

# How fab is Capello?

Everything you need to know about the manager of England: Fabio Capello.

England's low point during the Steve McClaren era is fast fading into the night and the bad memories of England's humiliating Euro Cup qualification campaign are disappearing with it.

Now there is a bright, shiny new future, with an Italian in charge, marching forward to South Africa.

The bespectacled Don of football has, so far, successfully navigated the transition from club manager to the international level much better than either of his predecessors.

But who is Capello, the man upon whom English hopes and dreams lie come June?

## Style and pedigree

Well, for one, he has been labelled a 'dictator' by some of his players. Capello is known as a strong disciplinarian who has fallen out with players on many occasions throughout his career. He is a big believer in 'his way or the highway' and has shown no qualms in benching underperforming or unfit big names wherever he reigned.

His attention to discipline and preparation does work; he has the results to back it up. As they say, 'winning cures all ills' and Capello has delivered, both as a player and coach.

He won seven Serie A Scudetti, one with AS Roma and four with AC Milan as well as two with Juventus. However, his two Juventus titles were rescinded due to the club's involvement in the Calciopoli match fixing scandal.

Capello has always claimed that the scandal is irrelevant and is quoted as saying: 'I have said it on more than one occasion that those two Scudetti were won on the pitch.'

In Spain, he took a further two

Madrid, meaning he was able to bring in titles with every club he was put in charge of.

Throughout his managing career, Capello has looked for footballers who operated close to the way he played.

He wanted men who were efficient, tough and had a mind for the game. Physical attributes were not enough on their own, Capello wanted players who understood the game, knew where they were meant to be and what they were meant to be doing at all times.

## Playing career

He began his professional playing career at the age of 18 with SPAL before playing for AS Roma, Juventus and AC Milan. During that time he represented Italy 32 times, including making an appearance at the 1974 FIFA World Cup in West Germany.

Throughout his international career he scored eight goals, Ironically, the most important of which may well have been the winning goal at Wembley that marked the first time Italy ever won on English soil.

As you may be able to tell from his goal tally, Capello featured largely as a defensive midfielder, playing a holding role in the famed Italian 'catenaccio' tactical defence system.

## England

Capello assumed the reins of England on 13 December 2007, a move not absent of controversy.

It was expected the Italian would play a defensive style of football as he did with Real Madrid and as Italians are stereotyped to do. However, he won with Milan using a style that ignored the traditional Italian 'catenaccio' for an open attacking option that demolished Barcelona 4-0 in the final of the 1993-94 Champions League.

Later, he abandoned his attacking style and developed a new defensive style, leading to his dismissal from Madrid.

Madrid remembered the glory days

that squad. He played the way he thought was needed to win. Capello has always matched staff to personnel over sticking to one overarching philosophy.

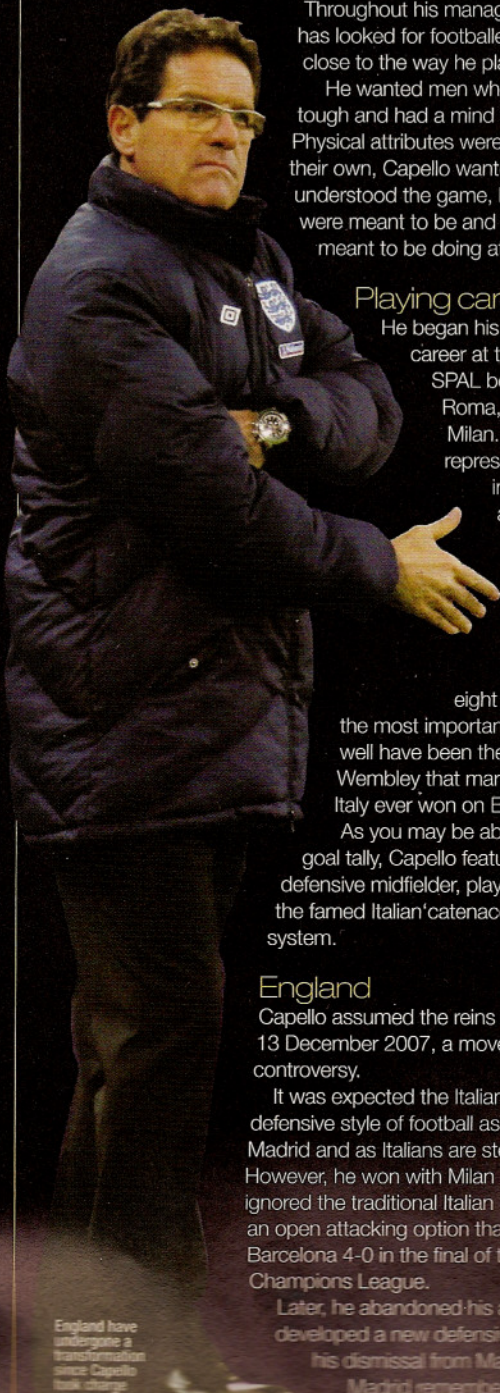
It was widely speculated whether his lack of English would hamper his ability to manage and communicate with his players.

