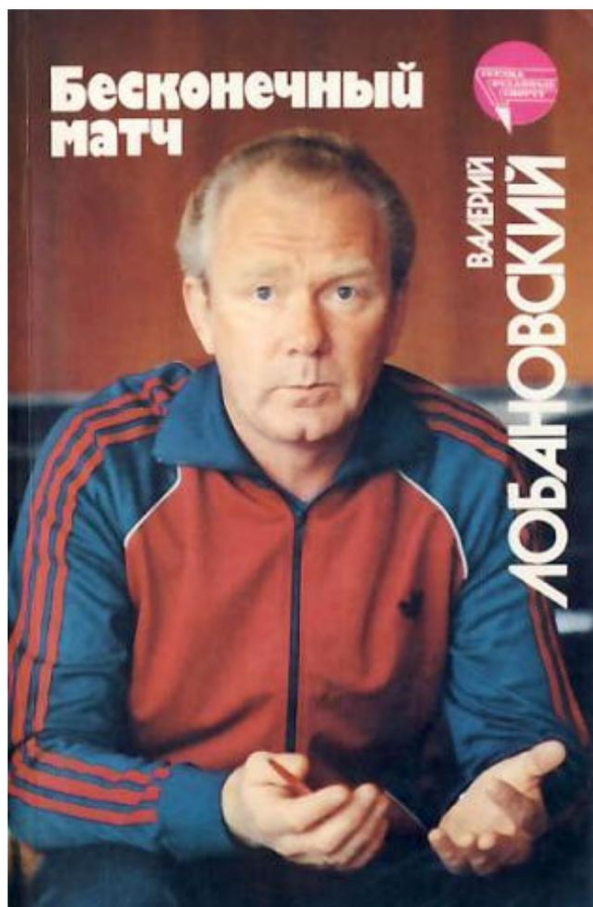


Valery Lobanovsky Endless Match



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"Endless match": Physical education and sports; Moscow; 1989

annotation

The author of the book, Honored Coach of the USSR V.V. Lobanovsky, shares with readers his many years of thoughts about the game and observations of football life both in our country and abroad.

Valery Vasilievich Lobanovsky Endless Match

Introduction

Frankly, it is very difficult for an acting coach, which I continue to be, to find time for a detailed presentation of his views on football, for a story about certain events in which he was directly involved. I had to condense the work schedule to the limit, but first I had to decide: what to address the reader with?

It was possible to follow the beaten path of retelling the events in their chronological order, flavored by the author's attitude towards them, supplemented by extensive statistical calculations, team compositions and other information, perhaps interesting, but not sure what is necessary on these pages.

I suppose it is not yet time for me to engage in memoirs and, even more so, biographical

research (and are they needed at all?). Once, the famous Italian football player Sandro Mazzola was once asked in an interview: "Is it true that you don't like to talk about your personal life?" He replied: "Yes, and I hope you will not ask about it. It would never occur to anyone to be interested in the details of the personal life of an engineer or a digger, representatives of many other professions. They do their job and that's enough. I am doing my job, and this is also quite enough to understand who I am.

Those readers who expect to know the details of my biography can close the book after reading these lines. The book is not a conversation among relatives over evening tea, for me it is a good opportunity to express my point of view on the game called football, to share my thoughts on how it is developing, to try to look into the future.

I tried to tell (it's not for me to judge how it happened) about the most remarkable football events of recent times, in which the team that became my home many years ago took part, to recall colleagues who had a noticeable influence on my coaching development, and about the players, without which no coach can exist.

It would be much easier if football always remained only a fascinating confrontation between two teams on a green field. But it has become a deeply social phenomenon, and there is no escape from the fact of this, no matter how much some would like to do it. The phenomenon, which occupies far from the last place in the life of society, requires constant understanding of the processes associated with it in order to manage these processes at a higher organizational level.

I do not intend to impose my beliefs on anyone, it would be highly unreasonable, but I passionately want them to be listened to, and therefore I am fighting for a new word and result.

Chapter 1

In order to, as we say, "get to Europe", you need to win something at home: or take a prize place, or win in the Cup.

Dynamo Kiev finished the 1984 season in tenth place, and I was close to experiencing the consequences of organizational conclusions that are common in such situations. In any case, I knew that behind my back there were negotiations with candidates for the post of head coach. But the leaders responsible for the state of football affairs were able to understand the real and objective conditions prevailing at that time in the changing team, and listened to the opinion of the team, which expressed a desire to continue working with the former coach.

On my initiative, we had a very important and principled meeting, at which we departed from the mutual reproaches that are customary in case of failures and discussed only one question: do we want - and can we - work at a new, higher quality level? I confess that I was nervous before this meeting, as before a super-important game. Outwardly, of course, it was imperceptible - I had long ago, in my younger years, accustomed myself to not showing my state of mind, but I was ready for any outcome of the conversation.

Passions were fueled by the fact that a dense veil of rumors formed around the team, sowing doubts about the unity of our thoughts and goals, and even discrediting the coaches and a number of players. It's still amazing (I can't get used to it, although I should have long understood the inevitability of this): on days of failure, those who consider themselves the most ardent supporters of the team pretend not to notice any of us. That would be fine. But behind the scenes, they also develop violent anti-team activities and - the most amazing thing - rejoice when the team loses, predict failures with a triumphant air, and if their prophecy does not come true, they are again there. However, we - both coaches and footballers - already know the price of such people and try to treat them as condescendingly as possible. Moreover, as it turns out, this is happening not only with us. K. I. Beskov spoke about such phenomena, for example, in an interview in November 1987, the same situations are familiar to V. K. Ivanov, Yu. A. Morozov, N. P. Akhalkatsi, P. F. Sadyrin ...

Little was said at the meeting, but to the point. I explained to the guys that I was called to the leadership and I needed to know their opinion about the possibility of our further joint

work. "I'll be right with you," I said then. "If you decide to work with me and the leadership agrees with your opinion, my requirements will not change in the slightest, the principles will remain the same. I believe in the team's perspective." The guys said that parting was out of the question. We had to create an almost new team and fight together for the highest results.

From "set a task" to "accomplish" - a solid distance. Our composition has changed significantly. The names of Oleg Kuznetsov, Vasily Rat, Pavel Yakovenko, Ivan Yaremchuk were familiar to many, but not as the players of the "first eleven" of Dynamo Kyiv. Now they have appeared on the first roles, as well as Igor Belanov, invited by us from Odessa "Chernomorets" - the only acquisition of the club before the new season.

For tactical reasons, in various interviews, I complained about the youth and lack of fire on many of the players of the reconstructed squad, but I already understood that serious things could be done with this team. The guarantee for this was the desire of the players to train without sparing themselves according to the proposed program and play, guided by the principles of modern football. Their eyes burned when they went out onto the field or training ground - in the mud, rain, snow, they kneaded it, grumbled quietly to themselves, but did not complain about being tired. Neither in the Caucasus, nor in Germany, where we were preparing for the season.

In 1984, we performed extremely unsuccessfully in the championship, but, in my opinion, there was no catastrophe. Of course, the fans of our team were in a state of shock, and we had to turn pale and blush at the end of the season, meeting with football fans. But it was a failure, not a disaster. A similar decline can be found in the biography of any of the most famous - more famous than ours - club. Another thing is that we have not yet been able to find such a combination of the optimal training regimen with the morale of the team in order to play at a high level in non-two-year series (1974–1975, 1980–1981, 1985–

1986), but more stable.

It is quite difficult to remain courageous when losing and, on the contrary, not too complacency after the victory, to see what turned out not entirely successful.

Recessions in the game are sudden only at first glance, but in fact there is nothing inexplicable in them. The reasons for failure are always specific, real, and identifiable. And this must be done, because, having understood the specific circumstances, the matter can be corrected.

If we talk about the objective reasons for the failures of Dynamo Kyiv in 1984, first of all, I would note the long absence due to injuries of a large number of leading players. This, in turn, made the natural change of generations painful.

With the light hand of some journalists, references to injuries are recognized as untenable. Those who have known the coaching share cannot agree with this. Probably, the newspaper is not very pleased when, due to the illness of its leading columnist, a trainee comment appears on the page, which gives nothing to the mind or heart, while the material of a journalist with a name is read completely thought provoking.

In football, everything is clearer. Two or three cooper players, who determine the game tone, set the rhythm of the game of the whole team, dictate the course of events on the field, did not enter the field, and the game becomes far from what was intended.

In the absence of experienced players, the Dynamo game was subject to sharp drops. A more than confident victory over Ararat Yerevan could have been followed by an inexpressive home game against Tbilisi teammates. And this happened more than once during the championship.

Immediately after the end of the season, reproaches rained down on us. They were accused of "lack of will", "unwillingness to fight", in "vicious tactics across and back." I still believe that this is unfair. It just so happened that in the season, especially in the second round, almost half of the youth team took to the field. The flaws in her game are quite natural, they are from inexperience, from the fear of making a mistake, losing the ball, ruining the game. But there is no evil without good. An unpleasant situation for us in 1984 became a prologue to what we managed to do a year and two later ...

Most of the older generation of players are either out of action for a long time, or

lost their habitual qualities and therefore failed to lead the youth along. Bessonov was sick in the 1984 season for 64 days, Zhuravlev - 61, Zavarov - 50, Buryak - 43, and the young Yakovenko, who had gained strength, was 94. Some players who were injured - Lozinsky, Khilus and others - simply reduced their playing level.

The basic tactics of our team has always been and remains the same - to look for victory at the opponent's goal. But it is one thing to give tactical instructions for the game, and quite another to carry them out during the game itself.

We, the coaches, kept meticulous transcripts of all matches throughout the season, and then carefully analyzed them. The main conclusion: the collective reliability of the team's play as a whole was at the proper level, but the individual reliability of most players left much to be desired.

So it turned out that, while creating a sufficient number of scoring chances in most matches, our players could not take advantage of them. As a rule, we were not able to bridge the gap between the collective reliability of the team as a whole and the insufficient reliability of individual performers.

Who is to blame for this?

I have already spoken about the objective reasons that gave rise to our troubles, but, of course, I am not going to remove the blame for what happened from myself. After the first decline in the game and the failures that followed it, a psychological breakdown in a number of players was outlined quite clearly. That's when we should have sounded the alarm, but we never found pedagogical means to restore the team's playing potential. They did not dare to bring in fresh forces, relying too much on the experience and authority of the old guard. When they realized it, it was too late.

And one more mistake. In recent years, we have not been actively engaged in complex and important issues of team building. Such an omission affects many things. First of all, it reduces the competition for the right to play in the first team.

Undoubtedly, Dynamo Kyiv has had a good backup squad for many years now, it is constantly in the group of leaders in the backup tournament. It's nice, but I don't consider the double prize as the main task. The main thing is different - in the individual training of real reservists, capable of fully replacing, if necessary, well-defined players of the main squad with the least losses for the game. This is ideally, and to this we strive.

In general, we have achieved a lot. Recent understudies Yakovenko, Kuznetsov, Mikhailichenko, Rats, Evseev - some slower, others faster - have entered the taste of the Great Game. I may not be decisive enough to move a capable reserve player into the first team, but I remain a supporter of the method of gradualism, reasonable restraint of players in the reserves. People like Yaremchuk are an exception.

We approached the final match for the USSR Cup on June 23, 1985 with Shakhtar Donetsk in Luzhniki as the leader of the championship. The opponents were in eleventh place. The numbers in this case did not affect anything. We were well aware that starting from the 1/8 finals there were no outsiders in cup matches, even if representatives of the second league made it to this round. Moreover, Shakhtar is one of the most "uncomfortable" teams for us lately. I am always amused by idle speculations that, they say, with the Ukrainian teams, Dynamo Kiev is gaining as many points as it needs, leaving miserable crumbs to the opponents. The authors of such statements sometimes publish their research in the form of statistical information, so, by the way, under the guise of an "unofficial championship of Ukraine". Strange, but after the 1987 season, when Shakhtar, Dnipro, Metalist took eight points out of twelve possible from us, information about this fact was not commented on the pages of the press.

It is easy, by the way, to calculate that if these eight points were added to us, our place in the standings would be next to Spartak. The search for the non-existent poisons the life of football in the same way as the real unsportsmanlike moments that still happen ...

We understood very well that our second campaign for the Cup began with the final match.

cups. The first was in 1975, and since that time only Oleg Blokhin remained in the team - on the field and Vladimir Vereemov - as the head of the team.

The setup for the match was extremely simple: the strictest play in defense; elimination in the bud of the miners' counterattacks with the help of pressing - a decisive selection of the ball with large forces in the opponent's half of the field; own high-speed attacks mainly on the flanks. It takes a lot of power to play like this. We had them: the level of the functional state of the team, according to the survey data, remained

high.

The nervousness of the first half, which almost always accompanies cup matches, disappeared in the second immediately after Demyanenko opened the scoring. We managed to create tension in all areas of Shakhtar's defence. From the rivals, this required a numerical increase in defensive formations, which was not to our advantage - a dense barrier is more difficult to overcome. I had to slightly, quite imperceptibly at first glance, weaken the onslaught and force the miners to cross the middle of the field more often. It worked. Now everything depended on how we could use the resulting rarefied space. Our attacking group, when it is in order, do not feed bread, but give the opportunity to overcome sometimes even two-thirds of the field at speed and really threaten the goal. Blokhin's second goal is the pure realization of this possibility.

Two moments influenced the further course of the match, in which it almost took extra time to determine the winner: a huge amount of energy expended in the first hour of the game and the fury of Shakhtar, who fell upon us and pressed us against the goal after the second conceded goal. Morozov managed to match one goal, we had a hard time in the last minutes, but the team defended the score 2:1.

It was Dynamo Kyiv's first major victory since 1982, when we - silver medalists of the championship - won the Cup.

Everything in the team was done to ensure that the time of congratulations flew by as quickly as possible. I noticed that the higher the functional state of the players, the more painless for them the transition from one competition to another, and new matches (and always more responsible) do not keep themselves, as you know, waiting in an exceptionally tense season calendar.

There is an opinion that the Cup of Cups is a simple tournament.

I don't know where it came from. Maybe those who think so are based on the indisputable fact that this is the only European club competition in which our teams have made four finals and won three times? What kind of tournament is this, if "even ours" win it?

I do not put an equal sign between, say, the Champions Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup. The first is played by champions - the undisputed leaders in their countries, in the second - by the winners of the Cups (and sometimes finalists), and winning the national cup is considered a seemingly accidental affair. Of course, the Champions Cup is a strong tournament, but this does not mean that the Cup Winners' Cup is weak.

After 1975, when we brought the prize from Basel, Belgian Anderlecht, Hamburg from Germany, Anderlecht again, twice Spanish Barcelona, Scottish Aberdeen, Juventus from Italy and English "Liverpool". Lots of big names! And among them are Dynamo Tbilisi (1981), which I did not mention, and Dynamo Kiev (1986), after which, by the way, the Dutch Ajax won in 1987. It turns out that those teams are powerful, they won fairly and in accordance with the rankings, but the success of the Soviet clubs is just a matter of chance, which is possible in a "weak tournament".

Strange logic.

... In football, intelligence is essential, it has been said more than once. The more detailed information, the better.

Coaches don't usually meet before matches, it's not customary. My peer from Utrecht Nol de Ruiter and I broke this rule. We talked when I went to Utrecht, and in Kyiv, where he came to watch how we play the league match against Shakhtar. In such

In conversations, I do not set myself the goal of finding out anything about the team - it's useless. We discussed the organization and organization of business in our clubs, so that we can use everything useful later in our team, of course, by virtue of our capabilities.

After the game with Shakhtar, Nol was pleased and did not hide it. He corrected himself that we were nothing special in that meeting. Indeed, the match turned out to be strained, it's good that they took two points, it could have been worse.

How to behave as a team on the "bridge"? On the one hand, I want to stun the observers so that they are more afraid. On the other hand, it makes sense to mask the true possibilities. Without our desire, we got the second option.

Two-round European cup matches have a number of features that are known to the general public and, even more so, to their participants. It is more profitable (thirty years of tournament practice confirms this) to start the game on the opponent's field, and if you lose there, then with a minimum score, it is advisable to score at least one goal: in this case, its price is double.

Starting to play at home, it is important to score as much as possible and not concede. The logic is simple, but in almost all cases the general solution of the problem is transferred to the return match. I do not take into account the games with obviously weak opponents - there are very few of them in Europe and after the first round they usually do not remain at all, although there are sensational results.

It happened that the losers in the first match with a score of 0:4 or 1:4 found an opportunity at home to correct the situation. The defeat of Spartak in Bremen from Werder at the beginning of November 1987 - 2:6 - is one of the latest examples of this (in Moscow it was 4:1). It is not for me to comment on this match from the position of Spartak - it is unethical and I don't know all the subtleties and details of the preparation for this meeting, the state of the team at this moment. As for Werder Bremen, the West German team showed football of a very high level, modern in many ways, using all its strengths, with constant movement, with changing directions of attacks, with mobile, tough and competent defense.

What was visually mistaken for crosses into Spartak's penalty area was in fact a reasonable, meaningful game on the flanks, followed by targeted passes. It seemed to many that they were designed only for the tall and jumping Neubart. This is not entirely true. Any of the Werder players who flew into the penalty area was ready to take advantage of such a targeted pass.

By the way, you rarely see this in the matches of our domestic championship. This is a very powerful weapon in the complex: sharp flank attacks, targeted passes and heading. It is necessary to disappear some component, and efficiency is sharply reduced.

By the way, the next rival of Werder, Dynamo Tbilisi, who had complete information about what Werder could do and what were its weaknesses, managed to use a thoughtful game, primarily in defense, to reduce the effectiveness of the attacks of the West German club to a minimum.

Teams that play defensively - in accordance with the actual conditions of the match - are sometimes labeled so many times, accusing them of "defeatist mood", "defensive tendencies", "toothless attack", etc., that one is amazed. Well, how, tell me, did Tbilisi need to play in Bremen after what Werder did with

"Spartacus"? Yes, just the way they played. Not otherwise. It is impossible to guarantee a positive, better to say acceptable, result. But you can make sure that there are more guarantees. Tbilisi Dynamo took care of it. Even with a score of 0:2, they continued to stubbornly bend their line, allowing the stubborn hosts to play on the flanks, but in the central zone, from where Werder's threats mainly come from, they concentrated a powerful defensive barrier from a large group of players who acted as it should be in such conditions, exclusively selflessly and reliably.

Tbilisi for the first meeting, mind you, lost! – have earned a well-deserved portion of praise. Now imagine that with the same way of playing the game, they would have conceded not two goals, but four or five with one of their own, scored by Shengelia. Could it be? Quite. The defender could make a mistake, Gabelia could not help out once or twice, the opponent could score a crazy, untaken ball ... Everything could be. And then the labels for Dynamo Tbilisi would be

hung. Fair? By no means! It is necessary to see something else besides the scoreboard. At least the content of the game.

According to the guardians of the so-called attacking football, the Tbilisians should have built their game in Bremen the way they do it in Tbilisi. Well, in this case, there would be much more guarantees for 1:4 or 1:5, if we take into account and compare the state of Dynamo Tbilisi and Werder at that time.

More than Dynamo Kiev, no one has ever heard reproaches for pragmatism. Yes, we are pragmatists: we want to win all the tournaments in which we participate (with the exception, perhaps, of a training competition called the Federation Cup, and even then because our representatives in the national teams do not participate in it and we are aware of the unreality of setting high goals), and in accordance with this we conduct training work, choose tactics and outline a strategy. But how much depends on the general condition of the team!

We have never had a single set for the game, in which we would say: guys, let's stand behind today and do everything to take a point. But we must proceed from our very real and concrete possibilities. In 1985-1986, we had such an ensemble that could play almost equally in defense and attack. A group of mid-line players, which included Rats, Yakovenko, Yaremchuk, Zavarov, Bessonov, was in

able to make the most of the entire field.

In Utrecht, at the Nieuw Galtenwaard stadium, the Dutch did everything to prevent us from playing as well as we can. Even based on watching the inexpressive match against Shakhtar, Nol de Ruiter understood that all our attacking options are being developed in the depths of the field and Zavarov is the offensive coordinator. Utrecht prepared for us a three-quarters pressure with almost all the players quickly retreating and attacking fast: the state of the Dutch at that time allowed them to do such a costly business.

I would not argue that in the attack they shone with variety. We were ready for the fact that the game is played mainly by Kruys, and the last forward pass is made to the "basketball player" (height 195 cm) Van Loop. The midfielders were charged with the obligation to attack Kruys immediately in our half of the field, and Kuznetsov had to work hard to, if not jump over the "center" Utrecht, then at least prevent him from delivering accurate shots after passes on horseback. Kruys and Van Loon both scored. In both cases they outmaneuvered our defenses. Especially the giant. After a corner, he received the ball, standing with his back to the goal. Mikhailov and Kuznetsov were convinced that Van Loop would throw the ball to someone for a kick, and he, as if nodding to someone in the stands, headed the ball into the net.

Over the years, my intuition fails me less and less. The last time I was deceived by her at the match with Belgium in Mexico. Until now, looking at the video of that match, I can't believe what happened, the game went into our hands so much. I watch the tape and think: the second half is ending, 2:1, we are in control, we just had to score the third goal, when they will score for us, the Belgians do not even think about serious attacks - maybe I'm watching the wrong match ?...

I never share my feelings with anyone. While you keep them in yourself - they are strong, if you discuss with someone - you will cool both yourself and the interlocutor.

On the day of the match, the strictest concentration of professional energy is necessary. There are threads, I am convinced, through which it is transmitted to the players. How many times did I catch myself on the fact that the impulse was received by the addressee: the "transmitter" and "receiver" were on the same wavelength.

I do not allow myself to be distracted for a moment during the game. On September 30, 1987, in the second leg of the Champions Cup with the Rangers in Glasgow, Belanov could no longer play after a collision with McGregor in the middle of the first half. I continued to watch. Attack on our goal, high pass, Chanov came out confidently and took the ball. While he was preparing to introduce him into the game, I turned half-turned to the bench and asked that Yevtushenko be prepared for the game as soon as possible - instead of Belanov. Suddenly, a flurry of applause and shouts fell from the podium. What's happened? Look at the field - the ball is in our goal. No one on the bench could really explain to me how the ball, which was at the goalkeeper a second ago, ended up in the net. Only during the break did they find out that Chanov, without waiting for his own and others

left the penalty area, waved his hand and ... The ball fell from his palm, hit the ground, hit Baltache, who was walking forward, a little lower than his back, and McCoist and Falco took advantage of the situation. There are not so many funny heads. I would put this one in second place after the ball thrown into his own goal by Schmutz, the army goalkeeper, in the CSKA-Ararat match in Moscow.

In Utrecht, even with the score 0-2, I was completely confident that we would beat the Dutch in Kyiv with the score we needed. When Demyanenko scored a goal seven minutes before the end of the meeting, which was then called the "goal of hope", my confidence was strengthened. It was clearly seen that the Utrecht players spend too much time on the regrouping of forces in defense when we change the direction of attacks. This is a luxury that is unacceptable for today's football, it is a sin not to take advantage of such a weakness. Moreover, as we jointly determined, analyzing the match, there was no logical connection between the content of the game and its outcome.

And in the eighth minute of the return match in Kiev, the total score became 3:1 in favor of Utrecht ... Kruys' goal made the stands of 100,000 people silent for some time, but did not cause the slightest manifestation of nervousness in our team. Perhaps on the bench we experienced more than they did on the field. When I watched a video of Pele, I noticed how calmly the Brazilians delivered the ball to the center of the field after the Swedes opened the scoring in the final match of the 1958 World Cup. Comparing the levels of matches is, of course, illegal, but the reaction to the missed goal was similar. It even seemed to me that our players, who were in the "epicenter" of the goal, were talking cheerfully and smiling, taking the ball out of the net. No matter how angry I was with them then, I noted to myself: this is a manifestation of confidence and class.

Complete satisfaction from the match remains only when the result is achieved and the plan is implemented. The match against Utrecht in Kyiv was remembered precisely for this reason. Four goals against Van Ede were not the limit for our guys, they artificially slowed down after the fourth, and one could understand them: the job was done. Maximum attention to defense, calm play in the middle and in front.

I was pleased that when the Dutch made a serious attempt to change the result at the end of the match, our team instantly put them in their place, returned the pace suggested from the very beginning and thus explained: they are ready, they say, to score more if you wish. After that, Utrecht began to play out.

It would be unconvincing after the fact to say that even then we realized that we were capable of a lot in this draw. No, there was another round ahead in 1985, a fairly stubborn fight for the championship title continued, a vacation was waiting for the team - a period that aggravated the uncertainty, and the beginning of the next season - the season of the World Championship and multi-day camps. Nevertheless, I dare to say that on October 2 in Kyiv we received a huge boost of confidence that we had overcome a solid part of the way in building a new team, a "team for Europe".

Nobody spoke about it out loud. Moreover, when friends tried to sing praises to the team in private conversations, I instantly cut them off: an ordinary match was won, one of the five opponents who had to be beaten to bring back the Cup of Cups was beaten. What is one in five? Only one fifth.

One cannot but agree that Utrecht, as well as our next opponent, the Romanian Universitate, is not among the elite of European football. Who's in?

There are no constants in European football right now. The fact that at one time among the leaders was, for example, the Italian Inter, led by the outstanding coach Helenio Herrera, does not say anything about the current Inter. At one time, Dynamo Tbilisi lost within the framework of the Cup to the Swiss Grasshoppers, which, as they claimed then, was not part of the elite. But he did not enter in accordance with someone's data, Grasshoppers himself did not know about this. Everyone remembered well that Ararat calmly won against Grasshoppers both at home and away, but for some reason they forgot that the Swiss team that appeared before Tbilisi is completely different: with other players capable of *implementing* other *ideas* of *another* coach, an intelligent specialist who worked for Helmut Shen.

It has been noticed: after the draws, the coaches usually claim that they got the club as rivals - it's worse than ever, and observers, on the contrary, look for notorious "clients". These are, of course, extremes. Name no one to the coach, he will always say out loud that there has never been a stronger opponent. The reaction is purely professional. In his heart, he really appreciates the strength of any team, especially after he sees it in action. The opponent can really turn out to be very strong at that moment, or maybe even average and even weak. True it opportunities are analyzed during the preparation for the match.

When the strength or weakness of an opponent is determined depending on his name or tournament position, it looks like misinformation.

After the draw for the qualifying tournament of the European Championship, everyone suddenly discovered in our group "weaklings" - the national teams of Iceland and Norway. I agree, we simply have to beat these teams. But we should not forget: forces for victories over them every year have to spend more and more. And not only to us. The Icelanders took away a point from us and the French, the French, the champions of the continent, although they played in a slightly different line-up than we are used to seeing in recent years, managed to achieve only one draw in two matches with the Norwegians. The Czechoslovak national team's loss to the Finns generally cost a place in the final of the European Championship.

At one time, the national teams and clubs of Holland and Denmark were quoted at the level of today's Finns, Norwegians, Icelanders. Then it suddenly turned out that they had learned to play football, so much so that the whole world gasped, looking at the Dutch in Germany in 1974 and Argentina in 1978, and at the Danes at the European Championship in France in 1984.

Perhaps, only before the meetings with the teams of Albania, Malta, Cyprus, Luxembourg, there can be no doubt. With all the rest - recognized authorities and only asserting themselves - you need to keep your eyes open.

If you look at the lists of winners of European cups, and above all the Champions Cup, you can find that there were "eras" of Real Madrid, Lisbon Benfica, Milan Inter, Ajax from Amsterdam, Bayern Munich, English clubs "Liverpool" and "Nottingham Forest" ... He listed the teams that managed to win the most prestigious European tournament several times in a row.

Only superclubs, carefully and thoroughly created, can do something similar. "Shooting" for two or three years, they then went into the shadows for some time, reconstructing the composition, changing the coach, looking for new, more solid, financial possibilities.

Real Madrid, for example, won the European Cup five times in a row in the late fifties, not allowing anyone to rise to the top in a new competition for Europe. In 1960, in the final match, held in Glasgow, the Madrid team in brilliant style defeated Eintracht Frankfurt am Main - 7: 3. Puskas scored four goals, Di Stefano - three.

Who would have guessed then that after May 18, 1960, Real Madrid would need six (!) years to win the Champions Cup again. And it was exactly like that. Then Real Madrid found themselves among mediocre clubs, gradually reviving only in recent years.

Everything is natural. The glory of a football team is short and eternal. Superclub downturns alternate with dazzling upswings. I remember ten or fifteen years ago in the pages of the European press the question was debated: do the successes of superclubs reflect the state of football affairs within a particular country, or do the giants exist on their own and one cannot judge the overall picture from them? Probably still reflect. But, without a doubt, there are numerous other circumstances that contribute to seemingly fantastic take-offs.

The first and most, perhaps, most important thing is the presence of top-class masters, world-class players. The decline of superclubs is primarily related to the age of the players. No one has yet been able to gradually, gradually change the great players so that this process goes painlessly and imperceptibly. As soon as Di Stefano, Puskas, Santamaria, Kopa, and even Gento crossed a certain age barrier and lowered the level because of this, the game of Real Madrid instantly faded, the newcomers of which were only a pale copy of their great predecessors.

Everyone knows about the need to rejuvenate the composition at the right time, but this, as it turns out, one of the hardest moments for the vast majority of clubs.

In today's high-level European football, this issue is solved much easier.

When in front of Milan - a team, you see, well-known, but the last time winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1973 - the new management of the club set the task of returning at all costs to the number of the strongest on the continent, the coaches did not look for players who could strengthen the game, in their children's and youth schools. The eyes of the leaders of Milan fell on the Dutchman Van Basten, the owner of the Golden Boot in 1986. A messenger from the Italian club was sent to Ajax. The story is almost anecdotal. The messenger came to the Amsterdam clubhouse, introduced himself to the manager Cruyff and the president who were there at the time, and said that he had come to buy Van Basten. The hospitable hosts treated the guest to coffee and cigars and replied that Ajax really needed Van Basten and was not for sale. "You," the representative of Milan bent, "probably didn't quite understand me correctly, sorry for my bad English, but we really need Van Basten, and you can put down the amount in the bill of sale yourself." For the sake of a joke, Cruyff named a fantastic figure, being convinced that it was unacceptable for Milan. "To be honest," the messenger admitted, "

we thought about a smaller amount, but we agree on the one you named. The leaders of Ajax were taken aback, and then signed the document.

To prevent Van Basten from being bored, Milan bought another star - Gullit from the Dutch side Eindhoven. I don't presume to judge how soon Van Basten and Gullit will begin to return millions to Milan, but I have almost no doubt that this will happen.

Our recent rival in the Champions Cup, the Scottish Glasgow Rangers, last time (until 1986) was the champion of Scotland in 1978. The new owner of the team, a millionaire doing business in the US and Canada, set a goal for her: to win the championship and aim at the Champions Cup. Looking for new players? Please! If earlier English clubs were constantly pulling out talented football players from Scottish ones, now Rangers have bought two England players - defender Butcher and second goalkeeper Woods, two high-class strikers - Falco from Watford and the famous English striker Francis. In total, five Englishmen played in Glasgow at once, the team literally changed, fights for every ball on the field, strives not to give the opponent the slightest respite, began to regularly beat the eternal rival at home - Celtic, and made a significant statement in Europe. I am convinced that once the Rangers succeed in the Champions Cup, the team will not be able to maintain their high playing level: the age of many players is approaching a critical one. But I am also convinced that in the future the Glasgow will be completed in a proven way.

An important reason for the emergence of a crisis in the superclub is the lack of incentives, further motivation for the players who have been to many football heights. Bayern reigned in European club football in the mid-70s, won the German championships, took the Champions Cup three times in a row. Many of its players in 1974 became world champions. What else to encourage them? A lot of money has been earned for these victories, sports peaks have been conquered. How to make this team play at the level it has risen to? By the way, 1976 was the last year when the Munich club won the European prize. But how much effort goes into getting into the continental tournament in the championships of England, Germany, Italy. No one can guarantee permanent participation in it, but only a permanent representation gives young players the opportunity to acquire such a coveted international experience, the value of which is well known to both clubs and teams.

I am far from calling to concentrate all the strongest players in one club - I mean our football. But to ensure that the best played in the major leagues, and not in the first or even more so in the second, should be. This is in the interests of our football.

How many talented football players we lost just because they continued to play in a lower class and for a number of reasons did not think about moving to teams representing, say, Soviet football in European tournaments. There are several reasons for these. One of them -

unwillingness to rise to a new, more difficult and responsible level of training work. The other is from the realm of paradoxes: the material conditions in a number of teams in the first and second leagues are such that some clubs in the major leagues could not even dream of. Why switch: you need to work more, but you will have to receive less! Nonsense.

It's an absurd situation all the time: at the European club level, we are often opposed by teams staffed by high-level players from different countries, we have to play with them not only on equal terms, but also win, and we are not able to get a capable guy from the regional or district center. It would be nice if the team itself was something of itself, but it's not: it is content with little in the results, but strives to get more for it.

What information about the "University" did we have?

From the statistics, which I call auxiliary, it was clear that the team won the Romanian championship three times, several players are included in the national team, in the fall of 1977 the club beat Dynamo Moscow in the Cup of Cups. The captain of Universitati and the Romanian national team, Stefanescu, remarked after the draw: "By defeating Dynamo Kiev, we can firmly count on repeating our best result in European tournaments - reaching the semi-finals, and maybe we will aim for more."

From reliable information, we had a video of the return match between the Romanians and Monaco, in which the winner of the French Cup was convincingly outplayed with a 3-0 score that Universitati needed. Since we had to play the first meeting away, we focused on this match in our preparation.

By that time, a few rounds before the finish of the national championship, we managed to play in Moscow with Spartak, the game is always principled, and in this case, as they say, "for four points" - Spartak, like us, were in the leading group. Good mood was promoted not only by the result, which allowed us to break away from competitors in the table (by five points from Spartak, by six points from Dnipro), but also by the fact that we retained the level of play shown at home with Utrecht, and that I still consider the match with the Dutch to be our best match in the season.

By October 23, a lot of forces had been given up, but in Craiova there was no time for saving them. The Romanians watched our game with Spartak and seemed to think of everything to neutralize Zavarov. As soon as Zavarov took possession of the ball, at least two players from Universitati immediately appeared in front of him. This reasonable, it should be noted, measure was unexpected for Zavarov, who at the first moment was unable to change his manner. In less than a quarter of an hour, as Zavarov, having received the ball near his own penalty area, habitually moved forward and buried himself in two opponents. Neither our midfielder, nor his partners were ready to lose the ball, and Byku opened check.

For Zavarov, as well as for the whole team, this goal was an annoying, but irritating injection. Less than ten minutes had passed, during which a real carousel was arranged in the opponent's half of the field, as Zavarov scored two return goals - one better than the other - after attacking operations in which five or six people participated with a change of direction. In this period of time, Yevtushenko could also score, and immediately with a score of 2: 1, Blokhin.

In the game that followed on a collision course, the attacks of both opponents were stopped ahead of time, and I have no reason to reproach the guys for the fact that approximately from the middle of the second half they began to slowly slow down the pace. This is in our rules - the rational use and control of the current situation. The regularity of the score was called into question by the Bulgarian referee Zhezhov, who appointed a penalty eight minutes before the end of the meeting, at the moment when the opponent was supposed to be punished. A free-kick was followed by an ordinary transfer to the area of the goalkeeper's area, Baltacha jumped higher than everyone else and hit the ball. As he was landing, he was hit by a Romanian player who did not have time to pass. There are difficulties in determining the penalty, but it is simpler than this episode and it is difficult to imagine anything.

Nevertheless, the score was evened, the home team perked up, but no such luck. Pasha played the end of the match as if demonstrating how they will play in two weeks in Kyiv: four sharp attacks in a row, at the final stage of which he played brilliantly

goalkeeper Lung.

And the continuation followed. At the overcrowded stadium on the festive day of November 8, by the thirteenth minute, the score after the blows of Rats, Belanov and Demyanenko was 3:0. During the entire match, Mikhailov twice entered the fight and was the only one who did not visit the Universitati penalty area.

After our furious attacks, which required recuperation, we switched to the so-called "away model", gave the initiative to the "University", met its players in our own half of the field, used high-speed counterattacks, "rested", and then again took up the mass collective game, in which it was impossible to determine who was the defender, who was the midfielder, and who was the striker. Left-back Demyanenko scored his goal from the position of the center forward, and Blokhin and Belanova were seen more than once performing a tackle on the outskirts of their own penalty area. Not to mention the players in the middle of the field, whose range of action is the entire court.

Mircea Radulescu, coach of Universitati, congratulating us in the locker room, said about the same as Nol de Ruiters had said a month ago: "Believe me, I don't consider my team weak. But before the football that we saw in the performance of Dynamo, especially in Kyiv, we have to grow and grow. Knowing European club football quite well, I can testify that the Kyiv players are quite capable of winning the Cup, which I wish them from the bottom of my heart." It is clear that these kind words are said sincerely, but they also contain a share of exaggeration, most likely caused by the desire to rehabilitate oneself to some extent: "Yes, we lost, but look who!"

After Universitati, we focused all our attention on the end of the championship and won it. Accusations were then made against us that we allegedly lost without a fight in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. "No fight," said those who had not seen these games. Another thing is that before such meetings it is almost impossible to set up a team that has given all their best in the season, for which the last two appearances on the field do not decide anything. Whatever words the coach says in such cases to the players, they fly in one ear and fly out the other. Yes, everyone understood that it was necessary to confirm the champion's reputation, yes, people would come to look at the winner of the championship, but how to force them to give everything if the result does not affect anything, if the players only dream: if this match ends at the end of the season, if only the referee gave signal - the thoughts of the team are already on vacation.

About the "obligation" to win. It reminded me how in 1974, if I'm not mistaken, they made claims to us: why didn't you win against the Chisinau Nistru, how could you lose to such a team? A shame! But we did not set ourselves a local goal - to win against Nistru. Our task that season was somewhat different - to win the championship and the USSR Cup. What does Nistru have to do with it? Chisinau was one of our many rivals, they managed to prepare exceptionally well for the match with Dynamo Kyiv - overstimulant! - and win 1: 0. Then, however, when it was all over, it turned out that we coped with our common task, and Nistru, having solved the local one, went to the first league, having a victory "already over the champion himself" in the asset.

1:2 in Tbilisi and Kutaisi - from the same category of matches: a complete lack of sports motivation. It was impossible to get away from the fact that the objectives of the season were fully completed: victory was won in the championship, in the Cup, reaching the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup with a convincing performance in both rounds, assistance was provided to the national team in the qualifying matches of the World Cup. If it were my will (and it is a pity that it is almost impossible to show it), I would generally send a reserve squad of those players who did not experience overload in the season ended to Tbilisi and Kutaisi for the final matches. True, then, in the event of defeats, the accusations against us would probably have been more severe, then the "premeditatedness" of the defeats would have been proven in fact: they sent understudies on purpose to lose.

I was pleased that serious observers noted the search in Dynamo Kyiv for new systemic connections in team actions, emphasized the ability of players not only to fully reveal their capabilities in conditions of tight guardianship, but also (in all likelihood, this is no less important in modern football)) to limit the possibilities of rivals. All this was carefully developed in training, varied and focused.

From tenth place in 1984, we stepped up to first place the following year, and even with the Cup in our hands. Quite good. We rejoiced, but, I remember, the joy was some kind of everyday, businesslike. This is pleasant, because the victorious euphoria did not bring any benefit to anyone, 1987 confirmed this.

We were quite satisfied with the lack of sensationalism in the analysis of our results: nothing special, they say, did not happen, but if some other team had jumped from tenth place to first and won the Cup, then it would be incredible, and everything to the victories of Dynamo Kiev already used to.

Habit is a serious thing... When in 1987 we played in the final of the Cup of the country with the Minsk in Moscow (what a final it turned out to be!), it became known that in Minsk they had developed a whole program of meeting the team if, of course, it wins. We won, but we were not threatened with a delay at the railway station in Kyiv: the team was met by a bus driver and two or three representatives of the club.

We rejoiced for our Moscow teammates, who brilliantly won the first match of the 1/32 finals of the UEFA Cup in Zurich against Grasshoppers. And when on television "Football Review" program saw a warm meeting arranged by him upon his return to Sheremetyevo, one of our guys, sitting at the base in an armchair in front of the TV, said: "Yes, we couldn't even dream of such a reception even after last year's Lyon ..."

Then, on May 4, 1986, two days after the victory in the Cup Winners' Cup final over Madrid "Atletico" 3:0, we, who had not yet departed from too, in my opinion, enthusiastic assessments that sounded at the scene of the event, were met at Sheremetyevo by only two administrator - Boris Kulachko from the national team (he was supposed to pick up our collections) and Alexander Chubarov from Dynamo Kyiv with tickets for the night train. To me, who has seen a lot in football, such an attitude is not unusual. It was a shame for the guys. I told them: it's late, it's Sunday, people didn't manage to get out of the city. The guys, especially the young ones, refracted the situation through the prism of their general attitude towards the team.

... I started the year 1986 without a team. It was time to go on vacation. In January, 12 people were selected for the national team and the clubs' team, at home we worked with the main players - Chanov, Yakovenko, Evseev, Olefirenko, Mikhailichenko and Karataev - and with backups. This "brigade" went to Hungary. The trip was planned as a preparation for the quarterfinals of the Cup Winners' Cup with Rapid. But what a preparation! The collections arrived much later, but for now there were only nine players available, they played mini-football. When the hosts arrived, we took part in the tournament, won two matches against "Haladas" - 2:0 and "Zalaegerszeg" - 1:0, and then held a control match with "Ujpest Dozha" - 4:1.

We were satisfied with the results, but the condition of the players at that time was satisfactory - no more. The difficulty was that the specific plans of the national team and our club diverged. The national team was aiming for a more distant peak of form, but we should have been fully armed in early March, by the day of the first meeting with Rapid. In the meantime, our rivals were visiting the Soviet Union, followed by the head of the press service of Dynamo Kyiv, Mikhail Oshemkov, with a video camera across Uzbekistan. So the issues of obtaining information have been resolved. The problems were on their own.

Upon the return of the collections, we did not aim to force their game form, but are glad were what managed to bring them at least to playing weight.

All this, as well as the fact that I saw my team in full strength for the second time only in Vienna two days before the game, certainly affected the match, especially in the first half, when we had to endure several extremely unpleasant moments.

"Rapid", which was then coached by Yugoslav Zlatko Markovic (he was fired after the games with us, he talked about this when he specially came to Prague for the semi-final of "Dukla" - Dynamo, congratulated the pass and wished success in Lyon), built a defense game on its field with the expectation of quick counterattacks with the participation of Pakult, Kranjcar, Halilovic, Bruncic. Our team spent the first fifteen minutes at such a fast pace that Veremeev, who was sitting next to him, asked: "Where did they get their strength from?" I was also very worried about the fast start, before the match we did not agree on this, and it was clear that it was impossible to play with such speed until the end of the meeting.

They all dropped at about the same time. You don't have to be seven spans in the forehead to feel it. The Austrians blocked our team in its half, the goal was saved by Chanov, the post, once again Chanov, Pacult's slightly inaccurate shot ... The initiative completely passed to Rapid, and nothing could be done about it. We managed to prevent passive defense, which sooner or later leads to the passing of the ball. Several good attacks forced Rapid to regroup their forces and not push forward with the whole team. The second half of the first half showed a higher physical readiness of Rapid, but I, who literally saw this team in one of the matches of the Austrian championship just the day before, knew that our opponent was ready for a powerful explosion only in a short period of time.

I shared these thoughts with the team during the break, we came to the conclusion that it is necessary to play more rationally and stricter, to value the ball, not to waste energy, not to rush headlong forward, but to carry out carefully prepared attacks.

It turned out that Rapid was much more exhausted by the end of the first half than we were. The Austrians did not expect a surge from our side, they became smaller and fussed, we had coherence and confidence, which became stronger after Belanov sent the ball into the goal twice in a row. His second goal was just crazy: Rats made a free kick, and Belanov, jumping high and ahead of the defender who took off with him, sent the ball exactly into the top corner with his head. And I just never saw such a goal scored by Yakovenko. After passing between Bal and Yaremchuk, the ball was redirected to the oncoming Yakovenko, a powerful blow from the right foot hit the standing position, the ball bounced off to Yakovenko, who continued to move, and he, without slowing down, delivered an irresistible blow with his left foot

sixteen.

4:1 away - more than enough. Therefore, before the return match, we set the following task - to disturb the result of our next opponent, if not to scare - now you can't scare anyone, at least cause him concern.

Already in the first half, the score of the Vienna meeting was repeated. All showed their best qualities. Superiority was achieved through more precise combinational actions, higher speed, greater dynamics, intensity and sum of technical skills.

Markovic came up after the match and asked who I would single out from his guys. I named Kranchar, Stadler and Wilfurt. "And who among your own?" the coach continued. "It is not customary for us to single out or blame." – "That's right," said Markovich, "the best player in Dynamo Kiev is a team, a team game. You play football that is difficult for the opponent, because you play simply. True, even before the match we knew that we were entering the field against the future finalist of the Cup Winners' Cup. At the same time, Markovich, just in case, knocked on the wooden back of the chair in the locker room.

The coach of Rapid, speaking about simplicity, was right, although this apparent simplicity is to be ahead of the curve, to give and receive a timely accurate pass, to shoot on goal in a timely and accurate manner... Simple? How much easier! But how much work does the whole team need to do to achieve such simplicity.

One artist told me that when she looks at a painting at an exhibition and understands how it was done, she moves away from the canvas. Another seemingly unpretentious work makes her stop and forget about everything in the world, because the author's magical power is completely unclear and there is not even a desire to think about technology, about techniques. Picasso's formula: "I'm not looking. I find."

It is generally accepted that each next opponent in the European Cup is stronger than the previous one. I adhere to this point of view, which corresponds to the logic of competitions with two-round matches, but, I confess, after Rapid I was convinced of our participation in the final. Of course, he did not tell anyone about his premonitions and forecasts, moreover, he forbade discussing this topic in the team and took measures so that not a single newspaper with football materials got into the base. Our rivals in the semi-finals - Dukla Prague - in an interview with their own hands "put themselves on the shoulder blades", stating: "It is impossible to play with such a team as Dynamo Kiev in its current state. Of course, we will try to do something, but our chances are very slim."

I perfectly understood the tactical ploy of the Praguers, and I myself would have acted exactly in their place

Also. Pretending to have lost before the game (and they hoped the newspapers would be read), they stubbornly continued to work, "forgetting" or trying to forget about our 4:1 and 5:1 with Rapid. As we found out later, the videos of these Dynamo Kyiv matches were not shown to the Dukla players, so as not to put the morale of the players to the test.

We knew what Dukla was. Lisbon Benfica, strong at that time, was burned on it in the quarterfinals. The Portuguese lost away 0: 1, and at home, in the presence of 120,000 spectators, they already scored two goals in the first half, and Benfica goalkeeper Bento remained a spectator for 45 minutes, who was absolutely not concerned with what was happening at zero. As soon as Benfica, who believed in their superiority, relaxed, Koreychik scored the return goal. It looked so incredible that before the end of the match, Benfica could not get together and, with a general equality in the score on the sum of two matches, flew out of the Cup due to a goal conceded at home.

Relaxing an opponent and inflicting an injection on him when he does not expect it is the crown number of Praguers. That is why during the break of our first match with them in Kiev, with the score 3:0, I approached each player in the locker room, leaned over him and said that only he could hear the same thing: "The score is 0:0. We do not change anything in tactical formations. Score 0:0. Attention and again attention! By no means miss it. As before, we alternate pressure, explosions with pauses, a calm game. Before the team went into the second half, I once again said

it's for everyone.

The correctness of the way we chose the game was also confirmed in the second half: although we did not manage to score a few more goals, but at certain moments the opponent was not able to get out from under the team pressure - a very difficult action, in which no one should "slack" otherwise everything becomes meaningless. When we took pauses, the opponent hardly came to his senses. (In this regard, I can't help but recall a funny situation at one of our training sessions, entirely devoted to the upcoming match. The elements of the game were being worked out. We told one of the sports functionaries about the purpose of the lesson. "And now, - We explained when the guys kicked at the goal during a break between a series of training tasks - we took a break. "And who will give you a pause in the game? our interlocutor asked. - Are you going to shoot on goal there as well?") But, not letting him catch his breath completely, the team again began to take action. The match against Dukla in Kyiv is an example of an arrhythmic game.

