



Sarina Wiegman

Sarina Petronella Wiegman OON CBE was born October 26 1969 and has been the manager of the England women's national team since September 2021.

A former player herself, Wiegman was a central midfielder who later moved to defence before retiring in 2003. Representing the Netherlands from 1987 to 2001, she was capped by her country 104 times and became the first female player to reach a century of appearances. After retiring, Wiegman began her coaching career with the women's teams of Ter Leede and ADO Den Haag. In 2014, she became the assistant national coach of the Dutch women's team. Another highlight for Wiegman was when she became the first female to coach a men's professional football team in 2016.

After being appointed as the head coach of the Dutch national women's team Wiegman led them to victory at the UEFA Women's Euro 2017. Two years later, the team became runners-up in the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Following the end of the England manager Phil Neville's contract, it was announced in 2020 that she would manage the England women's team from September 2021 but would continue with the Netherlands team for the 2020 Olympics in the hope of assisting them in securing a medal. Sadly, this wasn't to be as the Netherlands were knocked out in the quarter finals.

In 2022 she led the English Lionesses to victory on in the UEFA Women's Euros. It was the first major trophy win for any British senior football team since the England men's victory in the World Cup in 1966.

This made her only the fourth manager ever to retain the Euro title and the first to win with two different countries. It was not the first trophy for the Lionesses in the Wiegman era, however, that came in a friendly international, (The Arnold Clark Cup) featuring four of the top ranked nations. Beating Germany 3-1 in the final game after draws with Canada and Spain, it was described by Wiegman as "a successful step towards the Euros".

In August 2022 she was made UEFA Women's Coach of the Year and in December that year was made an Honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of her "services to association football" In February 2023 the Lionesses retained the Arnold Clark Cup this time winning all three of their matches.

The first CONMEBOL UEFA Finalissima for Women's teams was held in April 2023 where Wiegman coached England to victory once again beating Brazil 4-2 on penalties after being all square at 1-1 at the end of full time. Sadly, just five days later on the occasion of her 31st match in charge of the Lionesses, she experienced her first defeat as England manager against Australia.

In the World Cup this year hosted by Australia England beat the hosts in the semi-final and set up a first World Cup Final Match against Spain. During a tense match, England failed to repeat their Euro heroics, losing 1-0.

The English Football Association announced recently that should the Great British women's team qualify for the Olympics, Wiegman would lead them. With two spots on offer for European teams for the Olympics, alongside hosts France, Team GB's hopes are reliant on England's fortunes in the UEFA women's Nations League. The Lionesses are the team nominated as the home nation who can qualify Team GB for Paris. Sadly, this is not to be the case, England narrowly missed out on goal difference to The Netherlands on 5th December 2023 despite scoring six goals against Scotland.



Sarina Wiegman Quotes

On disguising herself to play as a 6-year-old, “When I first started kicking a ball around on the streets of The Hague it was mostly with the boys.”

“There were no girls teams then, so I made sure my hair was cut really short and played in teams with my twin brother.”

As reported by The Guardian after relocating to England with her husband and daughters: "Although the countries are really close together there are some differences in culture, so I really tried to learn. I took some English classes in football. I said [to the FA that] I will learn about your culture and try and adapt to your culture, but the directness you have to know ... I will not go around it or change that. The other things, I will try to adapt to. I think it went really well and we've really enjoyed ourselves., I think we can still grow a lot."

After England's defeat to Spain, “I think we gave everything. The players gave everything. We tried different tactics. I also have to give credit to Spain. I think they were the team over the whole tournament who played the best football.”





Sarina Wiegman, bottom row,
2nd from the left

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