

Serie A: The Biggest 90s League



1) Discussion

- a) What are your favourite European Leagues?
 - b) Can you name any good team from the 90s?
 - c) Who are your favourite Italian teams?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) To consider (verb) | a) To start something, like a game or event. |
| 2) To Kick off (verb) | b) A period of time in history marked by important events or changes. |
| 3) Unbeaten (adjective) | c) To think about something carefully before making a decision. |
| 4) Ingenuity (adjective) | d) To increase or improve something. |
| 5) To boost (verb) | e) The ability to invent or create things in a clever and original way. |
| 6) Era (noun) | f) Not defeated; not losing any games or matches. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

To Consider

To Kick Off

Unbeaten

Ingenuity

To Boost

Era

- 1) In the 2003-2004 season, Arsenal finished the Premier League season _____, making them the "Invincibles."
- 2) The European football season usually _____ in August.
- 3) The 1990s were a golden _____ for Serie A, with teams like AC Milan and Juventus dominating European football.
- 4) Before signing a new player, a club must _____ the player's skills and how they will fit into the team.
- 5) Andrés Iniesta was famous for his _____ in the attacking-third.
- 6) Winning the Champions League can _____ a team's reputation and financial standing.



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

- a) What made Serie A the best and most exciting football league in the world during the 1990s?

Serie A in the 90s

The 1990s were a golden time for Italian football, with Serie A considered the best and most exciting league in the world. This period was full of great tactics, famous players, and intense rivalries that attracted football fans everywhere.

The decade kicked off with Diego Maradona's Napoli winning the 1989-1990 season. The Argentinian was a key player and the star of the league, with stadiums packed with fans wanting to see the superstar. The top goal-scorer of the season was Marco van Basten with 19 goals, followed by Italian superstar Roberto Baggio.

AC Milan was the top team in the early 90s. Managers Arrigo Sacchi and Fabio Capello led the team to many victories. Players like Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini, Marco van Basten, and Ruud Gullit were stars of the team. In the 1991-92 season, Milan went through the whole league season unbeaten, showing a perfect mix of strong defence and attack.

Juventus became very strong in the mid to late 90s. Under coach Marcello Lippi, Juventus won three league titles (1995, 1997, 1998) and the 1996 UEFA Champions League. Their team included a galaxy of stars like Alessandro Del Piero, Zinedine Zidane, and Roberto Baggio, who were known for their skill and ingenuity.

Inter Milan also had their moments, especially when Ronaldo joined in 1997. The Brazilian forward, called "Il Fenomeno," amazed everyone with his speed and scoring ability. Even though Inter didn't win as many titles, Ronaldo's presence was unforgettable.

Other clubs like AS Roma, SS Lazio, and Parma also did well. Parma, coached by Nevio Scala and later Carlo Ancelotti, won two UEFA Cups and a Coppa Italia. Lazio won the 1999-2000 Serie A title with stars like Alessandro Nesta and Pavel Nedvěd.



A key event in this decade was Italy hosting the 1990 FIFA World Cup. This event improved the country's football stadiums and boosted the spirit of Italian football.

The 90s were a time when Serie A was known for its smart tactics, international stars, and exciting matches. This era is still remembered as the high point of Italian club football.

4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts about Italian football in the 90s?
- b) Which of the teams would you like to have watched?
- c) Which team do you think was the best?
- d) Why do you think the popularity of Serie A has gone down?

