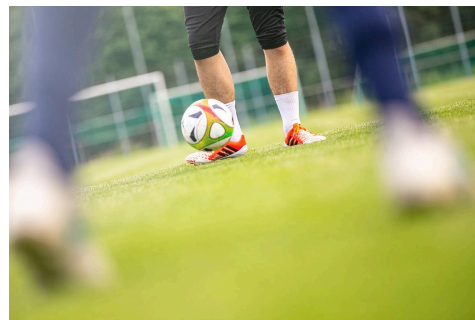


# Best Assistant Managers



## 1) Discussion

- a) Can you think of any famous assistant managers?
  - b) Who is the assistant manager at your club?
  - c) What are some of the responsibilities of an assistant manager?
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## 2) Vocabulary

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

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) Effectively (adverb)     | a) Happening one after another without a break or interruption.  |
| 2) Back-to-back (adjective) | b) To prepare or arrange something so that it is ready to be used or to happen.  |
| 3) To spot (verb)           | c) Doing something well or in a way that achieves the desired result.  |
| 4) To set up (verb)         | d) Referring to something that is located or happening between two other things or at a point during an activity or process. |
| 5) To assist (verb)         | e) To help or support someone in doing something.  |
| 6) In-between (adverb)      | f) To notice or observe something, often something that is not immediately obvious.  |
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**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Effectively

Back-to-back

To spot

To set up

To assist

In-between

- 1) The coach worked tirelessly to \_\_\_\_\_ a solid defensive strategy, which proved vital in the team's success.
- 2) The coach communicated his instructions \_\_\_\_\_, ensuring that every player understood their role on the pitch.
- 3) The experienced assistant manager was always ready to \_\_\_\_\_ the head coach, providing valuable insights and support.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ the intense training sessions, players need to rest and recover.
- 5) Scouts have a keen eye to \_\_\_\_\_ talented players from a young age, hoping to nurture them into future stars.
- 6) Chelsea won \_\_\_\_\_ league titles in 2005 and 2006, showcasing their dominance in the domestic competition.



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

- a) Who are the assistant managers mentioned in the article?

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#### The Best Number 2s

Assistant managers often work quietly but have a big impact on a team's success. Let's look at five of football's top assistant managers.

Tito Vilanova worked alongside Pep Guardiola at FC Barcelona, helping the team win three La Liga titles and two UEFA Champions League trophies. Vilanova understood Guardiola's tactics well and could explain them to players effectively.

Peter Taylor supported Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest. Together, they won back-to-back European Cups in 1979 and 1980, moving up from the Second Division. Taylor was great at spotting talent like Trevor Francis.

Steve Clarke was José Mourinho's assistant at Chelsea when the team won two Premier League titles in 2005 and 2006. Clarke was excellent at setting up the defence and keeping players disciplined. He also worked at Liverpool and West Ham United.

Carlos Queiroz assisted Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, helping the club win three Premier League titles and a UEFA Champions League trophy in 2008. He was smart tactically and focused on training, which helped young talents like Cristiano Ronaldo grow.

In-Between finishing his legendary career and before becoming a legendary manager, Zinedine Zidane was assistant to Carlo Ancelotti at Real Madrid. Zidane's deep understanding of the game, coupled with his ability to command respect from his players made him an effective number 2, helping Real Madrid to win their 10th Champions League.



These assistant managers show how important their role is in football. They use smart tactics and leadership to help their teams succeed. Their work behind the scenes is crucial in the beautiful game.

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#### **4) Discussion**

- a) What are your thoughts on these assistant managers?
- b) Which of these pairs do you think were the most successful?
- c) Can you think of any assistants who became great managers, such as Zidane?

