

### ***Pep Guardiola The Evolution***

“An outstanding work ... the [soccer] book of the decade.” —Sunday Business Post
Inverting the Pyramid is a pioneering soccer book that chronicles the evolution of soccer tactics and the lives of the itinerant coaching geniuses who have spread their distinctive styles across the globe. Through Jonathan Wilson’s brilliant historical detective work we learn how the South Americans shrugged off the British colonial order to add their own finesse to the game; how the Europeans harnessed individual technique and built it into a team structure; how the game once featured five forwards up front, while now a lone striker is not uncommon. Inverting the Pyramid provides a definitive understanding of the tactical genius of modern-day Barcelona, for the first time showing how their style of play developed from Dutch “Total Football,” which itself was an evolution of the Scottish passing game invented by Queens Park in the 1870s and taken on by Tottenham Hotspur in the 1930s. Inverting the Pyramid has been called the “Big Daddy” (Zonal Marking) of soccer tactics books; it is essential for any coach, fan, player, or fantasy manager of the beautiful game

J ü Klopp's coaching career began in the German second tier at the unfashionable club of FSV Mainz 05, whom he steered to the Bundesliga for the first time in forty-one years. In 2008, he joined Borussia Dortmund, where he achieved back-to-back league titles and took the club to the UEFA Champions League final. He left Germany for one of the England's most challenging jobs: to manage Liverpool, a once-mighty club that had not managed sustained success since the 1980s. It was not a task for the fainthearted. Anfield, Liverpool's home, is a temple to flamboyant attacking soccer powered by passion. In Klopp, Liverpool finally found a manager who embodied the essence of the club. Klopp is dynamic, expressive, restless, driven-he feels every move and play, every tactical shift, every contact on the field. His eyes betray a wild ecstasy and agony as his team thrives or falls. His game plan demands relentless commitment-the famous gegenpress-and he is one of the great personal motivators in all sport. Raphael Honigstein, author of Das Reboot and Budesliga correspondent for the Guardian, has interviewed Klopp and followed his career since his early years, and better than anyone knows how to "bring the noise" to his subject.

Access inside the changing room and behind the scenes that any journalist or writer would kill for... Perarnau's insights are astonishing' - Graham Hunter
'Write about everything you see. Be as critical as you like' - Pep Guardiola
to Mart í Perarnau, Summer 2013
Mart í Perarnau was given total access to Bayern Munich during season 2013-14. This book represents the first time in the modern era that a writer has got this close to one of the elite teams of world football. At the invitation of Pep Guardiola, he shadowed the Catalan, his staff and his superstar players during training and on matchdays. Bayer smashed domestic records on their way to the double, but were humiliated by Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-final.

Perarnau was with them every step of the way. Perarnau is with Guardiola as he is courted by the world's greatest clubs during his sabbatical in New York. We hear Guardiola explain in detail the radical tactical moves which transform Bayern's season and reprogramme the players who will win the World Cup with Germany. Perarnau talks exclusively and in fascinating

detail with an array of players, including Arjen Robben, Manuel Neuer, Philipp Lahm, Thiago Alc?ntara and Bastian Schweinsteiger. Pep Confidential is much more than the story of a season - it is also a lasting portrait of one of the greatest coaches in sport.

Presents the history of FC Barcelona, profiles the team's most successful coaches and players, and discusses the various championship titles the club has earned.

The Tactical Concepts Behind Pep Guardiola's Manchester City

Pep Confidential

The Art of Winning: What the Appointment of 'The Special One' Tells Us about Manchester United and the Premier League

