

September 2021 Issue 13

The





Halfway Line



FOOTBALL SUSPENSIONS



Plus lots more:

-  Greatest ever managers
-  Capital kings
-  Red Bull gives you what?



Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

Fans back in the stadiums, you can have a beer in the pub with your mates and the next issue of The Halfway Line is out. Does it get any better?

We are answering some of the really tough questions in this issue.

First up. If you are a Premier League manager, on the touchline do you wear the club tracksuit and Adidas Copa Mundials, or do you style a dapper suit and shiny shoes. It's a tough one to call. I think I am tracksuit for the game, and change to the suit for the post match interviews.

Not based on fashion, but more to do with successes and trophies, we look in this issue at the world's best ever managers.

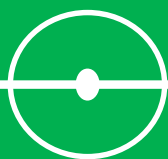
We also explore the history (or lack of) of the Red Bull football franchise, growing in presence across the globe and ask what the future holds.

The astute reader will note this is the September issue and therefore no May/June/July/August issues. Why you ask? Well, for ungentlemanly conduct the magazine was suspended for the summer. Obviously we weren't but it makes a nice segue way into the fact we have a feature this issue of player suspensions. Some you'll know but some will definitely come as a shock to you.

We've more features this month than Harry Redknapp had former players sign for him at Portsmouth, including all the usual classics with the Boot Room, Historical Line ups and the Forgotten men.

In these crazy times its important to step up and help others, so lets take inspiration from Enzo Perez, the River Plate midfielder who had to play in goal in a fixture because all the registered River Plate goalkeepers were ruled out with COVID-19. River Plate won 2-1 and Perez was named man of the match!

So this month, go out, go the footy, buy a dirty cheeseburger, with onions, avoid the horse manure all over the road from the police horses, buy a programme that you will almost certainly not read and enjoy a live game of football. Then come home, relax and plan the watching TV schedule in order to maximise as many games to watch as humanly possible! Then of course, sit back and grab The Halfway issue and tuck in, and as always.....Enjoy!



Dave Beasant – First goalkeeper to save a penalty in a FA Cup final, for Wimbledon against Liverpool in 1988



The Halfway Line Up

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Daniel Carvajal - Real Madrid right back that had a loan spell in Germany at Bayer Leverkusen early in his career



That colour really suits you!

When the football agent is talking with a player about what club to sign for, you image a few similar topics come up;

- Salary
- Length of contract
- Appearance bonus
- Who else the club are looking to buy

Have you ever considered the player questioning what colour strip the club play in? No nor have we, until this issues drafting came into play.

It is in jest of course, but we went through the archives to see if any players tend to play for clubs who play in the same colour or style kit!

Kenwyne Jones and **James Beattie** have had their fair share of Red and White Stripes, with Jones playing for Southampton, Sunderland and Stoke City, whereas Beattie wore the red and white strips of Southampton, Stoke City and Sheffield United.

Beating those 2 players is **Danny Higginbotham**, who in his career played for Southampton, Sunderland, Stoke City and Sheffield United! Throw in caps for Gibraltar, and games for Manchester United, Royal Antwerp and Nottingham Forest, he was clear a fan of the Red and White kits!

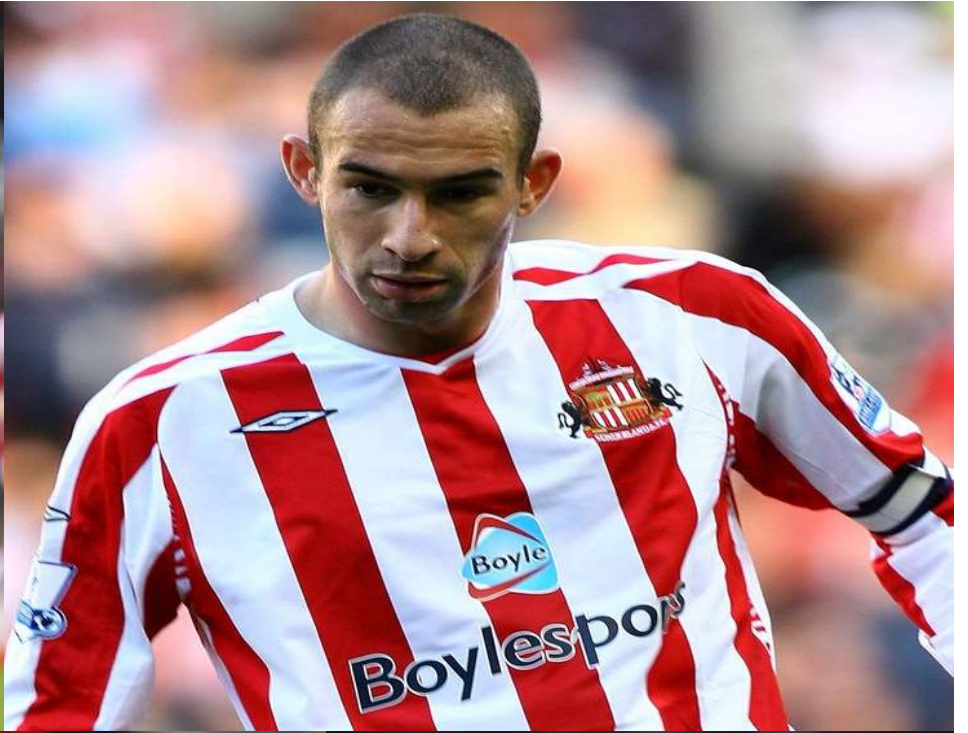
David Unsworth was a fan of the Claret and Blue. He represented West Ham, Aston Villa (albeit very briefly) and later on in his career a move to Burnley. Sadly a loan move to Northampton Town never materialised.

The diminutive and tough tackling **Dennis Wise** seemed to warm to the colour blue in his career, styling the blue kits of Wimbledon, Chelsea, Leicester City and Millwall during his playing days. A brief stint at Coventry City ended his career, perhaps as he felt guilty moving to the lighter shade of blue to his previous shirt fancies.



Steve Finnan - He is the only player to have played in the World Cup, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Cup, Intertoto Cup, all four levels of the English league football and the Football Conference





Danny Higginbotham

Stoke City, Sunderland, Southampton, Sheffield United



Mikel Arteta - The now Arsenal manager had spells at Rangers, Paris Saint-Germain and Real Sociedad but never a first team appearance for Barcelona





David Unsworth

Aston Villa, West Ham United, Burnley



Georginio Wijnaldum - At the age of 16 and 148 days, Wijnaldum became the youngest player ever to play in Feyenoord's first team





Dennis Wise

Wimbledon, Chelsea, Leicester City, Millwall



Ivan Helguera - The Spanish centre back has a hugely successful career at Real Madrid but did you know he also played for Roma in Serie A?



Player Profile - Sergen Yalçın

If you are one of only 2 players in the history of the Turkish League to have played for all of the 'big 4' Istanbul clubs, you are likely to be a somewhat controversial character.

Sergen Yalçın and Burak Yılmaz are the only 2 players to have represented Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray and Trabzonspor, and it is Yalçın that focus on today, who was the first to do so.

Yalçın started his career at Beşiktaş, in 1991 and started well (2 league titles) however public criticism of members of the clubs' board saw the start of the break up of his relationship with the club. Indeed so much so he was sold, to Istanbulspor for a national transfer record at the time (1997) of £5.5m

One and half seasons later and he was off again, this time to a 'sports agency' that bought his rights, and so his loan journey around Istanbul began. His first stop was Fenerbahçe, and the move also saw him advertise the sports agency on his Fenerbahçe shirt!



More criticism, this time of the managers and Yalçın was on his way again, this time to Galatasaray. It is even rumoured Sergen intentionally missed an open goal just a week before his loan was ended.

The quirk with this move was under the agreement of his sports agency contract he could not sign directly to another Turkish club. Easy solution. He signed a one day contract with a Macedonian club side, and then to Galatasaray.

Although impressive on the pitch, antics off the pitch would be an issue. Trips to Cyprus casinos instead of trips to training grounds caused understandable issues. Although winning the league with Gala, the board had no interest in retaining his services for the following season.

Another loan, this time to Trabzonspor but no success, but Galatasaray were ready to give him another chance.

He took it, and won the league title again, under the management of Mircea Lucescu.



Roy Makaay - Scored the quickest goal in Champions League history, finding the net after just 10.12 seconds to help Bayern put Real Madrid out of the competition in 2006/07



When Lucescu left Gala in 2002 and controversially went to manage Beşiktaş, to add to that he also signed Sergen on a permanent deal from his sports agency contract. Sergen was back after years in the wilderness, and it proved to be his most successful as a player, but of course not without the odd bump in the road!

4 seasons with the club saw another league title and a Turkish Cup.

Never one to excel too much outside of Turkey, but there were occasions. One of note was a Champions League away fixture in 2003 for Beşiktaş against Chelsea.

The English side had recently been purchased and bank rolled by Roman Abramovich, and hadn't lost a game since he arrived. They hosted Besiktas, who came away with a 2-0 victory. Not too headline making you may think, but Sergen scored both goals, and had remarkably staked £5,000 on the game to be a 2-0 victory and for him to score both goals! Quite remarkable self belief.

The 2 demons that followed Sergen throughout his career were his gambling and his struggles with weight. Had he been able to control both, I am convinced we could have seen a true Turkish superstar exported to the biggest stage, not quite at the levels of Gheorghe Hagi of Romania, but he certainly could have been so much more.

There is a classic quote from Sergen that perhaps best sums him up. He was asked to give some advice to youngsters, about the trials and tribulations that are associated with gambling. Of course the desired outcome was words of wisdom to be spoken, in order to put off youths participating in betting and the problems it can cause. Sergen's advice was, for underage gambling was this.....

"Avoid Bundesliga games, there are too many surprises!!".....Not quite the angle the organisers were looking for!!

Having retired in 2008, now Sergen Yalcin is a manager and having moved around Turkish clubs he finds himself at the helm of yes, you guess it, Beşiktaş. How's he doing I hear you ask? Well, not bad – he led the club the Turkish League title in 2020-21, becoming the first person to become a champion in the Süper Lig as a football player and coach with Beşiktaş.



Hristo Stoichkov - Was a member of the Bulgarian national team that finished fourth at the 1994 FIFA World Cup, of which he was the top scorer with six goals and received the World Cup Golden Boot



Never played in their home country

Best XI

The line up below has 11 players that have played for their countries, with great aplomb, with significant club careers, but what we found very interesting is the players have never played in their home nation leagues, at first team levels.

Wojciech Szczesny – Played +180 games for Arsenal, +80 games for Roma and now over 130 games for Juventus and 3 Serie A titles. This as well as 53 international caps for Poland, but not one professional appearance in the Polish leagues to date...

Rafael da Silva – Over 100 games for Manchester United and Lyon, plus 2 international caps for Brazil but never a league game in any capacity in his homeland of Brazil.

Toby Alderweireld – 128 league games for Ajax, a season each with Atletico Madrid and Southampton and now over 200 games for Tottenham Hotspurs, plus the 109 international caps for Belgium, but never played in Belgium's league structure.

Lucas Hernandez - French born centre back, is a last minute addition to the squad, replacing Aymeric Laporte. Laporte turned out for Spain at the Euro 2020 tournament (French born, but never capped) Hernandez, whom cost Bayern Munich €80 million has played in Spain, and Germany but never in Ligue 1 (and neither has his brother Theo, now of AC Milan)

Thomas Vermaelen – Ajax, Arsenal, Barcelona, Roma and Vissel Kobe on his club list, and 79 caps for Belgium, but no appearances to date in the Belgium leagues.

Park Ji-Sung – Seoul born, and South Korean superstar played in Japan, Holland and England as well as a century of caps for him, but he never set foot into the South Korean football league.

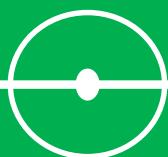
Ivan Rakitic – The fourth most capped Croatian in history has never played in the Croatian leagues. Somewhat understandable, as the Swiss born midfielder played in Switzerland before moving to German and now in Spain, playing for Barcelona and Sevilla.

Christian Eriksen – Another product of the Ajax youth system, playing there as well as with Tottenham Hotspur and Inter Milan. He has 108 international caps to his name, but not 1 league appearance in Denmark.

Eden Hazard – Arguably one of Belgium's best ever players (107 caps) excelled at Lille and Chelsea and work to do at Real Madrid to earn the same status, but he himself has never played in the Belgium leagues.

Antoine Griezmann – French forward with over 90 caps has performed at the highest level in La Liga with Real Sociedad, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona, but he has never appeared in the French leagues.

Lionel Messi – The GOAT taken to Barcelona at 13 and now at PSG but yet to taste any Argentine league action.



Pierre Van Hooijdonk - The Dutch striker once went on strike, refusing to play for Nottingham Forest (1998) as they wouldn't sell him





Never played in their home country Best XI



Rivaldo - In 1999, he won the Ballon d'Or and was named FIFA World Player of the Year



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Angel Di Maria - PSG's all time assist maker has played with the all World Players of the Year from 2007 to 2019! (Kaka, Messi, Ronaldo & Modric)



Classic Kits

Every issue The Halfway Line features 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. This issue it's an opportunity to look at some of the templates and styles that have been shared over the years. Unintentionally, we see a significant focus on Adidas in this issue.

First up is a clash of the Titans....FC Hollywood versus, erm....actually more like a FC pilot radio. There are not many parallels between Bayern Munich and Crystal Palace, but we can lean on one significant one to us. In 1996 you could be forgiven to think Attilio Lombardo was playing for the German giants. So similar were the kits it felt like Jurgen Klinsmann was in his second stint for a London club. Bayern Munich have recently decided not to pursue the colour blue in their kits, and I can only assume it is to ensure none of the Crystal Palace league form is bestowed upon them!

Next up is the cult bruised banana. The retro classic made famous by Arsenal in 1992 is a highly sought after collectors piece from football kit enthusiasts, and even inspired the adidas Arsenal effort of 2019/2020.

Perhaps lesser known are the bruised banana onesie, the bruised strawberry, the bruised blueberry and the really bruised red apple.

Step into the world of the Romanian national team, River Plate of Argentina, Portsmouth, Cambridge United and Slovan Bratislava who all had very similar patterns run through their shirts, with perhaps Romania being the 'bravest' and taking the pattern to the shorts as well!

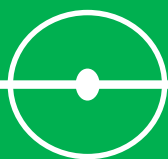
Can't say the bruised fruit was a success for all that styled it, but move forward to 1994 and another adidas print was used, and copied, but this time with a much greater impact. The German national team for the USA 1994 World Cup finals, had the multi coloured diamond print across the shoulders and chest. The tricolour of Red, Yellow and Black works absolutely perfectly, and was mirrored also on their Green away kit at the same time.

Another club that took the design was that of Club America in Mexico. The vibrant yellow kit with the almost Eagle wingspan like design of the diamonds, in the 3 different colours, makes for an all time classic and worthy of it's inclusion. Throw in another sample, used by River Plate and we are onto a winner.

Not so much a classic, but just a dam rip off from the German sports manufacturer!! Carbon copies of kits seldom happen in this day an age, as each club and their fan base demand an element of individuality, but in 1994, you could have been forgiven for not knowing if you were watching Arsenal or the Norwegian national team. Add in the fact Arsenal played the 1994 Cup Winners Cup final without a sponsor and its all the harder. I tried drastically to find a picture of Pal Lydersen styling both versions but no luck. The kit did give both sides a bit of luck however, Arsenal won the FA Cup, Coca Cola Cup and Cup Winners Cup wearing this design, and Norway qualified for the 1994 World Cup in America at the expensive of England no less!

Next up is the adidas template of 1996, used by a number of nations in the Euro'96 tournament. You can see France, Turkey, Romania and the away kit for the eventual winners Germany style the three stripes come across the shoulder and getting smaller in size as it moves towards the ribs. We are particular fans of the Romania and Turkey effort where the nations badge is central to the shirt. Anyone know of any club sides to have used this template?

There are same templates, and then there are quite frankly, the same shirts!! You'll learn more later in this issue, but take a look at New York Red Bulls and Red Bull Salzburg and their 2010 home kits. Don't recall Sadio Mane and Thierry Henry being team mates – no, bizarrely, despite the pictures they weren't. They only difference being the club badge on the shirt and the design of the collar!