Two goals by Blokhin, one by Zavarov brought victory, which, according to the standard of European clubs, is regarded as guaranteeing success in the sum of two matches. There could have been more goals scored, and after congratulating the guys, I froze in the center of the locker room, which is more familiar to me than my own apartment, and listened to how they animatedly discuss unused moments. "Hey company," Demyanenko exclaimed from his seat, taking off his wet T-shirt and throwing it into the administrator's oversized bag, "let's better remember the situations when Vizek and number six, like him, Peltz, in my opinion, almost ruined us mood at the end. Remember when Vitek (Chanov) saved, and then Seryoga (Baltacha)? The Czechs have not calmed down, believe me, they will fight to the end. Tolya rarely speaks, but always exactly, no one objected to him, everyone seemed to agree with the captain's summary.

There were no dashing moods in the team. She felt the taste of quite large victories, and it was impossible to turn her off this path. I was glad that not only young players were in a high playing tone, for whom significant success is new, they seem to look back, look around and do not believe their own happiness, but also experienced football players, among whom the experienced one stood out, almost said out of habit "Second youth", no, more precisely, it will be another youth, Oleg Blokhin. He worked on an equal footing with everyone, he worked on the field - there is no need for a better example, he scored, he was returned to the national team, he was treated with respect in the team as a football player. Opponents were afraid. And not because he received the Ballon d'Or 11 years ago, but because even now, at 34, he was full of energy, a lot of imagination and did not fall out of the collective game for a moment.

In Prague there were no particular difficulties. We exchanged goals in the second half and in the evening at the hotel we were looking forward to the TV announcement about who we got in the final - Atlético Madrid or the West German Bayer.

About the Prague match, Master of Sports Anatoly Korshunov, with whom we played together for a short period of time at Chornomorets, wrote in the Football-Hockey weekly as follows: "Paying tribute to the Dynamo team, I note that a convincing victory in the first match play the same way away. This was evidenced primarily by the desire to play the game at super speeds. But the rivals, not counting on much in general, fought stubbornly for their prestige. And, not believing in the final favorable outcome, knowing that they would most likely not make it to the final, they enthusiastically and with full dedication fought for the local victory that the crowded stadium expected from them. Although the interest of the audience, of course, was fueled by the magnificent game of the Kiev team ...

I hope that a small fly in the ointment - I mean Krzhizh's return goal on the ball sent from a penalty by Belanov - thrown into a barrel of honey at the moment when Dynamo should have been congratulated on an excellent game in general, with a convincing exit to the final, will be perceived correctly and will not spoil the taste sensations of either the fans, or the specialists, or the Dynamo players themselves. But he will remind the latter that high combat readiness in matches of such a rank, such significance, such a high intensity must be present from the first to the last minute.

We usually say that there are lessons to be learned from defeats. We need to extract them from victories. There can be no misfires, misses, relaxations in Lyon. There will be no return match..."

Yes, the final consists of one game, which decides everything, without providing an opportunity to correct the oversight.

From Utrecht to Lyon 227 days. This is much less than it took to create a new combat-ready team, which was preparing to enter the final match. It did not even begin at the beginning of 1985, when we entered a season that turned out to be victorious for us in every respect. And not in 1984, which was unsuccessful in all respects. I believe that this work began in 1983, my successor (it turned out - for a short time) Yuri Andreevich Morozov. He introduced some of those who reached Lyon into the main team, continued to work according to the methodology adopted and tested in Dynamo Kiev. Of course, he did not have enough time, and some players, who did not become his assistants, did not have enough patience. I am grateful to Yu. A. Morozov for not departing from the principles professed in Dynamo Kiev since 1974

of the year.

I began to live the final from the very moment when, on April 16, on Czechoslovak television, we were first informed that Atlético Madrid became Dynamo Kiev's rival, and then they showed how he achieved this in the return match with Bayer on the opponent's field. At home, the Spaniards won 1-0, and their chances were estimated to be low. Nevertheless, already in the first half they scored two goals, lost the second, the total score was 3:2 in their favor. Luis Aragones, who coached Atlético at the time, said in a television interview that since last year he had no doubts that Dynamo Kiev would reach the final, and he was not sure about the success of his team before the trip to Germany. "Spanish teams have reached the final of three European tournaments," Aragones said at the time, "and it would be unpleasant for us to perform worse than Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Several circumstances worried me, when on the night of April 28-29 we were traveling to Moscow in order to go from there by plane to France, I practically did not sleep a wink. Happy man Vanya Yaremchuk, he seems to have no nerves. Entering the car and putting down the bag, he said, not addressing anyone, but in general: "What difference does it make who you beat? Madrid is so Madrid ..." Then he added, looking at the platform: "Oh, and the crowd will gather here on the 5th in the morning! Ivan really doesn't care who to play against, whether it's Niva (Vinnitsa) or Spartak Moscow, the Argentina national team or Atletico, even the Mars team ...

I was far from Yaremchuk's optimism due to a number of circumstances, as I have already said.

On April 16th we played in Prague and then for ten days the top players disappeared from our sight. First they went to Simferopol, trained in the national team, played against the national team of the Crimean region, then went to Romania, for a friendly match with the national team of this country (April 23), they came to us on April 25, two days before an important calendar match with Spartak » in Kiev.

Zavarov was injured in Simferopol, fortunately, it turned out to be light. Blokhin tore a thigh muscle in his 100th match for the national team. Injury for football players is common, but

for treatment requiring time, which, of course, was not. You can't get off here for weeks. Blokhin was taken up in Kyiv by both of our doctors - Vladimir Igorevich Malyuta, candidate of medical sciences, and Viktor Ivanovich Berkovsky. Twice a day they informed me. Nothing consoling to report before departure could not. Blokhin did not train. He was injured out of the blue, the opponents did not attack at that moment. It happens. In this case, the reason is unequivocal: muscle strain - numerous matches for the club and the national team in March and April affected, a total of fifteen games in less than two months, the lack of time required for recovery.

Oleg, of course, went to the final with us, having endured the intensive course of treatment offered by the doctors, and continued it in France, but even on the day of the game, what's the day, a few minutes before the match, we still didn't know if he would come out on the field.

He himself passionately wanted to play in the second final in his life, I was convinced that his appearance on the field would be an additional plus for us, medicine did not say yes or no, leaving everything to the discretion of the player and coach. I told Oleg directly that I was counting on him, and we agreed to make the final decision after the pre-match warm-up. Having agreed on this, I no longer doubted that Blokhin should be included in the starting lineup in the protocol: I saw that he was not going to retreat.

I always watch the warm-up of my team. In Kyiv and Luzhniki - from the tunnel leading to the field, in other cities - from the edge, standing at a certain point. I sit down on the bench a few moments before the start of the match, without saying another word to the players - everything has already been said in the locker room. I wouldn't call it superstition, it's a kind of tradition, the established order of actions before the match, unshakable even in small things, such as a certain place on the bus, like getting off the bus last, like a lightning glance at the podium (but this is only in Kiev), to the places where the people closest to me sit - the wife and faithful assistant of Hell and the daughter of Light.

Blokhin went to the edge and said that everything was in order, he could play. I nodded in response and went to the bench, from which I jumped up three times during the match, greeting the guys who scored goals against Fillol, and then, after the final signal of the Austrian referee Franz Wehrer, as a boy, I rushed to the field to congratulate the winners of the Cup Winners' Cup, caught myself thinking, which is undignified, probably, when viewed from the side, to an adult, rather massive person like this, to rush almost skipping, but still he ran - God bless him, what can be seen from side...

I have long noticed that in all finals - any tournaments - there is no so-called reconnaissance, when rivals seem to probe each other, suppress nervousness, enter the game gradually. Coaches have information "from" and "to", excessive excitement remains in the locker rooms, and a gradual entry into the game threatens with quick troubles. We forced, as was rightly noted in one of the reports about the final, to play the opponent as badly as we were strong ourselves.

Before the match, there were concerns about the impact of the public - a third of it was Atlético supporters who arrived at the game. We never dreamed of such support abroad. The only way out was to ignore the spectator, and make the other two-thirds, in other words, about thirty thousand Frenchmen, root for themselves by playing. Approximately from the middle of the first half, French football fans, who cannot be fooled, they know a lot about the game, responded to our "request", managed to charm them, and at the stadium "Gerlan" thundered: "Kiev! Kyiv!"

The leading side in the match had already been determined by that time - our team not only scored one goal (in the sixth minute, Zavarov did this, emerging from the void and using the ball's rebound from Fillol after Belanov's strike), but also held several serious collective events. The Spaniards tried to turn the game around, to seize the middle of the field, where our four midfielders reigned supreme with the support of Bessonov, Demyanenko and Kuznetsov. They did not manage to do this either in the first half or in the second (in the first minutes of the second half, they furiously, you can't pick up another word, attacked our goal), all their encroachments of osaya? were given by competently performed collective selection, when necessary - by pressing and, most importantly, the persistent continuation of an active search for ways to

the gates of Atlético, in which the field players of the team participated, making up various attacking coalitions.

You can cite dozens of enthusiastic reviews about this match, published in the foreign press and stored in the club archive for history. But everything that is based on emotions cannot claim to be a serious analysis, but only it helps to better understand the game, identify its underwater reefs, and give an objective, balanced assessment.

At the same time, I will allow myself to quote one or two excerpts from a highly qualified judgment about the final match in Lyon, expressed by my colleague Nikita Pavlovich Simonyan on the pages of the Football-Hockey weekly ten days after the meeting, when the passions around this game subsided: "I want to share one observation. In past years, the people of Kiev, having achieved the minimum advantageous score for themselves, calmed down on this, now the team plays in a different way. In any case, outwardly: he continues to develop his advantage, increase his speed and strives to score as many goals as he can. It's no joke, out of nine matches held in the Cup Winners' Cup, six (!) Dynamo won with a difference of three or more goals. Yes, in our championships for more than thirty matches, the winner of the "Big Account" prize does not always gain so many victories.

But, I must say, in past years, the team was content with the minimum, not because they wanted to. Just for various reasons, the level of her preparedness did not always correspond to the principles that she puts into practice on the football field. And these principles have always been aimed at one thing - to win in any tournament. At the same time, the team strived for balanced actions in attack and defense, knowing full well that a bias in any of the parties does not bring anything good in modern football.

Now the team is playing in such a way that it is difficult for opponents to adapt to it. Who, for example, should be neutralized from those who can score a goal? The question is not an idle one, because only in the current Cup Winners' Cup eight players scored against Kiev: Blokhin, Belanov and Zavarov - five goals each, Yevtushenko and Yaremchuk - three each, Demyanenko and Rats - two each, Yakovenko - one. Our experienced specialist K. I. Beskov told me: "Today it is difficult to play against Dynamo Kyiv. Much more difficult than before. If yesterday I knew how to build a game against him, today this team demonstrates sharp combinational play at high speed, superbly functionally prepared, and it is difficult to adapt to it.

I would not argue that the Spaniards were extras on the Zherlan. They were crushed by the magnificent circulation of the ball - precise, syncopated, rhythmic (remember the second goal when Rats, Belanov and Yevtushenko turned the "fan" from left to right in one touch, playing "cat and mouse" with Madrid, and Blokhin finished everything by throwing the ball over Filol, and then I only finally believed in our victory), - but they made super efforts to get out of this whirlwind, we must give them their due, they fought until the last minutes, and only at the end, by the way, we managed to score two more goals.

Shortly before the break, we were forced to make rearrangements in the defensive line, which, as events showed, had no effect on the game. Sergey Baltacha, a courageous guy, tore his Achilles tendons, they carried him off the field, Bessonov took the libero position, and Bal began to act on the flank of the defense. Another substitution was made shortly before the end of the second half. Zavarov limped, Yevtushenko came out, running like a doe from all the defenders, outplaying the goalkeeper and scoring the last goal.

Collective meaningful movement is at the forefront in modern football. The playing rectangle has become as accessible as the basketball court for basketball players. It is not difficult for football players who are prepared, of course, as it should be, to rush 50-60 meters forward and the same amount back. There should be no passive players on the field. General movement. The error should be corrected immediately. Today's football player is not a lone soldier fighting in his corner with an opponent. It covers the entire battlefield, and there are no shreds on this field that are free from struggle.

The middle line of our team in Lyon turned out to be the main driving force, actively participating in the creative and destructive game. "Destruction" is associated with a "jackhammer", nullifying all attempts by opponents to break into the penalty area. The "hammer" should immediately turn into a "spring" capable of

seconds to straighten up to the opposite gate. There is no creation and destruction separately. And when I saw how the cunning attack conceived by Thomas, Da Silva and Cabrera was thwarted thanks to the collective efforts, you won't understand who – defenders or midfielders, or even Blokhip with Belanov, and then Demyanenko with Rat, changing places, rushed along the left flank, and in parallel Bessonov and Yaremchuk followed them on the right at the same speed, and in the center Zavarov, Blokhin and Belanov confused the opponents with maneuvers, I mentally applauded the team, not even knowing how this episode would end. And there were many such episodes, some of which were realized, on the evening of May 2, 1986, and television broadcast them in millions across the continent.

... Yaremchuk jumped up with eyes shining with joy: "Well, what did I say?" – "What, when?!" - "Yes, on the train!"

On the evening of May 2, accepting congratulations from officials from UEFA and rivals, from employees of our embassy in France and Lyons, who came to shake hands with the guys and get an autograph on the program For the match, congratulating each other, we did not know that in exactly a month in Mexico with the same composition, the team will enter the field of the stadium in Irapuato for the match with the Hungarian national team in the World Cup program and I will have to prepare it for this game.

For the pass that evening, the second campaign for the Cup of Cups ended, which began God knows when, and it ended happily - with a worthy victory in a difficult struggle.

Chapter 2. To Mexico and Back

What is more difficult: to evaluate an event immediately after it happened, in hot pursuit, or after a while, when passions subsided? I do not presume to judge, for each person in his own way. The main thing is that in neither case should there be hasty assessments that are not supported by reliable information.

At the time of the World Cup, I planned to be among the millions of viewers or (everything depended on the calendar of the All-Union Championship) to go to Mexico in a specialized group of Soviet coaches, who, by the way, are always present at major football tournaments.

To think, however, about all this was not enough time. Club worries supplanted all others. The victories over the Viennese "Rapid", with whom we had to play in the most inconvenient terms for our football, over the decisively tuned in to the matches with the Kiev "Dynamo", the Prague "Dukla" and, finally, the Madrid "Atletico", who dreamed of confirming the validity of the claims of the Spanish teams for European trophies. Victories over all these clubs, winning the Cup Winners' Cup cost the players and coaches of our team a lot of strength and nerves. Let no one be misled by a large score in games with these opponents - such as 4:1, 5:1, 3:0.

In addition to achieving a decent result for our football in the Cup Winners' Cup, we pursued in this competition another, very important, in our opinion, goal - to play for the USSR national team not only individual players, but also entire blocks of the team, since many Kievans were candidates for the national team. The care that the sufficiently high form they had achieved was preserved was one of the first.

I must say that the players of our team were very responsible about the fact that in a short period of time they would have to defend the honor of Soviet football in Mexico, they constantly talked about the World Cup, tried to prepare as best as possible. Such an attitude of the players to the matter pleased, could not but rejoice, because it testified, first of all, to professional thinking, the desire to look into the future and do everything in order not to darken the mood either for themselves or for the people who were looking forward to the world championship.

There was only one concern: the failures of the national team for six months in friendly matches. It depressed the players. I can't name the reasons for the losses to the Spaniards, Mexicans, the British and Romanians, as well as a draw with the Finns at home. In order to express even your own, subjective opinion, you need to have information, but I did not have it. I didn't even try to get it because it would be

wrong on my part. Yes, some specific program was carried out, the national team worked on it, there was some idea, the coaches knew what they wanted.

What I don't agree with, but it's my point of view, is that control games can be treated with indifference. Friendly games are not official, this is quite clear, and they cannot be compared. But the fact is that in control games, if there is a result, the basis of confidence is laid. Each of the teams preparing for the World Cup fought for the result in every game, primarily because if there is no result (and on top of that, there are problems in the organization of the game), then the players will lose confidence, they will not believe that can achieve this result. Control games should not be treated the same as, I repeat, official games, but it is customary in them to achieve results and strive to show all one's best sides as of the day when this game takes place.

Probably, the games that our team played on the eve of Mexico, from the point of view of the result, and not only the result, did not satisfy either professionals or football fans. Hence the streams of letters that came to the Football Department, to the State Committee for Sports, to Dynamo Kiev, to other teams. The letters contain bewilderment and questions: when will the game be, when will the result be?

Among others, a question of a different order arose: did the Kiev team Dynamo speed up the preparation, speaking in the Cup Winners' Cup? The question is natural. June, Mexican June, was supposed to be a defining month for the national team. It was then that the players had to be in their best condition. But the fact is that in January and February 1986, the players of the national team were not in their clubs, they worked with them according to a special program, the one that the national team had. We, the coaches of the club teams, received the players at our disposal immediately before the matches.

I'll try to explain with a specific example. On February 27, 1986, the Kyiv national team players flew in from Mexico, on February 28 they flew to Tbilisi, the very next day they played the first match of the national championship, and on March 5 they met in Vienna with Rapid. We had five or six days to prepare for this game. The main preparation (in January-February, of course, the foundation was laid) was carried out in the national team. Therefore, about forcing and speech to be can not.

They also talked about the fact that, they say, the people of Kiev failed to keep the peak of form. This assumption is also somewhat incorrect. The data we had at our disposal showed that even with an excellent performance in the Cup Winners' Cup, it was still not possible to bring the players to the level of model indicators. And at the time of the Cup Winners' Cup final, most of our players were still far from their level. Therefore, the impression that the people of Kiev were at the peak of their form, but did not keep it, is deeply subjective, caused only by the result shown by the team. Objective data show that there was an opportunity to reach a higher level.

The situation in the team on the eve of her departure to Mexico was difficult. The activities of the team, apparently, did not suit anyone. After winning the Cup Winners' Cup, I flew several times on the route Kiev - Moscow - Kiev, listened to various proposals, agreed with them and disagreed, internally for myself on the main one - to lead the national team - for a long time I could not make a definite decision. On the one hand, nine Dynamo Kyiv players were invited by the former management to the national team, as if God himself ordered the Dynamo coach from Kyiv to work with them. But on the other hand, catastrophically little time was left for the preparation of the team, in accordance with the football direction that I profess along with my like-minded people. The first factor prevailed. Of course

influenced my decision and the desire of most of the players in the national team to work together.

Without losing a single hour in vain, rolling up their sleeves, our coaching team, which, along with me, included Nikita Pavlovich Simonyan, Yuri Andreevich Morozov and Sergey Mikhailovich Mosyagin, set to work. The choice of colleagues was not accidental: we worked together in the national team in 1983, when the only defeat in the qualifying group of the European Championship from the Portuguese in Lisbon (0:1) called into question our capabilities and abilities and we were removed from the national team. In my opinion, in 1983

one major mistake was made. It's not about the fact that we were excommunicated from the national team, that's not the point. The mistake was that they then started all over again, but it was necessary to continue already done, constantly improving this business of course.

In 1983, we said: as long as we do not have a single principle for the formation and preparation of national teams, clubs will collapse. By destroying clubs, we are destroying football. The arrhythmia observed in the calendar of our football was only to the detriment games.

... It must be said that we faced a huge number of questions, the solution of which days were allotted, and sometimes even hours.

A very important task is to bring people together. The team was generally good. We understood this immediately. The players set their sights on a very high challenge. In this regard, it was not difficult for us to cooperate. If we talk about purely human contacts, they were established quite quickly, after a week we began to "feel" each other: the players accepted our requirements, and we saw some roughness in their behavior. It was necessary to achieve that to live with one goal, to support each other and trust each other. Since the base for this existed - Dynamo Kiev, this task was solved.

The training program was drawn up in such a way as to, firstly, maintain a sufficiently high level of readiness of Dynamo Kiev players, and secondly, to bring the rest of the players to this level, as far as possible. An equally important part of the program was to achieve a unified tactical interpretation of the game. The program took into account the conditions of Mexico, and acclimatization, and the possibility of its second wave, which scientists warned about. By the way, the difficulties of acclimatization were perceived by us as an inevitability and a reality for all teams at the World Championship. Football players never made the slightest attempt to blame their failures and mistakes on natural conditions, and in weight they lost up to two kilograms after training and four after games.

In the time before leaving for the World Cup - in Novogorsk and before the first game - in Mexico, we managed to do a lot. In any case, the sometimes inexplicable timidity of our players in front of rivals at important tournaments, which is typical for the national team and clubs, was removed. And a good game, if it can be shown, is always a convincing argument. After the very first match - with the Hungarians - we were recognized. And when they recognize it, it becomes easier to play, it is easier to demonstrate your strengths. They are already beginning to fear us, they are adjusting to us,

We are already dictating the terms.

I remember that just before leaving for Mexico, French television journalists stopped me at Sheremetyevo. A few hours before departure, I answered their questions. Some of which I remember:

- Which, in your opinion, of the participants in the Mexican championship is able to take the most high places?

- Twelve teams, that is, half of those who will come to Mexico.

- What place does the USSR national team plan to take?

She is one of those twelve teams.

- How do you intend to solve the "Platini problem" in the game with the French team?

- Platini is one of the best players in the world today, but there are many other strong players in the French team, such as Giresse, Tigana ... Therefore, we will not solve the "Platini problem", but the problem of the French team. However, I think that in the game with us some difficult problems will arise before the European champions.

- What kind of football will you show in Mexico - attacking or defensive?

- We will strive for harmonious football, which implies a reasonable balance attacking and defensive actions.

... Almost twenty-hour flight with landings in Shannon and Havana. At the Mexico City airport - crowds of fans and autograph collectors, journalists, photojournalists ...

We came to our senses only on the bus, which took us to Irapuato for three hours. At the entrance to the city in a radio-equipped bus, some kind of advertising program in Spanish suddenly stopped and in pure Russian it sounded: "Dear Soviet football players! Inhabitants

Irapuato warmly welcome you! Irapuato is with you!" Agree, it's nice to hear this on the land of distant Mexico, where we had to defend the honor of Soviet football.

Several thousand fans showed up for our first training session. It would be okay but in the evening we watch TV and do not believe our eyes: the training to the delight of the rivals is shown on the screen. Some measures had to be taken to stop such information leakage. However, all the teams have created a "secrecy mode" around them. When, for example, our representatives tried to "peep" a friendly match of the Hungarian national team in Leon with one of the local clubs, they were discovered, and they were delicately but persistently asked to leave.

Mexico lived in anticipation of the start of the championship, we are waiting for the first match. We held two control meetings, the test of strength was quite satisfactory. Most importantly, we made sure that the players quickly adapted to the new conditions. For their part, the former leadership of the national team (I don't want to discuss their actions, let alone criticize them), for their part, believed that the preparations were over, and for the period after May 7 (a friendly match with the Finns) only one control game was scheduled in Mexico, so, probably to see how people feel in unusual conditions of heat and height. We also needed at least one more game - to check how one group of players got used to another: a number of players appeared in the national team at the last moment. We found ourselves in a situation where decisions had to be made on the go - to draw up a program, to implement it ... And - to wait for what would come of it.

I will not dedicate readers to all the mysteries of our training days. Not so much out of fear of information leakage, but out of fear of tiring. Let me just say that the positive effect (we are not talking about the result, but about the achieved quality of the game, duly appreciated by experts) was achieved primarily due to the use of various training means, alternation of loads and with the help of various forms of training that do not tire the psyche. They were very short in time, but exceptionally intense. Of course, their intensity varied depending on the goals and objectives of each lesson, on the condition of the players and the tournament calendar.

All this contributed to the fact that in the Mexican conditions our team could alternate the pace and rhythm of the game according to the circumstances, applied various methods of collective actions in attack and defense, and maintained a fairly high level of efficiency. And this despite the fact that most of its players in the Dynamo Kyiv had a chance to experience overloads in the first half of the season, almost equal to the energy consumption of a full season.

The fact that we did not deceive ourselves, did not pass off wishful thinking, in addition to medical and biological research, is also evidenced by the pedagogical observations of the coaching group. A peculiar timing of the quantity and quality of tactical and technical actions performed by the players (TTD) showed a very curious picture.

The fact that the players have not yet reached the required state is evidenced by the fact that the number of TTAs in the second half decreased in three matches and only slightly increased in the game with the Canadians, which, apparently, was facilitated by substitutions. For the same reason, the percentage of marriages in this match has significantly decreased compared to the first half. The same, however, happened in the match with the French. But here the explanation, presumably, lies in the increased sense of responsibility of the players for the outcome of the meeting, which they imbued with, and, perhaps, also in the fact that the French, having equalized the game, did not think of a different outcome, and therefore did not take risks. .

In total, the number of TTAs was at a high level in the first match - against the Hungarian national team, somewhat lower - in the game with the French, very low - in the match with the Canadians and, imagine, the highest - in the lost against the Belgians. And the percentage of marriages allowed was equal in matches with France and Belgium.

An analysis of the collective actions of our team showed that the generalized image of the game chosen by the coaches and players was realized in the meeting with the Hungarian team at 85-90 percent, France 90-95, Canada 75-80 and Belgium 80-85. It would seem that the use of

such calculations? But for us, coaches, they give a clear picture of the playing activity of each player and indicate the direction in further work. And readers, perhaps, they will explain to some extent the amazing fact that both the press and experts called the USSR-Belgium match one of the best in the championship, paying tribute to both the winners and the losers. Another thing is that we failed to overcome psychological factors, which is why we were called victims of circumstances in the Mexican press. Before which, I will add on my own behalf, we have already folded for the first time. I have no desire to talk specifically about the quality of refereeing, which is noticeably behind the quality of the game of most teams. I hope readers will forgive me for this, because so much has already been said and written about refereeing in Mexico, including the refereeing of our match with the Belgians.

Returning to the analysis of the playing activity of our players and the team as a whole, I note that it revealed some deviations in the implementation of individual tactical fragments of the game, and this just did not allow creating more reliable collective actions, primarily in defense. Let's be quite self-critical and refer to this circumstance, and not only to the actions of the Swedish arbiter or his Spanish assistant. After all, the price of individual decisions in the collective conduct of either attacking or defensive actions is unusually high. Especially - in the absence of a replacement for a tired or out of order. In this regard, I confess that for the time granted before the start of the World Cup, we did not manage to bring the entire available composition of the national team to the level that is necessary for a more successful performance.

The final tournaments of the world championship are a kind of milestones, when ideas about promising forms of work in football are clarified. Often after world championships (after all, they do not take place often, once every four years), there is a revision of established opinions about the appropriateness of certain tactical constructions, game strategies, tournaments, and fundamental methods of preparation.

The Mexican tournament in 1986 did not enrich football with revolutionary ideas. But this in no way speaks of the stagnation of coaching ideas or a decrease in the level of performance skills of football players. On the contrary, the even more growing popularity of football strengthened its intellectual beginning and increased the requirements for the tactical and strategic content of the game, technical equipment.

Compared to such important milestones in the development of football as the World Cups of 1958, 1966 and 1974, we did not see anything new in Mexico. Football has not stopped in its development, it certainly continues, but very slowly, in my opinion, extensively: deepening, expanding, that is, already achieved components of technology and tactics are being improved. But football, no doubt, will once again move on to an intensive path of development, and new options for tactics may appear, which will entail new requirements for the selection and training of football players.

The so-called total football, first demonstrated by the national teams of Holland and Germany at the 1974 World Cup, supplemented and refined in subsequent years, turned out to be a real gold mine. Now this vein is being developed in all directions. And the Mexican final showed that the search for optimal tactical and strategic solutions within the framework of total football still has sufficient scope.

Let's remember how easily the French team switched registers of tactics even in one match. What an unexpected decision the Brazilian team found in the search for reliability, which completely changed the organization of the game compared to the previous World Cup. How much the unobtrusive-looking Belgian team has achieved just because of the ability to think strategically sensibly. And the invulnerability of the Argentina national team is easily explained by the successful alternation of the reliability of tactical forms of play, depending on the characteristics of the opponents and the change in strategic situations on the field.

This pre-programmed ability to change the nature of tactical actions, the flexibility of strategic thinking during the match, is, in my opinion, something new in football, which finally approved the long-known fundamental advantages of total football. This conclusion, by the way, is confirmed by the failures of such seemingly quite qualified teams as the national teams of Hungary, Bulgaria, Spain, Denmark, which, with all their wealth,

gifted football players somewhat monotonously used a rather limited set of tactical options. Yes, and the Brazilian national team at times lacked a variety of tactical ways of playing the game.

And we must already now take the path of intensive development of what we have, reach a different level, "be ahead of the curve", and not wait for someone to show us something new again. If we want to get ahead, there is no point in adjusting.

In our country, and in many other European countries, the most acute question is: how, how to combine one of the elements of the development of football - increasing the level of reliability in terms of achieving results - with providing entertainment. No one wants to watch matches in which there is neither high speed, nor the dynamics of the struggle, nor reasonable tactical formations.

By the way, the concept of "entertainment", in my opinion, has undergone significant changes over the past ten to fifteen years. Now it is evaluated primarily by the number of martial arts on the field, by the severity of these martial arts, by the severity of the entire match, by the speed of individual players, of the entire team as a whole. The spectator becomes smarter along with football. At international matches in Kyiv, the stands are always full. In Tbilisi too. How many spectators will come to the stadium depends on the teams themselves, on their game.

In world football, the accumulation of playing potential is very noticeable due to the emergence of such a factor as strategy - from the strategy of the rhythm of the game to the strategy of the tournament. Our coaches have been talking about this factor for a long time, but at the time they heard nothing but devastating criticism. Meanwhile, the appearance and further improvement of the strategy can become exactly the platform from which football will once again move on to an intensive path of development. Within the framework of the increased role of strategy, new tactical options should be born, entailing new requirements for the selection of players, for their preparation. And all this must be foreseen in order not to lag behind again.

We can assume an even greater increase in the role of the reliability of collective actions, a change in group tactics, which will lead to further universalization of players. The speed or frequency of group actions will change, which will lead to an increase in the intensity of the game. In the meantime, as the matches in Mexico showed, football has not yet achieved this. There are practically no teams yet capable of playing at a forcing pace from the first minute to the last. But football seems to be striving for this.

What is the content of a possible strategy, particles of which we saw in Mexico?

First of all, it is necessary to highlight the clarity and clarity of the tasks of the tactical-technical and functional-psychological training of football players and the ways to implement them in the game. We have not seen players who were not sufficiently prepared for difficult meetings in the championship matches. Probably, there were such in separate teams, but they never appeared on the field. Like, say, the Italian Rossi.

I noticed the consistency in the implementation of certain requirements and the ability to modify them depending on the strength and capabilities of the opponent and tournament considerations, tournament conjuncture. This, of course, applies to the best teams, to the leaders. The ability to use all their abilities correctly allowed them to strengthen the game as they moved towards the final goal. Even despite the accumulating fatigue, for forced losses in the compositions.

Another distinguishing feature of the strong is that they have a variety of tactics that are applied consistently based on the search for a profitable rhythm of the game. The trick of the Belgian coach Guy Tees was, for example, that the Belgian national team, having actually only one tactical option for playing the game - on the counterattacks, was able to move far enough up the tournament ladder, skillfully hiding the paucity of their tactical baggage. Meanwhile, tactical diversity, variability in the organization of the game - an indispensable condition for achieving ultimate success, which, in the end, the Argentines proved quite convincingly when they met the Belgian team in the semi-finals.

At the same time, in the actions of the leading teams, the continuity of ties was certainly visible during the transition from a generalized image of collective actions to a particular one. Taking into account the strength of the opponent, the state of their own players, the coaches necessarily made individual

adjustments. Yes, and the stars themselves of the first magnitude, such as Maradona, Shifo, Rummenigge, French midfielders led by Platini, Burruchaga, were able to make independent decisions. Like the same Belgian Coulemans in the match against our team.

The inseparability of ties looked the more reliable, the better and richer was the selection of performers for individual (in relation to different opponents) tactical variants of the game. Our team, unfortunately, experiencing a lack of time for preparation, coupled with a forced restructuring, did not have such a choice of players. Baltacha and Chivadze were injured, injuries prevented Protasov and Blokhin from playing at full strength, to top it all, Larionov was already out of action in Mexico.

We, coaches, were often later reproached for the fact that Bal was announced instead of Larionov for the match with the Belgians. Why no one else? Yes, because both Bal, and Morozov, and Bubnov were about the same ready at that time, but the choice fell on Bal due to the fact that he was from the same club as Bessonov, Kuznetsov and Demyanenko, therefore, he played better with them. Unfortunately, he did not fully reveal his abilities in that ill-fated match, but one can only guess how any other player of equal strength would look like.

Quite a lot has been said lately about changes in the arrangement of players, in particular, such a scheme is called - 1 + 3 + 5 + 2. The fact is that when the Brazilians showed 1 + 4 + 2 + 4 at the 1958 World Cup, it was a revolution in football. Then, in Sweden, the rejection of ossified forms was loudly voiced. After some time, the football world got acquainted with the scheme of three forwards - 1 + 4 + 3 + 3. It was a new twist. At the English World Championship - another one: the tendency to accumulate strength in the middle line and the rejection of the third, or even the second clean forward (in our country, as you remember, this trend was anticipated by the amazing practitioner Viktor Alexandrovich Maslov) has become established.

Now the original arrangement does not matter. Of course, there must be order on the field. All ten field players can't line up and run. But it is no longer the initial arrangement that plays a role, but the implementation of collective tasks. How many players will be placed behind, how many will be in the middle, how many in front - that's not the point. And the bottom line is what ratio of attacking and defensive actions will be performed on the field by the entire group of players present on it.

Therefore, today it makes no sense to talk about the arrangement. It's not even yesterday. Of course, somehow the players have to stand when the match starts. Then, depending on the amount of collective tasks set in advance, everything changes during the game. A player who enters a certain zone must perform the functions specific to this zone. Full interchangeability, the purpose of which is to achieve a special universalization of football players. There is no need to make defenders out of attackers and vice versa, although sometimes such a retraining is observed. But if the players of one team can perform different functions on the field, depending on how the match goes, and the other can only perform their own, then the first will have an advantage. This is absolutely correct. However, watching the World Cup games, you yourself had the opportunity to see this.

Probably, to some extent, our game with the Hungarian team can serve as an example of the above. The opponent, as we knew and saw, was high in level. Suffice it to say that from 1985 until the World Cup, the Hungarians did not lose to anyone at all, the European press created a halo around this team, talked about the revival of Hungarian football, drew parallels with the Hungarian team in the mid-fifties, when it really was one of the strongest on the continent, if not the strongest.

The USSR-Hungary match at the World Cup became a kind of signal to the rest: it is possible to play at high speeds in the natural conditions of Mexico, alternating, of course, the pace. Before this meeting, after all, as it was: a slow draw of the ball, rare bursts of speed. (Pele assessed the match between the Brazilian and Spanish national teams, which seemed to be a high-level game: "I first saw such a weak and slow game of our team. I, a Brazilian, was ashamed to hear how the spectators booed the players after the end of the match. In modern football, it's not a step you will play ...") In a word, it was suggested that at the World Cup all matches would be held slowly, and whoever catches the opponent on mistakes more adroitly will win. This opinion lasted until our game with the Hungarians.

We can assume that we have crushed the opponent with confidence. It can also be said that two "quick" goals by Yakovenko and Aleinikov brought the Hungarian national team into a state of shock. All this, apparently, is true, but does not fully characterize the course of the game, in which our advantage was expressed in six goals.

In this match, judging by the starting lineup - Dasaev, Larionov, Bessonov, Kuznetsov, Demyanenko, Yarmchuk, Aleinikov, Yakovenko, Zavarov, Rats, Belanov - only one "clean" forward entered the field - Belanov. However, five or seven more people helped him in the attack, while Belanov himself did not shun defensive actions when one of the partners in the middle line, who had done a huge amount of work, was delayed in the attack. Returning quickly to their own half of the field when our attack was disrupted, not those who were supposed to do this "by position", but those who at the moment were closer to our goal. Otherwise it can not be. Imagine such a picture. Two of our defenders participate in the attack - extreme and central. Suppose, in the course of action, they advanced so much that they were at the very tip of the front line. And the attack is thwarted. Who to return? Them? Yes, of course, but first of all to those of their partners, whether from attack, from midfield, who at that moment attacked with the second echelon. And to return, at the same time attacking the opponent who took possession of the ball. By the way, this is one of the fundamental principles of modern football: the defense of one's goal begins immediately after the loss of the ball, no matter where it occurs, even in the opposite penalty area.

site.

The activity of this or that team is determined, first of all, by the optimal program of preparation for this or that match, tournament. It is possible to lose the competition, because there is no such program that would guarantee the result, but you must be ready for this competition. The program is not a guarantee of success, but it gives much more chances for it than spontaneous actions.

The activity of the team is determined by the model of the game, its structure. The progressive model of the game requires players of a completely new formation, who are able to "support" this model on the field, having experienced it first through repeated repetitions - in training. The players must express the tactics "imposed" by the coach, and the coach must select players for his model.

To hope for the individuality of a football player who scores means to hope for a chance, and in modern football, which is characterized primarily by organization, logic, collectivism, is not an assistant.

And what, away from the field of individuality, capable of improvisation? In no case! The model of the game, of course, also implies the model of a football player who is capable - first of all - observe the given principles of collectivism, but the possibility of improvisation cannot be denied. Moreover, collective football, firmly based on the foundation of progressive tactics, is the highest form of improvisation, and there is full scope for individuality, and if the star also shines in such a game, then the chances of success will increase markedly.

There is no secret from anyone that there are several structures of collective action of the team, and we follow them, in any case, we strive to follow.

First. We're conquering space, shifting defensive action to half the opponent's fields, prevent him from holding the ball for a long time and attack ourselves.

Second. We give up space, carry out defensive operations in our own half fields, and we carry out high-speed attacks and counterattacks on the created space.

Third. During the game, depending on various factors (for example, the state of the sports form of the players of our team, the opponent's team, the result achieved), we periodically change one structure of the game to another.

We are told: "Principles are principles, but you are losing!" But there are no teams in the world that would not lose. When a match is lost, it's not about principles, but, obviously, our common mistakes in implementing them, because people do this, coaches and footballers. Yes, and rivals do not give up because we have principles.

Our team was guided by these principles of the organization of the game and, I think, will be guided by developing and improving them (there are a lot of opportunities for this), because it sees the future of football in this. Principles are created by time, and they are bound before

just with the development trends of world football, with attempts to look into the future, be sure to look ahead. Another thing is that they are not a dogma, they are being improved along with by incoming new players and over time.

In the game with the Hungarian national team, in many respects, we managed to implement all our principles of collective football. Speed, synchronicity, complete interchangeability already in the first half did their job. 3:0, everything seems to be in order, you can take a break, save your strength, which in Mexican conditions are spent much faster than on the plain. But it would be anti-pedagogical on our part to ask the players to slow down slowly during the break. Such a request could lead to undesirable consequences, while the players themselves, mostly young, simply did not have enough experience to expend less energy with such a result. In football, the ability to suppress emotions with the mind comes with experience, and collective experience.

I must say that many experts in Mexico were surprised by the level of technical readiness of our players, they called it high. More recently, such statements could shock anyone. Of course, in external manifestations of technical skill - in softness, in the elegance of working with the ball - we are inferior to the Latin Americans. But softness and elegance are not components of football, these are generally subjective concepts. As for reliability, timely execution of technical techniques and, most importantly, work with the ball at speed, we sometimes looked preferable to South American football players. (What is modern football technique in general? Back in the early sixties, the famous French specialist Gabriel Ano said something like this: it is already impossible to play with one trump card, you must use everything that is in football - tactics, technique, functional and psychological preparation. Everything is interconnected).

Our technical advantage is also confirmed by statistics: assuming 20–25 percent marriage (only in the first half of the match with the Canadians it was 32 percent), our team reached a very high world level, before such indicators were available only to individual outstanding football players (now, of course, the stars have surpassed them). The increase in individual and collective technical skills also had an impact on the number of scoring situations (16 shots on goal for the Hungarian team, 20 for France, 22 for Canada, 24 for

only in regular time - Belgium), and on their implementation (12 goals in 4 games). More scored only champions.

Leveling technical prowess against the top teams in the world is not testifies, of course, that we have reached perfection, but it promises us a good prospect. It must be said that the fact that we have not lagged behind in two such important components of the game as functional training and technical equipment allows us to assert that the Mexican championship is perhaps the first major competition in which the Soviet team did not copy someone else's tactics of the past, not caught up, did not adapt to football fashion, but entered the field, having its own face, keeping up with the times, showing a balanced, harmonious and at the same time "aggressive" football. On all areas of the field and in all phases of the game. Collective actions were skillfully and timely woven into the individual decisions of the players, a number of which constantly figured among the leading football players of the championship. All this gave the game originality, independence, entertainment.

To a large extent, this was manifested in a key preliminary meeting - with the French. The opponents, knowing full well that a draw in this match practically guarantees them the continuation of the struggle in the championship, and arguing sensibly, did not hesitate, despite the power of their squad, to play with us from defense, and from a very deep defense. It had four defenders and two defensive midfielders - Tigana and Fernandez. Even Platini was more involved in defensive actions than in attack, he practically came forward only to perform standard strikes. In fact, only Giresse and two attackers - Papin and Stopira allowed themselves to actively attack, although they also constantly rolled back. And yet, when the need arose, they found, seized this moment and scored a return goal.

Our starting line-up was the same as in the match with the Hungarians. If then to replace

Rodionov and Yevtushenko left Belanov and Yakovenko, then in this meeting Blokhin replaced Zavarov, and Rodionov Yakovenko. The French treated us without any disdain, on the contrary - with great respect and professional responsibility. The match was (by all accounts) one of the best in the championship. True, perhaps without any special external effects, but internally meaningful. Each team very sensitively caught not only the actions of the other closest in time, but also "looked" several moves ahead. All possible attack paths were blocked in advance. Of particular interest was the confrontation between two groups of players concentrated in the middle of the field. The French here have a big name, a European champion. We have debutants of major competitions. Such confrontation brought them great experience. Of course, this had an effect a few months later, when we played with the same French qualifying match of the European Championship in Paris.

At the same time, in León, the middle line of the French was, in our opinion, largely neutralized and replayed, especially until Rats opened the scoring nine minutes after the start of the second half.

"The national team of the Soviet Union," Platini said after this match, "is an excellent team. I don't know what she looks like from the stands, but only someone who meets Soviet players on the field can understand how difficult it is to play against them. The match with the Soviet team was one of the best for us, equal to those we played at the European Championships, when we showed a high class and became the first on the continent."

The match with Canada could have been called a passing one, if not for one circumstance: we seriously aimed only at the first place in our group, and only a victory over the Canadians could bring it. Nevertheless, we went for a radical change in the composition but compared to the two previous meetings.

Almost all the letters we received after the World Cup asked why we put up, in fact, a reserve squad for the final game of the group stage. Indeed, why did we do this? First, it was necessary to check the nearest reserve team. Secondly, to save the strength of the leading players, because, playing in hard mode on June 2, 5 and 9, it was possible to "put" the team in jail. And finally, we had to make sure which of those whom we had, we could put on the game tomorrow.

In general, the issue of the reserve is one of the most difficult, in my opinion. It is necessary to achieve such a situation that there is competition in the team (meaning the national team), so that almost any position in the event of, say, an injury or a decrease in demands on oneself has an equivalent replacement and that this replacement in no way worsens the game. The high quality of the game is the springboard from which you need to jump in order to achieve result.

Chanov, Bal, Kuznetsov, Bubnov, Morozov, Litovchenko, Aleinikov, Rodionov, Yevtushenko, Protasov, Blokhin played with the Canadians in the starting lineup. Belanov and Zavarov replaced the last two and easily made a radical change in the game, the first half of which ended inconclusively - 0:0. Having won 2:0, we remained in our "own" region, and the match with Canada once again reminded us that any opponent should be treated with the utmost respect at the World Championships. However, there were plenty of such reminders in Mexico.

And finally, a game that will long be remembered by everyone who took part in it, who watched it at the stadium and on television - with the Belgians, 1/8 finals (the loser goes home). Our squad is the same as in the first two matches, only Bal played instead of Larionov.

Let me introduce you, dear reader, to a small purely informational report on this meeting, published the next day, June 16, in the English newspaper The Guardian:

"The national team of the Soviet Union, which demonstrated excellent attacking football, has so far been the main culprit in the sensations at the World Cup. Last night's match against Belgium in León was another memorable event. It was full of tension: the Belgians equalized twice and still managed to get extra time.

Del Mol jumped unnoticed at the far post and headed the ball into the goal

after a long pass by Gerets. It happened in the 101st minute, and Belgium for the first time in this match stepped forward.

Klassen extended the lead for the Belgians seven minutes later, but Belanov reduced the lead with a massive penalty kick almost immediately afterward, making his hat trick.

The speed and accuracy of the attacks of the Soviet team was often simply amazing, and the Belgians needed all their ability to play defense to keep the Russian players in the first minutes. The only thing they could answer was Vercauteren's long-range shot, which Dasaev took with difficulty.

Coulemans strove to go forward at every opportunity, and it became clear that the worst was over for Belgium. But in the 27th minute, the Soviet team scored an outstanding goal. Belanov received the ball on the outskirts of the penalty area, moved to the right and unexpectedly struck a cannon shot, after which the ball sank into the net, flying past the stunned Pfaff.

The Belgian goalkeeper did everything right, went out of the goalkeeper's area to reduce the angle of impact, but in the rarefied Mexican air the ball flew past him. Maybe Pfaff thought he was flying away from the gate, but Belanov knew better. Whoever thought Russians never got excited should have looked at his face.

The Belgians equalized after Shifo received a long pass from what looked suspiciously like an offside position and shot from close range. This goal inspired the Belgians, the Soviet players lost their rhythm for a while, but Belanov put them ahead again, sending the ball low past Pfaff.

Belgium did not lay down its arms. Another long pass (the only way to pass the brilliant link of the Soviet midfielders in Mexico) took the defenders by surprise, and Coulemans had time to take the ball to his chest and turn around before he hit Dasaev's goal. And in this case there were good reasons to believe that the Belgian
the player was in an offside position.

I hope you will understand why, after the episode described in the last paragraph by the English football observer (and not only him), the episode that everyone saw, and even more so the side referee, he raised the flag at first, signaling offside, and then lowered it - for the first time, perhaps, in his coaching practice, he could not stand it and went to the edge of the field. Just to look the Spanish referee in the eye. He dropped them.

In this regard, I remembered another match, from another World Cup, Spanish, - USSR - Brazil. Maybe because that meeting in 1982 was also held by the Spanish referee Castillo.

There were 60 thousand spectators in the stands, they stomped and applauded. Such drama, such a high class of play, such a stubborn struggle have not been seen at the world championships for a long time. We lost 1:2, but the applause of the public, I'm sure, was equally divided between the Brazilians and us.

In that match, Castillo openly kept the side of Brazil, whose players twice clearly played a hand in the penalty area. When he did not count the goal scored by Shengelia, declaring the situation "offside", everyone at the stadium could make sure that the Soviet team was being sued. As the translators later told us, the word "scoundrel" was one of the most tender words that flew from the stands to Castillo. The audience waved handkerchiefs at him, which is the worst insult in Spain. The Spaniards were ashamed of their compatriot. Yes, everything planned for the game would have been successful if it weren't for the robber who acted as a referee ...

Augusto Castillo for bad refereeing of the match USSR - Brazil was then withdrawn from composition of the judiciary, experts and observers recognized his actions as incorrect.

He himself told reporters: "I feel completely calm, because I consider my refereeing to be good. I'm sorry, but I didn't see why I had to award a penalty." After that, by the way, all the judges at the championship had their eyesight checked. Apparently, this was not done in Mexico.

The game went as we, in general, expected: there was little pressure on us, the Belgians were more concerned about preventing us from playing than playing

ourselves and create a sharp environment near our gates. The game was given to us, it seemed that the rivals were not trying to do anything, as if they were satisfied with the small score with which they were losing to the USSR national team.

The Belgians equalized, we immediately took the lead again, and they did not want to do what the French did in the game with us. Those, as soon as we opened an account, immediately switched to the mode of creating maximum pressure. Maybe it was not noticeable to the spectators, but the players and we immediately felt that the French began to create pressure on every part of the field, where there is only the slightest weakness.

