

# EYE IN THE STANDS

**Video analysis plays a hugely significant role in the team and individual analysis of our full time players at Falkirk Football Club, both at first team and Under-19 level. Across football, not just in the United Kingdom, new technology has emerged that our managers and coaches have grasped and utilised as tools to, firstly, analyse performance, but ultimately to develop the players that they have at their disposal.**

At Falkirk, John Hughes placed significant importance on the use of video technology whilst our current manager Steven Pressley considers it to be an indispensable part of the football department at this club.

In order for the analysis to be possible, we require to have all of our games filmed and then watched and "tagged" in an event log of everything that the coaching staff could possibly want to look at. Our current analyst, Creag Robertson, can spend in excess of 5 hours looking at one match to ensure that every base which the staff may want to look at is covered.

Most games will have around 850 tagged events in set categories. The category sets are created to follow the main fundamental principles of the manner in which the manager wants the first team to play. Familiar categories are: tackles won, attempts at goal, opposition attempts at goal and

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set pieces for and against. These events are then separated into where and when they took place on the pitch. In the past, our Video Analyst has tagged all of these events from normal television type recordings of the match from Sky Sports, ESPN or indeed our own FalkirkTV. That footage is excellent for watching matches in a normal situation but not ideal when you consider the aspects that coaches want to be able to watch when they are analysing their team's performance. For example a manager may want to look closely at defensive organisation when the team are in attacking areas of the pitch, and for a normal camera which follows the ball that would not be possible in most situations.

We have been able to develop the way that the manager and his coaching staff analyse performance through our work with Spinsight, a

company which spun out from Edinburgh University's School of Informatics. We have been working in partnership with them this year as they look to develop their product and we look to develop our performance analysis. Spinsight, through the use of three small cameras on a tripod allow matches to be viewed with a full pitch view, following the stitching of the images from the three cameras. The recordings of the games are then analysed in depth and fed back to the players either individually or as a group. Further analysis of our opposition's strengths and weaknesses is also possible as the coaching staff look to fully prepare the team for the matches ahead.

Our continued work in this area has also allowed us to further develop another of our existing successful partnerships, that with the University of Stirling. We sought additional resource to enable us to film the matches and they will now be filmed by Sports Studies students from the University which is of course Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence. Naturally, assisting both the University, the students and of course ourselves.

Many of the tools that are now utilised at first team level will soon be replicated within the Falkirk Academy in order to allow the younger players an insight into the importance of performance analysis and to aid the development of their game in a multifaceted fashion.