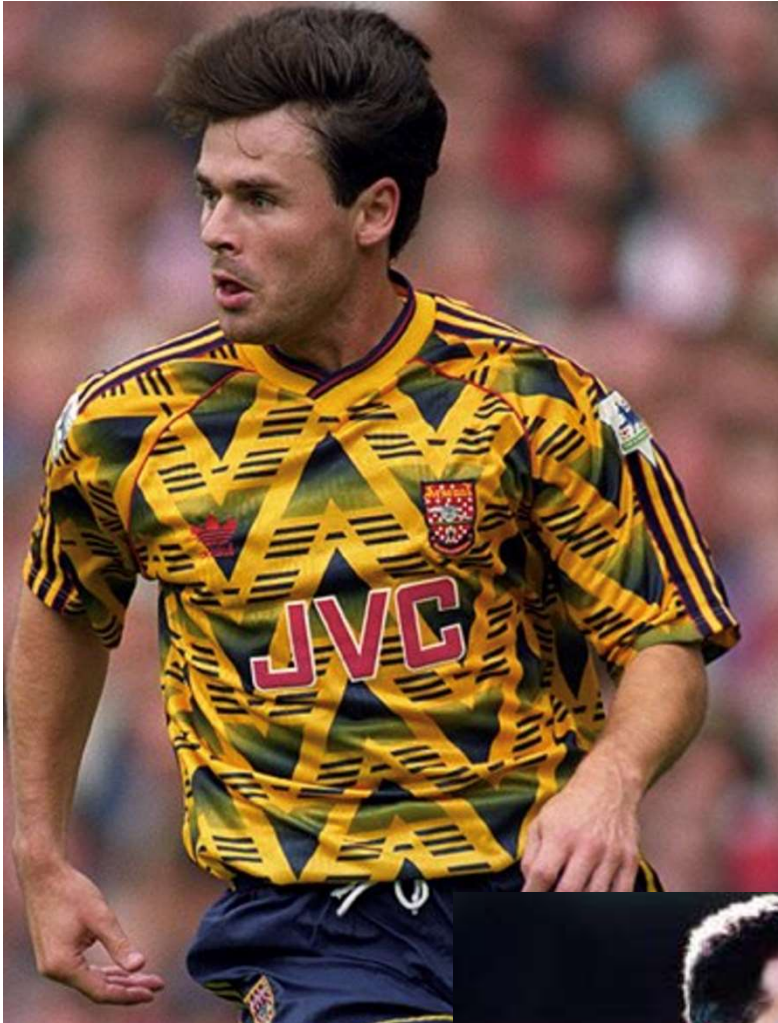
Abel Xavier - Became the first Premier League player to be found guilty of using performance-enhancing drugs





Maxwell - He was the most decorated active footballer in Europe at the time of his retirement, with 33 official titles (helps when you follow Zlatan around)





Phillipe Coutinho - Currently Barcelona's most expensive signing ever and world's most expensive midfielder





Bonaventure Kalou - Salomons's older brother had a successful career at Feyenoord, Auxerre and Paris Saint-Germain





Arjen Robben - Winner of 4 league titles in 4 different countries, with his best trophy haul at Bayern Munich where sometimes he looked unplayable





Andrew Cole - Holds Premier League records for most goals scored in a 42-game season (34) and fastest to score 50 goals (65 matches), as well as being the first player to top the Premier League's goalscoring charts and assist charts in the same season in their own right, in 1993–94





Dirk Kuyt - In elite company having scored a Premier League hat trick against Manchester United (Bentley, Lukaku and Eto'o also having done so)

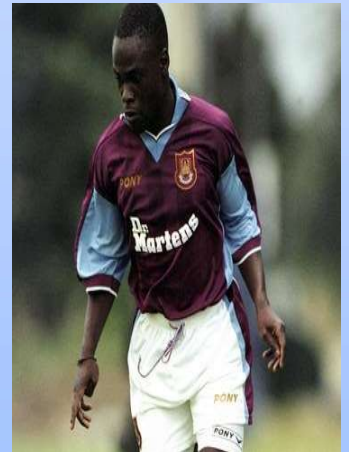
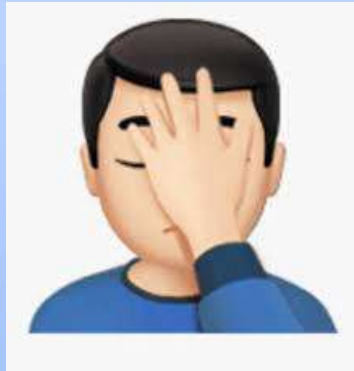


Oops moments in Football

Emmanuel Omoyinmi

A youngster on the books of West Ham United, who played as a wide forward but only featured 13 times for the club, of which 11 were from the bench. During his time at the Hammers (1995-2000) he spent a lot of time away from the club on loan.

During one loan spell at Gillingham in 1999, he played for the Kent club in both legs of their second round Football League Cup tie with Bolton Wanderers. After returning to West Ham United, he appeared as a substitute in a quarter final round of the same competition against Aston Villa. As he had played for a different club in an earlier round of the competition, he was ineligible to play. The match was replayed (with Omoyinmi in the squad!) and West Ham, who had won the first game, lost the replay and were eliminated from the competition.



Nicolas Pepe – When moving from Lille to Arsenal for £72 million he became the Arsenal transfer record and the most expensive African of all time



Oops moments in Football

Alan Ball & Manchester City 1996

In 1995 Alan Ball left Southampton in slightly acrimonious circumstances to take over the manager role at Manchester City.

In a twist of fate, on the last day of the 1995/96 season the relegation battle went down to the wire, between City and the Saints, with only one relegation spot still to be decided upon.

City played Liverpool at home while the Saints faced Wimbledon – City had to better Southampton's result to stay in the Premier League.

City went 2 nil down early, but pulled it back to 2-2, and Ball sent a message to the pitch that Southampton were *losing* and that a draw would be enough to keep City up. Therefore the midfielder Steve Lomas took the ball into the corner in an effort to wind down the clock.

Turns out Ball was wrong, and the match at the Dell was still goalless so Southampton looked set to snatch a point, which would then relegate City!! City management and players soon realised and chased the winner it but it was too late – the game ended 2-2 and Ball and his City side were consigned to their fate and relegation to the now Championship.



Henning Berg - He won titles with both Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United, becoming the first player to win the Premier League with two clubs



Oops moments in Football

Graham Poll – Germany 2006



What can you spot as the error with the 3 pictures above? In the world of refereeing and mathematics, the standard equation is YELLOW + YELLOW = RED...

English referee Graham Poll was central to an ever so unfortunate episode when he booked Croatian defender Josip Simunic on three separate occasions and it was not until the third yellow card was shown, did the red card make an appearance.

Luckily for Poll, this was not a big game or many people watching....Oh, no wait, this was in the 2006 World Cup in Germany, with the entire footballing world watching!!!

Simunic was first cautioned in the 61st minutes by Poll for a foul on an Australian attacker. This was followed up with a second booking for the Australian born defender, who perhaps was suffering mixed emotions facing his motherland! His second booking, in the 90th minute should have of course been turned into a red card and expulsion off the pitch.

Sadly Graham Poll's match note book failed him, and he missed the fact this was Simunic's second yellow, and allowed him to stay on the pitch. Then, somewhat bizarrely, after the final whistle had been blown, Simunic appeared to vent anger at Poll, and gave him a nudge, resulting in his third yellow card, in the 93rd minute and finally receiving his marching orders accompanied by the red card that should have arrived 3 minutes earlier.



Frenkie de Jong - Signed by Ajax for €1 and sold by Ajax for €75,000,000 to Barcelona. Not a bad bit of business



Oops moments in Football

Adrien Silva & Kevin Grosskreutz

Billions of pounds in transfer fees, world class training facilities, football stadia that takes fans breath away, scientific tracking of players performance and scouting network covering the globe. Safe to say the footballing world is incredibly advanced. So how do you complete the modern day transfer? Drones? Crypto based payments? Ultra secure BACS payments? Or perhaps a simple web based product? No, none of these? So how do you conclude multi-million pound transfers in the this multi-billion pound industry? FAX MACHINE!



In 2017, Sporting Lisbon club captain Adrien Silva agreed a move to English Premier League club Leicester City. A fee of £22 million was agreed, personal terms also taken care of. Just the administrative burden of letting FIFA know to register the transfer. The agreement had to be done on 31st August, affectionately known as Transfer Deadline day. Any later than that and the transfer wouldn't be confirmed. Leicester sent the paperwork to FIFA **14** seconds after the deadline. Silva was in limbo. He couldn't play for Leicester until the next transfer window opened, in January, some 4 months later!! Somewhat coincidentally, Silva wore the number **14** shirt, and mustered only 14 league appearances before moving on.

Kevin Grosskreutz left Borussia Dortmund for Galatasaray in September 2015 and the same happened. Delayed documents meant the player couldn't be registered for the Turkish giants, and so he sat on his hands for the first 4 months after signing a three year playing contract! At least Silva managed to play for Leicester City, but for Grosskreutz, when it got to January 2016 and he could play for Gala, he was instead sold back to Germany to VfB Stuttgart.

How on earth in the modern world we live can we rely on a technology that was in fashion in the 1980's!!!



Umit Davala - Signed by both AC Milan and Inter Milan in his career but most his most successful time was when at Galatasaray





GARY LINEKER (SPURS AND ENGLAND) GOLDEN BOOT WINNER 88/89 SEASON.

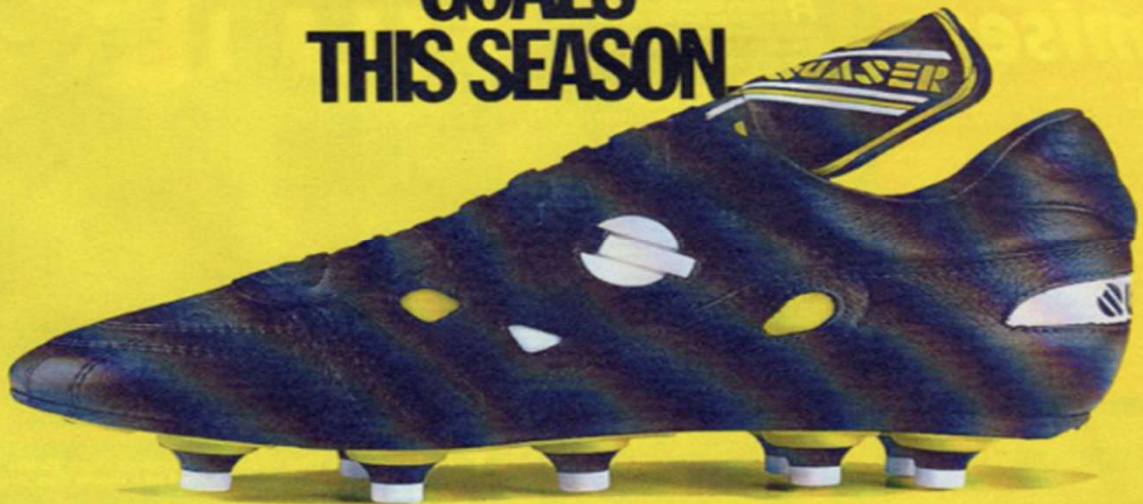


MATTHEW LE TISSIER (SOUTHAMPTON AND ENGLAND 'B') BARCLAYS YOUNG EAGLE OF THE YEAR 88/89 SEASON. P.F.A. YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR 88/89 SEASON. SOUTHAMPTON PLAYER OF THE YEAR 88/89 SEASON.



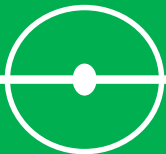
CHARLIE NICHOLAS (CELTIC AND SCOTLAND).

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Julian Draxler - In 2001 he became the second-youngest outfield player after Nuri Şahin to start a Bundesliga match. Now a World Cup winner and regular with French giants PSG



The Premier League Greatest Nations XI



Featured here are the greatest Premier League line ups that only include players from one nation. In the this issue we are heading all over the globe! We have representation from Canada, there is European flavour with Turkey, we have a South America representation with Uruguay and we have South Africa as our African representative in this issue also.

These are not based on statistics, appearances, goals, records, these are merely the view of the author. That said some are self-explanatory and imagine would not ignite too much debate, but others, perhaps less fashionable positions could irk the reader and encourage a discussion as to why the 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. It should be noted, the feature sticks to a rigid 4-4-2 formation and won't be changed to fit in players of the same position.

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



Shane Long - Former Reading, West Brom and Hull City attacker is the holder of the fastest Premier League goal scored, doing so for Southampton against Watford after 7.69 seconds



Canada XI

Being a manager, I can imagine there is nothing worse than having to tell a player he is not in the starting XI for the upcoming match.

The great news for the Canadian Best XI to have played in the Premier League, there are only 11 players, so they all get to be selected!!

In goal it is one of the very early foreign players to play in the Premier League. Craig Forrest for Ipswich Town has the misfortune to have been on the end of a 9-0 spanking from Manchester United during his career, but didn't stop him getting further moves to West Ham United and a very short loan spell at Chelsea.

At right back we've Paul Stalteri, who was part of the Martin Jol revolution at Tottenham Hotspur, that ultimately won nothing. Attacking minded, that might explain the number 7 squad number he had, still not acceptable however. Moved on from the Lane to play at Fulham also.

At centre back, and could have challenged at right back is Frank Yallop. Another Canadian at Ipswich Town during the early Premier League years.

Not blessed with defending options, at centre back alongside Yallop is David Edgar – the centre back spent time at Newcastle United and Burnley and the left back spot is taken by Ged Brennan, who won promotion to the Premier League with Norwich City.

On the right of midfield we have Scott Arfield, who performed at a good level with Burnley in the top flight and on the left we have Junior Hoillet who excited the Cardiff City, QPR and Blackburn Rovers crowds at times in his Premier League career.

Centre midfield we are probably at our weakest. New Canadian joiner is Theo Corbeanu, who has played for Wolves just once in the top flight, and next to him is Terry Dunfield who came through the youth set up at Manchester City and mustered a handful of appearances for the club.

Up front we start with perhaps the most successful import of Canadian origin. Tomasz Radzinski came to Everton from the Belgium league and performed at a decent level for the club before trying his luck with Fulham. Supporting him up front was the less successful Simeon Jackson, who like Brennan helped Norwich to the top flight (different times though) but didn't pull up any trees when he was there in the top division.



Jan Klass Huntelaar - Goal machine at Heerenveen, Ajax and Schalke also with spells at Real Madrid and AC Milan





Rustu Recber - Former Fenerbahce and Besiktas goalkeeper and the briefest of spells at Barcelona. He is Turkey's record appearance holder, having earned 120 caps



Uruguay XI

We are 13 issues into the magazine, and it is time to scrape the barrel (will be the case for the next 3 teams!) and it is the goalkeeper barrel we are scraping....

There isn't an official Uruguayan goalkeeper to have played in the Premier League! So we are selecting Fabian Carini. A highly respectable shot stopper, with 74 international caps to his name, who once (nearly) completed a loan move to Arsenal, only for it to fall through due to a wage demand disagreement...

Quickly on to the players who did play in the Premier League, starting with the defenders. At right back we have David Moyes first signing as the Manchester United manager, Guillermo Varela. 11 appearances over 2 seasons, we aren't sure who was worse at United, Moyes or Varela.

At left back we pick the only left back available to us, Walter Lopez, that even the hardest of West Ham United fans may not remember. 5 games in 2008/09 get him selected.

At centre back we have the pairing Diego Lugano of West Brom fame, joined by Gonzalo Sorondo, who played for both Crystal Palace and Charlton Athletic.

Follow defenders Miguel Britos, Sebastian Coates and Martin Caceres were in with a chance but simply not as good.

As the first Uruguayan in the Premier League, we are pleased to pick Adrian Paz (Ipswich Town) on the right wing, and on the left, the former Southampton, Hull City and Middlesbrough midfielder Gaston Ramirez.

The central births are filled with one exceptionally good import and one that promised much and failed. The good is Guys Poyet, outstanding for both Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur, and alongside he, the defensive minded Lucas Torreira, who never quite met expectations at the Arsenal. Gus's son Diego sadly never made the grade at West Ham United to warrant selection alongside him.

The striking positions we have more choices. Abel Hernandez at Hull, Walter Pandiani at Birmingham City, Dario Silva at Portsmouth and Cristhian Stuani at 'Boro perhaps all needed better performing teams to succeed in this league, but it wasn't to be. The ageless Edinson Cavani has started to prove himself at Manchester United, but the first striker we are picking is Diego Forlan. At first he was somewhat ridiculed for the slow start at Manchester United, but he makes the team, and partners the very best Uruguayan to play in England and that is Luis Suarez. Never far from controversy but also never far from smashing the ball in to the back of the net.