In this case, nothing of the sort happened. The Belgians continued to play slow, ball-holding football. It seemed that they were holding the ball not in order to attack us, but so that later it would not have to be taken away again and so that we would not attack them again. Deceptive impression. Our self-confidence before this match is out of the question. We assessed the Belgian national team as a high-class team. And what can be underestimated at this stage of the championship? But still, during the game, some of our players, I think, got the impression that victory, they say, is not far off. Only this can explain the sloppy actions in the defense, which allowed to score at point-blank range, and in the attack, when composure was lacking at the completion of the most realistic plans.

Probably, if we - coaches and football players - had more time to work together, we would create more opportunities for game options. In this case, an extreme situation was created: neither Chivadze - the central defender, nor Larionov - the winger could not participate in the match, and we had to look for a double substitution.

After the game, of course, it is much easier to say that mistakes were made, that the line-up was chosen incorrectly, etc. For us, the most important thing was to analyze everything correctly before the match and use our capabilities to the maximum.

So, taking into account various information about the state of our players, about the opponent, which we had and which football fans did not have, we, if we had to start this game again, would use only this squad. There were mistakes. Undoubtedly. Even in a good game, you can make a few mistakes and lose, especially if refereeing flaws are superimposed on these mistakes.

What happens? Who could, for example, assume that Germany's goalkeeper Schumacher would play poorly in the final? And he played very poorly, made several fatal mistakes and actually lost the final. Prior to this, Schumacher acted excellently, played exceptionally well in all games. And what, it turns out, now we can talk about the mistake of the West German coaches who put Schumacher in the final? Not quite, apparently.

It's right.

We used those players who were currently at a higher level compared to others.

Correctly, I think, the strategy of the match was also chosen. This was confirmed by 90 minutes of normal time: we completely owned the initiative, had an unconditional advantage over the Belgians. It's hard to argue - it was.

Another thing is extra time. The game fell apart a bit. After the ball scored into our goal, a number of wrong decisions followed by individual players followed, the USSR national team began to play adventurous football, which made it possible for the Belgians to act sharply on counterattacks. But this has nothing to do with the chosen match strategy, which "broke down" in the last minutes due to two or three gross mistakes.

And, having analyzed the match with the Belgian national team again after some time - how it was built and how it was played, we were again convinced that we should not have lost to this team. For all indicators. Our only mistake, perhaps, was that we failed to foresee that someone would play below their capabilities.

"You were afraid to take responsibility. Seeing how Dasaev plays, it was necessary to put Chanov in the gate. Similar opinions were expressed after the championship both in letters and in conversations. Well, maybe so. But after all, we hoped that a goalkeeper of such a class as Dasaev, and he is really a high-class goalkeeper, in the decisive games, even if the previous ones were poorly played, would get together and perform at a high level. It cannot be said that Dasaev

let the team down, but he didn't bail them out. It should be noted that Dasaev confirmed his own class in the autumn match in Paris with the French.

"Why were substitutions made in the game against Belgium?" - a question from the same letters and conversations. For only one reason: Yakovenko and Zavarov were already so tired that they could not do what was required of them. True, neither Rodionov nor Yevtushenko played then as they would like.

Of course, we didn't have much time. Hence the heterogeneity of the composition in terms of preparedness, in terms of the level of perception and understanding of the game, and psychological stability. Not the last role - for the variable choice of the starting lineup - was played by the injuries of some players.

What about the lack of experience of most players in a tournament of such a high rank? The ability to rationally use one's physical and spiritual abilities comes only with the accumulation of experience, with maturity.

The end result disappointed us. Disgusted everyone. But there is another, not visible to the eye result. It makes me personally happy. In the process of preparation and performance at the World Championships, a single team was finally formed - the national team of the Soviet Union. It's no secret that many saw in the Mexican version of the national team another version of Dynamo Kyiv. But no, no, no! This is wrong! And I am glad that the players of this team took the proposed training program for granted, because they believed in us. This was the key to their good game.

The Mexican matches once again convinced the players and coaches that confidence in the game is acquired along with confidence in a high level of one's readiness. Despite the relative failure, the USSR national team in Mexico showed the possibilities of Soviet football, earning the recognition of specialists and amateurs. Yes, and at home we were met as if we had come not with tenth place, but with awards, it was even awkward at times. Of course, it was nice to see how our performance in Mexico was assessed in general, but, frankly, due to the lack of constructive, businesslike and serious criticism, some dissatisfaction remained. We were praised for the quality of the game, but the main thing in football is the result, but we didn't achieve it ...

Naturally, it is possible to move forward only by developing a long-term training program for the team and its immediate reserve. We must not start every time from the beginning, as it happened quite recently, but continue what we started. Will we and our leaders have the patience? And most importantly, will there be enough time? Oh, how necessary! Not a month, not a year, not even two.

To make this very clear, I will refer to the following example. Do you know how much time we spent at our club to make our young players shine in European and Mexican games? It's only Yaremchuk, like a meteor, flew to us from the second league, but he was in the team for almost two years. It took three years for Zavarov, four years for Kuznetsov and Yakovenko, and five years for Rat!

The smallest thing is needed - time, patience and understanding.

At one of the very representative meetings, at which football issues were decided on a national scale, I happened to listen to an amazing speech by a major specialist in the field of sports, in the past - an outstanding athlete, Honored Master of Sports. I do not mention his last name only out of respect for his merits. And what I heard struck me both peremptory and incompetent.

This specialist, as an inspector, visited the training base of one of the teams of masters in the spring. And what conclusions did he draw for himself (if only for himself!)? From the high podium sounded reproaches that set the teeth on edge: the players train little, do not withstand the set volumes of training sessions, and even - what a horror! Waking up at nine in the morning...

It's easy to object to the last reproach: at this time of the year at eight in the morning it's still dark - you can't train. It is more difficult to avert claims about the softness of the training regimen. To do this, you need to delve into the wilds of the training process.

The comical situation was that the respected specialist was from a completely different

kind of sport, purely individual, not team, moreover, he was ... a woman who, of course, never played football. To delve into the specifics of football, of course, she not easy.

Meanwhile, the works of our scientists and the search for practical trainers have already proven how theoretically and practically, that we should talk not about the softness or hardness of the regime, but about its optimality.

In the mindless pursuit of the shaft (train 750 hours a year and that's it! Who else?), You can miss the quality of work. First of all, it is necessary to work usefully - to ensure that the training regimen becomes truly training, which is primarily facilitated by the interval training method developed and established in the last decade. It completely excludes the "hourly shaft".

As for the daily routine of this or that club, the coaches compose it based on objective conditions and opportunities, from the requirements of one or another stage of preparation. I told this funny incident to remind once again what losses incompetence can lead to, how often strong-willed decisions prevent us from moving forward.

Unfounded conclusions in the past, when the opinions of professional professionals were ignored, often forced us to start everything from scratch. It is no coincidence, of course, that such a firm course has been taken in recent party decisions to combat incompetence. This cannot but rejoice.

In our country, unfortunately, in recent years there has been a slowdown in the effectiveness of training football players whose level of readiness could make a significant contribution to the tactical structure of the game and the strategy of team actions. The energy, time, and money expended - sometimes due to the vagueness, fuzziness of the views that formed the basis of the principles - are not enough to prepare football players "for tomorrow". But "for today" we can't, so it turns out - "for yesterday".

It's good if you meet a talented person - even within the framework of already established views, he can be prepared in such a way that he stands out among the general mass of football players. And if not?

The level of training of football players, including children and youths, remains very low in many respects. The state of our material and technical base is depressing - We are probably one of the last places in the world according to this indicator. Is it possible to grow high-class players by playing football on asphalt or concrete? Isn't it sad that there is only one pitch for every 300 footballers in our country? But after all, it is much easier and easier to make fields than to outstrip foreign rivals in football science ... Without a sharp general improvement in the material and technical base of our football, including mass football - the nutrient medium! - It's hard to get far.

Football is not just a game. I hope some facts and hypotheses about historical and social evolution.

The problems of the way of life of people - various social groups, society as a whole - in recent years have attracted increasing attention of scientists, researchers, and statesmen. In this light, a real assessment of the place of football in people's lives is important.

Football has acquired a huge social significance. Can the reader name at least one country in the world in which football issues are not debated with the same passion as, say, economics or art? Most likely no. Football filled the press, television, radio. Prose and poetry are written about football, performances are staged. At the same time, football is greatly influenced by other social phenomena.

What is the specificity of football as a special form of human life, what is the relationship of this form with others? What specific social functions does football play in people's lives?

The authoritative weekly "France Football" timed the beginning of the Mexican championship an article by a specialist sociologist from Germany entitled "Football and Society". The author traces the game's development from a character-building medium like college football to, as he puts it, "a fight for survival in which the only thing that matters is winning." Of course, this is the view of a bourgeois sociologist,

praising selection as the only mover of human life, and it is easy to prove it class limitation.

But see how the topic unfolds further.

Any group, the author writes, which, under the psychological pressure of society, is forced to make decisions that affect the interests of both individual members and the entire group, is usually divided at a certain time into those who are "for" and those who are "against". This is the main pattern of behavior that can be observed in modern situations and which reflects the behavior of fans in the stadium during a football match. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that football matches perform a social function not only in a symbolic sense, but also as a factor in the stabilization of social life. This is especially true in relation to the problem of aggressiveness, which, according to the author, any society faces. Football, according to the author, turns out to be a barometer of social tension, very sensitive to the slightest increase in pressure, that is, it sensitively indicates the social climate of society. Naturally, this is not the purpose of football, but only one of its sociological characteristics.

The question arises: are we not too frivolous about football, considering it just a means of entertainment? Football itself suffers from such a simplistic view.

After all, it is quite obvious that football - I mean the so-called big football, or the football of the masters - affects the mood of people, and indirectly - on their work activity. Football masters has become an integral part of the cultural life of the vast regions of our country. From among popular football players, young people choose role models. At the highest sporting level, football matches affect the prestige of nations and states.

And take a closer look at the inner life of football. Players of the team of masters have not been looking for friendly entertainment in their sports hobby for a long time. Training has long lost the character of friendly meetings or classes during which you can admire nature. The life of a player of the football team of masters is ascetic, consciously avoiding the slightest worldly temptations. He is busy with work, busy with work, the results of which are evaluated weekly by hundreds of thousands of the most demanding "controllers of the Quality Control Department".

And I also want to add that in football there has long been no "natural selection", but there is a selection of performers who have various specific natural qualities developed by constant training. The team is created by the coach, using special fitness tests, classification control devices.

It is time for all this to find a modern interpretation, to determine its place in the system of our socialist thinking. Then amorphous arguments about professionals and amateurs will not disturb the minds. Disagreements will stop in assessing the contribution of football players to public life and the country's labor treasury, which is more and more obviously slowing down the growth of skill our teams

I don't remember such a tense season, which was held under the sign of Mexico City-86, in my coaching practice. Already at the end of August, our team, which had a significant load, it seemed that everything had already been played: behind the quarterfinal, semifinal, final matches of the Cup Winners' Cup, the World Cup in Mexico, a significant part of the championship and the Cup of the country, difficult and prestigious for our football international tournaments in Amsterdam and Madrid.

Ahead was the start in the European Champions Cup, the participation of the majority of Kiev in the qualifying games of the European Championship, the continuation of a stubborn struggle in the championship and the USSR Cup: almost two dozen matches in three months. It is easy to estimate that, on average, we entered the field in three or four days. Someone correctly calculated that we spent much more time on airplanes than we played.

But the year 1987 came, and from its very first days everything started all over again.

Chapter 3

I started playing organized football at the republican football school at a rather mature age even for those times: I was 16 years old. To be honest, at first I treated football as an activity that could distract from intense mental work. In a comprehensive school, he tried his best, graduated with a silver medal and entered the Polytechnic Institute: a childhood dream of becoming a driver was replaced by a dream of getting an engineering degree. It turned out that I became a "football engineer". I don't think that our engineering lost in any way from this choice, but I don't regret it, despite all the unexpectedness of the final decision that I had to make, heading the Dnipropetrovsk Dnepr at the end of 1968.

I can't help but think of the people with whom fate brought me together and who had a huge impact on my development. Then, however, neither they knew about it, much less I. Just like now, for example, I don't know which of those players with whom I have worked and continue to work will lead, say, Dynamo Kyiv in a certain number of years. I would like to believe that one of them will become a head coach in Kyiv, and now I wish him good luck.

Before the 1959 season, Oleg Alexandrovich Oshenkov invited me, along with a large group of young players, to Dynamo Kiev (it is his son who is now in charge of all information issues with us, a kind of press attache of the club; the change in one letter in the surname - Oshemkov - is simply explained : when Oleg Alexandrovich received the documents, a typo crept into the record, and he became Oshenkov. The son corrected this typo). By this time, I took football much more seriously than at first. In any case, he not only played and trained himself, trying to master all the intricacies of the game, but also carved out free time to watch the matches of the teams of the masters, read everything about football, in a word, he started live.

Oshenkov, formerly known as a player of the Leningrad teams Dynamo and Zenit, headed the Kiev Dynamo in 1951. I am convinced that it was then that the gradual ascent of the Kyiv club to the highest positions in our football began.

Gradual, but - ascent. Oshenkov started in Kiev "Dynamo" a radical break in the old ideas about football. How was it before? The season was coming to an end, the "winter hibernation" set in, during which who played hockey, who did a favor - for himself, for the coach? - and came to the hall to indulge in a ball, who did nothing at all for several months. Oshenkov broke these customs. Already in January, everyone, if you please, was in the hall for carefully thought-out work on physical training, in which he sometimes even included elements of ... boxing. Games - in the snow, without waiting for it to melt, it's okay, it's useful, and the pleasure is great. The new coach insisted that all the players study - in evening schools, technical schools, institutes, rightly believing that a common culture is necessary for football, the intellectual level of which is constantly increasing. This position is true to this day. With an equal degree of talent, let's say, two players, one of them, no doubt, for a long time will demonstrate a high class, who is brought up and educated better. Its possibilities are higher.

It was with Oshenkov that Dynamo Kiev began a period of gradual overcoming of the psychological barrier associated with the undivided hegemony in Soviet football of the three capital teams - Spartak, Dynamo and the army. It's not an easy thing to do - make people believe in the possibility of eliminating the "monopoly" on the championship. It was predetermined, it seemed then, that the Moscow teams would compete for the first place among themselves, and the rest would get what they got. For this reason alone, the victories of Zenit (1944) and Kyiv Dynamo (1954) in the National Cup were perceived as sensational.

It's another matter that Oleg Alexandrovich only had a chance to start this period, to designate, and others continued, but such is coaching life: failure - and you are looking for a replacement, which you don't you always guess.

I don't want to argue about whether this is fair or not. There are many examples for and against. But the team does not belong to the coach. She is under the power of people who are most often distant from the realities of football, but who want to see her, "their own", ahead. Preferably and always ahead. And that doesn't happen.

Oshenkov already in his second season in the team brought her to second place, and for two years

later, in 1954, Kiev "Dynamo" under the leadership of Oleg Aleksandrovich brought home its first all-Union prize - the cup, winning on October 20 at the Moscow stadium "Dynamo" the final against Yerevan "Spartak" -2: 1. And then everything seemed to be going well: 1955 - sixth place, 1956 - fourth. Kyiv players Viktor Fomin, Vitaly Golubev, Oleg Makarov were the first in the post-war period to be included in the USSR national team, played for it in friendly matches in India.

The fourth line in the 1956 table deserves special attention.

Oshenkov belonged to the category of coaches who constantly followed the development of football in our country and abroad, sought to obtain all available information. The rigidity of the tactical scheme, known as "double-ve", as well as its several modifications, was clear to Oshenkov. But how to get out of this impasse? How, with the help of what methods to overcome the pattern that the players are used to? After all, non-standard actions of even one player could confuse the opponent.

In 1947, Boris Andreevich Arkadiev tried to "blow up the dogma". Tactical research led him to the 3-3-4 scheme. He learned it with the CDKA players at the southern training camp, transferring one of the five forwards to the middle line. But in official matches, innovations were never seen: Arkadiev did not have the necessary performers at that time.

The idea of such a scheme was as follows: firstly, to "hide" one of the forwards from personal guardianship; secondly, to strengthen the attack thanks to the unpredictable actions of one or two (better - all three) midfielders. To implement the idea, a "little thing" was needed: the presence of two or three highly technical, physically powerful and hardy midfielders who could not only regularly attack from the second tier and wedge into the first, but also constantly defend when necessary, not "fail".

I think if Arkadyev had succeeded in what he had planned at that time, our football would have looked in a completely different light at the 1958 World Cup, in which the Soviet team took part for the first time.

But, unfortunately, things did not go further than trials. Nothing came of it for Oshenkov either.

Then, in 1956, there were three football players in Dynamo Kyiv, whom Oleg Alexandrovich counted on very much in terms of implementing a new idea. First of all, two midfielders Yuri Voinov and Ernst Yust, as well as Anatoly Koltsov, to whom Oshenkov assigned the place of the central, as we are now saying, midfielder.

Arkadiev was right a thousand times: only the result is able to confirm the reliability, the truth of the innovation, even if it, this innovation, raises football to a new level development.

The very first matches according to the new tactical arrangement brought not only draws and defeats (the reason for them, it seems, lies not in the fact that they began to play in a new way, but in purely objective circumstances - the age of the players, their gradual entry into shape, etc. .), but also a lot of negative reviews of the matches of Kiev, who were reproached for all mortal sins and the main one - the transition to defensive tactics.

The decrease in the number of attackers (and the fact that there were fewer of them was visible to the naked eye) caused sharp criticism, accusations of defensive tendencies. At the same time, they did not want to notice that the attack with the new arrangement, on the contrary, intensifies, acquiring more elements of surprise and increasing the overall game level of reliability.

What should a coach do in the case when there is no result, when criticism is heard from all sides, when he is accused of insolvency, when the new conceived by him is presented to the public and the public as cowardice? There are two ways. The first is to stop all kinds of experiments, return to the proven ways of playing the game, especially since they guarantee a momentary result to a much greater extent than those that take time to develop. The second is to continue, not stepping back from the goal. Despite defeat and criticism, grumbling and misunderstanding. This path is much more difficult. Coaches need to be trusted. Distrust turns them, often very, very capable, into artisans.

Two sides influenced Oshenkov at that time: the management and the players, most of whom were at a respectable age for football, they perceived the new with difficulty, they entered the form slowly, gradually, and their main thoughts were aimed at ensuring that

they were not prevented from living and playing the way they were accustomed to.

The coach was forced to first back down, give up innovation, and then leave the team. As it turned out, for two years, during which it became clear to everyone - both managers and players - that the lack of rigidity, focus in work leads to much worse consequences than the lack of points, the team becomes average, it is content with little and is happy with itself. feels it.

This is not my then assessment, then I was a green youth and did not understand intricate relationships between players and coaches. Today's rating.

I believe that Oleg Alexandrovich would not have accepted a new invitation if he had guessed that it would not be for long, only a few months. However, it is difficult to judge, he was very fond of Dynamo Kiev.

Preparation for the 1959 season was crumpled through no fault of the returned Oshenkov. At the end of the previous year, Dynamo held a tiring forty-day tour of Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia and returned home after the New Year in a "disassembled" state. There was no question of any serious program rich in various workouts. Only gradual entry into the form. The team played well in the control matches at the southern training camp, but at a press conference in Kyiv, Oshenkov gave them a real assessment: "The team has significantly rejuvenated. This creates good prospects. But it will take a lot of time until the alloy of youth and experience reaches the required strength. There will be victories, but not immediately. Maybe not even very soon. However, by the end of the season, many new players will become the backbone of the team. And let the successful control matches do not set up in a complacent way. They don't talk about anything at all. You will understand me if you admit that it is not so in the south

we were good, as other teams are bad. But they will play out, and then it will become difficult for us, because we have not yet "got over" the process of rejuvenating the team."

Frankly, listening to such a forecast for the season was unpleasant for many. There was a general opinion in the team that the coach was deliberately "dark", we were lulled by victorious results in friendly matches when we beat everyone in a row. But the championship began, and it turned out that Oshenkov was right - now everyone who was not lazy was beating us.

At first, they did not interfere with Oshenkov's search. He gladly returned to the 3-3-4 scheme, we accepted it with pleasure, we felt that we had added, but there were no points, every draw was perceived as a desired result.

Our coach began to be mercilessly criticized. He asked only one thing - time and patience. "Time," he said, "will create a turning point." They didn't want to believe him. And we were suspended at the height of the season after we lost 0:3 to Lokomotiv in Moscow. Before the next match, with Spartak, we were informed that the team had a new coach - 34-year-old Vyacheslav Dmitrievich Solovyov.

The victory then over the Spartacists 1:0 did not indicate a sharp change in the game and mood. The new coach was just getting to know the team, on the whole strong and united, paradoxically, being under fire of criticism and in the grip of constant failures.

The players, as usual in such cases, immediately made inquiries about the new mentor, but they could not find out anything except that he shone in the famous "team of lieutenants" and was merciless to violators of the regime. The latter circumstance gave grounds to assume that iron discipline would reign in the team.

I will not focus on all the events of the tournament struggle and the life of the team of that period. All of them are sufficiently described in football literature, and I refer those who are thirsty for additional information to the book of our goalkeeper Oleg Makarov "The Goalkeeper", published in Kyiv in 1963.

I will only tell you about Vyacheslav Dmitrievich Solovyov, with whom we still, despite the difference in age, maintain friendly relations, and I carefully listen to his advice.

A charming man, Solovyov the coach did not stifle us with his authority as a player, he was tactful and exceptionally demanding. We could not, for example, believe that he would expel the leading central defender for breaking the regime at the training camp, the player at that time was already "in

age", but experienced and reliable. Solovyov did as he said, and did not listen to anyone's objections. He wanted to create a clean in all respects youth team in Dynamo Kiev, in the ambition of the young, he saw the prospect and resolutely walked towards the intended goal. "The strength of a team," Solovyov said, "begins with discipline and order. I will take care of them, sparing no effort, and I will achieve my goal.

Vyacheslav Dmitrievich was also persistent when changing the functions of the players. Now football is so universal that constant transfers from the attack line to midfield or from defense to the middle of the field are not surprising to anyone. Then the role was sacred. I liked playing as a central striker, I could not imagine any other place, and Solovyov offered me the left edge. "How's the left? Does he overwrite me, wants to transfer me to the flank, where there are no opportunities, to "hide" me there?" - I thought then and argued to the point of hoarseness with the coach, who managed to overcome my stubbornness and insist on his own.

I read somewhere that Solovyov was, they say, easy to carry out any permutation of the players. We supposedly resignedly changed roles in the interests of the team, and this helped us to decide on tactical positions that contribute to our recognition. No, everything was not as simple as it seemed from the outside.

Another question is that, on the whole, a businesslike, comradely atmosphere. And the true fact is the desire of everyone to see their club at the forefront.

Under Solovyov, who paid great attention to the drawing and execution of standard situations and rightly believed that there were a lot of game reserves in their effective implementation, I began to learn the delivery of corner kicks: alone and in a pair with Oleg Bazilevich, in a general training session and in an individual one, in the heat and slush, at our base and at stadiums in other cities - but a few hundred corners a day.

From morning to night, Vyacheslav Dmitrievich convinced us that we are stronger than everyone else and that we must kill confidence in our strength, otherwise we will not achieve anything serious. Solovyov did not make promises to anyone: "we will become prize-winners or champions," but we were constantly inspired by the idea of the possibility of achieving the biggest successes in the history of Dynamo Kyiv, and everyone was imbued with it.

The power of persuasion is a great thing. We were not embarrassed even by such defeats in the first round of the preliminary tournament in 1960 as 1:5 from Admiralteyets. Having added significantly in the second round, we began to talk nothing less than about gold medals, and here Solovyov had to restrain us, not even us, but our dashing mood. "Understand," he said, "overestimation of one's own capabilities is no less dangerous than underestimation. We just stabilized the squad, which the Torpedo team did a long time ago. I'm not going to persuade you not to chase them, but no matter how in this pursuit you burn out to such an extent that others will crush you at the finish line.

Before the face-to-face meeting in Kiev, perhaps the central event of the season, we still had chances to get around the car factory inside the "golden six" teams remaining after the preliminary tournament - that was then the championship formula. This could only happen if we won. The defeat actually led to the champions of "Torpedo".

I remember the excitement around that match every time I see the overcrowded stands of the Kyiv 100,000 before the official international match. Then, however, everything was arranged somewhat more solemnly - music, mountains of flowers ...

Half of our hopes were killed by Boris Batanov, who scored the ball in the third minute. But we couldn't be stopped. We equalized the score (Viktor Serebryanikov), and then there was a moment that Jozsef Szabo and I sometimes remember and experience to this day. The two of us were left against an empty goal - Bazilevich brought us out, they wanted to push the ball over the line, but only interfered with each other and shot higher. The next moment comes to mind when you see unscrupulous refereeing. Sabo made the most accurate pass to Bazilevich, who was flying out of the depths, the kick was a goal, the upset goalkeeper of the Torpedo team Pelikanov shouted at his defenders, dejectedly standing in front of the goal, and then angrily threw the ball into the center of the field, where we were already running, happy and satisfied. But... the referee Krylov did not allow us to rejoice for a long time (or maybe he did not allow us to become champions - even then?), accepted a completely absurd

decision, assigning a free kick from the Torpedo goal for the mythical offside position. The opponents scored the second goal, at the end of the match we hit the post three times, but, as Mikhail Iosifovich Yakushin says, "hitting the post is nothing but a kind of miss."

Soloviev turned out to be right then: the game with Torpedo, which broke through a gap in the championship hegemony of Spartak, Dynamo and CSKA, took away so much strength and nervous energy from us that we almost lost not only silver, but also bronze ". Only a draw or a victory in the last match in Rostov-on-Don could bring us the second place. With great difficulty we played 1:1.

On the eve of 1961, Vyacheslav Dmitrievich, in a conversation with a number of leading players of the team, expressed the idea of some change in the tactical pattern in the game of Dynamo Kyiv. "We will be wrong," he said, "if we mechanically begin to master the Brazilian 4-2-4 formation: we do not have performers in the defensive line for this. But we must wisely use those who are. In the center of defense, a dense barrier should be created from two central defenders, one of whom, during our attack, instantly goes forward and strengthens the midfielders, and one midfielder, let's call him the "core" for ourselves. When opponents have the ball, there is nothing for all the attackers to "hang around" in front, two of them must be the very first echelon of defense. Schematically, it looked like 4-4-2 on defense and 3-3-4 on attack. With such a game, a system of interchangeability, mutual insurance and movement at the right time should have been adjusted to automatism. This is what we did in the early days.

new season.

From the point of view of the implementation of the development, the game turned out to be ideal in the first round of the final tournament (out of ten teams now - the championship was again held according to a new formula) in Kyiv. Muscovites were ahead of us by a point, although before the start of the final tournament the difference was four points. The victory put us in the lead.

Bohlen was the leading midfielder of the Voin team. The line of defense consisted of Koltsov, Shchegolkov, Turyanchik and Suchkov, the middle zone, together with Shchegolkov and Turyanchik, controlled the mobile Sabo. There were two midfielders - Sabo and Biba, but when the ball was lost, Troyanovsky immediately connected to them (that's who never fully revealed himself, although he had fantastic data - he knew absolutely everything in football!) and Serebryanikov. We didn't have any problems in this match, the game was one-sided, and Troyanovsky and Biba each scored a goal. By the time of the return match, we were three points ahead of Torpedo, a 1:1 draw in Moscow left everything in its place, and on October 17, 1961, in a match with Kharkiv Avangard, Dynamo Kiev, playing at home, could for the first time become champion.

And it became. The game had not yet ended (the score was 0:0), when it was announced around the stadium that the Torpedo team had lost in Tashkent and we were the champions!

25 years later, on October 17, 1986, we were sitting in a room at the Beijing Hotel in Moscow with Vyacheslav Dmitrievich Solovyov. I was in Moscow on a business trip, he stopped by to see me. We wouldn't have remembered this date if our friend, People's Artist of the USSR Oleg Ivanovich Borisov, who once worked in Kiev at the Lesya Ukrainka Theater, then at the Leningrad Bolshoi Theater, and now at the Moscow Art Theater, did not start talking about it. And it began: "Do you remember... Fans... Ponomarev..."

"Do you remember, Valerka," Solovyov told me, "how you then said after the game: now I'm in such a state that, it seems, I can play up to forty years!" Well, I was 22 then, I couldn't even imagine, of course, being in a championship mood, that I was destined to play for another six and a half years, and then ...

"The fans," recalled Borisov, "in some unified impulse, rolled up the newspapers they had brought with them into bundles and set them on fire. The whole stadium is in torches. An unforgettable sight!" Where can I forget. The torches blazed during the game, after the announcement of the result of "Torpedo", and it was quite creepy on the field. One of ours ran up to the referee and said: "Comrade referee, maybe we'll finish, huh? And now the stadium will burst into flames."

"Ponomarev, the late Alexander Semenovich, then coached Avangard," Solovyov said. The benches were close by. So, when the announcer gave out information from Tashkent, he ran up, hugged - when have you ever seen the opponents' coach running up during the game with congratulations! - and said: "Finally, Dynamo Kiev in the champions

broke through."

Yes, I had six and a half years to play. In Kiev "Dynamo" - and even less, until 1964, when I played in the first team only nine matches out of thirty-two. By that time, Solovyov was quietly removed from the team (fifth place in 1962 and failures in 1963 forced him to temporarily transfer the reins of power to Viktor Terentyev, who, in turn, was replaced by Anatoly Zubritsky. Since January 1964, Dynamo Kiev was headed by the most experienced Viktor Alexandrovich Maslov, with whose team - "Torpedo" - we fought so hard in 1960 and 1961).

Maslov is a coach from God. In Torpedo, he suffered a fate quite typical for representatives of the coaching profession, one of the most disenfranchised professions in the country. The fact that he no longer manages the club, which led to a "double" - victory in the championship and the Cup, Maslov learned from the lips of either a secretary or a cleaning lady. Those who only yesterday extolled his coaching qualities to the skies, as well as the successes of the team he leads, did not even want to talk to him. He was not forgiven for the second (!) Place in the championship and defeat in the Cup final. An overly shameless attitude towards a specialist on the part of amateurs. He did not tolerate dilettantes. But there are more of them, and behind them is power.

His flair for football innovation was amazing. He anticipated many tactical discoveries, as well as novelties in the training process, which we then enthusiastically adopted from abroad, forgetting that they also appeared in our country, but were not understood and properly evaluated. This happened, for example, with a tactical formation of four midfielders. Maslov in Dynamo Kiev tested this system even before it "sounded" at the 1966 World Cup performed by the British.

Viktor Alexandrovich, like an experienced stonecutter, cut off everything superfluous in order to cut down the model of a team capable of reproducing the image of the game he invented, a very real image of a completely reliable game. "You can't demand from a footballer that," he said, "that he is not able to fulfill. We must either adapt the innovation so that the player's talent is best used, or look for another performer, which is what we do at Dynamo Kiev. It's not a recipe, it's a principle."

Outwardly rude, inaccessible, he tried to remain fair even with the most cruel scoldings, because he himself had suffered a lot from injustice. He understood that Dynamo Kiev began to slowly lag behind their main rivals in terms of organizing the game, and saw his first task in making the team structurally more mobile, mobile, using a more complex system of interchangeability, refusing to play defense with an outdated method - forces in mostly defenders. The natural mind that Maslov possessed helped him effortlessly and overnight to determine all the best that the team had left after working with Oshenkov and Solovyov, preserve it and

add your own, new.

Maslov grimaced when Bazilevich and I, receiving balls on the flanks, as before demonstrated the technique on the spot, the technique of tracing along our "grooves". He wanted - and demanded from all players without exception - a significant expansion of the range of actions, tireless maneuvers in the attack along its entire front, forced the flank zones to be freed up for sudden connections of midfielders and even defenders, rigorously implemented one of his fundamental tactical principles - the constant creation of a numerical majority in all phases of the game, fought by all means against overexposure of the ball, prettiness for the sake of prettiness, loudly cursed those who expected a pass, standing on

place.

In order to play the way he demanded, slightly different training methods were needed than those that the team managed before. Maslov changed both the nature of training and the training means, he placed a serious emphasis on athletic training both in the preparatory period and during the championship.

I will not argue that Maslov's innovations were liked by everyone. We - including myself - they naively believed that it would be quite possible to get by with the methods of conducting training known to us without changing the organization of the game so drastically. It was not given to us then to understand what Maslov already understood. I discussed with the coach on a number of issues and was

convinced that he is right. I thought it was more reasonable in the competitive period, when there are a lot of loads in matches, to train only with the ball. I couldn't understand why everyone needs to do the same amount of work, I thought that one group of people should be mainly occupied with the so-called rough work, and the other with "jewelry", thanks to which an end to overall success is put. And finally, in terms of the game spirit, the usual methods of play, traditional flank passes, albeit protracted in time, but beautiful and effective, were much closer to me in terms of the game spirit, and it was hard for me to believe that they slowed down the team game.

Maslov's correctness as a coach turned out to be much higher than my correctness as a player. I'm not going to talk about whether Maslov should have bothered with me then and converted to his faith, but now I, in all likelihood, would have acted with the Lobanovsky player in the same way as he did: quarreling with me in the locker room of the Yaroslavl stadium after a draw with Shinnik 2:2, he stopped putting me in the first team, and I realized that I would no longer play in this team.

I can't say that understanding this brought me great joy. I was annoyed and angry with Maslov, his actions seemed to me the height of injustice, I considered myself undeservedly offended and, loving Dynamo Kiev immensely, I dreamed of proving my case while playing in a different team.

Meanwhile, Maslov was sharply criticized for his results, for sixth place in 1964, for low performance, for ... the zone principle in defense, which he applied in its purest form. Thank God, the people responsible for the fate of the team had the patience, and Maslov was given time, which he skillfully took advantage of, bringing Dynamo Kiev to a high international level in 1966-1968.

And I was playing at the time. Two years at Chornomorets, one and a half - until July 1968 - at Shakhtar. We managed to beat Dynamo Kiev only once - in the second round of 1967 in Donetsk 2:1.

A year later, I said to myself: "Enough!" We did not see eye to eye with Oleg Oleksandrovich Oshenkov, who headed Shakhtar at the time, and being the captain of the team, already looking at many things from the Maslovskaya bell tower, I could not play the football that the Donetsk club cultivated.

At the end of July, an article "The football player is leaving ..." appeared in Sovetsky Sport, in which the author admitted that both of us, equally loving our work, are equally painfully experiencing failures, but everyone understands football in his own way and each considers his point of view the only one.

The note was accompanied by monologues:

Football player: "I am not satisfied with the state of affairs in the team. We can no longer play the way we play. I hate anti-football. And what we play is called anti-football. Not in the narrow sense, but in the broad sense of the word. Because it is impossible to rely on luck, chance in modern football. It is necessary to find a clear dividing line between attack and defense, without neglecting anything. It is necessary to create an ensemble, a team of like-minded people, subordinate to one game idea. I've been saying for a long time, let someone be offended to hear it, that our team has the wrong selection of players.

And one more thing: a football player must be respected. You cannot demand that a person smile when he feels bad, that a sick person pretend that he is healthy. I don't want to try my luck in other teams anymore - I don't play anymore ... "

Coach: "You have to be content with what you have. You have to force yourself to step on the throat of your own song for the sake of the interests of the team that has become your family. We play the kind of football that we have and that we can play. I, too, would be glad to have "all the stars of the world ..." in my team. We must set an example for the young, and not infect them with our mood. You have to be a fighter..."

There was something like this opinion about me: a good player, but a brawler - from Dynamo Kiev, after quarreling with the coach, they asked, and from Shakhtar, without working with the mentor, he left ...

I really wasn't going to play anymore, although I was invited more - 29 years old by the standards of that time was not an age. But not only play. I was about to cut myself out of

football, forget, leave, do serious business - I have a specialty! - which he studied, and not even read anything else about football.

It wasn't there.

I just couldn't get used to the idea that I didn't have to take the field anymore: in my dreams I was still playing. I finished really early - I would still play and play. I decided myself. But, apparently, strong-willed decisions, even if you make them yourself, can deliver unbearable pain.

Such is football: to give it a decade and a half (half a life was then for me) and then not everyone can completely forget about it. I could not. Soon, very soon, I felt that breaking with football was beyond my strength ...

The offer to coach Dnepr accepted with pleasure. The people who invited me didn't care about my age.

If I thought about it, then only about the difficulties that await. What is nerve itch did not know then.

Experience, I thought, would come with time: everyone once started out of the blue. Forces and desire to work - not to borrow. You have to have iron nerves - that's what worried me the most. The work of Oshenkov, Solovyov and Maslov, which I observed, contributed to this anxiety.

Playing football is much easier than coaching - I understood this before, even when I was playing, and therefore did not envy the hardest part of coaching. But it is one thing to know speculatively, it is quite another to feel it in one's own skin. However, in addition to desire and strength, there was another important circumstance: by that time, for myself, of course, I summarized the best in the work of those coaches with whom I worked and argued during work, but who laid in me a rather large amount of special information. I hoped to use it in practice, developing and improving.

Coaching is extremely difficult. It is easy to get lost, forget about the main thing for a thousand little things, and not see the forest for the trees. So many things to consider! On the field I had to control the ball, now I had to control people.

From the first steps I accepted this for myself as the main, very first commandment. I began to look closely at the players, tried to understand them, to accept them as they are: their characters, moods, requests, to delve into family and personal affairs, sometimes even delved into such trifles that, it would seem, have nothing to do with football ...

The question often arises: can the coach be familiar with the players or should he keep a certain distance? There is no clear answer. Everything should go naturally. First of all, it depends on the nature of the mentor. If he artificially begins to bring people closer to him, curry favor with them, show his disposition and willingness to be friends, or artificially build an insurmountable barrier between himself and the players, difficulties will immediately begin: the players very subtly feel falseness, pretense, unnaturalness and, accordingly, answer.

For myself, I firmly learned from the very first days: a coach must sacredly remember, not forget for a moment that he works with people who, to a large extent, make a coach out of him. And people, unlike robots, have a soul, often quite vulnerable, sometimes obstinate. The coach, of course, must thoroughly understand the football business, but this is one side of the coin. The other is that the coach must understand both the soul of the game and the soul of people equally well.

A year after I headed Dnepr, I could not judge whether I became a coach. Not a good coach, mediocre or bad, but a coach. For I am convinced that you can work for a year, and two, and for many, many years, and still not become a coach. Not a coach according to the position provided for by the team's staffing table, but a coach by vocation, by command from above, if you like.

One desire is not enough. It is hardly worth listing all the qualities that a coach needs, I have already talked about some of them. There are a lot of them, you can probably live without one, but it is possible that one tiny minus, an inconspicuous, unobtrusive character trait or some kind of life circumstance will suddenly cross everything out.

Probably, and I have more than one such minus quality, probably for the first year

work and I made more than one mistake. And probably from the side they were more visible. It is not easy to scrupulously analyze everything, I even find myself not being able to tell in detail how the first, it would seem, the most memorable year of work went for me. But I understood something, and the main thing in this "something" is a conscious confidence in the correctness of the choice of profession. I no longer doubted that this profession was for the rest of my life.

Football is changing and improving before our eyes. What was good yesterday is good today not good enough or even very bad. There are many discussions about football, and these disputes are endless. In practice, I finally realized that *in general*, abstractly, abstractly, you can argue as much as you like. But for what?

It is necessary to give up the habit of analyzing the team's play along the lines as soon as possible. It seems to me that the existing division of players along the lines, quite often encountered to this day, is a tribute to traditions. Football has become so intense and multifaceted that it is only possible to solve the problems of playing the game in a comprehensive manner. In the analysis of games, in theoretical lessons on tactics, it makes no sense to talk about how the defense line or the attack line plays. It should be about how to play defense and how to play attack. Because the team as a whole, including the goalkeeper, solves these problems. In each attack - take a closer look - seven or eight players are certainly involved (unlike those who count the attackers by the number of opponents who penetrated the penalty area, I'm talking about the attack as a whole), seven or eight also defend, sometimes more.

The first year of my stay at Dnipro convinced me – and I remain convinced of this to this day – that the coaches should focus their closest attention on tactics. It is in it that those additional reserves are hidden that allow you to increase your playing power and raise your class. In fact, many teams have achieved excellent achievements in physical training, technical skills have noticeably grown, they are comprehended - when successfully, when not - secrets of psychological adjustment, strong-willed hardening of players, but tactical poverty and monotony have set the teeth on edge.

Of course, tactical tricks are effective only when they are based on excellent physical, technical and psychological readiness. Without this, no tactical ideas can be realized.

In my opinion, the tactical possibilities are endless. I'm not going to get deep into the jungle, I will give one textbook example. How to resist the opponent's active attacking actions? There are a lot of forms, but here is one of them, which arose not so long ago - pressure. This word is familiar to everyone, but how many have studied this form thoroughly, how many use it? Units. Moreover, a number of coaches categorically deny the possibility of pressing. Well, okay, it's their own business - whether to accept this or that tactical means, but when a capable football player from the team of a coach who denies pressure gets into a team that wants to play in a modern way, it's very difficult to teach him how to use synchronism in a few days such a seemingly simple method. And pressure is such a thing that if at least one of the players falls out of it, the pipe is a deal ...

My debut as a coach in 1969 was what a coaching debut should be, and it will be remembered forever. It was later, and the team felt confident in their abilities, and I, as the poet said, "became bolder in desires." And first...

It started with the fact that, playing in the tournament "Snowdrop" (then such competitions were held in early spring), "Dnepr" somewhat unexpectedly reached the final. Although I was very pleased, it even frightened me. Firstly, the training process was somewhat disturbed, for which I, a green novice in this business, prepared, of course, very, very conscientiously and carefully. Secondly, they immediately began to look at us differently, to wait for good luck. And even demand them. But circumstances that I could not foresee intervened: unplanned and very difficult games in the semi-finals and finals - with Moscow Lokomotiv and Tbilisi Dynamo, physical and moral overstrain, injuries of several players caused by this - all this affected the state of the team. Start in the championship, my first "coaching" championship - it was in the second group of class "A", in the third, Ukrainian, subgroup, - turned out to be very bitter: in the third round we lost in Lviv to Karpaty with a deadly score of 1:6! Following that - the defeat is already at home, in front of the native spectators, from the Kirovograd

"Stars"...

Can you understand my condition? That's when I learned what real nervous coaching stress is. The worst thing was that all of our spring training work was called into question.

I hesitated. At night, we sat with the coach Anatoly Semenovich Arkhipov - we judged, we judged, we thought, we doubted, we refuted, we proved to ourselves that we were right. It took a lot of work to stay in our previous positions. Doubt crept in: did we do the right thing by dramatically changing the usual, well-established way of life of the team, demanding from the players a more responsible approach to training sessions, to the game itself.

Football, of course, is a game, but such a game that does not tolerate when it is treated as entertainment, dependent. Success on the field can be achieved only with the full mobilization of forces. Football players, who got used to the idea that it is impossible to get into the big leagues and there is no need to rush there, imperceptibly, perhaps for themselves, have lost their landmark, their goal. How about without a goal? They were used to living somewhat at ease, and it was possible to restore their combat effectiveness only by aiming them at a difficult task and "tightening the screws". In our conditions, it was too early to play on trust, and we established strict control not only in the game, in training, but also in everyday life. We proceeded from concrete, real conditions.

When we began to suffer defeats at the start of the championship, many also explained them this way: a young coach has little experience, but there is more than enough desire to establish himself, so he drove the team. I cannot agree with this. We trained a lot, right, as much as possible in the spring, but within reasonable limits. Although overloads were inevitable, they did not bring strong overwork to the players, because we combined high loads with pauses for rest.

How did I know the optimal loads? First of all, from my own experience. In addition, from medical research. And finally, from the quality necessary for every coach - intuition.

Only after some time, when we began to cooperate more closely with Oleg Bazilevich, a coach who worked in the teams of the second league, and scientist Anatoly Mikhailovich Zelentsov, it became clear to me that experience, medical observations and intuition are not always enough, and specially designed, evidence-based training programs that help maintain an optimal level of loads in the preparatory and competitive periods.

It took Dnipro three seasons to break into the big leagues. We were persistent and stubborn. In the first case, in 1969, they lost in the final bullet "Spartak" from Ordzhonikidze, although we were predicted to be the winners. We were close to success the next year. They scored the same number of points with Kairat, but the Almaty team had the best difference between goals scored and conceded. However, maybe it's for the best that only the third attempt succeeded, in 1971. Adversity at the very finish line, when it seemed that they were about to get lucky, tempered the team. Could it be the other way around? Hardly. We, the coaches, saw that the team was striving with all its might to get into the big leagues, there was no need to spur on.

Describing the team after the first round of the championship in the first league in 1971, Honored Master of Sports Viktor Voroshilov wrote in the weekly "Football - Hockey": "Among the leaders there is a team that has been at the very threshold of the major league for several years, but does not open the door there. This is Dnepr. Last year he was distinguished by a strict, well-established game. Dnipro's roster is stable, with two or three players appearing every year who have completed internships in major league teams. Pilipchuk and Evseenko played this season, Lyabik returned. In this regard, the attacking formations of the Dnipropetrovsk troops have changed somewhat. Left winger Romanyuk is a skilled player with a good shot; in the center - efficient point guard, fast Lyabik; on right -

experienced Pilipchuk. In midfield, Yevseenko, who has gone through a good school, is outwardly inconspicuous, but Shneiderman knows his business; assertive, seeing the field of Grinko and technical Fedorenko create a strong springboard for organizing attacks. Against the background of these lines, the defense looks weaker. Defenders are straightforward, not technical enough, too heavy. But in general, the team is even, well-played, everything is carefully adjusted in it, each player

knows his duties. True, unlike last year, Dnepropetrovsk residents began to improvise more boldly, move away from the template.

I would like to draw your attention to two things in this comment. First - assessment by lines, which was not practiced at all in our team. And the second is a note about improvisation. I understand what was said to us as a plus, but I would like to explain that in 1971 we managed to simulate game situations in such a way that the players freed up time for improvisational beginnings as part of a team game, and this, of course, could not go unnoticed. We had enough "home-made preparations". I considered it my duty to instill in the team a craving for smart football, for a game well worked out in training. Apparently, Voroshilov's remark about our defense was not entirely correct either. We defended not with four defenders, but collectively, it happened, with nine players, but it's necessary, we conceded the least in the league - 30 goals in 42 games, and in nineteen meetings we generally left "dry", and scored the most - 83.

I was immensely happy the day we became league champions. In Odessa, we beat SKA 3:1, the team went to the locker room, and I went to the phone to find out how our competitor Lokomotiv played in Moscow against Krylia Sovetov. Their draw with Muscovites 1:1 made us champions.

What do you remember about the first season in the big leagues for the 33-year-old coach? First of all, it slipped like one day. The first match, of course, in which the first victory was won, was over CSKA 2:1. The sixth place, when we were only one point behind the second prize-winner Dynamo Kyiv. Reviews in which our team was provoked to the so-called attacking football on any field against any opponent. (True, in a serious final review, Honored Master of Sports Viktor Dubinin noted: "... the success of Dnipro, the debutant of the major league, fell like snow on its head. From the first league - immediately into the group of leading clubs! Behind the noise of international events in our football (Olympiad, the final of the European Championship, European cups - V. L.) "Dnepr" imperceptibly turned out to be ahead and if anyone was inferior in technical results, it was only to the future champion. from the debutant, whose task is

gain a foothold in the big leagues?

Dnipro far exceeded this plan, showing the ability not only to defend, but to attack, and reminded everyone of the once loud glory of their native city. The final judgment on the merits of Dnipro, congratulating him on his first great success, should not be made until the next championship ...")

And I also remember the season with the closest contacts that were established between me, on the one hand, and Oleg Bazilevich, who headed Shakhtar Donetsk in the first league (he then advanced to the higher one), and Anatoly Zelentsov, a candidate of science from the Kiev Institute of Physical Education, on the other. We quite often, of course, due to the opportunities provided to us by the tournaments in which our teams participated, met, analyzed in detail a completely new idea (for football in particular and for a team sport in general) of models of training regimes, which, in our opinion, led to a completely different level of training work in a team. During one of these meetings, which took place in a heated debate (Bazilevich and I usually questioned any word uttered by Zelentsov, believing only serious reasoned evidence), someone unexpectedly burst out: "I wish I could work together in a team of a different level than" Shakhtar" or "Dnepr!"

