

The



Halfway Line

# THE TRAVELLING DANE

Christian Poulsen's trip through Europe

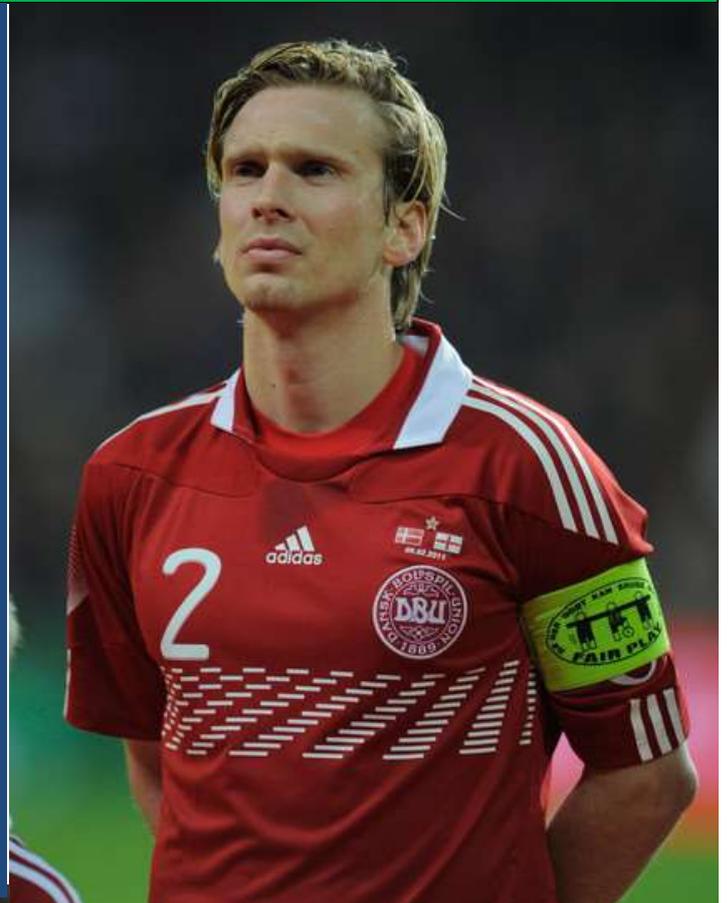
## THE ITALIAN JOB

3 clubs but so many shared players?

Ferguson & Wenger

OAPs – Old Aged Players

& much much more.....



**EVERTONS  
GOAL SCORING PRODUCTION LINE**



# Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

What's this magazine about? Ask yourself this: As a kid did you ever get all your football merchandise, set it all up in your lounge and force your siblings to play footy shops? Did you buy Match, Shoot and 90minutes magazines every week?

Did you search the BBC Ceefax page 323 to get the latest News in Brief? Did you watch Lazio draw 3-3 with Sampdoria on 6th September 1992 and instantly fall in love with Beppe Signori's left foot? Is it aesthetically pleasing to you when you see the Dutch national team playing in orange shirts and black shorts?

Do you smile when you smell Deep Heat as it takes you right back to the changing rooms, with the tape on the floor and stud shaped holes in cast off bits of mud everywhere? To you is a goal instantly 100 times better if the ball strikes the cross bar before going in?

OK, try this one, have you ever got out of bed on a Saturday morning, taken the duvet to the lounge and watched Soccer AM, followed by the 12:30 kick off, followed by Soccer Saturday, followed by the 17:30 kick off, followed by the La Liga game and finished off watching Match of the Day? If it's a yes, you're in good company. This is more a hybrid magazine, with a fanzine feel, full of stats, facts, quizzes, quirks and my take on the game I grew up loving, continue to love and I hope you love reading The Halfway Line. Based on when I grew up, forgive me, the magazines content is heavily based on post 1992 football.

If you don't know why it isn't great news when your relegation threatened team hire Dave Bassett to fend off the drop and recruit Nathan Blake, Herman Hreidarsson & Nigel Quashie to help fight the cause, but you want to, then you too have found the right magazine to pick up.

I am not saying you'll read this and feel like Marco Tardelli looked in 1982. Hairs on the back of your neck are unlikely to stand up like they do when you hear Three Lions play on the radio, or when you see Beckham's Greek free-kick, or when Adams pings one against Everton at the North Bank. Come with me on this journey, not like a Trevor Benjamin career journey, but one that promises to be fun, and thought provoking.

In this edition we look at loads of stuff including the rise and fall of Everton's youth players, we analyse goal scoring feats in Serie A and the Eredivisie, look at the rivalry of Italian clubs and the sharing around of players. We debate the greatest XI's for nationalities gracing the Premier League amongst loads of other great content.

Mainstay articles will feature such as the Treatment Room, Historical starting line ups to get the memories flowing alongside the dose of knowledge tests that will hopefully ruin hours upon hours of your days!!

So take a seat, put the Lightning Seeds 'The Life Of Riley' song on repeat, grab an isotonic Lucozade Sport pouch and see if this magazine can be your Maxwell to you as Zlatan.



Jens Lehmann - Holds the record for the longest unbeaten start to a Premier League career, not losing any of his first 47 games



## The Halfway Line Up

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- 3 – Everton’s goalscoring prodigies
- 15 – Uncapped Englishmen
- 18 – A Managers’ Matrix
- 23 – What if?
- 25 – The Eredivisie top goal scorers and their travels to The Premier League
- 34 – Christian Poulsen and the Dane’s trip around Europe
- 42 – Pet Hates
- 44 – Serie A’s top teams and their tendencies to share players
- 48 – Historical Line ups
- 55 – Classic Kits
- 62 – Lone Rangers
- 66 – The new Maradona, really?
- 70 – Premier League Greatest XI’s based on nationality and career
- 77 – Ferguson and Wenger – the Italian Job?
- 81 – 2’s company and 3’s a crowd? Or Vice Versa?
- 87 – Help the aged
- 89 – Goal scoring defenders
- 94 – Forgot they played for them?
- 98 – Quiz time and knowledge banks
- 99 – Page number glossary



Cafu - The only player to have appeared in 3 consecutive World Cup finals (1994, 1998 and 2002). The Brazilian Ronaldo played in the 1998 & 2002 finals, but was an unused substitute for the entire 1994 World Cup as a 17 years old.



# Everton's Goal Scoring Prodigies

Take a look at the list of the youngest players to have scored in the Premier League.

- 1 - James Vaughan. 16 years 270 days
- 2 - James Milner. 16 years 346 days
- 3 - Wayne Rooney. 16 years 351 days
- 4 - Cesc Fabregas. 17 years 114 days
- 5 - Michael Owen. 17 years 144 days
- 6 - Andy Turner. 17 years 166 days
- 7 - Federico Macheda. 17 years 226 days
- 8 - Raheem Sterling. 17 years 317 days
- 9 - Mikael Forssell. 17 years 342 days
- 10 - Danny Cadamarteri. 17 years 344 days



The stand out fact from this list to me is Everton provide 3 of the top ten. Dig further into the top 20, and we see that number increase to 7. For the mathematicians amongst you, that has Everton serving up 35% of the top 20 youngest players ever to have scored in the Premier League. No other single club has more than 2 associated with them in the top 20 (2 for Leeds, Manchester United, Liverpool and Tottenham).

- 11 - Danny Welbeck. 17 years 11 months 20 days
- 12 - Michael Ball. 17 years, 11 months and 27 days
- 13 - Lee Cattermole. 18 years, 11 days
- 14 - Mark Cullen. 18 years, 12 days
- 15 - Victor Anichebe. 18 years, 14 days
- 16 - Alan Smith. 18 years, 17 days
- 17 - Francis Jeffers. 18 years, 1 month, 2 days
- 18 - Gareth Bale. 18 years, 1 month, 16 days
- 19 - Michael Branch. 18 years, 1 month, 19 days
- 20 - Gareth Barry. 18 years, 2 months, 1 day



Paolo Maldini - The joint most UEFA Champions League final appearances (6) with Cristiano Ronaldo. Maldini also has the honour of being the oldest goal scorer in a UEFA Champions League final, at 36 years and 333 days old.



Let's take a look at those 7 youngsters, what they achieved and who else from the Blue side of Merseyside came on the scene early that may not have hit the back of the net but threatened to make headlines.



**James Vaughan** – The youngest player to score in the Premier League. That is some medallion to wear around the neck. As of 30/09/2019 there have been over 3800 footballers to play in the Premier League and a total of 28,063 goals, and Vaughan is the youngest goal scorer of them all, at 16  $\frac{3}{4}$  years old.

The goal against Crystal Palace was on his Everton debut coming on as a second half substitute scoring in the 87th minute of a 4-0 home victory in the April of the 2004/05 season. Vaughan remained at Everton for 7 seasons but it can't be argued that the 17 minute cameo, record setting debut remains the highlight, and it was a downward spiral from that game on. Severe injuries, Everton's recruitment policy and loan spells away from Everton meant that in those 7 seasons, Vaughan started just 8 league games.

In 2011 a £2.5 million transfer followed to Norwich City, preparing for life in the Premier League. Further injury setbacks meant Vaughan failed to beat his Everton starts in the top flight, making just 5 appearances for Canaries before moving on, and away from the Premier League.

Since transferring away from Norwich in 2012, first on loan and then permanently, Vaughan as not made another appearance in the top League to date. His most successful return was at Bury in the 2016 season when he struck 24 league goals in 37 league appearances. The goal return of course a huge satisfaction, but the 37 league starts represents his best return as a professional, having only reached +30 plus league games for one club in a single season on just one other occasion, during his 16 year career.

No surprise those 33 appearances yielded his second best goal return of 14 strikes, for Huddersfield in 2012/13.

Perhaps injury robbed us from ever knowing if Vaughan could have reached dizzy heights, but no one can rob Vaughan of his historic strike as a 16 year old against Palace that day in 2005.



**Patrick Vieira** – The only player to have won the FA Cup at the old Wembley Stadium, the Millennium Stadium and the new Wembley Stadium. Also captained the 2003-04 invincible Arsenal team.



**Wayne Rooney** – I can't write anything here that has not been written about Wayne Rooney before. The heir to Paul Gascoigne's throne as the most naturally talented England player of his generation, perhaps even 2 generations. The toughest pill to swallow for the Everton faithful is apart from the goal that puts him 3rd on the above list ("remember the name"), is his achievements were accomplished at the club he left them for, Manchester United, and of course the men's national team.

Rooney broke the mould for breakthrough players at Everton going on to achieve the levels and success he did but by the time he returned home some 13 years later the exuberant style had been replaced by a Premier League stalwart, missing the panache that had raised the excitement levels at Goodison Park in 2002.



**Javier Mascherano** – His impact at River Plate youth levels was such that he made his senior international debut for Argentina before playing a single minute for River Plate's first team. Fifteen years later in 2018 he won his 144<sup>th</sup> International cap to become Argentina's most capped player.



**Danny Cadamarteri** - debuted for Everton at 17 years old, and in the following season (1997/98) a goal against Barnsley puts him 10th on the list of youngest goal scorers in the Premier League.

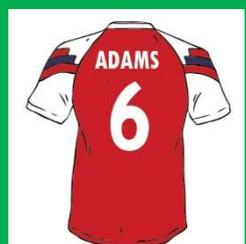
Nice for a Bradford born lad to get his first goal against Yorkshire rivals. But it's not that goal that looked to have defined Cadamarteri. Four league games after that strike, as well as 2 other goals, Cadamarteri formally announced himself to Everton fans, Merseyside and the Premier League.

A home fixture, hosting your arch rivals Liverpool at a time where Everton were suffering as the poor neighbours, the dreadlocked youngster made his mark. 1-0 up and Liverpool pressing, Cadamarteri chased down Bjørn Tore Kvarme on the halfway line, dispossessed him and with power and pace charged towards the back tracking Neil Ruddock in the Goodison sunshine. Cutting in from the left taking Ruddock out of the game, Cadamarteri smashed the ball to David James right and the ball nested in to the corner of the goal. The game was won, and Everton had a new hero. So what happened?

For the remainder of that season, Cadamarteri failed to score another goal, and Everton failed to build on that momentum, finishing just outside of the relegation zone on goal difference.



Tony Adams - Captained a Championship winning team in the top tier in English football across 3 separate decades, 1989, 1991 & 1998 and 2001. He also was the first, and remains to date the only, England player to make tournament appearances in three separate decades.



The following season, more appearances followed as well as 4 more goals, but Everton struggled again, needing the recruitment of Kevin Campbell back from Turkey to ensure another nail biting survival campaign.

Over the course of the next two seasons, appearances for Cadamarteri at Everton became more sporadic with the success of Campbell's new strike partner Francis Jeffers, coinciding with a loan move to Fulham in Division One.



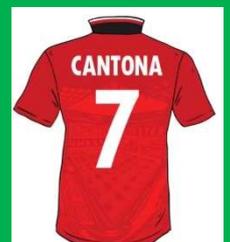
Ultimately the relationship with Everton ended on a sour note as the club bought his career at Goodison to an end in the wake of the striker being found guilty of actual bodily harm.

Cadamarteri was fined £2,000 and £4000 costs for punching a young woman in the face during a late night fracas in October 2000, as well as later receiving community service for attempting to pervert the course of justice, and was allowed to leave the club. Cadamarteri moved to Bradford City, his hometown club, and over the course of the next eight seasons, playing outside of the Premier League, represented 7 clubs including re-signing for Bradford City.

However this also ended in controversy as Cadamarteri was hit with a six-month ban after he tested positive for a banned substance. This subsequently led to his contract being terminated by the Bantams.



Eric Cantona – The scorer of the first ever hat-trick in the Premier League and in 1996 he became the first FA Cup-winning captain from outside the British Isles.



What about the rest? Which others featured in the top 20 youngest Premier League goal scorers?

We start with a player mentioned in keeping Cadamarteri out of the Everton team, **Francis 'Franny' Jeffers**. Jeffers actually made his debut for the Toffees at the age of 16 at Old Trafford. Not a bad show of faith by the then Everton manager Howard Kendall. Not until the following 1998/99 season did Jeffers register his first goal for the club at the age of 18 years, 1 month and 2 days. This was a fruitful season for Jeffers, scoring 6 goals in 15 starts helping steer Everton, now under Walter Smith to retain their Premier League status.

The following season Jeffers started to establish himself as a first team starter, playing alongside Kevin Campbell and registered 6 goals in the league campaign, featuring in 28 games. Inclusive of these games was the Merseyside derby at Anfield, where Everton won the game 1-0, courtesy of a solitary Campbell strike. 75 minutes in to the game Jeffers and the Liverpool goalkeeper Sander Westerveld clashed and punches were thrown, and landed. Both players were sent off and Everton secured the win, & to date, that remains their last 3 points gained from Anfield. Getting a win at Anfield and standing up to a giant goalkeeper some foot taller than you certainly helped Jeffers further endear himself with the Goodison faithful. The start of the 2000-01 season promised to be productive based on 5 goals from Jeffers in the opening 5 league games, however injuries stuck and ankle & shoulder issues side-lined Jeffers for a large chunk off the season.



However the performances of Jeffers in the league was enough to intrigue the then Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger enough to test Everton's resolve with a transfer bid. A contract standoff with the club, and £8 million + add ons offer on the table was enough to see the 20 year Jeffers leave Goodison behind and head to North London.



Andres Iniesta - Named Man of the Match for the 2010 World Cup final and Man of the Match for the 2012 European Championship final. His 35 domestic trophies, which includes nine La Ligas and four UEFA Champions League titles, make him the most decorated Spanish footballer of all time.

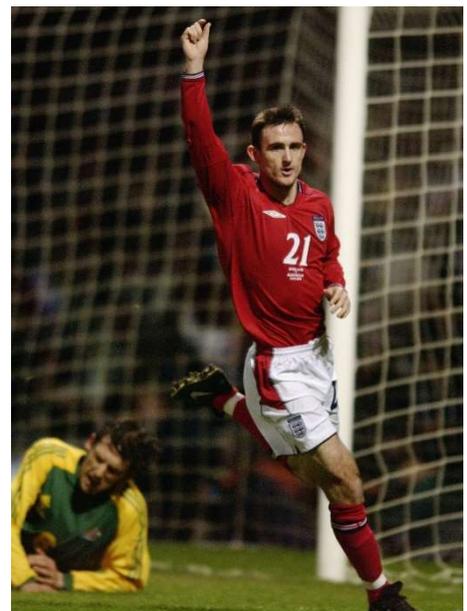


The Arsenal recruitment the summer of 2001 saw a change of trend from Wenger. The main recruits, Sol Campbell, Richard Wright, Giovanni van Bronckhorst and Jeffers were all from British domestic clubs. Something about that worked; Arsenal took home the League and Cup double that season. Sadly however no title medal or FA Cup medal for Jeffers. Wenger coined the phrase 'fox in the box' to describe Jeffers when he signed, and how he'd fit into the Arsenal team. Sadly the time at Arsenal was more like 'feline on the side-line.' Jeffers only made 6 league appearances (2 starts) that season and missed the FA Cup win due to injury.

The following year saw 16 league starts but no great goal return (2 in the league + 4 in the cups). Injuries as well as established forwards, namely Henry, Bergkamp, Wiltord and Kanu meant the last year at Arsenal was actually spent back on loan at Everton, the player recognising himself having left the club too soon. His time at Arsenal saw him make his England debut, (his only cap) scoring a header against Australia in a 3-1 defeat at Upton Park. Jermaine Jenas crossed the ball for the goal after receiving a pass from a certain Wayne Rooney also making his debut for the national team.

The second coming proved a false dawn, and Jeffers failed to find form at the club under David Moyes and no permanent move materialised. The remainder of his career was somewhat nomadic playing for clubs across England, Scotland, Australia and Malta, ending with a short stint at Accrington Stanley ('who?').

The player with the joint highest scoring return for the England U21's (with a certain Alan Shearer) ended his career with not one senior honour. A community shield runners up medal for Arsenal in a game he came on as sub in the 60th minute, and was sent off in the 72nd minute sums up a career with great promise but ultimately disappointing with a sooner than expected end.



Ronaldo – 'El Fenomeno.' In terms of natural ability, surely one of, if not the best ever. 2 World Cups wins (3 finals) covered up a surprising lack of (European) domestic success in 14 years – Just one league title and no Champions League winners medal.



The next Everton representative in the top 20 bucks trend of young attackers. **Michael Ball**, a young graduate for Everton was a left-back, and scored his first league goal at the age of 17 years, 11 months and 27 days. Again Arsenal the chosen victims. Ball had made his debut & 4 further appearances the previous season, but with Everton selling another home grown talent David Unsworth in the summer of 1997, Ball made the left back spot his own. The following season, aided perhaps by the ill-discipline of Marco Materazzi, Ball racked up 37 league appearances despite the return of Unsworth.



The next 2 seasons continued to bring consistency and in February 2001 Ball represented England in Sven-Goran Eriksson's first game as the national team manager. That proved to be Ball's solitary cap, joining Jeffers, Unsworth and Gavin McCann as one cap wonders for England whom graduated through Everton's youth ranks.

In the summer of 2001 with Everton struggling financially, they sold their prized assets. Not only Jeffers to Arsenal but also Ball, to Glasgow Rangers for a significant £6.5 million. Sadly for Ball, 5 league starts into his Ibrox career he suffered a severe knee injury ruling him out of the game for 18 months.

Upon his return Rangers financials had gone the way of Everton's and so further appearances were limited due to payment commitments in the transfer contract due to Everton.

This resulted in a surprise move to Dutch side PSV Eindhoven, where again injuries limited Ball's playing time. Despite the injuries, Ball still managed to claim league titles in both Scotland and Holland.

Returning to England in 2007 Ball played for Manchester City for 2 and a half seasons, including under Eriksson again.

His last season for City, the first under the ownership of the Abu Dhabi United Group, he suffered a season ending injury in February, and that proved to be his last league appearance as a professional, retiring after an unsuccessful period at Leicester City, where a reoccurrence of his knee trouble once again dictated his playing career.



Diego Maradona – The holy grail in terms of a shirt number, so maybe its apt there is no name associated with the shirt. The list of candidates would be a separate magazine in itself, so lets leave it with the joint winner of the FIFA player of the 20<sup>th</sup> century award (joint with Pele, another 10)



15th on the list is **Victor Anichebe**. In the company of Fabregas, Macheda and Forssell, they are the only players in the top 20 who are 'non-British', and therefore Anichebe is the only non-British Everton representative.

The Nigerian, in good company with Daniel Amokachi, Yakubu, Joseph Yobo and now Alex Iwobi as Super Eagles to play for Everton and of the 7 Everton players featured on this article, he is the one who has gone on to make the most appearances for the club, 168 league games over 11 seasons. If medals were given out for endeavour, grit and determination perhaps we'd be talking of the most decorated of the 7 as well.



Anichebe made his debut in 2006 at the age of 17, and 3 months later registered his first strike, against West Bromwich Albion ("WBA"), on the 7th May 2006 as a curtain closer for the season. The other Everton goal scorer that day was a certain Duncan Ferguson. This was to be Big Dunc's last goal and last game for Everton. Could it be the passing of the baton to Anichebe to take on the cult hero and legendary status of the great Scot.? Sadly not, however in his Everton career Anichebe did manage to break one of Ferguson's records. He overtook Ferguson as the most used substitute for Everton in the Premier League history. He overtook Ferguson's 83 sub appearances, before finishing on 95 for Everton (107 overall in his Premier League career) and sitting 10th on the overall list.

Anichebe was another frustrated by injuries, especially an 11 month absence following a season ending reckless tackle from Kevin Nolan in 2009. A run of injury free games escaped Anichebe and although 168 games were played, goal scoring never came easy with a career high season of 'only' 6 league goals in his penultimate season with Everton (2012-13).

WBA came in for Anichebe and a fee of £6million saw him make the move but the story remained the same at the Hawthorns, with no great consistency or goal scoring prowess achieved in his 3 seasons at the club. After being released by WBA Anichebe joined Sunderland managed by former Everton manager David Moyes, as the pair looked to stave off relegation for the Black Cats.

