

## Sacchi's comeback lasts only 23 days

**A**rrigo Sacchi says he couldn't handle the stress. Sacchi, who built AC Milan into a European power in the late 1980s and led Italy to the 1994 World Cup final, quit as head coach of Italian Serie A club Parma after only 23 days.

Parma was unbeaten in three games under Sacchi — a 2-0 win over Verona and ties with Inter Milan and Lecce — but he had enough.

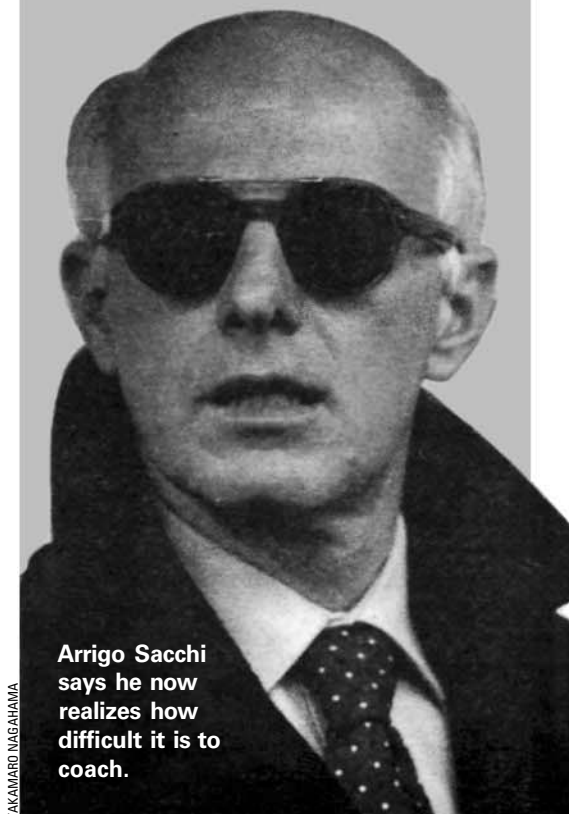
"I thought my two years out of the game would have recharged my batteries and allowed me to coach again and go back on the bench," said Sacchi, who had been brought in Jan. 9 to turn Parma around after a string of poor results. "Evidently, that's not the case. I've realized how difficult it is to coach."

Former Bologna and Napoli coach Renzo Ulivieri has taken over for Sacchi, although there is speculation that Dutchman Frank Rijkaard, a star under Sacchi at AC Milan, will be offered the Parma post.

It was Sacchi's second stint at Parma, which he led from the minor leagues of Italian soccer to Serie B before moving to AC Milan.

Sacchi had gotten out of coaching after a disastrous stint at Spanish club Atletico Madrid in 1998-99 and had recently worked as a soccer pundit.

His sharp attacks in *La Stampa* on Coach Dino Zoff and the Italian national team during its successful Euro 2000 were highly controversial. (Reuters)



Arrigo Sacchi says he now realizes how difficult it is to coach.

TAKAMARO NAGAHAMA