... The scientific work of Anatoly Mikhailovich Zelentsov occupies an important place in the activities of Dynamo Kyiv (and the national team too). He could apply his richest knowledge and exceptional creative potential in many other areas of life, but he has become attached to football with his soul, he cannot imagine himself without it, despite all the bruises that fell to his lot

and bangs.

The persecution that innovators are subjected to is not a new topic for the scientific world. Considering modern training in three aspects - strategic, tactical-technical and psycho-functional, and well aware that the task of managing a football game is associated with a new scientific discipline - sports cybernetics, Anatoly Mikhailovich

I felt for myself how painfully difficult it was to pave the way for these new ideas, to realize them. Many scientists, coaches, football players are not yet ready for them, and I am convinced that Zelentsov, Ph.D.

Zelentsov does not seek to give out "recipes" that are always short-lived, and even more so to generalize the infinite variety of elements that make up the training process. Able to outwardly not lose heart under any circumstances, loving to repeat: "everything will be as it should be, even if it is different", he conscientiously and highly qualified continues the work that is so necessary for our football.

But let us return to the events of 1973.

In October I was called to Kyiv. Probably for the next meeting, I thought then, for a day or two, no more. I'll wander around my native autumn city, which I visited occasionally, on short trips, and which I missed wherever I was.

Didn't have to wander. "We have been following your work in Dnepropetrovsk for a long time and offer you to head Dynamo Kiev," they stunned me. – Think. We will settle all issues with Dnipro." I called Bazilevich and said: "Petrovich, it seems that there is an opportunity to work together."

kicked out of Dnipro, and you ask to join Shakhtar, which is higher in the standings."–
"If so, I wouldn't be laughing. - We are talking about Dynamo Kiev. - "???" "Yes, that's right, I was just informed about this," I said. "There is no point in refusing," Bazilevich replied.

At the next meeting with the invitees, I firmly named Oleg's name. "In what role?" they asked me. "Another senior coach," I answered. "But in the staffing list ..." "It doesn't matter what his position will be called on paper. The main thing is in essence. We agreed that we would officially start working with the team from January 1974. In the meantime, I will gradually get to know her, and Bazilevich will finish the season at Shakhtar, which eventually became the sixth debut in the Premier League in the year.

Did we have doubts? Of course. First of all, they were connected with the fact that only the highest results were expected (and always expected) from Dynamo Kyiv, five-time champion before our arrival in the team. They didn't demand guarantees from us, and we wouldn't give them - not an insurance agency, but they themselves understood that they didn't expect anything else from us but a championship.

Were we afraid? No, there was no fear. Excitement - yes. And impatience - would rather start serious work.

The programmatic meeting that we held with Bazilevich and at which we worked out all the basic principles of joint activity, for ourselves jokingly dubbed the "meeting at the Slavyansky Bazaar", mindful of the discussion of serious creative and auxiliary issues between K. S. Stanislavsky and V. I. Nemirovich- Danchenko. We decided on the principles, it was up to their implementation with the help of our new partners in "football production".

In this book, there is no need to dwell on the purely special details of our methods of training work - this is the prerogative of the methodological literature. They are described in detail in numerous articles published in the weekly "Football - Hockey" in the mid-70s, in the book "Modeling Training in Football", written jointly with A. M. Zelentsov. We did not and do not elevate what we do to the rank of secrecy. Anatoly Yevtushenko, senior coach of the USSR national handball team, got acquainted with our methods and at first referred to them. Vladimir Yurzinov, who was then the second coach of the hockey team, came to visit us. Many coaches of teams of the highest and first leagues have contacted us (and are contacting us), and we do not refuse anyone, because not only we have no right to consider all this our property, but we also see it as our duty to promote the dissemination of modern methods, which, of course, will be improved, since are not dogma, no matter how dogmatism is attributed to us. This is only a principle, where many amendments, improvements, variations are possible and necessary.

How the players perceived and perceive our methods is largely described in

the next chapter - about Kiev "Dynamo", in the same place - about some of the successes of 1974 and 1975.

Were there any problems or setbacks? Without them, as in any other serious matter, get by. Year 1976, for example ...

Events then developed as follows. After returning from the Olympics in Montreal, after a short rest in Yalta, before the autumn championship of the Soviet Union, Bazilevich and I decided to part with two football players - extreme defenders Vladimir Troshkin and Viktor Matvienko.

The age limit is a relative concept. The player must be used in the squad as long as he is useful. This is our coaching credo, and we have the right, guided by purely sporting motives - and only by them - to decide on the stay of a football player in the team.

Time changes people. I'm not an exception. Now I understand well the certain extremism of our decision, which was largely erroneous, because the current situation (we only went to the Olympics to win, and "took" only bronze, completely lost the first half of the season) did not require at all to take such measures, as a result of which two players of the national team suddenly found themselves not only outside the national team, but also outside the club. Probably, it was quite possible to transfer both players for some period to a backup, for example, squad.

This mistake was the final in the chain of many committed by us and the players.

The voltaic arc is closed.

The evening training on Sunday (two days before the next calendar match with Dnipro in Kyiv) was carried out by the team without Troshkin and Matvienko. And the next day, in full force, she appeared in the morning at the republican sports committee. The players said that they did not want to work with us anymore, and went to the base in Koncha-Zaspa to continue preparing for the meeting with the Dnepropetrovsk team, warning that if we appeared there, they would leave. "We will prepare ourselves," they said. We ourselves will determine the composition, decide how play and be responsible for the result.

The ultimatum of the players - there is no other word for what happened - had an impact, and for the first time in the last two and a half years, during the match against Dnipro, Oleg and I were not only in the locker room, but also at the stadium. For the first time at the Kiev stadium, the benches near the field were removed, on which substitutes, coaches, and doctors usually sit during the game. Removed, presumably, so that the audience would not notice the absence of coaches and not I thought there was something wrong with the team.

This match (it was lost 1:3) Bazilevich and I watched at home on TV. They worried as if they were sitting on a bench, exchanging remarks as usual, completely forgetting about the stupid situation in which they found themselves. As soon as the signal for a break sounded, I reflexively got up to go to the locker room, and ... I remembered everything.

Before the match and in the days following it, a series of meetings took place, meetings designed to somehow resolve the conflict, "release" it on the brakes, and reconcile the "sides". At one of these meetings - a six-hour meeting - we heard in our address everything that the players thought about us, and spoke out ourselves. At another, shorter one, a number of decisions and organizational conclusions were announced. For example, Bazilevich and I, as well as Muntean, received party penalties. Troshkin, Zvyagintsev, Matvienko, Muntyan were conditionally disqualified. Many players received reprimands and severe reprimands. In this state, the team could not be sent to the scheduled tournament in Spain, in which CSKA performed instead.

Joint training resumed.

Conflict. Where he was not expected. But where, as it turned out, he had been brewing for a long time.

We came to a serious and popular team with a new idea of training based on a program created on a scientific basis, which, in our opinion, with sufficient work, made it possible for football players to reach the highest form by a certain period of time - responsible competition. It is impossible to be in excellent shape all the time, and our program provided for recessions that fell on periods of time associated either with a break in competitions or with matches that were not of paramount importance for the team. The program seemed to include everything ...

Quite naturally, not all players at once accepted the new idea in the club. We had to explain, prove, convince and - wait for results that (and only they!) Could dispel the doubts of skeptical players. And the results - and very good ones - appeared. As a result of joint efforts.

I would like to emphasize the last sentence, because it to a large extent lies the key to the causes of the conflict.

Everyone expected new successes from us in 1976. First - in the European Cup, where in the quarterfinals we lost to the French "Saint-Etienne" (2:0, 0:3). Then - in the European Championship, where the team, which consisted mainly of Kiev, lost to the Czechoslovak team on the way to the final (0:2, 2:2). And finally, at the Olympics, where we were stopped by the Olympians of the GDR (0:2).

There were no successes. There were defeats. Defeats sometimes without a sharp struggle, without a game, to which all forces would be given.

Why?

Then we reasoned as follows: "The program provides only for the disclosure of the functional capabilities of a football player, and in addition to the program, there are still a lot of things that a player needs for the most complete manifestation of these capabilities," selflessness, courage, risk, will, courage. Unfortunately, some players did not show these qualities. The program gives results only when backed up by the perseverance of the players, their responsible, professional attitude to business, hard training beyond the program to improve technical skills."

From the point of view of football players, the answer to this "why?" sounded something like this: "Because we didn't have time to recover properly after last year's season, we began to perform a huge amount of loads from the very beginning, from training in Bulgaria in mid-mountain conditions. Fatigue accumulated from endless flights, from constant intense training.

At the meeting - that, the other - the players expressed their complaints about the preparation, not delving into the theoretical subtleties (due to the lack of serious knowledge on these issues), but based on their own well-being, physical condition, experience.

No, in my opinion, it makes no sense to go into deciphering the claims. It is necessary to focus on why, after all, Program-76 was not implemented.

From the very beginning of our stay at Dynamo Kiev, we decided to abandon the word "experiment", believing that it was unreasonable to set up an experiment in such a team. The experiment took place in the teams in which we worked before, Dnipro and Shakhtar. Here, above all, high concrete results were needed.

But giving up the word does not mean giving up the process itself. We literally touched, in small steps, moved along the program in the same, for example, 1975. Quite justifiably, they trusted their intuition a lot, the players, often rightly replacing one or another program mode with another along the way. A creative understanding was born between us and the players. There was contact. We were soul mates. And if there were any roughness in the relationship, then they were smoothed out by success.

I would say that success had a lulling effect on everyone. No one could imagine that a different turn of events was possible. All of us - both coaches and players - were apparently not enough to really and soberly look at the cups, super cups, prizes and, forgetting about them, start the new season, continuing the experiment, developing it and improving it. He was needed, if only for the simple reason that no one, anywhere in the world, trains according to scientific programs. The situation before 1976 turned out to be completely new: the goal was the Olympic tournament, the preparation time was six months.

If earlier we moved cautiously along the program, now we were walking along it, not allowing retreats.

It should be noted that (now it becomes quite obvious) the plan imposed on the team did a disservice to us, aiming it, in essence, only at the Olympics. Psychology is serious business. We understood very well that we would be strictly questioned only for failure in the Olympic tournament. The calculation of the long-term result did not allow critically evaluating the implementation of the program at a certain stage. We looked into "tomorrow", forgetting that

today's failures - with Saint-Etienne, first of all, and the Czechs - are layered on the state commands, and the layering is impossible, as it turned out, to remove.

And "dizziness from success" did not bypass many of our players. It's no joke: a year earlier they became one of the best teams in the world, there are no equals in the country, everyone is in the national team. And the players stopped training as intensely and passionately as they did a year ago.

Probably, we should have had a serious talk at the very beginning of preparations with everyone together from the positions of a creative community of like-minded people. This would contribute to the main achieving mutual understanding. Perhaps we would deviate from some provisions of our program (but not from the main thing, of course, not from the program!), Perhaps such a measure would reconfigure the players, bring them down to earth. But the conversation did not take place.

The contact was broken. Mutual irritability grew. It was exacerbated by the defeat of Dynamo in the Champions Cup and the national team - in the European Championship, which, of course, hurt the professional pride of coaches and players. But even after these events, with sufficient efforts on both sides, mutual understanding could be reached. However, the "ravine" between coaches and footballers, invisible to the eye, continued to expand, much that yesterday seemed obvious and fair, today was exhibited as unfair and subjective. Contact was completely lost. After the setback in Montreal, the proposed withdrawal of two players from the team caused an instant outbreak. Without this reason, there would be another, third, and the events would simply move in time.

We turned black then from experiences, but now I understand: something similar to this post-Montreal story must definitely happen in life. She tempered all its participants. Me, anyway, for sure.

Some thought that 1976 could repeat itself in 1987. I was calm about this. Recession - yes, due to various kinds of circumstances, it was possible. And it happened. But there were no prerequisites for a repetition of the conflict: the lesson went for the future.

Now, meeting occasionally with the players of the 75 team, we do not remember the 76 conflict, and if we do, it is as an unfortunate episode in our joint activities. We agree that we made a number of mistakes then. The guys admit their mistakes, connected primarily with the "shalyavalyai" mood and inability to overcome themselves in certain decisive matches, to give everything to the limit. In general, the players from that team were fighters in everything. Even in the conflict described above.

Probably, after Bazilevich was dismissed as a result of the conflict, I could also slam the door and leave Dynamo Kyiv. And this act would not seem outlandish to anyone, on the contrary, they would say: look what solidarity. A rash decision is always easier to make. Harder - reasonable, optimal. We then came to the conclusion that in the interests of the cause it was necessary for me to stay. I would not have suffered from leaving - a cause to which we devoted so much energy, in the rightness of which we were sure, and which had to be continued in the most serious manner on the ground on which it had already given good results. seedlings.

Oleg Bazilevich and I did not, as many would like to see it, become enemies. Our relations have remained the same - smooth and kind, and each of us is always sure of the help of the other when it is difficult for someone.

... Almost thirty years have passed since I appeared on the field in the Kyiv Dynamo shirt. All these years I have been studying. From Oshenkov, Solovyov, Maslov, from Dnepr colleagues, from Bazilevich and Zelentsov, from Simonyan and Morozov... A coach must learn all his life. If you become stale and stop learning, it means that you have ceased to be a coach. Time not to cheat. It sets the accents. And he teaches too.

Chapter 4

Once I was asked a question: "I wonder who the players are for you? Gladiator fighters, Foolish children, friends?..."

Indeed, who?

So time flies that, it turns out, I really am already fit for their fathers. No, not children.

What kind of children are there, if their business requires both the physical and spiritual maturity of hardened men, a sense of responsibility of an adult. All this falls on people who are just entering into life. They have a lot of their own endless "why?", and since there are no relatives around for months, they ask us. And with all that, the position of the coach makes me come to them buttoned up. So subordination is needed, and proximity is needed - how to combine it? And you have to combine.

I would like to talk about complete harmony, bright and varied life outside the football field. But everything is much more complicated. Our business has nothing to do with a gymnasium on the lawn. There is no courage, you cannot deny yourself a lot, you are not able to endure the most severe training - leave. Such a verdict, as it was at one time with Berezhnoy, costs me torment and sleepless nights, but there is no choice. Thousands, maybe millions of people follow the team, ask for victories - this will cheer them up, add strength, pride - I must obey them

they like.

"Football is not a profession, there is no need to disfigure a child, he must be a harmonious personality ..." Isn't it true, you often hear this modern version of the saying "Father had three sons ..." And what, pray tell, absolutely everyone leaves a comprehensive school harmonious? Everyone is a talent, or at least in business? Yes, one book will not teach anything, another will not interfere with football. For example, there was once a good football player Tkachenko in Simferopol Tavria, now there is a good poet Tkachenko. The football player Blinder played well in Odessa, now a capable candidate of chemical sciences Blinder is working ...

Life is more difficult... Gladiator fighters? But I'm with them in this fight. When the public gives the thumbs down, it's for all of us, players and coaches. Both those on the field and those on the bench win and lose. The formula "footballers win, coaches lose" was invented by weak people.

There is no coach without players. When the coach has a common understanding of the goal with the players - only to the max! - the most serious tasks are not scary to solve, and then the thumb of the audience most often goes up.

Without disagreements in our business (both general and private) there is not and cannot be. Each person has the right to perceive certain situations in their own way, even exactingness towards oneself manifests itself in different ways. The player analyzes his game and behavior, but it is not always possible to remain objective towards himself and his comrades. That is why there are questions to each other.

We in the team have long defined for ourselves two basic principles that help regulate relationships. The first one is that the requirements for everyone are absolutely the same, whether you have been playing in the club for a thousand years or it was accepted only yesterday. The second is a constant bilateral exchange of views. Please offer all considerations. By gaming activities and by our joint life and being. The adopted decision is subject to strict observance by all.

We treat the developed principles sacredly.

Friends!... Football fraternity exists. I am grateful to the players with whom I worked, for belonging to this brotherhood, for the support that I always needed, for helping me in difficult situations, when small grievances and claims could turn into unfair words, wrong deeds.

A real coach should rejoice in the success of all football players, regardless of the likes and dislikes hidden deep in their souls - they are all full-fledged work comrades. And the success of each is necessary for the common cause.

I look at them in the locker room after the match - no matter what, won or lost, but took all the strength. The bodies, not cooled from the battle, are thrown into chairs, arms hang like whips, eyes are half closed. The guys gave their all, and there is no need to talk about anything. In a few minutes, they will shower, get dressed and become like their peers who watched them from the stands and on TV.

It happens that the excitement that reigned on the field is transferred to the locker room, and then - either too loud remarks, funny, with an undertone, regardless, perhaps, of the match, in

which won an important victory; or a conversation in raised tones, with mutual reproaches and excessive detailing of the memorable moments that led, in the opinion of participants of the "express analysis", to defeat.

How many evenings were there in the locker rooms of stadiums in different cities and countries after the matches with Zenit and Pakhtakor, Botafogo and Utrecht, the national teams of Iran and Brazil? ... A kaleidoscope of stadiums, cities, countries, rivals. I don't have a register, according to rough estimates, over the nineteen years of coaching, the teams I led played about 1300-1400 matches.

Once, on a train, I met a chess master who, ten or eleven years ago, gave a simultaneous game session, and I participated in it. I remember that I lost to him. He remembered how I lost, remembered the whole game, how it developed, and confidently named the move on which I capitulated. A number of inputs for his "brain computer" (where and when the session took place, who participated) was quite sufficient: he remembered everything.

Coaches cannot, like professional statisticians, click off dates, opponents and results by heart, but they keep in mind all the games they participated in, the course of these matches and their content, the most characteristic moments and, if it happens, incidental situations.

I'm not going to declare my love for the guys with whom I worked and still work, but I cannot but say about my main feeling towards them - respect. For hard work, overcoming the hardships of football life, loyalty to the cause and the team.

Quite often, lately they have been trying to find out: which of the Dynamo Kyiv teams is stronger - the 1975 or 1986 model? The question is inherently invalid. It's like setting out to compare the strength of Dynamo Moscow, which had a brilliant English tour in the year the war ended, with the current Dynamo Moscow, jumping up the standings and throwing their fans either hot or cold. Or to compare the possibilities of Spartak, who won both the championship and the Cup twice in a row at the end of the thirties, with Spartak, the champion-87. For me, the answer to both questions is unequivocal: today's Dynamo Moscow and Spartak Moscow are much stronger than their legendary predecessors.

Fewer years have passed from 1975 to 1986 than from 1939 to 1987, but even eleven years for football is a significant period. The game has a lot of changes.

In my opinion, the level of individual, technical skill of the players from the team that won the first Cup Winners' Cup for Soviet football was, of course, higher. Today's players, many of whom, by the way, saw their predecessors, being in childhood, without being offended, admit this. Oleg Blokhin agrees with this - the only player to play in both squads.

But only in individual and technical skill. In everything else - in thinking, speed, effectiveness of collective actions, perception of the image of the game - there is constant improvement. True, the current ones whimper more, or maybe it's me. I'm old and I think so.

I am not going to engage in comparison of the incomparable. For me, the past is the past. I take it into account only as an acquired experience. Anyone who wants to make comparisons can do so. Both teams are in my memory, and when a rare leisure happens, which I like to spend outside the city (even if it's only a few hours, and if it's a day - a holiday for a person who has not been on vacation for the last five years), in this memory, no, no, and there are matches that added prestige to Soviet football, and the guys from Dynamo Kiev, who twice won European club tournaments. And it seems as if a long time ago it all happened, as if Konkov and Mikhailichenko played in the middle of the field, as if Kuznetsov's stopper was insured by Fomenko, and on the flanks of the defense they were assisted by Troshkin and Demyanenko, who tried to bring forward Onishchenko's forwards through Kolotov, Zavarov and Veremeev, Blokhin and Belanova ...

Before going to Dynamo Kiev at the end of 1973, the team of our childhood and youth, Bazilevich and I, of course, studied the composition of the club. From a distance.

We believed that the giant Evgeny Rudakov, one of the most experienced players at that time, thirty-three he was in 75 when they won the Cup Winners' Cup, would remain at the gate, which,

when he was in the courage necessary for a goalkeeper and in excellent physical condition, seemed too small for him.

Rudakov had been at Dynamo Kiev for ten years before our arrival, he had still caught the period when we ourselves played in it, he was a "consultant" on new coaches, he had quite a few awards and prizes, he did not boast or flaunt them, he was known a calm and balanced person, painfully sensitive to any injustice.

Once in the shower after a friendly match with a Swiss club, which we lost 1:2 and not at all through Rudakov's fault - both goals were from the category of "untaken", he stood with a soapy head and spoke out loud without malice that our attackers could use at least part of the opportunities at their disposal. "I would have let less foam myself, then maybe they would have won," he heard in response the voice of a young forward, to which Rudakov's maxims belonged to some extent. Then this scene was often recalled with laughter: Zhenya, who sees nothing - his head is soaped! - fumbles around with long arms in search of some object - soap, soap dish - with the hope of throwing it at the offender, whom he also does not see.

According to our observations, Rudakov was one of the first in the team who accepted the new training methodology, recognized its necessity and helped us in every possible way in promoting our ideas among other players.

Everyone remembers how Zhenya played, but few people know how he selflessly trained. I never leave anyone after training to work extra. This is a purely individual matter. Rudakov is one of the few players in my memory who, almost after every lesson, whined: "Well, someone stay, well, beat. I understand that you won't score, that's why you are afraid. Well, nothing, I'll skip a couple to make it more interesting for you.

"Vasilyich," he once asked me, "can you knock your corners for me? I feel that I have some weakness when the corners hit, especially cunning, which are not you know what they will do: either they will send a "cut" to the gate, or an abstruse transmission to they will make an attacker. I want to work out exits and feel confident at corners.

Rudakov's perseverance was amazing. He, it seems to me, somewhere deep in his soul each time set some local goal for himself, without advertising it at all, and did not calm down until he achieved it. A string of goals achieved led him to the number of the best goalkeepers in Soviet football.

He, as doctors believed, should have retired from football in 1970, when he received a severe injury before the Mexican World Cup and when it was not known whether his left arm would remain fully functional. Situations related to overcoming oneself are far from always in contrast to the match snatched by the beams of searchlights, in plain sight. Rudakov overcame both himself and the physical illness and for a few more years stood at the gates of Dynamo Kyiv. He was the only one who did not need to be awarded the title of Honored Master of Sports for winning the Cup Winners' Cup - he already was.

More recently, I read that the 35-year-old Rudakov was responsible for our defeat in the Champions Cup semi-final in 1977 from Borussia Mönchengladbach - 0:2. It's easier than easy to blame someone else for the failure: "What are we? We were fine. That's all he is ..." In Germany, it was not Rudakov who lost, but the team. Goal from a penalty kick to incriminate the goalkeeper can only be in a fit of uncontrollable emotions. The second ball from Wittkamp, the defender who sent the ball into the net in a jump, he could probably take, but it was not our day - April 20, 1977. And we were not consoled by the words of Borussia coach Udo Lattek, who said that he "survived in the second half, perhaps the most difficult moments in his sports life."

After a while, the guys joked: "How could you win in Dusseldorf? We go to the match in Adidas uniform. Rivals - in "Puma". We look - and the judges in the "Puma". We look back, and Zhenya is ours in Puma. Where are we ten against fifteen?

For the second time in its history, the team reached the Champions Cup semi-finals ten years later, and our chances of participating in the final were assessed as high as ever, primarily due to the reputation gained in the previous season. Nothing foreshadowed a "fire" even after the first match with Porto from Portugal, which we played away - 1:2. Yakovenko's goal upset the Portuguese and increased our chances.

But at the eleventh minute of the return match, I thought, as if imperceptibly, so that no one could see, get up and leave the bench - I felt so ashamed: the game had not really started, and it was already 0:2. Viktor Chanov first set up a "wall" and inexplicably rushed about behind it like a tiger in a cage, his throwing was noticed, and as soon as he was behind the wall, Celso and drove the ball into an unprotected corner with a rebound from the defender. Chanov reacted to the blow, not the ball. Then Gomes was first at the ball sent from a corner and hit the ground in the goalkeeper's area. How it was possible not to go on this program is still incomprehensible to me and Chanov.

It was a rare case when a match can be lost by one person: two gross mistakes in the first minutes in such a responsible game are able to unbalance a team that is on any wave of mood.

During the break and after the match it was impossible to look at each other. In the morning, Chanov and I watched the first minutes a hundred and fifty times, and then stopped the VCR. At first, Victor tried to somehow explain and justify his actions, but with each new inclusion, he became more and more black. "I failed, Vasilyich," he said.

Victor Chanov belongs to the category of goalkeepers who need to feel the breath of a serious competitor every day, at every training session, who is able to get into the goal at any moment and stay in it for a long time. He himself is one of those competitors. In 1985, he was seriously injured, was treated for a long time and, as soon as he got on his feet, he began to catch up with Mikhailov, who finished the season at a decent level. Chanov got his way. We put him at the gate and we owe him a lot, having won the Cup of Cups and the championship, - the gold medal, by the way, was the first in his life.

The complacency of the field player is less noticeable - hardworking partners will insure him and work for him. The complacency of the goalkeeper makes him look behind his own back more and more often.

The range of Bollytsik emotions is huge. After the defeat against Belgium in Mexico, we were reproached for not taking a risk and not putting Chanov in the gate. The same people after Porto demanded Chanov's expulsion from football.

All this is from the realm of unbridled passions.

Viktor Chanov is a very capable goalkeeper, and there are many examples of his sometimes even amazing game, inspired and unmistakable. He is subject to the general mood and state of the team, and when they are in order, he is able to work wonders. Chanov turns sour and droops with team failures, which does not add to the combat effectiveness of the rest.

He has not yet reached such a position when they say: "Yes, they themselves are at the gate! ...", as they said, for example, about Yashin. As you know, Yashin was also mistaken, but he never sank below a certain level. In 1987, Chanov was below the bar that he himself set in football.

Chanov is the surname of the goalkeeper, his father and older brother stood "in the goal". The age of our Chanov - he was born in 1959 - allows him to enter the field for more than one more year under the first number, and there is reason to believe that his class will correspond to this number.

The confidence of Mikhail Mikhailov, on the contrary, is manifested only when he is convinced that no one is "hooking him up". I was convinced of this in 1985: Chanov had a broken arm, Mikhailov was the main and only goalkeeper. We played a lot of matches with him, and not bad ones - in the same Cup Winners' Cup and in the championship. As soon as Chanov returned, Mikhailov resigned himself to the second roles.

In his heart, he, of course, dreamed of going out in the starting lineup, but it turned out that it was hard for him to tune in for one or two matches, the highest sense of responsibility comes to him when he knows that there are no substitutions.

This is always a problem when there are two approximately equal goalkeepers in the team. Exposing them to matches every other time, as is sometimes practiced in hockey, is not entirely reasonable, apparently, for football, where the defense must feel the goalkeeper with his back, get used to him and trust him. But how to get used to, if today one, tomorrow another?

What should the second one do? Wait for your turn, which you don't know when it will come, or go to another team, where they guarantee regular appearances on the field in the first team, to Dnipro, for example, from where Misha, an intelligent and unflappable guy, came to us and where one

does his father-in-law, the former goalkeeper of the Dnipropetrovsk team Leonid Koltun, work as a coach?

But the team needs a good second.

I look out the window of my room in Koncha Zaspa. On a bench in front of the residential building of the base, Mikhailov sits with a book in his hands, deepened and concentrated. From time to time he raises his head, looks ahead with an unseeing gaze, chews a blade of grass and thinks about something, mechanically turning the pages. About what you read? Hardly.

It is possible that I do not pay enough attention to goalkeepers, dreaming of the time when we will have a football club in which a professional goalkeeper will deal with a group of goalkeepers. Probably, there are still omissions in the section "tactics of playing a football goalkeeper", the experience of playing the leading goalkeepers of the world is not sufficiently generalized, Lev Yashin, who wrote an interesting book of memoirs, also has a debt, but a goalkeeper's textbook is also needed, which would become a reference book for both young and experienced .

It seems that in improving the game of goalkeepers lies a considerable reserve for strengthening the team.

... They say that Lobanovsky is a coach-dictator, he does not listen to anyone, he does everything in his own way, there is no other opinion for him.

Let's leave aside the categorical nature of these judgments - any of the players, especially of the current generation, I'm sure, will calmly refute them, adding that the football team - a team that functions constantly, like any other organization or enterprise, needs a tough hand, needs a leader that unites around you

like-minded people.

Some reporters, with some kind of pain, are trying to oppose coaches and players to each other, pulling out "information" about conflicts from the guys in interviews, trying to ensure that the football player tells the "whole truth" about the relationship with the coach and calls the latter to "order" ". It is clear that football is in plain sight and it is desirable to present something "fried", so that the reader, sorting through the names of the football player and coach, would also admire the name of the journalist along the way. But believe me, without acute situations, the activity of any team is impossible, and we ourselves, without outside interference, are able to deal with them on the training ground, and not on newspaper and magazine pages. Probably, there are some frictions between the staff and the editor-in-chief of the largest (by circulation) sports newspaper in the world, Sovetsky Sport, quite well-known people work in it, but Komsomolskaya Pravda, for example, is in no hurry to share

these difficulties with their readers...

Another question, of course, is if the top and the size of the conflict in the team are beyond the control of both sides. Then the fan has every right to know what is going on in his favorite club, why the team not only plays poorly, but also cannot come to the unity that is so necessary for success.

The coach cannot please the whole team. This is an axiom. And statements like: "all players love their mentor and consider him their first friend" are absurd. There are always dissatisfied people. Alone by the fact that they did not put in the starting lineup. Others are an unresolved housing problem. Still others, by the fact that the roommate at the base is constantly silent and reads too much ... All this is understandable, life is life. But in one area we are rigorously trying to achieve unity in our views - in relation to training and playing the game.

I firmly believe that the head coach of the team is the final authority regarding what is connected with the setting of the game. But before I make a decision, I listen to a lot of people. It happens that they do not want to speak, guided by some of their own considerations. In such cases, I sometimes even provoke statements with crazy ideas - thereby I am looking for either confirmation of what I have already thought up, or refutation. And if the objections are convincing, I agree with them.

At regular pre-game meetings, in which the leading players of the team participate along with and on an equal footing with the coaches, the players can make a hundred different proposals on the topic "how to play and in what line-up", but one person must make the final choice. Directive methods at our production meetings are meaningless. It is necessary that everyone is imbued with the idea as if all this was invented by him, and the composition for the match fully corresponds to his ideas about the capabilities of each of

named players.

A coach, in my opinion, should be able to say "yes" with the same ease as he says "no". Difficult, no doubt, but the interests of the cause require it. The coefficient of mutual trust is much higher when everything is done openly and fairly.

Vladimir Troshkin was very diligent in training and games, realizing (it is not given to everyone - to understand) that he did not get very much from God. Dancing from this stove, he methodically compensated for the lack of super talent with the maximum realization of his abilities.

Troshkin was known in our domestic football as a midfielder, mobile and stubborn, perhaps unable to play highly combinational football, but covering this shortcoming with tirelessness and a willingness to run, if necessary, for two more halves.

It was not difficult for us to convince Vladimir of the expediency - primarily in the interests of the team - of transferring him to the position of a flank defender. As it turned out later, they won from this permutation and the team, and Troshkin.

The change in the functions of players in our club does not look like something unusual either for the players themselves, or for the public, or for specialists.

External dullness (but not fading!) did not prevent Troshkin from standing on a par with the most useful players on the team. One of the best for Troshkin was the first semi-final match of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1975 in Kyiv against Eindhoven. His two amazing, powerful and unstoppable passes along the right flank in the middle of the first half and at the beginning of the second ended with well-balanced arched passes, to which Kolotov and Blokhin flew out from behind the backs of the Dutch defenders who did not have time to turn around, scoring a goal each.

In the rarest cases, the area abandoned by Troshkin required insurance. When raiding forward, he either brought things to an end, or managed to return when he lost the ball and, as if nothing had happened, proceed to the necessary defense, as if there were no exhausting jerks before this.

In Basel, before the final against Ferencváros, he came up to me and asked: "Vasilich, how much do you think this cup weighs?" and pointed to the poster, which showed off the Cup of Cups. "What does it matter?" - "For you, maybe she doesn't have it, but I have to drag her to the locker room. After all, how is it with us, if something is heavy, let Troshkin drag it, he is healthy. I have a "jitters" pre-launch, and here it's about a "cup", which, by the way, it was still unknown who to drag, us or the Hungarians ...

When they got used to Troshkin's passes on the right flank, and the opponents began to block these raids, he changed them from time to time, shifting towards the central striker - both with the ball and in anticipation of a pass, striving at every opportunity wait for the end of the attack and take a direct part in its completion.

The credibility of Troshkin's transformation from a defender into an attacking player during the match was so convincing that when he, seeing a cluster of players ahead on his flank, made a pass, and did not go forward, they did not believe him and ... guarded the defender, which was always in our favor.

They say that back in Yenakievo, where the Troshkin family lived, he watched the film "Strict Game" directed by G. Lipshitz twenty times. Shocked by the performance of Volodya Muntean, he bet with his comrades that he would play together with Muntean in the same team. "Yes, this is a talent that cannot be found! Where are you going?" they told him. He answered with a simplicity that bordered on arrogance: "It is not the gods who burn the pots. You just have to want it." They laughed at him, but he only said: "Let's see ..." What came of this "we'll see" known.

Wide-cheeked, with a firm, sharp look, hardworking like a bee - he was his own in the Dynamo ensemble.

Strictness and accuracy in the game of Mikhail Fomenko was caused by a vital necessity - he occupied the position of the rear central defender, which implies, above all, fidelity to the principle of high reliability. Even then, we demanded that the "cleaner" participate in creating attacks with an accurate longitudinal pass and connecting forward to create a numerical majority in a certain area of the field, most often in the central attack zone, and Fomenko performed these tasks well.

When he doubted whether he would be able to act without errors, he did not take any steps, realizing the perniciousness of rash actions for the team. "Let it be simpler, but more reliable" is his motto, which can be advised to be adopted by many of today's rear central defenders.

Mikhail made positional mistakes infrequently, he had a flair for the direction of opponents' attacks, but sometimes slowness in making decisions let him down, especially if the game was going at crazy speeds. Defensive reliability in these cases, fortunately, remained, the second, creative "half", disappeared.

He was often haunted by a sore back, he played injections, but only our team knew about it, well, maybe friends from others: all the players know everything about everyone, the wireless phone between teams works with constant voltage. The audience did not know, and did not even guess that a guy was working in the center of defense who, with such a back, would take ballot after ballot on a "citizen".

In the very first minutes of the match, Misha confidentially told his nearest opponent: "Today you don't even have to try. We are all right, you do not "shine". Naturally, it is difficult to take someone on such a cannon, but our "libero" did not achieve this - he calmed himself down, brought him into full psychological compliance with the match. By the way, he explained the same thing to foreign players, but with the help of gestures. After the announcement that "we are fine", he got down to business, and nothing else distracted him from the game.

Somehow - I'm afraid to make a mistake, but, in my opinion, it was in 1977 - I noticed that Misha at the base does not part with a thick oilcloth notebook in which he constantly writes something. "Maybe he keeps a diary," flashed then. Everything cleared up when this black-haired handsome guy knocked on the door of my room one day and, entering, said: "I can't imagine myself outside the coaching business after I finish playing. I would like to consult with you on this matter."

From the first days of our work at Dynamo Kyiv, Oleg Bazilevich and I announced to the players that we care about their future, that we would be glad to have followers in their person and are ready, when necessary, to help in the work that we do ourselves. In words, you can say anything, but we tried to infect the guys with enthusiasm, to demonstrate all the pros and cons of the profession.

We realized, of course, that not every one of our wards is destined to become a coach. That is, of course, everyone could do this business, but we thought about high-class coaches. The HST "stamps" coaches in large numbers, but where are they, the coaches, who would be described as innovators?

In coaching, past accomplishments don't count. Starting from scratch. The experience of the player is useful, but in a minimal dose. When I read in an interview with a twenty-year-old football player who has scored some beautiful goals that he dreams of becoming a coach, I do not believe him, because in reality he has no idea what this business is. Mikhail Gershkovich once admitted that when he ran across the field, he believed that there were no secrets for him in this game, and time would make a coach. Only after finishing, he realized how much there is in football that he did not know, but without which coaching is impossible.

The Monologues by Tomas Sakaluskas contains books about the life and work of Juozas Miltipis, theater director-creator, there is such a definition of the essence of the theater, the purpose of the actor: "An actor cannot rely on titles, titles, degrees. He cannot boast of experience and see himself in a halo of glory in the future ... Movement is life, peace is death. For those who are capable of movement, the theater is exacting, but kind. To others, petrified, dead, the theater is exacting, but stern.

In addition to the fact that we "staged" the game, rehearsed it in training, we wanted to become for the guys who are located and drawn to coaching, those who O. A. Osheikov, V. D. Solovyov and V. A. were for us. Maslov. We hoped (and still hope to this day with new players) to pass on to them all the best that we can, and to stimulate them to their own search - this is

The main thing.

We talked about this with Mikhail Fomenko then, and I wished him every success, promising help when it is needed, adding that the profession of a coach

requires remarkable health (it is imperative to monitor your condition), strong nerves (there are plenty of exhausting circumstances in our business), the ability to fight, defend your point of view, do not give up and maneuver.

Intellectually, players become more developed over time, and therefore more demanding. They are no longer satisfied with three or four learned decisions, they feel that in order to succeed, one cannot stand still. Has no right to stand

location and coach.

In a notebook, Mikhail wrote down notes of training, analysis of matches.

I was glad to see Fomenko on the coaching bench, calm and balanced.

The prudence and thoroughness inherent in Stefan Reshko in life were easily transferred to them on the field. How many forwards bounced off him, like from a wall, after the most severe collisions, writhing in pain with distorted faces, and Reshko, who got no less than anyone, knew how to hide the pain and tried to smile, which drove the rivals crazy.

Outwardly discreet in the game, with massive legs and a truly football torso, he knew the ceiling of his abilities and never tried to come up with something unimaginable that would not meet these capabilities. Thanks to this circumstance, his level of reliability was very high, and he served the team faithfully.

Evil tongues, with the intention of hurting Reshko, used to say in 1975 that "Kiev plays with ten men", hinting at the lack of exceptional technique, brightness, and ability to attract the attention of the public in Stefan's game, but forgetting at the same time almost perfect possession of a tactical arsenal, strictness in fulfillment of coaching tasks and the ability to play exceptionally clean in the selection - qualities that many could envy

current defenders.

However, Reshko never responded to such attacks, although he could not ignore them. attention and not to experience in the soul as a clear injustice.

Silent by nature, a kind and fair person, Stefan meekly endured all the loads offered in training, sometimes grumbled to himself when it was completely unbearable, but endured and infected his partners with his patience and read in their eyes respect for the ability to withstand, it would seem, incredible.

"The training loads that we had to endure," he once said, "at times, frankly speaking, brought to exhaustion. With all the love for football, the body rebelled against them. We were in a strange state. At the same time, they expected that the coaches would allow weakness and take pity on us, and they didn't want this. If they waited, they would immediately take advantage of the indulgence - such is the property of human nature. But we had no mercy. Maybe that's why we won the Cup Winners' Cup and then the Super Bowl."

The ease with which Viktor Matvienko rushed along the left flank, shot along the gate, and sometimes completed the attacks himself, aroused admiration and seemed at first glance a natural gift. Victor's abilities are undeniable, but he had to shed more than one bucket of sweat and more than one hour to sit in class at the board with magnetized football players before the opportunity arose to prepare him for the game that he demonstrated in his best matches.

It seemed to me then that Matvienko gladly accepted the task to expand the playing area. Previously, he was only required to keep a vigilant eye on his opponent and unmistakably play along with his partners, most often for a short time. Matvienko's potential contributed to the addition of new functions to these, of course, necessary elements in the game of a cornerback, primarily related to participation in an active attack. At first, fear for his zone held back, as if someone invisible pulled him back on a rope when it was necessary to participate in creating a numerical majority in front, but then, when Matvienko realized that his zone would not remain empty, when he understood the basic principles of mutual insurance and interchangeability, adopted in our team, it was impossible to stop him, sometimes we even had to restrain him, and he greatly strengthened the attacking actions of the Kiev Dynamo team.

Having entered the taste of such a game, which required outstanding physical qualities, Victor decided

not limit yourself to the targeted passes practiced in training, but also independently attack the goal, breaking even into the goalkeeper's area for passes from the opposite flank. For rivals, this was at first a novelty. Then we figured out what was what, but we could not fully counteract the maneuver, because the appearance of Matvienko in the ranks of the defenders still remained unexpected, especially in those cases when we carried out high-speed counterattacks.

I must say that sometimes it is quite difficult to convince a footballer of the need to change the nature of his game. This is largely due to the inability to present the fully required image of the game. Either I was lucky with the players, or my arguments and concrete evidence looked convincing, but I don't remember a single case when I couldn't get a conscious understanding of my proposals from a football player. After all, it happens that a player agrees with what you say to him, is ready to change functions and roles, but he enters the field - and you immediately see that all this is "not a big deal" for him, they put him in the squad, well, okay.

Only a player who has realized and consolidated new skills in training is able to meet the task set by the coach not only for this particular player, but taking into account the overall tactical task of the team.

From the category of the team's favorites - Andrey Bal. Extremely modest, not discouraged under any circumstances. I can only remember one, perhaps, the case when he did not know what to do with himself - June 15, 1986 in the locker room of the stadium in the Mexican city of Leon after losing to the Belgians. Bal's positional mistakes in this match largely predetermined the result. True, the whole team felt depressed, but Bal - especially. No one, including us coaches, could comfort him. I broke into a scream, then just waved my hand, for a second imagining myself in the place of the guys and realizing instantly that no surge of emotions would help the cause. Sobbing football players are a spectacle, to be sure, not quite familiar. There was something to cry about...

Balu, one of our most versatile players, lacked a little to become a leading player, he is strong when performing a specific task, but this is not enough to shine on the field. However, if all the players performed the game tasks accurately to the smallest detail, like Bal, the general level of football in our country would sharply

got up.

Andrey will have something to remember when he finishes playing: the world junior champion in 1977 (then, or maybe a little earlier, Dynamo Kiev liked him), a participant in two world championships - in Spain and Mexico, and not just a participant, but a player the main team, one of the winners of the Cup Winners' Cup, more than once became the champion of the country and the owner of the USSR Cup as part of Dynamo ... A track record - God forbid everyone. Here you have "inconspicuous and inconspicuous."

Sergey Baltacha, a "cleaner" with a fine positional instinct, appeared in Dynamo Kiev in 1976, when the "old guard" was still carrying a heavy load, but when it was time to think about the future of the team. Baltacha was one of those with whom certain hopes were associated. He already seemed to us moderately ambitious and confident - so much so that these qualities do not turn into selfishness and self-confidence.

It is quite understandable that the 18-year-old debutant, who came from Kharkov, even if well-known among junior coaches, was too early to "launch" into the main team with Fomenko, Reshko and Konkov playing, but in the reserve, where we initially assigned him, he there was an opportunity to get acquainted with the methods of work practiced in Dynamo Kiev, live next to the luminaries, look around and find out (together with us) whether he would be able to take the first vacancy.

We do not keep anyone in the team by force, we sign any resignation, albeit not always with a light heart, but without lengthy discussions. Since a person has decided to leave, it means that he believes that it will be better for him. And even if the team loses a good player, it is not worth holding him by force (and you can always find leverage on a football player). Why leave a person on the team who does not need this team? After all, he, voluntarily detained, will do everything possible to get rid of her or so that she gets rid of him. The reasons for leaving are different, I do not consider it necessary to go into details.

You can draw a conditional analogy with family divorces - and there are a lot of reasons that it is better not to go into. One can only imagine what would happen if divorce was banned.

by legislative order.

When Sergei, having received the first dose of our loads at the training camp, said: "I'm staying" and, having rolled up the sleeves of the tracksuit, set to serious work, devoting himself entirely to football, it became clear to us that we had not made a mistake in choosing. He began to enter the field among the "top eleven" even earlier than we expected. True, maybe a little later than he expected.

In recent years, he had not been saved from injuries, and when he collapsed on May 2, 1986 at the Gerland stadium in Lyon and it turned out that the Achilles tendon was torn, I thought that after such injuries at that age (he was 28 years old) with such loads do not return to the big game. Glad I was wrong.

You should have heard the enthusiastic roar of Baltacha's roar at the Simferopol stadium, the audience, who had heard about his misadventures with Achilles, when he appeared on the field as part of the national team five minutes before the end of the European Championship qualifying match with the Norwegians on October 29, 1986.

At the game with Atlético in the Cup Winners' Cup final, in which he received this serious injury, Baltacha came out with inflamed Achilles tendons, asking me and the doctors not to even discuss with him the possibility of a replacement.

Injuries have done their dirty work. It became more difficult for Sergey to play with his head. He admitted that he could not help himself: he felt the situation, but he could not jump high - the leg doesn't let go. He became unnecessarily reinsured from behind - he made more than necessary "gap" between himself and the front central defender. He believed that it would be easier for him to secure, but when the passes went behind the backs of our defenders, he often did not managed to get to the ball and created quite difficult situations at the gate.

Baltacha was infuriated by his own helplessness, he became withdrawn and irritable. Those who know what a chain of sports injuries is will understand it.

Probably, it would be the highest injustice if Oleg Kuznetsov, who has all the qualities necessary for a stopper, still played in Desna Chernihiv. Fortunately, he was noticed in time, at the age of twenty he appeared in Dynamo Kiev, but not as a trainee in the reserve (this was in 1983 - then and a year later there was a thorough reorganization of the club), but immediately as a player of the main team - he occupies this place and until now, not going to give it to anyone.

Cool and determined, he became a crowd favorite in Scotland, where we played Celtic and Glasgow Rangers year after year. The Scots recognized him as their own, found features of external resemblance - tall, red hair, even nicknamed him "Makkuznets" in the Scottish manner.

Oleg Kuznetsov does not understand how one can be afraid of someone. He likes to be feared, and he does everything for this. He does not goggle his eyes at his opponent from under his whitish eyebrows, does not intimidate him, does not puff out his cheeks, but plays so hard that one who encounters him once is unlikely to want to repeat the experiment. A magnificent sight when he gets as an opponent as obsessed and unyielding as he is. Here, indeed, who will win: constant micro-duels, pushes, falls, bruises, when it seems that a fracture is inevitable, an uncompromising fight in the air and a handshake and a pat on the back after the match as a sign of respect for each other. True, it took some time for Kuznetsov's game to become more correct, but it still cannot be called as pure as possible.

Kuznetsov is able (when partners do not have such an opportunity) to organize an attack from the depth, he sees the field and possible directions of attack quite well.

Our stopper has a powerful shot, but it takes perseverance to get him to work out free throws in training. In the game, he uses free kicks unreasonably rarely (perhaps the only situation when he is afraid of letting his partners down and displeasing the stands with an inaccurate blow). In the final match for the USSR Cup, he put the ball on the penalty spot, prepared to shoot from 25 meters, and someone on our bench exclaimed: "Someday this gun must fire!" The goal was great, but

we appreciated its splendor later, and then the necessity.

When we invited from Dnepropetrovsk, and it was at the end of 1978, the rather flimsy-looking midfielder Anatoly Demyanenko, many in Kiev shrugged their shoulders: "Another understudy has arrived, they will rob him for a year or two, push himself around among eminent ones, yes and will return home."

At first, I noticed that Tolya was somewhat uncomfortable with us, they teased him a little, but Konkov and Veremeev, who took him under their wing, did not let the jokers roam, for the first time he lived with Bessonov, gradually entered the team, became one of his own, accepted him unconditionally.

Character, by the way, is not the last thing. The team does not tolerate idlers, deceivers, cowards, arrogant, vindictive, envious - rejects them. It seems to me (judging by my coaching experience) that only an outstanding football player with a bad character can stay in a good team. He is forgiven a lot, and then - up to a certain limit. If, as the children say, it is too much, then they put it in its place. On their own, without resorting to the help of the administration and often without even informing it about what happened. The lessons of the team are much more instructive than the most soul-saving conversations held by the head coach and the head of the team.