This proved to be unsuccessful as their tenure in the Premier League came to an end. The manager that oversaw Anichebe's Premier League debut also managed his last top flight appearance in 2017. A largely unsuccessful spell in China followed as a similar story played out with injuries and hard to argue yet another unfulfilled potential strikes again.



Ryan Giggs – First player to win two consecutive PFA Young Player of the Year awards (1992 & 1993) and I assume having the longest gap to winning the PFA Player of the year in 2009. Oh, and a small matter of 13 Premier League winner medals.





The last Everton player to feature in the top 20, coming in at 19th is **Michael Branch**. The flip side of this is Branch was the first of the featured players to have played for Everton, making his debut in 1996, at the age of 17. As with Jeffers mentioned before, Branch was blooded at the Theatre of Dreams against the champions in waiting Manchester United. The following season saw Branch score his first goal for Everton, away to Chelsea and struck a further two goals in the colours of Everton that season.

Goal scoring, pace and youth on Merseyside was highly topical that season (1996-97) as across Stanley Park, a certain Kindergarten Kop, Michael Owen debuted for Liverpool, also hitting the back of the net, to appear 5th on the youngest goal scorers list.

The comparison stops there. The following season Owen struck 18 league goals and won the (joint) golden boot, and Branch scored none. The next season Owen struck another 18 league goals and again won the (joint) golden boot, and Branch scored none. In fact Branch never scored another goal for Everton, and Owen became the youngest player to reach 100 goals in the Premier League + a few other accolades I could mention.

Branch left Everton for loan spells at Manchester City and Birmingham with limited success (0 goals). A more successful loan move to Wolverhampton Wanderers followed in late 1999 (9 games, 4 goals) leading to a permanent move to Molineux Stadium for £500,000. Branch played out that season and the next grabbing 6 goals for the club on route. A change of manager and further loan moves (Reading & Hull) followed and he left Molineux to join Bradford City in July 2003 after not being offered a new contract. His stay with Bradford City lasted just a solitary season before he joined Chester City. At Chester he scored 16 goals over 2 seasons but fell out with the manager damaged his time there and he left the club mid-season 2006.

Another prodigy and yet another player not to have played again in the Premier League once having left Goodison. Away from football, Branch's private life took a turn for the worst when in November 2012 he was convicted of drug offences and sentenced to 7 years in prison. That year, Michael Owen signed for Stoke City to prolong his Premier League career a further season, bagging his 150<sup>th</sup> Premier League strike in the process. There was never really a comparison.



Thierry Henry – Premier League Golden Boot winner a record 4 times and France's record ever goal scorer.



Those are the 7 Everton players that feature in the top 20 youngest players to have scored in the Premier League.

It is worth mentioning a few other names, who promised much at Everton, just merely didn't score quick enough for that list, or indeed ever!

**Jose Baxter** finds himself on a different list however: The youngest players ever to have played in the Premier League. Baxter came on for the Everton first team aged 16 years old, 191 days in 2008. That sees him 5th overall on that list.

He'd struggle to get on the goal scoring list however, as although an attacking midfielder, he never scored for Everton and only made a further 6 league appearances for the club. He has played his career since leaving in 2012, in League One and League Two, interrupted in 2015 when the FA handed him a five-month suspension (three of which suspended) for testing positive for ecstasy.



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On 7th May 1998, in the FA Youth Cup second leg Everton lined up against Blackburn Rovers at Goodison with a 3-1 advantage from the first leg. Everton started the game with 3 strikers up front, Danny Cadamarteri, Franny Jeffers and an 18 year old **Phil Jevons**.

It was Jevons who had opened the scoring in the first leg, setting the way for a 5-3 aggregate win overall. Jevons would find the net with ease in the Youth and Reserve Everton sides and made his full debut in March 1998.

It sounds fairy tale stuff to describe when Jevons against Liverpool, at Anfield, hit a 35 yard screamer into the top corner to send Liverpool out of the cup. Fairy tale yes, though not the perfect story. It was 2001 and Jevons had been transferred to the first division with Grimsby Town.

Despite being prolific at the young age groups he had struggled to make a first team impact at Everton and was sold after just 8 league appearances. Goals at Yeovil Town (29 in one season) and Morecombe suggested Jevons had found his level.



Michael Ballack – In 2001-02 he came second in the Bundesliga, lost the DFB-Pokal final, lost the Champions League final and got suspended for the World Cup final, that Germany ultimately lost!



The better known likes of *Jack Rodwell* and *Ross Barkley* who came to prominence at Everton but moved on to perhaps further their careers (between them there is a league title, FA Cup and a European trophy), will not, along with all the other youngsters mentioned be looked as folk heroes at Everton.

Could it be a case of too much too soon?

I will leave you with this. I want to mention another 2 players who featured in the FA Youth cup final of 1998.

**Tony Hibbert** and **Leon Osman**; they made their Everton league debuts at the ages of 20 and 21 respectively.

They never moved away from the club permanently and together they amassed 617 appearances for Everton (Hibbert = 265 & Osman = 352). Could it be patience is a virtue and worth waiting for.



In the next edition we explore which 2 clubs make up 30% of the top 20 oldest goal scorers in the Premier League.

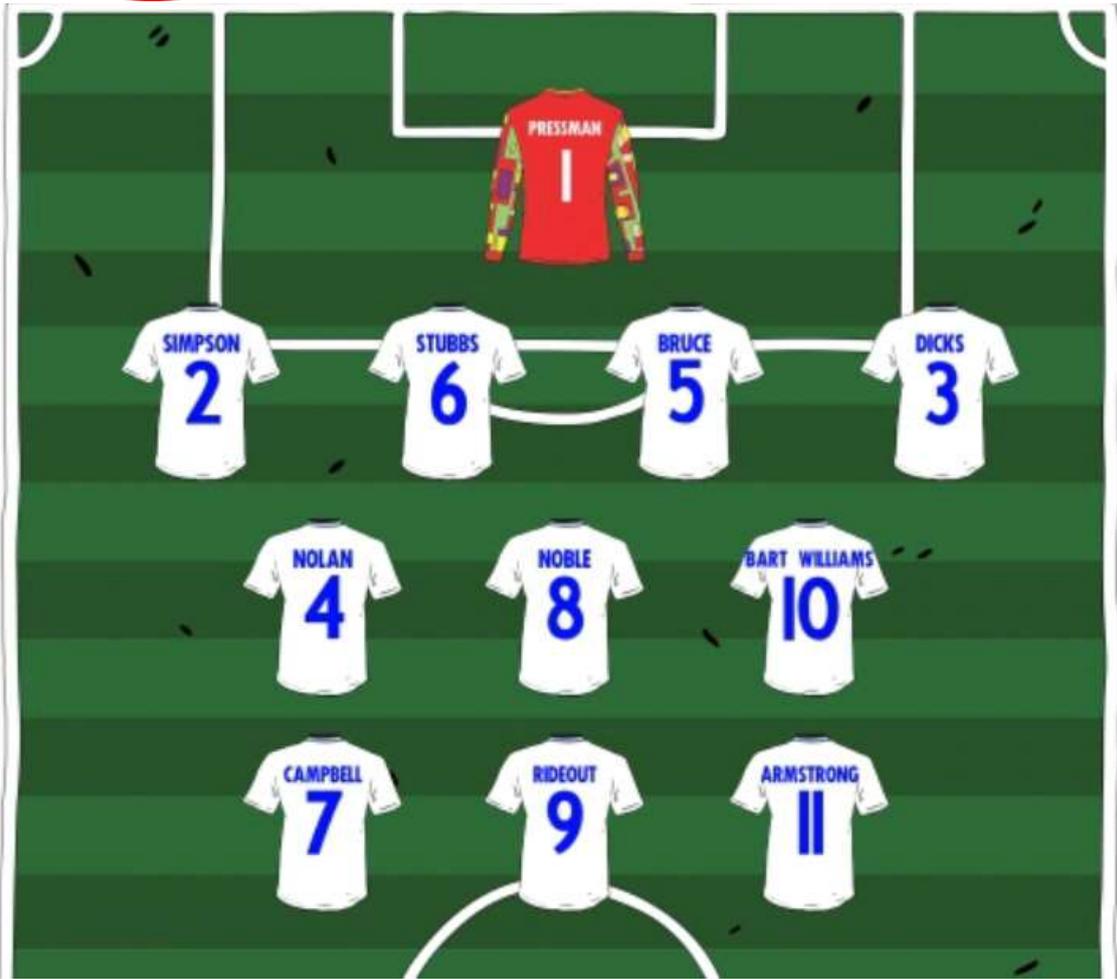


Johan Cruyff – Iconic footballer and iconic manager. Not many have a football skill named after them. Widely acclaimed to have bought tiki-taka football to Barcelona and laid the foundations for Pep and others to carry on.





# Uncapped Premier League stars XI



Sergio Ramos – Most capped outfield European footballer (168 caps and counting).  
Also the most carded player in not only La Liga but all European leagues – 173!!



# Uncapped Premier League stars

**Kevin Pressman** – 207 league appearances for Sheffield Wednesday. There are many capped English goalkeepers with less appearances. No English goalkeeper with more Premier League appearances with no caps.

**Danny Simpson** – League title. Looking back at Championship winning sides in the Premier League, with a English right back, tend to have been capped (Neville, Dixon, Johnson, Walker). Not Simpson however.

**Alan Stubbs** – Could this have been different if Stubbs moved with Bruce Rioch from Bolton to Arsenal? A successful period Celtic (notoriously hard to receive England caps whilst at Parkhead) and a number of consistent seasons at Everton, resulting in a top 4 finish whilst captain of the club.

**Steve Bruce** – League & Cup Double winning captain at the leading English club during his time and +400 appearances to his name at Manchester United

**Julian Dicks** – goal threat, committed – but English Liverpool left backs don't tend to get caps when at the club. (Warnock, Konchesky, Burrows, Harkness) The legacy at WHU didn't help Dicks either.

**Kevin Nolan** – List of highest scoring English midfielders in the Premier League in order of goals? Lampard, Gerrard, Scholes and....Nolan. First 3 feature in my top all time English XI. Nolan remains uncapped.

**Mark Noble** – Tough, ball playing centre midfield. See Ian Bishop, John Moncur. Huge number of first team Premier League appearances, and consistency, yet no international recognition.

**Chris Bart-Williams** – Not the first to roll off the tongue, but Bart-Williams excelled firstly at Sheffield Wednesday (one of only 5 teenagers to score a Premier League hat-trick) and then at Nottingham Forest before the clubs demise to the lower leagues. Highly talented youngster who can feel hard done by not to add to 16 U21 clubs and one England B cap. Fellow midfielders that could feel hard done by not being in the XI, as well as not getting a cap are Jimmy Bullard and Jermaine Pennant.

**Kevin Campbell** – highest scoring Premier League player without an International cap. 83 strikes. Hard lines, but perhaps harder competition at the time.

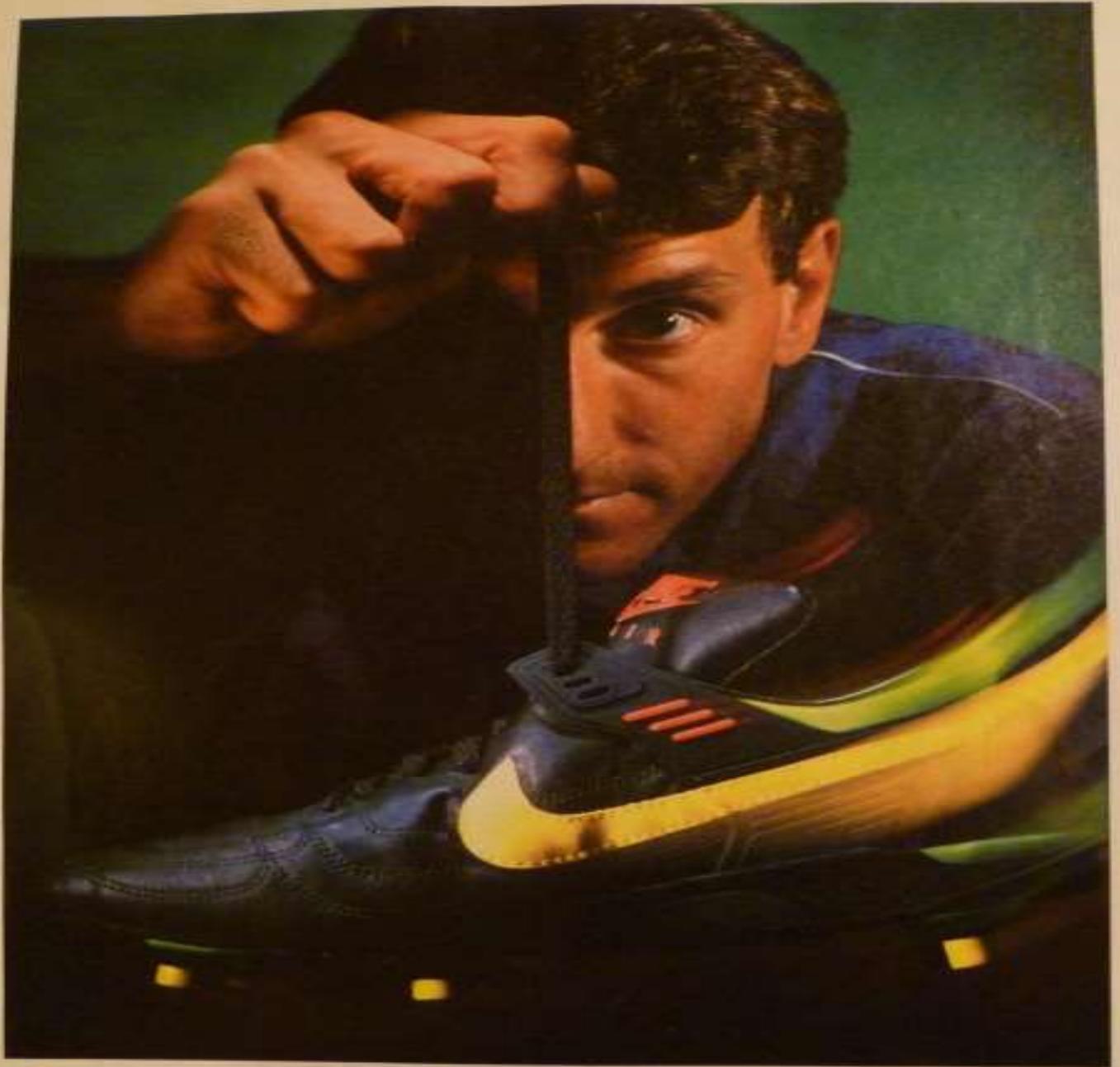
**Chris Armstrong** – 71 Premier League strikes (2nd behind Campbell) above the likes of Collymore, Carroll, Carlton Cole – all capped, but nothing for Armstrong.

**Paul Rideout** – Slightly odd, and perhaps quirky inclusion. But worth a debate. Strikers Luther Blissett, Trevor Francis and Mark Hateley all travelled to Italy in the 1980's to play in Serie A, and all gained England Caps. Rideout played 3 seasons in Serie A before returning to the Premier League (via Scotland and perhaps too late) and had a very steady career at Everton but never recognised above the U21 level for England. Others unlucky to miss out on being unlucky include Rodney Wallace, Mark Bright and Dean Holdsworth.



**Danielle De Rossi** – Hero in Rome, with 616 appearances for Roma, + 117 caps for Italy. Rumour has it when the Italian World Cup kit man of 2006 passed away, De Rossi placed his winners medal in the coffin alongside him.





**OVERPOWERING HIS OPPONENT.**



David Trezeguet – Unless you are part of Oliver Bierhoff's family's opinion, probably the scorer of the most famous Golden Goal (2000) before the concept was abolished.



# Managerial Matrix: a Merry-go-round

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When Claudio Ranieri became Chelsea manager in 2000 his first signing was that of Slavisa Jokanovic from Deportivo La Coruna. Ranieri's spell as the Chelsea manager came to an end in 2004 but not before making his last signing in the January transfer window of that year, purchasing Scott Parker from Charlton.

It can't be said either signing caused any real fireworks, with both midfielders struggling to get any real game time for the Blues, as the team had an established midfield with the likes of Wise, Poyet & Di Matteo in 2000, and Lampard & Makelele in 2004. Between Jokanovic and Parker, they mustered a grand total of 54 league games between them before moving on from the club, neither spending more than 2 years at Chelsea.

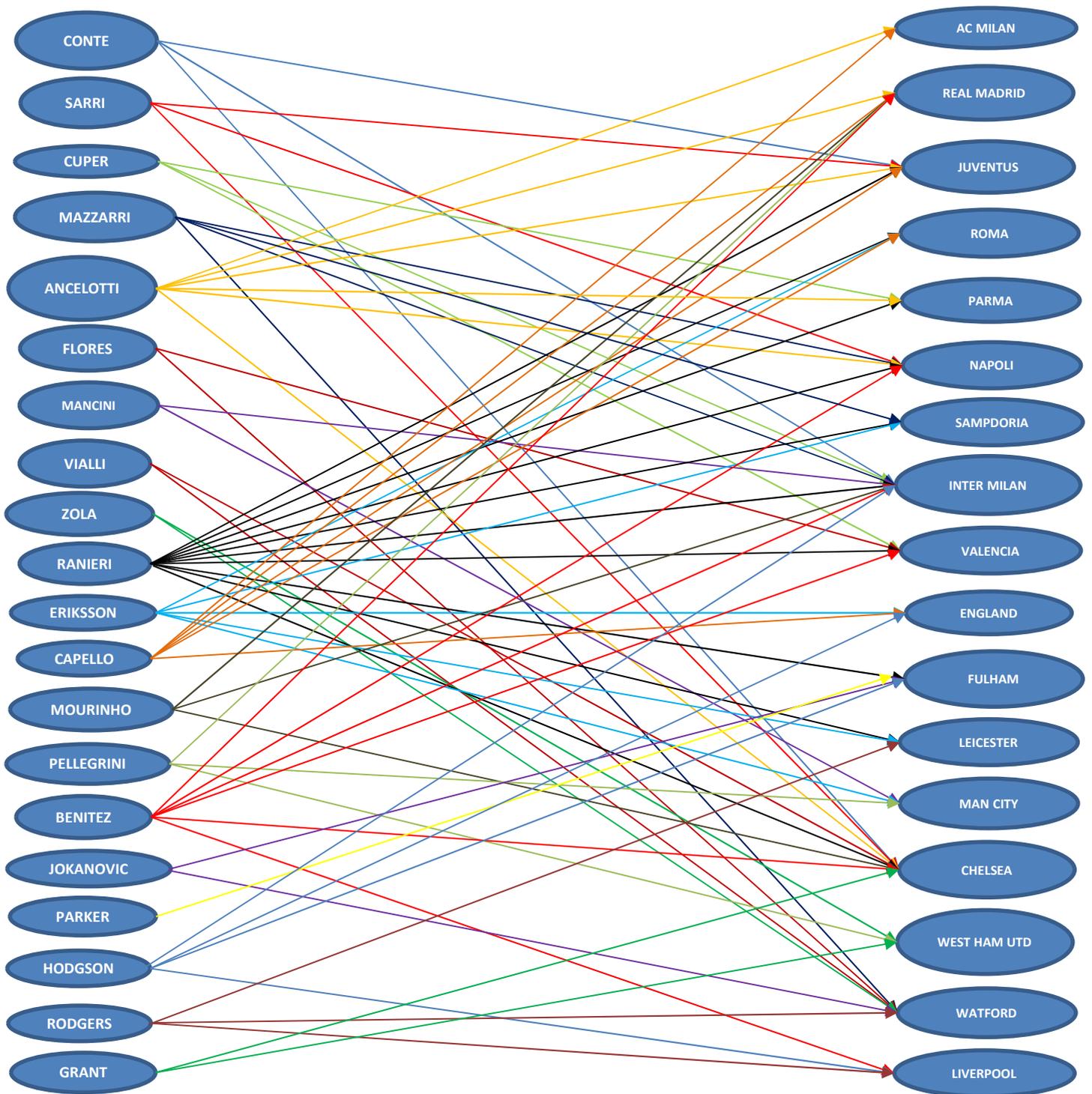
Fast forward to November 2018, and some 1.5 miles down the road in West London and Claudio Ranieri was hired by Fulham to replace a certain Jokanovic as manager in a bid to stave off relegation from the Premier League. The bid ultimately failed and Fulham fired Ranieri and replaced the Italian with, would you believe it, Scott Parker, whom had also played under Jokanovic at Fulham.

It got me thinking of the incestuous world of football management and how far I could link not only Ranieri, Jokanovic and Parker to the management of clubs, but casting my net far wider to see what crazy matrix I could come up with. See if you can make any sense of the arrows and colours on the next page.



