and sold to a bigger club, can be the difference to that club between financial survival or not.

As I said in a previous assignment, Primarily, there are two types of soccer scout the Chief Scout will have at their disposal, the Talent Scout and the Tactical Scout.

The Talent Scout

The job of the Talent Scout is to attend matches, training and events with the objective of spotting potential players for their club or academy to sign.

The Tactical Scout

The job of the Tactical Scout is to attend opponent club's matches and build up a knowledge base for the Chief Scout to present to the club manager.

These scouts will assess the tactics of the other team, patterns of play, and players who could cause his team a problem when the two clubs meet.

At some clubs, it can be the role of a Coach, Assistant Manager or even the Manager to carry out scouting assignments of opposition teams.

How do League 2 and 3 teams typically recruit and evaluate players?

In general these teams have drastically less resources and as such are left to fight over the scraps of the players who are usually at either end of their playing career.

Much of the scouting is done by amateur scouts or Former/Long term members of the club such as players, coaches or former staff.

The concept of having a dedicated scouting team with resources reaching into the far flung corners of the world are out of reach for clubs in the lower leagues.

These clubs are however very used to using a multitude of means to source information, like the internet, fan pages and independent scouting agencies.



Part 1

Identify who you think are 5 of the best U20 prospects in the country that you reside in and why.



ANTHONY WATT

Date of birth: 29.12.1993

Place of birth: Coatbridge

Age: 19

Height: 1.82m

Nationality: Scotland

Position: Striker - Centre Forward

Foot: right

Market value: 1.250.000 €

Player's agent: Arena Sports Management Ltd

Watt has all the attributes needed in a modern Striker, he has blistering pace, quick reactions in the penalty area and can score with his head. At this time Watt is only missing experience and regular playing time.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCkDxQrvz64>

Club	Season	League		FA Cup		League Cup		Europe		Other		Total	
		Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Airdrie United	2010-11	15	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	19	3
	Total	15	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	19	3
Celtic	2011-12	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
	2012-13	20	5	1	0	2	0	5	1	0	0	28	6
	2013-14	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
	Total	25	7	1	0	2	0	6	1	0	0	34	8
Lierse SK	2013-14	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
	Total	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
Career Total		47	11	3	1	4	0	6	1	1	0	61	13



DYLAN MCGEOUCH

Date of birth: 01.10.1993

Place of birth: Milton, Glasgow

Age: 20

Height: 1.78m

Nationality: Scotland

Position: Midfield - Attacking Midfield

Foot: right

Market value: 400.000 €

McGeouch's primary position is as an attacking midfielder but he can also play on the wings, on the video evidence I have seen of him, he has very good technical ability and a good eye for goal. As a creative player he has the rare ability to tackle well too.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7pwOOvCNXM>

Club	Season	League		Cup		League Cup		Europe		Total	
		Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Celtic	2011-12	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	1
	2012-13	12	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	15	1
	2013-14	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0
	Celtic Total	19	2	4	0	2	0	1	0	26	2
Career Total		19	2	4	0	2	0	1	0	26	2



RYAN GAULD

Date of birth: 16.12.1995

Place of birth: Aberdeen

Age: 17

Height: 1.68m

Nationality: Scotland

Position: Midfield - Left Midfield

Foot: both

Market value: 200.000 €

Gauld has the potential to be the best Scottish midfielders since John Collins or Paul Lambert, fantastic skill, pace and creativity although he does tend to get knocked off the ball a lot, it draws a lot of fouls for his team though. He is also the youngest member of the national under 21 squad.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BX0GpZWc0bk>

Club	Season	League		Scottish Cup		League Cup		Other		Total	
		Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Dundee United	2011-12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	2012-13	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	1
	2013-14	13	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	16	5
Career Total		24	5	1	0	3	1	0	0	28	6





CLARK ROBERTSON
 Date of birth: 05.09.1993
 Place of birth: Aberdeen
 Age: 20
 Height: 1.88m
 Nationality: Scotland
 Position: Defence - Left-Back
 Foot: left
 Market value: 300.000 €

Robertson is a solid defender with a cultured left foot, he has appeared for his country at under-19 and is starting to establish himself as a regular part of the first team at Aberdeen for the past two seasons.

Club	Season	League		Cup		League Cup		Other		Total	
		Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Aberdeen	2009-10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	2010-11	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	0
	2011-12	9	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
	2012-13	23	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	27	0
	2013-14	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	10	0
Career Total		55	0	5	0	6	0	0	0	66	0



JASON HOLT
 Date of birth: 19.02.1993
 Place of birth: Edinburgh
 Age: 20
 Height: 1.64m
 Nationality: Scotland
 Position: Midfield - Central Midfield
 Foot: left
 Market value: 250.000 €
 Player's agent: Viola FC

An energetic and creative playmaker, and also a regular goal-scorer, who graduated from the Hearts Academy in 2009.

Holt has represented Scotland at under-19, under-20 and under-21 level and was voted the Premier League's U19 Player of the Year for 2010-11

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcfQ7IIHzUw>

Club	Season	League		Scottish Cup		League Cup		Other		Total	
		App	Goals	App	Goals	App	Goals	App	Goals	App	Goals
Hearts	2010-11 season	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	2011-12 season	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
	2012-13 season	21	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	23	3
	2013-14 season	12	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	15	1
	Total		36	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	41
Raith Rovers	2011-12 season	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
	Total	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Career Total		41	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	46	6

Part 2

Pick 3 of the players and explain what club would you recommend each player to and why.

ANTHONY WATT

I would send Watt on loan for another couple of years at young developing clubs before looking to either play him regularly for Celtic or selling him to a newly promoted EPL team, the likes of QPR or Watford or a regular EPL team with a smaller transfer budget and squad, such as West Brom or Stoke City.

DYLAN MCGEOUCH

Everton, Roberto Martinez is a fan of direct, energetic and technical players, I can see him as a replacement for Leon Osman over the next couple of seasons.

RYAN GAULD

I would see Gauld at Derby County to replace Will Hughes who will be signed by a EPL team in 2014. The Championship would be a good platform for a teenage technician of this high standard, it would allow him to get good playing time while sharpening his skills and making him a stronger physical presence at the same time.