Demyanenko conquered everyone with his ability to work in training. To realize his excellent physical abilities, it was necessary to provide him with optimal space on the field. Space was found on the left flank of our defense, where he began to act with unprecedented scope, in my opinion, among the extreme defenders. In some respects, Demyanenko outdid his predecessor Matvienko, greatly strengthening the attack. He tirelessly "plowed" with long strides a zone 60-70 meters long along the touchline and looked after the match as if this hellish work gave him great pleasure.

Anatoly scored a lot in the club and the national team, in which he became one of the leading players in a short time. Recognition of him in 1985 as the best football player in the country did not do him any good. Surprisingly, it is a fact: with rare exceptions (Blokhin, for example), the player who was recognized by journalists as the first number spent the next season noticeably worse. This fate did not bypass Demyanenko either.

1986 was not his best year, although, as captain of Dynamo Kiev, he received the Cup Winners' Cup from the hands of UEFA President Jacques Georges in Lyon, and in Mexico, already as the captain of the national team, he brought the team to the field.

I believe in Anatoly Demyanenko, I believe that a certain decline in his game can be overcome - the guarantee of this is his own awareness of his mistakes. I know the character of this guy, his nature, not spoiled by the "star" or "pre-star" disease (it is impossible to blame him for arrogance and the pursuit of cheap popularity), I know about the ability to stand up for the honor of the team, I saw how he worries about the team. I hope that we will still have the opportunity to solve serious problems together. It is not necessary to wait for them in today's football life for a long time.

Volodymyr Muntyan became a player of Dynamo Kiev's main team long before I joined this team, back in 1966, when the leading players left for England for the World Cup, and a 19-year-old reservist replaced one of them, and he performed so brightly that the Kiev club without a young dispatcher was no longer conceivable.

It is both easier and more difficult for a coach to attract an experienced football player to his side than an inexperienced one. Easier, because experience helps him perceive new things much faster. It is more difficult, because over many years of work, a certain system of habits and stereotypes develops. Muntyan, with his impeccable technique, cat-like soft handling of the ball, excellent coordination, the ability to instantly make the right decisions, an accurate strong shot, was needed by the new team, we counted on him very much and directly told him about it. True, we were a little afraid that it would be difficult for him to endure the training loads of our program, but he coped with them almost flawlessly, and when the oldest player does everything in the classroom, it is a sin not to do the same for the youngest.

One of the few "native" Dynamo players in Kyiv (he appeared at the school of "Young Dynamo" at the age of seven, in 1953), he was brought up on the traditions of the club. I dreamed, though

at one time about "Torpedo", because the idols of his childhood Voronin and Streltsov played there.

Before we joined the team, he realized that you can't play high-level football on "clean" balls, you need to improve the art of defense, and V. A. Maslov was the first to instill this idea in him. We practically did not change anything in the game of Muntean, we only asked to pay more attention to participation in collective actions. Twice Volodya did not need to explain anything.

No matter how great a player is, he alone is not able to decide the outcome of the meeting in modern football. We need a fairly large group of well-trained players who determine the game of the team. The days of personal exploits by Pele, Puskas, Garrincha, Eusebio, Cruyff, who could, with some help from assistants, solve the problems of the game themselves, have sunk into oblivion. In my opinion, the Dutch did not become world champions in 1974 mainly for one reason: Cruyff, as captain, player and coach on the field at the same time, wanted to do too much alone and made his partners believe in their phenomenal abilities, who pinned too high hopes for him, which in the end did not come true. Cruyff then, if you remember, should not have played in the final at all. In the matches leading up to the decisive meeting, he did not feel very well and, as Dutch experts claimed at the time, was not in the best shape. That is why Vogts turned him out of the game, that is why he himself tried to start attacks from his own half of the field, which choked either during his individual passes, or in second or third gear. After scoring the goal, the Dutch began to act like they were winning at least five goals, their actions began to show negligence, and Cruyff and Neeskens - two clear leaders - failed to convince their partners and allowed the German national team to recover from the shock caused by the conceded penalty with the ball, gather up and completely seize the initiative ...

Munteanu was not forbidden to use his best individual qualities. On the contrary, his unpredictable moves, which only partners understood, perfectly complemented the team game, gave it brightness, elegance, and some charm.

In the Cup Winners' Cup victory for us, Vladimir Muntean played in eight out of nine matches, including the final, scoring two goals. His 49 caps for the national team and participation in the Mexican World Cup in 1970 are worth a lot.

We did not include the 30-year-old Muntean among the 1976 Olympians. Perhaps it was our mistake, although then we were sure that we were right. We announced our decision to him at the base in Koncha-Zaspa a day before flying to Moscow, where our entire Olympic delegation gathered. He didn't say anything, just nodded and left. In the yard, he sat behind the wheel of his car, sat motionless, leaning back for about ten minutes, then turned on the ignition and drove off, focused and confident as always. I thought: it's better to have a fully staffed squad at the training camp before a major tournament so as not to accept participation in such scenes.

The next morning, Muntean arrived at the airport to see off the team and wished them good luck. After returning from Montreal, we heard a completely different version (I am convinced that the information did not come from him): allegedly Volodya was sure that he was flying with us, and at the last moment we landed him right from the plane with things.

I am not going to recall the details of Volodya's most active participation in the post-Montreal conflict, which has already been described on these pages, about his own disciplinary errors, which he most often got away with with general connivance. Not in this case. All these particulars, transient and temporary, cannot overshadow the main thing: Vladimir Muntyan is one of the brightest figures in Soviet and European football in the late 60s and early 70s.

I'm not sure that you can find a coach who would not want to have Anatoly Konkov in his team. His amazing abilities were beyond doubt, although the inconsistency of character, noticeable in life situations, sometimes manifested itself in the game and affected it.

Bazilevich, who worked in 1973 at Shakhtar, where Konkov played, put a lot of effort and effort into getting this great football player into our team, with which we planned to conquer football Europe. In 1986 Bazilevich, again

having headed Shakhtar, he offered Konkov to become the second coach. Together they worked for a year, after which Konkov became the senior, and Bazilevich left for Bulgaria to train Slavia Sofia ...

I still have no doubt that Konkov is a player of the level of Franz Beckenbauer. He was impeccable in tackling the ball, his passes were accurate, timely and directed to the right place, he, like no one else, was able to identify the opponent's weak points in a short period of time and, together with his partners, brought down all the power of our attacks precisely at these points. There were no equals to Konkov in the position of a defensive midfielder.

"That's it, I can't take it anymore, I don't have the strength," he once said at a training camp in the first or second week of his appearance on the team in early 1975. His adaptation to the workload was rather painful compared to other players who worked in this mode the entire previous season. As it turned out later, "I can't" escaped involuntarily. Konkov did not have to say: "How is it, and why can't you rest?" He saw everything himself, he wanted to play good football in Kiev, he made his way into the main team, which beat the Turkish Bursaspor, the Dutch Eindhoven and the Hungarian Ferencvaros in the Cup Winners' Cup.

We failed then to insist that Konkov, like the others, be awarded the title of Honored Master of Sports. The functionaries from the Sports Committee were very angry with him because of old sins, for which he was disqualified at one time, and in Skatertny Lane they did not even want to hear about such an encouragement for Konkov. Subsequently, when he finished playing, justice was restored.

"What difference does it make to play with or without a title? - Anatoly said then, although he, probably, was still offended. - Can you, for example, imagine the honored masters of sports of Germany or Holland? But they play, and nothing, as we see, they play.

Konkov gave football far from everything he could. I don't know for what reason, but it began to gradually fade away. He probably did not see the possibilities for the revival of the team, or saw, but was not sure that he would be able to play the first roles in the new team. Don't know. In any case, he began to prepare for his retirement from football, and the first sign of this was his last game for the national team on October 11, 1978 in Hungary as part of the European Championship qualifying tournament. Conducting this match, he thanked his partners and coaches and asked him not to call him to the national team again, citing insufficient readiness and unimportant self-esteem.

At the club, his game in the place of the rear central defender at first did not cause any complaints from the coaches, he liked the new "position", in which he used to act only occasionally. I remember saying even: "If you take good care of yourself, you can play in this place for up to fifty years." He lasted until 1981, when he was 32, and with undisguised haste, burning with impatience, he rushed into coaching, hoping to make up for what he had missed in football in a new field. If it doesn't burn out in anticipation quick successes and if he is not twisted by a heavy coaching share, he can turn out to be a good specialist.

The speed at which the original guy from Kazan, Viktor Kolotov, broke into our big football seemed incomprehensible. Second League - national team - Dynamo Kiev - all in one sitting, minus the time when he was not allowed to play because of a feuilleton that suddenly appeared erroneous, in my opinion, accusing Victor of all conceivable and inconceivable sins. The route is fantastic, and it was quite understandable that the battle for a capable footballer was unfolding between several clubs at once.

The range of his game is unique, he did everything so correctly and on time that the fans in the stands, who immediately enrolled Kolotov in the category of favorites, did not cease to be amazed. Having made a pass, whether short, medium, long, he flew headlong to the goal, he was stopped, shoved, hooked, but he was unstoppable and always strived for the maximum goal - to be the first at the ball after the partner's cross and score.

Now I don't remember it as clearly as immediately after the matches, but Kolotov scored a lot of beautiful, bright balls that would now claim the "best goal of the month".

I have never met a more silent person in my life. He himself is laconic, but there are no such

saw. If he spoke, then only on business - not a single superfluous word. In the eyes he could tell anyone everything that he thinks about him. He beat with rare words for pride, not sparing himself at the same time. It's unpleasant to hear, but what can you do - everything is true and said by a person to whom almost no one ever had any complaints and could not arise - neither in everyday life, nor in training, nor in Game.

There were legends about Kolotov's efficiency, jokers claimed that, if necessary, he would play the third half and the fourth, and with the same tirelessness as the first two. But I noticed one characteristic detail. If usually the players strive to save at least some grains of strength, then Kolotov gave all the best for an hour and a half, without a trace. He knew that he had to work 90 minutes and worked to the fullest, bringing himself to a state of insanity. After the game with Eindhoven in Kyiv - a high-level match and great tension, when the players had no strength left, when Bazilevich and I could not stand in the dressing room -

they didn't hold their legs, but sat in armchairs, Kolotov came out of the shower room, looked at everyone carefully and asked in silence: "So did they score a goal for us or not?" There was a huge burst of laughter. In the courtyard of the Central Stadium, as we were later told, he was taken for a manifestation of indefatigable delight. One of the guys, in my opinion, Volodya Muntyan, exclaimed: "Well, you give, Vitek! Calm down, it remains as it was - 3-0, unless, of course, the judge attributed the goal to them in the protocol. "Understood," said Kolotov imperturbably, and again went to shower room.

Kolotov, who worked at Dynamo Kiev before our arrival, consciously and one of the first went to overcome the difficulties associated with the program we proposed. He understood that in case of successful implementation of the program and the game worked out in training, the team could rise to a new, much higher quality level. He, a born all-rounder (they say that once, even before our arrival at the club, he played in a friendly match in Belgium in goal, and quite well), it was not necessary to explain the advantages of collective harmonious football for a long time.

Once we watched on the basis of video recordings of two games with the participation of Ajax from the time of Stefan Kovacs. Kolotov suddenly looked up from the screen and said inquiringly and affirmatively: "Are we supposed to play this kind of football ?!" And he added after a moment: "Only at higher speeds."

Savely Yevseevich Myshalov, the permanent doctor of the national team, told the story characterizing Kolotov: "In 1973, in a Moscow match with the French national team, Victor came up to me during a break and said: "I can't see in one eye." There was a moment in the game when he received a strong blow to the eye with the ball. And the eye does not see. I - to the coach, Evgeny Ivanovich Goryansky. "Kolotov needs to be changed!" Before the end of the break, Victor comes up to me and says: "Everything is in order with the eye." And I didn't even have time to check. He went to play. Fits after the game. "The eyes do not see," he says. It ended in a month

hospital."

The captain's armband fell on him like thunder on a clear day. He used to consider himself an ordinary football player, modestly and honestly doing his job, and suddenly ... The reaction to the trust and respect of the guys who chose him was expected: some kind of power, but still the power did not change him one iota. He did not yell at his partners, did not assume an important air and did not speak in a mentoring tone. He regarded the captaincy as a necessity to be example in life, in training and in the game.

I do not specifically collect football relics - pennants, photographs, badges, but among the things accumulated over the years I carefully keep an unused ticket for the match of Kiev "Dynamo" with the Moscow army team on June 22, 1941, a photograph of the team in 1961, when it first won the league title, and a photo in which Viktor Kolotov raises high above his head the first European Cup for club football in the history of Soviet football teams

More than Volodya Veremeev, perhaps no one argued with me. He consistently tried to convince me that a football player on the base had nothing to do before the game, he had to prepare at home, in a calm atmosphere, listening to music or reading. "Okay," I told him, "I'll let you go, a few more people, in whose prudence I am one hundred percent sure, and the rest? How will the rest of the guys take it, do you think? I would be in their place

rebelled. This is the first. And secondly, believe me: no matter how oppressive the situation in the "reservation", as you call the base, may seem to you, you will not be better prepared for the game than here. With food, unlike in the city, there are no problems, you don't have to rush thirty kilometers there for training - thirty back, a well-thought-out regimen, medical assistance - in a word, all the conditions for work and rest.

Now Veremeev, working with me in the Dynamo Kyiv coaching staff, says: "I was like from the point of view of the player, you from the point of view of the coach. The coaching correctness is higher, because it comes primarily from the interests of the whole team, while the player, willy-nilly, no matter how much he wants otherwise, puts his own interests above.

Veremeev enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to play the new football, dreamed, it turns out, about it. We understood each other perfectly during our first serious conversation with him in Tashkent. I told him then: "You can play better." And I said this not only to inspire him. We saw Veremeev in separate matches of Dynamo Kyiv under V. A. Maslov and noticed unrealized opportunities in him. "I don't know if I can," he replied, "but what I want is for sure."

The fragility of Veremeev's constitution is deceptive, even visually it was possible to determine that his body is able to withstand heavy loads, and medicine confirmed this.

It was more interesting and easier for him to act in front, but such a time came in the team when everyone had to work out from behind, not to shun rough work. I would not characterize Veremeev as an ideal all-rounder, but he was sixty or seventy percent ready to perform the functions of a neighbor on the field.

Already then, in 1975, we were thinking about the quantitative and qualitative saturation of the middle line, and it turned out quite well when Konkov, Kolotov, Veremeev, Muntyan and Buryak operated together in midfield. True, then, due to the gradual disappearance of the luminaries from the stage and the lack of highly qualified performers of this idea from her for a while had to refuse.

He did not perform in Basel. Two yellow cards shown by the Spaniard Sanchez Ibáñez in the semi-final in Eindhoven meant removal and automatic skipping of the next match. Veremeev wandered around the field with the "Press" bandage and the "Change" camera in his hands and, in my opinion, clicked the camera a couple of times, no more. Anyway, pictures then did not show.

Veremeev's programs were a textbook, and it is a pity that a video film was not made on time under such a name, for example: "Vladimir Veremeev's passes" - it would be a good teaching aid.

He trusted his intuition, and more than once he wanted to shout: "Where to? Why?" when he non-stop used a rolling or flying ball to complete a long pass, noticing a partner in the best situation. A small computer was running in his head, and while he rushed forward at speed, she gave him a solution, sometimes taking by surprise even his own, who were unaware of the calculations of the "machine". In the end, they got used to his moves, for this there are trainings, but he continued to discourage opponents.

Veremeev achieved an almost perfect mastery of improvisation under conditions of strict collective play, which noticeably distinguishes a very good football player from an average one.

He experienced the Montreal fiasco as a disaster, but quickly got back on his feet in the next championship season - I was afraid that excessive sensitivity would not allow him to do this. He played the last ten matches in Dynamo Kiev in 1982, when Buryak, Blokhin and he remained from the Mohicans of 1975. Two years later he became the head of the team.

Leonid Buryak was the penultimate of that galaxy, having played 24 matches out of 34 in 1984. A whole tangle of rumors arose around his departure and subsequent appearance in the Moscow Torpedo, and then in the Kharkov Metalist, which in turn gave rise to various speculations, primarily about the conflict between Buryak and me. Leonid publicly explained in the press that his conscience before Dynamo Kyiv is clear, that he did not betray anyone - neither Lobanovsky, nor the team. "But the intrigues around me," he said, "were woven for a long time, and people who were interested in me leaving were happy when this happened."

As far as I know, in Kiev "Dynamo" no one Leonid in bad conscience and thus

more of betraying the interests of the team never accused. I have not heard anything about intrigues and about people interested in his departure.

I repeat, we do not expel anyone, except for those who violate the norms of the team's life. Those who ask, we let go. Buryak wanted full guarantees that he would play in the first team. Of course, we could not give them to him, just as we do not give them to anyone. Criterion one - game.

Probably one of the most difficult problems for a manager is to decide not to field popular players if they are not in shape. It is difficult to make such decisions; as a rule, the players themselves are not ready to make them, believing that a place in the first team is reserved for them forever.

Leonid's participation in 24 matches in 1984 (Kuznetsov, Rats, Yakovenko, Mikhailichenko and Bessonov played less than him then, the same number - Zavarov), it seems to me, refutes all rumors about a discriminatory attitude towards him, and we saw Buryak's loss of speed, desire play mostly "pure" football, especially not bothering himself with rough work, from which, by the way, he was completely released in the next two teams - Torpedo and Metalliste.

I had nothing against him continuing his playing career in any other team, he chose Torpedo, and this is his right. We parted without tantrums, but on a rather tense nervous note. The next season convinced the pass that if Leonid had remained in the team, he would have somewhat slowed down the team's speed, which he managed to gain both in the championship matches and in the European Cup meetings. Of course, one could then assume: remove Blokhin, Baltacha, Demyanenko, Bessonov from Dynamo Kyiv -

and it will be an ordinary average team. You can assume anything, but the reality is completely different.

Always elegant in life, Buryak on football polo remained true to style, and he could be unmistakably distinguished by running with his head held high (he looked for his friend Blokhin with his eyes and often made passes to him even when a more reasonable continuation followed from the course of events), by his neat haircut, by the softness of his handling of the ball, even during the "junctions" or when performing tackles, which he did not like.

He is one of the football romantics, but not the hopeless ones, for whom the main thing is to amuse the audience with a cascade of tricks, run around the green lawn for their own pleasure, but one of those who are not only able to accept the principles of a purely collective game with their souls, but also bring to her something of her own, a particle of romance, or something.

In my opinion, a legend went from Buryak that "walls" were canceled in Dynamo Kiev - a kind of trick when a player gives the ball to a partner, and he himself goes to an empty place in the hope of getting a one-touch pass, most often this is done shortly. The reception is extremely unreliable: in case of failure, not only both participants of the "wall" are "cut off", but also their partners, counting on the continuation of the attack and picking up speed, moving towards the opponent's goal. I once said in my hearts in the locker room after several such "cuts off": "Lenya, the "walls" must be excluded!" From here, apparently, it went, although I am by no means against such a technique, which can be used on any other parts of the field, just not in the immediate vicinity of the goal of the enemy, who is well-versed in defensive means - here the "wall" is doomed to failure.

Buryak's technique and perseverance, the ability to choose the right position, allowed him, when he was in his best shape, to intercept opponents' passes without much hassle and vigilantly look for gaps in the opponents' defense with a "team" of midfielders.

For a midfielder, he scored quite enough, he entered the Grigory Fedotov Club in 1987 - 100 goals on his account, and it was very pleasant that, speaking of his entry into the club, Leonid gratefully remembered the years spent in Kiev Dynamo, about the five titles of the national champion, won in the composition of our team, about three USSR Cups, the Cup Winners' Cup and the Super Cup. He did not sin against the truth when he said: "I worked hard, very hard: they don't keep "beautiful eyes" in such a cool team."

Leonid Buryak did enough for Dynamo Kyiv, served him faithfully 12 seasons.

For Vladimir Bessonov, the 1987 season was also the twelfth. 18-year-old Bessonov played the first matches in the Kyiv "Dynamo" in the spring (9 matches) and autumn (2 matches) national championships in 1976.

A fighter like never seen before. For him, there are no hopelessly lost situations, fights to the end in any, sometimes even to the detriment of himself, but always for the benefit of the team.

He found the entire "old guard", which treated him without ostentatious patronage, but as a younger brother. In the year of the victory of the USSR junior team at the World Championships in Tunisia, where Bessonov shone and FIFA President Joao Havelange himself promised him the future of Pele, in our club he played more than half of the matches for the main team and received his first national champion medal. Now he has five of them, and he hopes that this is not all.

"Man-trauma" - unfortunately, this definition is the best fit for Bessonov. Somehow, Pasha's doctors chose the time and calculated: for 12 years, Bessonov had more than 80 injuries of a different nature, from mild to very serious, when he could not work for several months.

In August 1986, returning from the Amsterdam tournament, already at Sheremetyevo we learned that Bessonov's spine was in plaster and there was practically no chance that he would return to the field. Demyanenko almost burst into tears. Then it turned out that the alarm, fortunately, turned out to be false: the diagnosis was not confirmed, the plaster was applied, suggesting one thing, but it was necessary to treat something completely different.

Due to injuries, Bessonov sometimes plays very little in the season, but he does not enter the field only when he really cannot. Minor injuries do not count: then a tight bandage is applied to him, and he himself insists on participating in the match. We go to meet him only with the permission of the doctors.

There are several reasons for Volodya's injuries: reckless fearlessness - first of all, excessive rigidity of rivals - in the second.

He's not the type to hit back, he enjoys outplaying the bully, and even more so, scoring a goal.

Injuries do not allow him to often prepare for the full program, and then breakdowns can occur in the game, in the simplest, mind you, situations, and the reasons for breakdowns are inexplicable. Instead of playing simply and reliably, he can, being at the post of "libero", start a stroke and release the opponent one on one with our goalkeeper, he can casually throw the ball to the goalkeeper at the most harmless moment, and this ball will be intercepted and scored against us, he is suddenly capable of not for no apparent reason to grab an opponent who is trying to circle him in the penalty area with his hand -

penalty.

Such breakdowns are extremely rare, but they are remembered because contrast with how he can play and how he plays in his best matches, which, of course, he has more than failures.

The higher the stake in the game, the more collected Bessonov. Without hesitation, even if he has just recovered from an injury, he can be put on prestigious international meetings, official and friendly, for the national team and for the club. He was ill for a long time in the 1987 season, did not play for the club from late May to mid-September, and a month later he was one of the best in the decisive qualifying match of the European Championship in the GDR, where he played as a right back.

Vladimir Bessonov is one of the few footballers in the country whose role no one knows. I am not exaggerating at all: he is able to play anywhere with the same return, with the same reliability, with the same efficiency. It is not difficult for him to change positions during the game, it does not take time to "grind" in a new place and establish new relationships with partners.

In terms of the number of matches played in the national team, Bessonov ranks second among Dynamo Kyiv players of all generations after Blokhin - by January 1988, he took part in 66 meetings of the national team, performed at two world championships.

I am sometimes told that I am too harsh towards Bessonov. Bessonov himself, by the way, does not think so. I am convinced and do everything so that the players I work with

imbued with this conviction: regardless of the level of skill, a player cannot show everything he is capable of on the field if he is not physically ready for the match. And my task is to ensure that the players are well prepared.

Alexander Zavarov was afraid to take on serious work, he wanted to, but he was afraid and did not believe that he was given the opportunity to make, perhaps, the last attempt to return to real football. He could well, without particularly straining, spend his life in the first or even the second league, living only today, but, apparently, the memories of the time when he shone on the field burned his soul, and he took a chance, gathering into a fist all will.

Everyone who saw Zavarov in his younger years, in particular at the 1979 Junior World Championships in Tokyo, predicted a very promising future for him. He played no worse than the Argentinean Diego Maradona, who was then distinguished among the world champions.

"Why are you taking it?" - many were perplexed when Zavarov was invited to Dynamo Kiev.

Indeed, why? We do not have an educational organization, but a team that constantly sets serious tasks for itself. Zavarov would not have been invited to Dynamo Kiev if the preliminary conversation had not shown how great his desire to change his lifestyle and play, play football, which he loves madly.

Perhaps, for Zavarov himself, it was even not bad that the first two seasons of his stay in the team, she performed in the championship no matter - seventh and tenth place. He caught fire with the big goals of Dynamo Kiev, got back on his feet with him, was drawn into the most severe mode of our work, he did not always succeed in what he was capable of, but neither he nor his new partners who respectfully accepted the game of a short, agile and combative guy.

One player, I will make a reservation again, will not make a difference, but we have seen more than once how bad the team is on the field without Zavarov. Especially in 1987, when in the middle of summer he received - not even received, but acquired (there were no opponents at the time of his transfer) - an injury in a match with CSKA, he could not recover almost until the end of the season.

The ringleader, an indispensable participant in all coalitions emerging on the field, cunning to the point of impossibility, the best dribbler in our football - he brought new touches to the game of Dynamo Kiev, which, of course, enriched the team.

The perfection of his stroke, which, it should be noted, he never abuses, reasonably balancing on the verge of expediency, allowed us to diversify attacking actions. When the attack breaks down, he does not rush back like crazy, knowing that his zone is securely secured, but he does not trudge half-bent either. When returning, he tries to take a position that would allow him to immediately launch a new attack, the moves of which, rest assured, have already been calculated in his cunning head. An amazing combination of the possibilities of an individual game with collective actions, to which Zavarov submits completely.

Its stability level can be much higher. Separate bright performances of Zavarov in a number of unforgettable matches: in Paris, for example, in the autumn of 1986, when the Parc des Princes applauded him, and Dettmar Kramer, a specialist from Germany, asked after the match: "Where did you manage to find such a guy? I saw him in Mexico, he was strong then, but now there are no words! in Glasgow against Celtic, when he succeeded in everything he set out to do; in the final match with Atlético, in the final match with Minsk Dynamo, - only confirm his outstanding

possibilities.

It would be unfair to require Zavarov to hold all meetings at one - the highest - level, this is impossible, but he
able.

Anger, sometimes, blinds his eyes, and he is able to succumb to the provocation of his opponents, mercilessly beating on his legs, catching, pushing, hitting in the stomach surreptitiously, and respond with an open blow. Immediately he raises both hands up: "Guilty", and I have to think about who to replace him, because it was just before this match that we agreed on the need to endure and in no case respond to provocateurs who set the goal of unbalancing the most predisposed to this player.

Zavarov is one of the few of our players who publicly admitted in 1987 that, looking in the mirror, they saw themselves with their nose upturned.

I have already stopped responding in detail to remarks about what is in Kiev Dynamo deliberately destroy individuality. I only say the word: "Zavarov."

A professional way of thinking, boundless loyalty to football allowed Vasily Rats not only to wait in the wings for a long time in Dynamo Kiev, honestly working in reserve and only occasionally appearing in the first team, but also to wait for him, to become one of the most stable players in the team, to play almost without substitutions in all matches, to achieve the right to play in the national team.

A Transcarpathian guy, accustomed to work since childhood, he did not grumble when he was "kept" in the reserve, because he believed: if he was not put on, then he was not yet ready as it should be, and continued to comprehend the game with exemplary perseverance. I have seen more than once how, after the double training, in which he participated, Rats, after a quick rinse in the shower, watched the work of the main team at the base. He did not hesitate to ask questions, making the reservation at the same time: "Sorry, maybe I'm talking nonsense, but I don't understand ..." Inquisitiveness has never harmed anyone.

I confess that at first he did not seem to me. Perhaps this impression was dictated by the very high criteria that guide my work. I am glad that Rat managed to change my attitude towards him.

Sustained, cursing himself for not even a mistake, but an inaccuracy, Vasily looks like a one-sided player, capable only of playing "down the groove", useful, but monotonous, reliable, but without fiction. Deceptive impression. He is highly technical in the final stage of the attack, competent in the modern game in the position of the left full-back, he no longer needs to explain the subtleties of mutual insurance and interchangeability, he is ready for the completion of the partners' collective actions unexpected for the opponents. Rats somehow reminds me of Kolotov, but with a slightly narrower play

range.

In the first days of this "baby" being in the team, we looked closely at Ivan Yaremchuk as a small miracle that fell on us from nowhere. He immediately behaved as if he did not appear with us at the age of 23, but at least from the age of 17-18, and has been playing for a long time. Moreover, such behavior did not at all indicate arrogance or swagger in relations with new acquaintances, there was not even a hint of familiarity and self-confidence. It's just that the newcomer organically joined the team and became the owner in it, along with others. A rather rare occurrence.

However, Yaremchuk is generally from the category of rare phenomena for our football. Everyone seemed to have seen him in Cherkassy, Kiev SKA - nothing, they said, kid, but not above average. We invited him to "try out" in Dynamo Kiev. "I don't mind trials and trials," he said. "But I want to play right away and I'm sure that I will play."

Yaremchuk entered the main team from the very first minutes, so firmly that no pincers could pull him out of there: he played excellently, in his first season he played 33 matches and scored three goals. It's in the championship. He did not have any problems in international matches

The ability to abstract from the opponent's strength, brought to the absolute level ("You have to play the same way with everyone so that they are afraid of you," Yaremchuk says) allowed our rookie to immediately become one of the strongest players in the middle line in Soviet football.

He seems to do everything simply, without frills, but he is so confident and accurate, he knows the areas he runs through to the blade of grass, that this simplicity constantly turns into trouble for his rivals. There were fears that even his abilities, which we met at the first training camp, would not allow him to join the game we profess right off the bat. Were yes swam ...

Yaremchuk does not lose heart under any circumstances. In Madrid in August 1986, the Argentinean Valdano of Real Madrid broke his leg in the final of an international tournament, jumping out of anger and helplessness from behind. I was not in Madrid in those days, I met with the team in Moscow. I was told that Valdano with Real Madrid representatives came to the hospital to

plastered Ivan, apologized and gave him a watch, which he was awarded as the world champion in 1986. "Thank you, of course," Ivan replied. "Only why the hell do I need them, you, boy, have deprived me of my job and will be seen for a long time."

When they arrived from Madrid with the first prize, the guys on their shoulders helped Ivan get out of the plane and onto the bus. At the Kievsky railway station, he agreed with the porter, and at midnight one could observe the following scene on the platform: on a large rumbling cart moving towards the first cars, Yaremchuk sits, stretching out his sore leg, from time to time shouts cheerfully: "Look out!" and sadly, already quietly, adds: "Everything happens ..."

His treatment was long and painful. It turned out, unfortunately, not immediately that the Madrid doctors did not determine the rupture of the ligaments. I had to have an operation. He didn't play for eight months. True, one and a half or two of them - on his conscience, the impression was that he was not particularly in a hurry. When he really returned, he set to work thoroughly, including in the national team, everything went smoothly for him - this delighted the fans, who fell in love with our "baby" from the very first day.

I should note that the low Rats, Belanov, Zavarov and Yaremchuk are a refutation of another legend, according to which the computer of Dynamo Kiev has the optimal model characteristics of an ideal player, and when they (that is, we) invite someone, they compare the data of the invited with your numbers. If something does not match (the applicant is lower, say, 178–180 centimeters), they do not take him.

Of course, model characteristics exist, this is the call of the times, but they were developed taking into account a much larger number of parameters than height and weight, and in practice they are not used as primitively as ignorant and unwilling to get acquainted with the true state of affairs people sometimes try to attribute to us. However, this applies not only to model characteristics ...

Pavel Yakovenko is a textbook example of how an extraordinary player needs to be in constant training, be ready for non-stop movement on the field, feel impeccable psychologically, and not succumb to self-delusion.

Two great seasons - 1985 and 1986 - became the pinnacles in his football work, but, presumably, not peaks. He was twenty-two years old when he played in his first world championship - for the peak age is not enough.

However, it all depends on Yakovenko himself. Two completely polar principles are fighting in him, and this struggle is reflected in his playing conditions. On the one hand, I have not met a more careful attitude towards myself - to the point of suspiciousness. He watches literally every sip of water - the hour is uneven, he will drink more than necessary. In some ways, his pedantry causes respect, because it characterizes a meaningfully acting professional. In the interests of the upcoming match, he is afraid to spend a drop of energy on something unnecessary, not related to football, to go down, say, at the base from the second floor to the first, to make a phone call. He gets up and goes to bed strictly by the clock, the diet for him is a sacred thing. An evening walk is a must. The guys nicknamed him - "professional", without meaning anything sarcastic at all.

But at the same time, Pasha is sometimes able to throw out such "knees" that you wonder - half-heartedly work in training, play the game "on foot", disregard the game task, allow yourself liberties that are detrimental to team actions ... Only strict measures can affect him, one of which is the bench. Then he quickly aligns all his views on football, and again becomes fast, mobile, restless, technical, joyful when something succeeds, resilient when it is difficult, clenching his teeth when it hurts.

Fortunately, such fluctuations in his game and attitude to work, caused primarily by the inability to be sufficiently critical of himself, are rare. One must think that with age, all superficial things will pass, only what makes Pavel Yakovenko strong in football will remain - will, high speed endurance and performance, combined with decent technique, the ability to understand the game in the most extreme conditions, the thirst to be better and stronger than rivals.

Outwardly soft, he has fighting qualities that are rare for the category of "techies", but he does not climb on the rampage, if he enters into a tough fight, then only when he is sure of absolute luck. In all other cases, he prefers to act positionally, hoping to win at the expense of speed and technique. Scores very little, although the flair for a goal

he is - he proved it in some international matches.

Brilliant technician and Vadim Yevtushenko. Over the years, his game subtly went wrong in some way, he began to believe that his destiny was to work on "clean balls", and now not a single team that sets itself very high goals can afford this. Vadim in 1980 came to the disposal of the coaches of Dynamo Kiev from the Kirovograd Zvezda, another Kirovohrad resident, Veremeev, immediately took patronage over him, and the guy quickly got into a fight: 31 matches in the first team and 7 goals scored in the year of his debut, tryout in the national team - very solid for a newcomer, whom no one knew before.

At first, he played mainly in front, filigree technique allowed him to score breathtaking goals (I will never forget one of them - at a tournament in Spain, when Vadim in a dizzying jump drove such a goal into the top corner that even rivals applauded), softness made him elusive up close opponent's gate.

Circumstances demanded the transfer of Yevtushenko, a very correct and polite person, to the middle line, he went for it quite easily. In general, I must say, from the point of view of observing game discipline, there can be no complaints against him, he conscientiously does everything that he is instructed, realizing that this is not a whim of the coaches, but a reshuffle in the interests of the team. In one of the matches of the national team, he could be seen, for example, in the position of a left-back, but it was more of a formal option, we then played on our own field, with a not very strong opponent, and Yevtushenko was charged with the duty to support the attack more, keeping an eye on his new zone.

It seems to me that the attraction to the functions of a pure striker has created a complex, from which Vadim is very difficult to get rid of. He, I would say, does not always want to believe that his opportunities in the game in the middle of the field are much higher. This complex is aggravated by the bench, with which he quite often has to come into play in the second half. True, we must pay tribute to Yevtushenko: although he is offended (and I understand him, but what

can be done if it is most logical to put up the strongest for today for the match

players), but, having come on as a substitute, no matter what minute it happens, it immediately joins the game. There are many examples when, in the short period of time given to him, he scored very important goals that decided the outcome of the meeting, or balls that put a significant point in the match, as happened in Lyon in the Cup Winners' Cup final.

I believe that Vadim Yevtushenko, who did a lot for Dynamo Kiev, especially during the years of his second successful campaign for the European prize, cannot consider himself left out in the team and has enough intelligence to realize that there is nothing eternal in football, except for the games.

Oleksiy Mikhailichenko is one of the few pupils of Dynamo Kyiv, a native of Kiev, with whom we have high hopes. Appearing in the main team, he began to play with such passion, with such ease, so famously that everyone just looked at each other and shrugged their shoulders: "Where from ?!"

It was not by chance that I mentioned passion. Dispassion is close to indifference. Mikhailichenko seemed to dedicate every game to his former yard football partners from Borshchagovka - Kyiv region, where he grew up.

He does not imagine that it is possible to let his teammates down, and he plays in Dynamo Kiev, and in the first team, and in the Olympic. He gives all the best, tries, is ready to play, if not every day, then every other day for sure. He has to be restrained.

The Olympians arrived in May 1987 from Sofia after winning the official match over the Bulgarians, all Mikhailichenko's partners went home, and he stayed in Moscow - we played Spartak a day later. While he was waiting for us, he did not waste time: he joined the double, went to the match with Spartak for the reserve team, played one half, scored two goals (one, according to the stories, almost from the center of the field, noticing that the goalkeeper did not have time to stand on place). In the evening at the hotel, I asked him about the understudy match. "It's all right," he replied, "yes

didn't let us lose the second half."

Mikhailichenko made his debut in the national team on April 29, 1987 in a match with the GDR team. He managed to leave in the dressing room both the excitement that inevitably accompanies the official game, and the memories of the balls that had not been scored a week earlier against Porto in the Champions Cup semi-final. The debut was remembered, and at the end of the season the USSR national team without Alexei Mikhailichenko, whose best days and years, of course, were ahead, and could not be imagined.

His fair-haired head flashes all over the field, he plays for his pleasure, but not an anarchist - he always remembers that the team is next to him. His range is from goal to goal, from touchline to touchline.

Vladimir Onishchenko, a football player from the glorious galaxy of 1975, has become a good children's coach, immensely loving his boys. He is like a mother hen to them when he brings them to the Dynamo Kyiv match of today's convocation.

Forward from God, he was inconspicuous in life and on the field. When he listened to someone talk at length about football, he only smiled softly and, if the situation allowed, dozed off.

On the field, he was never in the shadow of Blokhin, who scored a lot, on the contrary, complementing each friend, the two of them, with the support of their partners, created a powerful attacking fist.

Possessing an exceptionally sharp sense of timing, an almost unmistakable choice of position, Vladimir constantly received passes from our midfielders. Rivals hated him for his constant "appearances out of nowhere" and respected for his rare fearlessness. Onishchenko, without hesitation, threw himself headlong after a low-flying ball, to which the defender's foot was already rushing. Several concussions are the result of collisions from which he most often emerged victorious, but after which the doctors needed to show all their skill to get him back on the field faster. He, while they conjured over him outside the gate, demanded: "Doc, what are you doing? Give me some ammonia, that's all."

"Appearances from nowhere" actually existed. Sometimes on our bench they shouted: "Where did Onishchenko go?", suggesting that he was injured in some of the situations and was waiting on the edge of the doctors for help. No, he is on the field, but he went into the "shadow" so reliably that his opponents also lost him, and that's how it turned out - "out of nowhere".

Volodya, whom everyone, no matter where and with whom he played, called the most desirable partner (and now they call him, remembering those years), more than anything in the world, in my opinion, did not like to lose. Even in training.

His stellar year, without a doubt, is the year of our first victory in the Cup Winners' Cup. The match in Basel was probably the best in his career, it most clearly showed the strengths of Onishchenko - a football knight with a soul that easily responds to the slightest injustice.

Onishchenko, like Muntyan and Blokhin, arrived in Basel with a "fresh" injury, but he didn't even allow to discuss whether he could enter the field. Came out and played great. Already on the 17th In a minute, Blokhin's interaction with Onishchenko led to a goal: Oleg gave an accurate pass, Volodya shot flawlessly. Six minutes before the break, Onishchenko had the ball, everyone, including the Hungarian goalkeeper Getsi, was waiting for the pass, and without preparation, from a rather uncomfortable position with his left foot, he sent the ball into the "nine".

He left football calmly, without fuss, although I'm sure he could have played more. But he didn't want to just "play", it was very important for him that people not settle in the memory of the years when he plays without the former brilliance in Dynamo Kiev, a team that was given a lot of strength and love.

When Igor Belanov asks reporters: "Don't remind me of the Ballon d'Or!", he can be understood. He regards such high international recognition as a misunderstanding, not unfortunate, of course, but pleasant, but still a misunderstanding. He did not engage in posturing when he said that Zavarov in 1986, much more than anyone else, deserved the title of the best football player in Europe. Igor did not pose when he claimed wherever he could that this purely individual prize was a tribute to the Kiev Dynamo team, although, by the way, he himself was so highly quoted in the France Football questionnaires, primarily for his excellent game at the World Cup.

If in 1986 the time and place for Belanov successfully coincided, then the very next year they coincided with a minus sign: at the same time, the power of the team's game fell and Belanov sank.

We invited Igor to the team several times. He responded to the third invitation, obviously believing that there might not be a fourth, and time was running out. After the first trainings, when not everything worked out for him, and his physical readiness was far from corresponding to our loads, he came up one day and asked: "Vasilyich, honestly, will I be good or should I return home?" I replied that everything depended on him, and if he continued to work in the same conscientious manner, then everything would be all right. I also told him that he was not the first and, obviously, not the last newcomer who finds it difficult to get used to such a volume of work and develop the habit of doing it every day.

Belanov is a persistent man, he can grit his teeth and endure, and over time he started talking less and less about "this horse rhythm" and about returning to Chernomorets.

The beginning of his first season we have passed neither shaky nor rolls. He "cut through" in the home match with Spartak, scoring two beautiful goals for Dasaev. Immediately followed by an invitation to the national team. From Copenhagen, where the national team lost 2:4 to the Danes, and Belanov played in his first match at such a level, he returned not himself: he was accused of cowardice and declared one of the main perpetrators of the defeat.

The process of experiences, introspection, introspection (and Igor is a very, very sensitive guy) began to drag out, and it cost us a lot of work to bring him back to reality, in which it was time to start in the Cup of Cups.

To find out what Belanov is all right, one had to see him play in Mexico and with the French in Paris.

Being somewhat predisposed to showing a sense of insecurity and perhaps even fear of not being able to prove his reputation (especially after receiving the Golden Ball), he is not able to enter the game completely liberated. This hinders him and the team.

Individual matches (not even matches, most likely, but episodes of matches) convinced me that Igor is gradually getting rid of the burden of additional problems that have fallen on him - sudden fame, exceptional popularity and, as a result, the constant expectation of miracles from his game.

Oleg Blokhin - the history of Dynamo Kyiv and Soviet football, and I can't help but to join all the kind words spoken to him in different years.

An exceptionally gifted athlete who realized early, thanks to his upbringing, apparently (Oleg grew up in a sports family), that mere talent is not even half the battle. Works not for fear, but for conscience. He can grumble like an old man, complain about exorbitant workloads, and two days later on the third declare: "That's it, I can't do it anymore, I'm leaving, so you can become disabled," but continues to work. Not under pressure, but with the full knowledge that every training minute is more than paid off by the opportunity to constantly be in shape and be ready for serious games.

In recent years, when he was the last of those with whom we started in 1974, it was rather difficult to convince him that our principles, despite the passage of time, remained unchanged. And one of them is the same attitude towards everyone, the lack of privileges in the form of a sparing regime, indulgences in training, and the creation of special conditions. It may be cruel, but we are talking about a team that is a single entity, and justice must be put at the forefront.

Blokhin and I often argue. People who learn about these disputes from "reliable sources" try to pass off disagreements on some professional issues (quite, I believe, natural for people who have been working together for almost a decade and a half and have thoroughly studied each other) for conflicts in which the coach, using his power, oppresses player.

It happens that our disputes take place on rather high tones, we disperse angry at each other. friend, but, I want to believe, we will never cross the line beyond which enmity begins.

The constant shadow of discontent on his face does not please the audience. It's their business. What caused this dissatisfaction in each specific situation, I do not know. Maybe it's anger

himself, when something conceived failed, perhaps an insult to partners who, in his opinion, did not give an accurate pass at the right time or did not score from an advantageous position, perhaps anger at the coaches who angered him with something during the break, perhaps a reaction to an unfair whistle from the stands ... But I know. Or maybe the cause of dissatisfaction becomes

all in the complex.

Partners, especially those who are not familiar with Oleg's demeanor, are sincerely offended by him for the constant manifestation of discontent. And they, too, can be understood, because from their position they see behind this an arrogant attitude towards them, emphasizing the difference in age, experience and playing skills.

Oleg Blokhin is a striker, no doubt, of a very high international class, his playing stability amazes him, selfless service to football is an example for the rest, and there is no need to talk about his many records.

He is strictly consistent in fulfilling his main goal - to score goals. More than 300 of them didn't come out of thin air. Behind each - hellish work in training, complete dedication in matches, many years of Spartan lifestyle.

In Kiev "Dynamo" it is not customary to single out individual players. Everything in the game is done by the team, one is responsible for everything. Perhaps, only once I deviated from this rule, publicly at a press conference naming the name of the football player who exclusively played the match. It was in Kyiv at the end of 1986, when in the return match / in the final of the European Champions Cup we hosted the Scottish Celtic. This is not the best game of our team, there were complaints about it, but not specific, regarding individual players, but in terms of implementing collective skills, because the image of the game is created by the whole team. But I could not help but single out Blokhin - as a person, as an athlete. He turned 34 that day, and he acted on the field as if ten years ago - an example, in my opinion, of how football, the cause, and the audience should be served.

... Why did I talk about these players, and not about others with whom I worked (there were more than a hundred of them, who were part of the main squads of Dnipro and Dynamo Kiev from 1969 to 1987)?

All of them are Honored Masters of Sports, all (except Mikhailov) played in the USSR national team. But the most important thing for me is that thanks to these players I can consider myself a coach.

Mm... Maybe make them a symbolic team of Kyiv "Dynamo" of the last fourteen years? No, perhaps I will leave this opportunity to the reader - choose from good and very good football players.

Chapter 5

Sometimes you want to drop everything and go to work as a librarian. I read somewhere that scientists studied the dependence of stress in a person's life on the type of his activity, and it turned out that the profession of a librarian is the least dangerous (but on a nine-point rating system it is at the end of the table - 2.0). Football coaches are part of the "leading group" along with miners, policemen, journalists, machine builders and civil aviation pilots. These are the conclusions of British scientists. Their West German counterparts generally consider football coaching to be one of the healthiest professions. When examining 32 coaches during matches, serious deviations from the norm were found on the cardiograms of most of them. The pulse reached 150 beats per minute, some even 190, which borders on a heart attack.

I know from my own experience: there are games when you take valocordinum and validol at the doctor's bench, but all the same, after an hour and a half, your hands tremble and are wet. I usually try to keep my emotions to myself. This led to the "pendulum effect": I swing back and forth. Once in Yerevan, there was a plexiglass visor over the bench, someone threw a stone from the stands, at that moment I swayed - and the stone hit my head. Oleg Bazilevich, during a break, when the doctor eliminated the consequences of the injury, remarked: "I told you: swing not back and forth, but from left to right."

I'm not talking about supermatches. In Mexico in 1986, at the end of the game with the Belgians, my heart was seized so that, according to the testimony of Yuri Morozov, who was sitting next to me, for a moment "turned off".

On the eve of the national championship in 1967, I read the following statements by V. A. Maslov in one of the Ukrainian newspapers: "Football becomes stricter every year. Today, he does not forgive even a moment of relaxation, not only for individual players, but for entire teams.

Keeping this in mind, we tried to forget about our high titles throughout the preparatory period (a year earlier, Dynamo Kiev won both the championship and the USSR Cup - V.L.).

It doesn't come easily. Even other mature people sometimes find it difficult to give up the idea of their exclusivity. And here the guys are 20-25 years old. But we do not intend to give opponents such a head start in the new season as excessive self-confidence.

At one time, Dynamo Kiev lost in many respects in comparison with the Moscow clubs precisely because of the lack of a serious, businesslike attitude of the players to their duties. I am a professional coach, and this did not suit me from the first day I joined the team. Why does a young man who entered the football field at the behest of passion suddenly start looking for an easy life in football? Why does he imagine the national championship as a walk on a sunny lawn to thunderous applause, why does he imagine his own name in bold type in the newspaper? It doesn't cost anything for such a young man to be late for training, to refuse a difficult trip, to deceive a coach.

There were similar players in Dynamo Kiev. Now we don't have those. But relapses of misunderstood amateurishness happen. The stormy praise of the fans and the unprofessional enthusiasm of the press sometimes downright deafen some of our players. Relaxed by the consciousness of their own importance, such guys soon get in the nose from strong-willed, collected rivals and only then return to the hard rut of real work.

