

Shakhtar Donetsk: Football's Homeless Giant



1) Discussion

- a) What do you know about Ukrainian football?
 - b) Who are some of your favourite Ukrainian players?
 - c) Can you think of any teams that have faced difficulties because of wars or other social issues?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Flair (noun) | a) To set up, create, or bring into existence something that will last over time, such as an organization, institution, or tradition. |
| 2) Expansive (adjective) | b) To have control, authority, or power over others. |
| 3) Contribution (noun) | c) A sudden, violent, or drastic change or disruption. |
| 4) To establish (verb) | d) Able to deal with or recover quickly from difficult conditions or setbacks. |
| 5) To dominate (verb) | e) A special style that makes something or someone stand out, often in a creative or expressive manner. |
| 6) Resilient (adjective) | f) Covering a wide range or areas. |
| 7) Upheaval (noun) | g) Something given, offered, or provided. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Flair Expansive Contribution To dominate
To establish Upheaval Resilient

- 1) After the Munich Air Disaster in 1958, Manchester United were _____ and returned to dominate English football.
- 2) Bayern Munich has managed to _____ the Bundesliga for several consecutive seasons, showcasing their dominance in German football.
- 3) In world football, Neymar's _____ for skillful dribbling and flashy goals makes him a fan favourite.
- 4) Liverpool's signing of Virgil van Dijk made a big _____ to their defensive stability, leading them to win the Premier League title.
- 5) The transfer window causes _____ in player movements and team dynamics as clubs try to strengthen their squads.
- 6) The appointment of a new coach often aims to _____ a winning culture within a football club.
- 7) Manchester City's _____ style of play under Pep Guardiola emphasises possession and attacking football.



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

- a) What are some of the challenges that Shakhtar Donetsk have faced?

Shakhtar Donetsk: Football's Homeless Giant

Shakhtar Donetsk were a football powerhouse not only in Ukraine but also on the European stage. The club, founded in 1936, became famous in the 2000s under the ownership of Rinat Akhmetov. Known for their attacking flair and attractive style of play, Shakhtar had become a symbol of success both domestically and in continental competitions.

Their achievements were impressive. The club won multiple Ukrainian Premier League titles and had become a regular participant in the UEFA Champions League, often progressing to the knockout stages. Under the management of Mircea Lucescu, Shakhtar played an expansive brand of football, characterised by quick passing, fluid movement, and technical ability.

One contribution to Shakhtar's success was their strong connection to Brazilian football. The club had established itself as a destination for talented Brazilian players looking to move to European football. Players like Willian, Fernandinho, and Douglas Costa had all thrived at Shakhtar, showcasing their skills and attracting attention from top clubs around the world.

However, the political situation in Ukraine significantly impacted Shakhtar Donetsk. The 2014 invasion of the Donbass region disrupted normal life in the area, including football. Shakhtar were forced to move their home matches to other cities because of safety concerns, and many players chose to leave the club.

Despite the challenges posed by the invasion, Shakhtar continued to compete at a high level. The club adapted to the circumstances, rebuilding their squad with a mix of young talent and experienced players. They continued dominating Ukrainian football, winning league titles and competing in European competitions.



The 2022 invasion of Ukraine complicated the situation more for Shakhtar. Again, the club faced challenges and security issues, including finding places to play their games, but they remained resilient.

Throughout these difficult times, Shakhtar Donetsk has shown remarkable resilience and determination. Despite the upheaval caused by political conflicts, the club has continued to succeed on the football pitch, showing their trademark style of play and helping young talented players from around the world, including Brazil. Shakhtar remains a symbol of strength and unity in Ukrainian football.

4) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Shakhtar's success in football?
- b) Are you surprised by their success even though they have faced so many difficulties?
- c) What do you imagine are some of the challenges Shakhtar are facing today?