Serginho - 2 time winner of the Champions League with AC Milan during a 9 year career at the San Siro





Yevhen Shakhov - Followed in his Father's footsteps playing for the fantastically named Ukraine club Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk



South Africa XI

Time for more goalkeeper fun...

We had considered picking Andre Arendse who was at Fulham the season before they won promotion to the big time. That would be cheating though right? Wouldn't do that.... So in goal we are playing perhaps the best South African import to the Premier League, a certain Lucas Radebe!

Not only did he start his career as a goalkeeper, twice when at Leeds United, he deputised in goal! Once when John Lukic was injured in a game, and once when Mark Beeney was sent off, the latter time against Manchester United, and his performances added to his cult status at the club.

Without Radebe we are a little weak at the back. Mbulelo Mabizela was a failed project at Tottenham Hotspur, but he goes in at right back. At centre back, Aaron Mokoena steps back from defensive midfield to help out alongside Mark Fish. The former Lazio defender upon joining Charlton Athletic meant once their back line read Fish – Costa – Fortune. Genius. At left back we have Quinton Fortune, who always stepped up for Manchester United when called upon, although never an established starter for the club.

In midfield we start we Steven Pienaar, who was always handy for Everton, and less so for Spurs and Sunderland. On the left we have Eric Tinkler, who played for Barnsley in their only season in the top flight.

Centrally we have the defensive Kagisho Dikgacoi, of Fulham and Crystal Palace fame, and next to him the one time record signing for Bournemouth, Tokelo Rantie. Neither will go down in Premier League history as true greats!!

They are however better than Khanya Leshabela of Leicester City, and Percy Tau of Brighton, not yet to make their mark, or Matty Pattison of Newcastle United, who never did.

Up front we have a couple of options. Shaun Bartlett can pretty much retire off the back of his left foot volley scored for Charlton Athletic at the Valley against Leicester City – Google it - What a strike. He has to play based on that.

Phil Masinga joined Leeds at the same time as Radebe but did nothing special, so perhaps unsurprisingly the last pick is Benni McCarthy.

An outstanding first season with Blackburn Rovers helps us forget the some what below average attempts at West Ham United.



Gabriel Paletta - Argentine born former Liverpool youth player signed for AC Milan and Parma and even managed to win 3 Italian nation caps





SOUTH AFRICAN
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Andriy Pyatov - 97 time capped Ukrainian goalkeeper, in 2015, broke the record of penalties stopped in European competitions by stopping his fourth penalty playing for Shakhtar



Turkey XI

Time for even more goalkeeper fun...

There are once again no Turkish goalkeepers available for selection! So in order to proceed, we are allowing Yusuf Mersin into the team, who qualifies because he has an U18 Turkish cap, and was in Liverpool's youth team from 2011 to 2014. We shall speak of this never again!

Protecting the goalkeeper is a back four starting with Ozan Kabak. Only 21 years of age, but bought in by Liverpool to help deal with the absence of Van Dijk. He didn't do enough to earn a permanent move, but is trying once again in the Premier League this time with Norwich City.

Bad boy Alpay Ozalan gets picked for essentially thinking he could get away with roughing up David Beckham for his nation, and then expect to be welcomed back by British fans! Good luck with that – he didn't last long after that. The second centre back is a concrete wall of a defender. Took time to settle but Caglar Soyuncu is now an ever present at Leicester City and rightly so. At left back, he only appeared the 8 times but Hakan Unsal for his time at Blackburn Rovers plays.

In midfield, we play Colin Kazim Richards on the right. The well travelled attacker has to be best remembered from when he signed for Brighton as part of a Coca-Cola promotion and a fan won Brighton £250,000 to spend on a player! His Premier League time was spent with Sheffield United.

Central midfield is the strongest part to the side. The underrated Muzzy Izzet excelled at Leicester City and has a World Cup semi final appearance to his name and he plays alongside a Rolls Royce of a player Tugay Kerimoğlu. His spell at Blackburn Rovers under Graeme Souness was a master class in controlling the middle of the park.

On the left is Emre Belozoglu, who did OK at Newcastle United but never got to the levels hoped from him.

Yildiray Basturk, Jen Karacan and Kerim Frei all contenders for midfield spots but didn't challenge the first team.

Up front we considered Gokhan Tore of West Ham United, Cenk Tosun of Everton and Cengiz Under of Leicester City but In truth all 3 flattered to deceive.

Instead we partner Hakan Sukur of Blackburn Rovers with Tuncay who played for Middlesbrough, Stoke City and Bolton Wanderers in the top flight.



Lorenzo Pirola - Plays as a centre-back for Serie B club Monza, on loan from Serie A club Inter Milan

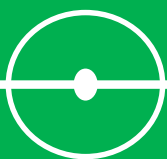




Dan Gosling - In February 2009 came on as a substitute and scored the only goal in the FA Cup fourth round replay at Goodison Park against rivals Liverpool in the 118th minute. An error by live broadcasters ITV during the match meant the goal was missed by millions of TV viewers



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



Tomas Brodin - Won 3 European trophies with Parma in the early 1990's as well as top performances with Sweden but sadly more remembered for flopping at Leeds United and Crystal Palace in England



CAPITAL CITY CONQUERORS



Andre Almeida - Benfica and Portuguese full back is the club captain and has 8 international caps to his name



CAPITAL CITY CONQUERORS

Ever just sat at home and thought about what players have played for the most Capital City clubs? No course you haven't. That's our job! And that's this article.

Long time readers will know we are happy to list England, France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Holland as the 'big 6' leagues and our quest was to find a player to have played for a club side in each of these countries capitals.

For those that bunked off Geography at school a quick reminder of the 6 Capitals we were hunting for:

London, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Rome and Amsterdam.

Spoiler alert – it can't be done, but we had a bit of fun looking around for players, and then we widened the net to see if we could find a player with the most Capital club appearances..

Our first discovery was 2 players with a certain like for the capital of England, London.

Scott Parker begun his career at **Charlton Athletic** before a move to **Chelsea**. His next capital move was to **West Ham United** via a trip up North, and then on to **Tottenham Hotspur** where he played until moving to West London, finishing his playing career at **Fulham**. 5 London clubs is no mean feat.

Unless your name is Clive Allen...



Steven Davis - His 126 caps for Northern Ireland make him the most-capped British player in history, a record previously held by former England goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, with 125 caps





Clive Allen's haul of clubs from just one capital city must be unrivalled.

Hugo Sanchez had a tremendous career in Madrid, with Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and latterly Rayo Vallecano but that is a measly 3 clubs. Clive Allen represented no less than 7 London clubs.

His stand out club was **Tottenham Hotspur**. We'll come back to that shortly.

He started his career at **Queens Park Rangers** and that won him a move to North London to Arsenal. Bizarrely, Allen never played a game for the **Gunners**, instead he almost immediately joined **Crystal Palace** as part of a swap deal for full back Kenny Sansom. He then moved back to QPR before that move to White Hart Lane and with **Tottenham Hotspur**.

Allen played for Spurs over 4 seasons, but it is his 1986-87 efforts that are simply not talked about enough. The Footballers' Player of the Year in 1987 scored 33 league goals and 49 in all competitions.



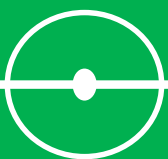
Genaro Rodriguez - Young Spanish centre back never made the grade at Sevilla, now trying his luck at Malaga





49! That is some return and not many can say they have bettered that since. In fact the 33 League goals has only ever been bettered twice since (Andy Cole & Alan Shearer with 34 a piece)

Allen went on to play for Chelsea, West Ham United and Millwall making a total of 7 London clubs. Although he never made a league appearance of Arsenal, that fact he also signed for London Broncos in 1997 to play in NFL Europe makes up for that!



Rogério - Brazilian moved to Sporting in 2004 playing on the right flank during his first season. He helped Sporting to the campaign's UEFA Cup final, played on home soil: he scored the opener in the final, but in an eventual 1–3 loss against CSKA Moscow





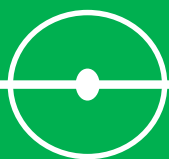
Our next focus moved to the United Kingdom and Ireland Quintet Capital Club. Is there a player to play for a Capital club in each of the 5 Capital City's ? London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Dublin and Belfast.

We think the answer is no, but we got to 60% with this selection of players.

Eoin Doyle – Shamrock Rovers, Cardiff City and Hibernian

Neil Alexander – Crystal Palace, Hearts and Cardiff City

Don Cowie – Watford, Cardiff City and Hearts.



Dedryck Boyata - Belgium centre back, a youth product at Manchester City, who after a very successful spell at Celtic and then moved on to Hertha Berlin





Rudi Skacel can lay claim to have played for 4 different Capital clubs, having featured for Hearts (Scotland), Panathinaikos (Greece), Hertha Berlin (Germany) and Slavia Prague in his home nation of the Czech Republic.



Lots of players we can list that have 3 Capital City clubs to their names, like Nicolas Anelka, Rafael Van Der Vaart, Christian Panucci or Tomas Vermaelan.

These 2 can lay claim to 4.

Jesper Gronkjaer with Ajax Amsterdam, Chelsea, Atletico Madrid and Copenhagen
And

Gabriel Heinze with Roma, Sporting Lisbon, Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid.



Mamadou Sakho - His role as captain made him the youngest-ever captain of Paris Saint-Germain at the age of 17 years and 8 months and also the youngest player to ever captain a side in Ligue 1





However our 'winner' for this article goes to John Heitinga.

Although he wins nothing he can claim to have played for 4 Capital Clubs from the 'Big 6' leagues having played for:
Ajax – Amsterdam, Holland
Atletico Madrid – Madrid, Spain
Fulham – London, England
And
Hertha Berlin – Berlin, Germany.



Aleksandr Salugin - Until October 2009, he was the youngest player ever to score a goal in the Russian Premier League, scoring a goal for CSKA Moscow on 19 November 2005 in a game against FC Alania Vladikavkaz when he was 17 years and 27 days old



Who is playing against who?

Back again for a Magic Eye XI versus XI this issue, so lets see if you can spot the theme amongst these line ups.

Back to basics this month.

We've put together 2 fixtures, one in the English Premier League and one in the Italian Serie A.

Nothing more sinister than that.

First up we are going for a South versus North Premier League battle.

Portsmouth of the South Coast take on the North East giants of Middlesbrough. Both teams find themselves fighting to return to the dizzy heights of the Premier League and finding it, like many others, a difficult task to achieve. They are also unable to play against their fiercest of rivals.

We'd like to show you a graphic of their rivals playing against each other, like a XI of Southampton players against an XI of Sunderland players but we can't....

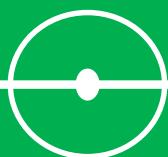
Oh hang on, wait, what's this.....we can? With the same players!

Yes, you are on to us. The Portsmouth XI is made up of players who also played for Southampton, and the Middlesbrough XI is made up of players to also have represented Sundered in their careers – so much for rivalry!

On to Italy. We wanted to show an all time XI of 'Derby della Capitale' (English: Derby of the capital city) with Lazio versus Roma but also wanted to show a graphic of the Milan Derby, where AC Milan take on the neighbours Inter Milan, but we couldn't fit both into the same issue...

As if!!!! Of course we can.

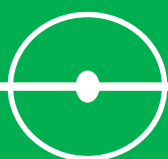
XI players to play for Inter Milan AND Lazio, versus XI players to have played for both AC Milan and Roma.



Jesús Joaquín Fernández Sáenz de la Torre or 'Suso' - Former Liverpool youth player went on to play for AC Milan and permanently at Sevilla after a loan spell there



Portsmouth and Southampton



Massimo Maccarone – A former AC Milan youth player, his spell at Middlesbrough is remembered for two last minute winners in key UEFA Cup ties in 2006 with one taking 'Boro to the final in Eindhoven

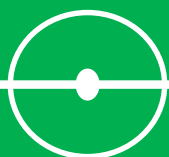


Sunderland and Middlesbrough



Borja Mayoral - Real Madrid Forward, on loan to Roma's was UEFA European Under-19 Championship top scorer in 2015





Dejan Kulusevski – Whilst on loan to Parma in the 2019-20 season he was the youngest player in the top five European leagues to have scored at least seven goals and made at least five assists. For his performances, Kulusevski was awarded the Serie A Best Young Player for the season





AC Milan and Roma



Cassano

Borriello

Bojan

El Shaarawy

Emerson

Ancelotti

Panucci

Cafu

Mexes

Romagnoli

Antonioli



Marcos do Nascimento Teixeira - Given an eight-game ban in the 2021/2022 season after a shocking attack on his own team-mate during a league match where he aimed punches and head butts!





Red Bull



Christian Abbiati - Currently holds the record for the most appearances as a goalkeeper for AC Milan (380)



Red Bull Football Franchise

Red Bull is most traditionally known as the Austrian company behind the Energy drink, and then venturing into the Formula One business, both with significant success.

It has been said, "Red Bull gives you wings....."

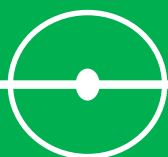
Well, Red Bull Salzburg gives you right wingers, RB Leipzig gives you right backs and New York Red Bulls gives your top drawer strikers.

The Red Bull football franchises seems to offer a lot, but where did it all come from, where's it been and where is it going?

First off, what do SV Austria Salzburg, New York MetroStars, Clube Atlético Bragantino and SSV Markranstädt FC all have in common? They are all football clubs of course, but they all have a very different identity now and in their former selves, they no longer exist.



All these clubs have been purchased by the Red Bull franchise and renamed/reformed
SV Austria Salzburg = FC Red Bull Salzburg
NY MetroStars = New York Red Bulls
Clube Atlético Bragantino = Red Bull Bragantino
SSV Markranstädt = RB Leipzig



Arnaut Danjuma - Dutch attacking midfielder, signed by Bournemouth from Club Brugge and now trying his luck at Villarreal in Spain

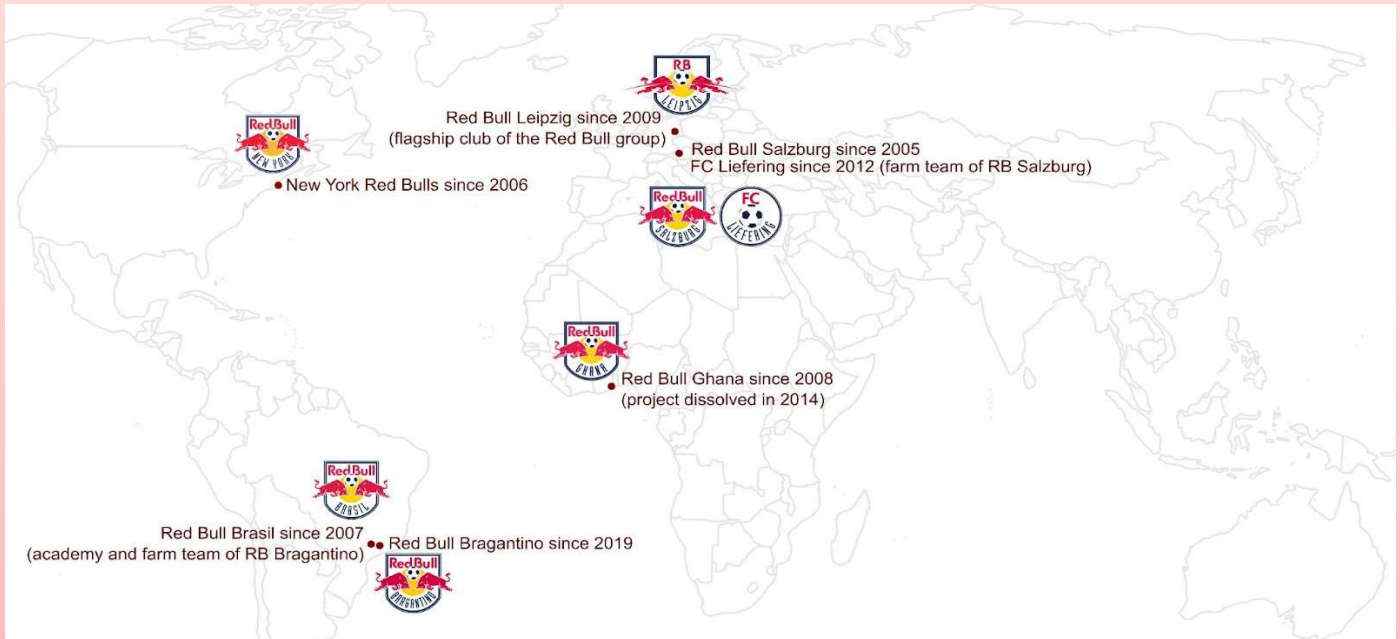


There are others of course;

New York Red Bulls II - the 2nd team for NY Red Bulls
FC Liefering - the feeder team for Red Bull Salzburg
Red Bull Brasil - the feeder team for Bragantino



These feeder teams still exist but there is a failed Red Bull Ghana team/academy who folded due to a lack of success.



