

## Arrigo Sacchi: Redefining Football



### 1) Discussion

- a) Who are your favourite Italian managers?
  - b) Can you think of any famous managers from the 80s and 90s?
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### 2) Vocabulary

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

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) Annal (noun)                 | a) To change the shape or structure of something.   |
| 2) Tenure (noun)                | b) To not reach a particular goal or standard.  |
| 3) Lore (noun)                  | c) Traditional knowledge or stories.  |
| 4) To reshape (verb)            | d) A record or history of events that happened.   |
| 5) To fall short (phrasal verb) | e) Someone who expresses their opinions about something, often pointing out its weaknesses. |
| 6) Critic (noun)                | f) To make a great effort or struggle to achieve something.                                 |
| 7) To strive (verb)             | g) The period of time during which someone holds a particular position or job.              |
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**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Annal      Tenure      Lore      To Reshape      To Fall Short  
Critic      To Strive

- 1) Jurgen Klopp \_\_\_\_\_ Liverpool during his time at the club.
- 2) In the \_\_\_\_\_ of world football history, Diego Maradona is often called one of the greatest players of all time.
- 3) Palmeiras \_\_\_\_\_ for success, investing in top players, youth development programs, and cutting-edge training facilities to achieve their goals.
- 4) Despite his short \_\_\_\_\_ at Barcelona, Pep Guardiola's impact on the club's playing style and success was massive, leading them to numerous domestic and European titles.
- 5) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Lionel Messi's legendary career includes his record-breaking goal-scoring feats, multiple Ballon d'Or awards, and his memorable performances in El Clásico matches against Real Madrid.
- 6) VAR (Video Assistant Referee) technology has a number of \_\_\_\_\_ and many argue that it doesn't improve football.
- 7) England have often \_\_\_\_\_ in major tournaments and haven't won a trophy since 1966.



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

- a) What are Arrigo Sacchi's main football philosophies?
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#### Arrigo Sacchi

In the annals of football history, few names stand as tall as Arrigo Sacchi. Born on April 1, 1946, in Fusignano, Italy, Sacchi would go on to revolutionise the game as both a club manager and a national team coach.

Sacchi's managerial career began modestly, with spells at Parma and a brief tenure at Serie C side Rimini. However, it was at AC Milan where he etched his name into the sport's lore. Appointed as Milan's head coach in 1987, Sacchi embarked on a journey that would redefine football tactics and philosophy.

At Milan, Sacchi introduced his iconic high-pressing, aggressive style of play, known as "Total Football." This tactical innovation emphasised collective defending, quick transitions, and attacking flair, but it was his organisational skills that made the difference. With players such as Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit, Paolo Maldini and Franco Baresi, and under Sacchi's guidance, Milan became a dominant force, winning back-to-back European Cups in 1989 and 1990, in addition to a Serie A title in 1988.

Sacchi's influence extended beyond Milan's trophy cabinet. His approach to the game reshaped footballing philosophies worldwide, inspiring a generation of coaches and players to prioritise organisation, teamwork, and tactical intelligence.

Following his success at Milan, Sacchi took the reins of the Italian national team in 1991. Despite initial scepticism about his appointment, Sacchi silenced critics by leading Italy to the final of the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States. Though Italy fell short in a heartbreaking defeat to Brazil in the final, Sacchi's tactical acumen and leadership were undeniable.

Sacchi's managerial legacy is illuminated by a multitude of honours and accolades. Alongside his European and domestic triumphs with Milan, he also earned recognition as FIFA World Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1990.



Arrigo Sacchi's impact transcends the silverware he collected. His commitment to innovation, tactical prowess, and dedication to the beautiful game left an indelible mark on football history. As the sport continues to evolve, Sacchi's principles remain a guiding light for coaches and players striving for excellence on the pitch.

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#### **4) Discussion**

- a) What are your thoughts on Arrigo Sacchi?
- b) What do you think about his style of play?
- c) Can you think of any other managers who have changed football?
- d) Do you think Sacchi is appreciated in football?

