

ANTONIO LÓPEZ HABAS

UEFA Pro License Holder · Club & International Management · 30+ Years Experience

Born: 28 May 1957, Pozoblanco, Córdoba, Spain



Antonio López Habas holds the UEFA Pro License and has over 30 years of professional experience as a head coach and technical director across six countries and four continents. He is the most decorated coach in Indian Super League history, having won the inaugural ISL title in 2014 with Atletico de Kolkata, the ISL Championship again in 2019–20 with ATK FC, and the ISL League Shield in 2023–24 with Mohun Bagan Super Giant. He also served as Head Coach of the Bolivia National Team, guiding them to a Copa América runner-up finish in 1997, and has managed clubs in Spain's La Liga, South Africa's Premier Division, and across Southeast and South Asia.

A proponent of disciplined, fast counter-attacking football with a strong defensive structure, Habas is known for building high-performance team cultures that prioritise professional conduct both on and off the pitch. He has extensive experience working in multicultural environments, aligning senior team philosophy with youth development structures, and applying modern analytics tools to player evaluation and performance monitoring.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head Coach ·  **Inter Kashi FC — Indian Super League** *2024 – Present · Varanasi, India*

- Leading Inter Kashi FC in the Indian Super League — having secured promotion from the I-League
- Building a long-term football ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh in partnership with European club Inter Escaldes (Andorra)
- Developing Indian talent and establishing international player pathways into European football

Technical Director & Head Coach ·  **Mohun Bagan Super Giant — ISL** *June 2023 – June 2024 · Kolkata, India*

- Appointed Technical Director in June 2023; elevated to Interim Head Coach on 3 January 2024 following a mid-season managerial change
- Led Mohun Bagan Super Giant to their first-ever ISL League Shield in the second half of the 2023–24 season — the most prestigious domestic honour in the club's history
- Went unbeaten in 11 league games after taking charge; guided the club to a fourth ISL final, a record for any ISL head coach
- Overhauled tactical system mid-season, switching to a 3-1-4-2 shape and revitalising key players including Anirudh Thapa and Liston Colaco

Head Coach ·  **ATK Mohun Bagan FC — ISL** *March 2020 – December 2021 · Kolkata, India*

- Guided the newly merged ATK Mohun Bagan to the ISL Final in the club's inaugural 2020–21 season
- Maintained collective tactical discipline and squad cohesion across a full bio-bubble competition environment
- Prepared technical reports after matches; managed coaching staff, analysts, and support personnel

Head Coach ·  **FC Pune City — ISL** *2016 – 2017 · Pune, India*

- Head Coach across the 2016 and 2017 ISL seasons; managed tactical systems and player evaluation frameworks

Head Coach ·  **Atletico de Kolkata** — **ISL** 2014 – 2015 · Kolkata, India

- Also serving as Technical Director of Atlético de Madrid International Academies during this period
- Won the inaugural ISL title in 2014 — first-ever ISL Champion

Head Coach ·  **Bidvest Wits** — **South African PSL** 2012 – 2013 · South Africa

- Head Coach in the South African PSL; managed the club following the Mamelodi Sundowns tenure

Asst. Coach & Head Coach ·  **Mamelodi Sundowns FC** — **South African PSL** 2010 – 2011 · South Africa

- Joined as assistant under Hristo Stoichkov; promoted to Head Coach
- Won the PSL Winter Championship (2010–11) — led Sundowns to their best-ever start, topping the table after Round 1

Assistant / Interim Head Coach ·  **Celta Vigo** — **Segunda División** 2007 – 2008 · Galicia, Spain

- Served on Hristo Stoichkov's staff; stepped up as interim head coach to secure top-flight survival

Head Coach ·  **CD Tenerife** — **Segunda División** 2005 – 2007 · Spain

- Head Coach across two second-division seasons; developed opponent-specific tactical strategies

Head Coach ·  **Sporting de Gijón** — **Segunda División** ~2004 · Spain

- Brief tenure as Head Coach in the Spanish second division

Head Coach ·  **Valencia CF** — **La Liga** 2004 – 2005 · Valencia, Spain

- Caretaker manager for 14 La Liga matches following the sacking of Claudio Ranieri; club finished seventh

Assistant Coach ·  **Valencia CF** — **La Liga / Segunda División** 1999 – 2004 · Valencia, Spain

- Assistant to Rafael Benítez across five seasons covering Valencia's rise from the second division to La Liga title winners
- Also served as youth system coordinator at Mestalla Stadium throughout this period

Head Coach ·  **UD Lleida** — **Segunda División** ~1997 – 1999 · Lleida, Spain

- Head Coach in the Spanish second division alongside ongoing international coaching commitments

Head Coach ·  **Club Bolívar** — **Liga Profesional Bolivia** 1994 – 1995 · La Paz, Bolivia

- Won the Torneo Apertura and Clausura — double league champions; led Bolívar to the Copa Libertadores quarter-finals

Assistant Coach & Head Coach ·  **Bolivia National Team** 1992 – 1997 · Bolivia / South America

- Secured qualification for the 1994 FIFA World Cup — the first time in Bolivian football history
- Led Bolivia to the second round of the 1995 Copa América (Uruguay) — another first in their history
- Achieved runner-up finish in the 1997 Copa América held in Bolivia

TITLES & PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

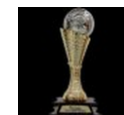
- **ISL League Shield** — 2023–24 with Mohun Bagan Super Giant — first Shield in club history
- **Indian Super League Champion** — 2019–20 with ATK FC — 2nd ISL title
- **Indian Super League Champion** — 2014 with Atletico de Kolkata — inaugural ISL Champion
- **PSL Winter Championship** — 2010–11 with Mamelodi Sundowns — best-ever PSL start
- **Copa Libertadores Quarter-Finals** — 1994–95 with Club Bolívar — plus Apertura & Clausura double
- **Copa América Runner-up** — 1997 — Bolivia National Team, held in Bolivia
- **FIFA World Cup Qualification** — 1994 — First time in Bolivian football history
- **La Liga** — Caretaker Head Coach of Valencia CF — one of Europe's top clubs (2004–05)
- **I-League Champion** — 2024–25 with Inter Kashi FC — secured promotion to the Indian Super League
- **Most decorated ISL coach** — Only coach to have won the ISL title twice, the ISL League Shield, and the I-League



ISL Cup



ISL Shield



I-League

QUALIFICATIONS & LICENCES

UEFA Pro License	Issued by the Real Federación Española de Fútbol (RFEF) — the highest coaching qualification available in Europe
AFC Equivalency	UEFA Pro License recognized as equivalent to AFC Pro Diploma — confirmed eligible as Head Coach across ISL, I-League, and South African PSL
Experience	30+ years of progressive coaching from youth academies to senior national teams across 4 continents

PLAYING CAREER

Former professional defender in Spanish football. Signed his first professional contract with Sevilla FC at age 16. Represented Sevilla FC, Burgos CF, Real Murcia, and Atlético de Madrid across La Liga and the Segunda División (1976–1986). Career ended at age 29 due to a knee injury. First-hand experience at elite club level informs a coaching approach built on empathy, discipline, and professional respect.

APTITUDE & COMPETENCIES

- Tactical periodization and long-term football philosophy design
- Fast counter-attacking game model with defensive structure
- Player evaluation using modern analytics and video platforms
- Opponent scouting and match report preparation
- Youth development alignment with senior team philosophy
- Multicultural squad and staff management
- High-performance team culture and professional discipline
- Media representation and public-facing communication

LANGUAGES

Spanish	Native
English	Professional working proficiency
Portuguese	Working knowledge