Controversy

There is a dark shadow that follows the Red Bull football franchise. Some what aggressive stances and decisions when taking over clubs leave bitter tastes in the mouths of former supporters.

Red Bull Salzburg

When taking over Austria Salzburg in 2005 it was decided they would abandon and not acknowledge any of the clubs previously honours, seemingly a tactic they have tried with every takeover bar the NY MetroStars one.

Red Bull initially claimed on the club website that the club was founded in 2005, but was ordered to remove this claim by the Austrian Football Association.



Albert-Mboyo Sambu Lokonga - Over 70 appearances for Anderlecht at the age of 21, now on the books of Arsenal after a summer move in 2021



The traditional supporters of Austria Salzburg tried to resist the radical changes and formed their own movement in order to regain some of the tradition.

Several fan-clubs throughout Europe voiced their support in what they saw as a fight against the growing commercialisation of football. However, after five months of protests and talks between the club owners and traditional fans, no compromise was reached.

On 15 September 2005, the "violet" supporters stated that the talks had irreversibly broken down and efforts to reach an agreement would be terminated.

This gave rise to two separate fan groups: the "Red-Whites", who support "Red Bull Salzburg" and the "Violet-Whites", who want to preserve the 72-year-old tradition and refuse to support the rebranded club.

The Violet-Whites ultimately formed a new club, Austria Salzburg after viewing Red Bull's offer to maintain the original colours only for the goalkeeper's socks at away games as an insult.

The club's history going back to 1933 was later restored on the club website.

RB Leipzig

From 2006 to 2009 Red Bull tried and failed on a number of occasions to find a suitable club to buy in Germany. Without buying a current club, playing rights would have to be obtained and that would essentially mean starting at the bottom of the German football ladder. A mixture of support protests and interference from the German FA, not a great deal of progress was made by Red Bull, until 2009.

Red Bull considered Leipzig a most favourable place for an investment. The potential for establishing a new club in Leipzig seemed huge. The city had a rich history in football, being the meeting place for the founding of the DFB and the home of the first German national football champions, VfB Leipzig.

No team from the city had played in the Bundesliga since 1994, and no team had played in a professional league since 1998. The city hungered for top-level football. Leipzig had a population of around 500,000 inhabitants. The city thus had a considerable economic strength and fan potential. At the same time, there were no Bundesliga clubs within a wide area from the city, which further strengthened the possibility to attract sponsors and fans.

In Leipzig, exemplary infrastructure could also be found. The city had a large airport, motorway connections and most importantly: a large modern football stadium. The Zentralstadion was a former 2006 FIFA World Cup venue and the second largest football stadium in the east of Germany, after the Olympiastadion in Berlin.



Fabio Silva - Wolves record transfer signing holds a number of records at Porto including youngest starter in any competition and the youngest goalscorer in the club's history



An investment in a club playing in one of the top divisions in Germany would have been a costly affair. From previous experiences Red Bull knew that the existing traditions of such club would be a disadvantage. It also knew that an investment in a club playing in one of the top divisions would meet legal difficulties.

In 2009, Red Bull finally purchased the playing rights of fifth-tier side SSV Markranstädt, an amateur club in Leipzig, and re-named them RasenBallsport Leipzig.

The DFB would not permit the corporate name to be included in the club name. There are local rules on corporate naming of clubs. Instead, the club adopted the unusual name "RasenBallsport", literally meaning "Lawn Ball Sports". But through the use of the initials "RB", which corresponds to the initials of the company, the corporate identity could still be recognized

RB Leipzig therefore became the fifth football commitment in the Red Bull football portfolio, following FC Red Bull Salzburg in Austria, the New York Red Bulls in the United States, Red Bull Brasil in Brazil and Red Bull Ghana in Ghana. In contrast to previous clubs, RB Leipzig did not bear the corporate name as per the reasons above.

Despite multiple road blocks, protests and even changes to license approvals from the German footballing authorities, in 2016, 7 years on from 'creation' RB Leipzig won promotion to the Bundesliga top tier.

The tier 5 and tier 4 promotions where as champions, but it was runners up spots in Division 3 and 2 that assisted in the route to the top league. That has been replicated (twice) in the Bundesliga with 2nd place finishes but no silverware since the 2012/13 season, aside from a regional cup competition. The peak so far alongside qualifying for European football was perhaps the Champions League semi final appearance in 2019/20.



Fabio Vieira - Another Porto youngster, he was voted UEFA European Under-21 Championship Player of the Tournament 2021 after starring for Portugal



So what next for Red Bull? Although Salzburg are the most successful team based on trophies in the Red Bull era (8 league titles in a row) it appears the owners main footballing priority is with RB Leipzig.

There is an increasingly incestuous relationship between the clubs, mostly FC Liefering feeding RB Salzburg and Salzburg's best players heading to RB Leipzig.

There are a number of players that can count 3 Red Bull teams on their CV (e.g., Dayot Upamecano, Amadou Haidara, Konrad Laimer) and if you count youth careers we have 2 Brazilians to have played for 4 of the teams.

Goalkeeper **Carlos Coronel**, who started at Red Bull Brasil, moved to FC Liefering, then to Red Bull Salzburg and currently finds himself on loan to New York Red Bulls!

Full back **Bernardo** also started his career at Red Bull Brasil, then moved to FC Liefering, then to Red Bull Salzburg, then to RB Leipzig and likes it so much he is back at Red Bull Salzburg after spending time with Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League.

What we find notable is the players that have played for the RB clubs but then moved on.

No disrespect but the quality of players in New York Red Bull teams have been more of the retirement career moves by the likes of **Youri Djorkaeff, Thierry Henry, Rafael Marquez, Tim Cahill, Juan Pablo Angel** but we have seen exports like **Tyler Adams** and **Tim Weah** leave the club, albeit Adams to another RB team.

The quality of sales from the other RB teams is quite remarkable, and I would say on the way to Porto proportions if the trend continues.

Keita, Mane, Minamino, Kimmich, Haaland, Konate, Upamecano, and **Werner** plus a considerable more have been sold by RB north of £325 million over the past 7 seasons and those RB Leipzig fans must be fearful of the inevitable sales of current stars **Dani Olmo** and **Dominik Szoboszlai**.

The latter, the star of the Hungarian national team at present has followed the 'natural' RB pathway. Starting at Austrian club FC Liefering, then moving onto Red Bull Salzburg before a move to RB Leipzig in a transfer that made him the most expensive Hungarian of all time.

But what next for him? Build a team around him, and Olmo and look to break the Munich and Dortmund domestic dominance or merely sell him onto the highest bidder and reinvest once again?

I guess the answer lies with the owners of Red Bull and what their master plan is and if they have the energy for it.....

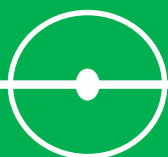
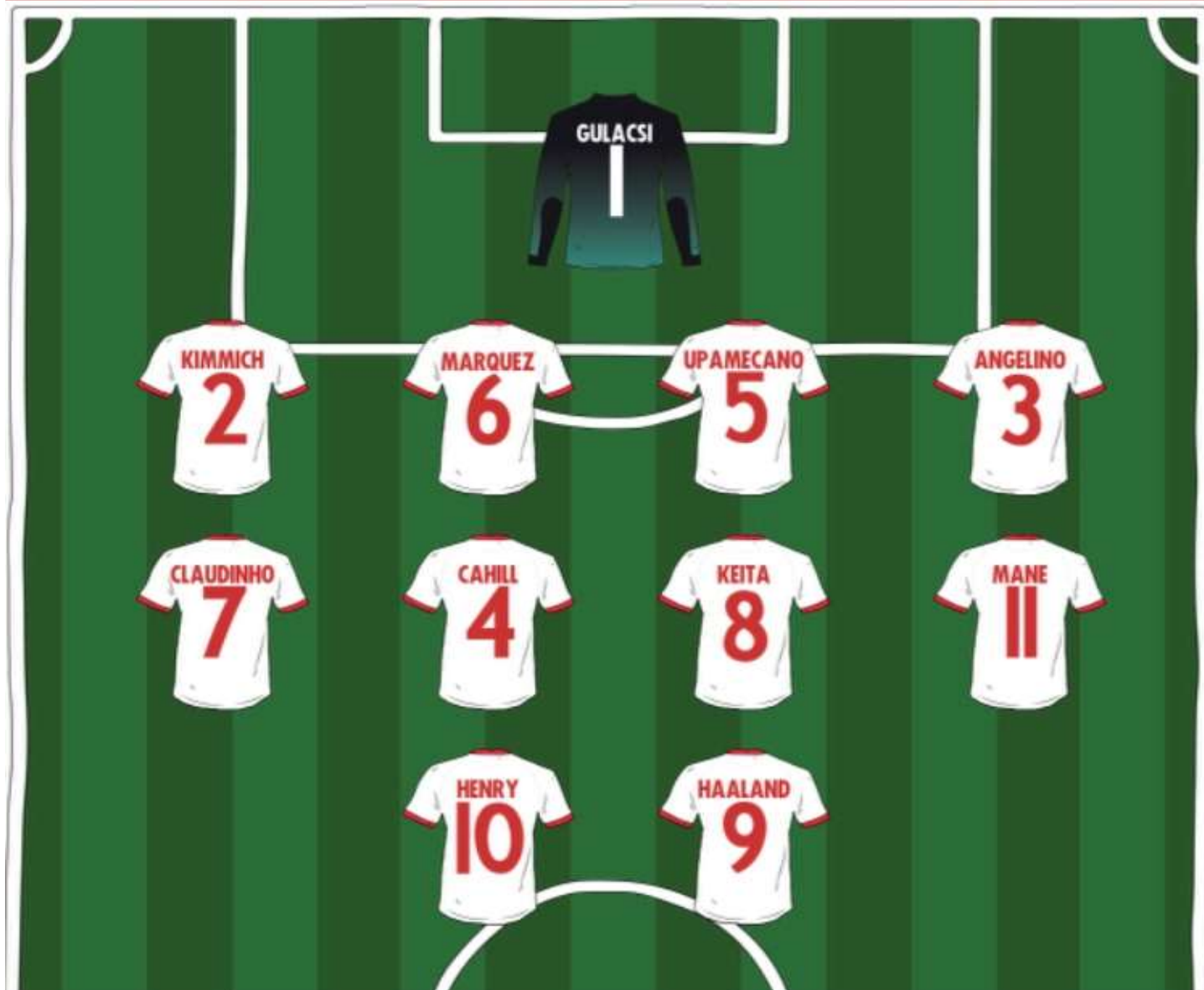


Youssef En-Nesyri - Moroccan striker starting for Sevilla after the Andalusians purchased him from Leganes



RED BULL FRANCHISE ALL STAR XI

For a bit of fun we thought we'd put together a first team XI of former and current players who have donned the Red Bull jerseys over the past 16 years. I think you could make a very good argument the team would be very competitive, and even a useful bench to call upon with the likes of Timo Werner and Marcel Sabitzer and many others left out.



Georgios Manthatis - Bulgarian born former Greek U21 winger now at Panetolikos having previously appeared for Olympiakos



The Red Bull Sale Strategy

On the below graphic we can see just some of the sales from the Red Bull clubs over the past 15 years.

RB LEIPZIG SALES			RED BULL SALZBURG SALES		
Naby Keita	Liverpool	~£48m	Paston Daka	Leicester City	~£30m
Timo Werner	Chelsea	~£47.5m	Enock Mwepu	Brighton and Hove Albion	~£20m
Dayot Upamecano	Bayern Munich	~£40m	Erling Haaland	Borussia Dortmund	~£20m
Ibrahima Konate	Liverpool	~£36m	Duje Caleta-Car	Marseille	~£15m
Matheus Cunha	Hertha Berlin	~£15m	Sadio Mane	Southampton	~£12m
Marcel Sabitzer	Bayern Munich	~£15m	Takumi Minamino	Liverpool	~£8m
		Total			Total
		~£201.5m			~£105m
NEW YORK RED BULLS			RED BULL BRAGANTINO		
Jose Altidore	Villarreal	~£7m	Claudiohinho	Zenit	~£12m
		Total			Total
		~£7m			~£12m

Worth mentioning as it is not included in the Red Bull Salzburg sales column, four of the top ten sales in their history have been purchased by RB Leipzig!



In case the ~£325 million referenced above wasn't enough, why not top it up with another ~£20 million, which was rumoured to be the 'transfer' fee paid by Bayern Munich to secure the services of former RB Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann!



Sam Rogers - American defender who plays for Norwegian club HamKam on loan from OKC Energy in the USL Championship having previously been on the Seattle Sounders 'roster'



Historical Line Ups

In this issue of Historical Line ups, we are going a little off piste with our reasonings, but when going through the list of Goals of the Season scored recently, something struck us, and it was the number of simply fantastic goals that have been smashed in against poor old Wimbledon in the past. Some absolutely belters! I am not saying it has anything to do with their now non-existent state, but to keep picking the ball out of the net can't have done the morale a great deal of good.

We picked our 5 favourites and thought we would include the line up of the team whom scored the beauty of the strike.

The beauties are, that lead onto the lines up:

- 1) Dalian Atkinson – **Aston Villa** vs Wimbledon 3rd October 1992
- 2) Denis Irwin & Eric Cantona – **Manchester United** vs Wimbledon 20th February 1994
- 3) Tony Yeboah – **Leeds United** vs Wimbledon 23rd September 1995
- 4) David Beckham – **Manchester United** vs Wimbledon 17th August 1996
- 5) Paolo Di Canio – **West Ham United** vs Wimbledon 26th March 2000

Do you have a favourite? Do you have a link of great goals scored against particular teams? Bergkamp's twist and Rooney's smash against Newcastle are pretty spectacular – can you think of any more?