Leading

A Soccer Coach's Guide

Thor

What makes a coach great? How do great coaches turn a collection of individuals into a coherent “us”? Seth Davis, one of the keenest minds in sports journalism, has been thinking about that question for twenty-five years. It’s one of the things that drove him to write the definitive biography of college basketball’s greatest coach, John Wooden, Wooden: A Coach’s Life. But John Wooden coached a long time ago. The world has changed, and coaching has too, tremendously. Seth Davis decided to embark on a proper investigation to get to the root of the matter. In Getting to Us, Davis probes and prods the best of the best from the landscape of active coaches of football and basketball, college and pro—from Urban Meyer, Dabo Swinney, and Jim Harbaugh to Mike Krzyzewski, Tom Izzo, Jim Boheim, Brad Stevens, Geno Auriemma, and Doc Rivers—to get at the fundamental ingredients of greatness in the coaching sphere. There’s no single right way, of course—part of the great value of this book is Davis’s distillation of what he has learned about different types of greatness in coaching, and what sort of leadership thrives in one kind of environment but not in others. Some coaches have thrived at the college level but not in the pros. Why? What’s the difference? Some coaches are stern taskmasters, others are warm and cuddly; some are brilliant strategists but less emotionally involved with their players, and with others it’s vice versa. In Getting to Us, we come to feel a deep connection with the most successful and iconic coaches in all of sports—big winners and big characters, whose stories offer much of enduring interest and value. Written by Agustín Peraita, FCBEscola Project Director at Sao Paulo FC Barcelona, this book is for soccer coaches looking to understand and implement Pep Guardiola's tactical approach and coaching methodology for his 2009-2010 Barca side. Contains over 50 illustrations, detailing on-field drills, tactical diagrams and weekly planning schedules."

This book provides a tactical analysis of Pep Guardiola's 4-3-3 Attacking Tactics (56 Tactical Situations) which has been used to produce 12 Full Training Sessions (70 Practices and Variations). You can use these ready-made sessions to practice Pep Guardiola's attacking tactics and implement them into your training sessions.

This book gives you a rare opportunity to use Pep Guardiola's Practices and learn from one of the best coaches in the history of football. The 88 Attacking Combinations and Attacking Positional Patterns of Play included are taken direct from Pep Guardiola's training sessions at Manchester City, Bayern Munich and FC Barcelona.

The Biography

Pep Guardiola - 85 Passing, Rondos, Possession Games & Technical Circuits Direct from Pep's Training Sessions

The Quality of Madness

The evolution of football formations and plays

Inside the Minds of Football's Leaders

Universality - The Blueprint for Soccer's New Era

La Roja

FC Barcelona are the greatest football team in the world, the greatest for a generation and possibly the greatest of all time. This is the inside story of how the team came to redefine how the game is played, told by the journalist closer to it than any other. This edition contains a new epilogue reflecting on the departure of Pep Guardiola and Spain's victory at Euro 2012.

A novel about the remarkable life of the Irishman Patrick O’Connell, appointed as manager of FC Barcelona at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, and generally recognised as the man who saved the club from bankruptcy.

Biographical Portrait of Liverpool's Spanish football manager Rafael Benitez and an extraordinary season for the club. When Rafael Benitez was appointed manager of under-achieving Liverpool at the start of the 2004-2005 season, the reaction of many fans was 'Who the \*\*\*\* is Rafael Benitez?'. The Liverpool fans had grown used to French manager Gerard Houllier but he had been a fan of the club himself since his days as a teacher on Merseyside. A Spaniard with admittedly a wonderful record at Valencia was going to take over management of Liverpool's famous Boot Room and try and win over a disillusioned Kop. But in one season, Benitez's importation of Spanish players, coaching methods and diet has led to a revolution, even usurping Jose Mourinho's Chelsea, whereby the team has ended the season winning the ultimate trophy for any European club - the European Champions League. No fan will ever forget the comeback from a 3-0 deficit to a 3-3 scoreline, then dramatic success in the penalty shoot-out. This is the story of Rafa's remarkable success.

After the hugely popular Volume 1, Volume 2 gives you another rare opportunity into Pep Guardiola's Training Sessions with 85 Practices taken directly from Pep's training sessions including: Technical Circuits, Passing, Rondos, Positional and Possession Games, Small to Large Sided Games at Manchester City, Bayern Munich and FC Barcelona.

The Evolution of Winning Soccer Tactics from Cruyff to Guardiola

The Remarkable Life of Patrick O’Connell

Pep's City

How Great Coaches Make Great Teams

Inverting The Pyramid

Mastering the Premier League

Pep Guardiola - 88 Attacking Combinations and Positional Patterns of Play Direct from Pep's Training Sessions

'Does culture create competitive advantage? Case closed in this compelling analysis of sporting success. Read it.'
¶ James Kerr, bestselling author of Legacy.
In The Barcelona Way, sports psychologist Prof. Damian Hughes draws on exclusive insight into FCB as well as first-hand research from organizational psychology, to set out a method to create your own high-performance culture. At the heart of FCB's winning culture are a set of principles, epitomized by Pep Guardiola, Johan Cruyff, Lionel Messi and many other FCB legends, which govern how to nurture talent, prepare for change and provide the best environment to build a culture of sustained success. These principles: Big Picture, Arc of Change, Repetition, Cultural Architects, Authentic Leadership are at the heart of FCB's unprecedented domination of football, and are the key to developing high-performance cultures in any team-based organisation across every industry. The Barcelona Way is a hugely practical must-read that sets out a clear plan, based on the same principles, for you to create a culture of success and get the best of yourself and your team.

