

# Lessons from the masters

New books by Dorrance and DiCicco are valuable additions to any soccer library.

**BY SCOTT FRENCH**

America's — indeed, the world's — two most successful coaches of the women's game have this season published incisive tomes that any coach or player, male or female, will find exceedingly valuable.

Much, much more than how-to books, Anson Dorrance's "The Vision of a Champion" and Tony DiCicco's "Catch Them Being Good" offer insights gained from years at the forefront of the women's soccer revolution.

And, best of all, both are excellent reads.

Dorrance's and DiCicco's accomplishments would make their books must-reads for those serious about the game even if the prose weren't so sparkling. Both guided the U.S. women's national team to Women's World Cup titles. Dorrance's University of North Carolina program has set unapproachable standards in college women's soccer; DiCicco, a former goalkeeper, serves as WUSA commissioner, but a return to the sidelines certainly is in his future.

"Catch Them Being Good," which DiCicco authored with U.S. women's national team psychologist Colleen Hacker and writer Charles Salzberg, is aimed at coaches of women and girls, but its lessons are universal. It pays significant attention to the humanistic approach to coaching, detailing how to get the most from players, set up enjoyable and productive training sessions, deal with various game situations, create team chemistry, set team goals, build players' technical abilities and im-

prove their confidence, and utilize failure. Hacker's team-building exercises, featured at the end of nearly every chapter, should be of great worth to those in charge of teams, no matter the age group.

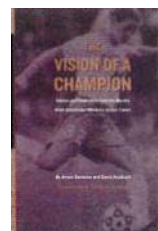
Many of the themes and ideas also are present in Dorrance's book, written with Gloria Averbuch, and with good reason: Dorrance was among DiCicco's mentors when they worked together with the U.S. women in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"The Vision of a Champion," Dorrance's second book, is a real prize, presenting with great detail the strategies and philosophies that have led North Carolina to 17 national championships and provided the foundation for the U.S. women's dominance at the international level.

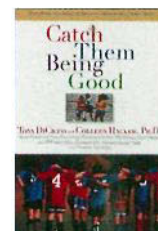
His intended audience is the elite female player, but there's plenty for everyone interested in soccer, no matter where that interest lies. Whether detailing personal relationships with athletes he's coached, summarizing training

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strategies, discussing tactics (and the philosophies behind them) or presenting detailed looks at everything from mental preparation to sports medicine, "The Vision of a Champion" is a summit of soccer coaching literature. ■



*"The Vision of a Champion: Advice and Inspiration from the World's Most Successful Women's Soccer Coach."* By Anson Dorrance and Gloria Averbuch. Sleeping Bear Press. 328 pages. \$24.95.



*"Catch Them Being Good: Everything You Need to Know to Successfully Coach Girls."* By Tony DiCicco and Colleen Hacker with Charles Salzberg. Viking Penguin. 216 pages. \$24.95.



Tony DiCicco (left) and Anson Dorrance have both led the United States to Women's World Cup titles.

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