Abdoulaye Fall - Senegalese midfielder started at Benfica's youth team but never made the grade and went on to play in the French, Spanish and Czech leagues

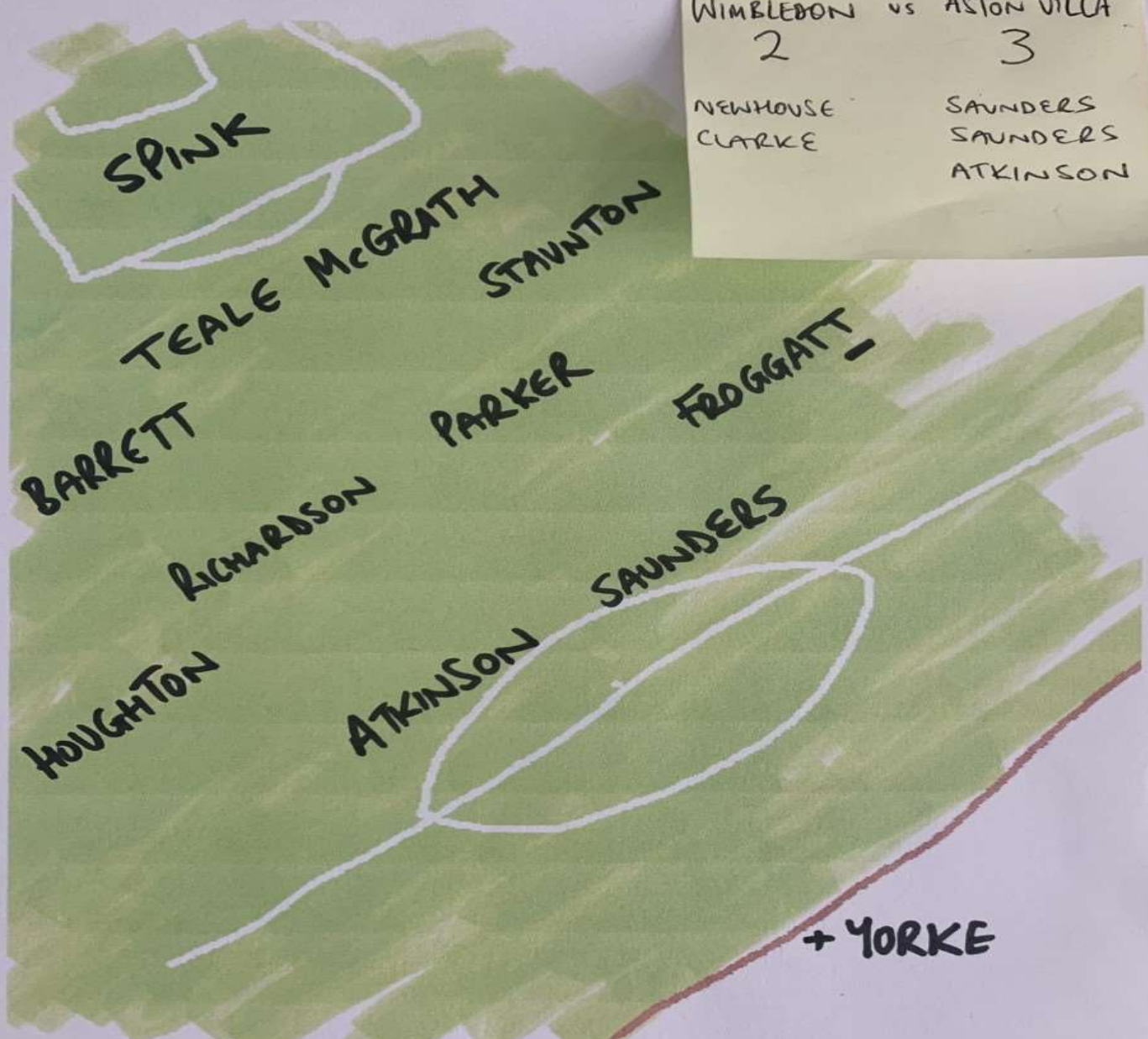


3rd October 1992

WIMBLEDON vs ASTON VILLA
2 3

NEWHOUSE
CLARKE

SAUNDERS
SAUNDERS
ATKINSON



MANAGER: RON ATKINSON



Nacer Chadli - Former Twente and Spurs wide man, the Belgium was once WBA's record transfer signing at £13m. Moves since to Monaco, Anderlecht and now in Turkey with Istanbul Basaksehir



20th February 1994

WIMBLEDON vs MANCHESTER UNITED

0

3

CANTONA
INCE
IRWIN



Pärparim Hetemaj - Finnish international with 50 caps has played for AEK Athens, Twente, Brescia and Chievo amongst others



23rd September 1995

WIMBLEDON v's

LEEDS
UNITED

2

4

HOLDSWORTH
REEVES

PALMER
YEOAH
YEOAH
YEOAH



Rhian Brewster - In 2017, he was part of the England squad which won the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup in India and was awarded the Golden Boot award for ending as the competition's leading goalscorer



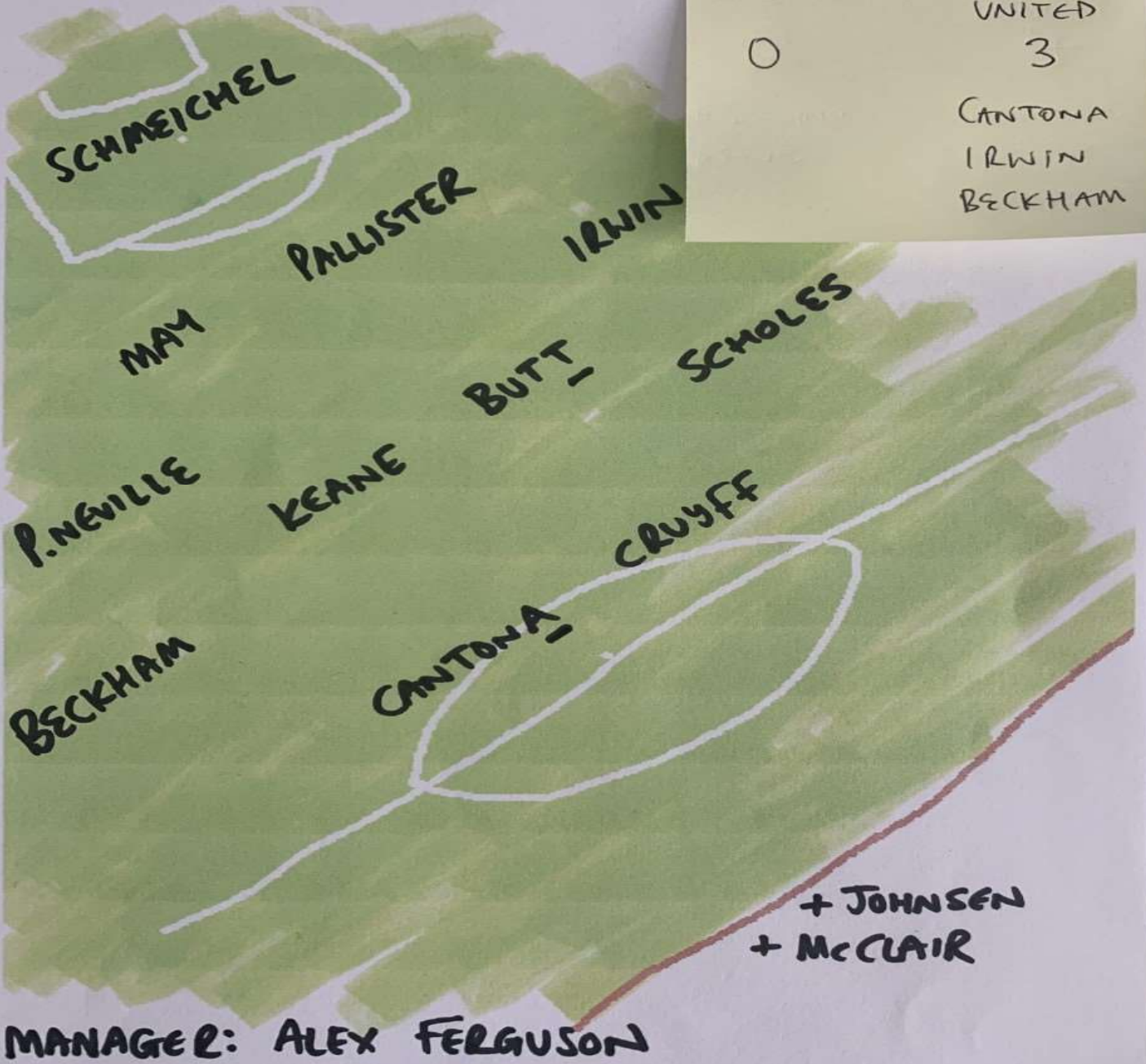
17th August 1996

WIMBLEDON vs MANCHESTER UNITED

0

3

CANTONA
IRWIN
BECKHAM



Miloš Ostojić - Former Partizan Belgrade centre back who struggled with injuries including a tumour and subsequently left the club and played in Belarus before heading back to Serbia



26th March 2000

WEST HAM UNITED vs WIMBLEDON

2 - 1

DI CANIO
KANOUTE

M. HUGHES



Aleksandr Iljin - Former Russian U19 international spent time at Dynamo Moscow before moving to the lower Russian leagues





YOU'RE OFF!!

Footballers' Suspensions

Not one to stereotype but many a rumour has been heard whereby 'foreign' players in the Premier League would purposely be red carded or look to get their 10th booking of the season just before the festive season kicked in, in order to be suspended for two or three games, and therefore get Christmas off, fly home and spend time with their families. Can't say we blame them, especially as England continues to be one of the few countries still not having implemented a Winter break. Suspensions are part and parcel of every season, but some are more bizarre, and longer than others, so we've put together a few headline suspensions received in the past that make a one game ban to get an excuse to fill your boots on a Christmas dinner a very insignificant ban.

Welcome to the Big Ban club – some of these would allow a Christmas dinner and an Easter feast with your family!!!



Alessandro Fiordaliso - A young Italian right back started on the books of Torino it now playing for Cremonese





Hristo Stoichkov – Fans of the Barcelona ‘Dream team’ will be very familiar with the Bulgarian superstar. However it almost turned out very differently. Before his time at Barca, Stoichkov, star player for CSKA Sofia, was involved in the very ugly 1985 Bulgarian Cup Final, against rivals Levski Sofia. Fights broke out on the field and in the stands, multiple red cards shown and the title ultimately stripped from CSKA (had won 2-1). Such was the Stoichkov involvement he was given a **LIFETIME** ban!!!! Luckily for him, and Barca this was eventually reduced to a year ban. For good measure, in his first season at the Nou Camp, he ‘stomped’ on a referee’s foot and received a 2 month ban for his troubles.



Joey Barton – If you better Paulo Di Canio, you are probably quite good? Di Canio once got an 11 match ban for pushing a referee.....Barton can beat that with a **12 match ban!!** Not content with elbowing Carlos Tevez, or kicking Sergio Aguerro, an attempted headbutt on Vincent Kompany was enough to give Barton this record punishment in the Premier League. We won’t mention the **5 month ban** for gambling.....



Heorhiy Sudakov - Made his debut for Shakhtar Donetsk in the 2020–21 UEFA Champions League in a winning away match against Real Madrid on 21 October 2020





Luis Suarez – I don't think any of these suspensions will come as a surprise to the reader, but perhaps the surprise is that the Uruguayan didn't learn from his mistakes!

2010 – Whilst at Ajax received a 2 match ban for biting a PSV player.

2011 – 8 match ban for racial abuse to an opponent whilst at Liverpool

2013 – Second biting incident, this time in the Premier League and a 10 match ban followed.

2014 – a THIRD biting incident, at the 2014 World Cup. A guilty verdict meant a **4 MONTH ban** of all football related activities, alongside a 9 game international ban.



Gabriele Boloca - Young Romanian centre back on the books of Juventus sent time on loan to Bologna





Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia

Firstly just look at those kits! Masterful!

Claudio Caniggia will appear the better behaved here. Whilst plying his trade in Serie A he was handed a **12 month ban** for drug abuse (taking cocaine)

Diego Maradona was too also partial to some drug abuse, and he too received a ban, also from his time in Italy. He took a **15 month ban** that ultimately ended his time in Serie A.

It was then another drug test failure that bought his International career to an end. Having tested positive for a prohibited drug for weight loss in the group stages of the 1994 World Cup, the Argentine FA sent him home although FIFA went on to ban him for a further **15 months!**

For good measure, Maradona failed a 3rd drugs test whilst playing for Boca Juniors in 1997 and it was this one that ended his football career for good.



Rio Ferdinand

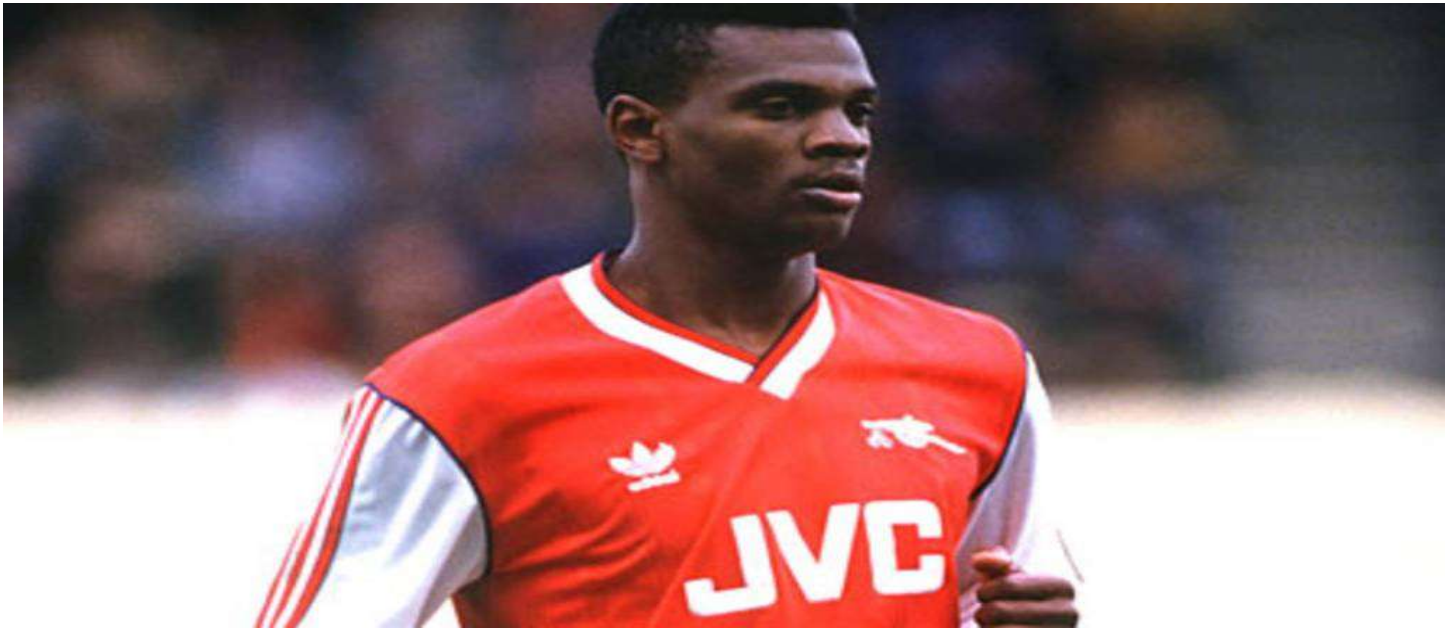
Being a world class centre back means you must have impeccable timing. Doesn't always translate to behaviour off the pitch!

In September 2003 Ferdinand forgot about a scheduled drugs test at Manchester United's training ground and instead went shopping. His punishment, despite taking a later test and passing, was a fine of £50,000 and an **8 month ban**, so he missed the rest of the season and the chance to represent England at Euro 2004.



Denis Yilmaz - Young Turkish centre back never made the grade at Fenerbahce and left to the lower Turkish leagues





Paul Davis

Arsenal midfield legend was quiet, unassuming, not overly flamboyant, just a calm and cultured central midfielder, with a very graceful left foot. He also played before the times of video replays and VAR. That didn't stop the footballing authorities throwing the book at him after he threw a nifty punch in the direction of Southampton midfielder Glenn Cockerill. Cockerill got a broken jaw and Davis got a **9 match ban**, that in 1988 was completely unheard of!!

Vinny Jones

The hardman of 1990's English football will be what he is remembered for, but his longest ban wasn't for a bad challenge, or a loose elbow or a nasty head butt. No, Jones received a **6 month ban**, for commenting on a Football Hardmen video!! It turns out glorifying football violence is frowned upon by the FA and brings the game into disrepute. Fair enough. A £20,000 fine was upheld but the ban become a suspended sentence.



Alexandre Jankewitz - One of only 4 players to be sent off in the opening 2 minutes of a Premier League game. Not ideal for his full Southampton league debut





Kevin Muscat

More cards than Clintons, more bookings than Hotel.com and more suspensions than the Golden Gate Bridge.

I don't imagine Kevin Muscat gets many Christmas cards from ex-players. He was filthy, no other way to describe it.

In England there were multiple red cards, fines, disciplines and even court cases for players suing Muscat for ending players careers.

After England he headed back to his native Australia and he carried on just as he had done in England.

The still images above are from a game in 2011. Back in the Melbourne Victory team fresh from a suspension from elbowing an opponent in the face, they faced local rivals Melbourne Heart.

Look at the height of his leg tackling Adrian Zahra. He was obviously sent off, and received an **8 match ban**. At 37, Muscat went out with a bang, as this essentially ended his season (and his opponents) and his professional playing career.



Gabriel Menino - Brazilian who plays for Palmeiras and the Brazil national team. Primarily a midfielder, he can also play as a right-back





Eric Cantona

King Eric....what a nutter. His infamous Kung Fu kick at a Crystal Palace fan not only cost him an **8 month ban**, but arguably it cost Manchester United the Premier League title that year (1994/95).

It also disrupted Cantona's run of success. 4 League titles in a row with Marseille (1991), Leeds United (1992), Manchester United (1993 and 1994). Upon his return in 1996 he won it again with Manchester United and again in 1997.

No stranger to controversy however.

