

# *Guus Hiddink*

## **Going Dutch**

**By**

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### **Introduction:**

Born: Nov. 8, 1946

#### **As a player:**

De Graafschap (Holland)

Washington Diplomats

San Jose Earthquakes

NEC-Nijmegen

#### **As a coach:**

De Graafschap

PSV-Eindhoven ---- 5 times national champion, 4 times Amstel Cup winner, European Cup

Fenerbahce, Turkey

Valencia, Spain

Dutch National Team --- 4<sup>th</sup> place finish 1998

Real Madrid

Real Betis, Spain

South Korea National team --- 4<sup>th</sup> place finish 2002

Australia National Team

Russia National Team

#### **Personal:**

Guus Hiddink –

Vigor and energy

No shortage of willpower, no lack of self-confidence

Knows what he wants, knows where he is going

Keen intelligence but not necessarily of the academic type – ‘street smarts’

Practical, applicable wisdom

Certain reserve and dignified sophistication

Warm humane person with kindness and tolerance – charisma

A regular person who can fit in many places

Very calm man, who develops a certain plan with clear objectives, but flexible enough to adapt to certain challenges while remaining true to his original vision while pursuing his goals

#### **The Early Years:**

Born in Varsseveld, a rural town surrounded by farms, of less than 6000 people near the German border

His father was a teacher and principal at the local school and a good soccer player

Calm and down-to-earth type, proud of his son's achievements, but not gloating  
Decorated for his war effort to help Jews avoid German captivity and death  
His mother was helpful towards the needs of others – charity type work  
Much can be learned about the famous coach by understanding his father and mother  
The social content and moral substance of the parent's were not lost on the children

6 boys in the family, Guus was third in the order  
His childhood ambition was to be a farmer, a '*stroot boer*' Dutch for 'shit farmer' –one who raises animals and sells the manure as fertilizer.  
He spent a lot of time on the farm as youngster growing up and learned how to interpret animal behavior and in turn, then human behavior.  
He thoroughly enjoyed soccer and played every chance he had  
In his area growing up, many people when getting sick would prefer to see the vet instead of the doctor because the vet would diagnose by looking and feeling without talking – no endless discussions and psychologising, just looking and sensing what was the matter. Guus applied that method when dealing with his players – intuition and observation, rather than dialogue.

In one and the same human being, the cosmopolitan qualities of an educated, well-travelled world citizen dwell side by side with the desires of a boy drawn to the simple delights of the Dutch countryside – farmer Hiddink and coach Hiddink.