Jurgen Klinsmann – The first World Cup winner ever to play in the English Premier League





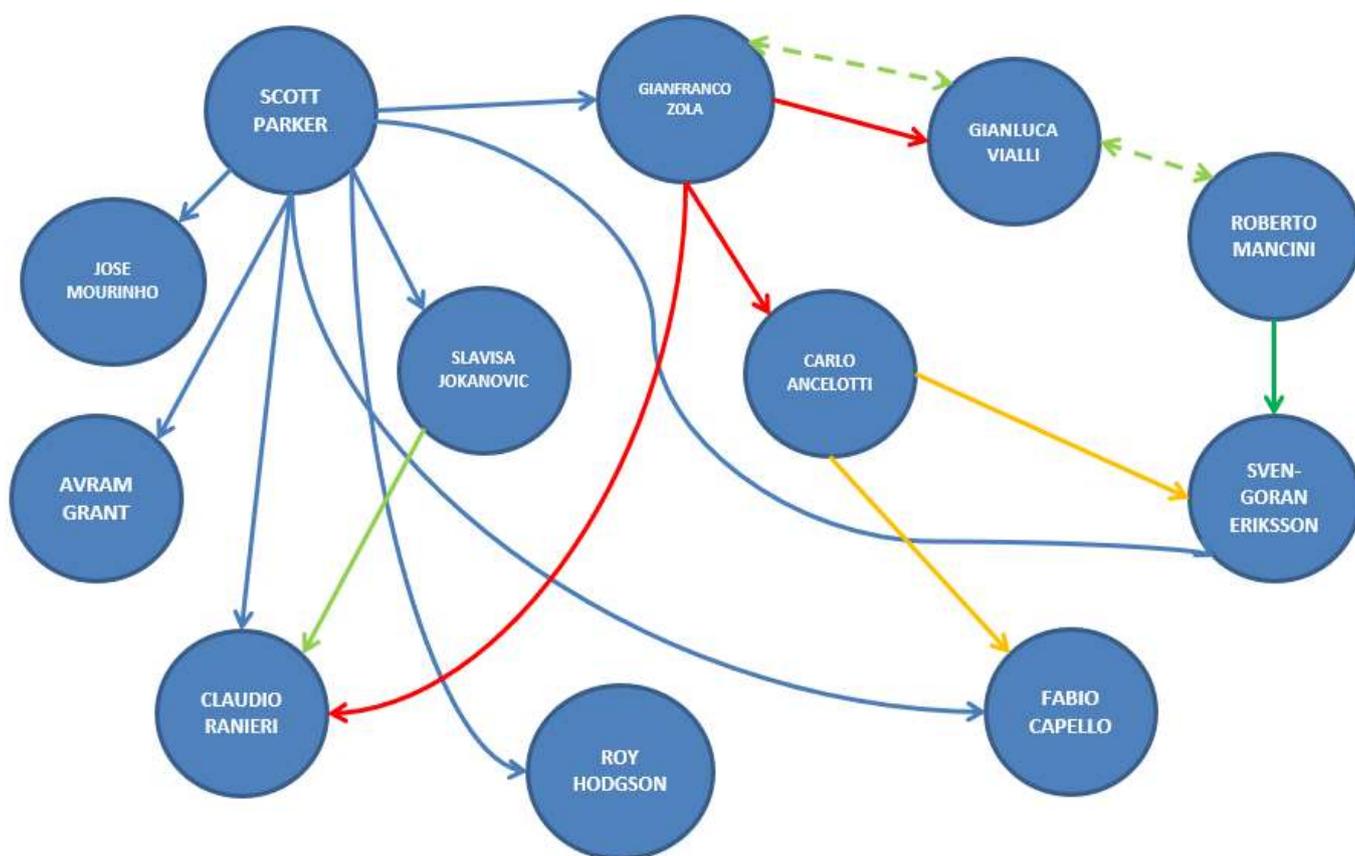
Mario Gotze – “And Mario Gotze has won it for Germany!!” The words heard around the whole world on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014 that signalled a forth FIFA World Cup title for Germany and a place in history for Gotze.



The Matrix appears to suggest, if Real Madrid, Inter Milan, Chelsea and Napoli are seeking a new managerial hire, their first port of call is to seemingly check who has previously managed Real Madrid, Inter Milan, Chelsea and Napoli and that individual stands a fair chance of getting the job.

On the Matrix, the youngest manager is Scott Parker and perhaps unsurprisingly he only has one club link for management, but he is absolutely worth including, and even more so on the below graphic as it shows Parker in his playing career, out of the 20 managers featured, has played for 8 of them!

We even have a small number of managers that have been selected that have been teammates of each others, prior to moving to the dugout for the next stage of their careers.



Robin Van Persie – Alongside Alan Shearer and fellow Dutchman, Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink, the only players to win the Premier League Golden Boot with 2 different teams, and like Shearer, did this in consecutive years of each other.



Chelsea	Vialli →	Ranieri →	Mourinho →	Grant	Ancelotti	Benitez →	Mourinho	Conte →	Sarri											
Watford	Vialli	Rodgers	Zola	Jokanovic →	Flores →	Mazzarri	Flores													
Valencia	Ranieri →	Cuper →	Benitez →	Ranieri	Flores															
Fulham	Hodgson	Jokanovic →	Ranieri →	Parker																
West Ham United	Zola →	Grant	Pellegrini																	
Inter Milan	Hodgson	Hodgson	Cuper	Mancini →	Mourinho →	Benitez	Ranieri	Mazzarri →	Mancini	Conte										
Roma	Eriksson	Capello	Ranieri	Ranieri																
AC Milan	Capello	Ancelotti																		
Napoli	Ranieri	Mazzarri →	Benitez →	Sarri →	Ancelotti															
Real Madrid	Capello	Capello	Pellegrini →	Mourinho →	Ancelotti →	Benitez														
Leicester City	Eriksson	Ranieri	Rodgers																	
Liverpool	Benitez	Hodgson	Rodgers																	
Sampdoria	Eriksson	Mazzarri	Ranieri																	
Parma	Ancelotti	Ranieri	Cuper																	
Manchester City	Eriksson	Mancini →	Pellegrini																	
England	Eriksson	Capello →	Hodgson																	
Juventus	Ancelotti →	Capello	Ranieri	Conte	Sarri															

The table above looks to bring some sense to the matrix, and actually shows who has managed who at club and international level. The → shape signifies the manager has been directly replaced by the manager to their left, whereas a blank cell merely signifies a manager, or managers not selected for this matrix were put in charge.

Ranieri has replaced our sample of managers on 3 occasions, but in a career of 20 management positions, at club and country he is certainly playing the odds. Perhaps he has earned the nickname the ‘Job Father.’ Jose Mourinho and Rafael Benitez have been the successor to our managers on 4 separate occasions, even replacing each other in 2 examples.

For another instalment of the Managerial Matrix perhaps we’ll look to integrate the more British core of Allardyce, Hughes, Pulis and Pardew into some form of graphic.



Zinedine Zidane – Not only scored in 2 World Cup finals, sent off in 2 World Cups, but also scorer of arguably the best Champions League final goal. He was quite good. Went on to manage 3 consecutive Champions League final victories with Real Madrid.



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Kaka – The best player the world in 2007, and one of only 8 players to have won FIFA World Cup, the UEFA Champions League and the Ballon d'Or



# WHAT IF?

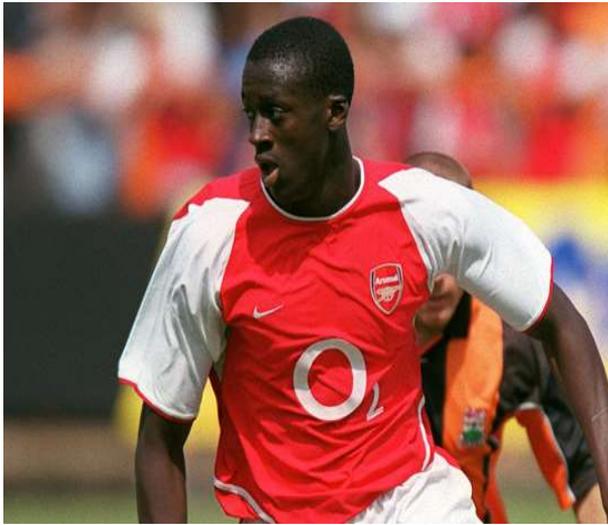
In January 1991, Eric Cantona trialled for Sheffield Wednesday, at an indoor tournament! Due to poor weather he never got to train with them and ended up at Leeds United, and the rest is history.



Andrei Arshavin – He and only 7 others have scored 4 goals in a Premier League game playing away, and unfortunately the only of those 8 not to have been on the winning side!



# WHAT IF?



In July 2003, Yaya Toure trialled for Arsenal against Barnet at Underhill in a pre-season friendly. He didn't do enough to earn a contract.



Yaya Toure – Success at Barcelona and Manchester City but could have been so different had Arsenal signed him after a 2003 pre-season trial.



# If you smash it in The Eredivisie, what will you produce in the Premier League?

Dissecting the winners of the top scorer award in the Netherlands makes for interesting analysis when looking at if and when they played in the Premier League at some stage of their careers. The results are a mixed bag but it suggests approaching with caution if looking to nab the most profile scorer in Holland as there are no guarantees this form is replicated in England.

Starting at a nice round year, 1990, we're able to split the winners of the top scorer award in the Netherlands into 4 groups.

- 1) Top scorer in Eredivisie and transferred the next season to Premier League
- 2) Top scorer in Eredivisie and transferred at a point in the future to Premier League
- 3) Top scorer in Eredivisie and have previously played in the Premier League
- 4) Top scorer in Eredivisie and have not yet played in the Premier League to date

Season	Top Scorer	No. of Goals	Team	Season	Top Scorer	No. of Goals	Team
1990–91	Romário	25	PSV	2004–05	Dirk Kuyt	29	Feyenoord
	Dennis Bergkamp	25	Ajax	2005–06	Klaas-Jan Huntelaar	33	SC Heerenveen/Ajax
1991–92	Dennis Bergkamp	24	Ajax	2006–07	Afonso Alves	34	SC Heerenveen
1992–93	Dennis Bergkamp	26	Ajax	2007–08	Klaas-Jan Huntelaar	33	Ajax
1993–94	Jari Litmanen	26	Ajax	2008–09	Mounir El Hamdaoui	23	AZ
1994–95	Ronaldo	30	PSV	2009–10	Luis Suárez	35	Ajax
1995–96	Luc Nilis	21	PSV	2010–11	Björn Vleminckx	23	NEC
1996–97	Luc Nilis	21	PSV	2011–12	Bas Dost	32	SC Heerenveen
1997–98	Nikos Machlas	34	Vitesse	2012–13	Wilfried Bony	31	Vitesse
1998–99	Ruud van Nistelrooy	31	PSV	2013–14	Alfreð Finnbogason	29	SC Heerenveen
1999–00	Ruud van Nistelrooy	29	PSV	2014–15	Memphis Depay	22	PSV
2000–01	Mateja Kežman	24	PSV	2015–16	Vincent Janssen	27	AZ
2001–02	Pierre van Hooijdonk	24	Feyenoord	2016–17	Nicolai Jørgensen	21	Feyenoord
2002–03	Mateja Kežman	35	PSV	2017–18	Alireza Jahanbakhsh	21	AZ
2003–04	Mateja Kežman	31	PSV	2018–19	Luuk de Jong	28	PSV
				Dušan Tadić	28	Ajax	



Gianfranco Zola – Voted, and undisputed, Chelsea's best ever Premier League player



First bucket: Top scorer in Eredivisie and transferred the next season to Premier League. The finding here is avoid taking the plunge!

5 players over the 28 seasons have enjoyed a fruitful season in Holland and been rewarded with a move to the Premier League in time for the next season.

Kezman in 2004, Bony in 2013, Depay in 2015, Janssen in 2016 and Jahanbakhsh in 2018 all hit the dizzy heights of the scoring charts in Holland and followed up with a move to England over the following summer.

**Mateja Kezman**, a winner of the Dutch golden boot 3 times, never settled in West London despite the link up with former PSV team mate Arjen Robben. He struck 4 league goals in his solitary season before moving on, in what was an usual occurrence with Jose Mourinho's transfers at Chelsea, he moved on generating a profit on the transfer.

**Wilfried Bony** is a contentious argument and will divide opinion. A substantial fee outlaid by Swansea City secured the signature of the 2013 top scorer and Bony had no issues taking his form into the Premier League in Wales, registering 16 league goals in his debut season. Second season syndrome showed no signs on kicking in, until a big money move to Manchester City. Game time and goals were not forth coming resulting in loan moves and an eventual return to the Liberty stadium some 2 years later. Based on his debut season, and the £28 million move he secured would have to say Bony's move was a success.

If Bony was hard to call, the latter 3 are not.



**Memphis Depay**, an attacking midfielder joins the club of earning a move to a 'big club,' Manchester United, not producing the goods, gets moved on and rediscovers the Midas touch somewhere else. (also see Angel Di Maria) Upon leaving United after one season, and 2 league goals, Depay can now be found banging them in at Lyon, and integral to the Dutch national team.

**Vincent Janssen** excelled in his only season in the Eredivisie, scoring 27 goals for AZ, convincing Spurs to shell out £17 million. No mean feat for Pochettino to convince the money men at Spurs to part with that type of cash. Assuming now they wish they hadn't. 2 league goals in his debut season, the first a penalty, echo the return of a Roberto Soldado instead of a Jurgen Klinsmann. Janssen played for the club a further 3 times in the next 2 seasons, with no goals before trying his luck in Mexico to resurrect his goal scoring career.

A fellow AZ attacker, **Alireza Jahanbakhsh** topped the goal scoring charts in 2018 as well as 3rd for the number of assists provided. In doing so he became the first Asian player to become the top goal scorer in a top level European league. A then club record move to Brighton & Hove Albion followed, but sadly the goal scoring form did not, and at the time of print, Jahanbakhsh had yet to hit the target for his new club, or register a single assist.



John Terry – First English player to score an international goal at the new Wembley.  
Terry is also the first player to captain 5 Premier League title wins.



The second bucket has the players who were top goal scorers in the Eredivisie and then went on to play in the Premier League at a later date.

2 of these players are **Luis Suarez** and **Afonso Alves**. Picked out specifically as they moved in the winter transfer window the season after being top goal scorers in Holland, scoring more goals than games played in their respective high scoring campaigns. That and their South American origin are probably the only 2 similarities I can reference.

Luis Suarez was, aside from the controversy, an outstanding signing for Liverpool, getting better in ever year he was at the club, winning PFA Player of the Year and a English golden boot award at this time at Anfield. The personal glory was not matched with league titles at Liverpool but his level of football and his ability to bring the best out of others, namely Sturridge and Sterling was breath taking. In 2014 he moved on to Barcelona where again he took personal acclaim (Top goal scorer 2016) but alongside this was also League and European titles.



Afonso Alves' time at Middlesbrough was sadly not able to match his success at Heerenveen. You'll note from the list of top scorers, Alves is the third Brazilian to feature, and in some very good company. In his second season at the club he struck 7 (seven) times in one game, the highest number of goals scored by a player in an Eredivisie game. Middlesbrough paid a club record fee of £12.5 million to recruit Alves, and is remembered as a high priced flop. He returned 10 league goals in a season and a half at 'Boro. Perhaps wrong to compare but in his last 8 appearances for Heerenveen he scored 11 goals. He moved on to the Qatari league after his time at the Riverside, but considering 3 of his 10 goals came in one game, we are filing Alves as a failure.

The next wave of players in the second bucket bring a real mix of ups, downs and maybes.



Lucas Moura – One of 5 players to score a Champions League Semi Final Hat-Trick, but surely the most dramatic of them all



The winner of the first three golden boots in this feature (one shared) was **Dennis Bergkamp**. Bergkamp left Ajax for Serie A, joining Inter Milan in 1993 alongside fellow Dutchman Wim Jonk to spearhead their title challenge. They failed miserably, finishing a lowly 13<sup>th</sup>, one point away from the relegation zone, but won the UEFA Cup to compensate. Bergkamp did well that first season, but increased criticism from the Italian media and a lack of goals in the second season saw Bergkamp surplus to requirements and was transferred to Arsenal in the summer of 1995. Bergkamp secured hero status during his 11 years at Arsenal, winning numerous trophies including League titles, PFA Player of the year awards and an unprecedented first, second and third on Match of the Day's Goal of the Month competition in August 1997. Bergkamp joins Suarez as a massive success in this bucket.



Next up was **Jari Litmanen**, top scorer for Ajax in 1994, and member of the Champions League winning squad of 1995. Litmanen left Ajax to follow Louis Van Gaal to Barcelona, with a large Dutch contingent at the Nou Camp. He failed to impress Van Gaal and his first season was bad for both as Van Gaal lost his job and his replacement froze out Litmanen. In his second season at Barcelona he was allowed to leave for free, and he joined Liverpool. Although during his time at Anfield the club were successful, injuries restricted Litmanen's game time and ultimately he would be allowed to leave the club for free. Litmanen tried his luck once more in the Premier League some 6 years later, at Fulham, but again injuries robbed him of opportunities and he wasn't even fit enough to make a first team appearance.



Cristiano Ronaldo – The squad number at his first club, Sporting Lisbon before embarking on a quite remarkable career. In 438 appearances for Real Madrid he scored 450 goals.



The golden boot winner of 1996 and 1997 was the prolific Belgian for PSV Eindhoven, **Luc Nilis**. Then, he shared the goal scoring responsibilities with **Ruud Van Nistelrooy**, who became PSV's and the leagues top goal scorer in the years 1999 and 2000.



Both players next move was to the Premier League. Van Nistelrooy's was halted due to a bad knee injury, whereas Nilis, taking advantage of the Bosman ruling moved to Aston Villa in 2000. He started well, but a horrific career ending leg injury, in just his 3<sup>rd</sup> league game put pay to making any impact in the Premier League. A double compound fracture of his right shin meant Nilis failed to make another professional appearance.

Van Nistelrooy however made a full recovery from his knee injury and joined Manchester United for £19 million in the summer of 2001. He didn't hang about when it came to scoring goals. By the time he left, he had scored 150 goals in 219 appearances, securing a league title and a Premier League golden boot. Like Luis Suarez, a successful move to La Liga followed winning league titles and a La Liga Golden boot award.



Kylian Mbappe - At €180 million euros, the most expensive teenager ever! An explosive talent.



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A full range of Mizuno soccer shoes is now available in Britain.

If you want to play in style, ask about the Mizuno range and see our 1990 catalogue at your local sports shop.



Lionel Messi – Number 30 was Messi's first squad number at Barcelona. He moved to 19, and then to the number 10 shirt and can put in a claim to be the greatest ever football in our life time. We can debate that, and in fact we will on another occasion.



Mateja Kezman although was top goal scorer in 2001 and 2003, we've put him in the first bucket as he moved to Chelsea after being top scorer in 2004, so we are left with one final player in the second bucket, **Dirk Kuyt**.

After his 29 goals in 2005, he followed that up with his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive 20+ goal return in The Eredivisie that prompted a move to Liverpool in the Premier League in 2006. Kuyt was a consistent performer for Liverpool over 6 seasons, reaching double figures across all competitions in all but his last season at the club. Effort and graft were always associated with Kuyt's game, perhaps more so than his natural goal scoring ability. A goal in the Champions League final was not enough to topple AC Milan again sadly, but he did manage a hat-trick against arch rivals Manchester United in the Premier League, a feat not achieved by many (Bentley, Lukaku and Eto'o)

The third bucket is for those players that won the Dutch golden boot having already played in the Premier League, and to date, none of them have re-joined the English league

**Pierre Van Hooijdonk** played, and went on strike for Nottingham Forest between 1997 and 1999. He went on to score goals for Benfica, Vitesse, Fenerbahce (as did Janssen, Kuyt and Kezman) but struck gold at Feyenoord in 2002 scoring 24 goals to win the top goal scorer award.

The case of **Mounir El Hamdaoui** will be a hard one to argue. Bought at the age of 21 by Martin Jol he failed to make a first team appearance at Spurs, moving back to the Netherlands a year and a half later. El Hamdaoui found form at AZ and in the 2008-09 season he scored 23 to be the leagues top scorer.



Bastian Schweinsteiger – The first German to play for Manchester United. Holds the joint record for most Bundesliga wins for a German, 8. The winner has 9 (Franck Ribery)



The final players in the third bucket shared the top scorer accolade in 2018/19.

**Luuk de Jong** for PSV and **Dusan Tadic** of Ajax scored 28 goals a piece, that will no doubt come to a surprise to fans of Newcastle United and Southampton.

De Jong joined the Magpies on loan in 2014 and made no impression whatsoever, not finding the goal in his time on Tyneside. The hierarchy tried their luck the following season signing Luuk's brother Siem, who equally flattered to deceive and departed with the one goal to his name.

Tadic's goal scoring feats will certainly surprise Saints' fans as his time on the south coast was dominated more by assists than goals.

He joined in 2014, and in the game in which he scored his first goal, he also contributed 4 assists, equalling the Premier League record for the most assists in a single match. Two years later, he provided three assists in another game becoming only the fourth player to achieve three or more assists in more than one Premier League game.

Tadic was successful at Southampton, but not many tears were shed when Ajax paid close to £12million to take him back to the Eredivisie in 2018. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but those Saints fans must regret it now. In his first season at Ajax Tadić had directly contributed to 53 of the club's goals in all competitions: 34 goals and 19 assists, including the 28 in the league.

The last bucket is for those Eredivisie top goal scorers who have never played for a Premier League team, so we simply can't judge them. The Brazilians **Romario** and **Ronaldo** were snapped up from PSV by Barcelona and their career paths never ventured to the British Isles.

The likes of **Machlas**, **Vleminckx**, **Dost**, **Finnbagason** you could argue won the top scorer awards at slightly less fashionable clubs, and the buying English clubs have an element of snobbery about them.

That then leaves **Klass-Jan Huntelaar**, who ironically looked absolutely made for the Premier League but never made the switch and **Nicolai Jørgensen** at Feyenoord, who at 28 is the last of the players who could realistically make the move, but worth noting not since Dirk Kuyt in 2006 have a Premier League team bought a top goal scorer and placed them in the second bucket.



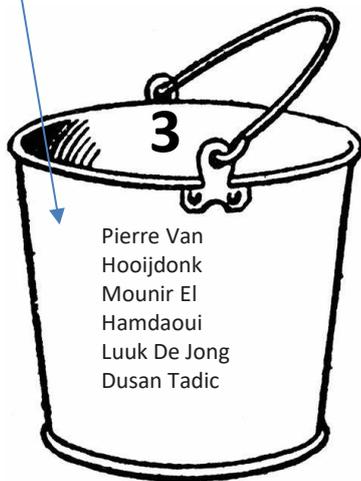
Carlos Tevez – Won an Italian Title and Cup double AND an Argentinian Title and Cup double in the same calendar year, 2015.





21 of the 29 winners (23 unique players) have played in the Premier League, that's 71%

5 directly after winning it  
12 at a point in time after winning it  
4 played in Premier League before winning it  
8 not yet, and perhaps never will, played in the Premier League



How many were successful?  
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Petr Cech – Most clean sheets in Premier League history, 202 in 443 games.



# The Travelling Dane

In 2009 the Danish car manufacturer Zenvo created the ST1 sports car. \$600,000 to buy, let alone the reported \$2million to have the car registered to drive.

The sports car promised much, but never lived up to the promise. There were features in two car programmes, resulting in two breakdowns, fires and essentially public failures. Perhaps Denmark aren't to be renowned for sports car engineering.