A professional attitude to football is not a thirst for increased fees. First of all, it is passion for the work to which you dedicate yourself. The requirements of modern football are such that a player who has a rest in the middle of the season on his free day must think carefully about how to do it. Any lying on the beach under the sun, long trips for mushrooms and other seemingly innocent entertainment are excluded. To fail at least partially, at least for a day, means to fall behind already. Anyone who does not understand this runs the risk of dropping out of the game altogether in the near future.

Agree that these words, spoken twenty years ago, can be signed today. I subscribe. In 1987, we gave our rivals such a head start as excessive self-confidence.

... The final whistle of our last match in the championship of 1987 sounded - in Kyiv with Guria. We did not become champions, "we did not justify the hopes of numerous football fans," as they wrote about this more than once. In the spring, we did not reach the final of the European Champions Cup either, losing twice with the same score 1:2 to the future winner of the tournament, the Portuguese Porto, we were eliminated at the first stage of the new draw, losing to Glasgow Rangers (1:0, 0:2). In the asset "only" the USSR Cup, the Cup of the season and even such a "trifle" as the participation of many Kiev Dynamo in the qualifying matches of the European Championship, decisive for our team, which finally got into the final stage of the championship.

It's a shame, of course, that they didn't take the champion awards this time (why is it bad - the third time in a row?), But looking back at the season, instructive in every way, I am more and more convinced that it could be worse. Not like the season that followed 1975, but still
same.

Time pressure began from the first days of January. We got together a day after the New Year's Eve, two more flew to Germany and Switzerland for two and a half weeks: to train, play in representative international futsal tournaments. They held friendly matches on ordinary fields, in particular, they played with Bayern on a heated field - at the Munich Olympic Stadium. An amazing sight - emerald grass in a fifteen-degree frost, two and a half thousand warmly dressed spectators, to whom the stadium announcer announced: "Thank you for your courage, for coming to support

Bayern in this weather. Please do not throw away your entrance tickets – you can use them to come to the official Bayern match in the national championship against Fortuna (Düsseldorf) on February 28 for free.”

Our coaching staff dreamed most of all that the guys would forget about all the team and individual prizes of 1986 as soon as possible, that laudatory reviews of their game would disappear from their heads, that they would enter the new season as if nothing had happened a year or two ago have not achieved.

How to forget? How not to remember all these “golden balls”, the results of various referendums, the enthusiastic responses published in Football-Hockey and France Football, Soviet Sport and Kickers, Pravda and Liberation ...

Before we had time to fly to Germany, the team was surrounded by representatives of sports publications from many European countries who had specially arrived here, as well as television and radio commentators. Questions, questions, questions... To Belanov, Blokhin, Zavarov, me, Yakovenko, Kuznetsov, Rats... Serious and stupid, witty and provocative, benevolent and evil. AND - reminded us of what we tried to forget.

I must say that Western journalists quite often shamelessly distort the text, and as a result, it differs significantly from what you say to the interviewer. Recently, I had to resort to a new practice - to accept questions in writing and respond in writing, while stipulating that all reductions and additions must be agreed upon. And it worked. In any case, France Football, for example, very willingly agreed to this method of cooperation and no longer misrepresents anything. A bureaucratic measure, perhaps, but a forced one: sometimes you read something in translation that makes your hair stand on end.

A reasonable reaction to what you have done before is one of the signs of professionalism. Football is a profession, not a state of mind subject to emotions. However, emotional manifestations are understandable - this is a detente. The inability to manage them is difficult to blame. This is extremely difficult, restraint comes only with age, with experience. It's hard for me to understand the critics who accuse the players who scored a goal of not masculinely celebrating this event with hugs, kisses, and even a bunch of them on the field. Goal - the main thing the team is striving for. Please note: the one who scored the third or even the fourth goal, especially in cases where the game goes almost in one goal, is not congratulated as much as the one who scored the first. They usually do not congratulate those who distinguished themselves in the cup, say, a game with a deliberately weak opponent. The rituals of congratulations in all team sports are different. Where they score a lot, and there is no time for congratulations. In football, a goal is an event that greatly affects the mood of people and even the fate of players and coaches.

In Germany, we failed to relieve the emotional overstrain of the previous season. To a lesser extent, but we were also worried about the physical condition of the players, who for two years in a row carried two carts on their shoulders - the club and the national team. Exported and, one might say, exported. There was no time for a full restoration of generously spent forces.

Already in Monaco, at the Super Cup, we were convinced that the game is not going well. Then the ordeals began due to bad weather before the first quarterfinal match of the Champions Cup with Besiktas. Snow captivity in Turkey, flights, lack of conditions for training - all this did not add psychological confidence to us. N. N. Ozerov, who was then with the team, said that he had never seen such a close-knit team before and, having got to know him better, recognizing him “from the inside”, takes back all the critical arrows he fired in his time against the Kiev "Dynamo". It was nice that an experienced person who had become proficient in football matters for his long creative life, so appreciated our team. But that didn't make it any easier for us.

Of course, in Monaco we flew for the Super Cup. The only worry was that everywhere - both at home and abroad - we were considered clear favorites, not taking into account Steaua's ambition, backed up by slightly different material incentives than ours.

At the obligatory doping control after the final, the players have time to talk. So, in a pleasant conversation between the people of Kiev and the Romanian football players in Monaco, it turned out that Steaua's fee for winning the match was much higher than that of Dynamo Kiev. This did not cause anger and indignation of our players - to this order

things are already accustomed to, this is simply taken into account and accompanied by good-natured jokes.

By no means do I want to say that if we had higher material incentives, we would have brought the Super Bowl. It's not like that at all. Football is football. As a counterexample, we can recall 1975, when, without a doubt, Bayern lost more than we won, but the prize was nevertheless put up in the end on Khreshchatyk and stood there for a long time until Mikhail Oshemkov took it away to pass it to the next winner. But in modern world football, the level of motivation is constantly increasing, and pretending that this does not concern us is already

it is forbidden.

It is difficult to find a reasonable explanation why we cannot use as a prize fund a certain percentage of the amount guaranteed to us by the organizers only for participation in the match, the amount that we are obliged to give in full to the State Committee for Sports. After all, the team did it! Why can't she use at least part of what she earns? Earned honestly!

Back in Moscow, at the Sport Hotel, where two groups of Kievans (one flew in from Wales with the national team after a friendly match, the other from the southern training camp from Gantiadi) met the day before flying to Monaco, we once again explained to the players that "Steaua" also does not go for a walk. I saw this team in December 1986 in Tokyo in the match for the Intercontinental Cup against the Argentine club "River Plate" and I must say: the game of our opponents made an impression. It even seemed to me that in their game you can feel the hand of Stefan Kovac, the legendary Romanian coach who led the Dutch Ajax in the early seventies, one of the progenitors of total football. By the way, I am credited with objecting to the term "total football". This is not so: there is no point in not accepting what fully reflects the essence of the matter.

In Tokyo, I was struck by the interest in football. It would seem, what is already there: there are no Japanese on the field, some unknown "Steaua" and "River Plate" are fighting for some incomprehensible Intercontinental Cup. But there are more than sixty thousand people in the stands, there is a live broadcast on television (by the way, in 54 other countries), the atmosphere is festive. This match is sometimes called the "Toyota Cup", since its main sponsor is this largest automobile corporation.

The Romanians lost then - 0:1, but it was an accident. Europeans dominated throughout the match, despite the fact that the 1986 world champions goalkeeper Pumpido, defender Ruggeri, midfielder Enrique, 1978 world champions midfielders Gallego and Alonso, as well as Uruguayan national team players Gutiérrez and Alzamendi stood out in the rivals. The latter managed to score the only goal after a free-kick, however, before that there was a goal by the Romanians, carried out by the defender Belodedic after a high-speed counterattack, but the referee from Uruguay did not count it for reasons understandable to him.

After the goal, River Plate fought back as best they could, occasionally retaliating. The Romanian players sharply increased the pace, did not slow it down until the end of the match, owned the middle of the field, but could not do anything against the Argentine defense and the goalkeeper. I took note of Steaua's non-standard forwards Picurca and Lacatus, and it was impossible not to note the balanced midfield line of the Romanian team.

In Monaco, on the bench, I once again had to remember the match in Tokyo - the plots of both meetings were so similar, only this time we were in the role of leading the game and losing it.

And without joy they read in Ekip: "We saw interesting football, and Soviet fans can only be disappointed with the result, but not with the game." Again, a beautiful game ... However, we had no reason to be satisfied with it. We were superior to Steaua, but we had little benefit from this: Belanov, Blokhin, Zavarov did not use several dangerous situations ... Chanov missed a ridiculous goal from a free kick in the last minute of the first half. Even the viewers, as it turned out, could hear his voice when he set up the wall and commanded his partners - Balem, in particular: "Andrey, right, right. Fine!" It turned out not very good.

Six players stood densely in the wall (far left - Rats). The seventh, Belanov, stood,

slightly moving away from Rat and preparing to run out to the striker if the Romanians decided to play a free kick. A "hole", thus, formed between Rats and Belanov. It is impossible to be sure that it was Khadzhi who sent the ball at her, but he flew between the two players, touched Rat's forearm and, as in billiards, ricocheted not at all in the direction in which he rushed, reacting not to the ball, but to the blow, Chanov. He did not take into account the ricochet and did not force Belanov to stand seventh against the wall. In this case, the possibilities of Hadji, who, by the way, punched powerfully, would be limited.

But these are all the episodes that make up any game. We were more concerned about the imbalance in the team's actions, the discrepancy between the beats of the guys, regardless of whether the game was on the defensive or on the attack.

Readiness for the game of some even looked better by eye than others. I told the team after this match: "We are going to Besiktas now. With such a game, we may defeat him, but Bayern, Porto and Real will remain, and such numbers do not work with them. Please also remember that in two months many of you will have to play for the national team against the GDR and the failure there will be much harder than the club failure, although even after it you will be ashamed.

Matches with Porto, the Portuguese club, "tossed" to us by lot, remained for us in the category of "tragic". After the draw, familiar and unfamiliar people came up and congratulated us, as if Dynamo Kiev were already in the final. Behind me, I heard laughter after publicly, in a television interview, said that we got, perhaps, the strongest of all the remaining rivals. I understood those who laughed. Their information was exhausted by information about Real Madrid, Bayern. What is Porto? Yes, Shakhtar used to play on an equal footing with him.

That's right - at the right time. It has passed. And it's time to talk about the very serious strength of the Portuguese club, not spoiled by the same great success. If I myself had been offered to choose then, I would have chosen Bayern. By the way, in the final the Portuguese did not leave Bayern any chances and in the second half the West German team was not visible. In the days when I was finishing work on the book, Porto won two more prizes in a row - the Intercontinental Cup in Tokyo and the Super Bowl on aggregate against Ajax Amsterdam. This is another touch to the question of constants in football.

On April 8, 1987, in Porto, we experienced the power and spirit of the Portuguese. By that time, we managed to some extent eliminate the imbalance in the game, noticeable in the match in Monaco. In any case, the percentage of technical and tactical marriage was much lower, although we also lost the first semi-final match, 1:2.

It is a sin to complain about biased arbitration. I try to avoid it. I just want to explain how easy it is in matches between teams of approximately the same level to "distort" events and try to unsettle a team that is objectionable to the judge for some reason. It is not difficult for an experienced judge, and there is no doubt about the experience of the Dutchman Jan Kaiser. And when, in the 20th minute, he did not count the goal scored by Blokhin cleanly, it became clear: they won't let us win here, we need to achieve the minimum acceptable result.

At the beginning of the second half, a bomb exploded: only 12 minutes had passed, and we were losing 0:2. There were no objective prerequisites for this, except for the traditional ownership of the initiative by the home team. All possible directions of Porto's attacks known to us were blocked quite reliably, and quite regularly we disturbed the defense of the Portuguese with sharp transitions from defense to attack, in which four or five people participated.

But if there was a scale of objectivity in football, then, in fact, it would not be necessary to play at all - fill out a rating plate for yourself, and that's it.

Fortunately, things are more complicated. The unpredictable result and the simplicity of the rules are the reasons for the popularity of football. The events taking place on the football field can be compared with life in many ways. I'm not talking about increasing the pace of the game so much that you can only look for analogies with the progress of automobile engines or the transition from a propeller to a jet engine. I am talking about situations associated with constant struggle, with joys and deep grief, about an hour and a half collisions that resemble life in all its manifestations ...

Mikhailichenko lost the ball on the left flank of our attack: instead of passing Rats standing nearby in a completely calm atmosphere, and trying to create a numerical advantage in the penalty area himself, he made a long pass. Opponents interrupted her and carried out a powerful counterattack. Futre was going to break through on goal from the corner of the penalty area, but missed the ball far, to which Zavarov, who was rushing to the defense, managed to reach. The Porto forward at the last moment wanted to prevent Zavarov from picking up the ball with a tackle. The ball simultaneously converged two legs, and he flew into the far corner along an absolutely unthinkable trajectory.

Why not a tragic situation that makes you believe almost in otherworldly forces?

After a corner, Kuznetsov jumped out in the fight against the Portuguese, choosing a good position, and was ready to head the ball out of the penalty area, but at the last moment, for some reason, like a wing, he waved his hand, and the ball found his hand. Penalty. 0:2.

Between the goals, Val was removed, in the first half he had a prophylactic yellow card, and saw a red one in front of him after a rough reception by Juari, who went out alone to Chanov.

A hopeless situation? They practically do not exist, and the joy of the Portuguese, who were quite satisfied with the 2-0, was replaced by chagrin when Mikhailichenko and Yakovenko "shot" - one braided, the other bald.

Almost before every match, I tell myself what awaits us, based on absolutely real premises. Before the return game with Porto, I could not say either "yes" (we will pass), or "no" (Porto will pass).

Almost never before have we been able to play in a fighting squad and play at least a few matches with the same people. We had to redraw the line of defense again. I did not see any nervousness in the mood of the team, on the contrary, I observed sufficient confidence of the team, which was quite satisfied with the victory with a score of 1:0. Eleven minutes after the start of the match, it turned out that it was necessary to score not one goal, but four.

The external confidence of the players (I am convinced that it was external, and not felt from the inside, because for firmness of mind there was a lack of a strong foundation in the form of excellent physical condition, as, for example, before the matches with Utrecht and Rapid, Beroe "and" Celtic ") evaporated before our eyes, they realized that they could not score four, but, having understood this, they nevertheless continued to believe in a miracle and tried with their last strength to call this miracle on themselves help.

There is no need to list the moments, clapping hands about each of the 29 shots on Porto's goal, especially since one ended in a goal.

The final of the European Champions Cup was closer than ever before, but the Portuguese went to it, whose coach Artur Jorge said that after they defeated Dynamo Kiev, they were not afraid of anyone. Porto followed a phenomenal series: Champions Cup - Intercontinental Cup - Super Cup, but this team, which sparkled brightly during the season, did not make it to the quarterfinals of the next European prize.

... Only in the morning of the next day, after a sleepless night, I could calmly talk and analyze what happened the night before. I had to balance myself and the team, many of whose players, a week after the meeting with Porto, were to take to the field in the qualifying match of great importance against the GDR national team. Players from other clubs were added to the Kiev group, and it became somewhat easier.

The result of the meetings with the Portuguese broke our team, first of all in moral terms, because we counted on these games, we hoped that success would help to gain confidence. But the defeat, which, you see, was accompanied by a fair amount of bad luck, only layered on top of all our troubles, and the coaches of the national team needed to make significant efforts so that failures would not affect the results of the national commands...

Criticism can be treated differently. My position on this issue was worked out a long time ago, I believe that it is not only possible, but necessary, to criticize. And if criticism is constructive, if there are some reasonable principles in it, then it only benefits the criticized. TO

Unfortunately, there are still unfounded statements based primarily on absolute ignorance of the essence of the matter, on all sorts of rumors and conjectures, on an amateurish approach to the subject, on the unwillingness to objectively understand the process called "football game".

Moreover, this applies not only to fans - their amateurism is largely justified, but also to journalists, and they are called upon by their profession to get to the bottom of the truth and convey it to millions of people who come to stadiums, educate football fans, explain to them the intricacies of the game and moments related to its modern development. In order to do this, you need to know.

In one of Chekhov's letters there is this, perhaps purely ironic, phrase: "I know that Shakespeare wrote better than Zlatovratsky, but I cannot explain why."

The job of serious critics is to explain.

I fully agree with my respected colleague Konstantin Ivanovich Beskov, who, a day after Spartak became the champion in 1987, said in an interview: "You can criticize the game, and I am far from always satisfied with it, and not every win improves my mood. But it's shameless to interfere in my work ... And although over the years of coaching I seem to have gotten used to everything, it's strange for me to see in the team, near the team of people who predict failure for us, ready, if we stumble a little, we can't leave a stone on a stone from what we have built so heavy labor."

The fan's impatience is understandable. He always wants to see his team only as a winner.

On September 4, 1987, the Ukrainian youth newspaper Komsomolskoye Znamya published a letter addressed to me signed "Vladimir Portnov is a fan". Quotes from this letter were picked up by many of our well-known journalists, without taking the trouble to independently understand the situation in which Dynamo Kiev found themselves in 1987. I'll quote it in full:

"Dear Valery Vasilyevich! Sorry, but I will speak sharply. Apparently, the time for compliments and admiration is over. Of course, you can object that it is necessary to have restraint, wait for the results of the main matches, then carefully comprehend and weigh everything, connect science, etc. Yes, all this has already happened.

Remember, both the club and the national team under your leadership lost game after game, and you convinced everyone that, they say, everything is in order, the goals set are completely different, and our main matches will definitely win. The miracle did not happen, they did not win.

You can, of course, complain about the period of stagnation and lack of publicity that was gaining strength at that time, but what will it give us, the fans? As then, eleven years ago, you, Valery Vasilyevich, put on a good face in a bad game, as then, you assure the public of the infallibility of your decisions and methods, as then, you ensure the "reliability of the result."

I dare to express my opinion. We can (in principle theoretically, although I personally do not believe in it) beat the French and the Scots. However, these victories will not change the essence of the matter. Our team, the Dynamo club, no matter what your journalists know or say, is doomed to a serious illness. Now I know for sure: it will take her a long time to get out of the crisis. It started a long time ago for me - even when, after the Belgian misfire, you convinced everyone that the probability of making such mistakes by a great team is zero, that it was specifically such and such that it was the fault of the coaches. Flicked the switch for the first time. Maybe everything was fixable then, if you figure it out honestly, in fairness. Understand and learn for yourself. But then you have to criticize yourself. Do you like it, Valery Vasilyevich?

Remember that silence and numbness of the 100,000-seat stadium when Celtic equalized the game and everything hung in the balance? Remember the unsettling silence after Vasiliev's goal? Then everything, thank God, worked out, the result was achieved, there were toasts and toasts.

But the crack has already crept into the depths of the middle class, the attackers of Zalgiris and Dynamo Tbilisi, just like the day before yesterday, the Minskiers, "shot" our gates from positions that they chose at their discretion. But even then everything worked out, and you, Valery

Vasilyevich, after the end of the season, they never remembered those failures, but in all interviews they deftly led public opinion to the creation of clubs, the transition to professionals, the accrual of pensions, that is, they talked about anything except the true state of affairs in the team.

But then the new season came, and we started to lose everything that could be lost. And not only "Steaua" and "Porto", but even CSKA at their stadium and Simferopol "Tavriya" in a friendly, true, match. So we lose the whole season, scoring mainly from the penalty spot, and in response we hear all the same assurances of the infallibility of the head coach and the scientific methods that guide him.

Or rather, we do not even hear, but read. Because you, Valery Vasilievich, as it seems to me, are beyond criticism in the republican press, in any case, I have never had to read it in your address. As for meetings with fans, a frank and open conversation between the team and those who support it, such meetings are not practiced, and you obviously consider them an irrational waste of time, a distraction from the main thing, from ensuring the result ...

It is not clear where our other Dynamo tradition has gone – to see off in plain sight, with honors, a person who has faithfully served the club for many years? For a long time we publicly saw off no one, but it's a pity. The same Veremeev, for example. I'm afraid that this fate awaits Oleg, he appears less and less in the composition. I remember, Valery Vasilyevich, how our "stars" faded one after another, falling into your disfavor towards the end of their careers, I remember Muntyan, Troshkin, Buryak, Veremeev, and I feel sorry for Blokhin, to whom, in my opinion, you, too, like those, have already begun to arrange, as they say at the theater, "paste". Are you sure that your decision is correct?

I repeat, Valery Vasilyevich, of course, you will find new excuses for current and future defeats, it may happen that the team will win one or two matches. But in principle, this will not change the matter, it can only delay the final recovery. Therefore, I ask you, as a man of courage, as a resident of Kiev, to answer publicly, as befits during glasnost, to answer through the newspaper:

What is happening with Dynamo (it is advisable not to give a reference to the Turkish snowfall)?

What should be done in order for the team to play football with desire, and not serve a duty on the field (it's not about winning, about playing, about dedication. Maybe we need our help? We are ready, like last year, to freeze for at least a day on snow-covered stadium, remaining faithful to the end of his team).

Do you think the relationship between players and coaches, the situation in the club is normal (maybe "everything is going according to plan", and defeats are tactical tricks)?

Again, sorry for the harshness. I think you will understand that I am not driven by the motives of wounded pride or personal scores, but anxiety for the fate of our beloved Team.

We receive many letters. They criticize us, give advice, and, sometimes, good ones, we discuss them, we answer some (there is not enough time for everything). But such a letter an exception, it touched the guys to the quick, first of all, by the unfairness of the accusations. By the way, I myself took it quite calmly, because I understand that its publication was primarily due to a number of opportunistic considerations: it was beneficial for someone to publicly assume that in Dynamo Kiev, and in the national team, not everything is in order in relationships, to pretend that some of the successes of the team over the past thirteen years are nothing more than an accident, to doubt, using the announced period of publicity, the legitimacy of the direction we have chosen, I am convinced that behind this letter are people who have been waiting year after year for when but Dynamo Kiev will fail and the teams rubbing their hands with pleasure at any failure: now we are theirs ... And over and over again in their opuses they repeat the same theses concentrated in Portnov's letter.

The team held a general meeting and its response was also published in print under headline "We can be beaten, but we can not quarrel." I will quote it in full:

"The general meeting of the Kyiv Dynamo team authorized us to respond to Vladimir Portnov, the author of an open letter published in the republican youth newspaper Komsomolskoye Znamya. Do not blame me, that we, the players, and not the head coach, are responsible,

to whom the letter was addressed. There are enough reasons for this, to publicize which our comrades asked for.

This season, our team's affairs are not going as well as the fans of Dynamo Kyiv wanted and as we, the players, expected. It is easy to find the causes of each specific defeat. It is much more difficult to assess the whole complex of reasons for the decrease in the effectiveness of the game. We do not have such a division: coaches think, and players perform. We discuss the strategy of preparation and performances in various tournaments collectively. Collectively we analyze any deviations from the norms, whether it is about labor discipline and life or about the game.

And here are the conclusions we came to after a frank exchange of views. After the team won the European Cup Winners' Cup last year and the national championship, as well as a number of successful performances in prestigious international tournaments, many of us have lost a sense of reality in assessing our true sporting abilities and those of our rivals. Excessive faith in the reliability of their skills and the underlying confidence that the opponents will not soon catch up with us in preparation and football art, took away a grain of will in training work and calendar matches. In combat sports and other individual sports, such attitudes quickly sober up the athlete with bitter failures. And in sports games, for some time, you can indulge in illusions that it's not you in a mediocre condition, but a partner. Yes, and the coaches are not asleep, they introduce young players into the squad. On the one hand, the excitement and energy of recruits obscure game moments in which the veterans' lack of return could be manifested, and on the other hand,

the unsatisfactory result can be explained by the inexperience of yesterday's reservists.

We hope for a correct understanding of these, perhaps longish explanations. But without them, it may be puzzling why it took us so long to figure out the reasons for the decline in the level of the game.

No, all this cannot be called arrogance. Arrogance is, after all, neglect. And we did not neglect either the strength of the Baku "Neftchi" or the capabilities of the national teams of the GDR and France. We are talking about that inner relaxation that lurks somewhere in secluded corners and which in the end is easy to confuse with feelings of fatigue. Especially when fatigue really accumulated. Three years in a row we played with almost the same line-up. And what three years! Everyone has their own peak, which you cannot climb twice.

The factual side of the matter lies in the fact that we did not mentally prepare ourselves for many matches of this season with that former, last year's power of self-hypnosis, which helped many of us in the game, as they say, jump above our heads. Unfortunately, sportsmanship is not a given value once and for all. Otherwise, we would all play well until old age. But not even the state of functional systems decides everything, but the moral state. To be able to realize one's potentialities is not a science for those who have calmed down.

To make it even clearer, we will definitely say that the team has never had such a methodically flexible construction of the training process as this season. Coaches better than us, the players, understood our condition - not in vain, because they have more experience in everyday life and sports. Mentors with the utmost spiritual tension selected pedagogical and methodological means to help us find ourselves without compromising our dignity. After all, the team is entirely honored masters of sports. And some of us are very touchy when it comes to personal contribution to the game.

We owe the coaching staff headed by Valery Vasilyevich Lobanovsky not only the conquest of sports peaks. Our coaches turned out to be wise educators and people with a broad soul at an hour when the harsh laws of sports required them to "unhook" a spent launch vehicle. But they did not spoil the indelible impression of our joint excellent work in the 1985-1986 season neither by word nor, moreover, by deed. And even though not all of us will follow them further to storm the new achievements of Dynamo Kiev - the age of sports is short - but they have probably already measured their measure of responsibility for us. We will answer for our shortcomings. And let's not let these people get hurt.

The insult is not mentioned by chance. The open letter in "Komsomolsky Znamya" seems to be caused by dissatisfaction with the team's game, but for some reason, every line strives

hurt the coach. If the author wanted to find out why we concede ridiculous goals so often, "yawn" rivals under our charge and sometimes do not score "100%" goals, none of us would object. But there is no mention of this in the letter. But scrupulously collected all the intertwined nature of the "information" about the causes of individual failures of Kyiv "Dynamo" in recent years. The author wants to prove the unprovable to someone: that supposedly the whole path of the team under the leadership of Lobanovsky was replete with mistakes and miscalculations. And the fact that, headed by Valeriy Vasilyevich, Dynamo Kiev became champions of the Union seven times, owned the USSR Cup five times, won three European Cups and a dozen prestigious international tournaments, that, finally, 24 honored masters of sports in football owe their title to Lobanovsky - this is, judging by the letter to the newspaper, some kind of exception in the coach's practice. There would be more such "exceptions".

And the assertion that our head coach is protected from criticism is absolutely ridiculous. Is that Lobanovsky? There is no shortage of critical arrows fired at him. The very publication in Komsomolsky Znamya is a confirmation of this.

We are used to the fact that not everyone is enthusiastic about the success of Dynamo Kyiv. They are also familiar with attempts to find something scandalous in the life of the team. But no one has ever tried in the press to bring discord between us and the coaches, as is done in the fan's letter. After all, one cannot otherwise qualify the author's verbose complaints about the allegedly callous attitude of our coaches towards the outstanding Dynamo Kiev players of the recent past, as well as the extremely tactless prediction of the circumstances in which Oleg Blokhin's football career will allegedly end.

Not only do these unworthy rehashings of yard gossip look strange on the pages of a militant Komsomol newspaper, it also has nothing to do with the fact that we play worse than we can and want to.

Yes, we rarely meet with the sports community, rarely report to the fans of the team. It is not so easy to organize such meetings if there are not enough breaks between games and flights for full-fledged training and recuperation. And we get into such a bind for the second season in a row. When we have a club, communication with the fans will improve. Team leaders have already thought about this: our meetings with club activists will be recorded on videotape and shown in the club cinema. And viewers will be able to drop their notes with questions and complaints into special boxes, which we will answer at the next meeting with members of the public. The club plans to publish a press bulletin and a radio newspaper. Then information about the life of the team will become public domain.

In the meantime, the team's lack of much-needed two-way communication with football fans is often filled with gossip activity. Maybe someone really wants our team to be torn apart by strife, so that, as Vladimir Portnov puts it, she was struck by a serious illness. But we are healthy. And the author of the letter to the newspaper can be quite convinced of this himself. Come to us, Vladimir Portnov, at any time convenient for you.

On behalf of the football team of masters "Dynamo" (Kyiv):

Anatoly Demyanenko, Vladimir Bessonov, Pavel Yakovenko, Vadim Yevtushenko, Sergey Baltacha, Alexei Mikhailichenko, Oleg Kuznetsov.

... After we stumbled in Belgium and Mexico, I was sure that the team would be led by new people. My confidence was based, firstly, on tradition - organizational conclusions automatically follow an unsuccessful result, and, secondly, on the fact that sports leaders did not have any conversations with the coaches who worked with the team at the World Cup regarding their future fate.

A paradoxical situation has developed. We were called to help the national team before Mexico, and at the end of the championship they did not say a word, not a half word about what would happen to us next. In private conversations, they said: you, they say, will be the coaches of the national team until 1990 - until the next World Cup in Italy. When I tried to put the question officially, I recalled the existence of such a form as the conclusion of a contract for a certain period, in response

Followed by: "While you work ..."

The uncertainty of the situation did not, of course, contribute to our mood. We were free to understand the matter in such a way that each next match could be our last, but for ourselves we decided not to pay attention to such "trifles" as the absence of a contract and agreements, but to work to the best of our abilities throughout the thirteen-month segment of the championship qualifying tournament Europe.

I must say that we were not the first among our coaches in this position (I would like to hope that we were the last). You can give a lot of examples when coaches found out that they were no longer in the national team from the newspapers. I remember one case, perhaps the most egregious, that happened in 1964 with K. Beskov.

He then led the team on a difficult path to the final match of the second edition of the European Cup among national teams, which in itself is a significant success. The final meeting with the Spaniards took place in Madrid. Imagine: the Spanish national team is at its stadium, supported by 120,000 expansive spectators who have gathered at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, it is difficult to blame the English referee Arthur Holland for bias, it is obvious from his sympathy for the hosts. And in such conditions - 1:2 in an equal mainly fight, the second goal was conceded six minutes before the end of the second half. Received silver medals, the team became the second on the continent. Commenting on the final, English Football Association coach Allen Wade stated: "Any Englishman who would watch the final of this interesting new competition could say: 'A real cup final!' For us, this means the highest praise. In fact, Spain and the USSR demonstrated the pace, physical fitness, temperament. So, a sharp competition with a good, exciting ending!"

The ending really turned out to be "fascinating": Beskov was released from work. The team's game was highly appreciated by European specialists, a number of players, in particular Lev Yashin and Valery Voronin, were involved in the European team following the Cup results, featured in various symbolic teams, and the coach was fired. Who did it and why?

Unfortunately, the initiators of such decisions, which are most often taken privately, by will, remain nameless. Their signature is not on paper, they "create an opinion." "There is an opinion" is an expression, usually accompanied by a glance at the ceiling, as if there is someone sitting there, on the next floor or on the roof, uttering this "opinion". Operates flawlessly.

It seems, why remember what happened more than twenty years ago? Why reopen old wounds?

Only to learn from mistakes that tend to repeat themselves.

With all due respect to Nikolai Petrovich Morozov, who was appointed head coach of the national team after Beskov's dismissal, I am convinced that the Soviet team would have performed better at the 1966 English World Cup and could well, if not become world champion, then definitely play in the final, in the event that Beskov remained. He began painstaking work on the formation of the national team, on staging a game for it. In this work he advanced far, but he was not allowed to complete it.

The new coach started, of course, not from scratch, but not from those positions that the team had already visited. This is quite natural - "a new broom ...". Continuity was not observed, and it could not be: coaches have different creativity, and views on the game, and methods

acquisition.

As a result of the change of coaches, something that cannot be compensated for was missed - time. A person who, being very far from sports in general and from football in particular, was missed by the will of a person who wished to remain anonymous, who, being very far from sports in general and from football in particular, believes that "our sports spirit blooms everywhere!"

In general, a conversation about lack of rights - legal and moral - of coaches can turn out to be long and interesting, but if we are talking about the European Championships, I will also remember my sad experience.

After the Spanish World Cup in 1982, where the team was led by a triumvirate (essentially an artificial decision): K. I. Beskov, N. P. Akhalkatsi and I, I was invited

lead the team. There were qualifying matches for the European Championship with the Finns, Poles and Portuguese. The condition was quite tough - to leave Dynamo Kyiv and fully concentrate only on working with the national team.

It was a pity to part with the club, but I understood (I knew from the experience of world football) that the national team should be coached only by a released specialist who is not connected with the daily concerns of the club team. I still hold this belief to this day, although

I myself participate in an experiment that takes a lot of strength and exhausts my nerves to the limit.

Difficulties arose immediately. "Who will replace you at the club?" – they asked me in Kyiv. I named two names - Oleg Bazilevich and Yuri Morozov. After a detailed discussion, they settled on the candidacy of Morozov, who was then working with the Leningrad Zenit. Zenit played in Kyiv at the end of July, a preliminary conversation took place with Morozov, he agreed.

We agreed that until the end of 1982 I would continue my "part-time job" in the club and the national team, and from the beginning of next year I would move to Moscow and live there in a service apartment (later, by the way, I was charged with the "service" of this apartment, stating that national team coach must be a Muscovite! Why?).

I confess, I hesitated a little: to accept an invitation to the national team or not? The reasons for the hesitation are understandable. I understood that any unsuccessful match would leave me without a job, as it happened more than once with my colleagues. Even despite the fact that I was asked to develop a team training program for a four-year period.

The desire to test my strength on a completely new round of independent work, the desire to change the situation - all this helped me make a decision and take the place of the national team coach, whose desk was in the building of the USSR State Sports Committee on Luzhnetskaya Embankment.

The apartment in which I lived was located about an hour's walk from the State Committee for Sports, and I used every opportunity to overcome this path along the embankments on foot. Great time to think!

There was something to think about. First things first - a detailed plan for the functioning of the national team for the next four years, up to the Mexican World Cup. Then - the creation of a headquarters for all teams, capable of solving the complex tasks of preparing for important and responsible competitions. Without such a staff, I thought then (I remain of my opinion even now), it is impossible to achieve great victories. In this case, we are not talking about the mechanical formation of a headquarters, say, from the coaches of the major league teams, but from like-minded coaches who are able to coordinate the work of all teams - from youth to the first. Non-compliance with the principles of succession (in tactical, for example, training) is the scourge of our football, because of this we lose quite a lot of players when they are transferred from one age group to another. If from childhood, adolescence you do not accustom yourself to tangible loads, serious work, it is extremely difficult to achieve this from already formed football players.

Ideally, I see how all our teams prepare players according to modern training programs. Not according to methodical instructions taken from the ceiling and lowered down, which do not at all take into account the specifics of a particular team, the state of individual players at a certain moment, but according to scientifically based recommendations that allow coaches to fantasize and improvise if you want, and not be at the same time time as a slave to papers, reports required in various sports and near-sports authorities.

Ordinary fans probably believe that by meeting at the coaching council to exchange views, top coaches can solve all of football's biggest problems. Delusion!

Firstly, the coaching council - today it has mentors from all sixteen major league teams - almost never collects a quorum. Secondly, the vast majority of coaches keep silent on it. Thirdly, and this is perhaps the most important thing - without this "thirdly" there would probably not be both "firstly" and "secondly" - the coaching council does not make decisions, but "makes recommendations", which are then discussed repeatedly in so many places as to be uncountable.

However, the organizational side of things in Soviet football is to be discussed ahead.

I wanted to establish information activities within the country. I am a supporter of obtaining the maximum, or rather, the maximum possible information about the opponent. Since ancient times, when I was playing myself, I wanted to know the features of the game of the defenders against whom I went on the field, the features of the team with which I had to fight. Only then can you figure out how to beat the enemy.

In Dnepr, one of our goals was to have the most detailed information about the opponents in the first league. I felt out of sorts if I didn't know much about who I was going to play in an hour. It came down to superstition. As if he went out to people in crumpled trousers or in a shirt with a button torn off.

Over the years, this feeling has become aggravated and I began to notice - sometimes it developed into a feeling of uncertainty, not fear, but precisely uncertainty. But this state, no matter how you disguise yourself, is transmitted to the players, especially those with whom you have been working for a long time and who know the slightest nuances of your behavior, even if you are silent.

Fortunately, in Kiev "Dynamo" things are arranged in such a way that such sensations the team has very, very rarely.

Oshemkov knows all the information. His duties include recording the game of opponents on videotape, processing foreign press, collecting information from other sources. We do not overestimate the benefits of football "intelligence", God forbid. But it is an important element in our common activity, and it should not be underestimated either.

I must say, we are envious. It is believed that the case has been staged at a high level in Kyiv. But it depends on what to compare. If we take the international level of awareness, then we are miserable amateurs. There are no possibilities - technical first of all - to record all the most interesting matches of clubs and teams in Europe. Create a video dossier on them. There are no opportunities to hire teams of translators - Oshemkov speaks only English. There is no possibility, finally, to organize your own real "information bank" - you have to limit yourself to a "mini-bank".

The creation of such a bank for all our football, with constant replenishment and updating of the information available in it, would not harm the rest of the teams. What's better - I got Bulgarian or Real Madrid by lot as rivals, say, Vitosha, and the bank has all the preliminary information.

How to replenish and update information? Gather. "With the world on a thread - a naked shirt." Making a video copy and a photocopy is not a problem now. We went, for example, to the Amsterdam tournament - we recorded all the games of the Brazilian Botafogo, Ajax, Manchester United. Spartak went to the tournament in Spain - Real Madrid, Atlético Madrid, Manchester recorded. About "Manchester" would already have a fairly complete picture - two matches. What if someone gets to play with him in the UEFA Cup?

You can establish contacts with contractors in developed football countries and through them, for a certain fee, of course, receive additional information, both video and printed.

Do I get the impression that I attach too much importance to the collection of information in the team? We at Dynamo Kiev have long come to the conclusion that it is profitable to spend time and money on a detailed, thorough collection of information - it will pay off handsomely. This is an important part of our work, and preparing a team "blindly" now is a waste of time.

By no means do I claim that detailed information will certainly lead to success. There are no guarantees in our business. But the fact that it contributes to the achievement of the goal is beyond doubt.

So, I had plans and ideas "a wagon and a small cart", all that remained was to push them forward, and the first station was the qualifying tournament for the European Championship, where it was necessary to take first place in the fight against the teams of Poland, Portugal and Finland. Four victories, a draw and a defeat prevented this. I do not claim that the Poles let us down, although, according to observers from the USSR national team, the Polish football players, who did not give anything to the game, acted rather inertly on their field

against the Portuguese team and lost virtually without a fight. True, we did not count on a different result of this match, and did everything to manage on our own.

After the defeat in Lisbon, which was extremely disappointing, primarily due to the grossest mistake of the French referee Georges Conrat, who awarded a penalty, the illegality of which he later publicly admitted (and was removed from arbitration), we have not heard enough and read enough! People who have not been not only in our dressing room, but in general at the stadium "De Lush", came up with a version of the defensive installation, which we allegedly gave for the match. The fiction was refuted by the players, in particular Cherenkov and Dasaev. We were also accused of choosing the wrong team for the game - there was practically no one from the teams - winners of the championship, from the composition of the owner of the Cup of the country, and from other clubs that performed well. According to this logic, after the end of each season, it is necessary to form a new team in accordance with the places occupied by the teams. It was quite seriously declared that in football it is necessary to build an active, creative, combinational game, aimed at attack, to win, as if the coaches of the national team had just left the school classes and aimed to set the team up for a passive, destructive, non-combination game, aimed at defense, at defeat, and the thoughtful reasoning of a journalist who knows a lot about tactics, in matters of preparing a team, and playing a game, can become an extraordinary revelation for them. Analyzing a football match with a veil of personal grievances in front of your eyes, which makes it difficult to figure out how the team prepared for the game, how it intended to play it and how it did it, in my opinion, does not at all contribute to the reputation of an observer who becomes a full-time specialist in the defeats of teams that are headed by certain coaches, nor the possibility for fans to receive objective information - true, not rigged, deliberately distorted; nor the ability to abstract from the result. After all, if it were not for this ill-fated penalty, because of which not only we were worried, but also the referee (I can reproach him not for bias, but only for the fact that he did not see the exact place of the violation), and reviews for the same match, with the same game would be completely different. Such, for example: "Soviet football players managed to draw and fulfill the task set for the season - to reach the final of the European championship. Of course, the team still has a lot of work to do to show their best qualities in the fight against eminent rivals in the final. In the meantime, we congratulate her ... "But this is also the height of amateurism!

Why not, having praised for the victory, not analyze the game objectively and professionally with skill, so that not only football fans understand what happened on the field, but also coaches and players could learn something useful from such an analysis? AND why, having justly scolded for the defeat, with the same knowledge of the matter, not to analyze all the strengths and weaknesses of the opponents, so that both the readers and the team would benefit from this? It would probably be possible for both of our observers, if they had enough desire for football education and self-education. After all, football is developing, it does not stand still.

It seems to me that the football press has a huge responsibility, because the word not only forms public opinion, but also affects the behavior of spectators in the stands. It should be weighted and based on a single criterion - objectivity. I may be wrong, but it seems that the general level of football journalism, if there is one (and there are doubts about this, since many people who write about football today comment on archery matches tomorrow, the day after tomorrow they talk about hockey or cycling, then about gymnastics and etc. - such omnivorousness does not fit in with our time of narrow professionalism, but it contributes to the flourishing of amateurism), has decreased over the past two, two and a half decades. The places vacated for a number of reasons by the aces are, of course, formally occupied, but, unfortunately, for the most part formally.

I will not name names. And not because I don't want to hurt or offend anyone. Just in the context of general reasoning, mentioning names would not look legitimate, and there is no time and place to engage in detailed review of reviews of matches. From the experience of communicating with colleagues and some players, I can say that they are well aware of the capabilities and passions of each of those who write about football, they read someone completely, someone diagonally, they believe someone, someone they don't.

After Portugal, at the board of the Sports Committee, the issue "On the results of the 1983 football season and measures to improve the skills of Soviet football players" was discussed, but no serious measures were taken - the usual tracing paper from previous and future (!) Resolutions. However, no, one decisive measure was taken, formulating it as follows: "V. Lobanovsky and N. Simonyan were reprimanded for serious miscalculations. It was recognized as inappropriate to use them in the future as coaches of the national teams of the country. Much more serious - even forget about the youth team!

Reprimand - it's understandable: deserved - received. But for a clear accusation of professional unsuitability, neither Nikita Pavlovich nor me was apologized even when they were invited to lead the national team three weeks before this flight to Mexico. Moreover, the wording remained, the decision was not annulled. So we, who are "inappropriate to use," work in the national team ... in fact, contrary to the decision of our highest sports organization.

I returned home with a firm decision to work only in club. But before Mexico could not stand it ...

In Kyiv, I was received quite well. The team took seventh place in the championship, with Yuri Andreyevich Morozov, who began to reorganize its ranks, they were going to say goodbye. I invited him to stay in the role of assistant. He refused, and I understood him. The desire for independent work, especially if you are used only to it, is always commendable.

How could the first season after my return end for me and how it ended, I already told.

... Mexican passions subsided rather quickly. Having rethought the lessons of the championship, having analyzed its results from the point of view, first of all, of the performance of the Soviet Union, we almost immediately entered the next competition - the qualifying tournament for the European Championship in the same group with the teams of France, East Germany, Norway and Iceland, in which again only victory was required.

As before, my position as a national team coach seemed somewhat uncertain to me. On the one hand, when before Mexico I was offered to lead the team, no prospects were discussed, there was no talk about, say, a new four-year cycle of preparation for the 1990 World Cup (this topic was not seriously discussed even after our return from the World Cup). On the other hand, in the post-Mexican period, I seemed to automatically remain, continuing to work at the club, and coach the national team, preparing it, together with experienced colleagues, for the matches of the European tournament.

If we were in a difficult position before the World Cup, then after Mexico the situation changed, but did not become easier. Football fans, the public, the press gave a generally high assessment of our games in the championship (and this despite the lack of an acceptable result), they demanded that we keep the squad, continue to work in the same direction, they believed that we were capable of not only winning the qualifying tournament, but and win on

continental championship.

But who will dare to say that the game at the World Cup was not a splash, where are the guarantees that we can not only repeat that game, but also develop it? There are no such guarantees, and no one can give them. Time will tell if those young ones, mostly guys who for the first time participated in an extremely difficult competition - the World Championships, to maintain a high level for a long time, will we, the coaches, be able to fully contribute to this.

It could be assumed that we would not pass the European qualifying tournament. Was such an option possible? Probably possible. Loudly declare that we will win - just shake the air. What's next in this case? Would the national team keep the chosen direction?

The difficulties were related to the fact that we had at our disposal a very limited circle of players who met the requirements that we set. A lot of work needs to be done in order to find players who can fulfill these requirements and prepare them. After all, this is not done immediately: they attracted players to the national team, put them on the match and immediately got the required result. No, it takes time

the national team is the same team, albeit functioning periodically, according to the team, which should have its own traditions and tasks, leaders and moral compatibility.

Where are the guarantees that we will continue this work? It makes no sense to come to the national team for a year and in case of the slightest failure to return "to square one".

Such faith was born in us after the World Cup, that the worst thing was to let people down, to disappoint them.

Of course, our main rivals in the group were the French, who at that time owned the title of European champion, and the players of the GDR, who had not reached the finals of major tournaments for a long time and intended to do so. Moreover, the background was favorable - a decline in the game of the teams that played in Mexico. It has been noticed that the national teams that performed decently at the World Championships are then in the shadows for some time. The most typical example is the Italians, who won in 1982 in Spain, but then failed to go through a rather simple qualifying tournament for the championship of the continent.

Confirmation of the natural decline was, I think, draws, which were content in Reykjavik in the matches against Iceland and the French, and we. As Henri Michel, coach of the French national team, put it then, "the score in absentia between the French and Soviet teams became 1:1 and in two weeks in Paris, during a face-to-face meeting, much will become clear." It could be recalled that we played with the Icelanders without injured Yakovenko, Chivadze, Yaremchuk and Belanov, but the list of sick players of the main team team usually causes anger on the part of people who are far from practical work with the football team and believe that even if all eleven are injured leaders, all the same, the team is obliged to win any match against any opponent on any field, and besides, by all means showing "beautiful" football.

Before the game on October 11, 1986 at the Parc des Princes, we were most worried about the functional state of a number of players who did not really retire after the World Cup, where a lot of strength was given, but continued a busy season in the national championship, European tournaments and in matches for national team. The results of the medical examination the day before calmed us down a bit. As for the mood ... Nobody had to be tuned in to the game in Paris. Everyone understood that the result of the meeting with the French would largely determine whether we would end up in Germany in 1988 or not. Henri Michel stated that a draw would be tantamount to defeat for him. A draw would be fine for us. Attack - yes, but not headlong, but securing the rear.

The composition of the French, who did not hide their intention to win, changed slightly compared to Mexico. Platini returned to him, after the World Cup he did not play in the national team, but dreamed of fighting with the USSR team.

During the time that I worked with the USSR national team, she played - through 1987 inclusive - 44 matches. The qualifying match of the European Championship with the French team in Paris is one of the best among them. This game deserves to remain in the history of the team - at least in the form of a transcript: the one who saw the match will instantly remember in detail how everything happened.

1 -15 minutes. Platini, with whom many hopes were associated, gave an accurate pass Papen, whose blow was excellently parried by Dasaev, who came out of the gate in time.

Chivadze answered with a free kick - the post, the body of the goalkeeper Bats, the post again, and the ball is in the hands of the goalkeeper.

Platini threw forward Amoro, filing from the left, Papin's inaccurate header - above the gate.

Zavarov and Bessonov passed the center of the field with passes, then Bessonov went at speed with the ball alone, Jeannol, the French debutant, knocked him down. After drawing a free kick Chivadze struck above the gate.

16 -30th. Fernandez, Papin and Ferreri tried to organize an attack in the center, but on approaching the penalty area they were prevented from doing so by Kuznetsov, Chivadze and Demyanenko.

Zavarov and Bessonov - both in excellent shape - repeated their maneuver, and again Bessonov rushed forward, dodging Fernandez's tackle at speed, but Amoro and Platini, with their joint efforts, dumped our fullback on the lawn. A free-kick from the right flank was given by Rats - on Belanov's head, but Bats was the first to catch the ball.

A short pass between Tigan and Platini, a shot by the French captain from a distance, very incorrect.