1987 – Fined by Auxerre for punching a team mate

1998 – Banned **3 months** for a dangerous tackle against Nantes (reduced to 2)

1989 – Banned for **1 month** by Marseille for kicking ball into the crowd

1989 – Banned for playing for France for **12 months** as insulted the national coach

1990 – At Montpellier threw a boot at a team mate. Only a **10 day ban!**

1991 – Banned for **2 months** for throwing the ball at the referee in anger when playing for Nimes



Alexandros Nikolias – Greek left winger for AEL , on loan from Olympiacos. Started his career at AEK Athens





Adrian Mutu

In 2003, part of the new brigade bought in by Claudio Ranieri with the Abramovich money, he looked to hit the floor running at Chelsea with 4 goals in his first 3 games.

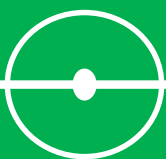
It soon turned sour, and after falling out with new coach Jose Mourinho, he then fell out with playing by the rules. A negative drugs test (cocaine) saw the Romanian receive a **7 month ban**.

That was the end of Mutu's time at Chelsea. I hear drug habits are expensive. Seems right – Mutu was sued by Chelsea and the courts ruled that Mutu had to pay Chelsea €17 million for breach of contract. Ouch.

On the theme of Chelsea and drug bans, Mark Bosnich can go one better. Actually 2 better. Upon failing a drugs test in September 2002 he was subsequently banned for **9 months**.

Kolo Toure

Here we have something we can sympathise with. Carrying a little bit of extra weight and can't shift it. Well Kolo Toure's solution was to use some of his wife's slimming tablets! Not only did he reveal to the world his wife was on slimming tablets but he hadn't realised they contained a banned substance. Ah, drats. Oh well a **6 month ban** and no football activity, that will really help shift the weight!!!



Eray Isca - 3 clubs, 9 years and 5 league appearances...what you call a reserve goalkeeper



Gerardo Bedoya

We end with what we think is a record holder...

Known as 'The General' and 'The Beast', Bedoya **accumulated 45 red cards** during a 20-year playing career - which ended in 2015!!

The Colombian represented 13 clubs in Central and South America, Bedoya impressed enough to earn moves to another Argentine side in Boca Juniors and Puebla in Mexico, but remained in Colombia for the vast majority of his career.



Quite clearly a fan of a suspension, the 'best' one was in 2012.

In the Bogota derby between Independiente Santa Fe and Millonarios on 23 September 2012, he received his 41st red card in a professional game, being sent off for the elbow and subsequent kick to the head aimed at Millonarios player Jhonny Ramirez.

The offense also got him suspended for the next **15 matches**.

To add to his 46 red cards as a player, he can add a further two dismissals arriving from the dugout since he became a coach.

He received his first as an assistant coach after just 21 minutes in 2016!!

Start as you mean to go on!!!



Franck Djoulou - Young Ivorian forward made no impact at Udinese or Torino in Italy now trying his luck at Schaffhausen in Switzerland



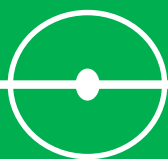
The World's Best Managers

Over the previous The Halfway Line magazine issues we have celebrated loads of footballers, be it for amazing goalscoring feats, or trophy hauls or just for being ridiculous good. What we haven't done is pick out the world's most successful football coaches and managers. Success will always be measured by titles when it comes to being a manager, so no surprise Sean Dyche is not included in our feature here for keeping Burnley in the Premier League for so long, even though that is of course a success in his eyes, and more importantly the Burnley fans' eyes!

The shortlist will unlikely come as a surprise to you, but it is worth recognising the achievements.

We've not made the link of successful players and their transition to successful coaches, so perhaps in a future issue we can recognise the Beckenbauers' and Deschamps' of this world, but not here in this issue.

For now we are looking at managerial achievements and the guys that have done it in abundance.



Claudio Vargas - Paraguayan played in Italy for Udinese and played for domestic club side Luqueno on three separate occasions





Carlo Ancelotti

When you have players at your disposal like the bench above, likelihood you will win more games than you lose, which is a vital statistic of being a great manager!

Ancelotti certainly qualifies as that. A relatively slow start at Reggiana, followed by measured success at Parma and Juventus (steering both to 2nd place Serie A finishes) it wasn't until his time at AC Milan when the silverware started arriving.

A Serie A league title alongside 2 Champions League titles amongst other Cup titles were huge reward for being the second longest serving AC Milan manager of all time.

Ancelotti then took to England to see if he could replicate the success, and a double (League and Cup) was achieved at Chelsea. The London club were not as patient as Milan, and Ancelotti was on his way, this time to Paris Saint-Germain, where his 3rd league title was won.

Then, perhaps Ancelotti's biggest challenge was to bring success to the Bernabéu with Real Madrid. His failure to win a league title in Spain was massively forgiven, as he led the Spanish giants to their 10th European Cup/Champions League. He has since followed up with League title success in Germany with Bayern Munich. 4 league titles in 4 separately leagues is a success for us and altogether we have Ancelotti down has having **20 trophies** under his guidance.



Matt Ryan - Became the 4th goalkeeper in Premier League history to concede a goal within 2 minutes of their league debut for their club (Arsenal in 2021 - 74 seconds in)





Jose Mourinho

The self proclaimed 'Special One' to be fair has the success to back that claim up. This title given to himself was after leaving Porto back in 2004...He has won quite a lot since, so perhaps he needs a rebranding as the Super Special One!!!

Domestic and European success at Porto is perhaps his biggest achievement. 2 league titles, 1 UEFA Cup and a Champions League in just 2 years, with an unfashionable Portuguese team, without the budget of his European rivals remains un-replicated and has allowed Mourinho to take some of the highest profile jobs in world club football.

At Chelsea he bought the success craved by the owners, with a somewhat extended budget, but nevertheless he achieved, twice, as he won the Premier League 10 years after winning his first.

At Inter Milan he beat his Porto achievement by winning the League, Cup and Champions League treble! His reward was a stab at the Real Madrid job and although he was able to win the La Liga title, therefore matching Ancelotti's achievement of 4 league titles in 4 different countries, his 'failure' however was the inability to win his 3rd Champions League.

Back in England Mourinho tasted success once again, this time with Manchester United domestically and in Europe, with his second UEFA Cup victory.

No great success at Tottenham Hotspur was followed but his recent appointment at Roma seems to us as the right level for the Special One to try to replicate his success achieved at Porto.

Can he add to the **25 pieces** of silverware won as a manager?



Andre Vidigal - Portuguese left winger who plays for Marítimo previously at APOEL Nicosia on loan





Marcello Lippi

The previous two managers featured, clearly had a talent for adapting to different leagues, but the common theme is those leagues are within the same continent. Not putting a dampener on the achievements, just putting it out.

Marcello Lippi has only ever won the league in one European country. In Italy, he won Serie A with Juventus on 5 separate occasions. No mean feat.

Despite 3 Champions League final defeats with the Italian giants, he was able to secure that title in 1995/96.

In 2012 Lippi then upped sticks to try his hand at management in Asia, and took over at Guangzhou Evergrande in the Chinese Super League.

He took to it rather well. Three full seasons saw the trophy cabinet filled up with three Super League titles.

The icing on the cake however was the 2013 Asia Champions League with Guangzhou Evergrande, that makes Lippi the first coach to have won the most prestigious international club competitions for clubs in different continents.

If that was the icing, the cherry on the cake is the small matter of a World Cup winning campaign as manager of the Italian Nation team in the German hosted 2006 World Cup, that completes the total of **20 trophies**.



Vid Belec - Slovenian goalkeeper previously on the books of Inter Milan and Sampdoria before finally getting game time at Salernitana





Josip 'Pep' Guardiola

If Mourinho is the Special One, there is an argument for Guardiola to be the 'Extraordinary One.'

The former Barcelona captain who led the Dream team of 1992, created his own Dream team at the club, perhaps the highlight being in the treble achieved in the 2008/09 season when he made the club unstoppable.

When he moved on to Bayern Munich he took an unstoppable team already and simply made them unimaginable. As in unimaginably good. He won the Bundesliga in his first season with 7 games to spare (a record).

Champions League success escaped him in Germany, but 3 league titles in 3 seasons, although expected, helped cushion the blow.

Onto England and the Premier League. League success with Manchester City was inevitable, and has been achieved 3 times as well as the first manager to win the English domestic treble, and the first to accumulate 100 league points in a season.

He can point to 3 leagues in 3 different countries, but to be the very best ever, he will need to add a 3rd Champions League title to his CV to add to his successes at Barcelona.

Until then he can take comfort in his **32 trophies** collected as a manager. It is difficult to seeing this total not growing in the coming years.



Victor Arboleda – A Colombian winger who played domestically before moving to the MLS with Portland Timbers, but since moved back to the Colombian leagues





Fabio Capello

Ok, we know Capello is not in the same league as Mourinho or Guardiola, but we aren't judging him on his England national team tenure!!!!

In the early 1990's post the successful broadcast of the Italy World Cup, and the free viewing of Serie A on Channel 4, Italian football was in vogue for the British football fans.

The leading team at the time were AC Milan, who had a ridiculous amount of talent to call upon. The man charged with turning that talent into victories and success was Fabio Capello and he did just that.

In amongst a 57 game unbeaten run with the club, Capello orchestrated 4 Serie A title wins in 5 seasons and in the middle of that success he took AC Milan to Champions League glory, defeating the firm favourites, Barcelona in a shock 4-0 win.

This success was noted in Spain, and Real Madrid took Capello to the Bernabéu and he repaid that faith with a La Liga title.

Back to Serie A and perhaps his most successful triumph - the 2001/01 Serie A title he won with Roma. This gave the greats like Francesco Totti and Gabriel Batistuta their only Italian top League success.

Capello then took charge of Juventus, and won two consecutive league titles, though these were later revoked, although no suggestion that Capello was part of the wrong doing.

His last domestic success was a trip back to Real Madrid in 2006/07 and securing another La Liga title some ten years after he won his first.

'Only' **15 major trophies**, but we think he deserves a mention.



Daniil Fomin - Russian defensive midfielder for Dynamo Moscow, previously played for Krasnodar and FC Ufa in Russia, with 4 international caps to his name





Bora Milutinovic and Carlos Alberto Parreira

If we don't judge a manager on winning trophies, what about the ability to continually be employable?

Bora Milutinovic, a Serbian manager (now retired) is tied alongside Brazilian Alberto Parreira having managed at **FIVE** separate World Cup tournaments, but the Serbian can lay claim to having done so in 5 consecutive World Cups and all with different teams!

(Mexico, Costa Rica, USA, Nigeria and China).

Carlos Alberto Parreira can share that claim but also point to actually winning the World Cup (Brazil 1994) as well as winning the Asian Cup with two different Asian countries, that is a unique achievement in itself.

Not bad for a manager who never played professional football himself



Thibault Moulin – Attacking French midfielder who has travelled throughout Europe who perhaps performed best at Legia Warsaw, including a strike against European giants Real Madrid





Giovanni Trapattoni

If we are including Fabio Capello, we have to include the Italian legend that is Giovanni Trapattoni. We have selected Ancelotti and Mourinho in this feature and alongside them we have Ernst Happel and Tomislav Ivic, and Trapattoni as the only 5 coaches to have won league titles in 4 different European countries. Trapattoni along with his 7 Serie A titles (*6 with Juventus & *1 with Inter Milan) was also successful in Germany (Bayern Munich), Benfica (Portugal) and Red Bull Salzburg (Austria) during his managerial career.

A fantastic statistic that comes with Trapattoni's Juventus coaching career is he remains to date the only coach to have won all three major European club trophies/competitions (European Cup, Cup Winners Cup and UEFA Cup) with the same club (Juventus). There is only one other coach to achieve the hat-trick, but Udo Lattek accomplished this with 3 different clubs. Throwing in his domestic success with the Old Lady of football, he basically won the lot with the Turin giants.

Due to the fact International trophy wins are hard to come by, we should absolutely mention he also guided the Republic of Ireland to victory in the Nations Cup in 2011.

The Nations Cup victory was Trapattoni's last of **23 successes** in his managerial career. The previously mentioned Marcello Lippi succeeded Trapattoni in 2004 as the Italy national coach, so perhaps foundations were laid for the 2006 World Cup success.



Neco Williams - Welsh right-back for Premier League club Liverpool and the Wales national team, who has a Premier League winners medal to his name





Sir Alex Ferguson

We are fairly confident you will be aware of Sir Alex Ferguson's success at Manchester United, and we will of course address this later, but you might not know just how good he was before his journey to England. His first managerial role was at St. Mirren and he turned around the club's fortunes, guiding them to the Scottish First Division championship, remarkably with a team with an average age of just 19 years of age! Then onto Aberdeen where his stock grew, significantly. Firstly he took the team to the Scottish league title in 1979/80 (first win in 15 years) and then after Scottish Cup success in 1982, Aberdeen qualified for the European Cup Winners' Cup. Not content with that, he remarkably guided the Dons to victory in the tournament, defeating European giants Real Madrid in the final in 1983. The team followed that up with a European Super Cup victory over European Cup winners Hamburg.

His time at Aberdeen ended with not just those European successes, but also 3 league titles, and multiple domestic cup victories.

What perhaps also well isn't known south of the border is in 1985, Ferguson was part of the Scottish national team coaching staff, trying to qualify for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. Managed by Jock Stein, the team needed just a point against Wales to secure a qualification play off against Australia. A 1-1 draw was achieved but celebrations were muted, as the previously unwell Stein collapsed after the game and sadly passed away in the treatment room of the Welsh national stadium. It was left to Ferguson to stir the team past Australia and qualify for the World Cup, which he did successfully.

The World Cup campaign was less successful and Ferguson stepped down having not qualified from the group stages.



Marco Cassetti - Italian right back who played for Verona, Roma (over 200 times) in Italy and Watford in England





Post 1986, and Sir Alex only ever had one more job. Not only did he have Fergie time, he had a blooming phenomenally successful time!

It took some patience however, and it wasn't until the 1990 FA Cup final victory that saw silverware won at Manchester United under Fergie. Many a rumour spoken of in the past suggest that had the FA Cup not been won, Ferguson would not have been at the helm for much longer.

But he was, and thank goodness for the club that he stuck around!

After the Cup win, it was European success, winning the Cup Winners Cup against Barcelona in 1991.

Then the Premier League was formed and the success levels grew and grew.

13 Premier League titles, 5 FA Cup wins, 4 League Cup wins and 2 Champions League wins. The first in 1999 was part of unprecedented treble.

What strikes about Ferguson that perhaps makes him different and better than the rest was his ability to rebuild teams, even when from the outside the teams he had were on top of their game (and the league most of the time).

Selling players at their peak like Paul Ince, Mark Hughes, Andrei Kanchelskis, David Beckham, Jaap Stam and Ruud Van Nistelrooy showed the ruthless streak but also the managerial genius and supreme confidence that the job would get down regardless.

We have it down that Sir Alex Ferguson won an outstanding and outrageous club **50 trophies** as a manager and with that haul we also make him the best manager we know in the modern era of football.



Aurelien Collin – French central defender, played for a number of MLS club sides, as well in Portugal and for no other than Wrexham and Gretna!



The highlights of Gianfranco Zola's first season in England.

Back heel flicking Perry before placing ball in bottom left hand corner. Chelsea 3 West Ham 0. FA Cup semi-final. April 23th 1997.

Times Flicks before delicate touch home. Chelsea 3 West Ham 0. December 21st 1996.

Mid-air layback for Newton to score. FA Cup Final. Wembley. Chelsea 2 Manchester United 0. May 17th 1997.

25 yard free kick - curling in and hitting the top corner. FA Cup 4th Round. Chelsea 4 Liverpool 2. January 25th 1997.

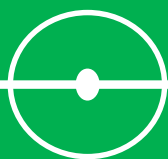
Swerving drive past the keeper. 7th Minute. Wembley, England 5 July 1996. February 1997.

The Mizuno Grandago



SERIOUS PERFORMANCE

Edge of arc dipping valley into the top corner. Chelsea 3 Sunderland 2. May 16th 1997.



Danielle Daino - Former AC Milan and Napoli right back who had a shirt spell at Derby County in the Premier League back in the 1990's



Lets Basque in the glory



Un club especial - A special club



Gabriel Iancu - Romanian forward or an attacking midfielder for Russian club Akhmat Grozny and the Romania national team previously on the books of Steaua Bucharest



Athletic Bilbao

What do Arsenal, Manchester United, Everton, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur have in common?
Never relegated from the Premier League (in existence only since 1992).