Mastering the Premier League offers an in-depth look at the tactical concepts underlying a sports superpower--revealing who does what, how and why. Discover the secrets of the game model developed by Pep Guardiola that sets Manchester City apart from the rest. When Guardiola joined Manchester City in 2016 there were doubts that he could replicate his successful model in the English game. But after a single season of acclimatization we saw those doubts shattered as City won the Premier League in 2017/18 with a record 100 points. Beyond the trophies and the records, however, lies a yet more intriguing story--of how Guardiola adapted and perfected the tactical principles that had made him so successful at Barcelona and Bayern Munich, who played the key roles on the field, enabling Manchester City's successes of 2017-19, and why the other Premier League sides were unable to stop the City juggernaut sweeping aside all in its path.

The manager everyone loves to hate... Mercurial Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho, who regards himself as football's equivalent of George Clooney, featured in his own blockbuster this summer when he took charge of Manchester United - the world's biggest club. The news sent shockwaves through the Old Trafford faithful - generations of whom have pledged their loyalty to a succession of managerial legends including Sir Matt Busby and Sir Alex Ferguson. At the very outset of what promises to be a tumultuous season for the Red Devils, Andrew J Kirby investigates in his latest book Jose Mourinho: The Art of Winning whether the latest controversial move by the club's owners is a marriage made in heaven or hell. Machiavellian schemer, marketing man's dream, inspirational leader and motivator, arrogant "manager-lout," Super Coach. Anti-hero. Serial trophy-winner. Jose Mourinho's personality is a complex one. Jose Mourinho: The Art of Winning is an entertaining character study of the man who in many ways has come to define modern, elite-level football. Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo apart, the biggest, most marketable stars in world football today are the managers. The 2016-17 edition of the FA Premier League is being billed as the most exciting yet, and that's not because of the influx of star players after the European Championships in France. Though some eye-catching names have joined the league, none have the cache of a Messi or a Ronaldo. None have the standing of a Jose Mourinho or a Pep Guardiola either. And so it is on the manager's shoulders that the responsibility for delivering the customary Premier League spectacle falls. Incorporating interviews with fans (of United, and of Mourinho's former clubs), players (past and present), commentators and journalists, this book endeavours to determine what effect the Jose Mourinho show will have on Manchester United as a football club and the Premier League as a whole by tackling eight key questions including the following: Is Mourinho the best manager in the game? What is the management approach of Jose Mourinho? Can Manchester United tolerate the dark side of Jose Mourinho? What is the role of the modern day Premier League manager and how has this changed over the years? And: "Once a Blue, always a Red?" Can a manager who is so recognisably a Blue become a Red? Stuffed full of statistical detail and flavoured with a wistful view of a game, he sets the spectacular scene for a showdown of showdowns in this season's Premier League campaign where the ultimate prize for United will be the crucial return to the Champions League. With interviews with football writers, players and fans, this book is a must that every Manchester United fan - and indeed every football supporter - needs to read. Andrew J Kirby's sports-writing has featured in BBC Sport magazine and on the Radio Five Live website. He has held a Manchester United season ticket for over a quarter of a century and regularly follows the Reds across Europe and beyond. His other United books include, Fergie's Finest: Sir Alex Ferguson's First 11, The Pride of All Europe: Manchester United's Greatest Seasons in the European Cup and Louis van Gaal: Dutch Courage. PRAISE FOR FERGIE'S FINEST A must read for any red. Scott the Red, Editor: Republik of Mancunia United Blog The perfect gift for the red devil in your life! Sam Sharp, Manchester United fan Buy it now! Michael Hopkins, Manchester United fan PRAISE FOR THE PRIDE OF ALL EUROPE A very enjoyable trip down memory lane. Goodreads Reviewer The book succeeds in encapsulating the hopes, dreams, disappointments and joys of so many different eras. Manchester United fan review on Amazon PRAISE FOR DUTCH COURAGE Great research and insight make this a supreme football biography. Cool Reviews Excellent insight into this complex character. Nigel Craig, Amazon Reviewer