Full of pace but no final product; if you were to compare to a footballer, similar to Jesper Gronkjaer or Dennis Rommedahl if you like.

What about looking out for a more sturdier option. Something more reliable with consistent performance. Here's a suggestion:

1980's built, 8 previous owners and approximately 6000 miles on the clock. Has travelled through Europe and can claim to represent a true European flavour.

There is no car comparison, I am talking about a footballer. A Danish 'engine room' type player if you like. But also a special player in terms of playing European football. A certain Christian Poulsen. Let me explain.



Justin Kluivert – As well as players such as Phillippe Sandler, Amin Younes and Kevin Diks, Kluivert donned the 34 shirt as a tribute to former Ajax colleague Abdelhak Nouri, who tragically collapsed during a pre-season game suffering life changing effects.



Christian Poulsen is, to date, the only player to play top flight football in the top 6 European football leagues.

The traditional 'big 5 leagues:' Serie A, the Premier League, the Bundesliga, La Liga and Ligue 1, were covered by Florian Radicioui. The Romanian striker played for the likes of AC Milan, Espanyol, Stuttgart, Monaco as well as a visit to Harvey Nichols in London whilst on the payroll of West Ham Utd.

But in fairness to the Eredivisie of Holland, they should not be in the shadows of the big 5 leagues and join the list to make it the top 6.

The inclusion of the Dutch league adds the likes of forwards and headline grabbers Patrick Kluivert, Mido and Zlatan Ibrahimovic whom have represented 5 of those 6 big leagues in their careers. But no one else has all 6, alongside Christian Poulsen.

Starting his career in his homeland at Holbaek, he impressed enough to earn a move to the capital city with Copenhagen. Here Poulsen began to make his impressions resulting in 2001 being recognised as the Young Danish player of the year.



Fernando Torres – The only player to score in 2 separate European Championship finals, when he struck for Spain's victories in 2008 and 2012.



A move 2 years later saw Poulsen appear in the first of the big leagues, in the Bundesliga representing Schalke. Assisted by his fellow countryman Ebbe Sand, Poulsen settled well in Germany and followed up a league title in Denmark with a domestic cup victory with Schalke. Team mates came, went & stayed including Manuel Neuer, Rafinha, Ailton and Kevin Kuranyi during Poulsen's time at Schalke, as well as further recognition from the Danish media as he was rewarded in 2005 as the Danish Player of the Year.

The second big league and Poulsen's most successful period was a move to La Liga with Sevilla. He won the Europa league, the Copa Del Rey and the Super Cup with the Los Palanganas team as well as retaining the title in 2006 as Danish player of the year. Since the turn of the century only he, Daniel Agger and Kasper Schmeichel have won the player of the year award more than once, whilst also having won the Young Danish Player of the year.



Victor Valdes – There was a time whilst at Manchester United, Valdes could claim to be the most successful player to appear in the Premier League – this of course stemmed from his club success at Barcelona, whom he started his career wearing the 36 jersey.



Perhaps the most glamorous of transfers came next as Juventus, the old lady of Italian football came in for Poulsen under the management of Claudio Ferrera. Playing with Juve legends such as Nedved, Cameronesi, Trezeguet and Del Piero, as well as Premier League occasional appearance makers Tiago & Momo Sissoko, all fighting for midfield spots.



No club success was achieved in Serie A and soon Poulsen was on the move again, this time to English soil and at Liverpool Football Club. Signed by Roy Hodgson, it is a period of time not held in too much high regard by Liverpool fans. Alongside Poulsen, the 2010 summer signings were Paul Konchesky, Milan Jovanovic and the supposed coup in the name of Joe Cole. Roy Hodgson didn't last long at Liverpool and neither did Poulsen. Falling out of favour with Kenny Dalglish and not having endeared himself to the Anfield faithful, Poulsen left in the summer of 2011 to join the Ligue One side Evian.

This took the representation of big leagues to 5, but quickly moved to 6 by joining Ajax in 2012.

Back to back titles in Amsterdam, his first since Copenhagen in 2000/01 saw his time in Holland as a success, playing alongside future Danish national hero Christian Eriksen.



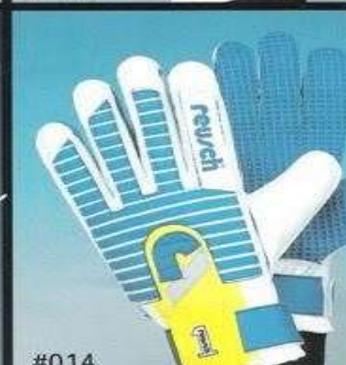
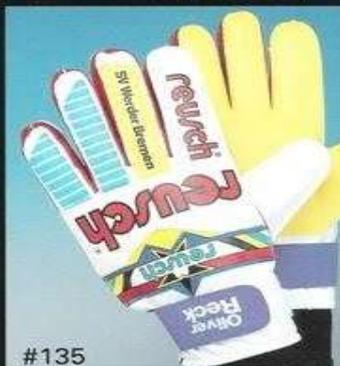
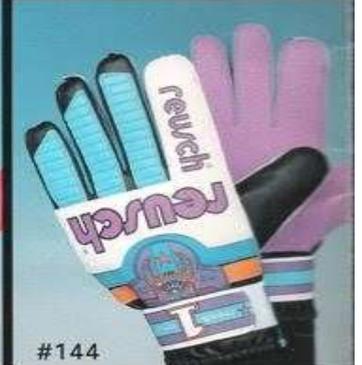
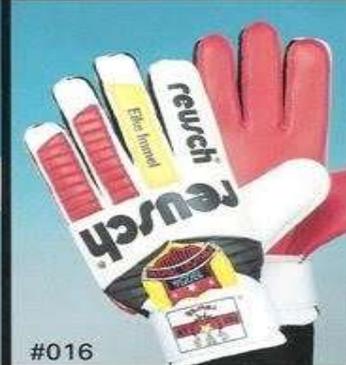
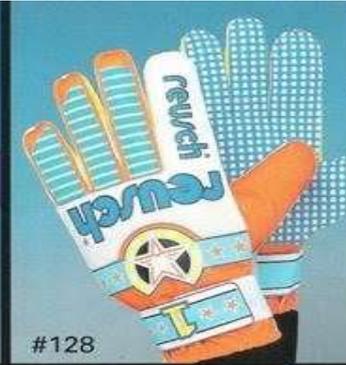
Jari Litmanen – The only International footballer to represent their nation, Finland, over 4 separate decades – 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010



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## Gloves



4



Kingsley Coman – Made his senior professional debut for Paris Saint Germain in the 2012-13 season, and since that year, (7 as professional) he has not not won a league title!!



Poulsen finished his career back at Copenhagen for a season and retired with 92 national caps to his name that included two World Cup tournaments and one European Championship.

The latter competition caused controversy with Poulsen as in the 2004 Euros he was centre to Francesco Totti getting sent off for Italy as he unforgivingly spat at Poulsen. Totti received a match ban for his efforts.

The second piece of controversy with Poulsen at the focal point was during the Euro 2008 qualification game against Sweden. Sweden's Marcus Rosenberg and Poulsen clashed in the late stage of the game resulting in a penalty being awarded to Sweden and the sending off of Poulsen. The penalty never got to be taken as the game was abandoned as a fan entered the pitch confronting the referee. It was even suggested that Poulsen face jail time for his actions, that were ultimately dismissed.

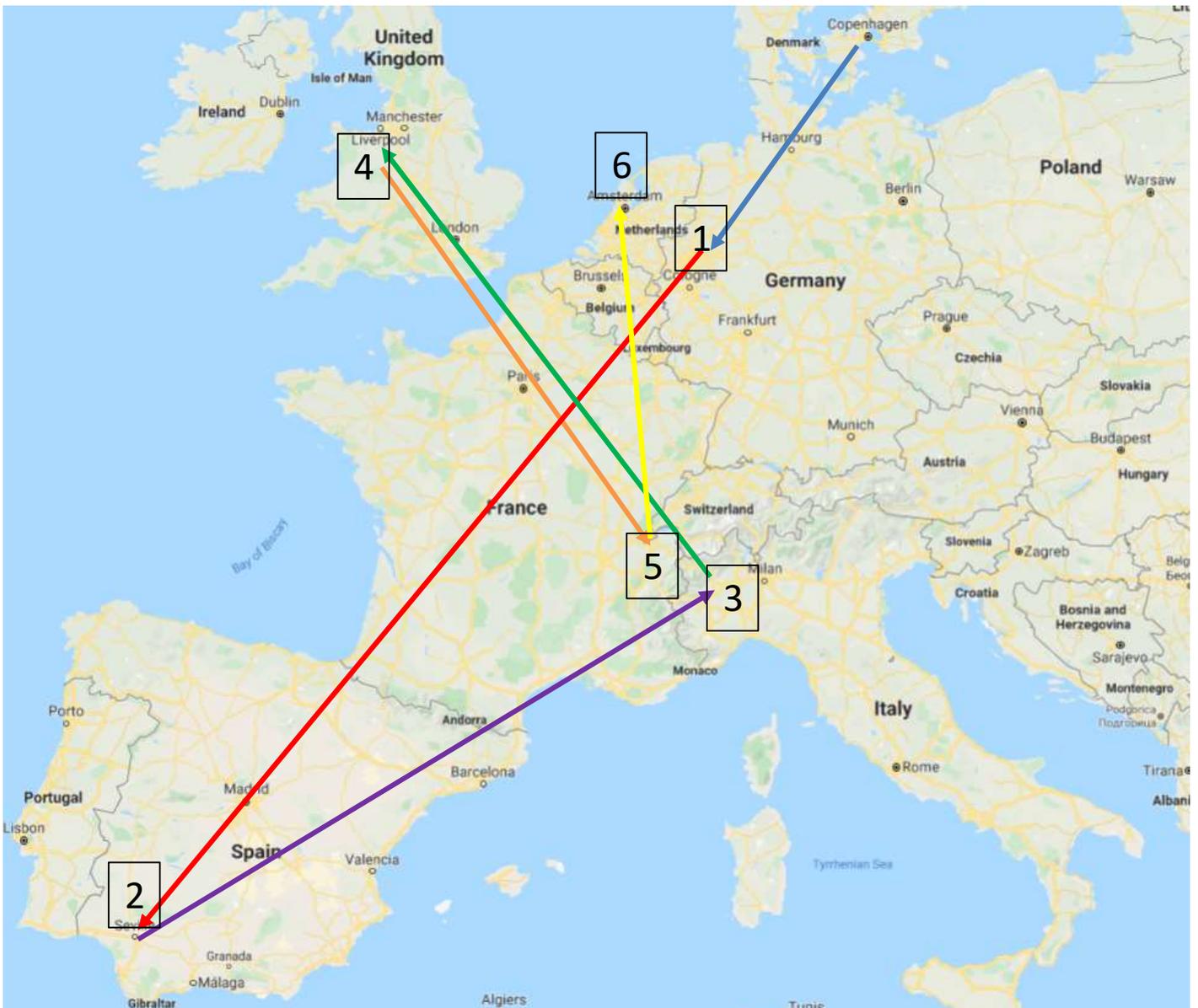


So that is the career path of the only (current) player to have played in the top division of the six big leagues. He may well not be the super powered performance vehicle but in terms of getting around Europe and performing on the big stage you could certainly say Christian Poulsen was more akin to a VW Golf, one of Europe's most popular, reliable and safest choices of car.



Nicolas Anelka – In 1999 Anelka became the first non-British player to win the PFA Young Player of the Year award.





1997-2000 Holbaek 82 apps  
 2000-2002 Copenhagen 45 apps  
 2002-2006 Schalke 111 apps  
 2006-2008 Sevilla 62 apps

2008-2010 Juventus 48 apps  
 2010-2011 Liverpool 12 apps  
 2011-2012 Evian 24 apps  
 2012-2014 Ajax 54 apps



Jack Grealish – First player in the Premier League to lose 20 consecutive games.





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Declan Rice – The only capped Englishman to also have caps for another country.  
Wilfried Zaha did it the other way round..



# My Pet Hates

I tell you what gets on my nerves, when you've treated yourself to a late night movie, got well into it even though you know you're going to suffer in the morning. You're an hour and a half in, and gripped, you're right on the edge, and what happens next..... a news break! What!!! There are 700 channels on TV subscriptions, put the news interruption on another channel!! Kills me every time.

I've a couple of pet hates when it comes to football as well.

First one is when I hear a player has scored from **the halfway line**, when in fact they haven't. Not many (outfield) players do this in a career so when an Alonso, and Adam or a Figueroa bang one in, hats off to them all.

BUT when a Wayne Rooney at Upton Park, or a Nayim in a European Cup Winners Cup final spank one from inside the attacking half it should absolutely not be classed as a halfway line goal, because it isn't!!!!

I will somewhat forgive Rooney based on his Everton effort against West Ham, and his DC United strike against Orlando City, but no, I am not having "Nayim from the halfway line..."



Paul Pogba – The most expensive signing by a Premier League club. Manchester United spent €105 million Euros on a player they sold for nothing 4 years previously.



Second pet hate, that I am sure I am not on my own with:

Inappropriate use of shirt numbers.

I can accept the squad number mentality and the individuality it brings but don't mess with **1-11**. That's sacrilege and uncalled for.

Surely it's a unspoken rule for the first team eleven....

- 1** - The keeper, probably slightly mad
- 2** - Right back and therefore thrown in taker
- 3** - Left back, unlikely use the right foot other than to stand on
- 4** - Central midfield, likely to be a hard nut
- 5** - Centre back, old school, let 'um know you're there
- 6** - Commanding centre back, can play a bit
- 7** - Right wing. Got one trick, and then hit the by-line and get it in
- 8** - Central midfield but more of a goal threat than 4
- 9** - Striker. Probably tall and good in the air
- 10** - Striker/Playmaker. If 6 isn't captain 10 is, and the teams best player, on free kicks and pens.
- 11** - Silky skilled left winger, generally with good hair.

With the above in mind, the line up on the right has potential for you to be a little bit sick in your mouth.

These are actual squad numbers given to Premier League footballers, bar the 'keeper' Balmer of Charlton (First Division) who got number 1 as his surname was alphabetically first in the squad, but was a defender.



Matthew Longstaff – The latest to play Premier League football on the same team as his brother. Currently 13 on the list (Neville, da Silva, Ayew, Toure, Wright-Phillips, Olsson, Caldwell, Ameobi, Wallace, Chambers, Moore and Quinn)



# Serie A Player or Share A Player?

Serie A's top teams and their tendencies to share players



If you pick out the top three Italian clubs, based on League title success you get Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan.

Juventus	Inter Milan	AC Milan
35	18	18

Absolute giants of the game, and all the passion and rivalry to ensure there is no love loss between the clubs whatsoever.

So why is it you can, at ease, pick out players since circa 1990 that have represented at least 2 of these clubs, and list off 7 that have played for all three! Put that into context and compare to the 3 most successful teams from England based on League titles.

Manchester United	Liverpool	Arsenal
20	18	13

There is **not one player** to have played for all 3 clubs, and the list of players representing 2 of them is sparse in comparison to the Italians.

I will offer up no rhyme or reason for the open relationship the Serie A clubs have, but I will certainly enjoy listing out the players and even expanding the scope of the England comparison to other clubs to show the extremity.



Ivan Perisic – In great company as a player to have scored in a World Cup tournament semi final and final. (The list includes Zidane 2006, Brehme 1990, Voller 1986 and Rossi 1982)



Juventus & Inter Milan	AC Milan & Juventus	Inter Milan & AC Milan
Andrea Pirlo	Andrea Pirlo	Taribo West
Leonardo Bonucci	Leonardo Bonucci	Maurizo Ganz
Edgar Davids	Edgar Davids	Dario Simic
Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Christian Vieri
Christian Vieri	Christian Vieri	Zlatan Ibrahimovic
Hernanes	Roberto Baggio	Sulley Muntari
Vladmir Jugovic	Pietro Vierchowod	Thomas Helveg
Roberto Baggio	Christian Abbati	Edgar Davids
Fabio Grosso	Gianluca Zambrotta	Andrea Pirlo
Felipe Melo	Marco Borriello	Ronaldo
Aldo Serena	Paolo Di Canio	Patrick Vieira
Dino Baggio	Emerson	Leonardo Bonucci
João Cancelo	Gonzalo Higuaín	Roberto Baggio
Fabio Cannavaro	Filippo Inzaghi	Guly - Andrés Guglielminpietro
Fabián Carini	Nicola Legrottaglie	Mancini (Brazilian)
Adrian Mutu	Aldo Serena	Umit Davala
Angelo Peruzzi	Marco Storari	Antonio Cassano
Salvatore Schillaci	Cristian Zenoni	Christian Panucci
Paulo Sousa	Alessandro Matri	Francesco Coco
Cristiano Zanetti	Mattia De Sciglio	Hernan Crespo
Lucio	Alessandro Orlando	Giuseppe Favalli
Salvatore Fresi		Mario Balotelli
Kwadwo Asamoah		Giampaolo Pazzini
		Domenico Morfeo
		Pierluigi Orlandini
		Clarence Seedorf
		Aldo Serena
		Matías Silvestre
		Cristian Brocchi
		Andrea Poli
Managers	Managers	Managers
Marcello Lippi	Carlo Ancelotti	Leonardo
Claudio Ranieri	Fabio Capello	Stefano Pioli
Alberto Zaccheroni	Alberto Zaccheroni	Alberto Zaccheroni



Mario Balotelli – The first Italian to win a Premier League winners medal



<b>All 3 - Inter, Juventus &amp; AC Milan</b>
Christian Vieri
Zlatan Ibrahimovic
Edgar Davids
Andrea Pirlo
Patrick Vieira
Leonardo Bonucci
Roberto Baggio
Aldo Serena
<b>Manager</b>
Alberto Zaccheroni

A quick jotting down of the players to have played for a combo of the big English 3 clubs does not take long. 2 for Manchester United and Liverpool 6 for Manchester United and Arsenal and 7 for Arsenal and Liverpool and course a zero for playing for all three clubs.

A grand total of 15! Compare that to just AC Milan and Inter, where the sharing of players totals 30. Even by bringing Tottenham Hotspur into the equation based on city rivalry, you'll see from the table below, sharing with Arsenal it gets nowhere the Milanese clubs, a lowly 5.

<b>Liverpool &amp; Arsenal</b>
Michael Thomas
Kolo Toure
Jermain Pennant
Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain
Nicolas Anelka
Yossi Benayoun
Jimmy Carter

<b>Manchester United &amp; Liverpool</b>
Paul Ince
Michael Owen

<b>Arsenal &amp; Spurs</b>
Sol Campbell
David Bentley
William Gallas
Emmanuel Adebayor
Rohan Ricketts

<b>Arsenal &amp; Manchester United</b>
Alexis Sanchez
Henrik Mkhitaryan
Danny Welbeck
Robin Van Persie
Mikael Silvestre
Andy Cole



Aiden McGeady - One of only 2 players to be awarded the SPFA Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year in the same year (2008). The other is Shaun Maloney



What about if you invite Chelsea and Manchester City to the party, as in the past 15 years they are responsible for 60% of the Premier League title wins (9)

You get to list 6 players to have played for a trio of the 'big' 5 clubs.

<b>Adding Chelsea and Manchester City for those to have played for 3+</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Clubs</b>
Nicolas Anelka	4	Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea
Kolo Toure	3	Arsenal, Manchester City, Liverpool
Daniel Sturridge	3	Manchester City, Chelsea, Liverpool
Andy Cole	3	Arsenal, Manchester United, Manchester City
Yossi Benayoun	3	Chelsea, Liverpool, Arsenal
David Rocastle	3	Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea

I fear if I add Lazio and Roma (the other clubs to have won the Serie A title since 1991) to the comparison of clubs to have shared players around with Juventus, AC Milan and Inter, I may not have too many pages left in the magazine for the remaining content!



Craig Bellamy – 8 players have scored for 6 Premier League clubs but only Bellamy has scored for 7.

(Coventry, Newcastle, Blackburn, Liverpool, West Ham United, Manchester City and Cardiff)



# Historical Line Ups

In this feature we pick a team, be it an International side, or a domestic club teams and pick 5 historical line ups to trigger memories of the good, or bad or even ugly times.

In this issue we are going for the English Men's national team and picking the starting line ups, and results from their opening games of each of the tournaments they qualified for and played in, starting in 1990 through to the year 2000.

There will be some familiar faces throughout the 10 years and 5 line ups with some surprises that you may need a double take.

Rather interestingly in the line ups we've picked for England, for every opening game at the tournaments in this decade chosen, there was also a different manager at the helm on each occasion.

