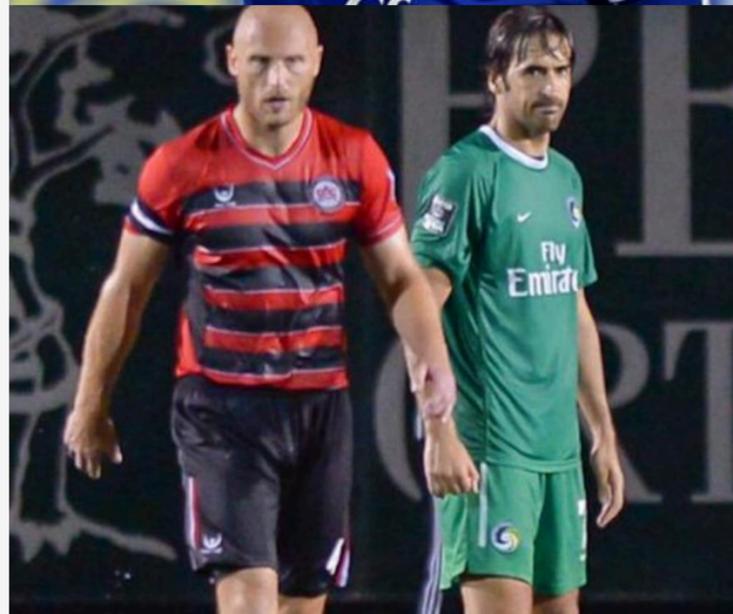




# MEET YOUR COACHES

Our W Academy coaching team is built on unmatched experience, with over 2000 professional appearances at the game's highest levels. Over the past 17 years, our coaches have drawn on this expertise to guide and develop young talent, helping more than 130 players earn contracts with professional clubs.



# KYLE WILKIE

Kyle Wilkie is the co-founder of W Academy and brings a wealth of first-hand experience from the professional game. As a youth player, Kyle spent time with Preston North End and Manchester City before signing his first professional contract with Hamilton Academical in the Scottish Premiership. By the age of 18, he had already made over 30 senior appearances at the highest level.

A year later his career was disrupted by serious injuries, including a ruptured Achilles, but his resilience saw him continue playing while also developing a passion for coaching. Alongside his brother Ryan and father Dougie—both former professionals—Kyle founded W Academy with a mission to help young players reach their full potential.

Kyle's coaching is shaped by his own journey: he teaches through his experiences, openly sharing lessons from setbacks and adversity to prepare players not only for football but also for challenges in life. His passion lies in guiding the next generation to become confident, resilient, and technically excellent footballers.



# RYAN WILKIE

Ryan Wilkie, co-founder of W Academy, has an inspiring journey shaped by both extraordinary talent and resilience. As a youth player, Ryan came through the ranks at Celtic FC before being signed by Liverpool FC at just 16 years old for a club-record fee. At the time, some of the biggest clubs in England—Manchester United, Arsenal, Everton, Newcastle, West Ham, and Manchester City—were eager to secure his signature, but Ryan chose Liverpool, guided by his agent, the legendary Sir Kenny Dalglish.

Despite his immense potential, Ryan's career was cut short after multiple ACL reconstructions forced him into early retirement. Determined to stay connected to the game, he returned to university to study Physiotherapy and went on to work with several Scottish Premiership clubs as a physio. Yet, he soon realised his true passion was still on the pitch. This led him back into coaching, including a role with Celtic FC, before co-founding W Academy with his brother Kyle and father Dougie.

Ryan is driven by a deep desire to help young players grow in confidence and unlock their potential. His coaching focuses on developing top-level technical skills, 1v1 efficiency, and smart decision-making—all rooted in the standards and methods that shaped his own game.



# JAMES McCARTHY

James McCarthy's football journey is a powerful story of self-belief and perseverance. Unlike many who were spotted early, James played boys' club football into his teenage years before earning his opportunity with Hamilton Academical. From there, his dedication and talent propelled him into a remarkable career at the very top level of the game.

James went on to enjoy over a decade in the English Premier League, representing clubs such as Wigan Athletic, Everton, and Crystal Palace, and establishing himself as a highly respected midfielder known for his work ethic, intelligence, and composure. He also earned international recognition with the Republic of Ireland, featuring in major tournaments and competing against some of the world's best players.

As a coach at W Academy, James brings not only elite-level playing experience but also a unique perspective shaped by his own unconventional pathway. He understands what it means to work hard for every opportunity and uses that to inspire young players. His coaching is focused on building technical quality, tactical awareness, and mental resilience, while instilling the confidence that every player can achieve success if they are willing to believe in themselves and put in the work.



