



## How have Arsenal gone from Champions League contenders to now being runners up for the Premier League Title?

*Alexander Gunning*

***This current season has seen Arsenal rebuild themselves into Title Contenders, but how has this come to be?***

We have to rewind the clock all the way back to the start of the 2019/2020 season. Arsenal had just slipped away from winning the Europa League and were beaten by [Maurizio Sarri's Chelsea 4-1](#) while also missing out on a top 4 spot. Huge money transfers would be made in the summer with the introduction of future prospects such as [Gabriel Martinelli](#), [William Saliba](#) and [Keiran Tiernay](#). However, Arsenal purchased [Nicholas Pepe from Lille, costing a total of 72 million](#) making it their highest transfer ever. All of these transfers gave hope to the fans that Arsenal would learn from their mistakes and push forward.

This however did not happen, and going 7 games without a win and being knocked out of European Football [Unai Emery was sacked](#) in November of 2019.

Arsenal football club had to make a major decision on who to appoint as their new manager. There were big options such as former Ac Milan manager [Massimiliano Allegri](#), [Brendan](#)

[Rodgers, Carlo Ancelloti, Mikel Arteta](#) and many more. They ultimately chose to go with the long term option being Mikel Arteta who previous to becoming manager of Arsenal, was an assistant coach for Man City under Pep Guardiola so there was some experience.

The latter half of the season saw Arteta discover the attitude of both the players and the club. It also saw him win the [FA Cup](#) which gave him the respect from the fans.

Arteta's first full season ended with them finishing 8th in the league and also being knocked out of the [Semi Finals by Unai Emery's Villarreal](#).

Over the course of the previous season Arteta has been able to bring in the transfers he wants, create an attitude and build relationships between players. Arteta and his squad were able to [finish 5th](#), just slipping out of the top 4, but Arteta is building a young squad. The age demographic of the team is 24, however the conclusive argument to the season was Arsenal are building something special.

Throughout this season, Arsenal have looked electric, beating high level competition such as Liverpool and Tottenham at home, and Chelsea away. Their squad has substantially upgraded in the way they play, but also the calmness and maturity of the players.

The interview I was able to get was Freelance Journalist and [Guardian Writer John Brewin](#). John has worked not only for the Guardian, but multiple outlets including ESPN, BBC, Sky and FourFourTwo. Brewin was happy enough to address his

opinions on Arsenal stating how when Mikel Arteta came in, there was still a lot to clean up post Wenger era. He then went on to address Arteta's experience with tactics, implying that most of his style of play came from him being under Arsene Wenger and Pep Guardiola. John Brewin also went



on to explain how the recruitment has really elevated the squad and also the development of players such as Granit Xhaka and William Saliba. The ultimate conclusive argument to this interview was really that managers need time to develop players and this is what is being seen with Arsenal. Going forward into the January transfer

window and onwards Brewin addressed how there shouldn't really be too much change in the squad and going into the latter half of the season he sees Arsenal progressing even further.

As a result of all the time Arteta has been given, it is clear that Arsenal have completely changed in the past three years.

## **Reflection.**

I specifically chose to write for Sky Sports due to the fact it is one of the leading sources to gather information about the world of football. I personally use Sky Sports to gather my information and also inform myself as to what is happening in the world of football. A key aspect which made me firmly stick with this idea is the audience I was targeting. Sky, being one

of the most popular sources to gather news about sport, is mainly targeted towards an [audience ranging from 18 to 34](#) which proves to me that my readers are not only young, but educated in the world of football. This ultimately means it will be understanding towards this group as most young people are passionate about football.

As I was conducting my information, I already had a solid brief understanding about the rebuild of Arsenal football club ever since the appointment of Unai Emery. As an Arsenal fan, throughout writing this I utilised the ethics, not taking towards one agenda and looking at all angles.

When trying to find an interview, I specifically went for journalists with not a huge following and are active on Twitter. By doing this I messaged ten journalists from all different sources that cover different backgrounds of football.

Brewin gave me consent to use this photo.

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