The game of soccer is constantly in flux; new ideas, philosophies and tactics mould the present and shape the future. Since the turn of the century we have witnessed dramatic changes in the beautiful game: new types of player, new coaching methods, and tactical innovations have all enhanced and changed the sport of football. The technical, tactical, physical and psychological skills needs of the modern player - from the goalkeeper to centre forward - have all been enhanced. In a nutshell, the modern game is quicker as well as being technically and tactically more advanced than for previous generations. Excitingly, the future promises to be even faster, more technical, and more demanding of its players! After witnessing Spanish football and Barcelona provide one of the great periods of global dominance - we are now entering a new era; one which is being led by German football, and notably Bayern Munich. Germany, now world champions at international level, along with the visionary coaching philosophy of Pep Guardiola at club level, are taking football into a new epoch, one which the Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi prophesised several years ago. One of Universality. In this book, Matthew Whitehouse - acclaimed author of "The Way Forward: Solutions to England's Football Failings" - looks in-depth at the past decade of the game, taking the reader on a journey into football's evolution. Examining the key changes that have occurred since the turn of the century right up to the present, the book looks at the evolution of tactics, coaching, and position-specific play. They have led us to this moment: to the rise of universality. Universality The Blueprint For Soccer's New Era is a voyage into football, as well as a lesson for coaches, players and fans who seek to know and anticipate where the game of the future is heading.

The Science and Art of a Data Revolution

Quiet Leadership

The Origins, History and Evolution of the Norse God

Football Hackers

The Evolution

The Man Who Saved FC Barcelona

Louis Van Gaal

**You've never seen football formations and tactic explored like they are in Total Football ever before. A must-have for football experts! A goalkeeper, two defenders and eight attackers – it's no surprise that in the 1950s under this popular formation scores like 9-3 were common. So what changed? Total Football tells the evolution of football tactics: from the birth of Total Football in the Netherlands to the dominance of tiki taka in Spain and Brazil, each chapter explores an iconic tactic. Innovative graphics alongside expert text guide you through the manager decisions that developed new formations, the pure talent of players that defined each playing style and the matches that propelled the winning tactic to legendary status. Sanjeev Shetty explores how each tactic works, how they came to dominate and how opponents worked to find a way to beat them. From Pele to Messi, Cruyff to Mourinho, Total Football explores the tactics that made the legends, giving you a new understanding of how the beautiful game is played.**

**The future of football is now. Football's data revolution has only just begun. The arrival of advanced metrics and detailed analysis is already reshaping the modern game. We can now fully assess player performance, analyse the role of luck and measure what really leads to victory. There is no turning back. Now the race is on between football's wealthiest clubs and a group of outsiders, nerds and rule-breakers, who are turning the game on its head with their staggering innovations. Winning is no longer just about what happens out on the pitch, it's now a battle taking place in boardrooms and on screens across international borders with the world's brightest minds driving for an edge over their fiercest rivals. Christoph Biermann has moved in the midst of these disruptive upheavals, talking to scientists, coaches, managers, scouts and psychologists in the world's major clubs, traveling across Europe and the US and revealing the hidden - and often jaw-dropping - truths behind the beautiful game. 'A book full of exciting ideas and inside views on modern football. The most exciting book in an exciting time for football.' Thomas Hitzlsperger**

**Award-winning football writer Jonathan Wilson selects ten landmark matches from Manchester United's history, from the first time they lifted the FA Cup, beating Bristol City in 1909, to the Cup victory of 2016 that proved to be Louis van Gaal's last game in charge. In doing so, he identifies the pivotal moments in the club's rise to being one of the foremost teams of the twentieth century. With his trademark tactical acumen, Wilson goes back to the matches themselves and subjects them to forensic examination, re-evaluating and reassessing, and going beyond the white noise of banal player quotes and instant judgements to discover why what happened happened. It is in this way, as far as possible, a football history of a great club. And because this is Manchester United, there is additional resonance. From the completion of Old Trafford in 1910, United have had a significant financial advantage. Yet their past has not been one of sustained success. As such, their history is also, to an extent, a history of English football, with all of its possibilities and frustrations.**

