

Johan Cruyff



1) Discussion

- a) Who are your favourite Dutch players?
 - b) What footballers do you know from the 70s?
 - c) Can you think of any great players who have never won the World Cup?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) To Emphasise (verb) | a) Very deep or intense. |
| 2) To Lay the Groundwork (phrase) | b) A lasting effect or influence. |
| 3) Ingenuity (noun) | c) To give special importance to something. |
| 4) Profound (adjective) | d) An award or honour. |
| 5) Accolade (noun) | e) To Create a strong base or foundation for something. |
| 6) To Propagate (verb) | f) Creative and cleverness. |
| 7) Imprint (noun) | g) To spread and promote an idea or belief widely. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

To Emphasise

Lay the Groundwork

Ingenuity

Profound

Accolade

To Propagate

Imprint

- 1) Zinedine Zidane's influence on Real Madrid has been _____, leading the team to multiple Champions League victories.
- 2) Andrea Pirlo's _____ on the field allowed him to create brilliant plays and opportunities for his teammates at Juventus.
- 3) Arsène Wenger's tactics and philosophy have left a lasting _____ on Arsenal, shaping the club's identity for years.
- 4) Pep Guardiola continues to _____ the principles of possession-based football, influencing teams and managers around the world.
- 5) Carlo Ancelotti _____ the importance of good management at big clubs.
- 6) Winning the Ballon d'Or is the highest _____ a football player can achieve in recognition of their talent.
- 7) Bill Shankly helped _____ for Liverpool's future success.



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

- a) How did Johan Cruyff's philosophy and contributions as both a player and manager influence the development of FC Barcelona and its future managerial greats?

Johan Cruyff

Johan Cruyff, born on April 25, 1947, in Amsterdam, is widely regarded as one of football's most influential figures. Raised near Ajax's De Meer Stadium, Cruyff joined Ajax's youth academy at a young age. His natural talent was evident early on, and he made his first-team debut at 17.

Cruyff's era at Ajax (1964-1973) was marked by unparalleled success. He led the team to multiple Eredivisie titles and three consecutive European Cups (1971-1973), playing a pivotal role in establishing "Total Football," a revolutionary tactical approach emphasising versatility and fluid movement.

In 1973, Cruyff transferred to FC Barcelona for a world-record fee. At Barça, he helped the club secure its first La Liga title in 14 years in 1974. His impact extended beyond the pitch; his footballing philosophy deeply influenced the club's future, laying the groundwork for their commitment to attacking football and youth development.

Internationally, Cruyff was the talisman of the Dutch national team. His leadership and ingenuity were instrumental during the 1974 World Cup, where the Netherlands introduced the world to Total Football, reaching the final and earning Cruyff the tournament's Best Player award.

Transitioning into management, Cruyff returned to Ajax and later Barcelona. As Barça's manager (1988-1996), he established the "Dream Team," winning four back-to-back La Liga titles and the club's first European Cup in 1992. His



coaching philosophy emphasised technical skill, positional play, and youth development, shaping Barça's identity.

Cruyff's influence on modern football is profound. He mentored future managerial greats like Pep Guardiola, who has often cited Cruyff as his greatest influence. Louis van Gaal, another proponent of possession-based football, was also impacted by Cruyff's principles. Other managers, including Frank Rijkaard and Ronald Koeman, have continued to propagate his footballing ideology.

Johan Cruyff's legacy endures not only through the trophies and accolades but through the lasting imprint of his footballing philosophy, which continues to inspire and shape the game globally.

4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Johan Cruyff's career?
- b) What do you think of his impact on modern football?
- c) Where does Cruyff rank on your list of all-time greats?

