

TALES FROM  
THE PITCH

# TALES FROM THE PITCH



## LOOK INSIDE



### 5 GRONINGEN

Early May 2011  
Groningen training ground, the Netherlands

Virgil collapsed to his knees, panting desperately. He reached for his water and squirted it all over his face.  
"Up you get, son. We've got another drill to do!"  
Virgil staggered to his feet, turned and sprinted to join the other players preparing for their next running drill.  
He'd secured a spot in Groningen's squad and,

working his way up, he'd been training with their first team for almost a year now. He was itching to make his debut, but the fitness requirements were unlike anything he'd ever experienced before.

Their next game was against ADO Den Haag and it was a crucial one. The players muttered that this must be why their manager, Pieter Huistra, was wrenching their drills today. Pieter didn't usually pay this much attention to routine fitness training.

When the training finally came to an end, Pieter beckoned Virgil over to him.

Virgil obediently jogged straight over with all the energy he could muster and stood breathing heavily in front of his manager.

"Everything alright?" he wheezed.

"Catch your breath, Virgil," Pieter chuckled. "You might want to brace yourself for this."

Virgil's body tensed. At seventeen he'd already experienced his fair share of rejection letters. He'd be gutted to find himself back in the position he was in before Martin had given him this chance at Groningen.



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@deputygrocott

“It’s awesome to see my son, a reluctant reader, so focused and enjoying his reading”

Sean Martinson



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