

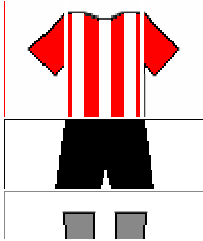
Estudiantes de La Plata

Estudiantes

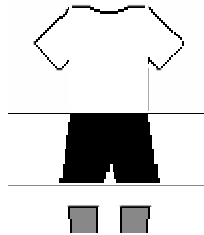


Full name	Estudiantes de La Plata
Nickname(s)	<i>Los Pincharratas</i>
Founded	4 August 1905
Ground	Jorge Luis Hirschi Stadium , 1, 55 y 57, La Plata
Capacity	23,000
Chairman	Eduardo Abadie
Manager	Diego Simeone
League	Argentine Primera División

[2006 Clausura](#) 11th



Home colours



Away colours

Estudiantes de La Plata is a sports club in [La Plata](#), [Buenos Aires Province](#), [Argentina](#), with a history of achievement in professional [football](#).

The current club badge has eight stars for the five international and three local titles achieved.

History

The club was founded on 4 August 1905 by university students who felt left out by the management of [Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata](#), which favored indoor games over football. Its jersey had red and white vertical stripes honoring the Alumni team that dominated Argentine football in those years, with black pants and gray or black socks. In the early days, the team wore a blue blazer on top of the jersey when entering the pitch.

The stadium on 1st Avenue opened on [25 December 1907](#) (it has undergone several rounds of upgrading). Before the advent of professionalism, Estudiantes won the [1913](#) league title.

When professionalism was adopted in Argentina on [1931](#), Estudiantes had a famous offensive lineup: Lauri-Scopelli-Zozaya-Ferreyra-Guayta, known as *Los Profesores* (The Professors), and still regarded as one of Argentina's all-time finest. Guayta and Scopelli played for the [Italy](#) national team that conquered the [1934 World Cup](#). The Sbarra brothers (Raúl and Roberto) and Armando Nery were feared defensive players. Alberto Zozaya scored the first goal of professional football in Argentina and was the top goalscorer of the first professional tournament.

In [1937](#), a pioneering lighting system was installed, allowing night games.

The 1950s saw the rise of Ogando, Garcerón, Bouché, Urriolabeitia, Infante, Antonio, and striker Manuel Pellegrina, who is the all-time top scorer with 221 goals.

In the 1960s, Miguel Ignomiriello coached the under-19 team known as *La Tercera que Mata* (The Killer Juveniles), which would evolve (together with a few acquisitions) into the team coached by [Osvaldo Zubeldía](#) that won the 1967 *Metropolitano* championship (Starting in 1967, Argentina holds two championships each season).

With that title, Estudiantes became the first club outside of the "five greats" (Boca Juniors, [River Plate](#), [Racing Club](#), [Independiente](#), and [San Lorenzo](#)) to obtain professional titles. This opened the gates; other "small" clubs, starting with [Chacarita Juniors](#) and [Vélez Sarsfield](#), followed suit.



Celebrations of the 1969 Libertadores Cup, *El Gráfico* magazine

Estudiantes went on to secure the [Copa Libertadores de América](#) for three times in a row ([1968](#) to [1970](#)), and the 1968 [Intercontinental Cup](#) against the powerful [Manchester United](#). It lost the series against [A.C. Milan](#) ([1969](#)) and [Feyenoord](#) ([1970](#)). In 1969 the club also won the [Interamerican Cup](#).

The Zubeldía team was maybe the only successful professional side ever to count two physicians among its stars: captain [Carlos Salvador Bilardo](#) and teammate Raúl Madero graduated from the [University of Buenos Aires](#) Faculty of [Medicine](#) during their playing days.

[Juan Ramón Verón](#) was the most gifted player on that team. He profited from the no-nonsense playing of Conigliaro, Echecopar, and Madero, and the tactical guidance provided by Bilardo. Right-back Manera was a very talented player, but suffered from repeated injuries and did not realize his full potential.

During the 1970 season, Bilardo retired from play and got involved in his family's furniture business. Soon he started to coach, alternating between Estudiantes and [Colombian](#) teams. He coached Estudiantes in [1982](#), when the team won the *Metropolitano* championship. Under his successor [Eduardo Luján Manera](#), also a member of the Zubeldía team, Estudiantes won the [1983](#) *Nacional* tournament as well. Both wins were at the expense of a star-studded Independiente.

Those championship teams were anchored by a solid defense (Camino on the right and Herrera on the left were also fearsome attackers, and [Brown](#) provided security as a sweeper), and also had three creative mid-fielders (Ponce, [Sabella](#), [Trobbiani](#), with [Russo](#) to guard their backs) and two top-notch strikers (Gottardi, Trama).

Bilardo went on to coach the [Argentine national team](#) that won the [1986 World Cup](#) (the captain of the 1982 champions, José Luis Brown, scored the opening goal in the final against [West Germany](#)). The national team also reached the final of the [1990](#) edition.