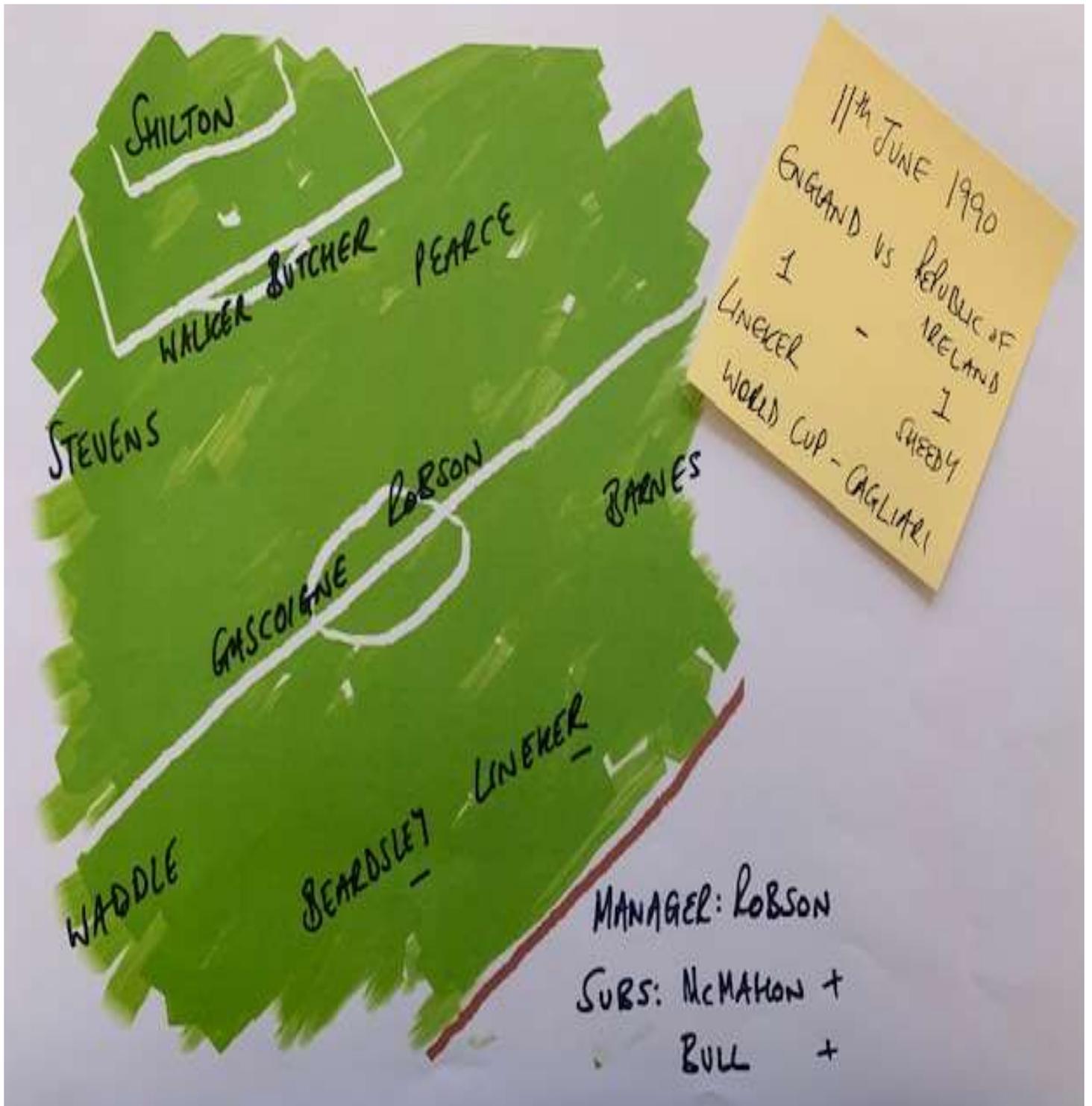
Take a look at the line ups, and cast your mind back to where you were on the days of the kick off and the emotions these fixtures put you through.

- 1) 1990 - England versus Republic of Ireland
- 2) 1992 - England versus Denmark
- 3) 1996 - England versus Switzerland
- 4) 1998 - England versus Tunisia
- 5) 2000 - England versus Portugal



Will Keane – The Keane brothers (Will and Michael) became the first twin brothers to be on opposing teams in the same Premier League match (Hull versus Burnley 2016)





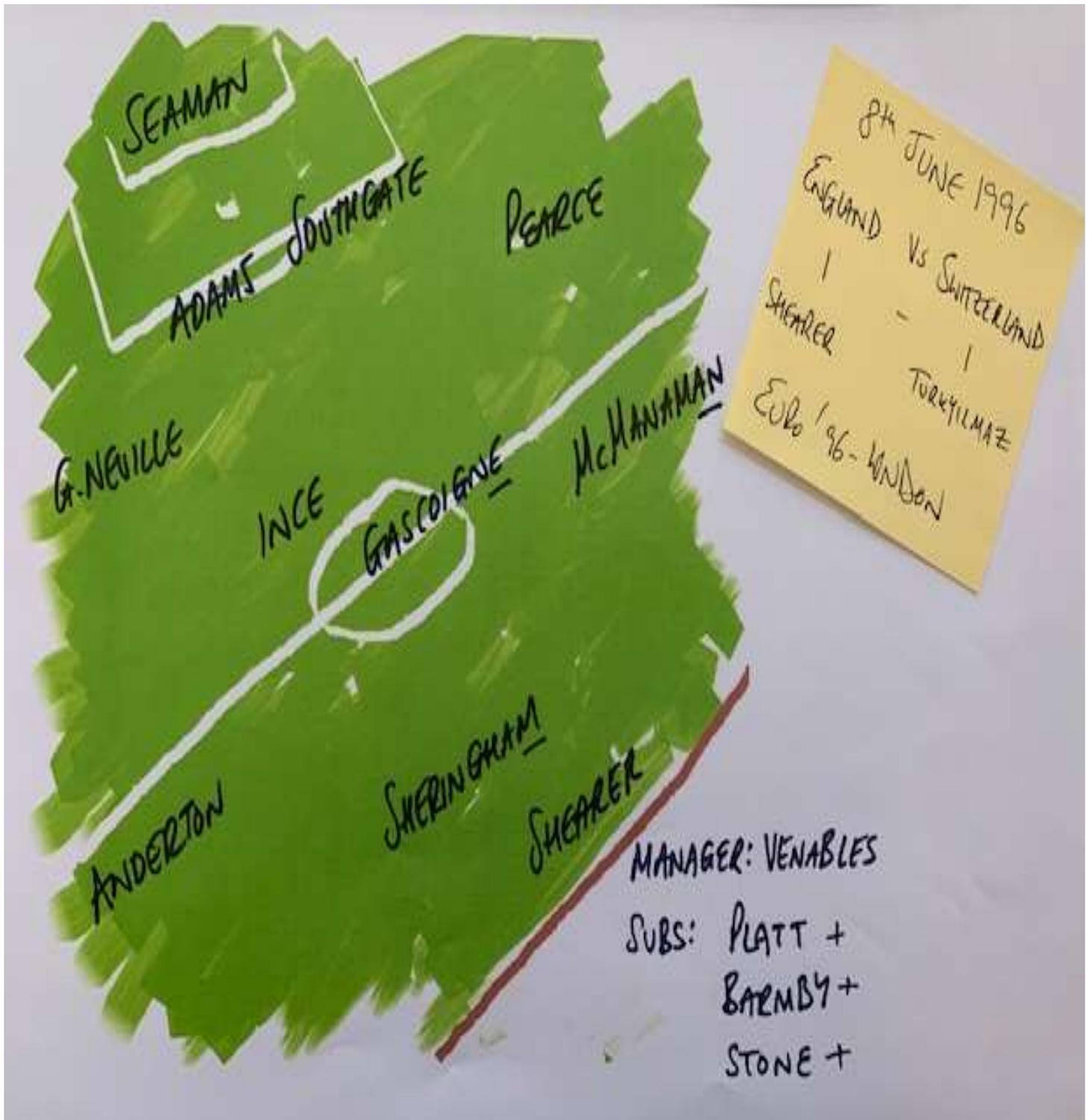
James Forrest - In very good company in winning 8 league titles in a row, alongside the likes of Chiellini, Barzagli and Vidal





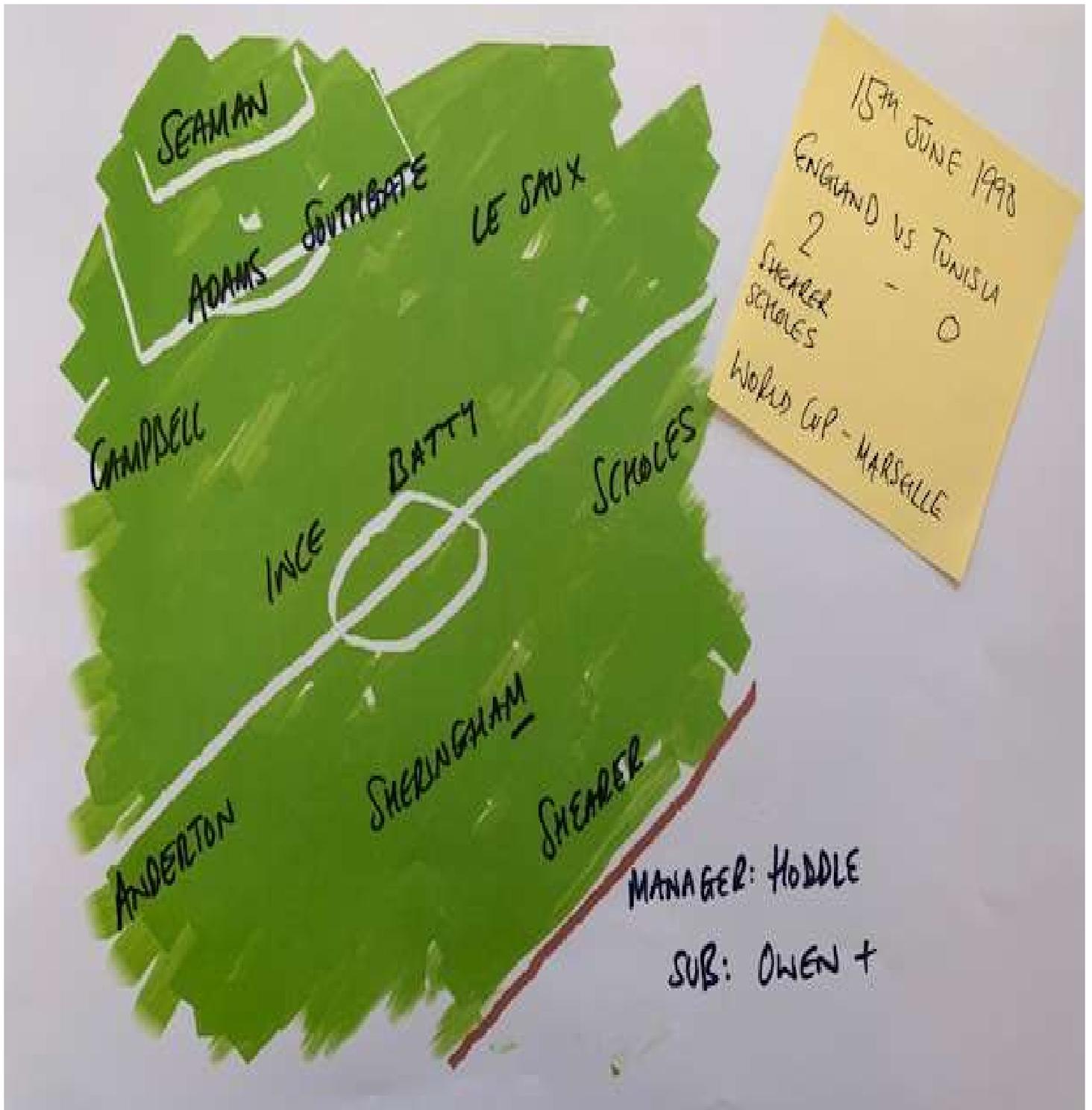
Lazor Markovic – Number 50 for Partizan Belgrade, Benfica, Liverpool, Hull City, Anderlecht and back to Partizan, though yet to make 50 appearances for any of the clubs during each stint.





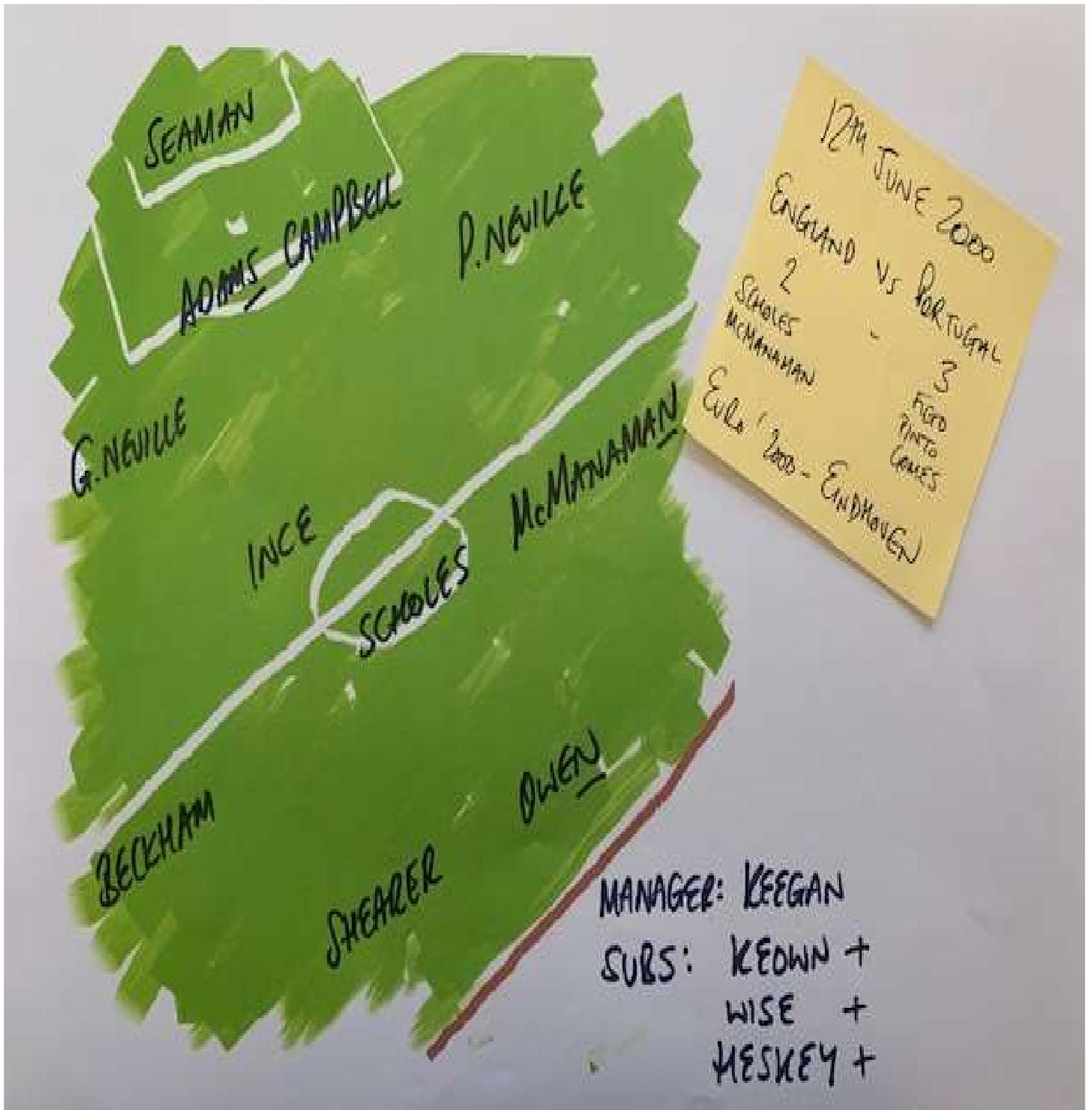
Leonardo Bonucci – 372+ appearances for Juventus, 51 appearances for AC Milan but 1 league appearance for Inter Milan, and that was Bonucci’s Serie A debut, as well as his last game for Inter.





Nicklas Bendtner – His shirt number at Arsenal is 2 more than the number of days he was sentenced to prison for assaulting a taxi driver!





Wojech Szczesny – Kept Allison out of the Roma team, and signed by Juventus to replace Gianluigi Buffon. And, voted Brentford’s goalkeeper of the decade.





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Hakan Sukur – Scorer of the fastest World Cup goal from kick off – 11 seconds for Turkey in the 2002 World Cup finals.



# Classic Kits

Every issue The Halfway Line will feature some classic kits. It maybe purely kit based, it could be a classic kit being worn by a classic player, or a classic kit in a classic match. In this month's issue we are featuring classic kits that share a classic sponsor.

It is such an importance aspect to the kit, and one of the first things the eyes are drawn to, alongside the pattern and the colour. Get the sponsor wrong and you'll struggle to qualify for the classic status. Get it right, and you have yourself a timeless piece of art.

There are a number of kits featured in the coming pages, but only 2 kit sponsors. The fallen Italian food giant Parmalat and the European car giant Opel, know to us Brits as Vauxhall. Those 2 companies spread across the chest of European and South American clubs shirts just seems right, It's a partnership, like beans on toast, cookies and cream, pie and mash – it just works!



Parmalat across the late 1980's and through the 1990s and early 2000's adorned the front of a number of clubs kits, Real Madrid, Benfica, Boca Juniors in Argentina, Palmeiras of Brazil, Marseille, and of course the most known Parma.

Opel, focused  more on the European model, targeting successful domestic teams across the continent, as well as branching out to the sponsoring of International teams.

See and enjoy the selection.



Ade Akinbiyi – A special “Zamorano” shirt was requested at Palace, as his favoured number 10 was taken. Amazingly, Akinbiyi's red card, 2 minutes into his Burnley debut is not a record – that goes to Jason Crowe of Arsenal, sent off 33 seconds into his first team debut.





Harvey Elliott – The youngest ever player to play in the Premier League and the League Cup.





Cesc Fabregas – The youngest ever Arsenal player and goal scorer in the clubs history.





Madou Barrow – The first Gambian to player in the Premier League





Bersant Celina – The first Kosovan to play in the Premier League





Branislav Ivanovic – Recipient to a Luis Suarez bite special (not the only one) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest foreign outfield player to represent Chelsea





Reiss Nelson - The Londoner is now Hoffenheim's youngest ever player to score seven Bundesliga goals in a single season, breaking a record set by Roberto Firmino in 2012



# Lone Rangers

Here we list the only players to have represented a country in the Premier League, i.e., only one player has done so.

Albania – Lorik Cana, Sunderland (2009-10) 31 Appearances

Angola – Manucho, Manchester United, Hull (2008-09) 1, 13 Appearances

Armenia – Henrik Mkhitaryan, Manchester United, Arsenal (2016-19) 39, 39 Appearances

Burkina Faso – Bertrand Traore, Chelsea (2015-16) 10 Appearances

Central African Republic – Frederic Nimani, Burnley (2009-10) 1 Appearance

Faroe Islands – Gunnar Nielsen, Manchester City (2009-10) 1 Appearance

Gambia – Modou Barrow, Swansea (2014-17) 51 Appearances

Gibraltar – Danny Higginbotham, Manchester United, Derby, Southampton, Sunderland, Stoke (1999-2012) +200 Appearances

Guinea-Bissau – Mesca, Fulham (2013-14) 1 Appearance

Kenya – Victor Wanyama, Tottenham Hotspur (2016-2019) 150+ Appearances

Malta – Dylan Kerr, Leeds United (1992-93) 13 Appearances

Oman – Ali Al-Habsi, Bolton Wanderers, Wigan Athletic (2007-13) 111 Appearances

Pakistan – Zesh Rehman, Fulham (2003-06) 21 Appearances

Philippines – Neil Etheridge, Cardiff City (2018-19) 38 Appearances

Seychelles – Kevin Betsy, Fulham (2001-02) 1 Appearance



Oli McBurnie – I've nothing to back this up, but Swansea squad number in one season going from 62 to 9 surely has to be the biggest squad number jump ever seen?



# Treatment room

**A hamstring injury is a strain or tear to the tendons or large muscles at the back of the thigh.**

It's a common injury in athletes and can occur in different severities.

The 3 grades of hamstring injury are:

**grade 1** – a mild muscle pull or **strain**

**grade 2** – a partial muscle tear

**grade 3** – a complete muscle tear

The length of time it takes to recover from a hamstring strain or tear will depend on how severe the injury is.

A minor muscle pull or strain (grade 1) may take a few days to heal, whereas it could take weeks or months to recover from a muscle tear (grade 2 or 3).

Hamstrings are tendons (strong bands of tissue) at the back of the thighs that attach the large thigh muscle to the bone.

The term "hamstring" also refers to the group of 3 muscles that run along the back of your thigh, from your hip to just below your knee. The hamstring muscles are not used much while standing or walking, but they're very active during activities that involve bending the knee, such as running, jumping and climbing.

**What causes hamstring injuries?** A hamstring injury can occur if any of the tendons or muscles are stretched beyond their limit. They often occur during sudden, explosive movements, such as sprinting, lunging or jumping. But they can also occur more gradually, or during slower movements that overstretch your hamstring. Recurring injury is common in athletes and sportsmen, as you're more likely to injure your hamstring if you've injured it before.

## **How do I know if I've injured my hamstring?**

Mild hamstring strains (grade 1) will usually cause sudden pain and tenderness at the back of your thigh. It may be painful to move your leg, but the strength of the muscle should not be affected. Partial hamstring tears (grade 2) are usually more painful and tender. There may also be some swelling and bruising at the back of your thigh and you may have lost some strength in your leg. Severe hamstring tears (grade 3) will usually be very painful, tender, swollen and bruised. There may have been a "popping" sensation at the time of the injury and you'll be unable to use the affected leg.

## **Rest and recovery from a hamstring injury**

Recovering from a hamstring injury may take days, weeks or months, depending on how severe it is. A completely torn hamstring may take several months to heal and you'll be unable to resume training or play sport during this time.

### **Initial treatment**

During the first 2 or 3 days, you should care for your injury using RICE therapy:

**Rest** – keep your leg as still as you possibly can and avoid physical activity. Your GP may recommend using crutches in more severe cases.

**Ice** – apply cold packs (a bag of frozen peas wrapped in a tea towel will also work) to your hamstring for up to 20 minutes every 2 to 3 hours during the day. Do not apply ice directly to your skin.

**Compression** – compress or bandage the thigh to limit any swelling and movement that could cause further damage. You can use a simple elastic bandage or elasticated tubular bandage available from a pharmacy.

**Elevation** – keep your leg raised and supported on a pillow as much as possible, to help reduce any swelling.



Kieran Tierney – The most expensive Scottish footballer of all time, and voted PFA Young Player of the Year in every (3) season he played for Celtic.





These two pictures were taken 18 years apart. In 2000 Arsenal took on Coventry at Highbury. Tony Adams captaining the Gunners and Mustapha Hadji the skipper for the Sky Blues. The below picture is a Cup game at the Emirates Stadium where Nacho Monreal lines up against Brentford's Nico Yennaris, who just happens to be the Arsenal mascot in the first picture! Credit to Mike Dean the referee sustaining the fitness to referee at this level for those 18 years.



Nico Yennaris - Made history by becoming the first ever naturalised player to be called up by China and he made his debut with a start in a 2-0 friendly victory over the Philippines on 7 June 2019.





