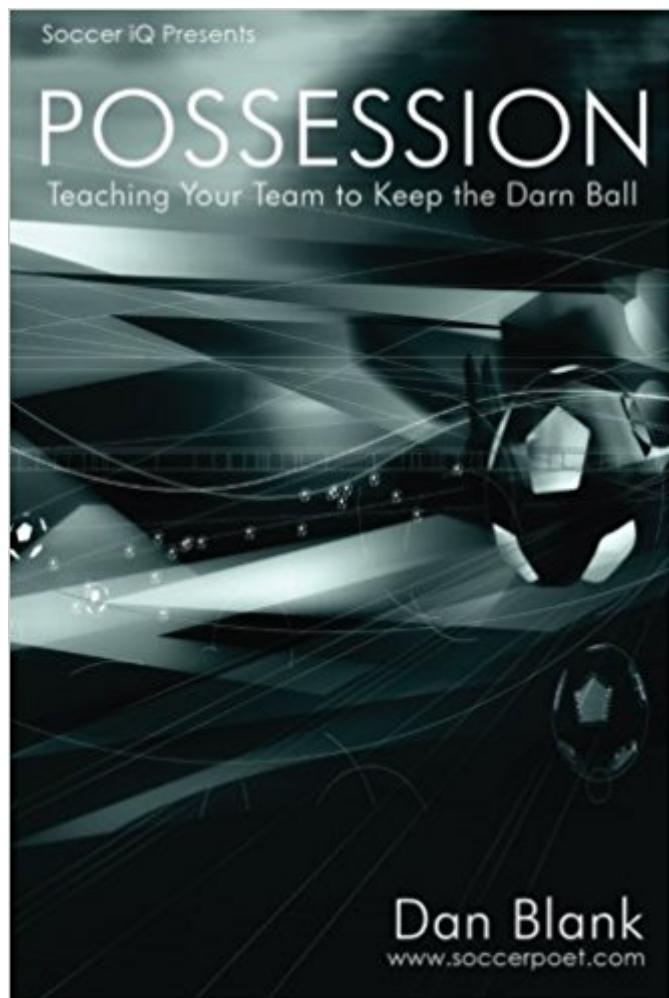


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# **Soccer IQ Presents... POSSESSION: Teaching Your Team To Keep The Darn Ball**



## Synopsis

POSSESSION is a step by step explanation of coaching points and on-field exercises for possession soccer. In this installment of the best-selling Soccer iQ series, Coach Dan Blank again distinguishes himself as soccer's finest how-to author, providing coaches with connect-the-dots solutions for teaching possession soccer. POSSESSION provides essential coaching philosophies that break down the art of keeping the ball. It includes dozens of training exercises as well as the mistakes that a coach can expect his players to make during those exercises - and the solutions to correct those mistakes. Filled with simple diagrams, POSSESSION is an easy-to-read guide for coaches who desperately want to help their teams keep the darn ball!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dan Blank is the author of the best-seller, Soccer iQ, and has been coaching college soccer for over twenty years. He is the first coach in Southeastern Conference history to lead the conference's best defense in consecutive years at different universities (Ole Miss 2009, Georgia 2010). He has an EœAç License from the USSF and an Advanced National Diploma from the NSCAA. You can buy his books and read his blog at [www.soccerpoet.com](http://www.soccerpoet.com).

Excellent book! Dan Blank does an awesome job of simply and logically breaking down the fundamental approach to a possession-based style of play. It's all fine to WANT to play this way...but how does a coach and a team actually go about EXECUTING it? That's what this book is about. Dan details the philosophy of possession-based play and stresses the importance of coach communication to players with respect to that philosophy - getting the "buy in" and commitment from