**Andrés Iniesta is the Barcelona and Spain legend, rated by the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Paul Scholes as one of the greatest footballers of all time. This is the thinking fan's footballer with a thinking fan's football book. Andrés Iniesta was twelve years old when scouts invited him into Barcelona's famous La Masia academy. Shortly after he joined the club, Barca legend Pep Guardiola remarked of him, 'This lad is going to retire us all.' Iniesta rapidly became a permanent fixture in the Barca midfield, propelling the club to a raft of trophies, including eight La Liga championships and four Champions League titles. With his country he has won the European Championship twice, and scored the winning goal in the 2010 World Cup final. Behind the wonderfully graceful passing and movement, and the accolades and trophies he has garnered, there exists an intelligent and thoughtful man who, until now, has let his beautifully skilful feet do the talking. In The Artist: Being Iniesta, the Spanish maestro paints a vivid self-portrait, in his own words but also in those of his coaches, team-mates, opponents, friends and family. The result is intriguing.**

**FC Barcelona**

**Profiles of the Rogues, Geniuses, and Neurotics Who Dominate the World's Most Popular Sport**

Total Football - A graphic history of the world's most iconic soccer tactics

Another Way of Winning: The Biography

Learning from Life and My Years at Manchester United

The Jürgen Klopp Story

Jose Mourinho

*This fully updated edition of the international bestseller includes Pep Guardiola's Bayern years and his decision to join Manchester City Pep Guardiola is the most successful and sought after football coach in the world. After being appointed first-team manager in 2008, he transformed Barcelona into arguably the greatest club side of all time, winning an unprecedented thirteen trophies in four years. Following a shock sabbatical from the game, he replaced Jupp Heynckes at the helm of Bayern Munich at the start of the 2013-14 season, twice winning the Double in his three years in charge. He then announced that he would be joining Manchester City for the 2016-17 season, thereby beginning what could prove to be his greatest challenge yet: turning them into a team that consistently wins in the most difficult of leagues and a regular challenger in the Champions League . . . and doing it the Guardiola way. Guillem Balagué has followed Pep's career from the outset and has had direct access to the man and his inner circle. This then is the definitive portrait of Pep Guardiola and his relentless pursuit of footballing perfection.*

*Pep's wife, Cristina Serra, told me, 'I think Pep shares too much in your book. Too much tactical information. He's very open about these things in his press conferences too. Other coaches don't do that. Any coach who reads your book will get a complete run down of Pep's tactics . . .' For three extraordinary seasons, Martí Perarnau was given total access around Bayern Munich - to its players, its backroom staff, its board members and, above all, to its manager, Pep Guardiola. In the follow-up to his critically acclaimed account of Guardiola's first full season at Bayern, Pep Confidential, Perarnau now lifts the lid on the Catalan's whole tenure in Bavaria. Pep Guardiola: The Evolution takes the reader on a journey through three action packed seasons as Bayern smashed domestic records yet struggled to emulate that dominance in Europe, analysing Guardiola's management style through key moments on and off the field. As the author shadows the manager and his superstar players during training and matchdays, he delivers a portrait of some of football's most spellbinding individuals that is as enthralling as it is utterly unique. Perarnau reveals how Guardiola improved as a manager at Bayern despite failing to land the ultimate prize in European football, examines his decision to leave Germany to take up the challenge at Manchester City and how his managerial style will continue to evolve in the Premier League. This is more than the story of three seasons with one of the biggest clubs in the game, it is a portrait and analysis of a manager and the footballing philosophies that have beguiled the world.*

*An absolutely essential book for every modern football fan, about the development of Premier League tactics, published to coincide with 25 years of the competition.*

*In his national bestseller, Socceromics, Simon Kuper pioneered a new way of looking at soccer, the world's most popular game, through his witty and meticulous use of data. In Soccer Men, Kuper explores the heart and soul of the sport by getting up close and personal with soccer's greatest players and coaches. An inquiry into the genius and hubris of the modern game, Soccer Men details the lives of international stars such as Arsène Wenger, Jose Mourinho, Josep Guardiola, Lionel Messi, Wayne Rooney, and David Beckham, describing their upbringings, the soccer cultures they grew up in, the way they play or coach, and the baggage they bring to their relationships at work. In this updated edition, Kuper profiles Hope Solo, Raymond Domenech, Andrea Agnelli, Robin van Persie, Carlo Ancelotti, and more. He also provides a brilliant comparison of two tales of immigrant life: Philip Roth's Portnoy's Complaint and the autobiography of Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.*

