

El Loco



1) Discussion

- a) Can you think of any famous South American managers? Why are they famous?
 - b) What kind of football do you like watching? Fast, furious and direct or a slow build up style?
 - c) Can you think of any managers who play really good and exciting football but rarely win trophies?
-

2) Vocabulary Match

a) Match the vocabulary to the definitions.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1) Indelible (adjective) | a) The state of not being present or available; the fact of being away or missing. |
| 2) Admiration (noun) | b) Willingness to take risks, be adventurous, or face challenges; bold and courageous behavior. |
| 3) Absence (noun) | c) Distinctive features or characteristics that are typical of something; notable and defining traits. |
| 4) Daring (adjective) | d) Followers or students who learn from and follow the teachings, beliefs, or practices of a particular leader, teacher, or mentor. |
| 5) Exhaustive (adjective) | e) Thorough and complete, covering all possible details or aspects. |
| 6) Hallmark (noun) | f) Something that cannot be erased or forgotten; permanent or lasting. |
| 7) Disciple (noun) | g) A feeling of respect, approval, or liking towards someone or something. |



b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

- 1) Lionel Messi's impact on football is _____; his records and achievements will be remembered for generations.
- 2) Many aspiring football managers consider themselves _____ of renowned coaches, studying their methods and strategies.
- 3) The team struggled in the league during the manager's _____, showing how important his presence was.
- 4) One of the _____ of successful football management is effective communication with players and fostering a strong team spirit.
- 5) The coach conducted an _____ analysis of the opposing team's playing style, leaving no aspect unexplored.
- 6) Jürgen Klopp is famous for playing _____ attacking football.
- 7) The football world has great _____ for coaches who innovate and bring fresh ideas to the game.



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

- a) Who are some of the managers who have been influenced by Marcelo Bielsa?

El Loco

Marcelo Bielsa, the Argentine football manager, has left an indelible mark on the game with his unique style and a long, successful career. Known as "El Loco" for his unusual ways, Bielsa is respected worldwide for his exciting approach to football.

Bielsa's journey began as a player, but his real talent showed when he became a coach. His coaching philosophy is all about fast, possession-based football. His teams are known for pressing hard, quick transitions, and a strong focus on attacking. This style, often called "Bielsaball," has made him famous and earned him admiration.

Bielsa has managed various clubs, including Newell's Old Boys, Athletic Bilbao, and Marseille. However, it's his time at Leeds United that brought him the most attention. Bielsa helped Leeds return to the Premier League after a 16 years absence, impressing everyone with his smart tactics and commitment to attacking play.

But Bielsa's influence goes beyond his coaching success. Many other managers, like Pep Guardiola and Mauricio Pochettino, admire his daring approach to the game. Guardiola once said, "I am not saying I am like him; I am saying we try to play football like him."

The Argentine's unconventional methods, exhaustive analysis of opponents, and emphasis on collective responsibility have become hallmarks of modern football coaching. Bielsa's coaching tree is vast, with disciples scattered across the footballing landscape, implementing his principles in diverse leagues

In conclusion, Marcelo Bielsa's impact on football is not just about winning trophies. It's about changing the game itself. His fearless, attacking style and commitment to footballing ideals continue to shape the future of football coaching, ensuring that the influence of "El Loco" will last for a long time.



4) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Marcelo Bielsa and his influence on other coaches?
- b) Do you think Bielsa's lack of trophies makes his achievements less important? Why?
- c) Can you think of any other coaches who have had a big impact on football and other managers?

