

## Maradona Sacked By Al Wasl

United Arab Emirates club Al Wasl has [sacked former Argentina World Cup-winning captain Diego Maradona](#) after the team failed to win any silverware under Maradona during his season at the helm. The team was knocked out of the UAE league cup at the semi-final stage by Al Ahli, the eventual winners and even ailed to progress past the second round of the President's Cup under Maradona.

Judgment of the former Argentina captain at Al Wasl had been questioned through his decision to select goalkeeper Majid Naser despite him being in the middle of a 17-match domestic ban for slapping Al Ahli coach Quique Sanchez Flores after a match between the two sides.

**"Following a meeting held by the board of directors of Al Wasl Football Company to evaluate the technical staff of Al Wasl under the leadership of coach Diego Maradona, it was decided to terminate the services of coach Diego Maradona and his technical staff,"** a club statement said.

Considered by many as the most gifted football players, the association of Maradona with controversies is not new. During the 1994 World Cup, he was sent home after failing to clear a drug test for [ephedrine doping](#), which he claimed were due to the power drink Rip Fuel given by his personal trainer. An excellent strategist and a team player, Diego Armando Maradona Franco is rated very highly by many experts, football critics, former players, current players and football fans.

*Maradona is the only player in the history of football to set world-record contract fees twice.* During his illustrious career, he played for Argentinos Juniors, Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Napoli, Sevilla and Newell's Old Boys and earned 91 caps and scored 34 goals while playing for Argentina. He reached the peak of his professional career at Napoli and elevated the team to the most successful era in its history by helping the team win their only Serie A Italian Championships in 1986/87 and 1989/1990, placing second in the league twice, in 1987/88 and 1988/89. The #10 jersey of Napoli was officially retired in honor of the football player and his achievements during his career at Napoli.

Diego is the only player to win the Golden Ball at both the FIFA U-20 World Cup and FIFA World Cup, in 1979 and 1986. Diego Maradona played in four FIFA World Cup tournaments and won Argentina the 1986 World Cup against West Germany in the final and was even awarded the Golden Ball award as the tournament's best player. In the quarterfinals of this World Cup, Maradona scored the "*Hand of God*" and a 60 m (66 yd) goal while dribbling past five England players (Peter Beardsley, Steve Hodge, Peter Reid, Terry Butcher, and Terry Fenwick) and goalkeeper Peter Shilton, which was voted "The Goal of the Century" by FIFA.com voters in 2002.

Diego Maradona published his autobiography *Yo Soy El Diego* ("I am The Diego") in 2000 that became an instant bestseller and won FIFA Player of the Century award in 1999. *The Times*, a London based newspaper, selected Maradona as number 1 in The Greatest 10 World Cup players of all time on 22 March 2010.