Don't play

COMPETE



OXFORD UNITED - Have given a squad number to every player at the club, from first team to Under-9s, in an effort to foster a 'one-club mentality'. That means there are currently 171 squad numbers.



# The next Diego, really?

Diego Maradona, quite rightly has hero worship status in Argentina. The country has obsessed with finding a God like replacement figure once he had retired in 1997, but to date, despite a number of efforts we are yet to realise the next Maradona.



For the past 22 years players have come and go and been thrust in to the limelight as the saviour hoping to be the one to take on the mantle from the great Diego Maradona himself. Many have tired, some have achieved elements of the great man's career, but no one has replicated it all, and more importantly, no one yet has matched his greatest ever achievement and I feel we will be searching for the next Maradona until that happens. On the following page we list some of these achievements by Maradona and we follow up with the players that have attempted to fill these incredibly large boots.....

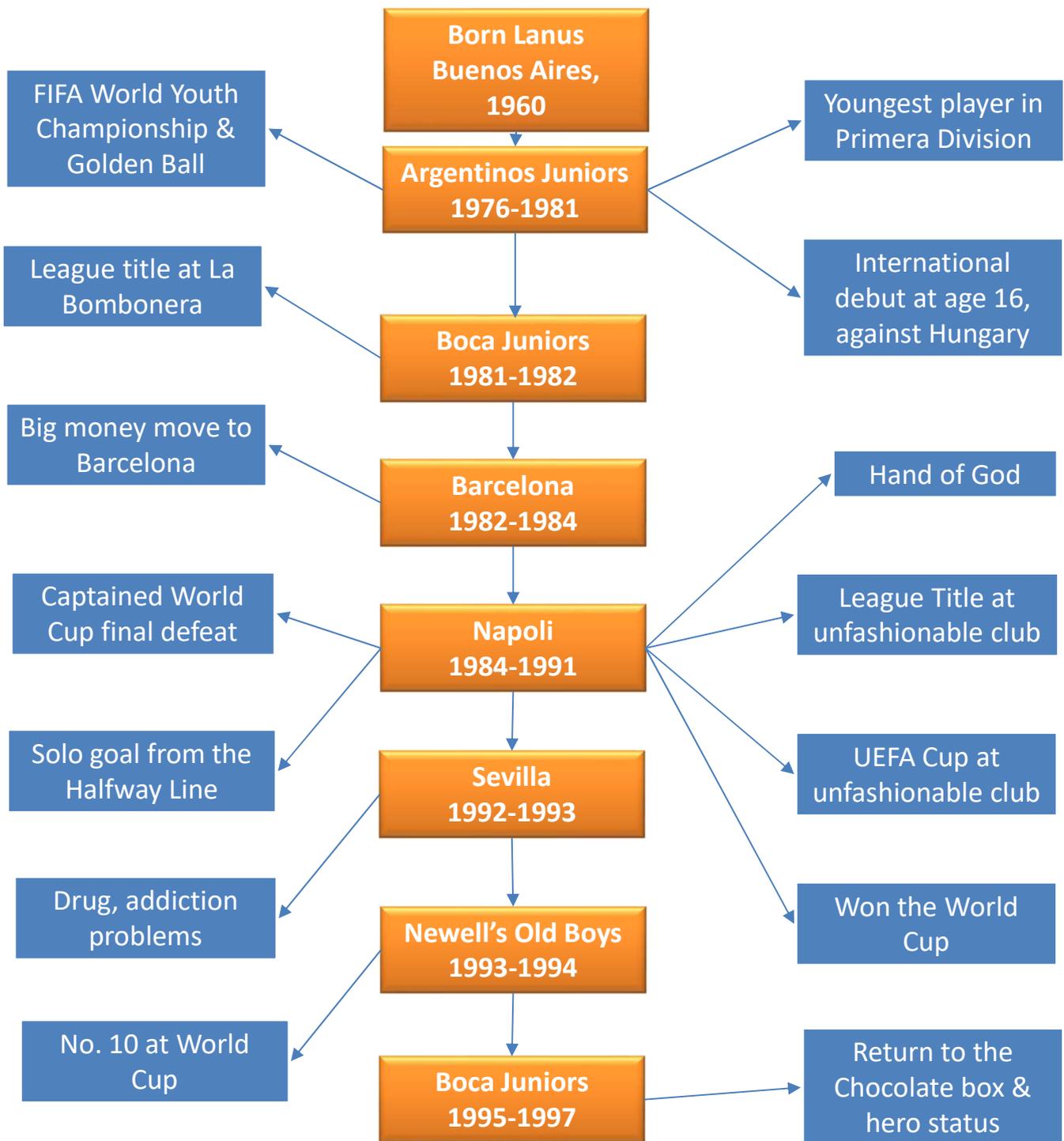
The players that have dared to be mentioned in the same breath are; Ariel Ortega, Pablo Aimar, Javier Saviola, Carlos Tevez, Juan Roman Riquelme, Juan Sebastian Veron, Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero.

Let see how they have fared in achieving the near on impossible.



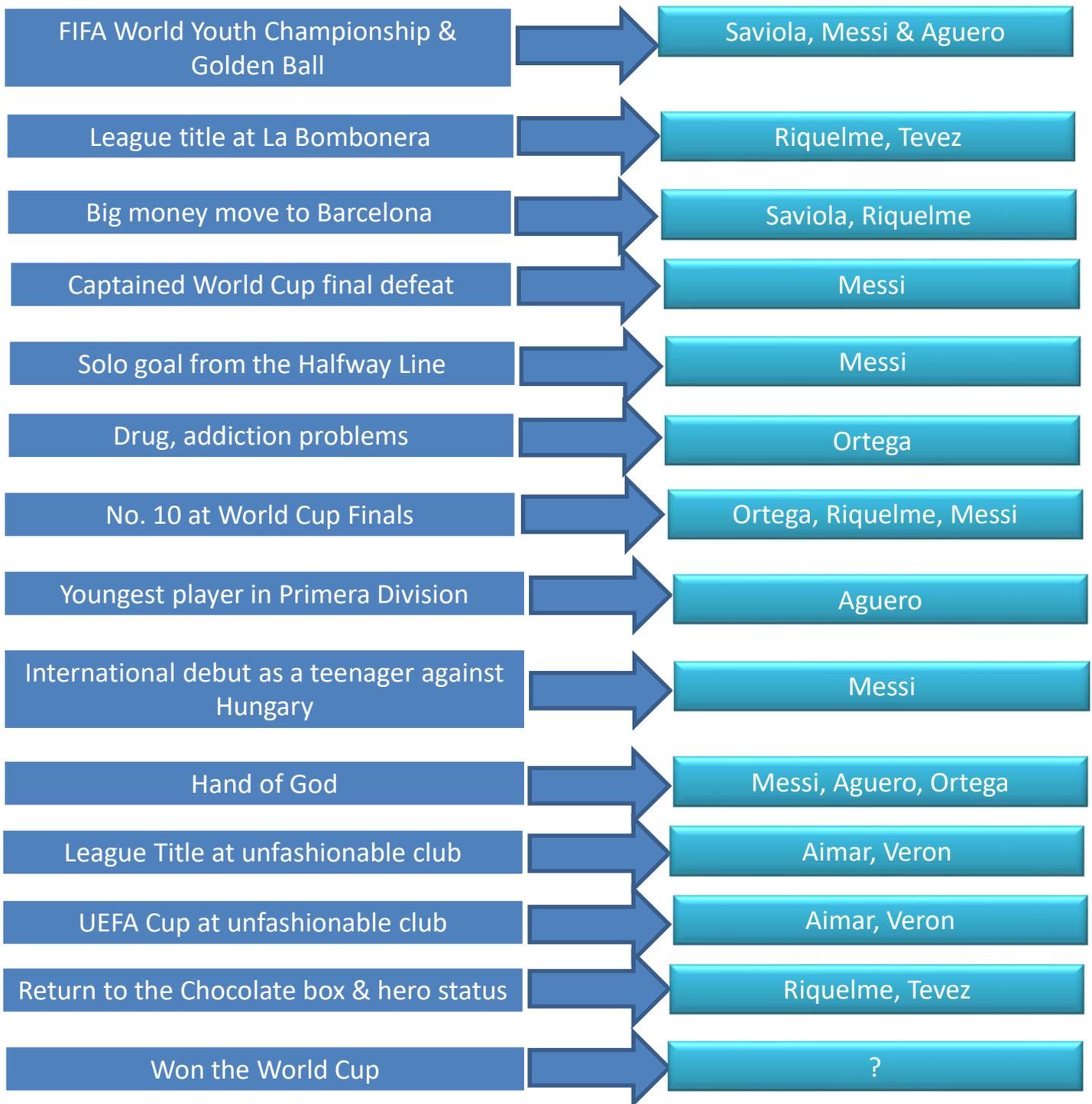
Trent Alexander-Arnold – Holds the record for most assists made in a Premier League season for a defender (12)





Victor Wanyama – His first goal for Spurs was their 138<sup>th</sup> different player to score for the club, extending it's record for the most variety of goal scorers for a single club in the Premier League. Wanyama was the first Kenyan to score in the Champions League, but brother McDonald Maiga was the first to win it.





Ricardo Rodríguez's - His mother died of cancer in 2015. Rodríguez had the number 68, the year of her birth, tattooed on his back. Rodríguez was born with a diaphragmatic hernia, meaning that his stomach, spleen, liver and intestine had migrated into the chest. Rodríguez was given a 50% chance of survival.





The conclusion if you weren't yet aware, is there can not be a new Maradona. His skill, his persona and his impact on a nation are truly unique. Despite the efforts of the players mentioned it is unlikely they will ever match his achievements, but the one title that could set them on their way to their own legacy status would be the World Cup...Win that and you start the debate on who can replicate their heroics.



Bixente Lizarazu - Just one season with the La Liga club Athletic Bilbao after becoming the first Frenchman to play for them. The club has a policy of selecting only players of Basque birth or heritage.

Reason for shirt number at Bayern, he said this was because he was born in 1969, his height is 1.69 m and he weighed 69 kg



## The Premier League Greatest XI Nationalities

27 years have passed since the launch of the English Premier League, and over 3,500 players have graced the fields of 59 stadiums. Featured here are the greatest line ups that only include one nation. In the first issue we focus on the countries that make up the United Kingdom.



These are not based on statistics, appearances, goals, records, these are merely the view of the author. That said some are self-explanatory and I would imagine would not ignite too much debate, but others, perhaps less fashionable positions could irk the reader and encourage a discussion as to why their favourite right back is not in the starting XI. I have intentionally not included a subs bench, as I fear I'd not have much space left.

At the end of the feature, why not play out your favourite XI from one nation and share it around for a conversation starter.



Robinho - In 1999, at 15 years of age he was picked by Brazil legend Pelé as his heir apparent and in 2002, went on to lead Santos FC to their first Campeonato Brasileiro title since Pelé himself played for the club. No pressure! 100 Brazilian caps later, but no great rush for others to be called the next Robinho.



The England national team up first, and the greatest first team XI to have played in the Premier League according to The Halfway Line.

The back 5 picks its self. Former Arsenal centre backs Adams and Campbell can consider themselves unlucky to come up against Ferdinand and Terry. The former 2 played at such a high level for a sustained period of time.

The fullbacks not only outstandingly consistent, but also not challenged at all closely as the centre-back pairing were.

The problem with the midfield, as it was from 1998-2004, was how to fit the best players in the same team. Scholes is too good to leave out, and arguably too good to play number 11. But he has to be picked. Perhaps the debate is more for the right side of the midfield, but again successors to Beckham have seemingly tried and failed. No coincidence the 2 up top are the top goal scoring forwards in the history of the Premier League.

There are an abundance of goal scorers to pick from but I doubt the debate will last long regards who takes the 9 and 10 shirt.



Burak Yılmaz - Has played for the "big four" clubs in Turkey: Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe, Trabzonspor and Galatasaray.



The Welsh submission shouldn't ruffle too many feathers. Exceptional talents stand out in a nation that has underperformed in the life span of the Premier League.

Giggs, Bale and Ramsay the stereotypical 'no-brainers.'

Bellamy plays, slightly out of position but he had to make the XI

The keeper's prime was a different era, but personalities count for a lot in this game.

The defensive unit is perhaps the weakest, with plenty of room for changes if the argument is strong enough.

Those entitled to feel hard done by perhaps are the forwards, where the likes of Rush and Saunders miss out to Sparky Hughes, who like his competition moved around in the later years of his career, but in doing so perhaps maintained a higher level of performance.



Kelechi Iheanacho – On an exclusive list of players to have scored 10 Premier League goals before the age of 20. This list includes players such as Wayne Rooney, Ryan Giggs, Nicolas Anelka, Michael Owen and Romelu Lukaku



## The Tartan Army.

Dominated by workhorses and no criticism associated with that. The number of Scots in the league, as far as I see it have diminished in recent years and the selections are proof of this.

Nevertheless title winning players feature and if graft and effort count for anything, this team would hold their own.

Perhaps flair is lacking somewhat, so the inclusion of McFadden aims to counter that.

Underrated players, and I include McAllister in that category offer guile and skill, and the fabulous, nonstop Andy Robertson stands out as the newcomer based on this elevation to fan favourite at Anfield.

Duncan Ferguson carries the goal threat and with the versatility of Gallacher holding off the threats of the likes of Fletcher and Durie, although suspensions likely with Big Dunc, they may well be needed.



Manuel Locatelli - The then 18-year-old announced himself to Italian football in sensational style smashing home his first ever Serie A goal from 25 yards for AC Milan.

Instead of arrogantly telling everyone just how good he was, Locatelli let his left-footed thunderbolt do the talking and just stood there and blubbed.



Lastly, Northern Ireland complete the set and like the England XI unlikely to cause a stir with the selections.

Although not based on Caps and Premier League appearances, with the limited options available, the team has somewhat picked itself.

Less established names, but national team stalwarts Baird, Lafferty, Carroll can feel hard done by, as can Mr. Consistency McAuley and Cathcart, but the XI on show are there on merit.

There is industry up front with Dowie and Healy, and with the wing play from Gillespie and delivery from Blunt there is a significant threat, backed up with steel from Lomas, selected ahead of Lennon, due to his longevity in the Premier League.



Mohamed Salah - 50 goals in 65 games he is the fastest player in Liverpool history to reach the half century.

The third fastest to player to reach the 50 goal milestone for a single club in the Premier League era, behind Shearer for Blackburn Rovers, in 66 appearances, and van Nistelrooy for Manchester United, in 68 appearances.



Do you disagree? Why not have a go yourself and fill in your best ever English XI to play in the Premier League

\*\*\*



David Beckham – The first Englishman to win league titles in four countries (England, Spain, United States and France).

First England player to score at three FIFA World Cups. Eventually took the 32 number shirt at AC Milan, despite rumours he would take 75, the year of his birth



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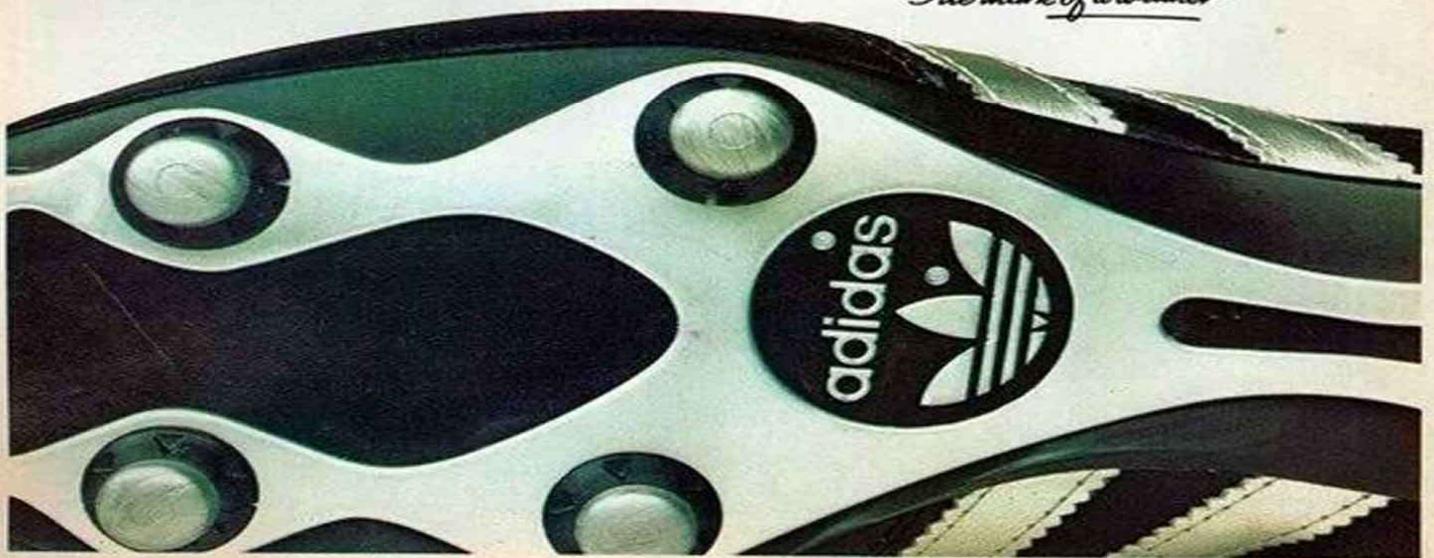


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Andriy Shevchenko - The all-time top scorer of the *Derby della Madonnina* with 14 goals. Scored all four goals in an AC Milan Champs league game, becoming only the fifth player to accomplish this feat; his company includes Marco van Basten, Simone Inzaghi, Dado Pršo and Ruud van Nistelrooy (while Lionel Messi joined that group in the 2009–10 season and Robert Lewandowski in 2012–13), and the only one to have done it in an away game.



## Ferguson & Wenger – the Italian job? No...think again



Fairly easy to list the top 2 Premier League managers ever, right? Who has managed the most games? Arsene Wenger number one with 828 games and Alex Ferguson number two with 810. Duration may not be your measurement of success? What about titles then? Ferguson is by far and away the most successful, with 13 and Wenger in at (joint) second with 3 championship winning campaigns.

In the era the 2 managers dominated, aside from the Premier League I would argue that most high profile league at that time was the Italian Serie A.

I base this on a few things...

If you define the two manager's dominance from 1991 through to 2004, the representation of Champions League & UEFA Cup finalists was 33% Italian sides.

In that period of time, the world record transfer fee was broken 10 times and Serie A sides were responsible for 60% of those.

Add the success of the national team in major competitions over that decade, (there is a World Cup final and a European Championship final appearance) and I think it's a fairly compelling argument.

So it got me thinking, how many players did the 2 most successful managers attempt to recruit from the most powerful league during their full tenures? You may find it slightly surprising....

According to sources Arsene Wenger signed 126 players whilst manager of Arsenal and Alex Ferguson signed between 99-105 players as the Old Trafford gaffer.

How many from Serie, A and of those players, how many were Italians?

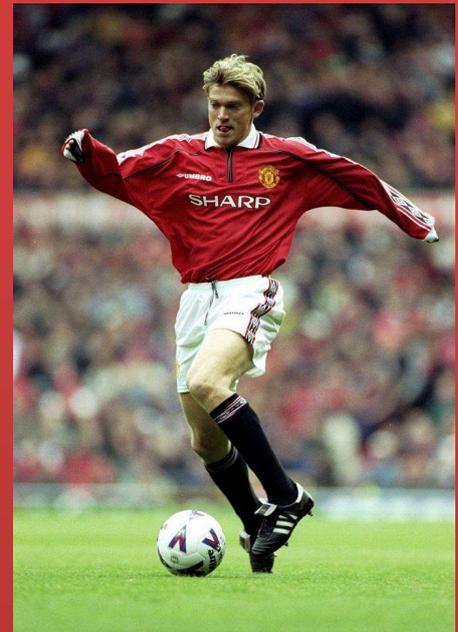
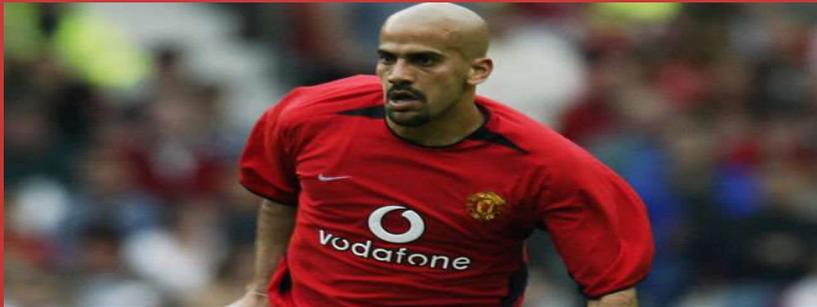


Henrik Mkhitaryan - Was number 7 for Arsenal in the Premier League, but 77 in the Europa League – Not many players have 2 squad numbers in one season, for one club.



Starting with Ferguson, he signed from Italian clubs the following players:

- Jesper Blomqvist from Parma
- Massimo Taibi from Venezia
- Mikael Silvestre from Inter Milan
- Juan Sebastian Veron from Lazio
- Laurent Blanc from Inter Milan



In total there were 5 established first team signings of which one is Italian, Taibi, who lasted 4 league games.

The other 4 would take some significant arguing to claim they were successful signings, though all 4 did win the Premier League with United at least once which is of course no mean feat.

If using the 105 number, 4.8% of Ferguson's signings were from Serie A, and 0.95% were Italian.

Ferguson also recruited youth players Davide Petrucci from Roma (0 first team league appearances) , Giuseppe Rossi from Parma (5 first team league appearances) and Federico Macheda from Lazio (19 first team league appearances & that goal against Villa!)

Rodrigo Possebon was signed as a youth player from Internacional, and nationalised as an Italian with his father's ancestry, featuring in 3 first team league appearances.



