

Name _____

Alfredo Di Stéfano: The Legacy of a Soccer Legend

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Alfredo Di Stéfano was born on July 4, 1926, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His early life in Argentina provided the foundation for his soccer career as he developed his skills playing in local youth teams. His family's support and the soccer-rich environment of Argentina played a crucial role in nurturing his talent and passion for the sport.
2. Di Stéfano's move to Real Madrid in 1953 transformed both his career and the club's success in European soccer. His versatility and ability to excel in various positions made him a key player for Real Madrid during their domination of the European Cup, winning five consecutive titles from 1956 to 1960. His presence and leadership on the field were instrumental in the team's victories.
3. Alfredo Di Stéfano's legacy is characterized by his tireless work ethic, skill, and leadership, which continue to inspire soccer players globally. He left an enduring mark on Real Madrid, becoming an honorary president of the club and maintaining a strong connection with the institution until his passing in 2014. His influence also extended to the international stage, where he represented Spain in international competitions.
4. After retiring from professional soccer, Alfredo Di Stéfano remained involved in the sport as a coach and ambassador for Real Madrid. He received numerous accolades, including the FIFA Order of Merit and the UEFA President's Award, in recognition of his immense contributions to soccer. His dedication to the sport continued even beyond his playing days.
5. Alfredo Di Stéfano's decision to represent Spain in international competitions was a significant choice, considering his Argentine birthplace. This decision was partly due to the political situation in Spain at the time, which limited his options to play for the national team of his birth country. Despite this, he embraced his role in Spanish soccer and contributed to its development, ultimately becoming a beloved figure in Spanish sports history.

