

## Retired Shirt Numbers



### 1) Discussion

- a) What are your favourite shirt numbers?
  - b) When you play, do you always play with the same number?
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### 2) Vocabulary

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

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) To Honour (verb)            | a) Perfect and without any mistakes.                                 |
| 2) To Set Aside (phrasal verb) | b) To recognize or accept the existence or truth of something.       |
| 3) To Revolutionise (verb)     | c) To reserve or save something for a specific purpose or person.    |
| 4) To Embed (verb)             | d) To fix something firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass.         |
| 5) Impeccable (adjective)      | e) To completely change something in a way that is very significant. |
| 6) To Acknowledge (verb)       | f) To show great respect or admiration for someone.                  |



**b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

To Honour

To Set Aside

To Revolutionise

To Embed

Impeccable

To Acknowledge

- 1) Arsène Wenger's philosophy has \_\_\_\_\_ itself deeply in Arsenal's playing style and culture.
- 2) FIFA organised a ceremony to \_\_\_\_\_ the efforts of Didier Drogba in promoting peace through football.
- 3) Real Madrid decided to \_\_\_\_\_ Raúl's achievements by naming him as a club ambassador.
- 4) Pep Guardiola's coaching style helped to \_\_\_\_\_ modern football with his innovative tactics at Barcelona.
- 5) Zinedine Zidane was known for his \_\_\_\_\_ skill on the ball, making him a joy to watch.
- 6) When selecting players for the World Cup, the coach will \_\_\_\_\_ certain tactics to use against stronger teams.



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

- a) Which players are mentioned in the article?
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#### **Retired Shirt Numbers**

In football, some shirt numbers are retired by clubs to honour legendary players who made significant contributions. This tribute ensures that their legacy lives on. Here are five famous examples.

AC Milan retired the number 3 shirt in honour of Paolo Maldini. Maldini, a one-club man, spent his entire 25-year career at Milan. Known for his exceptional defending and leadership, he won seven Serie A titles and five Champions League trophies. His dedication and skill made him a club icon. The number 3 shirt is set aside for his sons, if they play for Milan professionally.

Ajax retired the number 14 shirt to honour Johan Cruyff. Cruyff is regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time. His creativity and vision revolutionised the game. He led Ajax to numerous domestic titles and three consecutive European Cups from 1971 to 1973. His influence at Ajax is profound, both as a player and later as a coach.

Napoli retired the number 10 shirt for Diego Maradona. Maradona played for Napoli from 1984 to 1991, leading the club to its first-ever Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990. His extraordinary skill and passion made him a hero in Naples. Maradona's legacy is deeply embedded in Napoli's history.

West Ham United retired the number 6 shirt in memory of Bobby Moore. Moore captained England to World Cup victory in 1966 and spent the majority of his club career at West Ham. Known for his impeccable defending and sportsmanship, Moore is considered one of the greatest defenders ever. His number 6 shirt symbolises excellence and leadership.

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Birmingham City retired the number 22 shirt for Jude Bellingham. Although Bellingham left for Borussia Dortmund in 2020 at the age of 17, his impact at Birmingham was significant. The club retired his shirt number to acknowledge his talent and the positive influence he had during his short time there.

These retired numbers serve as lasting tributes to players who have left a mark on their clubs and football history.

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#### **4) Discussion**

- a) What are your thoughts on these legends?
- b) Do you think it's a good idea to retire shirt numbers?
- c) What are some special numbers for your favourite club?
- d) Would you like your favourite club to retire any shirt numbers?

