

**Maynard, I. (1991). An understanding approach to the teaching of rugby union.
British journal of Physical Education, 22(1), 11-17**

Summery by Paul Flater

Issue/focus

Ian Maynard's article is incorporating the understanding approach to teaching rugby. The problems encountered are that rugby has basic differences from other invasion games that cause difficulties for teachers attempting to teach newcomers. Passing backwards, set pieces and physical contact are features of rugby that create confusion for newcomers and a drop in interest. The purpose of this article is to create a methodology for teachers and coaches to emphasize the running and handling aspects of rugby.

Reasoning

Maynard argues that by simplifying the game of rugby and taking out physical contact until later in a player's development the game will become more appealing to a wider range of participants. He supports this argument by emphasizing the fact that the full game is complicated and unlike other invasion sports. He states that these differences can cause confusion in novice players and a drop in enthusiasm. He also argues that a misplaced early push of full contact tends to result in larger players dominating the play.

Assumptions

Maynard is making some assumptions in regards to the knowledge and desire of the adult to coach/teach rugby and the student/players desire to participate in rugby. He is assuming that boys and girls will play together at a young age and then play separate once physical contact is introduced.

Conclusion

Maynard's approach to rugby enhances running and handling skills central to any competent rugby player. He also helps develop techniques that will greatly aid the decision making processes used in a full game. This simplification of basic play and reduction of physical contact is a stepping stone to the full game of rugby.

Significant Information

Leave full games, line-outs, scrums, and contact until later in a player's development.

Personal Comments

The article is packed with good ideas and good drills but is only really relevant for mini-rugby and PE classes where a full game is inappropriate.