How well do you think the clubs would perform if a rule was introduced that they could only sign and play players that were from their local areas? They have all had cult heroes, local lads done good, but could they sustain their success by adopting a locals rule only? A tough ask I think it's fair to say.

What about Spain and La Liga?

Only 3 teams have never been relegated from the top flight. Real Madrid, Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao. Pretty impressive as La Liga was created back in 1929. Real and Barca are also the 2 most impressive and successful clubs in the league's history but imagine these clubs only playing players from their regions?

It would mean no Ronaldo's, Koeman's, Romario's, Zamorano's, Laudrup's, or even Spanish heroes of Sergio Ramos or David Villa's turning out for the Spanish giants. That's a pretty mental concept right?

Athletic Bilbao, the fourth most successful La Liga club, behind Atletico Madrid, believe it or not do adopt such a policy!!! Can you imagine that, in the modern era of football to stay strong to that policy!? And to retain a competitive team and stay in the top league. That's insane.

The club is one of three founding members of the *Primera División*, the others being Real Madrid and Barcelona. These three clubs, along with Osasuna, are the only four professional clubs in Spain that are not sports corporations; instead they are owned and operated by club members.

The club is known for its **cantera** policy of bringing young Basque players through the ranks, as well as recruiting players from other Basque clubs. Athletic's official policy is to sign players native to or trained in football in the greater Basque Country, which includes Biscay, Gipuzkoa, Álava and Navarre (in Spain); and Labourd, Soule and Lower Navarre (in France).

Since 1912, Athletic has played exclusively with players meeting its own criteria to be deemed Basque. This can be seen as a unique case in European football.

(Cantera, literally meaning "quarry" in Spanish, is a term used in Spain to refer to youth academies and farm teams organized by sports clubs. It is also used to refer to the geographical area that clubs recruit players from.)



Giorgos Valerianos - Greek left-back for Ionikos who made one appearance for Olympiakos and the Greek national team





The Basque Country comprises the Autonomous Communities of the Basque Country and Navarre in Spain and the Northern Basque Country in France.

The Cantera rule does not apply to coaching staff, with several examples of non-Basques both from Spain and abroad having coached the first team. One example being Howard Kendall.

The first Frenchman to play for Athletic was in 1996, when French left back Bixente Lizarazu joined the club. He only stayed one season before moving on to a successful spell at Bayern Munich.

Southampton & Bilbao?

The kit colours that Bilbao play in would you believe are 'inspired' by the Premier League club Southampton.

A Bilbao student, in 1909 was asked to bring back Blackburn Rovers kits for the club, but there weren't enough so he took Southampton kits instead, and ever since the club has worn Red and White.



Luquinhas – Brazilian forward started his career in Portugal with Vilafranquense and earned a move to Benfica, but never made the first team, and not in the Polish league with Legia Warsaw



The most successful period for the Bilbao club was in the earlier years, winning multiple La Liga's and even more Copa Del Reys. Then came a period of no success or silverware, but as mentioned, no relegation took place, so it wasn't all bad.

Then, in 1981, Javier Clemente became manager. He put together one of the most successful teams in the club's history. In 1983 the club won La Liga, and in 1984 they won a La Liga/Copa del Rey double. In 1985 and 1986, Athletic finished third and fourth respectively.

The club then had to wait another **34 years** for another trophy!

In between that time managers like Kendall, Jupp Heynckes, Javier Irureta, Luis Hernandez and Marcelo Bielsa came and went.

It was **Ernesto Valverde**, returning for his second spell, in 2015 that secured that sought after trophy. They defeated Barcelona 5-1 on aggregate in the Supercopa de España (the Charity Shield equivalent)



They followed this up in the 2020/2021 version again defeating Barcelona in the final (the game Leo Messi received his first ever club red card).

Just to labour the point, on the match day Barcelona had **11 different nations** represented in their squad, Bilbao of course had **just the 1**.



Samuel Di Carmine - Former Italian striker who when at Fiorentina had a loan spell at QPR in 2008



Athletic Bilbao Club legends

Telmo Zarra or simply Zarra

The Spanish striker spent the majority of his career at Athletic Bilbao, from 1940 to 1955, for whom he remains the top scorer in competitive matches with **335 goals**.

Zarra signed for Athletic after playing one season for Erandio. He became a prolific goalscorer in his 15 seasons at the club, winning the Pichichi Trophy as the highest scorer in La Liga on six occasions. During his career, Zarra scored a total of 251 league goals, a Spanish record that lasted nearly six decades before being broken by Lionel Messi. His 81 goals in the Copa del Rey remain a record.

In the 1950–51 season Zarra was able to score 38 goals in 30 league games, a Spanish record that stood until the 2010–11 season.

Iker Muniain

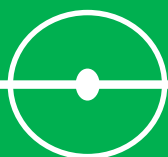
The current captain of Athletic Bilbao, Muniain is 28 years of age now, but he made his debut for the club at the age of 16 years, 7 months and 11 days old, making him the second youngest player to wear the clubs shirt. One week later, he netted his first goal, in a 2–1 win that qualified for the playoff rounds; he again entered the club's record books as the joint-second-youngest player to find the net (16 years, 7 months and 18 days) in a competitive match

Aritz Aduriz

Muniain has the record for the youngest scorer, Aritz Aduriz holds it for being the eldest, scoring as a 38 year old for Bilbao in what was his third spell at the club, and his most successful. Having never in his previous 2 spells broken double figures for goals in a season, he did for the first 6 of his 8 season spell before retirement. The highlight perhaps scoring a hat trick against Barcelona in the first leg of the Supercopa de España that won the club the trophy and his first as a professional.

Julen Guerrero

One club men are often revered and no difference here for Guerrero. 430 appearances for the club over a 14 year career, but his loyalty was never rewarded with any silverware, apart from on a individual basis, winning La Liga Break through player in 1993 and Spanish player of the year in 1994.



Pasquale Schiattarella - Former Torino youth midfielder who played for Livorno and SPAL amongst others



Iñaki Williams



The Spanish forward, the current number 9 at the San Mames, of course born in the Basque region holds one Spanish cap to his name.

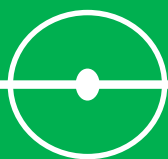
The reason for his legendary status, in our eyes, is somewhat phenomenal.

Williams broke into the first team in the 2014/15 season, and cemented his place the following year. What happened then, I think is unlikely to be repeated.

From the start of the 2016/17 season, to date (3 games into the 2021/22 season) Williams has not missed a La Liga game for Athletic Bilbao!! **THAT IS OVER 5 SEASONS!!!**

Unsurprisingly the occasion he marked his 133rd consecutive appearance in the Spanish top tier, he established a new club record previously held by Carmelo Cedrún, and as of now, he is up to **193** league games in a row.

By way of comparison, Frank Lampard holds the record for the most consecutive games by an outfield player in the Premier League with 164 games.



Francisco Conceição - Now the number 10 for Porto and happens to be the managers son, Sergio, the former Portuguese international





Floodlit? Not me! I'm glowing with Hot BOVRIL

Bovril, steaming hot, is the stuff to get you glowing. It drives out the shivers. Puts new life and courage into you. Have some every day—and feel the benefit.

BOVRIL *puts beef into you*

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Radoslaw Majewski - Former polish international spent time with Nottingham forest and Huddersfield before heading back home to Lech Poznan





THE BOOT ROOM

If you are going to be a successful Italian Sports brand, and launch a successful football boot, it probably does you quite well to hire the help of one of the best footballers in the world to wear them. That is exactly what Lotto did in the early 1990's. Dutchman, and AC Milan legend **Ruud Gullit** was sponsored by Lotto and it certainly helps with the appealing nature of the boot we have submitted to the Boot Room. We are selecting the **1989 Lotto Go Ruud Gullit Boot** and it's a boot you'd expect from an Italian brand.



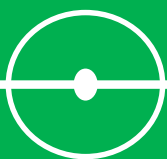
Stylish, simply and sexy.

The floppy fold over tongue.
The players signature embossed.
The simple logo.
Pure black leather.
Secondly colour ensures it matches the players club kit,
Classy.



Nicolas Tavel - A French footballer who currently plays for FK Sūduva in Lithuanian as a defender





Vandinho - Brazilian defender spent most of his professional career in Portugal, amassing Primeira Liga totals of 182 matches and nine goals over eight seasons mainly for Braga



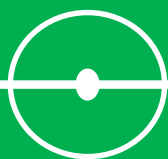
Forgot they played for them?

They'll always be a healthy chat when it comes to naming your favourite player to represent your club. For some club's obvious candidates will dominate (top goalscorer 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 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 fan favourite.

In this issue we look at Premier League teams, past and present. Watford, Bradford City and Wolverhampton Wanderers are the 3 teams in this issue.

Have a look at the line ups and see if you remember the players pulling on the shirt in and when you can't, try to rack that memory bank and work out when and perhaps more relevant, why???



Roman Bezjah – Slovenian international forward made his name at club side Celje before a spell with Ludogorets Razgrad, and has also played in the Croatian and Cypriot leagues



WATFORD



Wenderson Rodrigues do Nascimento Galeno commonly known as Galeno or Galas - Brazilian footballer who plays as a forward for Portuguese club S.C. Braga, formerly of Porto



BRADFORD CITY



Lovre Kalinic - Croatian International goalkeeper on the books of Aston Villa but back on loan to former club Hajduk Split having not made a huge impression at Villa Park



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS



Kemar Lawrence - The Jamaican International former New York Red Bulls left back moved to Anderlecht and now playing to Toronto back in the MLS



TREATMENT ROOM

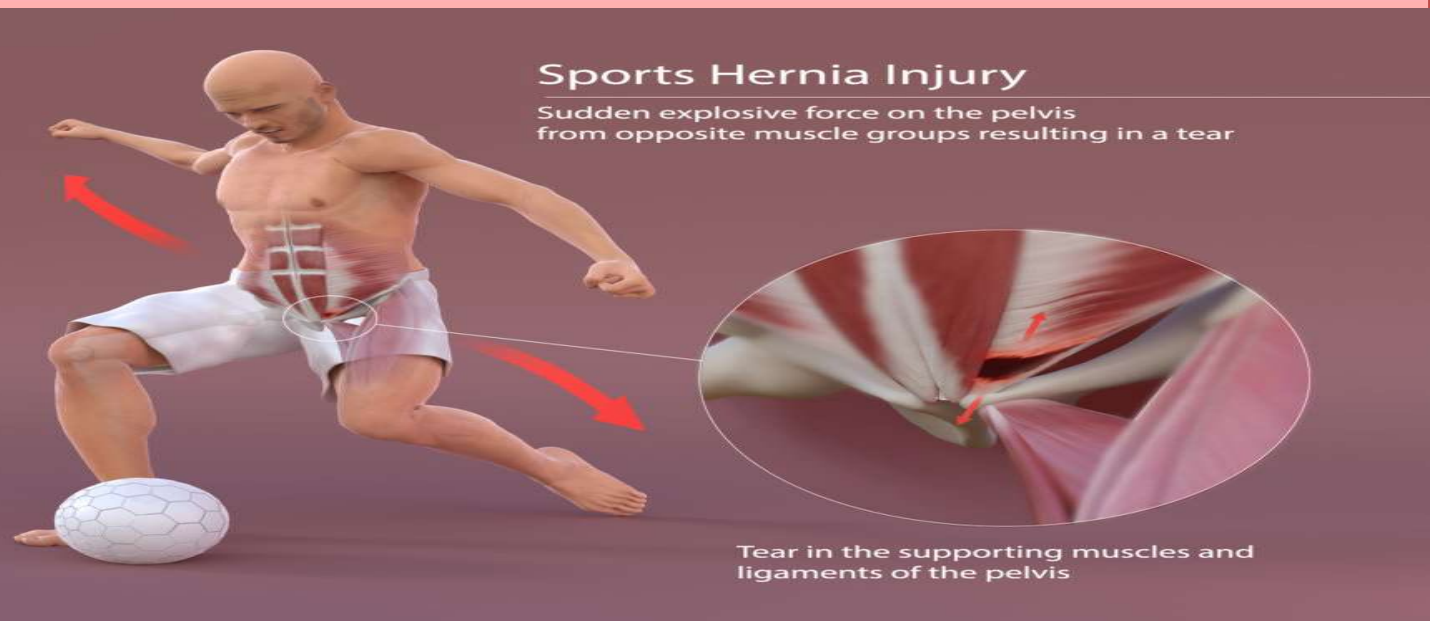
Sports Hernia

Playing football tends to result in more injuries than other sports, most of which occur on the pitch rather than in training. One third of football injuries develop over a period of time through the overuse of certain muscle groups, especially in the lower body, or by continuing to play when you already have a slight injury.

What Causes a Sports Hernia?

A sports hernia is not a hernia in the traditional sense, because it doesn't create a hole in the abdominal wall. A sports hernia is caused when muscles in the abdominal wall are weakened through overexertion, causing a tear in the groin muscles. If you suffer a sports hernia, your groin will be very stiff and sore, and moving normally will be painful. This type of injury is very common in football because a great deal of pressure is exerted on the pelvic area when kicking, sprinting and turning.

Prevention of a Sports Hernia



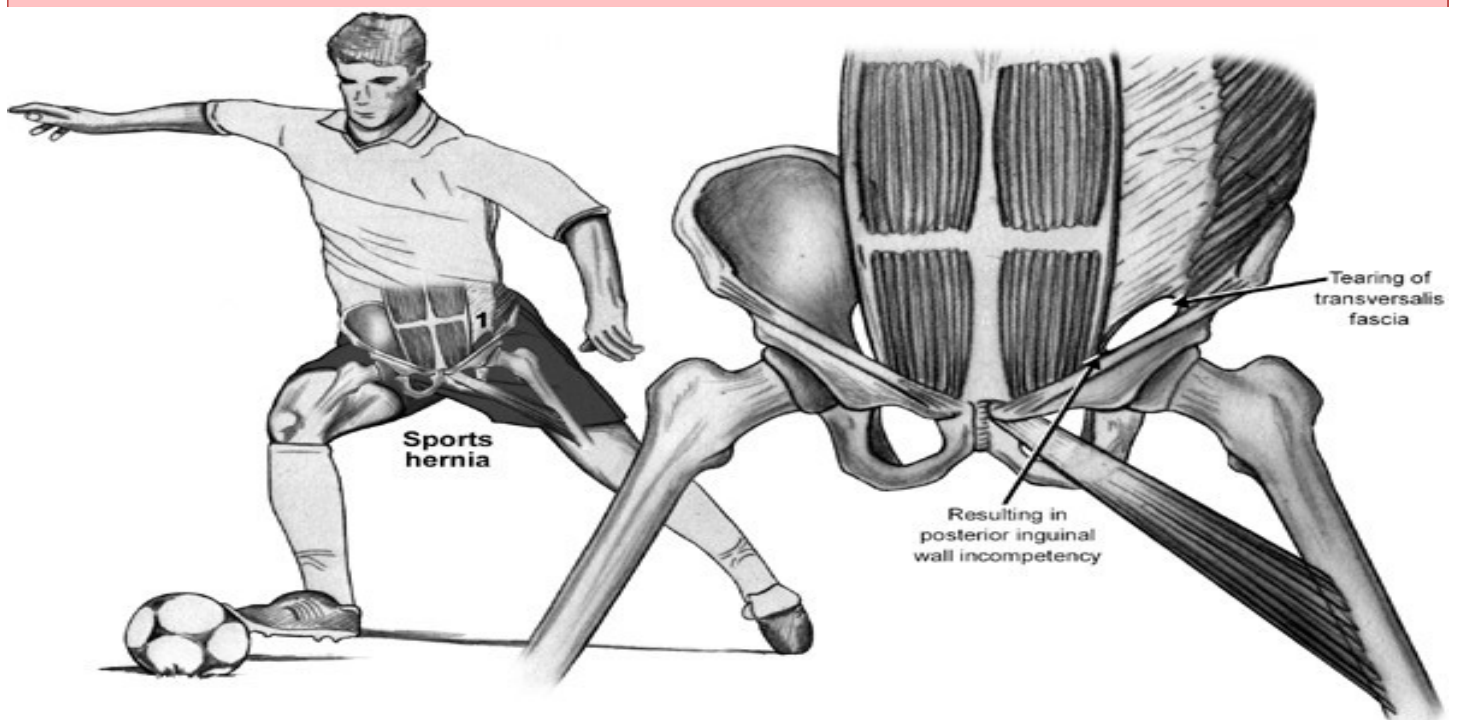
Mattia Sprocati - Joined Parma on loan from Pavia in January 2012, but never played a game but now back at the club re-joining them in 2018



Doing more core strength and core stability exercises will strengthen pelvic muscles, which will help players to withstand the large amount of force that this area of the body is subjected to when playing football. This will help to reduce the risk of developing a sports hernia.

