



## Ajax, Barcelona, Cruyff

*Frits Barend , Henk Van Dorp*

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**Ajax, Barcelona, Cruyff** Frits Barend , Henk Van Dorp

This football biography includes candid interviews, conducted between 1974 and 1997, with Johann Cruyff talking about how he learnt his trade, going on to play football for Barcelona and Ajax. He also talks about the philosophy behind total football, the driving force behind the great Dutch side of the 1970s, and a style of football many top teams attempt to emulate today. Then there was the eight years of success as manager of Barcelona, one of the most stressful jobs in the game, and back to Ajax, where, with his emphasis on youth and home-grown talent, he put together another team of superb ability.

## Ajax, Barcelona, Cruyff Details

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# From Reader Review Ajax, Barcelona, Cruyff for online ebook

## Fred Haas says

An unusual format, a mix primarily of comments directly from Cruyff with some brief biographical context, *Ajax, Barcelona, Cruyff* is a fascinating window into one of the greatest player/managers in world soccer. Journalists turned media hosts Barend and Van Dorp show their relationship with the enigmatic star as much as Cruyff reveals himself.

The book is essentially a series of chronological interviews that the two conducted with the Dutch master over the course of his playing and managerial career. It is essentially curated conversations between the authors and subject. The majority of the text is right from Cruyff's mouth, although it is not an autobiography or ghost written. In that way, it makes for an interesting book.

Clearly, Barend and Voan Dorp selected what was included in the volume, although I wonder how much actual editing was involved. Each chapter is a different moment in Cruyff's career with some preliminary background information to provide context, capturing pivotal turning points and fundamental philosophy. The interviews also illuminate some of Cruyff's prickliness and petulance, in addition to all insightful commentary. While overwhelmingly favorable, it certainly is not a warts and all portrait but highlights a wider spectrum of colors in Cruyff's personality.

For any fan of Cruyff as player, manager, or era in which he shined this is unquestionably one of the best books. In fact, since reading it I have seen it repeatedly referenced in multiple volumes. More than anything it is one of the few primary accounts in English about the Dutch zenith of *totaalvoetbal*, which reverberates through the game to this day. After all, Cruyff's first Barcelona acolyte from his retooled La Masia was Pep Guardiola.

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## Agung says

otobiografi yang kritis, tak perlu berbasa-busa tentang kehebatan sang tokoh. cocok untuk mengenal lebih dekat tentang Johan Cruyff.

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## Arup says

"When you don't have an anchor, the chance that you'll fail is many times greater." -Cruyff

The man behind it all. Not just a great footballer but a concept, a style. It lives on with Pep. Hoping the club remembers its roots. #GraciesCruyff

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## Erik says

Not a traditional book, but an entertaining one nonetheless. A series of exchanges between the author and



