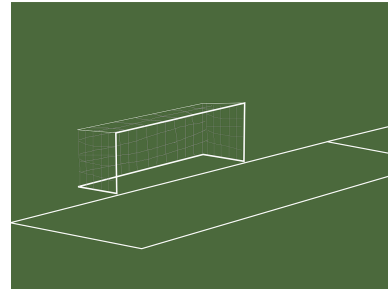


Marco van Basten: The Swan from Utrecht



1) Discussion

- a) Who is your favourite striker of all time?
 - b) What famous Dutch players do you know and which ones are your favourite?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) Retirement (noun) | a) The period of life when a person stops working, typically after reaching a certain age or completing a career. |
| 2) Start out (phrasal verb) | b) Continuing to exist over a long period; someone or something showing determination despite challenges. |
| 3) Crucial (adjective) | c) Physical feats that require skill, strength, and coordination, often associated with gymnastics or impressive movements. |
| 4) Acrobatic (adjective) | d) To begin a particular activity or journey. |
| 5) Persistent (adjective) | e) The impact or contributions a person leaves behind after their time. |
| 6) Legacy (noun) | f) Extremely important or essential; a crucial event or element is one that significantly influences the outcome of a situation. |



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

Retirement

Start out

Crucial

Acrobatic

Persistent

Legacy

- 1) After a distinguished career, David Beckham announced his _____, marking the end of an era in world football.
- 2) David De Gea was known for making _____ saves that often looked impossible.
- 3) Andres Iniesta's last minute winner in the 2010 World Cup final was the most _____ in the history of Spanish football.
- 4) Despite facing challenges from other sports, the _____ popularity of football around the globe remains unmatched.
- 5) Sir Alex Ferguson's _____ at Manchester United is unrivalled.
- 6) Jamie Vardy _____ at Stocksbridge Park Steels, before ending up at Leicester City.



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

a) Why did Marco van Basten have to retire?

Marco van Basten

Marco Van Basten, a famous Dutch football player, had a fantastic career with remarkable goals and important moments. Born on October 31, 1964, in Utrecht, Netherlands, Van Basten became well-known for playing for AC Milan and his early retirement due to injuries.

Van Basten started out his professional career at Ajax, a team in his home country. He quickly became a crucial player for them in the early 1980s. Because of his impressive goal-scoring, AC Milan noticed him and signed him in 1987.

His time at AC Milan was the highlight of his career. In the 1988-89 season, he helped Milan win the Serie A title and the UEFA Super Cup. Van Basten's excellent goal-scoring even earned him the prestigious Ballon d'Or award 1988. A trophy that he won on two more occasions in 1989 and 1992. One of his best moments was in the 1989 European Cup final against Steaua Bucharest, where he scored two goals. He led the Netherlands to win Euro 88, scoring one of the greatest volleys ever in the final (check it out on Youtube).

Unfortunately, Van Basten had to stop playing football early because of persistent injuries. His ankles were always causing problems, and in 1995, at just 30 years old, he decided to retire. This was a sad moment for fans who expected him to play longer and achieve even more.

Van Basten's retirement was a smart decision to take care of his health. Even though he left the game early, he left behind a legacy that football fans still remember and admire today.

In conclusion, Marco Van Basten had a great career, especially at AC Milan where he won 11 trophies, including 3 Serie A titles and 2 European Cups. Despite this, he is still celebrated as one of the best football players, showing that his impact on the game will always be remembered.



4) Discussion

- a) What do you think about the career of Marco van Basten?
- b) Do you think Marco van Basten deserves more recognition for his amazing career?
- c) Can you think of any other players who have had to stop playing early because of injury?

