

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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Xavi explains why he decided to speak now

After almost two years without making public statements about his departure from FC Barcelona, Xavi Hernández has spoken openly about what happened during his final stage at the club.

According to the interview published by Joan Josep Pallàs and Anaïs Martí Herrero in La Vanguardia, the former midfielder said that he could no longer

remain silent about what happened within the organization.

Xavi explained that he initially decided not to speak out of respect for Barcelona and its fans. Over time, however, he became increasingly frustrated by what he considers an inaccurate version of events circulating within the club.

"Messi had already signed, but Laporta canceled everything because he didn't want a war with him."

The claim about Messi's attempted return

One of the most striking statements in the interview refers to the possible return of Lionel Messi to Barcelona in 2023.

According to an interview with La Vanguardia, Xavi stated that talks with the Argentine star progressed considerably after Argentina won the World Cup in Qatar. The coach explained that he spoke with Messi for several months about a possible return to Camp Nou.

Xavi suggested that Barcelona president Joan Laporta ultimately decided not to proceed with the deal. Messi ended up signing for Inter Miami later in 2023, which put an end to speculation about a possible return to the Catalan club.

Disappointment with the Barcelona management

Xavi also used the interview to express his disappointment with how his relationship with Joan Laporta ended. According to La Vanguardia, the former coach said that at first he had a good relationship with the president of FC

Barcelona, but that he felt disappointed during the events that led to his departure.

Recalling the situation, he told the newspaper: **“Laporta signed me, but in the end he disappointed me.”**

Xavi also pointed to the influence of businessman Alejandro Echevarría, a close collaborator of Laporta, as a key figure within the club's internal structure. **“I’m out because I clashed with Alejandro Echevarría,”** he said.

Praise for Hansi Flick and the new generation

Despite his criticism of the club's management, Xavi also spoke positively about the current Barcelona team. According to La Vanguardia, he praised current coach Hansi Flick and said he maintains a good relationship with him.

Xavi added that he is especially proud of the young generation of players he helped to consolidate during his time as coach, including Lamine Yamal, Pedri, Alejandro Balde and Pau Cubarsí. The former coach noted that building that foundation for Barcelona's future is one of the achievements he is most proud of.