

Ajax appoints Foppe de Haan as new Head Coach.



Ajax Cape Town would like announce that they have appointed Foppe de Haan as their new Head Coach.

George Comitis the Ajax CEO said, "After a long deliberation and thorough analysis of all the applications that we have received, we believe that we have found the right man to steer us forward.

We have been negotiating with Mr de Haan since Sunday (after flying him to South Africa) and concluded the contract this morning.

Mr de Haan comes with a wealth of experience and at the age of 66, he is one of the most respected coaches in Holland. He has coached the Dutch Eredivisie team Heerenveen for 19 years from 1985 – 2004 before taking over the reigns of the Netherlands U21 national team leading them to two consecutive European Finals, winning both in 2006 and 2007.

It was Mr de Haan who converted Ruud Van Nistelrooy from a defender to a striker after sending him to watch Dennis Bergkamp play while at SC Heerenveen.

In 2004 he was honoured with the title Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau from the Dutch Queen.

In 2008 he coached the Dutch team to qualify for the 2008 Summer Olympics football tournament for the first time in their history, leading his side to the quarter-finals where they were ultimately defeated by Argentina after extra time.

Mr de Haan will be arriving tomorrow evening and will remain with the team until after the MTN8 Cup Final after which he will return to Holland to tie-up his business affairs before returning to South Africa. He will start officially in November and remain until the end of the season by which time we will have decided on the way forward with his input.

Jan Pruijn will remain at the helm until November and thereafter will assist Mr de Haan regarding South African football.

Ajax Cape Town has become known for its style of attacking Dutch football and the development of youth players. It is important that we continue with this vision by appointing the right coach," concluded Comitis.