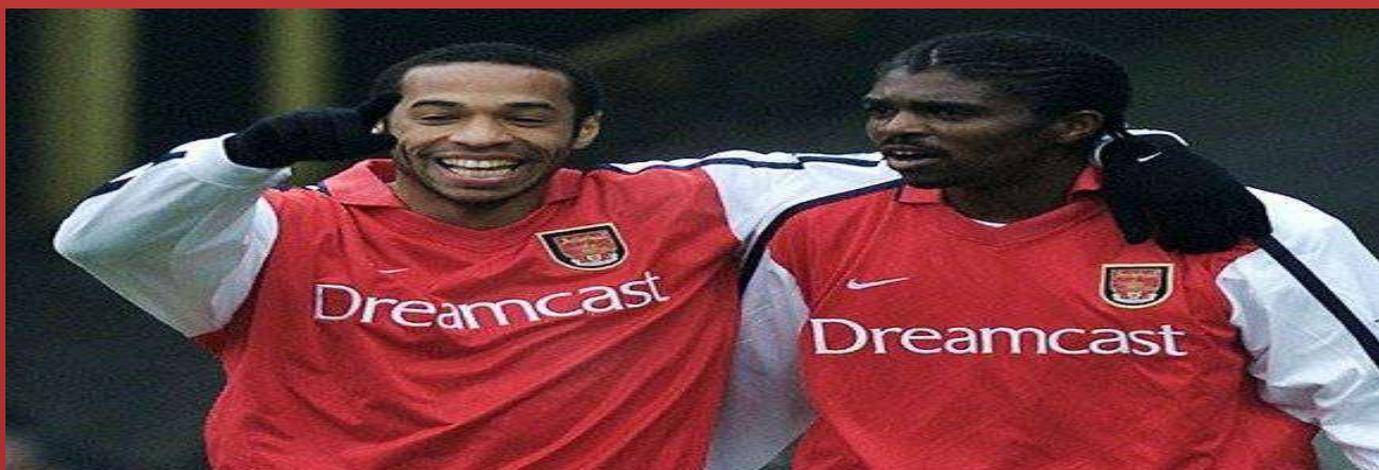
José Ángel Pozo – At the time of writing, the highest number on the back of the shirt used in the Premier League.



What about Arsene Wenger's history with signings from Serie A:

- Nwankwo Kanu from Inter Milan
- Thierry Henry from Juventus
- Matthieu Flamini from AC Milan

There is a common misunderstanding that Wenger signed Patrick Vieira from AC Milan, but the French midfielder arrived a month before his fellow countryman. In total, 3 signings, or 2.3% of Wenger's signings were from Serie A and 0% were Italian. Practically speaking, Flamini had been released by AC Milan and so would qualify as unattached and therefore a free agent, so we are down to 1.5%. Ironic that within that percentage is the greatest player ever signed by Arsene Wenger, and by Arsenal Football club as whole! To note further, both Henry & Kanu won Premier League honours whilst at Highbury.



Wenger also recruited youth players Arturo Lupoli from Parma (1 first team league appearance) and Vito Mannone from Atalanta (15 first team league appearances)



Joao Felix - In 2019, became the youngest ever player to score a hat-trick in the UEFA Europa League semi-final, aged 19.



The maths shows that combined, Italian first team players signed by the two managers equates to 0.43% of their overall signings.

Perhaps this is misleading, as other clubs *did* venture down the Italian route, with success. Chelsea for example in the Premier League era have signed 13 Italians, and that number would be a great deal more when totalling the signings from Italian clubs.

Or perhaps Italian footballers are not built for the Premier League. We know from a previous article the players tend to move in country as a matter of course, instead of further afield.

The fact it took 20 years from the launch of the Premier League in 1991-92, for an Italian to win a league title here, Mario Balotelli in the season 2011-12. Perhaps Mr Ferguson and Mr Wenger had a fair idea of what they were doing...\*

\*Note – Wenger was second with the most titles won, joint with Jose Mourinho, winning his three titles with Chelsea.

Of the 13 Italians to play for Chelsea in the Premier League only one was bought by Mourinho, Fabio Borini, signed as youth player and not making his debut until long after Mourinho had left his first stint at the club. 2 months before he left his second stint, Mourinho signed free agent & goalkeeper Marco Amelia, but he never played for the club.

So one more crunch of numbers. In the total games managed in the Premier League by the top '3' managers, now including Mourinho's 308 (Chelsea & Manchester United and now Tottenham) is **1946**. League starts given to Italian players that those managers have signed as first teamers (signed as youth players does not count) equals 4.

0.20% of their games managed featured Italians they has signed. And it was just the one player. (that is reflective of  $1/(126+105+50)$  (Mourinho's total signings for Chelsea and United)) = 0.3% of their signings, that played 0.2% of their games were Italian.

Arrivederci.



Ronaldinho - Scored twice as Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 3-0 on the road in the first leg of *El Clásico*. After he sealed the match with his second goal, Madrid fans paid homage to his performance by applauding, so rare a tribute only Diego Maradona had ever been granted previously as a Barcelona player at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.



# 2's Company, 3's a Crowd.

It is said that two's company, three's a crowd. A term used to suggest that two people would rather be alone together than have another person with them.

I would actually like to suggest, when in the world of football, 2's a crowd and 3's company... Bear with me and I'll try to explain.

It made sense, in the era of the three foreigner rule, pre 1995, to travel in comfort, safety in numbers. So when clubs were only allowed to field a maximum of three players not nationalised from the league they were playing in, there are classic examples of clubs choosing the players from the same nation.

In 1989, Inter Milan bought Jurgen Klinsmann to join compatriots Lothar Matthaus and Andreas Brehme, both already established at the San Siro. The Nezzurri followed up a previous league success with the UEFA club triumph with the three Germans. The three Germans were held in significant regard for their efforts and achievements.



Samuel Eto'o - He is the second player in history to score in two UEFA Champions League finals. In 2010, he signed with Inter Milan, where he became the first player to win two European continental trebles following his back-to-back achievements with Barcelona and Inter. He is the fourth player in Champions League history, after Marcel Desailly, Paulo Sousa, and Gerard Piqué, to have won the trophy two years in a row with different teams.



Neighbours AC Milan followed suit and bought three foreigners from the same nationality. The Italian giants went Dutch. Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard were bought to the San Siro and the Dutchmen excelled as team mates at the Rossenari. Domestic and European glory followed in a team that had an element of the Harlem Globe Trotters about them.



French giants Paris Saint-Germain went for Brazilian flair, on boarding creative attacking midfielder Rai alongside the more rugged Valdo and defender Ricardo Gomes. This again paid dividends as the Parisians won only their second ever league title in 1994 and followed this up with European success as well, winning the European Cup Winners Cup in 1996.

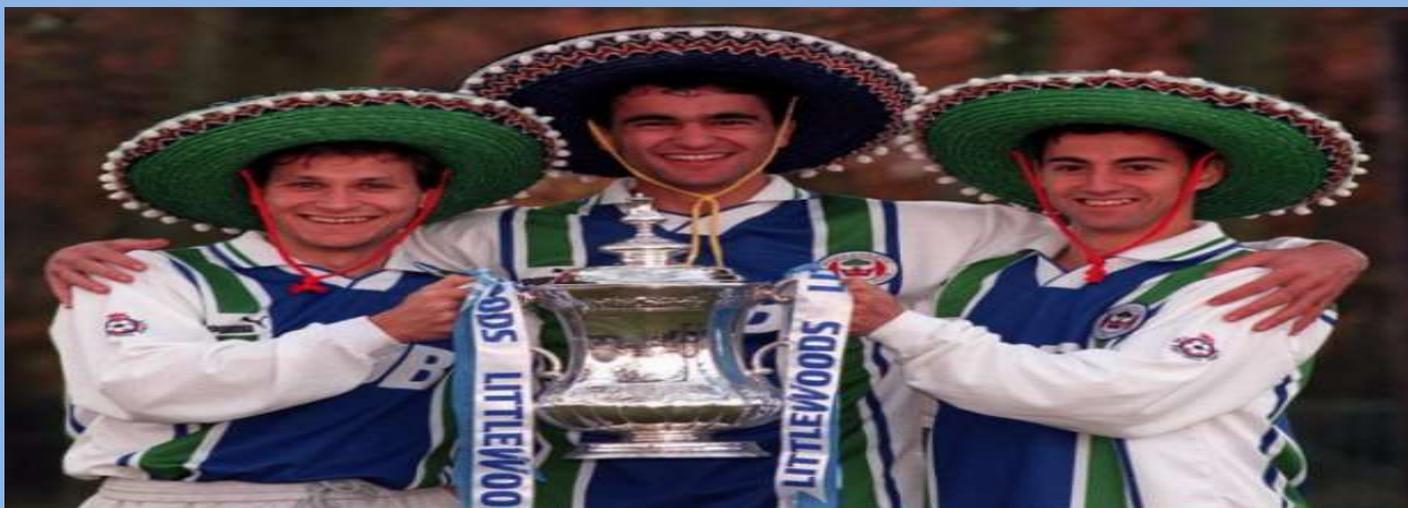
Even since the three foreigner rule let up, there are still a number of examples where it appeared 3 was indeed the magic number.



Nicola Milano – Only played one game for Palermo, but gives an excuse to say that former president of the club, Maurizio Zamparini, in that role for 15 years, made over 40 managerial changes. In one season he fired the same manager of 3 separate occasions!



Wigan Athletic stunned the football league with a triple Spanish signing in 1995. Roberto Martinez, Jesus Seba and Isidro Diaz signed to the Lancashire club, and were christened the Three Amigo's. The following year the club won promotion to the second division.



Borussia Dortmund in 2010 & 2011 won the Bundesliga, in an uncharted show of dominance against rivals Bayern Munich. In their squad the hat-trick act of Poles Robert Lewandowski, Łukasz Piszczek and Jakub Blaszczykowski were pivotal in their success.

For those with outstanding memories you'll recall the Leeds United team that reached the Champions League semi-finals in 2000/01 had 3 Australians in the squad. Well known Aussie's Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka, instrumental in their successful run, were accompanied by Jacob Burns who only joined the club that previous summer. Coincidence?

Of course it isn't always glory with 3.

Middlesbrough, an unfashionable Northeast town tried the PSG approach and bought Salsa to Teeside. World Cup winner Branco joined Juninho and Emerson, and although cup final appearances were joyous occasions, relegation came calling for the team and the Brazilians did not hang about.

The Italian minnows, Brescia in 1993 recruited from Eastern Europe partnering Florin Radicioui, Gheorghe Hagi and Ioan Sabau in an attempt to stay in the Italian top league. If it goes any way to keeping hold of a player of Hagi's ability, the recruitment of two further compatriots seemingly a no brainer. Sadly it didn't work, and relegation saw Hagi make a move to the Spanish giants Barcelona.



Felipe Melo – The most decorated Brazilian in Turkish domestic competitions, replacing Claudio Taffarel



What became more evidential post the three foreigner rule, was the idea of *more* than 3 compatriots. Some clubs have taken it to the extreme with a nations influence on their team.

**Rangers & Dutch** – In the 2000-01 season the Rangers squad had **6** Dutch players: Fernando Ricksen, Arthur Numan, Gio Van Bronckhorst, Michael Mols, Ronald De Boer and Bert Konterman, alongside the Dutch manager Dick Advocaat. Rangers came second in the league that year.

**Arsenal & French** – In the 1998/99 season the Arsenal squad had **7** French players: Patrick Vieira, Emmanuel Petit, Gilles Grimandi, Remi Garde, Nicolas Anelka, David Grondin and Kaba Diawara, alongside the French manager Arsene Wenger. Arsenal came second in the league that year.

**Barcelona & Dutch** – In the 1999/2000 season the Barcelona squad had **8** Dutch players: Ruud Hesp, Michael Reiziger, Ronald De Boer, Phillip Cocu, Patrick Kluivert, Winston Bogarde, Frank De Boer and Boudewijn Zenden, alongside the Dutch manager Louis Van Gaal. Barcelona came second in the league that year.

**Wolverhampton Wanderers & Portuguese** – In the 2018/19 season the Wolves squad had **8** Portuguese players: Rui Patricio, Ruben Vinagre, Ruben Neves, Pedro Goncalves, Joao Moutinho, Ivan Cavaleiro, Helder Costa and Diogo Jota. Wolves had their highest league finish in the Premier League that year, under Portuguese manager Nuno Espirito Santo.

**Shakhtar Donetsk** – a Brazilian takeover! The squad for 2009/10 had **7** Brazilians, Fernandinho, Jadson, Ilninho, Adriano, Costa, Willian and Teixeira. Shakhtar were champions that season. At last count in the 2018/19 squad, there were currently **10** Brazilians.

**Bolton Wanderers** even adopted a region by playing **7** Scandinavians in 2001. Johansen, Jensen, Hansen and Frandsen from Denmark, Gudjohnsen and Bergsson from Iceland and Jaaskelainen from Finland! Bolton reached the Division one play-off semi-finals, Worthington Cup semi finals and FA cup semi finals that season.



Mathieu Flamini – Alongside Sol Campbell and Jens Lehmann, there are the only players Arsene Wenger signed twice (permanently) whilst manager of Arsenal.



The cherry on the cake however is **Catania** of Italy in 2010, when managed by Argentine Diego Simeone, housed a squad of **12** Argentines, including Alvarez, Andujar, Bergessio, Carboni, Gomez, Izco, Ledesma, Llama, Lopez, Silvestre and Spolli.



So 3 (or more, but maybe not too many) is your Company. What about the crowd.

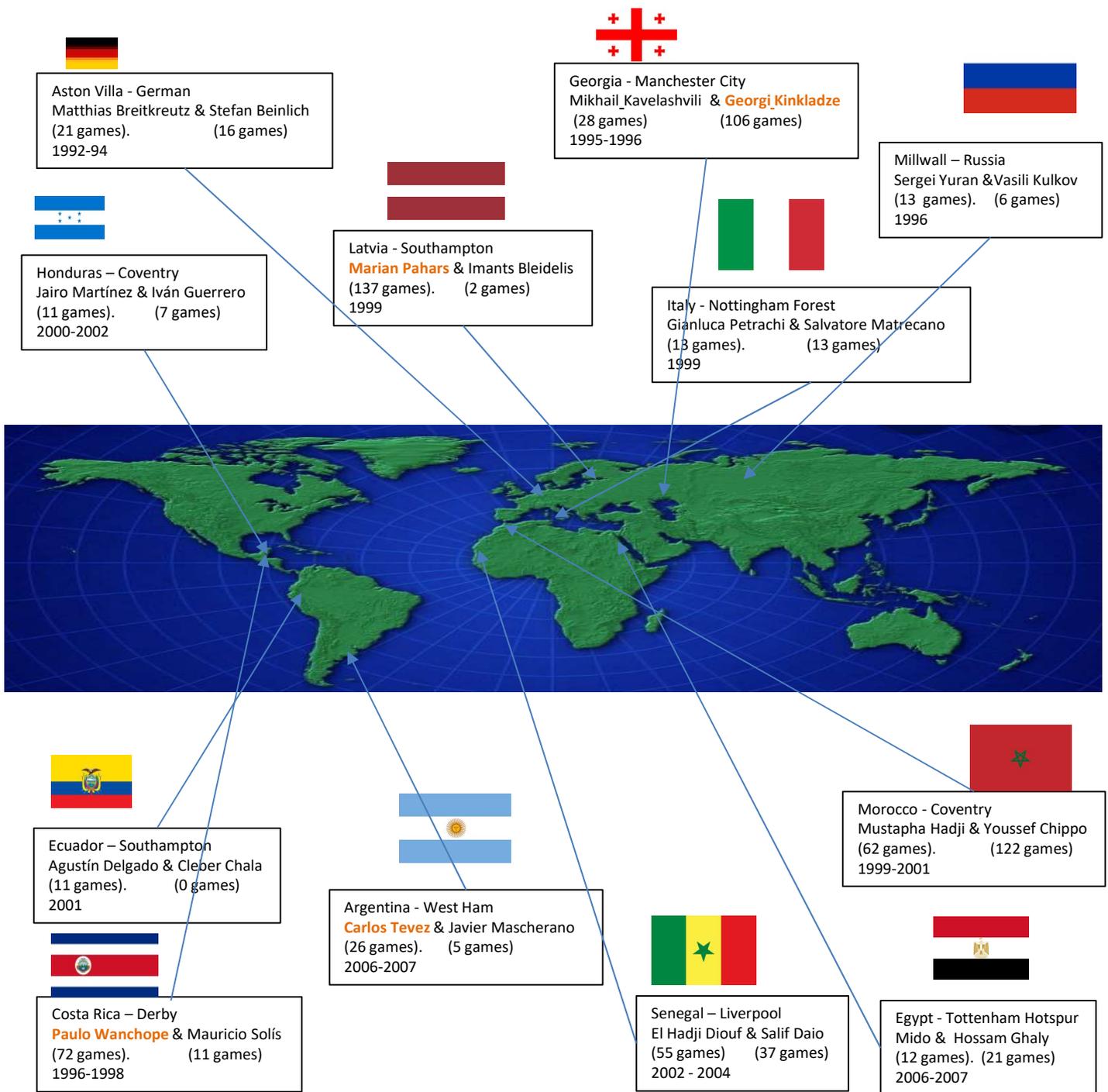
The next page highlights teams that have bought 2 players from the same country and the combo has failed. I call it the peanut butter and jam factor!

In some situations a superior player is bought and a mate/chaperone seemingly comes along for the ride. If the players name is in gold we've a hit and perhaps worth that travel buddy and his expenses claim, but what you won't find is a combo of two golden players at one club at one time, not in this article. The chairman and bill payers would have to work out if carrying one player and their wages was worth it to keep there best mate feeling loved. And the answer is yes of course, if the goods are being delivered. Seldom with these examples was it however....



Renato Sanches - Chosen for UEFA Euro 2016 at age 18, making him the youngest Portuguese player to play in an international tournament as well as the youngest player to win a UEFA Euro final.





Valeri Bojinov - Debuted in Serie A , for Lecce, at the age of 15 years and 11 months, becoming the youngest foreign player to make an appearance at the top level of Italian football.



## Aiutare Gil anziani? Help the aged?

A fine wine, a Scotch Whiskey, a Cheddar or a Parmesan cheese, a pair of jeans, a piece of Art, trees, hell, even Balsamic Vinegar I am led to believe.

What do all these things have in common? They all tend to age well. Through maturity comes either a better look, a better taste, or a better value, or a combination of those attributes.

I've an addition for the list – Serie A top goal scorers; the winners of the Capocannoniere.

You may think there is a theme that runs through this magazine, and that I am obsessed with goal scorers, and Italian football, and you would be right. Goals make football, the thrill you get from them is irreplaceable and I make no apology for it. Add to the popular conception of how well Italian teams defend, you have to be pretty darn good to be amongst the leading marksman in Italy. (Maradona won it once with a mere 15 goals)

This brief, non-exhaustive list are the players to have graced Serie A from 1990 onwards that never achieved top billing in terms of goals in a season.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, Roberto Baggio, Ronaldo, Enrico Chiesa, Alberto Gilardino, Roberto Mancini, Vincenzo Montella, Abel Balbo, Antonio Cassano to name a few.

Ignoring Ravanelli from the following comment but it may also help if you have the odd grey hair on your head to be able to achieve top scoring status. Looking at the most prolific strikers to have claimed the Italian golden boot prize in the last 25 years there is certainly a maturity element that needs to be looked at.

On no fewer than 11 occasions has the winner been 30 years old or above! The mean age of the top scorer is 28.41. If you include the 28 and 29 year olds the number goes to 19. That comes in at a very healthy 61%

If you look at the same period for the Premier League and the Eredivisie, the average is 26.05 and 24.35 respectively.

Compared to the 11 +30 winners, only 2 winners of the Dutch top goalscorer since 1992 been over 30. It's 3 for the Premier League.



Antonio Candreva – Midfield stalwart for both Lazio and Inter Milan, amassing over 100 Serie A games for both. Only he, Ruben Sosa and Dejan Stankovic to achieve that for both clubs



The stand out players of the 11 that deserve a call out are Luca Toni, Antoine Di Natale, Fabio Quagliarella and Dario Hubner.

You could be forgiven thinking Luca Toni peaked in 2006. Serie A top goalscorer, The European Golden Boot and a small matter of a World Cup winners medal!

The following 3 seasons yielded a very healthy goals return firstly with Fiorentina and then venturing to The Bundesliga, and winning it with Bayern Munich. After uninspiring moves to Roma, Genoa, Juventus, back to Florence and a spell in Dubai it appeared his career was playing out and that peak would not be reached again. Perhaps not the team successes, but there was still something left in the tank. In 2013 Toni moved to Verona at the age of 36 on a one year deal and a return of 20 goals saw him land second place in the Capocannoniere charts. The following season saw that eclipsed and a return of 22 goals saw him become the oldest winner of the Italian Serie A top scorer at the age of 38!!

Luca Toni won it twice, and was very close to winning consecutive awards. Not many claim to have done that. Beppe Signori did in the 1993/93 & 1993/94 seasons and a certain Antonio Di Natale did so in 2009/10 & 2010/11, the latter at the ripe old age of 34.

Di Natale sits 6th overall in the Serie A top goal scorers of all time, with 209 strikes, 191 of these with Udinese, arguably the least fashionable of the clubs that feature whom the top scorers have played for. Udinese have never won Serie A. Whilst at Bianconeri, Di Natale hit double figures in Serie A for 9 seasons in a row showing a ridiculous level of consistency.

Many a strike partner came and went from Udinese to play with Di Natale including Fabio Quagliarella. Quagliarella is perhaps more known for his ability to produce the spectacular but in the 2018/19 season he enjoyed an Indian summer and took home the Capocannoniere with a season leading 26 goals, of which 11 were scored in a row of games, equalling the all time Serie A record (shared with Gabriel Batistuta). Not bad company.

The last mention goes to Dario Hubner. At 35 years old, in 2001/02 he took home the Serie A top scorer award after doing the same for Serie C in 1991/92 and in Serie B in 1995/96. Only 2 players have achieved such a feat, with Hubner the only one doing so in that order, C,B & A, perhaps his German heritage assisting with such efficiency.

I am not sure what these players are having for their breakfast but I want some! Perhaps it is some of mama's special sauce!!!



Gianluigi Buffon - Holds the record for the longest streak without conceding a goal in Serie A history: over 12 league matches, he went unbeaten for 974 consecutive minutes during the 2015–16 season, as well as having achieved the most consecutive clean sheets (10) in Serie A in that same season. Buffon also holds the record for the most clean sheets in Serie A, and with the Italy national team.