*Winning Hearts, Minds and Matches*

*The Manager*

*Soccer Men*

*Cristiano Ronaldo*

*The Philosophy that Changed the Game*

*Rafael Benitez, Liverpool and the Path to European Glory*

*Inside Pep Guardiola's First Season at Bayern Munich*

The definitive biography of Cristiano Ronaldo, named Football Book of the Year at the Cross Sports Book Awards 2016 Fully updated to include the 2017-18 season and Ronaldo's transfer to Juventus Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the greatest footballers of all time, a dream he pursued from the age of just twelve when he left his humble origins on Madeira behind. It wasn't long before he had the biggest clubs in Europe knocking on his door, but it was Manchester United who won the race for his signature. Under the tutelage of Sir Alex Ferguson, Ronaldo developed into the complete footballer and athlete, winning three league titles and a Champions League along the way. He then became the biggest galáctico of them all when he transferred to Real Madrid for a record-breaking fee. Unprecedented success in the Champions League and a record-equalling five Ballons d'Or followed, before his sensational move to Juventus in the summer of 2018. Guillem Balagué, respected football journalist and expert on the Spanish game, provides the definitive account of a twenty-first-century footballing icon.

From Cruyff's "Total Football" to the epic rivalry between Guardiola and Mourinho, a gripping chronicle of the rise and fall of Barcelona's dominance in world soccer. Barcelona's style of play--pressing and possessing--is the single biggest influence on modern soccer. In The Barcelona Inheritance, Jonathan Wilson reveals how and why this came to pass, offering a deep analysis of the evolution of soccer tactics and style. In the late 1990s, Johan Cruyff's Dream Team was disintegrating and the revolutionary manager had departed, but his style gave birth to a new generation of thinkers, including Pep Guardiola and José Mourinho. Today, their teams are first and second in the Premier League, marking the latest installment in a rivalry that can be traced back twenty-five years. The Barcelona Inheritance is a book about the tactics, the personalities, the friendships, and, in one case, an apocalyptic falling-out that continue to shape the game today.

\*Includes pictures of important places and historic illustrations and art depicting Thor and other important Norse figures.
\*Explains the historical origins of the god, the mythological tales about him, and the literary evolution of Thor.
\*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.
"Across the rainbow bridge of Asgard, Where the Booming Heavens Roar, You'll behold in breathless wonder, the God of Thunder, Mighty Thor!"
- Theme Song from the television show Mighty Thor (1966)
"In swelling rage I then rose up Thor,--Seldom he sits I when he such things hears,--And the oaths were broken, I the words and bonds,The mighty pledges I between them made."
- Voluspa Line #26 from the Poetic Edda
A hammer no mortal can lift. A flame-haired fiery storm god. A comic book alien-hero-god who defends humanity. The swastika. Even the name "Thursday" ("Thor's Day"). Despite the virtual disappearance of the indigenous Norse religion and mythology several centuries ago, modern society still regularly encounters the storm god Thor, who continues to be brought back to life in the form of literature and was recently the protagonist in a big-budget Hollywood movie. What is it about this god, out of the hundreds (if not thousands) of deities that were consigned to the dustbin of history by the world's major religions, that so captures people's imaginations today? A better understanding of Thor's appeal can be found in just about every aspect of the history and evolution of the figure over the centuries, including the origins of the god, the evocative imagery used to describe him, and even the parallels between Thor and similar gods and heroes. All of this has been buffeted by literature, such as the stories about Thor found in the Prose Edda and the Poetic Edda, and the connection societies have had with Thor for hundreds of years, even up until today. This work also examines the decline and displacement of Norse mythology by Christianity, the reasons why Thor was often the last god worshiped by the Norse, and today's remnants of Thorism, including his parallels in other faiths, his role in revived Neo-Heathenism and his appearance in other media as a hero in comics and films. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about Thor like you never have before, in no time at all.