Madero was team physician on both events.

Estudiantes was relegated in [1994](#), only to return to the top division on the very next season. Its performances ever since have been uneven; the club became more known as the breeding ground for such players as [Juan Sebastián Verón](#), [Martín Palermo](#), [Luciano Galletti](#), [Bernardo Romeo](#), and [Ernesto Farias](#).

In [2004-2005](#), under coach [Reinaldo Merlo](#), Estudiantes became a contender again, finishing both the *Apertura* and the *Clausura* tournaments in the fourth place. [Mariano Pavone](#) was top goalscorer of the 2005 *Clausura*. On 17 April [2005](#), Estudiantes de La Plata became the sixth team in Argentina to win 1,000 professional games when it came back from behind to defeat Newell's Old Boys 3-2.

Merlo resigned on August 2005, the day after the main event of the centennial celebrations, and was promptly replaced with Bilardo alum [Jorge Burruchaga](#), who was fresh from a successful tenure with [Arsenal de Sarandí](#). The team made history when it came from behind (0-3 in midtime) to win 4-3 against [Peru's Sporting Cristal](#) in a Libertadores match played on 21 February, 2006. In this edition of the tournament, Estudiantes reached the quarterfinals and was finally relegated by Sao Paulo in a polemic penalty definition, after Sao Paulo's goal-keeper illegally caught a penalty kick.

Burruchaga quit on [May 18, 2006](#) and was promptly replaced with another former Argentine great, [Diego Simeone](#) [1]. Simeone will count on returning player Verón as the anchor of the team, which was eliminated in a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals of the 2006 *Copa Libertadores*.

[\[edit\]](#)

Stadium and Training Grounds

The Jorge Luis Hirschi stadium has room for 23,000 and is located on 1st Avenue, between 55th and 57th Streets, in central La Plata. The cheaper stands behind the goal-lines are standing-room only; the Western side is sitting-room, and is separated from the

avenue by a row of tile trees. The Eastern side is roofed and has the best seating arrangements.

The noisiest fans occupy the northern (55th Street) *popular*, while visiting fans are welcome in the southern *popular* (on 57th Street, opposite a technical school). The club usually sets aside between 3,000 and 8,000 places for visiting fans.

The police usually cuts off traffic on 1st Avenue both before and after the games.

For international games, Estudiantes has traditionally used the [Boca Juniors](#) field ([La Bombonera](#)) and lately the stadium of Quilmes Athletic Club in the town of Quilmes, closer to La Plata.

The training grounds are in the Country Club premises in City Bell, a few kilometres north of La Plata. The facilities have been upgraded through a gift from Juan Sebastián Verón while he played in [Lazio](#).

[\[edit\]](#)

Note on Current Status of Stadium

Even though a modern stadium has been built for the city of La Plata, both Estudiantes and Gimnasia decided initially against relocating their home games. Estudiantes has requested permission for upgrading its stadium to no less than 20,000 seats plus 15,000 standing room, but mayor [Julio Alak](#) did not grant the request, insisting that the new stadium should be used. The matter has become a contested political issue that extends beyond football, as fans of both major clubs cherish their history and resent the manner in which the new stadium was planned and built.

Since September 2005, the Estudiantes stadium is not in use because new safety regulation forbid wooden stands. Even though a judicial restraining order exempted Estudiantes from the prohibition, the La Plata city government refused to comply. This made relations between the club and City Hall even more tense.

As a stopgap measure, for the 2005 *Apertura* Estudiantes played its home games in the nearby Gimnasia stadium, and paid Gimnasia a rent of 10% gross income plus an undisclosed amount for each attending season ticket.

For the 2006 *Clausura*, Estudiantes moved its home games to the [Quilmes](#) field. Due to the good relations between Quilmes and Estudiantes, the new arrangement is reputed to be less unsettling to the fans, as well as more convenient financially.

The move to Quilmes provided at least one historic moment (the come-from-behind 4-3 win against Sporting Cristal) but Estudiantes fans became angry at the gridlock in the Quilmes off-ramp caused by their massive presence in that match. Estudiantes is currently considering the erection of a new stadium in the port town of [Ensenada](#), a few kilometers east of La Plata.

On April 2006, after a new judicial order allowed the re-opening of *1 y 57*, mayor Alak intervened again to avoid this from happening. [\[2\]](#)

Fan Base



Following its international successes in the 1960s, Estudiantes gained more followers in all of Argentina. They have remained true to its colors in good times and bad, giving the club a country-wide fan base, widely known as one of the most loyal in Argentina.

Within the La Plata area, Estudiantes is regarded as the club of the [middle class](#), while rival side Gimnasia y Esgrima is identified with the [working class](#).

During the 1950s, a cadre of fans from Buenos Aires (*los porteños*) led the fan base. A noted fan since the 1970s is *el pelapapas* ("the potato peeler"), famous for lighting small bonfires during games.

