

s his hand back



ent with more than a touch of the devil



Argentina's coach Diego Maradona hugs Argentina's striker Lionel Messi after the 2010 World Cup quarter final Argentina vs Germany



Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (right) embraces former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona during a rally in Buenos Aires



Diego Armando Maradona (L) talks to Cuban President Fidel Castro, before recording Maradona's TV program 'The 10's Night' in Havana 27 October 2005



Former US boxing champion Mike Tyson (L) and Diego Maradona after arriving to attend the 61st Cannes International Film Festival on May 21, 2008 in Cannes

back to the final even though they won just two games and scored only five goals.

In a dire final, it took Andreas Brehme's 85th-minute penalty for West Germany to this time get the better of Maradona.

Four years later in the United States, Maradona seemed restored to health. He scored against Greece and celebrated by racing to scream into a TV camera, a disturbing mixture of joy, relief and rage.

But he ended his last World Cup like his first, prematurely. After Argentina beat Nigeria in their second group game, Maradona failed a test for ephedrine and was thrown out of the tournament.

A similar pattern of wild highs and lows marked Maradona's club career.

Maradona moved to the club he supported, Boca Juniors, in 1981 and won his sole Argentine league title the following season.

He left for Barcelona for a world record fee in 1982. He won the Copa Del Rey in his first season but the club only finished fourth in the league.

He missed much of the following campaign after Athletic Bilbao's Andoni Goikoetxea broke his ankle, and when Barca lost to Bilbao in that year's cup final, Maradona started a spectacular mass brawl, flooring four opponents.

Facing a ban in Spain, Maradona moved to Napoli, becoming the first player to break the world transfer record twice.

His dazzling play transformed a club from a poor, much-mocked city and led them to their only two Serie A titles.

In a whirlwind seven years he fathered an illegitimate child, made friends with the local mafia and enemies of the tax collectors. He also fell deep into cocaine addiction. His tempestuous time in Italy effectively ended in April 1991 when he tested positive for cocaine and was banned for 15 months.

He wound down his playing career with one



Maradona goes up against Juventus's Luigi De Agostini during his time at Napoli. The Argentinian led the club to two Serie A titles as well as the UEFA Cup

season at Sevilla, one at Newell's Old Boys and two at his beloved Boca.

Player of the century

Over the next two and a half decades he had six short and unsuccessful stints managing clubs in Argentina, the United Arab Emirates and Mexico, and also two fiery years as Argentina coach from 2008-10.

Even though Argentina suffered a record 6-1 defeat by humble Bolivia in qualifying, and Maradona was banned for two months at the end of 2009 for an obscene tirade at journalists, he still led the team to the World Cup in South Africa where they won their group before being thrashed 4-0 by Germany in the quarter-finals.

All the while, Maradona's off-field problems continued.

He went into drug rehab on several occasions. When he quit cocaine, he binged instead on drink, cigars and food and ended up in hospital in 2007.

He was a strident supporter of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, whose image he had tattooed on his shoulder, and Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez.

In 2000, FIFA ran an online Player of the Century poll. Maradona gained 54 percent of the vote, Pele was second with 18 percent. FIFA declared them joint winners.

Maradona married his long-time girlfriend Claudia Villafane in 1984. They had two daughters, Dalma and Gianinna, and divorced in 2004.

He also had a son, Diego Junior, born in Naples in 1986, although he only acknowledged paternity in 2004.



Maradona pictured at the 2018 World Cup, where he watched Argentina from executive boxes



Maradona (C) embraces his daughters Dalma Nerea (L) and Gianinna Dinora (R) during a tribute match held in his honour at Boca Juniors Stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2001



Maradona with wife Claudia and their daughters Ganina and Dalma in Seville, Spain, in 1992



Maradona, left, greets Pope Francis in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican, ahead of an inter-religious match for peace in September 2014



Russia's President Vladimir Putin talks to Argentinian retired striker Diego Maradona (L-R) ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup final draw at the State Kremlin Palace



Soccer legends Diego Maradona (left) and Pele rest on a hammock during a reception in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1995

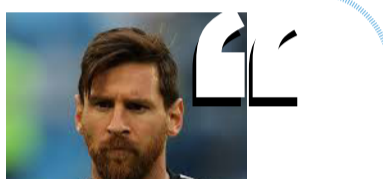


LAST PICTURE- Maradona's death comes just three weeks after he underwent surgery on a blood clot in his brain (pictured), and less than a month after he turned 60



What sad news. I lost a great friend and the world lost a legend. One day, I hope we play soccer together in the sky

PELE



A very sad day for all Argentines and for football. He leaves us but does not go away, because Diego is eternal. I keep all the beautiful moments lived with him and I wanted to take the opportunity to send my condolences to all his family and friends. RIP

LIONEL MESSI



Today I say goodbye to a friend and the world says goodbye to an eternal genius. One of the best ever. An unparalleled magician. He leaves too soon, but leaves a legacy without limits

CRISTIANO RONALDO



You took us to the top of the world. You made us immensely happy. You were the greatest of all. Thanks for having existed, Diego. We will miss you for life.

ARGENTINA PRESIDENT ALBERTO FERNANDEZ



Football and the world of sports has lost one of its greatest players today. Rest in Peace Diego Maradona! You shall be missed..

SACHIN TENDULKAR

most gifted soccer players in history, pinnacle of glory came when he captained Argentina to win the World Cup in 1986, falling to misery when he was kicked out of the 1994 World Cup for doping

Maradona