A beautiful combination of Zavarov - Aleinikov - Zavarov, which ended with the loss of the ball on the penalty area line.

Zavarov's head (!) intercepted a high-flying ball in the opponent's half of the field, an accurate pass into the breakthrough on the right flank of Rats, an inaccurate cross on Belanov, who fought in the penalty area from Pain.

Zavarov picked up the ball in the central circle, with a slalom, to the delight of the French spectators who understand football, passed three opponents, did not tempt fate on the fourth and accurately sent the ball to the right of Rodionov, who was in the most advantageous position. Under Rodionov's blow, the defender rushed - as in hockey - and hit the ball.

Zhannol "earned" a free kick, and he himself struck it a little above the left corner, which Dasaev controlled.

Bessonov's game clash with Amoro, and Bessonov, after lying a little on the edge, limping, went, accompanied by a doctor and a masseur, to the bench - trauma.

An attempt after a combination of Yakovenko - Rats - Yakovenko to connect Kuznetsov to the attack was unsuccessful on the outskirts of the penalty area.

An accurate pass was made by Tigana Papenu, who, due to the free kick, slightly shot past bottom corner. Dasaev controlled the blow.

31 -45th. Belanov "stole" the ball from two central defenders before the penalty area, gave it to Yakovenko, but the continuation did not work. They immediately tried to break through to the gates of Fernandez with Platini, Aleinikov interrupted the transfer before the penalty. A counterattack followed with the participation of Zavarov and Rodionov, the blow came out inaccurate.

Khidiyatullin replaced Bessonov on the right flank of the defense with the task of controlling the zone. Amoro hit the wall with a free-kick awarded for a violation of Demyanenko in the fight against Papin.

Another free kick, this time from his own point, beat Platini, higher.

Again a free kick, after a short rally, Zhannol hit, on the bottom, the ball flew into the corner, but Dasaev played brilliantly. Angular.

Platini "sent" forward Amoro on the right flank, Demyanenko blocked the zone in time. Angular.

Rodionov - Zavarov (with a quick pass) - Aleinikov, the latter's blow from the bottom, past.

Zavarov took the ball in a tackle in his own half of the field, playing with Khidiyatullin in a short wall, rushed to the penalty area, a tight shot, and the ball flew close to the post. Bats was not ready to throw.

Platini cunningly crossed the ball to Stopira from a free kick, but the defenders were on height.

Zavarov and Yakovenko made several passes to the penalty area, lost the ball, a sharp counterattack, a pass to Papen, a violation of the rules by Kuznetsov (did not have time with a tackle), Platini struck the penalty, Dasaev played perfectly.

46 -60th. Not far from the penalty area, Platini brought down Zavarov. Khidiyatullin struck exactly but in Butts corner.

Pain took the ball away from Aleinikov in a tackle, Ayash and Ferreri organized a sharp attack, Kuznetsov knocked the ball out for a corner after a dangerous pass.

Fernandez's pass, Ferreri's kick is very inaccurate.

Rodionov, Rats and Khidiyatullin played a combination, followed by a pass to burst into penalty area Yakovenko, somewhat inaccurate.

Yakovenko with the ball at speed entered the penalty area from the left, tried to play individually, lost the ball.

Rodionov brought Belanov forward with a long pass, Pain, without catching up, knocked down the forward. Rats' twisted kick from a free-kick was parried with difficulty by Bats for a corner.

Two dangerous attacks by the French in a row, the second ended with a powerful blow from Tigana, Dasaev played excellently - Platini flew to finish off with a tackle.

61 -75th. For some time the game in the middle of the field without much attacks.

He began to connect to Demyanenko's attacks.

A brilliant combination of Chivadze - Khidiyatullin - Yakovenko - Rodionov (on the front line) - Yakovenko. Amoro catches him in the goalkeeper's area by the legs, not hitting the ball, the referee does not appoint a penalty.

Boli and Ayash carried out an attack that ended with a pass to Papen. Dasaev played well at the exit.

Mnogokhodovka Rats - Zavarov - Rodionov (freed himself from the pressing defender in the penalty area) - Zavarov (pushed the ball between Zhannol's legs) - Belanov - 1:0. Goal for the textbook.

Two consecutive corners at our gates.

Another excellent multi-move, carried out at high speed: Belanov -

Aleinikov - Rodionov - Rats, the latter shot from the penalty area, Bate hardly parried the kick for a corner.

Tigana sent the ball into the penalty area into the fight, Dasaev was perfect at the exit.

76 -90th. Good flank attack of the USSR national team on the right, Rodionov made a pass to penalty, Belanov in the fight against Pain missed the ball, but there was no one behind.

Corner at the gate of the French team. After Demyanenko's serve, Bats was the first to have the ball, threw it to Fernandez, he passed one tackle, the second Zavarov took the ball away, dodged Fernandez, who rushed forward with two feet, turned around and sent the ball counter to Demyanenko's left, one-touch pass to the Ratsu penalty area, kick, Belanov, who was on the line of impact, jumped up, and everyone saw the ball in the goal - 2:0.

Dasaev tightly took a free kick from Zhannol.

Amoro's blow, the most active among the French, missed.

Pain "avenged" Belanov for the goal by hitting him in the legs, rudely and frankly.

Bellona's shot is well above the net.

Canopy in the penalty area on the right - Dasaev on the spot ...

It is said that Dettmar Kramer, the FIFA coach-inspector, the well-known coach of Bayern in the past, who won the European Cup under his leadership, specially flew to the match in Paris - he chose it as a meeting in which you can see decent football. For Kramer, an experienced practitioner, the statements of the French press about the France-USSR game (such as "Soviet symphony in a major", "strong, very strong, too strong", "goals were scored like in a parade") are nothing more than emotions. . He believes that

what he sees.

When Kramer returned to Germany and Beckenbauer asked him what he saw in Paris, Dettmar replied: "I'm afraid, Franz, that if we can't improve in the next year and a half in the game, I'll see new European champions." But it is also an emotion. By that time we had only played two matches, and it was absolutely unknown what the team would look like in 1987, whether it would be possible to confirm a certain level of play, to convince ourselves and others that it exists ...

After this match, I heard that "the French were very bad." It didn't seem that way to us – neither to those who were on the bench, nor to those who played especially. It did not seem so to the French observers, who rated their players on a ten-point system quite high and in a rather narrow range - from 7.5 to 8.5.

About a year later we played the second leg against the French in Luzhniky. They began building a new team for the 1990 World Cup. The luminaries who had reached the critical age for playing for the national team left, and it made no sense for Michel to persuade them to stay, because by the Italian World Cup they would have aged a few more years. New ones came - young and ambitious football players who can think for themselves and have not yet reached their gaming peak. Compared to the Paris match, our roster has also been half updated, and three of them - Losev, Tishchenko and Dobrovolsky - made their debuts in the official matches of the national team. Our substitutions were mostly of a forced nature, and in general, the understudies withstood a sharp struggle imposed on us by the French team who dreamed of taking revenge.

The last steps on the way to "Europe-88" proved to be extremely difficult. Misfire in

any of the final matches could have been worth the first place. This applies especially to the meeting in Berlin on October 10, 1987. The GDR national team "felt its chance", threw all its strength into the battle, and the match turned out to be very tough and even cruel at times. Only callous people could afford to be sarcastic about our congratulations to each other after such a game that ended in a draw. The guys did not have the strength - they gave everything to the limit, and we rejoiced with them like children. Defeat, I am convinced, would ultimately lead to the first place of the players of the GDR. They would have been able to beat the Norwegians at home with the right score, for a better difference between goals scored and conceded, and beat the French in Paris.

At the end of 1987, local failures of Dynamo Kiev did not affect the game of the national team and its results, although the level of the game, when compared with the Mexican championship and the Paris meeting, decreased somewhat. We won, but we found ourselves in a difficult situation. The interests of the first and Olympic teams clashed directly. This is an amazing fact and it is possible only in our football, which is exceptionally weak in its organizational side.

In countries with highly developed football, youth and Olympic teams are a kind of stages in the preparation of players for the national team. This prompts decisions in the seasons when the European Championships and Olympic tournaments coincide. Allowing professionals to play for the Olympians makes it possible to strengthen the ranks of the Olympiad participants in the decisive period by experienced football players with solid international practice. Among other things, this contributes to the achievement of the main goal of the Olympic team - reveal the abilities of promising players in the extreme conditions of prestigious international tournaments. Next to experienced tournament fighters, young footballers quickly and more reliably consolidate their playing skills at the highest level.

In the conditions of our football, when the interests of the national and Olympic teams coincide, for some reason a number of problems immediately arise. One of them is personnel. The leaders of the Olympic team insisted on the decision according to which the players included in their list should in no way be involved in the first team until the end of the Olympic tournament and therefore cannot participate in the final stage of the European Championship. Then a "compromise option" was adopted, according to which it was forbidden to use the Olympians we needed for training and for participation in friendly matches until May 1988 - until the end of the Olympic qualifying tournament, although already in 1987 it was clear even to people far from football that the Olympians in their qualifying group will win, ahead of the teams of Bulgaria, Switzerland, Turkey and Norway.

I confess that I was not prepared for this turn of events. This meant that Mikhailichenko, Tishchenko, Dobrovolsky, Yakovenko and several other players on the list of the Olympic team, on whom we had the right to count (and counted), preparing for the European Championship, we would not see until mid-May 1988. Names are not important the current form of individual players is important. You cannot create a team only on the basis of theoretical considerations, you must constantly check these considerations in the control matches

There is no need to compare the weight in world football of the European Championship and the Olympic tournament. The difference in their significance is obvious to everyone, but not to our sports leaders, who repeat from four years to four years that there is nothing more important in football than the Olympic tournament. It is impossible to convince them. References to the fact that the world and European championships are played by the strongest teams in their strongest squads, that the best football forces are represented in them, that even with hockey championships in which leading Canadian, Swedish and Finnish players do not take part, they cannot be compared, do not are taken into account.

The coaches of the Olympians, planning their training, lost and could not find the second peak of form. Following their methodological ideas, our football players are not able to rise to the peak of their sports form twice in a season, even under the condition that the final tournament of the European Championship and the Olympic football tournament are significantly - for three months - scattered - in time. On this occasion, I should note that for a long time many of our coaches, based on the real requirements of the competitive period, have been programming in

season with at least two peaks of form. Another thing is that not everyone has yet reliably mastered this technique and is not able to solve a simple problem in general. It's sad, but like "Inconsistencies" are caused by the complete absence of uniform principles in the recruitment and preparation of national teams. There is no unity of purpose.

And the time has come to talk in detail about the organizational side of our football, located, I believe, in many of its manifestations on a prehistoric level.

...An ordinary morning. The only unusual thing is that I wake up at home. Much more often this happens either at our base in Koncha-Zaspa, or in a hotel room of some foreign city, countless of which I have traveled for almost thirty years. A light breakfast, the car is already under the window, we have to rush to the Dynamo stadium, in two hours we will leave for the base, and in these two hours we have to solve many issues that, of course, a head coach should not deal with. He must know them. But - don't do it.

However, this is so far. So far, the coach, whose head should be occupied only with thoughts about football, the training process, the condition of the players, matches, is forced to be known as an expert in economics, economic activity, and jurisprudence. No doubt, acquaintance with all these areas of knowledge develops a person firsthand, raises the level of his education, but why in our age of narrow specialization is it unprofessional to deal with special issues? (How can one not envy Stefan Kovacs, who complained that at Steaua he was too dispersed: he had to deal with administrative functions for half of his working time. And at Ajax, he devoted only 10 percent of his time to administrative work - trips out of town, travel and etc.).

Instead of getting better prepared for practice, I'm starting to figure out why so little money was transferred to the Dynamo City Council account after the last game. The next question is: when will we get the form for the team? The administrator failed to agree on this in Moscow. Next: is it possible to reschedule the exams for Zavarov at the Voroshilovgrad Institute? We have games! ... Dozens of such (or similar) questions arise every day - I judge from my notes.

I have never kept diaries, although I do not consider this occupation empty and idle. There was just never enough time. Now, on the threshold of my fiftieth birthday, I regret it. However, some recordings have been preserved, primarily purely professional, made during countless meetings, in preparation for them, especially if you had to speak.

How many of them were these meetings! "Wide" and "narrow", with or without the involvement of the public, with information for the press and closed (as if it was not about football, but about cruise missiles). There is no doubt about the futility of the vast majority of such events. Firstly, no decisions were ever made on them, and if they were made, they were not carried out. Secondly, the pointlessness of conversations. These meetings, which attracted people from all over the country, with difficulty getting tickets, breaking away from their business, often spending their rare days off on them, resembled a poorly rehearsed concert at which they talked about everything and nothing. Look and something. Sometimes it was useful: a mountain of idle talk, it happened, gave birth to bits of information. But only sometimes. Usually a waste of time. Demagogic reasoning can stun, lull, but fatigue comes from all these crackling phrases that do not carry any load, but after fatigue, only the same doubts remain.

In the press, after some of these meetings, a message appeared: "A serious, detailed conversation took place about the fate of our football. Performed ... "In fact, ... I remember the meeting of the senior coaches of the teams of the highest and first leagues on July 20, 1977 in the Yunost Hotel in Moscow. It took place after the national team failed to qualify for the World Cup in Argentina, and, it would seem, the conversation was about the serious problems of our football, about ways to resolve them, about how modern football is developing. Many speakers, including the senior coaches of the first and youth teams N. P. Simonyan and V. A. Nikolaev, were ready for such a conversation. But what about? As soon as, for example, Nikolaev delved into the analysis of the state of affairs in our youth football, he was interrupted from the presidium of the meeting: "You are talking nonsense. I've been listening to you and Simonyan and could not understand why the teams lost. Not professional. It was necessary to

prepare for the meeting. And Nikolaev, without looking up from the text, began to read the

tick report.

The tone has been set. Coming to the podium, I was ready for such a reaction, but I was surprised to hear the remark: "If necessary, write all this in some abstract, and now tell it in your own words." In my speech, I tried to reveal a number of theoretical views on modern football. He spoke, it seems to me, in an accessible language. But serious issues cannot be discussed lightly.

It is difficult to find conceptual language. If you don't look for it, there's no point. I am convinced that both the leader who gave remarks from behind the table of the presidium, and those who, in harmony with him, attacked the speakers with amateurish questions, root for the cause in their own way (after all, even more formidable bosses remove chips from them), and it is difficult for them, probably reproach that they do not understand, say, what modeling is (of any process, not only in football). It's like blaming a blind man for not seeing.

Modeling, by the way, must be applied not only to the game itself, but also to organization of the entire football industry.

As long as we bashfully close our eyes to the fact that modern football has become a professional occupation, until we legally legitimize the place of teams of masters in the system of socialist enterprises, and the football players themselves in society, until then we are doomed to stumble at every step. Whatever our successes, we need to think about the future. And until nothing changes, I will remain a pessimist.

Let's remember when big football took shape organizationally? In the thirties. Who could have imagined fifty years ago that a major league team would need powerful training centers for reserves, the help of doctors, agronomists, video technicians, and translators? Everything has changed, but the foundation is the same. No jetliner would ever see the sky if the airports had runways designed for "corners". We take off, as they say, on improvised means. Today we have to start a completely new stage -

stage of intensive development. Otherwise, we face regression. Football is not a desert island, it is more closely connected with society than many people think, and if society has come to the conclusion that it is necessary to move to new - higher - organizational forms, football must follow the same course.

It's ridiculous to say - we go through the authorities with outstretched hands, like poor relatives. Why should we beg when we are able to provide for ourselves and put a solid profit in the pocket of the state? But the team does not have legal rights for economic activity, and we cannot even count on a reasonable part of the proceeds from matches. And then we wonder why there are teams that play in front of half-empty stands, and nothing, thrive.

But how many people lead us! City, central, republican councils of the Dynamo society (we in Kiev Dynamo are just one of about 30 sections that make up this society, and many of them exist only at the expense of football), local, republican sports committees, Goskomsport ... Directives, instructions, prohibitions - a mountain, and those who are really responsible for the case can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Millions of people around the world can't tear themselves away from the TV during the broadcast of matches, the next morning after interesting meetings and only talking about football. Football-themed materials are especially popular with readers of newspapers and magazines. In a word, football has organically entered our daily life, and imagine it without it, you see,

impossible.

In recent years, in public conversations about football, one cross-cutting theme has often been heard - restructuring of the organization of football business. Practitioners are seriously raising the question of creating professional football clubs, a kind of football enterprise. However, people responsible for the development of sports are frightened by such a formulation of the matter. And above all, paradoxically, because of the word "professional". The paradox lies in the fact that it has long been clear to everyone, including students of youth sports schools, and even more so to sports leaders, that a football player from the teams of the highest, first and second leagues earns his living, provides his family only by training and playing in football. Nowhere from

you can't get away from this fact, and the times have passed when it was still possible to explain to the ignorant that, they say, the players, training and playing 338 days a year, continue to do some other useful work in the national economy without interruption from this football marathon.

Why does the word "professional" excite such fear?

After all, it does not contain anything forbidden that would have to be anathematized. Don't we call actors, steelworkers, machine operators, poets, circus and ballet dancers, accountants professionals? Isn't their work paid in a legal way in accordance with the products they give out? ... Stop! Maybe that's the rub - pay? Indeed, in the current practice, all players on the team of masters of the major leagues should receive the same salary, regardless of skill level - both a recognized star and a beginner who has just been included in the list of candidates. This situation is very loosely interpreted locally.

There are many examples of how players from the lower leagues, especially in the southern republics, do not want to move to stronger teams, although they are talented and able to play in them - it is simply unprofitable for them. Or how unequally the players who play in the same league, but in different teams, earn - not because they are in a better standing or play better, no, just those enterprises or associations to which these teams belong have more opportunities.

What, by the way, does the wages of a footballer depend on - both the average and the most outstanding? If you believe that it is from his skill or from the attendance of his club's matches, then you are deeply mistaken. Only on the financial capabilities of the enterprise or organization in which the team is a member.

So why not create, officially legalized, professional football clubs with their own funds, rights and obligations? By the way, was it for the first time only in 1986-1987 that there was talk of such a reorganization of the football economy, the structure of which was created back in 1936?

No. "Back in the 60s, attempts were made," says Nikolai Petrovich Starostin, an outstanding Soviet football player and teacher, the permanent head of Spartak Moscow in recent years, "to legally streamline our lives. They decided to introduce agreements between the societies and the players for three years. But nothing came of this idea, because the obligations of the parties were not actually backed up by anything. Then came the idea of creating independent, purely football clubs. This idea was discussed in the press and gathered many supporters. I took an active part in its specific development, spending two years on it. The proposals were heard at the board of the Sports Committee, they were not rejected, but not approved, and they hung in the air.

Some other proposals that came from the teams, in particular from ours, which we developed in 1974-1975 together with the then head of the football department of the sports committee of Ukraine Oleg Aleksandrovich Oshenkov, hung in the air. But the theoretical research of the people of Kiev in this area was useful to our Bulgarian friends, who were not embarrassed by the term "professional" and who in 1985 made fundamental changes in the organization of football and its management.

Probably, the time has come to provide for special support for team members in case of injuries (now an "amateur" footballer has apparently gone out for his own pleasure on a green lawn, around which a hundred thousand people are located, to play football, was seriously injured and no one is legally obliged to him compensate) and a pension fund (a circus or ballet artist, say, has the right to a pension, but why is a football player who has given a lot of strength and health to sports in a short time (12-15 years)? Yes, he must later, after finishing football career, work, football is obliged to guarantee him financial support in the future, so that an indefinite situation not fixed by any legal documents leads to the breaking of human destinies, to the moral devastation of young people).

The honored coach of the USSR Nodar Akhalkatsi is a thousand times right when he said: "We put the football player in a false position. Since there are no rights (and what rights does he have?), then his attitude to duties is cool. A football player must know that his work is accepted by society for legal reasons.

grounds that football is a profession, albeit for a while, but a profession. It is necessary to provide for him in case of disability and give him the opportunity to get another specialty later, so that he is not lost to society.

The club must have its own code of labor law. The player will know his rights and obligations. Then demand it. And yes, you don't have to ask. He will control himself... And then when we play well, we are silent, when we play badly, we are amateurs. This is a loophole. At the party congress they said - give enterprises independence. And then ask them. The football team is also an enterprise. Calculate the economic and moral damage from a bad game for tens of thousands of fans ... "

By the way, I have no doubt that one of the troubles of our football is indefinite position of the coach. The coach must be sure that he will be given the opportunity to realize his professional potential for a certain time. Some coaches manage to do it faster, others slower.

It seems to me that the time has come for us to use contracts in our work with coaches. Let's say, a coach is signed a contract for two years, and he knows that these two years he has been given the right to work quietly, to search, to embody his ideas, his direction. The contract has expired, and then it is up to the leaders (taking into account public opinion) whether to renew the contract or terminate it. In this case, such ridiculous situations will become impossible, when a qualified coach, who did not have enough time, has to leave in the middle of the season.

The master knows: a sudden injury is everything, the end of a career! I know, I myself experienced how painful the question is over the years: why these colossal loads, flights, separations? Really in order to start from scratch at the age of thirty? Yes, there is a university diploma, a profession is written in it, but what can you count on if the best years are given to another business? Go back to being an apprentice?

A very dramatic situation. Sometimes people break down - there are plenty of examples.

The age of a football player is short, and when there are no guarantees ahead, there are people who frantically try to provide themselves for the future by any means. Uncertainty also gives rise to such a problem: the best masters part with football in the prime of life - it seems to them (and it seems rightly) that at the zenith of fame it is easier to find a good job. A thirty-year-old player is a rather rare occurrence for our football, and it is precisely with such wise fighters, if they are in excellent physical condition and, no less important, psychological state, and the most prestigious tournaments are won.

Throughout 1987, we in Dynamo Kiev fought for the creation of the club, as if on barricades, being under constant fire from the leaders of the State Committee for Sports and the Central Council of the Dynamo society. Our proposals for the transition to self-financing were considered in such a competent planning and economic body as the State Planning Commission for the Improvement of Management, Planning and the Economic Mechanism. The commission worked out the necessary justifications and presented its decision, which was in line with the party's economic policy and the requirements of full cost accounting. The commission made sure that the experiment was, as they say, pure in scientific terms - we even refused collective membership fees and did not require subsidies in any hidden form. The task was formulated simply: to support themselves and bring income to the state.

But then things stalled. The Central Council of Dynamo did not believe in our ability to manage independently and put forward conditions that would allow a higher organization to regulate the economic activities of the club in the smallest detail. For example, we were even going to plan the revenue from matches, set the number of staff, salaries and bonuses. This emasculated the very idea of cost accounting. Quite naturally, we did not agree to the creation of such a club, we wanted to become full participants in perestroika, and not victims of old mistakes. Simply, the desire of the Dynamo Central Council to oppose the creation of a club in our country was caused by the desire to continue to have a very tangible income from the players of Dynamo Kiev and to support not only other sports, but also a rather impressive administrative apparatus.

"Why do they need some kind of self-supporting club? - exclaimed at a meeting of the Federation

sports press at the end of 1987 in Tallinn, one of the deputy chairmen of the State Committee for Sports. - They already earn almost fifteen hundred a month, and they also want to leave the shoulder straps of officers and receive currency. Yes, if the currency falls into the hands of our coaches, we will very soon lose many mentors."

Not only were the "information" absolutely devoid of reliability expressed, but the coaches were accused in absentia of possible uncleanness.

Have you ever wondered where the money goes from ticket sales at the stadium, which was filled with a hundred thousand spectators who paid twenty rubles or fifty rubles for a ticket? I assure you that the team (or rather, not even to her, but to the society to which she belongs) is deducted not the largest part of the income. And this society - Spartak, Dynamo or Lokomotiv, for example - cultivates another dozen or three sports. Teams could probably pay for themselves if part of the income from ticket sales went directly to the football club, if television would allocate money to clubs for the right to show matches live (after all, television takes away part of the audience from stadiums), if funds were received from domestic and foreign sponsoring enterprises, whose products would be advertised by the teams, if the club concentrated the production and sale of promotional souvenirs in its hands, would engage in spending leisure time for fans in special club rooms showing, say, videos of the most interesting matches of the team. Moreover, the club would still have the funds to create the proper conditions for training its children's and youth teams, which no one is able to organize at the proper level now.

By the way, the material and technical base of our football is at the lowest level. We have been told for a long time that there are 5,500,000 footballers in the country. It turned out that this figure is fake, in fact - 2 million less, and those who regularly practice - those who train at least 6 hours a week - 1,200,000 people. There is a catastrophic lack of fields - there are only 86,500 of them, and 64,000 of them are in rural areas.

Of course, the clubs will take care of the logistical side of things.

The statement that "until our clubs pay for themselves" is inherently incorrect, because, firstly, we don't have any clubs yet, but there are teams that play in the national championship, and secondly, the activities of these teams are regulated by such a ton years of creating instructions, directions, resolutions, departmental orders, mutually exclusive of each other, that wandering through their labyrinths will require several

years.

Sometimes

Football brings considerable income to the state, including foreign exchange. It is enough, for example, to say (I refer to the figures given by the Secretary General of the International Football Federation - FIFA - J. Blatter in Pravda) that for each World Cup match in Mexico, the team had to share 300 thousand dollars. As you know, the USSR national team played four matches in Mexico.

Kyiv Dynamo, who in August 1986 achieved two prestigious victories in very strong tournaments in Amsterdam and Madrid, earned a total of 110 thousand dollars. But...

Amazing things are happening. We went to a prestigious and very representative tournament in Madrid. It aroused great interest among the public: after all, you can see all three winners of the 1986 European Cups at the same time: Steaua (Champions Cup), Dynamo Kiev (Winner Cup), Real Madrid (UEFA Cup). And Anderlecht is not the last in Europe.

We won the final against Real Madrid - 3:2, losing 0:2 during the meeting. They gave us a nice prize. Huge and heavy - barely delivered. A very decent monetary reward is attached to it - in foreign currency, of course. We keep the Cup, we hand over the currency to the State Committee for Sports.

But here's the problem. Hospitable hosts rent hotel rooms for all tournament participants at their own expense: the day before the tournament, two days of competition and the day after the tournament. All of them are calculated. But we have calculated in our own way. The next Aeroflot flight that we could fly home with is only a day after the tournament (from Lisbon). The cost estimate for

the hotel, as the financiers say, is "mortgaged". But the amount that we can dispose of by spending another night in the Spanish capital is quite noticeably different from what Real Madrid spends on us in a not at all luxurious, but comfortable hotel. It means that there will be a not very pleasant procedure for moving for a day from a more convenient to a less convenient, but cheaper hotel in front of the representatives of Real Madrid, who can take this event in two ways: either they will consider it a demarche - the Russians are dissatisfied with the conditions that have been created them at the tournament, or they will be considered mean, ready to live in the cheapest and most inconvenient hotel in the city, in which there is one toilet and one shower on two floors. We will not explain to them that we have an estimate and it includes ...

It is recorded in this curious document, which is compiled by people who do not know or do not want to know the real conditions, and that we must get into the "embrace of Aeroflot" in Lisbon by getting from Madrid by "ground transport of the second class". This wording, familiar to athletes and coaches, once made me and Oshemkov travel through the FRG to Hamburg all night in a vestibule on a folding chair, side by side with trunks and wardrobe trunks of burghers who had previously taken unnumbered seats in a second-class carriage.

In this case, the inconvenience of our situation was aggravated by the fact that there were no trains from Madrid to Lisbon. Can only be reached by bus. Agree, it is not easy to explain to the hosts why the champions of the USSR and the winners of the Cup of Cups chose such a strange and long route, while planes regularly fly from Madrid to different parts of the globe, including to Lisbon, where we are in a hurry to meet with Aeroflot.

Both issues have been resolved. The first one is simple. We had only to hint that we would like to spend one more day in Madrid, to practice, as the hosts of the tournament settled everything: they left us in the same hotel and created all the conditions for work. The second is more difficult. It took time to prove to the authorities the expediency of spending a tiny part of the foreign exchange funds that we honestly earned to cover the difference between the cost of bus and air tickets.

What is needed is not only the evolution of football (it was confirmed by the Mexican championship), but also the evolution of football management, as, indeed, of any other process. Paradox. The process - football - is developing, and its management is standing still.

Playing with professionals, dealing with serious competition between professional clubs and professional federations, we ourselves are at a purely amateur level in terms of football management.

In countries with highly developed football, domestic competitions are regulated by football unions or federations. They are also engaged in international relations. In Bulgaria, already mentioned, for example, all these functions are carried out by the Bulgarian Football Union. Like the former federation, in whose place it was created, this union remains an integral part of the Bulgarian Union of Physical Culture and Sports. The fundamental difference from the former federation is that it is an independent sports organization with great rights and opportunities, with its own organizational structure. Public organization. About 60,000 people have been elected to its central council, councils in districts, and clubs, but only 2.5 percent of them are full-time employees: organizers, trainers, methodologists, accountants. Elected leadership at all levels.

We, as you know, have the Football Department of the USSR State Sports Committee and the Federation USSR football. Dual power? Duplication?

Why not consider, say, in parallel with the full implementation of the idea of creating football clubs, the question of forming a football union, which would (and only it!) Deal with the problems of the most popular game among the people. In contact with the State Committee for Sports, if necessary, but precisely in contact, and not under guidance. Probably, this football union will be able to finally draw up an acceptable calendar with the help of mathematicians, and streamline refereeing issues, and conclude contracts with the coaches of the national team for the required period (and terminate if necessary), and protect the rights of coaches and football players (with with the help of formed individual trade unions of coaches and football players), and to hold competitions, and to maintain international relations. Everything - in the conditions of publicity, so that there are no omissions. Professionally savvy in football could also work in this union

functionaries (so that the phrase from the fable about the shoemaker who bakes pies and the pie-maker who makes boots does not come to mind), and coaches and football players elected to the councils.

Our football is in fairly good standing in Europe and in the world, we must cherish this. It is necessary to break out of the state of numbness and rigidity in what concerns the organization of this sport. The fresh wind of change must fully touch football - time has already been lost.

Chapter 6

Once, a journalist handed me a pile of questions compiled and systematized by him by topic (there were, if I remember correctly, more than a hundred questions), and asked me to answer them. Over time, only one thing is always clear: there is never enough of it. It was missing even then. I did not answer, but I kept the leaves, throwing out only those of them that are not relevant to the case - where I was asked about my "favorite color", "smell", "dish" and so on.

In writing this book, I have tried to answer the most significant of them. And in this chapter I will try to use notes from my business notebooks in a concise form for answers. These entries are by no means of a diary nature - they record my attempts to comprehend specific situations related to football. Some of them got into interviews of recent years.

April 1978 We prepared according to a program that differed sharply from the programs of previous years. Then we had to bring the team to a certain level by the first days of March. But the most serious and responsible games awaited us in the fall - at the start of the Champions Cup. Taking into account the length and complexity of the season, we calculated the program so that the players get in shape gradually, because it is very important to distribute forces over the entire long distance. Unfortunately, even this gradual, unforced program was not fully implemented by many players.

There are 15 candidates for various national teams in our club, and all of them during the preparatory period (from February 10 to March 12) played in various all-Union and international tournaments, in friendly matches of national teams.

However, all these arguments only explain, but in no way justify the poor results shown by our team at the start of the championship in meetings with equally prepared opponents. I would even say - with rivals, approximately equal in class, since the process of rejuvenation that we are now experiencing puts Dynamo Kiev on the same level with others ...

In the minds of Dynamo Kyiv coaches and players, what some journalists call the "away model" is just one of many ways to play the game. Moreover, we use it not for the entire hour and a half of the match, but for separate time periods. Depending on various circumstances, the team either fights for space, transferring active actions to the opponent's half of the field, or gives space to the opponent, wanting to get operational space for high-speed attacks, or alternately uses both

game variant.

In all cases, one goal is pursued - to win. Otherwise it's impossible to win.

tournament.

When we believe that success in the game with a specific opponent can be provided by an artificial one - proposed by us! - by creating an operational space for our speedmen and choosing an appropriate strategic plan for the match, we are called rationalists. When Dynamo Kiev, playing in this way, achieves victory (as, for example, in the match with the Viennese Rapid in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup in the spring of 1986, which ended with a score of 4: 1 on the opponent's field), no one talks about the "away model" and does not remember.

Before an important European Championship qualifying match with the Irish in 1974, at a meeting in the Football Federation, voices were heard about the need to attack in Dublin, to bet only on victory. At the same time, apparently, it was not taken into account that the Irish are experienced players from English professional clubs, they will not be embarrassed by any opponent, especially on their own field. To disregard this means not to understand the real situation. And she demanded to exclude accidents ...

Now in football you can't "throw hats" on anyone. What is the purpose of the match - such is the model games.

If we fail to succeed (and who in football is guaranteed success in every match?), according to other observers, this most notorious model is to blame for everything.

I must note that the tactical and strategic means of the game do not at all have such an independent significance in achieving success, which is sometimes attributed to them by lovers of fetishizing individual elements of football. Everything is decided by the optimal ratio of all components of the game. A favorable ratio can be achieved only through targeted training of football players.

It sometimes seems that disputes around terms are started by people who really want to participate in debates on a fashionable football topic. This is a way to attract attention.

One of the legends persistently propagated in football is about the magic number of so-called clean forwards. They say: there should be three, four, five! But not one, not two... When I hear such reasoning, I blame myself for not constantly engaging in popular explanations of the trends in the development of modern football (there really is not enough time for this). I think that people who are seriously arguing about the number of strikers and advocating for its increase, either do not understand what is happening in football, or deliberately turn everything upside down.

In modern football, success is not guaranteed by some magic number of forwards, but only by effective collective action. This was predicted by the coaches Boris Andreevich Arkadiev and Oleg Aleksandrovich Oshenkov, who were ahead of their time, and Viktor Aleksandrovich Maslov proved it in practice. Back in 1966-1968, Dynamo Kiev (one of the most magnificent, in my opinion, club teams in our football; it was from her that the countdown of the victories of Soviet clubs in European tournaments should have rightfully begun, but she was unlucky through no fault of her own - too late we became participants in these competitions and that team lacked international experience), having two or even one player in the front ranks, convincingly outperformed teams that fielded four forwards. Even then, Viktor Alexandrovich instilled in his wards a taste for universal craftsmanship. Did Szabo, Biba, Muntean, once in the opponent's penalty area or on the outskirts of it, get lost in the choice of attack methods? They knew how to act like real forwards, and the team, with thoughtful collective maneuvers, ensured the surprise of their appearance in shock positions. The more generalists in the team, the more freely they use all the diversity

tactical tricks.

All field players are equally responsible for the success of the attack and defense. Whoever creates such a team sooner will look into the future earlier and reap the fruits of this lead. It's time to write off the old ideas in the archive. They mislead the public.

No matter how great specific data a football player is gifted with, he does not should, has no right to build a game only on the use of their winning qualities. By the way, this was perfectly understood by Maslov, who expelled the individualist Lobanovsky from the team, whose independent actions and tricks the public liked, but went against the team game that this outstanding coach thought. Naturally, I did not immediately understand the validity of Maslov's decision, but when I understood it, I was delighted, because it gave me a good impetus for my subsequent work. It was amazingly difficult to do (but extremely necessary) to completely forget how you yourself played this game, not to remember your football past and in no case impose your ideas of a player on the players.

The essence of modern football is to create numerical superiority in various parts of the field. And the first requirement for the player is to move from defense to attack as quickly as possible, and vice versa.

The defensive orientation of football, which Dynamo Kiev allegedly shows, is being tried to be confirmed by the word "back", which I use when I am sitting on the bench. At the same time, they do not take into account that when it is necessary, I shout and "forward". But the players go forward more willingly, there is no need to spur. The transition from attack to defense is given to them

more difficult, sometimes, upset because of a frustrated maneuver, they stop - that's you have to call on them, although in the noise of the stadium the voice is not always audible.

In our desire to win all junior competitions at all costs, we are only training foreign rivals who have one task at a young age: to gain experience. Their talent blossoms later, with the advent of physical maturity. And for our gifted football players, this maturity (in the sporting sense) sometimes does not come due to the premature waste of physical and nervous forces.

In 1977, the undoubtedly gifted Oleg Taran, who played with us in the reserves, played in total for all the teams to which he was called up (including Dynamo Kiev's double, of course), over a hundred matches. I have no doubt that it was primarily for this reason that he did not become an outstanding player.

A sore point, but, probably, gifted young football players who are already ready to play in the main team of the major league, it makes no sense to invite them to the youth and youth teams. Those who have not yet matured for performances at the highest level, who must be carefully brought to this through junior competitions, should play there. At the junior and youth level, our football players often beat their peers from foreign teams in official tournaments, who later, as adults, win awards at the world and European championships. Our winners do not always even appear in the big leagues.

The sport of the highest achievements in the same way cannot do without science, like any other field of activity. Another question is where to look for points of application of scientific knowledge and methods in football. Not in dissertations that "scientifically" explain the effect of hitting the ball with a straight leg raise - really, I have seen similar ones.

Purposeful training of football players, which allows finding new reserves of the body, is, perhaps, the main point of application of science in our business. The process is the most complicated, along with the physiological aspects, there is also a technical side of the matter, related to the behavior of the players on the field, the solution of tactical and strategic tasks based on collective actions, etc. But it is necessary to deal with this, which we at Dynamo Kiev have been doing for a long time. Recently, to help our scientific support, which is headed by Anatoly Mikhailovich Zelentsov, a searching and inquisitive scientist, tireless debater, given a computer.

The anachronism of anachronisms is the belief that still exists that defense is nothing more than a response to the attacking actions of the opponent. Today, defense by the best teams in the world is something completely different: creating favorable conditions for intercepting the ball and immediately attacking. Defense is the beginning of your attack. There is one whole: attack-defense.

During a break in one of the meetings in January 1979, at which stormy calls were proclaimed from the rostrum to play only attacking football, Boris Andreevich Arkadyev said: "I am very upset. I was sure that time would affect the issue of "attack or defend".

This was said by a man who back in the late 40s was convinced of the need for harmony in football, but they did not believe him.

Success is a highly variable category. Disruptions and shortcomings occupy a significant place in the coaching fate. The life of a coach is such that he must constantly be prepared for the worst. There is probably no more disenfranchised profession. If I, as a coach, were disappointed in my work, I would, of course, leave this occupation.

If a person speaks frankly and directly with people and people know that he is truthful, this is the main thing. It is unbearable to hear the assertion that principles should be changed over time. But a departure from principles is unscrupulousness. According to Dahl, a principle is a rule, a basis from which they do not deviate. There are many people in football who do not have to defend their principles for the simple reason that they do not exist.

In order to implement the desired image of the game, such players are required who could perceive specific information capaciously and who would have the ability, having processed it, not only to reproduce the image of the game offered by the coach, but also through their vision to focus its elements to a degree inaccessible to others.

How and in what ways, by means of "embedding" the image of the game in completely different

people?

We never had a fundamentally compiled international calendar of games for a long period, and this, in turn, made the internal calendar in a fever, prevented the coaches from working with a perspective. A solid international calendar, at least for a four-year cycle, is essential. Without him, as without hands. It will make it possible to make the national calendar, the basis of our work, optimal, and will allow it to be planned for several years ahead.

Sometimes the need to perform a given amount of tactical and technical actions for a match, depending on the chosen structure of the game, is confused with the programming of the game. The whole point is how to perceive this need and how to deal with the indisputable fact that the game of the best club and national teams in the world consists of combinations of pre-worked out decisions, a set of repetitive tactical situations.

One can draw such a parallel. If you completely trust the programming electronic computing device in choosing a solution, the machine can suggest such an ideal variant of an act as marrying Elena the Beautiful, or, for example, refusing an annual bonus. And if you think along with the car, you can come to a brilliant discovery or, at worst, get wise advice to take an umbrella with you in the morning.

The greater the number of solutions to typical tactical and strategic situations "programmed" through directed training work in the team's collective memory, the freer the players are in choosing non-standard moves. They don't waste time and energy inventing the wheel. Their creative improvisation is several orders of magnitude higher than that of those who play only on a whim.

Football is a game. The directions in which it progresses are known. This is, first of all, the expansion of the zones of action of all field players, the increase in the collective speed of movement and thinking, the increase in the variability of tactics and strategy based on the universal skill of football players. All this dictates the principles of preparation and selection of players. The core, the essence of these principles is the satisfaction of the requirement for reliability as a guarantee that the level of tactical and technical actions of the team will not fall below the mark beyond which failure begins.

Evaluation of the classiness, usefulness of a player by visual observations has not been used in sports games for a long time. A modern coach simply cannot go down that path. There are quite a few football players who are great at doing one thing: dribble, hit with a head, "open up" in the opponents' penalty area, instantly start. But if they are not able to perform elementary actions for the team: say, do two kilometers of high-speed work in a match, make up to twenty dashes into the opponents' defense zone with a mandatory return to the starting position, participate in an interception 10-15 times, 10-20 times in selection ..., then such players become a burden for partners and drastically reduce the opportunities

of the whole team, although they continue to break the applause with their "crown numbers".

Football is an extremely popular game. The players are always in sight, the fans idolize them. It is not surprising that some begin to forget that this game is primarily a collective game, they are offended, like muslin young ladies, if something suddenly does not suit them.

"Oleg, how are you feeling?" - I asked Blokhin, who was sitting on the bench in the middle of the second half, hoping to release him as a substitute. The question is not accidental, because before the match and during the break, he complained of poor health, which is why he ended up on the bench.

"And how do you feel?" he asked.

"All clear. Sit down then," I was not laughing, although, you must admit, the situation is funny, never before (it happened in the middle of 1987) this had never happened in my practice. I had to look for a replacement replacement.

... They replaced Belanov, who already owned the Golden Ball. I was so offended that I left for Odessa for a few days.

An unprofessional attitude to business sometimes infects even such outstanding football players as Blokhin and Belanov.

In the basis of the player's model characteristics, I would first of all lay high moral and volitional qualities, the player's propensity for universality of actions and

potential functionality. Then it all depends on the coach ...

Even individual "ups" in responsible matches of one player are impossible without the participation of his highly qualified partners in them. I would say that to become a Cruyff, one had to play in the Dutch national team of those times, or at least in Ajax.

"France Football" (notes about the World Cup in Argentina in 1978): "On the streets of Rosario before the match Argentina - Poland, they saw a lonely, mechanically walking Valery Lobanovsky, a sad coach of Dynamo Kiev, who is also called the Ukrainian Bester Keaton."

Comparison with an outstanding comedian of world cinema is pleasant, but far-fetched.

By being in Rosario as an observer, I had a wonderful, rare opportunity to be alone.

Ernst Happel, then coach of the Dutch national team, in the same place in Argentina, expressed the opinion in a conversation that Coutinho is trying in vain to play total football in Brazil. Happel believed that total football was not suitable for players from hot countries, as it required a lot of running and expending a lot of energy.

Eight years later, Carlos Bilardo, coach of the new world champions, refuted Happel and proved that total football is a sign of the times, regardless of weather conditions.

At the end of each season, the fan has the opportunity to get acquainted with the list of debutants, with whom the clubs and the national team have certain hopes. Looking through old records, I came across a similar list dated December 1976: Kopaleishvili, Malko, Vasilevsky, Parsadanyan, Bondarev, Tarkhanov, Parov, Kramarenko, Kolpovsky, Berezhnoy, Shaveiko, Chelebadze, Prigoda, Daraselia, Chivadze. Only the last four have grown to the level of the national team, and Chivadze and the untimely deceased Daraselia received a permanent place in it.

And where are the rest? After all, in 1976, I remember, they all really left a good impression and it seemed that a good change was growing for the leaders of the first team of the country.

I don't know about others. I can only speak about Berezhnoy. This highly gifted, physically beautiful football player ruined himself. How much we fiddled with him, punishing him for his sins, then forgiving him, believing his word, punishing him again ...

Before one of the important matches of the championship, he took time off from the training camp, referring to the misfortune that happened to his father in Voroshilovgrad. It's always terrible when there's trouble at home. But as time passed, it turned out that Berezhnoy invented trouble.

Probably, I was wrong in my over-patience with Berezhny's tricks, I noticed that the team was pouting at me, but I really wanted the guy to straighten up. In the end, my patience snapped: the case turned out to be hopeless.

A strong-willed disciplinary action of this kind is an admission of impotence. And not such measures create the necessary microclimate in the team. Formal planned measures for educational work far from exhaust the essence of the matter. Every gesture of the coach, word, look - This is also educational work. The manner of dressing, combing the hair, the tone of conversation - also belong to the category of educational means ...

It was hard not to smile when, after the victory over Zenit in 1974 with a score of 5:0, we heard such statements: they say that the people of Kiev saw samples of total football at the World Cup in Germany, began to copy, and the result was not slow to affect.

This is far from true. Modern football did not acquire its current form immediately, not by anyone's will (and not by ours, of course). I remember how we played in 1961, when we became national champions for the first time. Then, during the match, efforts were unevenly distributed between the attacking and defending players. At home, the main burden fell on the shoulders of the attackers. On the road, the main load was assumed by the defense players. But in 1966, the world champions, the British, made fundamental amendments to the distribution of efforts - they began to level off. Viktor Alexandrovich Maslov was closely involved in this with us, and, I must say, even before the World Cup.

Football players from Germany and Holland have moved even further in this direction. The World Cup, as well as three wins in a row in the Ajax Champions Cup of Amsterdam (1971-1973), clearly showed where football is heading, demonstrated the most mature examples of the game.

For us in Dynamo Kiev, these events have become a confirmation of the correctness of the chosen us the way.

The talent of a football player is revealed more fully in a team game, as evidenced by the experience of Pele, Cruyff, Blokhin, Muller, Neeskens, Platini, Maradona, Rossi, Futre. It is hardly worth ignoring this obvious fact.

There can be no dogmas in tactics. I don't understand how you can love one tactic and dismiss another. Each tactic is good if it leads to the desired goal. And the goal is always the same - victory!

Should I have copied the tactics of Dynamo Kyiv, which played with two forwards, when I worked at Dnipro? No. I liked the organized jumble, without a clear division of players into roles. At the moment it is convenient for you to attack the gate - act!

I do not recognize fashion. I only accept what is rational. Particularly for our team. Today we will play like this, and tomorrow - differently. We will definitely take into account the peculiarity of the enemy and prepare something new. Just like that, without dogmas!

In the football sky, the teams are scattered like stars. There are bright ones, there are medium ones, there are small ones that you cannot see ... They can be seen only when there are a lot of them, and they form a nebula. And there are superstars, among which many have burned out long ago, and the light from them reaches us to this day.

Yes, we failed in the first half of the 1976 season, yes, we took only bronze at the Montreal Olympics, yes, we made mistakes, because of which we are still experiencing no less than others. But one cannot question the direction we have chosen in training work and organization of the game. Even 1975 was called accidental, because "good functional training, strong-willed spirit, high individual skill were enough for all those victories. There was no superiority in tactics, in the idea underlying the organization of the game. It is strange that this was said only after the "Montreal fire", and not then, let's say, when the national team "saved" the qualifying tournament of the European Championship, and Dynamo Kiev won the semi-final and final of the Cup Winners' Cup against Eindhoven and Ferencvaros, respectively.

I am a supporter of restrained assessments, whether it be victories or failures ("... but you yourself should not distinguish defeat from victory"). I would like to quote the statement of the coach of "Eindhoven" Rivers after the Kyiv match "Dynamo" (Kyiv) - "Eindhoven". "The whole game went according to plan and at the pace imposed by the Kyiv team. In a match with a club like Dynamo, all eleven must be in constant motion. The hosts acted in a subtle, fresh and modern style for ninety minutes. The total football shown by the Soviet players, for which the Dutch team is famous, has grown in their performance to a level that is very rarely seen even in the West.

We played in the fall of 1977 in Braunschweig (Germany) the second leg of the UEFA Cup with Eintracht (1:1 in Kiev, 0:0 in Germany - We dropped out because the Germans managed to score a goal away). The leaders of Eintracht (I will make a reservation: this is not an attempt to justify themselves) did not take care of accommodating our team in their city in time, and we had to prepare for the game not as we would like, because the hotel in which we lived was located at 75 (? !) kilometers from the city of Braunschweig. Our team spent more than three hours traveling by bus to practice and play.

What was my amazement when, after returning home, I read in one of the newspapers that "the hospitable hosts placed the Dynamo team in the Maritim mountain hotel", that "when the team went to the exercises in the morning, everyone froze in amazement – the beauty is indescribable!..."