Goal scoring defenders top 10	Premier League Goals
John Terry	41
David Unsworth	38
Leighton Baines	32
Ian Harte	28
Gary Cahill	27
Steve Watson	26
William Gallas	25
Julian Dicks	24
Joleon Lescott	23
Dan Petrescu	23

## Goal scoring defenders

If you look at the top ten goal scoring defenders in the Premier League you'll see some familiar names but you won't see a huge amount of goals scored.

Averaging out goals per season, if you take number one John Terry, a twenty year career with Chelsea + a handful of games outside of the Premier League with Forest and Aston Villa, you have 41 league goals and a grand total of 68 career goals. Quick maths and averaging out gives us a commendable 3.4 goals a year. You can't score 0.4 of a goal, but as I'm in a generous mood he can have 4 goals a season. Granted you are likely to play less early and late on in your career so if you average it out on games played, you get having played 759 club games, a goal every 12 (ish games). Let's assume a 50 game season for successful clubs and you have 4 goals a season. Terry's best return in all competitions was a return of 8 goals in 49 appearances.

That's a goal every 6 games and as a centre back I'd take that as a return. But if we bring in a few more names into the discussion we find that perhaps the Premier League's highest goal scoring defender has come up a little bit short.



Marko Arnautovic – Part of the Stoke City claim to fame by having 6 non-British players play for them who had won the Champions League. Arnautovic was at Inter Milan when they won it in 2010, but not even making the bench for the game.



Perhaps the most talked about in recent times is Sergio Ramos.

The Real Madrid centre back has mastered the knack of scoring important, and often late goals. Chuck in penalty responsibilities and he gets to chalk up a very decent return. Ramos' current tally comes in at 93 strikes in all club competitions. Ramos has played 698 games to date. The consistency is impressive and gives him an average return of a goal every 7.5 games. His best season saw a return of 11 goals whilst at Madrid. Goals, trophies and a likeable chap. What a lucky lad.



Perhaps an urban myth is that of Sinisa Mihajlovic. The feisty Serbian, who can claim to be the highest scoring free kick taker in Serie A (joint with Andreas Pirlo) also has a Serie A hat-trick to his name. (Premier league fans, I believe Steve Watson is the only defender with a hat-trick to his name in the Premier League.) Mihajlovic isn't the most prolific of goal scoring defenders but he is worth inclusion based on the free kick & hat-trick content. 96 goals is nothing to be sniffed at but his career began playing further up field so take the preverbal pinch of salt with these stats.

He played 566 club games and therefore is a goal threat every 5.8 games, and his best return was 13 goals in a 46 game season. A goal every 3.5 games is some attribute to have in the team.



Adriano – After making his Brazil debut at 18, Adriano was considered the long-term successor to Ronaldo. Prior to the 2006 World Cup he was part of Brazil's much-vaunted "magic quartet" of offensive players alongside Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Kaká, which ultimately wasn't successful at the finals.



Next up are serious challengers. Manchester United fans, you may not be aware of this, but introducing Laurent Blanc.

Alex Ferguson didn't sign Blanc for his goal scoring prowess at Inter Milan. And rightly so. He scored 6 in two seasons at Inter Milan and followed that up with 1 goal at Manchester United in 2 seasons.

But prior to that is something somewhat remarkable. Slightly nomadic, Blanc moved around France, Italy and Spain and ultimately England but what he took with him was a goal threat. Double figure season tally's at Marseille & St. Etienne saw 13 goal returns on two occasions for the French clubs but this should not have been a surprise.



Blanc began his career at Montpellier and for a period of time was the club's record ever goalscorer! In 8 seasons at the club there were postings of 14, 15, 16 and 18 (a personal best) goals a season and he totaled 80 goals in 263 games. That's a goal every 3.2 games over 8 seasons. Remarkable!! His overall record of 708 games and 137 goals is still a spell binding goal every 5.1 games. His season in 1986/87 saw 18 goals in 34 games, a return of a goal every 1.8 games!

Can a central defender with 18 strikes in a season be bettered I hear you ask? Why of course and with ease.



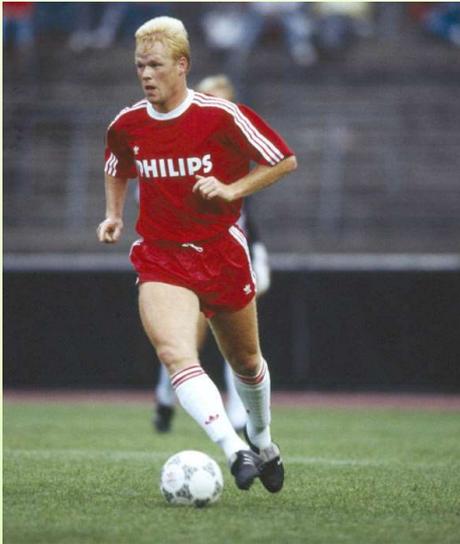
Xherdan Shaqiri – Alongside Arnautovic, Shaqiri joined Muniesa, Krkic, Afellay and Jese Rodriguez as the other non-British Stoke players to win the Champions League. Out of them all, only Afellay managed to get on the pitch during a final, in the 92 minute of the 2011 game.



I can give you a central defender with a season best of 26 goals! And an ultimate return over a 17 year career of 239 goals in 685 games.

A goal every 2.86 games. From a centre back! I've watched football for over 30 years and I've witnessed centre backs who can't pass to their full backs feet!!!

Step up Ronald Koeman....



A monster of a player. The Dutchman's career ventured to Spain to play for Johan Cryuff's Barcelona's dream team, scoring the winning goal in securing the Catalan's first ever Champions League trophy in 1992 and a small matter of turning out for the big three in Holland. Worth to note he'd already won PSV's first (and only) European Cup in 1988.

In his penultimate season in 1987/88 at PSV he scored 21 league goals in 32 league games. If using our averaging method that is a goal every game and a half!!! We have an undisputed record goal scoring defender. Not everyone will appreciate the feet (David Platt?) but the return on goals to games is exceptional and it seems unrivaled. Nothing against John Terry's record but in Ronald Koeman's first 4 seasons as a professional player he registered 39 league goals...remember the Premier League record is 41.



Stephan El Shaarawy - He was 16 years when he made his first team debut, playing ten minutes for Genoa; he is currently the eighth youngest player in the history of Serie A to have made his debut in the Italian top division.



Someone & something to note, and it sticks out as a childhood memory.

In the 1990/91 season Steve Bruce returned a very impressive 19 goals across all competitions from centre back. Manchester United won the Cup Winners Cup that season but 13 of these goals were in the then First Division.



Bruce actually had a great goal return over his career but spent a significant time in the lower divisions with Gillingham and Norwich but with 113 goals over 926 games across 20 years he deserves a mention.

To attempt some kind of perspective on the 19 goal return season here are some strikers in the modern game that have never topped 19 goals in a season in their professional careers..

Carlton Cole (397 games, 17 years) best season return = 15 goals

Antonio Cassano (514 games, 18 years) best season return = 18 goals

Danny Welbeck (310 games, 13 years) best season return = 12 goals

Christoph Dugarry (354 league games, 16 years) best season return = 9 goals



Lorenzo Pellegrini - For the first time since 1981, there is no Giannini, Totti or De Rossi in the Roma squad. They need a new Gladiator. Could Rome born Pellegrini be the next in line for the hero status to be stowed upon him.



# Forgot they played for them?

They'll always be a healthy chat when it comes to naming your favourite player to represent your club. For some clubs obvious candidates will dominate (top goal scorer or club captain) and perhaps some fans will have a random favourite who is their choice for special reasons (Scored in the first game you went to).

But for a selection of Premier League teams it is also possible to name a starting line up of players that it is very easy to forget they actually played for the club, let alone become a fans favourite.

Looking at clubs that have had a significant presence in the Premier League era, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa and Everton, we've selected 11 players from each to make up a team of forgettable's.

Have a look at the line ups and see if you remember them pulling on the shirt.



Nathaniel Chalobah – Loans to clubs like Forest, Reading and Watford sound relatively normal for Chelsea youngsters, but Chalobah also played 5 games for Napoli in the 2015-16 season.



# Aston Villa



Could be in the Everton team as well

Lone Rangers



9 games

3 games



Carlton, not Joe..

Awooga



Usain Bolt – One of the more unusual inclusions but Bolt trialed for Central Coast Mariners in order to secure a contract. This proved unsuccessful, as no contract was offered, but the squad number worn was a tribute to his 100m sprint record of 9.58 seconds.



# Everton

Crossed Stanley Park



More like a Fiat



1 game



Der Hammer

oh là là

'Blom'ing useless



Tommy

9 games 0 goals



Gabriel Barbosa – Following on from Bolt, another Olympic gold medallist, for the Brazilian football team (2016) Joins a very long list of players who under perform post a big money move from South America to Serie A. Has since flourished at Flamengo.



# Tottenham Hotspur



Emre Mor – The “Turkish Messi.” Yeah, OK, be sure to file that one with Carlos Marinelli, Middlesbrough’s Maradona.....



# Quiz time

Try your luck with the following questions and find out the answers next month, or email me at [Stan@thehalfwayline.com](mailto:Stan@thehalfwayline.com) to submit your answers

- 1) Name 6 foreigners (not inc ROI) who played in the Premier League and then managed a team they never represented (also they can't have managed the team they played for) I.e., Gullit, Di Matteo & Solskjaer not correct
- 2) Player started FA Cup final in 1997/98, lost, also started the 2014/15 FA Cup final and lost – both times against the same team. The player won an FA Cup medal in between the 17 years, but didn't play – Who?
- 3) More English or Scottish managers for Blackburn in EPL ?
- 4) Since the Premier League started, Arsenal, Liverpool, Everton and Aston Villa have all had a player play for them with the same surname – What is the surname?
- 5) Who was the only player to score a goal in an FA Cup final for a losing team between 1994 and 2005?
- 6) Name a player to have played for all the following: an Argyle, a Rovers, a City, a Rangers, an Athletic, a Palace, a Villa and an Albion.

## Team mates

- 1) I have been a team mate of Jean Tigana, Mark Schwarzer, Neil Ruddock, Niall Quinn & Steve Nicol - Who am I?
- 2) I have been a team mate of Gianluca Vialli, Ruud Gullit, Nicolas Anelka, Zvonimir Boban, Dwight Yorke & John Terry - Who am I?
- 3) I have been a team mate of Rui Costa, Ruud Van Nistelrooy, Michael Owen, Francesco Totti, Gaizka Mendiata and David Beckham – Who am I?
- 4) I have been a team mate of Ronaldo (Bra), Dean Holdsworth, Scott Parker, Samuel Eto'o, Djimi Traore, and Luka Modric – Who am I?
- 5) I have been a team mate of Gabriel Batistuta, Nayim, Pierluigi Casiraghi, Brian Laudrup and Christian Ziege – Who am I?

## What club links the following players

- 1) Julio Baptista, Ludovic Giuly, Walter Samuel and Ivan Helguera
- 2) David Vaughan, Dalian Atkinson Kevin Richardson and John Aldridge
- 3) David Beckham, Ronaldinho, Gabriel Heinze and George Weah.
- 4) Diego Forlan, Antonio Valencia, Guisepppe Rossi and Giovanni Dos Santos
- 5) Kevin Prince-Boateng, Lee Young-Pyo, Steven Pienaar and Marc Ziegler
- 6) Artur Numan, Michael Ball, Marcus DeBeasley and Jan Wouters
- 7) Clarence Seedorf, Juan Sebastian Veron, Ariel Ortega and Jurgen Klinsmann
- 8) Youri Djorkaeff, Hakan Suker, Jay Bothroyd and Dino Baggio



Mauro Icardi – Argentines are the most prolific foreign winners of the *Capcannoniere*, the most recent with Internazionale in 2018 by Icardi.



## Page number glossary: Shows player and season they wore the associated number

1	Jen Lehmann	Arsenal	2003-2008	51	Leonardo Bonucci	Inter Milan	2005-2007
2	Cafu	Brazil	1990-2006	52	Nicklas Bendtner	Arsenal	2009-2011
3	Paolo Maldini	AC Milan	1987-2009	53	Wojciech Szczesny	Arsenal	2008-2011
4	Patrick Vieira	AC Milan	1996-2005	54	Hakan Suker	Inter Milan	2000-2002
5	Javier Mascherano	River Plate	2003-2005	55	Ade Akinbiyi	Crystal Palace	2001-2002
6	Tony Adams	Arsenal	1983-2002	56	Harvey Elliott	Fulham	2018-2019
7	Eric Cantona	Manchester United	1992-1997	57	Cesc Fabregas	Arsenal	2003-2004
8	Andres Iniesta	Barcelona	2007-2018	58	Madou Barrow	Swansea City	2014-2016
9	Ronaldo	Barcelona	1996-1997	59	Bersant Celina	Manchester City	2015-2016
10	Diego Maradona	Argentina	1981-1994	60	Branislav Ivanovic	Zenit St. Petersburg	2016-2018
11	Ryan Giggs	Manchester United	1991-2013	61	Reiss Nelson	Arsenal	2017-2018
12	Thierry Henry	France	1997-2010	62	Oli McBurnie	Swansea City	2016-2018
13	Michael Ballack	Chelsea	2006-2010	63	Kieran Tierney	Celtic	2014-2019
14	Johan Cryuff	The Netherlands	1973-1974	64	Nico Yennaris	Arsenal	2012-2013
15	Sergio Ramos	Spain	2005-2020	65	Mara	Oxford United	2019-2020
16	Danielle De Rossi	Roma	2005-2019	66	Trent Alexander-Arnold	Liverpool	2016-2020
17	David Trezeguet	Juventus	2000-2011	67	Victor Wanyama	Celtic	2011-2013
18	Jurgen Klinsmann	Germany	1987-1999	68	Ricardo Rodriguez	AC Milan	2017-2020
19	Mario Goze	Germany	2010-2017	69	Bixente Lizarazu	Bayern Munich	2004-2006
20	Robin Van Perise	Manchester United	2012-2015	70	Robinho	AC Milan	2010-2012
21	Zinedine Zidane	Juventus	1996-2001	71	Burak Yilmaz	Beşiktaş	2018-2019
22	Kaka	AC Milan	2003-2009	72	Kelechi Iheanacho	Manchester City	2015-2017
23	Andrey Arshavin	Arsenal	2008-2011	73	Manuel Locatelli	AC Milan	2015-2018
24	Yaya Toure	Barcelona	2007-2010	74	Mohamed Salah	Fiorentina	2014-2015
25	Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	1996-2003	75	David Beckham	AC Milan	2008-2009
26	John Terry	Chelsea	1999-2017	76	Andriy Shevchenko	AC Milan	2008-2009
27	Lucas Moura	Tottenham Hotspur	2017-2020	77	Henrik Mkhitaryan	Arsenal	2017-2018
28	Cristiano Ronaldo	Sporting Lisbon	2002-2003	78	José Ángel Pozo	Manchester City	2014-2015
29	Kylian Mbappe	Paris Saint Germain	2017-2018	79	Joao Felix	Benfica	2018-2019
30	Lionel Messi	Barcelona	2004-2006	80	Ronaldinho	AC Milan	2008-2011
31	Bastian Schweinseiger	Bayern Munich	2002-2015	81	Samuel Eto'o	Qatar SC	2018-2019
32	Carlos Tevez	Manchester City	2009-2013	82	Nicola Milano	Palermo	2003-2004
33	Petr Cech	Arsenal	2015-2018	83	Felipe Melo	Inter Milan	2015-2016
34	Justin Kluivert	Roma	2018-2019	84	Mathieu Flamini	AC Milan	2008-2009
35	Fernando Torres	Atlético de Madrid	2000-2001	85	Renato Sanches	Benfica	2015-2016
36	Vitor Valdes	Barcelona	2000-2001	86	Valeri Bojinov	Parma	2009-2011
37	Jari Litmanen	Liverpool	2000-2002	87	Antonio Candreva	Lazio	2011-2016
38	Kingsley Coman	Paris Saint Germain	2013-2014	88	Gianluigi Buffon	Parma	2000-2001
39	Nicolas Anelka	Chelsea	2007-2012	89	Marko Arnautovic	Inter Milan	2009-2010
40	Jack Grealish	Aston Villa	2013-2020	90	Adriano	Flamengo	2008-2009
41	Declan Rice	West Ham United	2016-2020	91	Xherdan Shaqiri	Inter Milan	2014-2015
42	Paul Pogba	Manchester United	2010-2012	92	Stephan El Shaarawy	AC Milan	2011-2015
43	Matthew Longstaff	Newcastle United	2019-2020	93	Lorenzo Pellegrini	Roma	2013-2014
44	Ivan Perisic	Inter Milan	2015-2019	94	Nathanial Chalobah	Napoli	2015-2016
45	Mario Balotelli	Manchester City	2010-2013	95	Usian Bolt	Central Coast Mariners	2018
46	Aiden McGeady	Celtic	2003-2010	96	Gabriel Barbosa	Inter Milan	2016-2018
47	Craig Bellamy	Celtic	2004-2005	97	Emre Mor	Galatasaray	2019-2020
48	Will Keane	Ipswich Town	2019-2020	98	Mauro Icardi	Sampdoria	2011-2013
49	James Forrest	Celtic	2009-2020	99	Vitor Baia	Porto	1999-2007
50	Lazor Markovic	Liverpool	2014-2018	100	Ruben Sosa	Nacional	1999



Vitor Baia – Won the European Cup Winners Cup, the UEFA Cup & the UEFA Champions League, an elusive European Cup Hat-Trick. Gianluca Vialli and Danny Blind share the achievement alongside 8 others.



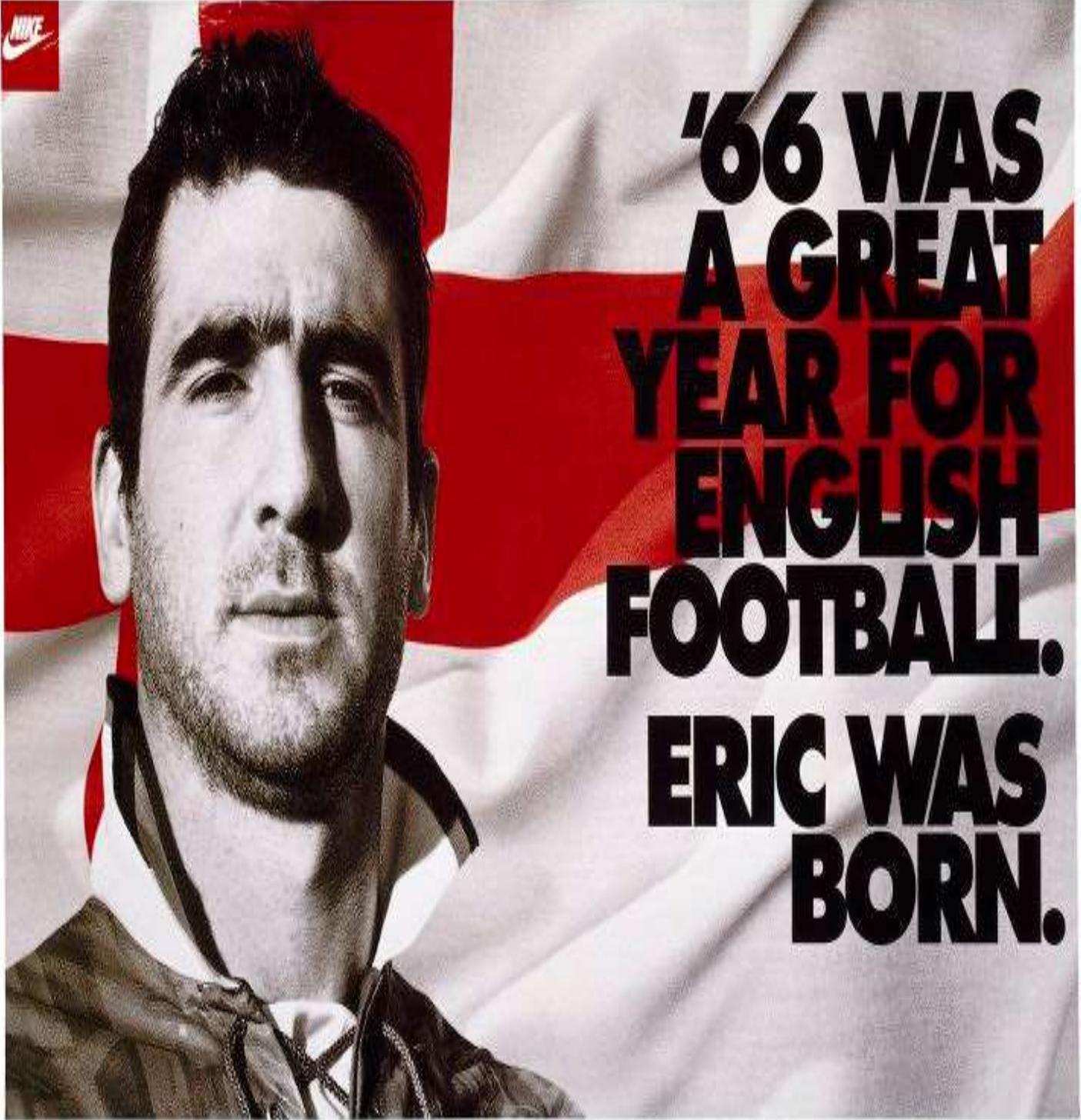
# What's coming up in the next issue of The Halfway Line?

- The GOAT debate. We bring out the facts to settle the Ronaldo versus Messi argument
- Features a Transfer Special:
  - Strategies
  - Flops
  - Who to buy from?
- Paying the Penalty
- Incredible debuts and woeful debuts
- The Oldest Premier League Goal scorers
- More Classic Kits
- More Historical line ups
- And much much more!!!



Ruben Sosa – Wore the number 100 shirt to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of his clubs existence Nacional, of Uruguay in May 1999.





**'66 WAS  
A GREAT  
YEAR FOR  
ENGLISH  
FOOTBALL.  
ERIC WAS  
BORN.**



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