

Chris van Deuren

Q&A: Chris van Deuren
www.fifabenelux.com

Fifa Informer chats with the most important community sites for FIFA games. We have spoken to Chris van Deuren the founder of the successful site fifabenelux.com

Who is Chris van Deuren?

I'm 24, live in Holland and I work as an automation engineer. I have been active in the Dutch FIFA scene since Road to the World Cup 98. Started by creating patches and launching a Dutch FIFA fansite when FIFA 99 arrived.

Gamertag?

FBChris

Tell us about FIFA Benelux?

FIFA Benelux started out as benelux.fifa99.net catering the Dutch speaking FIFA fans. Benelux is originally an economic union which includes Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg was founded in 1944. It contributed to the founding of the European Union. A couple of years later, after benelux.fifa2000.net and benelux.fifa2001.com we got our own domain www.fifabenelux.com

While the staff tries to maintain regular news content, many other people contributed to the site, some by creating downloads others by playing in online leagues or by writing on the forums. What makes us different from other FIFA sites is that we're Dutch only.

Favorite Football team?

NAC Breda, currently second in the Dutch league

Favorite online team?

Barcelona, until EA finds a way to get a more equal way of playing online with lower ranked teams.

Best FIFA moment?

As a FIFA player, playing at the FIFA Interactive World Cup 2006 Grand Final in Amsterdam. I qualified from the group stage after beating a player from New Zealand.

As a referee, refereeing at the World Cyber Games 2007 final in Seattle was the best moment. Seeing all the FIFA pro's playing the game, was a great experience.

From a community point of view the 2002 trip to the FIFA studios in Vancouver with Matt Holme (SoccerGaming), Robert Marney (Soccered) and David Witts (FIFA-MRA) was amazing. It was the first time EA really showed their interest in the FIFA community.

Worst moment?

I have never been a really good FIFA player, so I don't have any worst moments. I lost in the first match in the FIWC 2006 knock-out stage against the tournament's runner up.

Not having the Dutch national team in the FIFA series for a long time due to an argue between the Dutch FA and Electronic Arts is certainly not a good thing.

What's the future of FIFA-community sites?

Informing FIFA fans from all over the world about FIFA. Being a place for people to come and gather around add-ons, leagues, tournaments, forums. With EA getting more and more involved with the community sites, we can provide better information.

What needs to be added for FIFA 09, to make FIFA Benelux even better?

Being able to share and create patches for consoles. Easier ways of sharing replays on community sites.

In five years' time; what will FIFA Benelux be?

As always we try to keep up with the latest happenings around the FIFA game. Hopefully we have a popular league, including offline tournaments and a successful forum.

Who will win UEFA Euro 2008?

That's a hard question, who thought Greece would win four years ago? I do of course support the Dutch team, but I think Italy will win, with Russia as an outsider.