The author of a best-selling biography of Diego Maradona, and similarly widely acclaimed books on FC Barcelona and Real Madrid, digs deep into the roots of the most popular sport, to look at how football played in Spain became the most admired in the world. From its early beginnings when the first football on the shores of Bilbao and Buenos Aires was played by British sailors and engineers, through to the influx of South American stars, and similarly inspirational Italians, Dutchman and Scandinavians, the author shows how the engagement of foreigners with home-grown Spanish talent overcame political adversity and produced football of sublime skill, passion, and unparalleled entertainment value. The book takes us on a journey through some of the extraordinary characters, games, and moments that have defined Spanish football from the early days when a few enthusiasts developed their talent kicking a ball around on a piece of industrial waste-ground or beach, to the emergence of rival giants, FC Barcelona and Real Madrid - the most powerful and successful football clubs in the world - and a national team that, encompassing all that was most brilliant in the Spanish League, became the World Champions.

A Life of Marcelo Bielsa

King Klopp

A Life of Total Football

A Journey Through Spanish Football

Pep Guardiola

Getting to Us

How to Create a High-Performance Culture

Pep GuardiolaThe EvolutionPep GuardiolaThe EvolutionBirlinn Ltd

From the post room to the board room, everyone thinks they can be the manager. But how do you manage outrageous talent? What do you do to inspire loyalty from your players? How do you turn around a team in crisis? What's the best way to build long-term success? How can you lead calmly under pressure? The issues are the same whether you're managing a Premier League football team or a FTSE 100 company. Here, for the first time, some 30 of the biggest names in football management reveal just what it takes. With their every decision, remark, skill, and success or failure under constant scrutiny from the media and the fans, these managers need to be the most adroit of leaders. In The Manager they explain their methods, give examples of lessons they've learned along the way, and describe the decisions they make and the leadership they provide. Each chapter tackles a key leadership issue for managers in any walk of life and, in their own words, shows how the experts deal with the challenges they face in an abnormally high-pressure environment. Offering valuable lessons for business leaders and fascinating behind-the-scenes insights for football fans, The Manager is an honest, accessible and unprecedented look at the day-to-day work of these high-profile characters and the world of top-level football management. Contents: A Piece of the Action (Roy Hodgson); The Art of One-on-One (Carlo Ancelotti); Behind the Scenes (Ars Á ne Wenger); Building High-performing Teams (Sam Allardyce); The Field of Play (Roberto Mancini); Handling Outrageous Talent (Jos Á © Mourinho); Pursuing a Career Under Pressure (Brendan Rodgers); Seeing the Bigger Picture (Harry Redknapp); Creating Sustained Success (Sir Alex Ferguson); Crisis Response and Turnaround (Walter Smith); Triumph and Despair (Mick McCarthy). Also featuring: Gerard Houllier, Tony Pulis, Martin O'Neill, Neil Warnock, Howard Wilkinson, Kevin Keegan, Dario Gradi, Andre Villas-Boas, David Moyes, Alex McLeish, Hope Powell, Martin Jol, Glenn Hoddle, Chris Hughton, David Platt, Paul Ince, and George Graham.

Pep Guardiola is, without a doubt, the most successful football coach and teacher of the last 10 years. He revolutionised FC Barcelona and formed a team that was one of the best in the history of the sport. Now he follows Jupp Heynckes as coach of Bayern Munich and faces the pivotal question: Will he be able to keep the team 's quality or even improve it? Pep has become a legend, and in order to understand this, it is necessary to see behind the curtain and understand the man who constitutes the Guardiola System. What are the key values and principles that form the basis of his method? How did he form a unit with such diverse football stars? What can we learn from Pep? Miguel Angel Viol á n manages to make the ' unknown Guardiola ' better known and illustrates in many informing and amusing anecdotes: The Philosophy that Changed the Game!

David Beckham is one of the world's foremost media icons, his popularity transcending sport and cultural divides. This is his own in-depth account of his career to date, for Manchester United and England, and of his childhood, family and personal life.

