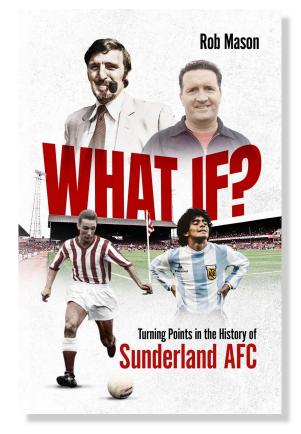


# Title information



## Description

# What If?

Turning Points in the History of Sunderland

#### By Rob Mason

### Key features

- Alternative history of Sunderland AFC told by a leading authority on the club's past
- The 'what ifs' of managers and signings who came achingly close to becoming Black Cats
- How European Cup-winning managers Clough and Stein wanted the Sunderland job
- How Maradona threatened to retire if he didn't sign for Sunderland
- Reveals the details behind the contentious relegation of 1977 and the Coventry scoreboard skulduggery
- Mason has penned 50 books on the club and edited Sunderland's publications for more than 30 years, winning multiple awards for his work
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Sunderland AFC's official historian Rob Mason brings us a fascinating alternative history of the club as he ponders what could have been. How would Sunderland have fared if they had appointed Brian Clough, who was turned down as manager? What might have happened if Jock Stein, who visited managerless Sunderland hoping for an opportunity before taking over at Celtic, had been given a chance? What if Bobby Robson hadn't changed his mind after agreeing to leave Ipswich? Diego Maradona, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Kevin Keegan, Jackie Milburn and Ruud van Nistelrooy would make some forward line. All of them were potential signings. Imagine that quintet in red and white stripes! What if Coventry City had kicked off on time against Bristol City in 1977 instead of delaying their kick-off and being able to relegate a youthful Sunderland side that had come back from the dead? These and many other key moments are discussed by Mason as he considers what could have happened had these turning points taken a different direction.

## Details

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