Treatment for Sports Hernias

In some cases it is possible to continue playing after suffering a sports hernia, but the injury will probably get worse if left untreated. Sports hernias can often be difficult to diagnose, so it is advisable to see a hernia specialist who may take a MRI scan to confirm it. Getting plenty of rest, using ice treatment and taking anti-inflammatory drugs will reduce the pain and swelling in the short term. Physiotherapy will also help. If the injury doesn't get better after taking these measures, surgery may be necessary to repair the weakened area of the abdominal wall. Rehabilitation following surgery usually takes about 8 weeks.



Jesús David Murillo Largacha - Colombian defender for Major League Soccer club Los Angeles FC but yet to get an international cap



COUNTRY FOCUS

For this issue of The Halfway Line we are focusing on **Ghana**.

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) is the governing body of association football in Ghana, based in Accra. Founded in 1957, the association was dissolved with "immediate effect", according to Minister of Sport, on 7 June 2018, after the uncovering of a corruption scandal. In October 2019, a new president, Kurt Okraku, was elected and the association reconvened upon the completion of the work of the FIFA Normalization Committee.



The Ghana Premier League is the top professional football division of the football league system in Ghana. Formed officially in 1956, the league is organized by the GFA.

It has been dominated by club sides Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak.

Asante Kotoko have won the title 24 times, and Hearts of Oak playing catch up with 21.

The men's nation team, known as the Black Stars is a member of both FIFA and CAF. The nation has won the Africa Cup of Nations of 4 occasions, but their latest triumph in the competition was back in 1982. More recent success came when reaching the quarter finals of the World Cup in 2010, only to be defeated by Uruguay on penalties. They have qualified for the tournament on 2 other occasions.

The poster boy for the national team is Asamoah Gyan. The former Sunderland player holds the record for the most number of international caps (109) and boasts an impressive record as the nations top goalscorer with 51 goals.

Perhaps the most successful Ghanaian is that of Abedi Pele, a three time winner of African Footballer of the year, who flourished with Marseille in the early 1990's winning the Champions league in 1993.



Marko Jankovic – Montenegro winger who signed for Partizan Belgrade on 3 separate occasions, and spent time in Italy with SPAL and Crotone. 25 international caps to his name also



Abedi Pele can also lay claim to assisting in the number of Ghanaians to have played in the Premier League. There have been 28 in total.

He is the father of **Andre Ayew** and **Jordan Ayew**, who have represented 4 Premier League clubs between them.

One of the first to appear was also one of the best. **Tony Yeboah** joined Leeds United in 1994, seemingly determined to create his own Goal of the Season competition!!



Arguably the best Ghanaian import to the Premier League would have to be Michael Essien. Signed by Chelsea from Lyon in 2005, he was at the time the most expensive African Footballer in the world, at a reported £24 million.

He won the Premier League twice, 3 FA Cups, 1 League Cup and was considered by many as one of Jose Mourinho's most important players, and Mr Reliable.

Arsenal fans no doubt in complete hope, compatriot Thomas Partey can replicate some of that success.



Fiorin Durmishaj - An Albanian-born Greek international who plays as a forward for OFI having previously signed for Olympiakos



Quiz time

Try your luck with the following questions and find out the answers next month

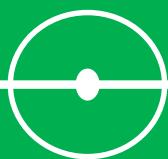
1. With player assisted both Eric Cantona's chip against Sunderland and David Beckham's halfway line strike against Wimbledon?
2. Name 2 Germans to reach World Cup finals as players and managers?
3. Name 5 British sides Phillip Senderos player for ?
4. Can you name the 7 players to wear the number 9 shirt for Newcastle since Alan Shearer left?
5. Can you name the 9 teams to have won the European Cup/Champions League only once?
6. Who was the first manager to be sacked by a Premier League club?

Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Claude Makalele, Juan Sebastian Veron, Davor Suker, Alen Boksic and Giovanni – Who am I?
2. I have played with Roy Keane, Darko Kovacevic, Roberto Mancini, Michael Dawson and Paolo Di Canio – Who am I?
3. I have played with Freddie Ljungberg, Dean Ashton, Gareth Bale, Robbie Savage, Alex Hleb and Kevin Nolan – Who am I?
4. I have played with John Barnes, Michael Laudrup, Tony Yeboah, Stuart Pearce and Dean Saunders – Who am I?
5. I have played with Romario, Ronaldo, Teddy Sheringham, Gheorghe Hagi, Freddie Bobic and Valeri Bojinov – Who am I?

What club links the following players?

1. Dean Windass, Owen Morrison, Alan Quinn & Rob Kozluk?
2. Marcus Bent, Darren Beckford, Robbie Earle & Steve Guppy??
3. Bradley Wright-Phillips, Taribo West, Emile Mpenza & Vincent Pericard?
4. Christian Vieri, Vladimir Jugovic, Demetrio Albertini & Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink?
5. Marcel Desailly, Didier Deschamp, Mo Johnston & Dmitri Payet?
6. Hidetoshi Nakata, Vincent Candela, Marcos Alonso & Christian Wilhelmsson?
7. Maurizo Ganz, Alvaro Recoba, Massimo Taibi & Joachim Bjorklund?
8. Adrien Rabiot, Florian Lejeune, David Brooks & Loris Karius? (this is one slightly off piste)



Federico Bonazzoli - In 2014 he became the second youngest footballer to play in Serie A for Inter aged 16 years, 11 months and 27 days. Moved onto Sampdoria and now out on loan



Quiz Answers from Issue #12

1. Name all Mark Hughes' club sides he played for? **Manchester United, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Everton, Southampton and Blackburn Rovers**
2. What links Zinedine Zidane, Jurgen Kohler, Edgar Davids and Mark Van Bommel? **All sent off in their last game as professionals**
3. Steven Gerrard, Hernan Crespo and Dmitri Alenichev, Diego Godin and Pedro have what in common? **Scored in both Europa League (UEFA) and Champions League finals**
4. What 3 clubs link John O'Shea and Phil Bardsley? **Manchester United, Sunderland and Royal Antwerp**
5. 16 out of the 22 man 1998 French World Cup squad have played in the Premier League – can you name them all? **Go google it, we can't fit them all in!!**
6. Who was the first Englishman to score a Premier League hat trick? **Mark Robins (Norwich)**
7. Who was the first player to score 4 goals in the Premier League fixture? **Efan Ekoku (Norwich)**
8. Matthew Le Tissier (*2), Roque Santa Cruz, Dwight Yorke and Dion Dublin have what in common in regards to Premier League hat tricks? **Scored hat tricks but been on the losing side**

Teammates and managers (all club level)

1. I have been club teammates with Gianluca Festa, Marcel Desailly, Diego Maradona, Tomas Brodin and Laurent Blanc – Who am I? **Gianfranco Zola**
2. I have played with the following....Heurelho Gomes, Ronaldinho, Alex, Julian Belletti, Thiago Silva, Lucio, Ze Roberto, Pato, Robinho but I am not Brazilian – Who am I? **Mark Van Bommel**
3. My strike partners have been Alan Shearer, Robin Van Persie, Pierre Van Hoojdonk, Andriy Shevchenko, Mario Gomez, Diego Forlan and Roy Makaay – Who am I? **Jon Dahl Tomasson**
4. I have had the club teammates Alen Boksic, Hernan Crespo, Juan Sebastian Veron, Emre, Roberto Carlos, Luis Figo and Obefami Martins, but I have never played for Lazio or Inter Milan – Who am I? **Geremi**
5. My former club teammates include Colin Hendry, Kevin Horlock, Terry Cooke, Fabian Delph, Dietmar Hamann, Steve Howey, Sylvain Distin, Richard Dunne, Wilfried Bony, Stuart Pearce and Scott Sinclair. All of these are former Manchester City players, as am I, but I never played at City with any of them. Who am I?

Shay Given

What club links the following players?

1. Mauricio Pochettino, Philippe Coutinho, Albert Riera and Pablo Zabaleta? **Espanyol**
2. Rafael Van Der Vaart, Denilson, Nabil Fekir and Roque Santa Cruz? **Real Betis**
3. Joe Hart, Rolando Bianchi, Denis Law and Alex Manninger? **Torino**
4. Glyfi Sigurdsson, Roberto Firmino, Reiss Nelson and David Alaba? **Hoffenheim**
5. George Weah, John Collins, Mark Hateley and Florin Raducioiu? **Monaco**
6. Bryan Ruiz, Cheick Tiote, Marko Arnautovic and Dusan Tadic? **FC Twente**
7. Danielle Di Rossi, Nicolas Burdisso, Gabriel Batistuta and Juan Sebastian Veron? **Boca Juniors**
8. Jay-Jay Okocha, Bernard Mendy, Hendrik Pedersen and Robert Koren? **Hull City**

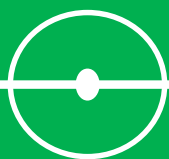


Dennis Man - Romanian who plays mainly as a winger for Serie B club Parma and the Romania national team. He is considered to be one of the best forwards in his country. Currently the most expensive export from the Romanian league



Page number glossary: Shows player and seasons they wore the associated number

1	Dave Beasant	Wimbledon	1986-1988	51	Youssef En-Nesyri	Sevilla	2019-2020
2	Daniel Carvajal	Real Madrid	2016-2022	52	Georgios Manthatis	Olympiakos	2015-2017
3	Steve Finnan	Liverpool	2003-2008	53	Samuel Rogers	Seattle Sounders	2016-2017
4	Mikel Arteta	PSG	2000-2002	54	Abdoulaye Fall	Benfica	2007-2008
5	Georgi Wijnaldum	Liverpool	2016-2021	55	Nacer Chadli	Anderlecht	2019-2020
6	Ivan Helguera	Real Madrid	2000-2006	56	Perparim Hetemaj	AEK Athens	2006-2010
7	Roy Makaay	Deportivo La Coruna	1999-2003	57	Rhian Brewster	Liverpool	2016-2017
8	Hristo Stoichkov	Parma	1995-1996	58	Milos Ostojic	Partizan Belgrade	2008-2009
9	Pierre Van Hooijdonk	Feyenoord	2001-2003	59	Aleksandr Iljin	Dynamo Moscow	2010-2012
10	Rivaldo	Barcelona	2000-2002	60	Alessandro Fiordaliso	Torino	2017-2018
11	Angel Di Maria	PSG	2015-2022	61	Georgiy Sudakov	Shakhtar Donetsk	2020-2021
12	Abel Xavier	Galatasaray	2002-2003	62	Gabriele Boloca	Bologna	2019-2020
13	Maxwell	Ajax	2001-2003	63	Deniz Yilmaz	Fenerbahce	2018-2019
14	Phillippe Coutinho	Barcelona	2017-2022	64	Alexandre Jankewitz	Southampton	2019-2021
15	Bonaventure Kalou	PSG	2005-2007	65	Gabriel Menino	Palmeiras	2019-2020
16	Arjen Robben	Chelsea	2004-2007	66	Alexandros Nikolias	AEK Athens	2012-2013
17	Andy Cole	Manchester United	1994-1996	67	Eray Iscan (GK)	Galatasaray	2012-2018
18	Dirk Kuyt	Liverpool	2006-2012	68	Franck Djoulou	Udinese	2017-2018
19	Nicolas Pepe	Arsenal	2019-2022	69	Claudio Vargas	Udinese	2007-2008
20	Henning Berg	Blackburn Rovers	1993-1997	70	Mathew Ryan (GK)	Genk	2016-2017
21	Frenkie De Jong	Ajax	2016-2019	71	Andre Vidigal	APOEL Nicosia	2018-2020
22	Umit Davala	Galatasaray	2000-2002	72	Vid Belec (GK)	Sampdoria	2017-2019
23	Julian Draxler	PSG	2016-2022	73	Victor Arboleda	Portland Timbers	2016-2017
24	Shane Long	Reading	2005-2009	74	Daniil Fomin	Dynamo Moscow	2020-2022
25	Jan Klass Hunterlaar	Ajax	2005-2006	75	Thibault Moulin	Legia Warsaw	2016-2018
26	Rustu Recber (GK)	Fenerbahce	1999-2000	76	Neco Williams	Liverpool	2019-2022
27	Serginho	AC Milan	1999-2008	77	Marco Cassetti	Roma	2006-2012
28	Yevhen Shakhov	Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk	2012-2016	78	Aurelien Collin	Orlando City	2014-2016
29	Gabriel Paletta	Parma	2010-2015	79	Daniele Daino	AC Milan	2000-2002
30	Andriy Pyatov (GK)	Shakhtar Donetsk	2007-2022	80	Gabriel Iancu	Steaua	2012-2016
31	Lorenzo Pirola	Inter Milan	2019-2021	81	Georgios Valerianos	Olympiakos	2009-2012
32	Dan Gosling	Everton	2007-2009	82	Luquinhas	Legia Warsaw	2019-2022
33	Tomas Brolin	Parma	1996-1997	83	Samuel Di Carmine	Fiorentina	2006-2007
34	André Almeida	Benfica	2011-2022	84	Pascal Schiattarella	Torino	2006-2007
35	Steven Davis	Rangers	2008-2009	85	Francisco Conceição	Porto	2020-2021
36	Genaro Rodríguez	Sevilla	2019-2020	86	Radoslaw Majewski	Lech Poznan	2016-2018
37	Rogério	Sporting CP	2004-2005	87	Jérémy Taravel	Dynamo Zagreb	2013-2016
38	Dedryck Boyata	Manchester City	2010-2015	88	Vandinho	Braga	2004-2011
39	Mamadou Sahko	PSG	2006-2007	89	Roman Bezjah	APOEL Nicosia	2018-2020
40	Aleksandr Salugin	CSKA Moscow	2004-2007	90	Galeno	Porto	2017-2018
41	Suso	Sevilla	2019-2020	91	Lovre Kalinic (GK)	Gent	2016-2019
42	Massimo Maccarone	AC Milan	1996-1997	92	Kemar Lawrence	Anderlecht	2019-2021
43	Borja Mayoral	Real Madrid	2014-2015	93	Mattia Sprocati	Parma	2018-2021
44	Dejan Kulusevski	Parma	2019-2020	94	Jesus Murillo	Los Angeles FC	2019-2020
45	Marcão	Galatasaray	2018-2022	95	Marko Jankovic	Partizan Belgrade	2016-2017
46	Christian Abbiati	AC Milan	2004-2005	96	Florin Durmiskaj	Olympiakos	2019-2020
47	Arnaut Danjuma	Club Brugge	2018-2020	97	Federico Bonazzoli	Sampdoria	2017-2018
48	Albert Sambi Lokonga	Anderlecht	2017-2021	98	Dennis Man	Parma	2020-2022
49	Fábio Silva	Porto	2019-2020	99	Marcelo Moreno	Shakhtar Donetsk	2008-2012
50	Fábio Vieira	Porto	2019-2022	100	Seb Larsson	AIK	2021



Marcelo Moreno - Former Shakhtar forward, the Bolivian national team all time top scorer who once had a spell at Wigan in the Premier League, albeit somewhat uninspiring



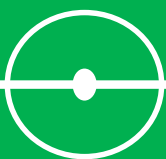
What's coming up in the next issue of The Halfway Line?

- The craziest club owners
- Club focus on Fenerbahce
- The most bizarre footballing injuries



And the usual:

- The Boot Room
- Classical Kits
- Historical Line Ups
- The Treatment Room
- Forgotten Men
- Team XI never to have...
- And much much more



Sebastian Larsson - The Swedish international sits in the top ten free kick scorers in Premier League history and recently recognised for 100 appearances for Swedish club side AIK



DEADLY, ONCE THEY'RE IN THE BOX.



Trouble is, McVitie's Jaffa Cakes are so delicious you'll want to do all the finishing yourself. One taste of that great centre and you've just got to go for a double, or a treble. No wonder they're Man United's favourite half-time snack, especially as they're high in energy and low in fat. And here's your chance to join Man United on a special training day. There are over 100 places to be won, so see packs for details or visit www.manutd.com/jaffacakes.

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