Although, as Steve Amoia, author of *World Football Commentaries* pointed out: 'All of the early coaches of the sport were British and took their knowledge around the world. In Italy, the coach is affectionately called "Mister" as a homage to the early English teachers of the game.' He proved that language is not necessarily a barrier to successful coaching.

Others thought that he was being paid too much – he is the highest paid international manager, and one of only two internationals in the top ten. The other was Guus Hiddink who led Russia's moneybags behind him and is now in charge of Turkey. However, English managers have always been highly paid, sometimes ridiculously so. And with the combination of coaching a historically quarter-final level team and the scrutiny of fans and media who expect champion results, anyone willing to step into the fishbowl does have the right to be highly compensated.

So far, Capello has answered England's underperforming woes. But then, nothing is certain until the nation sees how England does in South Africa.

Capello was born on 18 June 1946 and will celebrate his 61st birthday when England play Algeria in Cape Town. He has already said that England shall be his last managerial job before retirement. If 2010 turns out to be a good year, the FA will certainly do everything it can to keep him from turning his love of art and opera into his full-time



England have undergone a transformation since Capello took charge.



## MANAGER

**Takeshi Okada**  
Born: 25 August 1956

### Profile

Okada has previously guided Japan to France 1998, resigning after the team lost all three games, including to underdogs Jamaica. Recovering from his shame, he took over again after previous manager Ivica Osim suffered a stroke. He is a cautious defensive tactician and has been accused of not attacking enough.



"Almost all the team's players are

based at home in the Japanese domestic league and they simply don't have enough big game experience to make an impact," says Andy Townsend

achievement for the team, there are questions as to whether Japan has missed its window of opportunity with this crop of players.

How will they do?

Group E will prove difficult for Japan. Cameroon, Denmark and the Netherlands are all capable of taking three points away from their respective matches with the *Samurai Blue*.

Japan should be happy to take things one step at a time and concentrate on making it out of the first four before worrying about their potential to hit the final four.

In order to do so, they will have to play solid defence, led by captain Yuji Nakazawa, and look to use the talent and speed of their midfield to take advantage of free kicks and set pieces.

### Qualification

After reaching the second stage of Asian qualification with ease, Japan struggled to overtake Australia, losing

2-1 away and drawing 0-0 at home. Aside from that, they dealt with the remainder of the opposition with ease, winning four and drawing two of their other games.

### Interesting facts

Japan is the only non-American team to take part in the Copa America, playing in 1999 and invited to return in 2011.

'Star' midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura had an asteroid named in his honour in 1999.

### Coverage Schedule and Venues

**14 June - 15:00**

Japan v Cameroon (Bloemfontein)

**19 June - 12:30**

Netherlands v Japan (Durban)

**24 June - 19:30**

Denmark v Japan (Rustenburg)

### Links

[www.jfa.or.jp/eng](http://www.jfa.or.jp/eng)  
[www.itv.com/sport/football/fifa/worldcup/teamprofiles/japan](http://www.itv.com/sport/football/fifa/worldcup/teamprofiles/japan)



## KEY PLAYERS

### Shunsuke Nakamura

**Full Name:** Shunsuke Nakamura  
**Birth Date:** 24 June 1978  
**Height:** 5' 10" (1.78m)  
**Weight:** 152lb (69kg)  
**Position:** Midfielder

**Profile** Nakamura is the biggest star of Japanese football. He is blessed with a creative football mind, which he couples with vision and precision to drive his team forward. He excels at free kicks, both in passing and shooting. But his lack of strength, coupled with his declining speed, leave him vulnerable to more physical opponents.

### Shinji Okazaki

**Full Name:** Shinji Okazaki  
**Birth Date:** 16 April 1986  
**Height:** 5' 8" (1.73m)  
**Weight:** 154lb (70kg)  
**Position:** Striker

**Profile** He is the hope of a new generation of Japanese players, though Okazaki is still unknown outside his home country. The striker has proved even better for Japan than his club and was awarded the 2009 IFFHS World's Top Goal Scorer for his impressive 15 goals tally.



## Greatest moments

### 2004

Their third Asian Cup championship was a successful defence of their 2000 title and confirmed their emergence in Asian football.