your players. In a logical sequence Dan breaks down important principles like speed of play, support presence, passing angles, etc. and details how they can be taught to your players. He stresses the little things that make a big difference: playing with fewer touches, knowing "what's next", facing the right way and then playing the way you face, passing to the correct foot, receiving across the standing leg, etc. Dan provides an excellent group of "core" training exercises that expose players to technical and tactical repetition of possession principles. Not only does he provide great training exercises but more importantly provides coaching point emphasis for each exercise. What does a coach expect to see in these exercises and what are the coaching points to hone in on? I have coached a possession style for a number of years and I picked up many pearls from Dan's book, especially his use of "simple" terminology to communicate concepts to players. For example, I have always coached players to "know what you want to do with the ball before you receive it". That's a mouthful! Dan simplifies this by asking players the simple question, "What's next?" Good stuff! I really appreciated this book as it has helped me think more logically about how to coach possession soccer and it has helped me communicate important points to my players more effectively.

I've read about a dozen drill books and books on coaching already. I'm in my second year of coaching girls HS soccer and just sort of fell into it. I've read bits and pieces elsewhere that I enjoyed, but this series of books has been the best I've read. So far I've been through this one, Shutout Pizza, and I have started his one about coaching girls soccer. So this review is more or less for the whole series. I have found the material to be easy to digest the first time through, but something I have also gone back to several times over already to review different ideas or drills. This series has been ideal for the level I have been coaching. This specific book is on how to maintain a possession style, passing offense. This isn't exactly the style that I use, but I've been able to take what I need to fit within my team philosophy. The book explains the author's offensive philosophy, explains the reasons behind his philosophies in a clear, concise manner. Then he does have drills, pictures and diagrams to demonstrate his points. All this in under 200 pages, so it never gets too bogged down.

This is the 4th great title I highly recommend by Dan Blank. (IQ volumes 1&2, and Shutout Pizza are the others) If you are a coach or if you are getting this for a skilled tween/teen soccer player, this book will really help them reach another level (or more than another level) of play. The drills are well laid out and explained and the reasoning for every activity tells you why this is what you want to do.

Many of the things he states in his books, I sort of knew, but his books not only explain it in a way that everybody can understand, they cover the finer points of what is needed too.

I've never been one to pick up a book about coaching soccer. Most of the ones I've ever taken a glance at are, "This is what you do. This is how you do it.". Dan takes it to another level; adding in personal stories and experiences, explaining how and why certain techniques work, and most of all, he doesn't bore you out by just throwing drills at you. I came to realize by the end of the book that his style of writing is similar to his style of coaching/training, progressive. He starts simple, giving you some background, giving you tools for the job, and easing you into some of the most basic yet beneficial drills. I'm truly impressed with this book. It didn't just teach and entertain me, it spoke to me.

Wow this book is good.I've been looking for ways to take the dozens of possession-related "rules" and compress them into simple, easy-to-teach methods which emphasize, as Blank puts it, function over form. A must read if you are introducing the concept of possession soccer to your team, and I can see this working well for age groups as young as U10 or U11.

A very well written easy to read book. It's as if Dan Blank is giving a clinic and you have a front row seat. His instruction and exercises are spot on. Also I read 2 of Mr. Blanks other books Soccer IQ Vol 1 and 2. As a coach of a girls high school team I'm always searching for a better way to teach my team the game Coach Blank provides that with all 3 of these books . I find myself rereading all 3 books and using them as a reference and a teaching tool. I liked the Soccer IQ vol 1 so much that it is required reading this summer for my team and shortly to be followed by volume 2 and possession . Thanks Dan Blank keep writing and my team and I will keep reading!!

Like the Soccer IQ books I loved this book. I am a possession style coach and I am always looking for ways to open my players minds to what that means.This book really condenses everything necessary for good possession play into one place and provides good drills and progressions for developing your teams ability to hold onto the ball.The descriptions and diagrams are clear and well organized with coaching points highlighted for each.Whether you have been doing this a long time and are looking for new ideas or a rookie coach just looking for any idea at all this book will serve you well.

I've read 4 of Dan Blank's books, and they're all very good. The presentation is clear, concise, interesting, and logical. There are few "musts" in life, but I think these books are a must for soccer coaches.

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