How Germany and Pep Guardiola Are Showing Us the Future Football Game

David Beckham: My Side

More Than a Club

The Barcelona Way

Bring the Noise

The Barcelona Inheritance

A History in Ten Matches

The first definitive insider biography of the new Manchester United manager So who is Louis van Gaal? An inflexible ex-PE teacher who only knows how to act like a dictator, or a soccer visionary that has made him one of the greatest ever European managers? Wherever he has gone, van Gaal has been accused of being a domineering disciplinarian and a control freak. He is certainly, by his own admission, a man who leaves nothing to chance. A disciple in the 1970s of Rinus Michels! Total Football philosophy, he is a fascinating contradiction!an ultra-individualist utterly devoted to the collective effort. He believes in the team over the individual, in always having a plan, and a team prepared to follow that plan. Van Gaal led the young Ajax team he molded to Champions League glory in 1995, went on to win titles across Europe with Barcelona, AZ Alkmaar, and Bayern Munich, and is currently in his second stint as national coach of Holland. It is a career that has never been short on color and drama!from fallouts with players to rants at the media wherever he has managed. Dutch soccer commentator Maarten Meijer!s has written the definitive biography of van Gaal!both the man and his methods. It offers the best psychological insight so far!from his earliest roots to his greatest triumphs!into the man given the task of returning the glory days to Manchester United.

The untold story of Real Madrid: one of the most incredible turnarounds in sports and business history. Real Madrid is the most successful sports team on the planet. The soccer club has more trophies than any other sports team, including 11 UEFA Champions League trophies. However, the story behind the triumph goes beyond the players and coaches. Generally unnoticed, a management team consisting mostly of outsiders took the team from near bankruptcy to the most valuable sports organization in the world. How did Real Madrid achieve such extraordinary success? Columbia Business School adjunct professor Steven G. Mandis investigates. Given unprecedented behind-the-scenes access, Mandis is the first researcher to rigorously ana-lyze both the on-the-field and business aspects of a sports team. What he learns is completely unexpected and challenges the conventional wisdom that moneyball-fueled data analytics are the primary instruments of success. Instead, Real Madrid's winning formula both on and off the field, from player selection to financial management, is based on aligning strategy with the culture and values of its fan base. Chasing the most talented (and most expensive) players can be a recipe for a winning record, but also financial disaster, as it was for Real Madrid in the late 1990s. Real Madrid's management believes that the club exists to serve the Real Madrid community. They discovered that its fans care more about why the team exists, how their club wins, and whom it wins with versus just winning. The why, how, and whom create a community brand and identity, and inspire extraordinary passion and loyalty, which has led to amazing marketing and commercial success!in turn, attracting and paying for the best players in the world, with the values the fans expect. The club's values and culture also provide a powerful environment for these best players to work together to win trophies. The Real Madrid Way explains how Real Madrid has created and maintains a culture that drives both financial and on-the-field success. This book is an engrossing account of the lifetime of one of the greatest clubs in the most popular sport in the world, and for business and organization leaders, it's an invaluable inside look at a compelling alternative model with lasting competitive advantages that can deliver superior and sustainable returns and performance.

Carlo Ancelotti is one of the greatest managers of all time, with five Champions League titles to his name. Yet his approach could not be further from the aggressive theatricals favoured by many of his rivals. His understated style has earned him the fierce loyalty of players like David Beckham, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Cristiano Ronaldo. In Quiet Leadership, Ancelotti reveals the full, riveting story of his managerial career - his methods, mentors, mistakes and triumphs - and takes us inside the dressing room to trace the characters, challenges and decisions that have shaped him. The result is both a scintillating memoir and a rare insight into the business of leadership.

King Klopp: Rebuilding the Liverpool Dynasty is the story behind Jurgen Klopp's success at Liverpool. Since Klopp's appointment as head coach in October 2015, the club has grown exponentially, swiftly becoming the dominant force in English and European football. But how was the team's rebirth achieved in just a few short years? Experienced football scout and opposition analyst Lee Scott takes an in-depth look at the tactical concepts underpinning Liverpool's success - revealing who does what, how and why. Discover the secrets of the game model developed by Klopp as well as the roles of key players in realising his master plan. Never afraid to experiment, Klopp has refined his game model year on year to the point where Liverpool dominate through their control of space as much as through their pressing and intensity. It's been some ride for Liverpool fans, but beyond the silverware and marquee wins lies an even more intriguing story - the story of a tactical evolution.

The Anatomy of Manchester United

Pep Guardiola Attacking Tactics - Tactical Analysis and Sessions from Manchester City's 4-3-3

The Real Madrid Way

How Values Created the Most Successful Sports Team on the Planet

The Making of the Greatest Team in the World

A Season on the Brink

The Mixer: The Story of Premier League Tactics, from Route One to False Nines