# BRIAN EASTON

Brian Easton's career is a testament to perseverance and late development. Like many young players, he wasn't picked up by a professional academy until the age of 16, when he signed for Hamilton Academical. From there, he carved out a long and successful career at the highest levels of Scottish football and beyond.

Brian became a key figure for Hamilton before earning a move to Burnley in England, where he tested himself in one of the toughest leagues in the world. Returning to Scotland, he enjoyed further success with St Johnstone, where he lifted the Scottish Cup, and went on to captain Hamilton Accies, showcasing his leadership both on and off the pitch.

Alongside his playing career, Brian also stepped into coaching, including working with Hamilton Accies in the UEFA Youth League, helping guide young players against Europe's elite.

At W Academy, Brian brings a calm, disciplined, and highly knowledgeable approach to coaching. As a natural leader and former captain, he focuses on developing game intelligence, positional awareness, and consistency in young players. His journey proves that talent can be recognised late, and his coaching encourages players to never lose belief, stay disciplined, and embrace the standards required to succeed at the professional level.



# SIMON MENSING

Simon Mensing brings a wealth of experience from a long and varied career across Scotland, England, and the USA. Beginning his youth career in England, Simon quickly established himself as a strong, reliable defender before moving north to Scotland, where he enjoyed spells with clubs such as St Johnstone, Motherwell, Hamilton Academical, Livingston, and Raith Rovers.

Over the years, Simon built a reputation as a tough, intelligent player who could perform at both the top level of the Scottish Premiership. Later in his career, he embraced a new challenge in the United States for Atlanta United where he continued to lead by example on and off the pitch, showing his adaptability and professionalism across different footballing cultures.

At W Academy, Simon is a coach who combines his versatility, leadership, and tactical awareness with a passion for player development. Having competed at all levels of the game, he understands the demands of every stage of a footballer's journey. His coaching style is centred on building resilience, discipline, and confidence, while also helping young players understand the importance of consistency and mentality in achieving long-term success.



# DANNY GALBRAITH

Danny Galbraith's journey is a story of talent, determination, and top-level experience. At just 16 years old, Danny signed for Hearts, before making the move to one of the biggest clubs in the world—Manchester United. Developing at United gave him exposure to elite coaching standards and the demands of playing at the very highest level.

Danny went on to enjoy a professional career in both Scotland and England, representing clubs such as Hibernian, Limerick, York City, and Gillingham, and experiencing football across different leagues and styles. His career is marked by resilience, having battled through injuries and setbacks while continuing to perform with professionalism and dedication.

As a coach at W Academy, Danny brings the values instilled in him during his time at Manchester United—discipline, technical excellence, and a winning mentality. He is passionate about passing on these lessons to the next generation, with a particular focus on developing creativity, confidence on the ball, and decision-making under pressure. Danny's coaching style blends high standards with encouragement, helping young players unlock their potential while understanding what it truly takes to succeed in the professional game.



# RYAN DOCHERTY

With over a decade of experience in sport, Ryan Docherty has dedicated his career to understanding what it truly takes to perform at the highest level. He holds a degree in Exercise and Health Science as well as specialist studies in Sports Coaching and Development, giving him both the scientific knowledge and practical expertise to personalise training and mindset strategies for each individual athlete.

Ryan has worked with clubs such as Queens Park and the world-renowned Ajax Academy, as well as with current professional footballers, where he has helped players master the mental, physical, and lifestyle elements needed to excel. His passion for athlete development inspired him to design programmes that focus on the critical areas of nutrition, recovery, and mindset, ensuring players are prepared for the demands of modern football.

At W Academy, Ryan's coaching is built on the belief that true success comes from what we do beyond the field. He empowers players to develop the habits, resilience, and confidence required to maximise performance, handle pressure, and thrive both in football and in life.



**OFF PITCH HABITS.  
ON PITCH RESULTS.**



**New Partnership for W Academy Players**

Delivered by Ryan Docherty, Founder of DocLabSport



Hi all, I'm Ryan and I've spent the last 6 years working with footballers at all levels - from grassroots to professional. I'm excited to partner with the W Academy who are committed to developing top-level, technical footballers but also to shaping well-rounded individuals. My aim is to build on the fantastic work already in place while expanding the holistic development of players in key performance areas.

**“The Best Players Don't Just Train  
More, They Live Better”**

This programme helps your child's development in the following 4 areas:

### Confidence + Mindset



How to bounce back, focus and perform under pressure

### Nutrition



What to eat and when to eat it to help performance

### Rest + Recovery



How to recover your body and mind so you can move and perform your best

### Pinnacle Principles



Preparation, leadership and other elite habits to be your best on and off the pitch