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Argentina Appoints New Coach

Alfio Basile will take over from retired Jose Pekerman.

While Italy and Brazil chose to trust young and inexperienced coaches for their future international campaigns, Argentina is far away from doing that mistake. For the last 2 decades, all coaches of the South-American team had some impressive curriculum vitae behind them. And, since Jose Pekerman resigned soon after their World Cup quarterfinal defeat against Germany, the Buenos Aires Football Federation had to find a proper replacement. So they finally made their choice yesterday. Alfio Basile will take Pekerman's place as head coach of the Argentinean side. And it's not like he's not used to coaching Argentina. The technician also trained this national team between 1991 and 1994. In the United States, Argentina couldn't manage the same performances as in Italy 1990 WC, and they were eliminated in the first knockout round by Romania (3-2). Soon after, the Argentinean stepped down his coaching position. For about a year, he has been training Boca Juniors. And the club had every intention of holding on to their 62-year old coach. Still, with discussions being held with the Argentinean Football Association (AFA), the club decided to let him go. He will officially start his coaching job on the 15th of September. "Obviously, I'm very proud to coach the Argentina national team again, like any Argentine would be. I'm looking forward to it greatly, especially seeing the quantity of great players we have", said Basile when appointed by the AFA. His first task is to lead the South-American side to another Coppa America trophy. The tournament will be held in 2008 and it will give AFA the chance to test Basile in terms of the next World Cup in 2010.