

# French Football's Greatest Team?



## 1) Discussion

- a) Has a team from your country ever won the champions league or a continental trophy?
  - b) Which team has been the most surprising Champions League winner?
  - c) Do you ever watch French football? What teams do you like to watch?
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## 2) Vocabulary

### a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Watershed (adjective) | a) To defeat or overcome something with determination. |
| 2) To spearhead (verb)   | b) To have something taken away as punishment.         |
| 3) To strip (verb)       | c) A big change or moment that marks a new beginning.  |
| 4) Crown (noun)          | d) A symbol of winning or being the best in something. |
| 5) Conquer (verb)        | e) Being smart and able to understand things well.     |
| 6) Astute (adjective)    | f) To lead and guide others towards a goal or action.  |
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**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

To strip

Watershed

To spearhead

Crown

To Conquer

Astute

- 1) The 1958 World Cup victory for Brazil was a \_\_\_\_\_ moment for the team, marking a new era of dominance in international football.
- 2) Winning the Champions League is the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ for any club in European football.
- 3) His \_\_\_\_\_ leadership on the field and ability to read the game contributed significantly to his team's success in the league
- 4) Despite facing formidable opponents, the underdog team managed to \_\_\_\_\_ their rivals and secure a surprise victory in the tournament.
- 5) After the scandal, Juventus were \_\_\_\_\_ of 2 league titles.
- 6) The coach's tactical adjustments during the match \_\_\_\_\_ the team's comeback, leading them to a crucial victory in the tournament.

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### 3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

a) What trophies did Marseille win in the 1992-1993 season?

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In 1993, Olympique de Marseille etched their name into footballing history by clinching the UEFA Champions League title, marking a watershed moment for French football. Led by manager Raymond Goethals, Marseille had an amazing squad with key players like Jean-Pierre Papin, Didier Deschamps, and Marcel Desailly.

Papin, the talismanic striker, spearheaded the attack with his clinical finishing, while Deschamps marshalled the midfield with his astute leadership and tactical acumen. Meanwhile, Desailly anchored the defence with his strength and composure, forming a formidable barrier for opposing forwards.

Under Goethals' guidance, Marseille showcased a blend of defensive solidity and attacking flair. In the final, Marseille faced a strong AC Milan team containing Paolo Maldini, Frank Rijkaard, and Marco van Basten. Marseille eventually came out as winners thanks to a 1-0 victory, courtesy of Basile Boli's header.

However, Marseille's triumph was overshadowed by controversy surrounding club president Bernard Tapie. Allegations of match-fixing and bribery tarnished the club's historic achievement, leading to Marseille being stripped of their Ligue 1 title and barred from defending their Champions League crown in the following season.

Despite the controversy, Marseille's 1993 Champions League triumph remains a significant milestone in French football history, showcasing the nation's ability to compete and conquer Europe's elite clubs.



#### 4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Marseille's 1993 Champions League win?
- b) What do you think about the match-fixing scandal?
- c) Do you think they are the greatest French club team ever?