In the [1983](#) presidential election, Estudiantes fans were, together with their peers from [Vélez Sarsfield](#), the first to voice their support for eventual winner [Raúl Alfonsín](#) in his bid against the [Peronistas](#). The friendship with Vélez supporters has since vanished, especially after an Estudiantes win denied Vélez the 2003 championship.

Estudiantes fans are on friendly terms with most clubs from the South side of [Greater Buenos Aires](#) who make it to the top divisions. This was especially true of Quilmes and Temperley.

[Platense](#), from the North side of Greater Buenos Aires, held a special place in the hearts of Estudiantes fans, as it cemented Gimnasia's relegation in 1979. Platense has since been relegated and currently plays in the promotional divisions.

On an international note, Estudiantes is friendly with the [Uruguayan](#) fan base of [Peñarol](#). Author [Ernesto Sabato](#) is an Estudiantes sympathizer. Even though his interest in football is limited, the club has honored Sabato with a ceremony in which he was given a No. 10 jersey.

Nicknames

The nickname *pincharratas* (rat-stabbers), often shortened to *pinchas*, is generally attributed to the laboratory work done by the many [Medicine](#) students among the club's early members. This nickname extends to the fans.

It has been posited that the name comes from the nickname of one Felipe Montedónica, a bodyguard of the team in the 1910s, who was known as "el pincharratas".

A third version claims that the early training fields were infested with rats, and the players spent much time and effort chasing after them, hence the nickname.

Fans also call the team *el león* (the lion), *orgullo de la ciudad* (pride of the city), *los capos de La Plata* (the bosses of La Plata), and *Tricampeón* (three-time champion) because of its Libertadores three-peat.

List of Famous Players

- *Los Profesores*
 - Miguel Lauri
 - Alejandro "Conejo" Scopelli
 - Alberto "Don Padilla" Zozaya (top goalscorer of the 1931 championship)
 - Manuel "El Piloto Olímpico" Ferreyra
 - Enrique Guayta
- Armando "El Nene" Nery
- Saúl "Toro" Calandra
- Roberto Sbarra
- Raúl Sbarra
- Héctor "El Manco" Castro
- Juan José "Pichón" Negri
- Alberto Bouché
- Gabriel Ogando
- Ricardo Infante
- Walter Garcerón
- Juan Urriolabeitia
- Héctor "El Cochero" Antonio
- Manuel "Payo" Pellegrina (team top striker ever with 221 goals)
- *Zubeldía's team*
 - Alberto Poletti
 - Ramón Aguirre Suárez
 - Eduardo Luján Manera
 - Eduardo *Bocha* Flores
 - Marcos Conigliaro
 - Juan Echeopar
 - Oscar *Cacho* Malbernat
 - Dr. [Carlos Salvador Bilardo](#)
 - Dr. Raúl Madero
 - Carlos Pachamé
 - [Juan Ramón Verón](#) (*la bruja*)
- [Vicente Pernía](#)
- Ignacio Peña (top goalscorer of 1973 tournament)
- Rubén Oscar Pagnanini
- Rubén Horacio Galletti
- Franco Frasoldatti
- Alfredo Letanú (top goalscorer - 1977 *Nacional* tournament)
- Sergio Fortunato (top goalscorer - 1979 *Metropolitano* tournament)
- Patricio Hernández
- *Bilardo's champions*
 - Abel Ernesto Herrera (team record for most appearances: 467)
 - [José Luis Brown](#) (*el tata*)
 - [Miguel Angel Russo](#)

- Julián Camino
- Néstor Craviotto
- [Alejandro Sabella](#)
- [Hugo Ernesto Gottardi](#)
- Guillermo Trama
- [Marcelo Antonio Trobbiani](#)
- José Daniel Ponce
- Rubén Capria (*el mago*)
- [Martín Palermo](#) (*el loco*)
- José Luis Calderón (top goalscorer - 1995 *Apertura* tournament)
- [Juan Sebastián Verón](#) (*la brujita*)
- [Luciano Galletti](#)
- [Lionel Scaloni](#)
- [Edgardo Prátola](#) (*el ruso*)
- [Ernesto Tecla Farías](#) (top goalscorer - 2003 *Clausura* tournament)
- José Sosa
- Juan Ángel Krupoviesa
- [Marcelo Carrusca](#)
- [Mariano Pavone](#) (top goalscorer - 2005 *Clausura* tournament)

Current roster

- Damian Gonzalo Albil
- Matín Horacio Herrera
- Mariano Andujar
- José María Basanta
- Josemir Mosquera
- Mauricio Casierra
- Marcos Alberto Angeleri
- Agustín Alayes
- Pablo Alvarez
- Ezequiel Britez
- Fernando Ortiz
- Rodrigo Braña
- Leandro Benitez
- Gabriel Saucedo
- Juan Augusto Huerta
- José Ernesto Sosa
- [Juan Cominges](#)
- [Juan Sebastián Verón](#)
- Diego Galván
- José Luis Calderón
- Diego Caballero
- Hugo Mariano Pavone
- Pablo Luguercio
- Ezequiel Maggiolo