Little things, little things...

By the way, two draws with one of the best teams in Germany at that time were called "a blow to prestige" of Soviet football. Well well!

Torpedovites of Moscow in parallel with us played a draw twice (both times 0:0) with the Lisbon "Benfica" and lost in a penalty kick - a football lottery. And they banged on them - "loss of prestige"!

"My game is based on a simple principle - avoid mistakes in every possible way and improve reliability of actions," said Swede Bjorn Borg, being the leader of world tennis.

Simplicity, stability, clarity - the basic principles of one of the best teams on the continent in the late 70s - early 80s of the English "Liverpool". Not everyone can agree with them. For various reasons. But, apparently, they also cannot be rejected, since they are necessary to achieve results in today's football, modern sports.

We need a lot of football styles, as they say, good and different. But we, the coaches, must be united in one thing - in a trusting, friendly attitude towards each other, in respect for our common difficult task, which is under the unremitting attention of millions of football fans.

I cannot imagine a situation in which G. Tovstonogov, the chief director of the Leningrad BDT, publicly, on the pages of the press, explains to his colleague from the Moscow Mayakovsky Theater A. Goncharov that he staged this or that performance incorrectly and "involved" the wrong ones. performers. It is clear that no matter how G. Tovstonogov treats the work of A. Goncharov, such an attack (of course, I give a conditional example) is hardly possible. Unethical.

Would we have received such satisfaction from the game of Dynamo Tbilisi if the result in the Cup Winners' Cup in 1981 had not been achieved, and only certain qualities were demonstrated: a high level of athleticism, good organization of the game. No, only a synthesis in the implementation of modern requirements allowed Tbilisi not only to achieve results, but also to receive the highest recognition in the international arena, both as a team and as individual players - Chivadze, Kipiai, Gutsaev, Shengelia, Daraselia ...

The defeat of the coach, I consider only the inability to coach. A person wants, tries - cannot. This is defeat. But losing on the football field is a completely different matter. Lost - think, get to the bottom of the reasons. Excessive sensitivity hurts, and therefore over the years I have learned to perceive the loss with the mind. Everyone deals with emotions in their own way. But internally I am very cold and prudent.

I have not and will not yield in disputes related to "wingless practicality", "away models", other terms attributed to me - have there been too many interpreters of my views on football?

Compromises will not save things: you need to take risks today, because tomorrow, it may happen, there will be nothing to risk.

Can a beautiful game with endless losses be fun? For me, the result is not only victory in prestigious tournaments. When, after losses, you receive letters from fans of the following content: don't worry, they say, everything is going as it should, this is also a result. So, someone already understands us. Football is as diverse as any art. Chekhov is played both in the Moscow Art Theater and in the BDT - they play differently everywhere, and each theater has its own audience. The same can be said about Spartak or Zenith. So the coach, taking care of the result, must make not only the players think, but also the spectators.

I don't know what talent is. Sometimes a happy coincidence of circumstances is enough for success to come - that's "talent" for you. But to look for, thanks to what personal qualities, thanks to what methods, a great coach systematically achieved success - healthy. For example, there were pioneering coaches like the Brazilian Vicente Feola, who opened the eyes of the football world to the possibilities of tactics. There were unsurpassed interpreters of well-known ideas - such is the Romanian Stefan Kovacs. And the outstanding Soviet coach Viktor Maslov was led to discoveries by incomprehensible intuition.

Today the cry "Give us a beautiful game!" drowns out all other requirements without which modern football cannot progress. The idea is being introduced that a "beautiful game" will justify everything, write everything off. It's a delusion! What is the use of our beautiful game in Mexico, if it was accompanied by the result only in the preliminary group, if we did not even get into the top eight? Who, pray tell, will remember how our team played in 1966 in England and how it played twenty years later in Mexico? Everyone will know - from reference books at least - that in England the Soviet team was the fourth, and in Mexico - it is not even known which one.

The principle "the main thing is not to win, but to participate" was good at the dawn of football. Now football is ruled by the result.

At the end of 1982 Baku "Neftchi" played its last match, which did not decide anything in the fate of the team, played on its own field, and therefore, in theory, one could expect a beautiful, liberated game, for one's pleasure. It was not there: only 500 spectators came to the stadium, the players "finished the game" from the first minutes.

No intrigue - no real football.

Who dares to say that the main thing is to participate in the World Cup? No, this is not a world show, but a fierce struggle for the result, for the victory. According to the game in the Spanish championship in 1982, for example, the Brazilian national team is the number one team. But the brilliant Brazilian footballers cried, and the Italians rejoiced.

By the way, the Brazilians in the game with Italy had enough of a draw. But... At a press conference after the match, both coaches – Italian Enzo Bearzot and Brazilian Tele Santana – agreed that the victory of the Italian team was achieved due to the excessive confidence of the Brazilians in an easy victory, in extreme cases – a draw.

"They only tried to win and left a lot of gaps in their defense," said Bearzot. "Our players took advantage of that."

"We played well in the second half and deserved to be tied," Santana said. - Then we could not stop and went forward, trying to achieve victory ... We made a mistake by not taking the best Italian striker Paolo Rossi under personal care. We gave him too much room to act and he proved himself to be a great player with three goals."

I don't want to be misunderstood: I and every other coach dream of a beautiful game and beautiful victories, and together with the club I experienced such happiness. But to make the principle of "beautiful play" an end in itself would mean deliberately discarding our football from the positions it is in. If I say: do not blame me, dear friends, in the final of the European Championship, even if we lose, but in all cases we will show beautiful football - will they understand me? Will such an installation on the game be forgiven? No, both I and my teammates are obliged to achieve victory, and the real struggle, the struggle to the last, will also be a real spectacle.

About the timing of the coach. They depend on such a large set of circumstances that it is simply impossible to calculate all the options. The coach of the national team must take into account the frequency of the World Championships, which, as you know, take place every four years. This cycle should fit the coaching calculations to achieve success.

Victory is different. The USSR national team has never been among the top three teams in the world and has not been on the European podium since 1972. Now nothing can satisfy us, except for victories in official popular competitions.

The very fact that the word "rational" is pronounced almost like a curse suggests that some people, in their irrepressible near-football activity, even try to influence the language. But the word "rational" just means "reasonable." Ernst Happel, when he worked with Hamburg, was praised for creating a very rational team -

this word was praised.

Let's look at the material world: everything that exists is rational, reasonable.

And in football, you can remember the times when what we now call the romantic style of play was expedient, that is, rational. But this referred to the period, so to speak, of the football childhood of mankind. Now he got angry. What's new in football is now created by increasing speed, athleticism, scientific methods, the creation of collective memory blocks and other, other complex components.

Whoever has a romantic soul will find beauty in the courageous football of our days. And who, with longing for romanticism, covers up a nostalgic desire to see the performances of his youth on the football field today, he simply does not want to come to terms with the truth that everything in life passes, everything changes.

The simulation of the game was invented to make it easier for the players to choose extraordinary solutions in difficult tactical situations. The more simulated actions in typical positions are deposited in the team's collective memory blocks, the more time and effort each player has in the game to make extraordinary decisions in unforeseen situations.

Doesn't it seem strange to you that in our time of unification of elementary - not to mention the most complex - production and thought processes, for some reason only football players are still required to invent on the go? They are quite seriously advised to find by touch positions from which it is convenient to take advantage of a passing ball from the flank or, on a whim, to reach what maneuver and in what phase of the game leads to the creation of a numerical superiority in the counterattack ... I do not mind if they "created" like that our opponents on the field. Alas, they don't do it. In the international arena, we are dealing with teams that don't waste a moment making collective decisions when a familiar tactical situation arises. And we are not going to give them precious time, to which, willingly or unwittingly, those who believe that creativity in football -

this is when a football player is looking for someone else to effectively circle.

Let's take a look behind the theater scenes. There are rehearsals, rehearsals, rehearsals - a model of the performance is being created. Probably, it is still better when the actor knows the lines and his place on the stage, as well as the "maneuvers" of the partner in advance, rather than if the director tells him an hour before the start of the performance: "Go out, look around, play according to the situation ..." Knowing by heart what what he has to do on stage, the actor has a lot of time for improvisations, which so adorn the performance. Of course, we are talking about a good actor and a good performance.

"Spoofing". It's a strange word when it comes to adults who only "poach" when they want to. Transfers of players is a natural and extremely necessary process for football. Let's remember how the talent of Alikper Mamedov, Yuri Kuznetsov, Nikita Simonyan, Anzor Kavazashvili flourished in the first-class Moscow clubs ... Football only benefited from the fact that Andrey Zazroev moved from the Perm team to Dynamo Kiev, and Viktor Kolotov moved to Kiev from Kazan. Football lost something from the fact that Edgar Hess from Pamir Dushanbe came to Spartak Moscow a little later than necessary, and Viktor Kolyadko obviously stayed too long at Terek Grozny. And it would probably be completely ridiculous if Rinat Dasaev still remained in Astrakhan.

A serious look is always more difficult. Some things are vilified and scolded only because they are simply incomprehensible to many. And if they are incomprehensible, then they are dangerous.

I'm not going to convince anyone or anything. All frantic preaching, no matter how well-intentioned it may be, is inherently immoral. It, arousing faith in a person, deprives him of the ability to think critically, so necessary for Homo sapiens, and allows him to be led without reasoning to where the preachers point.

One of our leading theater and film actors, Leonid Filatov, once expressed the following thought: "The time has come for change. The trouble is that it seems to many that everything around should change, but not ourselves. I am deeply convinced that no organizational changes will save our theater. The theatrical experiment gives huge powers to the theater team, but where is the guarantee that it is the team that will be right, and not just one single person against whom everyone will take up arms? During the short time that the experiment has been operating in Moscow, we have come across such examples more than once. Time requires that we, the theatrical intelligentsia, honestly look at ourselves.

Time also required that everyone involved in the football business, including leaders, coaches, football players, referees, journalists, and the football community, take an honest look at themselves. We all must, figuratively speaking, "sit on the same bench", comradely corporatism is necessary, not to mention the fact that it is time to get rid of spiteful criticism based only on a personal attitude and implicated in unsuccessful results.

There must be criticism. Football cannot develop without it. But - highly professional, with knowledge of the subject, meticulously studying and comprehending the process of development of modern football, and not categorically judging by one single match. We demand advanced training from coaches, football players, referees, we complain about the incompetence of sports leaders. This is right. But those who criticize, probably, should raise the level of knowledge, try to convey to the public what objectively exists, and not offer it an amateurish, emotionally subjective retelling of events.

I wonder if I'll live to see the day when I read a reasonable critique after a big victory for the USSR national team? However, first you need to live to win ...

A critic should not be a mentor, should not teach.

There are many "blank spots" in the history of our country, which are now being filled. There are many of them in the history of our football. Scattered information roams in the form of legends among fans, often greatly distorting the true events. It is necessary to create a "History of Soviet football" - in two or three volumes, I don't know how many volumes will be needed in order to recreate the picture of its formation, analyze all stages of the path, consider in detail the directions in which it developed.

There is no better table book for the football audience.

I thought: why the current coaches (I confess, I myself am a sinner) do not write and publish articles of a theoretical nature on issues of football tactics? Our respected predecessors did this all the time, and I am sure that their printed speeches are kept in the dossiers of many today's coaches (not to mention Boris Andreevich Arkadyev's book "Football Game Tactics", unique for a person who leads a football team).

What is stopping you - the fear of a possible refutation or the lack of your own point of view? Apparently, it's both.

Who should be involved in educational activities among millions of football fans? Of course, qualified journalists, but first of all - we, practical trainers. In discussions that are not like a game of giveaway, but only those that lead to

comprehension of truth.

We talk a lot with each other backstage. And we are afraid to argue publicly.

We need a culture of disagreement. Chesterton once remarked that he hated a quarrel, because a quarrel ruled out an argument. One of the conditions for the frankness and directness that the time requires of us is not to take those who disagree for the enemy. But this requires sincere mutual respect. I will certainly draw conclusions from comradely criticism, but I do not take it for granted, even if there is a rational grain in it, from which the ears of disturbed Bollytsik ambitions openly stick out.

Our polemic lacks fairness and intelligence. The sense of proportion disappears - in definitions, in comparison with the people who "make" football.

Luck is a very vague concept. I have heard that Bessonov and Yevtushenko were unlucky with Lobanovsky in particular and with Dynamo Kyiv in general. Had they worked under a different coach and in a different team, their creative fate would have been different. Let's say otherwise, but how?

Would they become honored masters of sports, would there be a victory in their track record in Winners' Cup, would they always play at the high level they played in Kyiv?

Yes, I agree that football didn't get everything it could get from Bessonov and Yevtushenko, given their talent, but it's hard to agree that Bessonov was "spoiled" in Dynamo Kiev, turning from a "born striker" into ... , By the way? For a long time, our football has not known a more versatile football player, a fighter without fear and reproach. He, like no one else, is useful in team actions, he is a born leader.

It is hard to agree with the fact that we have "spoiled" the subtle, technical, well-coordinated Yevtushenko just by being "crammed" into the strict framework of a high-speed collective game. But he played his best matches when he meaningfully obeyed such a game, he understood that the "fetters of installations" were for his own good, they liberated him, allowed him to improvise, show high, refined technique. When he rolled down to the level of "amateur art", the game did not bring joy either to him, or to his partners, or to the audience.

We must be afraid to abuse confidence in ourselves, to be afraid of repeating mistakes. This - the truth that I came to through years of coaching practice. Not to be afraid of mistakes in general - they were, are and will be, the one who only contemplates is not mistaken - but to be afraid of their repetition, inability to correct, inability to listen to those who kindly point out these mistakes.

Supertasks involve increasing the percentage of risk. Possibility of being wrong

increases significantly.

The factor of a foreign field in modern football cannot be underestimated, it would be stupidity. Any business traveler will tell you that a pillow in a hotel is worse than a home pillow, there may not be hot water in the shower, food - what is offered, etc.

A football player in a foreign city is the same seconded. Flight or relocation affecting functionality, a foreign audience, unwilling good, affecting

psychological condition...

Impeccable passing is the great driving force of the game. Fans, and sometimes experts, when discussing a match, tend to focus on the names that appeared on the scoreboard after a goal was scored. For technical reasons, photojournalists usually capture either the final kick or the ball in the net. They just can't capture the pass.

Forever in memory: in the Kiev match in 1975 with the national team of Ireland, Kolotov scored a brilliant goal in the fall, and the photo of this event went around all the newspapers. But neither Kolotov, nor the coaches of the USSR national team, nor Kolotov's partners will ever forget Veremeev's phenomenal pass that preceded the goal. A re-twisted ball at low level flight and Kolotov at low level flight, the "meeting" took place - a goal. Beauties!

Flights, flights ... How much they sometimes take strength and nerves. It may be hard for an outside observer to believe this, but I perfectly understand my colleague Konstantin Ivanovich Beskov when he complains about the routes that Spartak had to overcome before the important return match in Bremen with Werder Bremen.

I immediately remembered all our "air" and "railway" collisions, exacerbated by the non-rhythmic calendar, and for some reason especially the autumn of 1977.

Can you imagine what 7 matches in 22 days is? I'll try to decipher.

September 24 - October 15: Moscow - Kyiv - Hamburg - Braunschweig - Hamburg - Kyiv - Moscow - Amsterdam - Rotterdam - Amsterdam - Paris - Leningrad - Kyiv. This is the itinerary. If there is a map in the house, you can, if you wish and have time, calculate what this means in kilometers.

September 24 - October 15: CSKA - Eintracht - Lokomotiv - the Dutch team - French team - Zenit - Dynamo (Moscow).

September 24 - October 15: 3-3-2-2-2-3. The number of days allowed for a break between matches.

And finally, September 24 - October 15: 1:0 - 0:0 - 3:0 - 0:0 - 0:0 - 1:1 - 0:0. Results. In the asset - six points out of eight possible in the championship, a confident game and a good result in the matches for the national team against the Dutch and the French. In liabilities - a draw in Braunschweig, which cost further struggle in the UEFA Cup.

Complaining? God forbid! I'm just stating.

Football crisis? Thousands of films are produced every year around the world. Of these, 99 percent are mediocre or even bad. It has always been so. Talk about a crisis in cinema? There are two or three good films at major film festivals. At the world championships - three or four phenomenal match.

Screenwriter Rustam Ibragimbekov, all of whose work during the period of stagnation met with disapproval (in particular, his famous film "Interrogation"), before joining the cinema, was a specialist in optimal control, including game theory. A rather serious scientific approach allowed him to develop a successful strategy and tactics of behavior, as a result of which he managed to "break through" everything or almost everything that he wanted to do.

It would be naive to deny the possibility of a championship strategy, a tournament, and even one match, as well as tactical variability. It is a sin to confuse straightforwardness with simplicity, achieved by incredible efforts in training work, which the viewer does not see. However, he does not need it. At his service is a ready-made performance.

The new is not born in a vacuum. Feola, Herberger, Ramsey, Kovacs, Shen, Herrera abroad, Arkadiev, Yakushin, Kachalin, Osheikov, Maslov, Beskov - with us. Rethinking everyone's best work is an invaluable experience.

In order to decide on serious painstaking work - to pass through everything that mankind has achieved in football, and try to say something new, my own, - I am convinced

this requires, first of all, unyielding will. There is no will, no character, nowhere to take the ability to carry out what you have planned. "The will and labor of man create marvelous divas" - absolutely true words of the poet Nikolai Nekrasov.

A complete rejection of the "worldly" life? Don't think. Self-restraint in everything - yes. In order to, if not twenty-four hours a day, then most of the time to play football.

I don't have football dreams. Especially on those nights when you can't sleep after a failure and scroll through the game second by second, episode by episode, you find that everything had to change dramatically here! - but there will be no replay, not chess ...

What will the fan (and not only him - specialists, practical coaches, players) be treated to from the TV screen? Matches of the championship and the Cup of the country, of course. Meetings of European tournaments with our participation, the finals of the world and European championships. A lot of? I'm not sure, because the gap between what our public sees and what happens in the countries of developed modern football is deepening. We know almost nothing about how the world's top coaches work. That is, we in teams (not in all, though) see (thank God, video equipment is in great use) the best examples, we just need to be able to get records of different matches in order to get the most complete picture of the creative searches of competitors.

A fan is being robbed. He does not see the finals of the continental and Intercontinental Cups, although, probably, it would be interesting for him to see how Porto and Ajax fought for the Super Cup in two matches. After all, in addition to familiarization, this is education by the game, and the ability to compare, and knowledge of football.

I consider myself to be in the category of people who do not like to admit that they are wrong, but - with years and experience - I try after making a mistake to act in such a way that it would not be difficult for others to make sure that I was wrong. Frankness is a difficult science.

Chapter 7. "Silver" in Munich

The European Championship in Germany is the first major international tournament at the national team level, which I, as a coach, managed to go through with the players from start to finish: from the first qualifying match with the Icelanders in Reykjavik on September 24, 1986 to the final meeting with the Dutch in Munich on June 25, 1988. In total he went on for 21 pass month.

In the midst of preparations for the games in Germany, I unexpectedly ended up in the hospital and was excommunicated from Dynamo Kyiv and the national team for almost two months. Banal story. At the beginning of the year, he suffered the flu on his legs, which gave a heart complication. On March 27, ignoring the advice of doctors, he went to the stadium for the match of his team with Spartak. And the next day I ended up in the hospital, in the intensive care unit. Since then, I have listened to doctors.

But enough about illness.

... In one interview after the European Championship, Michel Platini said: "Personally, I alternately called the British, then the Germans and Italians, and, finally, the USSR national team the favorites of the tournament. So, as you can see, I was 100 percent wrong."

Well, it was easy to make a mistake. The European Championship in Germany differed sharply from other major tournaments in an even composition of participants, each of which could be ahead. Many coaches said that the European Championship was more interesting than, say, the World Championship in Mexico. Indeed, the level of football shown in the stadiums of Germany is higher than two years ago in Mexico. At the European Championships, we saw a game based primarily on movement and speed of execution, an intense game with flexible tactical schemes. In my opinion, in modern football it is useless to try to evaluate the individual qualities of each player, tearing him away from the actions of the whole team. A footballer can be evaluated based on his role in the team's strategy. An ideal example of this is Gullit. This is a wonderful player. And his great advantage lies in the way he subordinates himself to the interests of the team.

Winning can take a different approach. The main thing is to realistically evaluate

own level. Rinus Michels remarked after the championship: "Van Basten's goal against the Russians was, of course, magnificent, but I must say that the final cannot be won without a certain amount of luck." At the same time, I would add that luck is a consequence of many terms, and by no means an abstract concept.

It is clear that we entered the final match with one goal - to win. Failed. You can name different reasons - both objective and subjective. The absence of the injured Bessonov and Kuznetsov, who received a second yellow card, probably affected the game (by the way, I consider UEFA's decision to take into account the warnings received in the qualifying matches of the European Championship; thanks to this, the German national team was put in exceptional conditions, since they did not participate in the qualifying matches) . Apparently, the too short interval between the semi-finals and the final - 48 hours - had an effect (the Dutch had a day more, and every hour in such situations is registered; and in general it is very difficult to hold five such matches in 14 days - less than 72 hours between games it turns out). And, of course, the costs of the leaders of the USSR national team and the leaders of the Dutch team were unequal.

In top-level football, everything is decided, as France Football columnist Gerard Hernault rightly noted, "in thousandths of a second. One accidental mistake, a strike on the post, or Van Basten's inspiration, or Kuznetsov's disqualification, if we talk about the final, is enough. The score of this match may seem convincing enough, but its outcome hung in the balance..." His colleague Jacques Tiber noted that "the USSR national team was not untenable on the field of the Olympic Stadium. She helped to give birth to a magnificent performance, outplaying the Dutch in many segments of the match and losing only because of the curse that hung over Belanov that day ... "

We played all five matches in Germany, which we counted on when preparing for the championship. The USSR national team reached the finals thanks to appropriate physical training, high technical skills, various tactical actions, a strong-willed attitude for each game, a well-thought-out strategy for each individual match and for the entire tournament. This is not only our assessment, but also the opinion of many European football experts. Ripus Michels, for example, believes: "Soviet footballers, just like us, understood what was at stake: on the world stage in the 90s, athletically prepared and thinking players will play football more successfully. The main idea lies in the words "football team". Only by creating it, you can count on success. The future belongs to collective football at high speeds."

At the beginning of the tournament, Franz Beckenbauer expressed the opinion that the Soviet team "plays football of the 20s", but his compatriot journalists immediately told him in response: "Beckenbauer's clock is not going right", and after the FRG team dropped out of the fight for the main European prize, suggested that, recalling the 20s, "Beckenbauer spoke of his team."

A fairly common opinion was expressed by the well-known Yugoslav specialist Milyan Milyanich, noting that in tactical terms, the teams of Holland and the Soviet Union were superior to the rest of the championship participants. "Modern football," he said, "is a game of speed and fantasy. This is best evidenced by the example of the combined teams of the USSR and Holland. The players of both teams move around the field a lot, demonstrating a high class of the game." According to Michels, "the Dutch and Soviet teams participate on an equal footing in the process of improving football."

The USSR national team deserved such high and flattering marks by playing in the final stage of the European Championship. Perhaps, only in the meeting with the Irish, our team failed to implement the plan worked out and adopted for the game, although the condition of the players before this match was better than before the first, with the Dutch. The point is probably that, realizing the exceptional importance of the result of this game, the players were overexcited. They said after the match that they felt great, but "they didn't obey their legs." This happens when they "burn out". The draw calmed the players, and in the remaining matches they were relaxed and at ease.

In the opening match against the Dutch, we deliberately gave space to our opponents. Knowing

that the leader of the Dutch national team Gullit likes to be taken care of personally, they didn't attach a "watchman" to him, but played against him in those zones in which he appeared. Then it turned out that this was a surprise for the Dutch. In the first half, our team was pressed to its own goal and did not use the space that appeared behind the opponent's defense, but in the second half of the meeting, it found the strength to turn the tide of the game. Only indistinct recent transfers of our players to the empty areas of the defense of the Dutch national team did not allow us to more convincingly implement the proposed game plan.

We understood that the main advantage of the young Italian team, for which the European Championship is an intermediate stage in preparation for the 1990 World Cup in Italy, is the exceptionally diverse activity of midfield players. After the meetings of the coaches and discussions with the players, the decision was made: to apply pressure all over the field. It takes a lot of strength, but the preparation of the team made it possible to use this effective weapon, hidden by us for the time being. The pressure robbed the Italians of the technical advantage, Mancini and Vialli were cut off from midfielders, and our team confidently benefited from the situation on the field.

After the match, the locker room was noisy. Someone commanded - and I heard a cry that I know only from the memories of old football players: "Hip-hip hooray! Hooray! Hooray!" Of course, no one stopped the guys - hugging, laughing, screaming - emotions should be splashed out.

In the midst of the fun, the president of the Italian Football Federation and former head coach of the Italian national team Enzo Bearzot entered the locker room. They congratulated us on the victory, and Bearzot, the coach of the 82 World Champions, said: "I am convinced once again that you are a great team. You are playing modern football at a speed of 100 kilometers per hour. The pressure that I saw today is a manifestation of the highest skill. The physical form of the Soviet players is the fruit of exceptional, excellent work.

The future is born today.

In what direction is football developing? In my opinion, the legislators of the methods of playing in modern football are Europeans, primarily the Dutch, Italians and us. The European Championship convinced me: we are on the right track, making a turn towards football of movement, speed, rhythmic and varied. It makes no sense to deviate from this path. It can be assumed that the result of the championship gave me grounds for such a conclusion. This is not so, I would not doubt the correctness of the chosen direction even if we did not get to the final. It's not about the result. It, as you understand, depends on "thousandths of a second". The reality of the direction is as follows: careful multifaceted preparation of talented players for continuous fierce struggle, for colossal expenditures of energy, for the highest speed.

I have no doubt that we are among the leaders in the world and Europe in terms of preparing footballers, in choosing and developing methods of playing the game. In terms of the organization of the football business, we are hopelessly behind, and time is needed to catch up.

When selecting candidates for the national team of the Soviet Union, for example, we faced a problem never seen before in world football: we were not allowed to recruit football players who were on the "recruit list" compiled by the coaches of the Olympians into the ranks of the national team. The circumstance is truly unprecedented! In the entire enlightened football world, the Olympic teams serve as the closest reserve for the national ones, and for some reason we were encouraged to try to create two equal teams. The level of prestige has long been determined (first - the World and European Championships, and only then - all other tournaments), and our sports leaders still consider the Olympic tournament the main event in the football life of the planet. The level of prestige of football at the Olympics is also fixed by the FIFA decision of 1988 on the age limits of participants: "All players under 23 years old in the year when the Olympic Games are held have the right to participate in the Olympic football tournament." The new rule, effectively ranking the Olympic tournament as a major competition for youth teams, will come into effect from 1992.

However, the confusion created in the relationship between the national and

Olympic teams, is far from the main and not the only problem in our football ...

The recognition of our football achievements is evidenced by the huge interest that various Western European clubs showed towards Soviet players after the European Championship.

The contract signed by Alexander Zavarov with the Italian Juventus is perhaps the first serious step in developing business contacts with the civilized football world. As the honorary president of Juventus, Giovanni Agnelli (who is also the owner of the FIAT company that owns the team), put it, "if a contract is signed with Zavarov, we will make sure that restructuring is really going on in Soviet sports."

Of course, Dynamo Kiev still needs Zavarov today, but we perfectly understand the importance of inviting a Soviet football player to a club like Juventus. First of all, it is • the expansion of ties with the outside world and the promotion of Soviet football in Europe. Zavarov was splendidly received in Italy - thousands of Juventus fans greeted him with banners in Russian. And if he confirms his class there - I really want to believe in this - then won't this raise the bar of the prestige of our football?

I do not exclude, secondly, that after the end of his playing career, Zavarov will remain in football as a coach. And I think the experience of working in a professional club will help him. Our football needs people who can bring to our field the best that is characteristic of the organization of business in professional clubs. By the way, when in the recent past it came to the activities of a Soviet athlete abroad, he was called nothing more than a "playing coach." Things should be called by their proper names: Zavarov in Juventus is not a playing coach, but a professional footballer.

Zavarov's contract with Juventus, in my opinion (this is thirdly), is a good incentive for the growth of sportsmanship of our other players. Especially the young ones, who should strive not only for constant improvement, but also to keep themselves in football at a high level for as long as possible.

And finally, it is necessary to destroy the stereotypes that have been created in our country over the years. For some reason, it has always been believed that football should have been supported by the state all the time. Vice versa. Football should help the state at the slightest opportunity. Zavarov's contract is a real help. A million dollars of the amount paid for Zavarov will go to the state budget, two million to the USSR State Sports Committee for Olympic needs, and another two million to Dynamo Kyiv.

Clubs must earn money themselves, including currency. Thanks to this, it is possible solve a lot of issues related primarily to logistical support. In any case, our team now has real opportunities to improve the working conditions with children and young men and to seriously engage in preparing their own reserve...

Rinat Dasaev, Vladimir Bessonov, Vagiz Khidiyatullin, Oleg Kuznetsov, Anatoly Demyanenko, Gennady Litovchenko, Sergey Aleinikov, Alexey Mikhailichenko, Alexander Zavarov, Vasily Rats, Igor Belanov, Oleg Protasov, Sergey Gotsmanov, Victor Pasulko, Victor Chanov, Sergey Baltacha, Tengiz Sulakvelidze , always ready to replace Vyacheslav Sukristov, Ivan Vishnevsky, Sergey Dmitriev (after the championship, the board of the State Committee for Sports awarded Dasaev, Khidiyatullin, Litovchenko, Aleinikov, Mikhailichenko and Protasov the title of Honored Masters of Sports). I am sincerely grateful to these players, who significantly increased the prestige of the Soviet national team in world football, and made up a combat-ready and monolithic team at the championship in Germany. I am also grateful to my assistants, colleagues Nikita Pavlovich Simonyan, Yuri Andreevich Morozov, Sepgei Mikhailovich Mosyagin, my like-minded people, who made a great contribution to the achievement of the team. Doctors, massage therapists, and football players who played in qualifying matches, but for some reason did not go to Germany, and coaches of a number of club teams helped bring silver medals from Munich ...

Our football always faces big challenges. I am convinced that they can be solved, but only if the reorganization of the football economy in the country is promoted, if several competitive clubs appear, if there is a strong interest in

changes will be shown by everyone who is connected with football.

One important event that happened shortly before our departure for the FRG sets me up in an optimistic mood. I'm talking about a meeting in the Central Committee of the CPSU, which was chaired by a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU E. K. Ligachev. Many coaches of the major league teams spoke at it and discussed the most serious issues related to the reorganization of our football economy. The important thing is that the conversation was followed by quite concrete actions. It was decided to form the Football Union (I hope that when the book goes out of print, it will already be created). For the European Championship, the team received 10 percent of the amount earned, and this is not a one-time decision, it will continue to operate. Players who have reached the age of 29 and have earned authority in our football have the opportunity to play for foreign clubs. In short, things seem to be moving forward.

But, unfortunately, not as fast as time requires.

Often I catch myself on the fact that the soul does not lie in the anatomy of success. Probably because in the sport of professionals, demons of irrationality still hover over the pedestal of winners. You yourself will find the reasons for the failure, and science will put you on the trail. The formula for success in big-time football has also been known in principle for a long time: the most severe selection brings to the crest only those who have the ability for a colossal concentration of mental and physical strength at the time of the highest trials. Everything here seems to be predictable, obeys the laws, lines up in a logical row. But... how to weigh the whiff that tipped the scales in the prestigious final match? But sometimes it is this "little bit" that completely crosses out the "formula for success" at that decisive hour when one, and only one, triumphant is needed.

I will never forget the matches with the Dutch national team in the European Championship. As you understand, mentally I was on the field in every game episode. But someone else in me, not the coach, found time to enjoy football. Of course, after the finale, I fought desperately with annoyance. And the "other", reasoned: "What is your hysteria worth before the beauty of such a game?" I am deeply grateful to the players of our team and opponents for the game, participation in which justified in my own eyes my stay on the coaching bench.

It has always been easier to explain how great teams are made than the result of a particular match. To answer, for example, the question why we lost to the Dutch in the final of the European Championship...

One of the fans wrote to me that he had the impression of the 1988 season that he had been an eyewitness to a magnificent feast all this time. What did this "feast" provide?

In the 1988 situation, two factors converged favorably. On the one hand, Soviet football has ceased to experience personnel shortages, on the other hand, the methodological level of work with top-qualified players has increased. As a result, it became possible to oppose foreign rivals with a limited group of thoroughly trained football players with sufficient experience in international matches. At the European Championships, this was enough to reach the final.

But in the European club tournaments, our teams turned out to be, in fact, extras both in terms of the quality of the preparation achieved and the quality of the game shown in them. The phenomenon seems to be paradoxical. If the experience of an effective methodology has been accumulated and the tactical paths to success are known, then why does all this not work at the club level? My opinion: the obsolete organization of the football business interferes, which does not stimulate the creativity of either coaches or football players. We have broken through to the heights in some areas of international football before. This found a way out potency. But in order to organize "total pressure", we need an effective management system in football. It does not yet exist, although it is not a secret what it can and should be.

Romantic episodes are known when in some country a national team suddenly appeared, clearly surpassing the objective level of national football in merits. Typically, such phenomena are due to short-lived factors - a successful selection of players trained in foreign professional clubs, selfless work of a foreign coach, etc. We cannot rely on a lucky lottery ticket. Effects by Type

Peruvian or Algerian football, when competitive national teams formed for a moment, a highly organized society is not entertained.

The strength of the position that the USSR national team occupied after 1988 in the world classification, in my opinion, is directly dependent on the degree of interest in organizing professional football.

The longer we delay in transferring our football to the rails of socialist professionalism, the less guarantees we have of gaining a foothold in the forefront of world sports. Because professional football of the western formation works seven days a week. First of all, legal support is constantly being improved, which is more effective than cash injections to increase the motivation of players. It is thanks to the legal comfort that guarantees a football player a worthy place in society that this profession has become one of the most prestigious in the West. Requiring no initial capital, connections, and respectable pedigree, it is all the more attractive to democratic strata.

population.

Thus, on the football fields we compete not only with sports teams prepared in a certain way. The attitude of society towards football also competes. And in this regard, it would be appropriate to look at the beginnings of the reformation that began to take place in our football in 1988.

The transition to full cost accounting has not yet been experimented with. The pioneer of the club movement - "Dnepr" settled on a form of self-support, acceptable to him, when all real estate and many funds are on the balance sheet of the trade union organization. This is the same philanthropy (in the correct sense of the word), but with a fair amount of independence of the team's leadership in maneuvering the funds intended for paying the players salaries and bonuses. However, patronage is a double-edged blade. In other words, in this state of affairs, success depends on many factors that lie outside of football. Today, the union loves the team – and the players have everything they need. Tomorrow the situation will change - and the team will become sick. The process, as we see, is uncontrollable. By the way, this practice is not suitable for Dynamo teams at all, since the peculiarity of Dynamo self-supporting is that the central body takes all the profits. The leaders of the Dynamo Central Council like to speak in the press with a statement that the Dynamo society has been self-supporting since 1923, and this circumstance alone seems to make it a leading force in the field of sports management. But it fails to mention that in

Within the framework of the Dynamo cost accounting, every enterprise, every organization and team gives the Central Council all the profits to the last penny. Because of this "self-financing", we still have one green field for more than 300 students of the football school ...

But, despite the departmental nuances, football guarantees for spectators exist - they are in the free economic development of clubs operating on the principles of a socialist enterprise. The created theoretical model of such a club was approved in principle by the higher economic authorities. The process is hampered by the fact that our football has not yet appeared personnel morally ready to take the risk of managing on their own. So far, only Dynamo Kiev has expressed a desire to switch to the first self-supporting model, which we have done since January 1989. This circumstance multiplies our responsibility for the success of the experiment and at the same time opens up considerable opportunities for opponents of the idea of self-supporting football clubs. After all, the Dynamo Kyiv club will operate within the framework of a huge sports economy, tightly tied together by knots of budgetary appropriations, funding and limitation of basic resources and funds. How to establish economically mutually beneficial cooperation with organizations that are deprived of the opportunity to make independent decisions?

"Starting" difficulties do not frighten us, because we believe that the country's sports industry will also be affected by changes that are transforming the economy. But at first, you will have to turn to friends of the team for support. It is possible that we will organize a joint-stock company.

...Remember how the Dutch team slipped off the high wave of class for a whole decade. See what happened in 1988 with the French team, which

four years ago she won the European Championship and the Olympic tournament, and after only a few years she was unable to defeat the Cyprus team. I do not undertake to lay out the reasons for such declines, but I cannot ignore such facts. It is necessary to carefully study the international situation, the evolution of tactics, new experience in the selection and training of players, so as not only not to fall behind, not to overlook the birth of new trends in football, but also to imagine what football will be like tomorrow and how to enter this tomorrow not empty-handed. . To an even greater extent, the well-being of the USSR national team will depend on whether our football will be able to finally get rid of the recurrences of amateurism at all levels - from players to leaders of the highest ranks.

So far this process has been slow. Apparently, this is why we still have discussions about whether we are doing the right thing by allowing leading players to play in foreign teams. I don't get it, what is there to argue about? In other countries, the employment of leading players in foreign clubs does not affect the competitiveness of the national team, but in the same Iceland and Norway - this is quite obvious -

strengthens teams. Why should we be different? Just because we are not accustomed to such a phenomenon? Alexander Zavarov and Vagiz Khidiyatullin arrived at the national team just before the game before the World Cup qualifying match with the Austrians, nevertheless, both were almost the best in our team in terms of their level of preparedness and ability to realize their potential. This is the norm for professionals.

Another question is being raised: will not staying abroad reduce the patriotic feelings of football players? We now read a lot in the press and in the literature who exactly and why over the course of sad decades expressed doubts about the devotion of the Soviet people to the Motherland. The moral character of especially zealous "doubters" is already known. I don't want to go back to this, just as I don't want to listen to groundless suspicions. But I want to emphasize that we do not send yellow-mouthed boys to foreign clubs, but adult men, propagandists of our ideas. There was a time and a place to learn all about them.

The work of our best football players in professional clubs is the recognition of our football. They will return home enriched with valuable experience and push Soviet football to new heights. Stop stewing in your own juice.

This applies equally to the coaching corps. Until now, our practice has allowed graduates of the Higher School of Coaches to work in foreign clubs, and even just a few experienced coaches went to work in countries with underdeveloped football. But there is a more profitable option in sports and economic terms - send highly qualified trainers abroad. I see the smirk of many readers: Lobanovsky is rushing abroad. Put yourself in my place: isn't it interesting to test yourself in professional football?

But it's not about me, of course. The fact is that our football lacks the experience of highly professional work and the influx of foreign currency. The proposed measure is able to mitigate the severity of the problem. Moreover, the interest in our leading coaches has already reached a level that exceeds the modest claims of Sovintersport ...

If I spoke about my personal activities, I want to answer those fans who are interested in their letters: is it convenient for me to sit on two chairs at once - to be the coach of the national team and the club? It has always been uncomfortable. It is comforting that we know exactly when it will end - in 1990. The coaches of the national team, as I have already mentioned, do not conclude contracts with the State Committee for Sports, but this is, one might say, a gentleman's agreement with the leadership.

I understand that the position of head coach of the national team was not created in order to have a familiar figure constantly looming there. However, I would not have fulfilled my professional duty if I had taken advantage of the absence of a document replacing the contract and resigned before the World Cup. I remain with my deep conviction: the coaching staff of the national team should work for at least four years and report only on the results of the world championship. So be patient! And changes at the helm of the national team will be required. In football, any success that has a wide resonance suggests a candidate for this post. Our football is not so bad that the position of head coach of the national team remains without

reliable reserve.

The transition of our football to a professional track is interconnected with the creation of the Football Union in the country. Naturally, there was great interest in this event. How did the "building" of the new organization proceed?

A real assembly line for the production and alteration of draft charter of the union worked. One project was even heard at the board of the USSR State Sports Committee. But in all variants, the main thing was not traced - the minimum guarantees of the independence of the created body.

I was not involved in the discussion of the charter. Didn't know anything about him and fellow coaches with whom I talked about it. It turned out that the Football Union was conceived in the State Sports Committee as the heir to the functions, rights and obligations of the USSR Football Federation. The sheepskin was not worth the candle. What is the point of inventing yet another intermediate managerial link with an advisory vote? It's better to leave things as they are and admit that we are not yet ready to give professional football organizers the freedom to manage things as they see fit. The new structure is needed to make optimal effective decisions, and not to authorize departmental instructions.

Of course, that draft charter, which belatedly, by the way, appeared in the press for discussion, did not suit any of the football experts. We brought our alternative draft charter from Kyiv to the founding conference on the creation of the Football Union, which took place on December 13 at the Sport Hotel in Moscow, while the Leningraders brought theirs.

The discussion was heated. In my speech, I recalled the events that preceded the meeting at Sport.

At the end of 1987, a large group of coaches from major league teams sent a letter to the Central Committee of the CPSU, in which they expressed their views on the state of football in the country and ways for its further development. The letter was primarily about the need to create self-supporting football clubs and a self-governing association of professional football workers.

This letter traveled through various offices for four months, and finally a resolution of the former head of the propaganda department of the Central Committee of the CPSU appeared on it, saying that ... the coaches have little idea of how much is being done to develop football in the country.

I had to turn to the Politburo. The letter received a different resolution, which eventually gave rise to a resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League of August 2, 1988 with a long and complicated title "On improving the management of football, other team sports and additional measures to streamline the maintenance of teams and athletes in major sports.

It was then that the Goskomsport quickly joined the work on restructuring football. The movement that started from below against routine business ended with a document (draft statute of the Football Union) from above, from the very floors where this routine maintained for decades.

Naturally, the project created in the offices of the State Committee for Sports did not leave the Football Union the right to unconditional administrative and economic independence. And without this, the created union will not solve a single problem. Problems will only multiply.

Why did the reasonable idea of the necessary restructuring in football not receive wide support from specialists much earlier, because the imperfection of the conduct of football affairs became quite obvious more than twenty years ago, when Soviet teams entered the loan of European club competitions?

I think my colleagues will agree with me that our legal lack of culture, the remnants of a slave psychology, and fear of bossy shouting prevented us from seeing the light and taking practical steps in the right direction. For decades, our ideas about power and management processes remained vague. This is rich soil for the growth of lawlessness and arbitrariness. This is a suffocating atmosphere for innovation, bold ideas rushing into the future.

Only now have we all begun to understand that not every boss is a Soviet power; that there are laws that everyone is obliged to comply with, regardless of official provisions.

But the protection letters of officials still continue to operate - thousands of meaningless, stupid departmental circulars and instructions, most often illegal in their essence.

Examples from the practice of the sports department. We are obligated to buy from the State Committee for Sports an advertising form that the Adidas company distributes among participants in popular European club tournaments. It got to the point that the players of the national team went to the European Championship in a uniform purchased at their own expense. It's humiliating.

We take away the currency earned in commercial games. According to the same predatory principle, cost estimates are secretly signed from us, and norms of financial support for foreign trips are established. And what expenses did the currency received by the State Committee for Sports go to for the participation of the USSR national football team in the final stage of the European Championship? Where is the money that Goskomsport (it is not clear why?) received for the transfer of Zavarov from Dynamo Kyiv to Juventus?

And now the department, which has gained a hand in the operation of football, has prepared a document on granting freedom to football. Where, on what line of the draft charter can one find this freedom? Freedom is, first of all, the desire and ability to do what is not prohibited by law. Granting such freedom to the creators of material and spiritual values also has an economic price.

The economy and society as a whole do not develop if people do not want or cannot do what was not accepted yesterday. Without experimentation, risk, the ability to take full responsibility, without waiting for a command from above, moving forward is unthinkable.

But such looseness of the executors causes furious resistance from the leading persons in the departments, who are interested in the inviolability of the order, by virtue of which they own everything in their "allotments". The privileges of the department are, first of all, the privileges of the leading chairs. This is real power, which no one gives up voluntarily.

However, we have finally come to understand the need for a different order, when only bodies specially authorized by law, and not any departmental non-commissioned officer with its homegrown ideology and feudal reflexes, have the right to prohibit, punish and cancel.

How much we have heard illiterate guidelines from our departmental "experts". And about training volumes that lag behind swimming or hockey norms; and about the hairstyles of football players; and about the color, excuse me, of the toilet bowls that the players install in their apartments ... We beat the post-match penalties,

dosed draws on the scales of the departmental criminal code, we play with three balls.

Attaching the Football Union to the heavy skating rink of the State Committee for Sport will change nothing in the position of football and will not open up any tempting prospects for it. We will be covered by the same wave of instructions requiring "improve, strengthen, increase, catch up and overtake."

The status of gradually created self-supporting clubs is completely incompatible with the dictates of an agency that lives off budget allocations and extortions. The logic of events is approaching the day when the State Sports Committee, in relation to the football of the masters, will take the position of the state customer of the football spectacle and highly qualified players for the recruitment of national teams. And the economy, the training process and the law will develop in clubs protected by law from incompetent interference.

Opportunities for our football to be able to get rid of the guardianship of various kinds of administrators and enter an independent path of development are now open to enormous. It would be a mistake not to use them.

Instead of afterwords

What is the attraction of football competitions? For fans of the game - this is a unique welcome spectacle. And for the players themselves, coaches? Teams enter the playing field every week to tame the ball, seek recognition from the public, challenge the opponent, and experience the fate of the tournament.

And so - from month to month, from year to year. Familiar from childhood laws of the game, familiar

rival faces. But each new match is like a premiere.

Do we wonder what it's like for footballers to constantly feel the close attention of millions of people? How should they treat their occupation - as a game or as a business, just as necessary for society as, say, the production of cars and machine tools?

In relation to the audience, we, the coaches of football teams, especially popular ones, must be the directors of an incomparable sports spectacle. Once upon a time, I, who is often called a pragmatist (I don't see anything shameful in this), this thought bothered me. What kind of directing can we talk about when you need to score tournament points and fight for the maximum sports result? I convinced myself. But over the years came a sense of community with the pace, who sits in the stands. It couldn't come. Players, coaches, spectators - a single football organism.

Of course, when a team has already achieved a certain strategic success, when it has something to lose, and a defeat jeopardizes what was obtained with such difficulty earlier, you involuntarily begin to care more about defense than about attack without noticing it. You subconsciously prefer an "ugly" draw to a "beautiful" defeat. I still consider the result to be the main indicator of the game, but in order not to upset the audience, in order to get satisfaction from your professional activity, one result is not enough, you need to strive for the highest level of understanding of problems today and bring it to the team.

What is meant by this level?

Let me illustrate this with the French team as an example. She suffered setbacks in the late 70s and did not even make it to the final tournament of the European Championship-80. But the coaching thought was already guided by the new ideals of the game. The selection and training of football players were carried out accordingly. In the finals of the mpra-82 championship, the French presented the national team, which brought great pleasure to both subtle connoisseurs of the game, and those who notice only external effects in football. For some reason, the French did not get the game with the German national team, as a result, they remained fourth in Spain. However, experts and spectators understood: the team has a future. And it was no surprise to anyone that the French team confidently won the 1984 European Championship.

Two years later, in Mexico, the same team was perhaps the most attractive in terms of interpretation of the game. But the leading players have grown old. The level of implementation of tactical principles has decreased, which did not allow to achieve an outstanding tournament result. However, the game of the French team left an indelible impression on specialists and spectators - it awakened the imagination. The French team under the leadership of Michel Hidalgo remained at a high level of understanding of the problems of modern football.

We at Dynamo Kyiv strive to predict the football of the near future so that neither time nor rivals take us by surprise. Copying tempting samples, catching up with someone is a hopeless occupation. Getting ahead is the inspiring meaning of work. This is the only way to prepare players who meet the requirements of modern football. Only in this way can we arrive at a practical organization of a game that will once again amaze the football world.

I am a trainer. This work is the meaning of my life. Together with my fellow footballers – the players and coaches I work with – I have to do everything to ensure that the team is at its best. Maintain the level to which she has risen. And return to him if he is lost.

And I am obliged to do everything to ensure that as a result of joint work not only points, prizes and medals are acquired, but also like-minded people appear, who in the very near future will have to develop and improve the game, which was called football more than a hundred years ago.