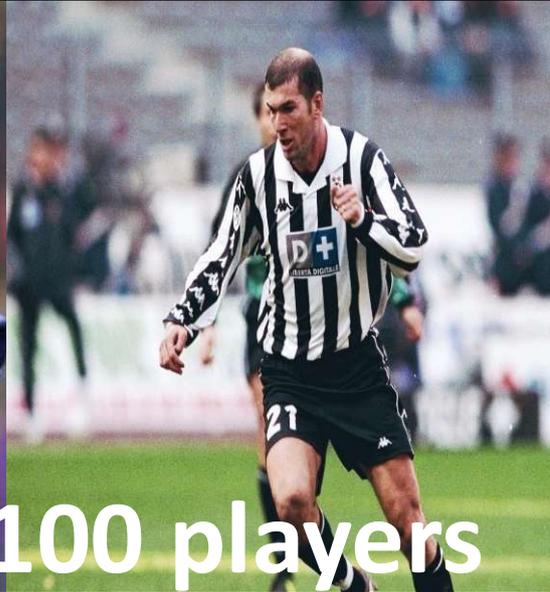


The



Halfway Line



The Halfway Line top 100 players Who will be on top?

The issue contains all your usual favourite features plus lots more!



Getting to grips with the
Brazilian league structure



Teams with the most league
titles in a row revealed



Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

Guys and girls! It's been a long time. Our 14th issue was released back in December last year and we find ourselves in June. I hope you missed us. We've not been suspended, nor on the treatment table with an ACL, or seeing out our contract in order to move on a Bosman, we've simply been super busy. A lot of this year has been spent drafting a book would you believe. The Halfway Line diversified somewhat and wrote a fun book on what makes the 'Perfect Football Shirt.' You'll be no doubt delighted this is available to read at your leisure by downloading a copy from our website, www.thehalfwayline.org

Take a look and let us know what you think.

What else has been going on? Bayern Munich won the Bundesliga. Also, news just in, water is wet! It was the German giants' 10th league victory in a row, so to recognise that we have a feature showing which clubs have the most consecutive league title wins.

Also in this issue, we feature the structure of the Brazilian league. It has always interested us here at the HWL how it differs from the European leagues and so we thought we'd take a closer look.

And as well all the usual features, we've got a special countdown of what we believe to be the greatest 100 footballers, ever! (and when we say ever, we mean since we started watching football)

So there you have it, back with a bang.

Grab a copy, remember the HWL brings you free content, in a world where a worn, presumably unwashed 36-year-old football shirt costs £7,142,500 million.

Oh, and as usual, please enjoy.



Santiago Canizares – Former Spanish international goalkeeper who played 305 of his 500 career league appearances for Valencia in La Liga



The Halfway Line Up

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Achraf Hakimi – Great statistic for the Moroccan right-back is he has played club football with Ronaldo, Messi, Neymar, Mbappe, and Haaland, arguably the most talked about players of the last two decades



Premier League Red Card Best XI

Here's our best Premier League XI in terms of totting up red cards during their top-flight Premier League career. We've kept it to positions which means some players miss out that you may have expected to see, e.g., Roy Keane (7) Gareth Barry (6), and Steven Gerrard (6)

Jussi Jääskeläinen - Played for Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United, and amassed 436 games, and with it came **6** red cards

Richard Dunne - Played for Everton, Manchester City, Aston Villa, and Queens Park Rangers, and amassed 431 games, and with it came **8** red cards

Younes Kaboul - Played for Tottenham Hotspur, Sunderland, Portsmouth, and Watford amassing 197 games, and with it came **6** red cards

Martin Keown – Played for Arsenal and Everton and amassed 323 games and it came with **6** red cards

Paul Konchesky – Played for Tottenham Hotspur, Charlton Athletic, West Ham United, Liverpool, Leicester City, and Fulham, and amassed 347 games and it came with **6** red cards

Patrick Vieira – Played for Arsenal and Manchester City and amassed 307 games and it came with **8** red cards

Lee Cattermole – Played for Middlesbrough, Wigan Athletic, and Sunderland and amassed 271 games and it came with **7** red cards

Vinnie Jones – Played for Chelsea and Wimbledon and amassed 184 games and it came with **7** red cards

Alan Smith – Played for Leeds United, Manchester United, and Newcastle United and amassed 285 games and it came with **7** red cards

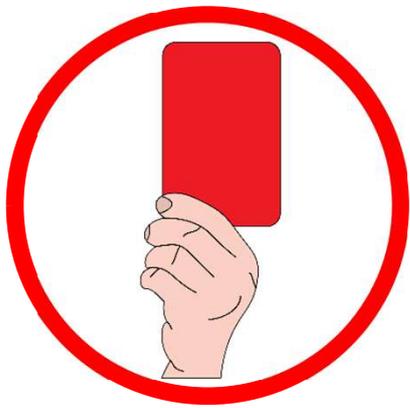
Duncan Ferguson - Played for Everton and Newcastle United and amassed 269 games and with it came **8** red cards

Luis Boa Morte – Played for Arsenal, Southampton, Fulham, and West Ham United and amassed 296 games and it came with **6** red cards



Frederic Dehu – Strong Ligue 1 defensive performer with Lens, Paris Saint-Germain, and Marseille as well as time in La Liga with Barcelona and Levante





Premier League Red Card Best XI



Luisao – 44 capped Brazilian centre back moved to Benfica in 2003 and played over 500 games for the club, captaining the side 414 times, and winning 20 titles with the club



Classic Kits

Such is the commercial pull of football kits, clubs seldom miss a trick to have an excuse to release a new one. Traditionally kits would be home and away, with a new design released every alternative 2 years.

But times have moved on....

This HWL issue highlights some of the one-off kits that have been released to celebrate a milestone of the club, which is usually the anniversary of the year when the club was founded but can also be for other reasons.

Arsenal's and Nike's Total 90 effort in 2004 paid tribute to Highbury, the club's ground for 93 years. The maroon shirt was a shift from the traditional red and white of the Gunner's jerseys. The gold sponsor adds a touch of class to what we see as a true classic.

AC Milan, to celebrate their centenary released a home shirt with a special badge. The design is based on the first shirt the club wore back in 1899. A very retro feel to the shirt with thinner strips and a collar with a buttoned neck.

The Barca 1999/00 shirt has appeared previously in this feature (half and half), but its shiny look and strong colour combinations should be celebrated. The kit was released as it was the club's centenary year.

French club side Marseille feature twice, with a golden third kit to recognise their 100th year in 1998 (Ravanelli, Blanc, and Dugarry is a strong free-kick line-up!) and then their fourth shirt in 1999, with a blue cross central to the shirt, acknowledging their 120th anniversary.

Others to feature here are the Manchester teams (City & United) who took to celebrating anniversaries by wearing modern-day versions of the 'olden days' kits. No sponsors or branding must be applauded.

Lille, Stuttgart, and Palermo again pay homage to yesteryears with classic tribute kits, with some featuring face collars, a firm favourite at The Halfway line.

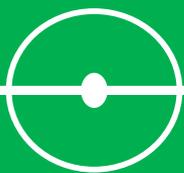
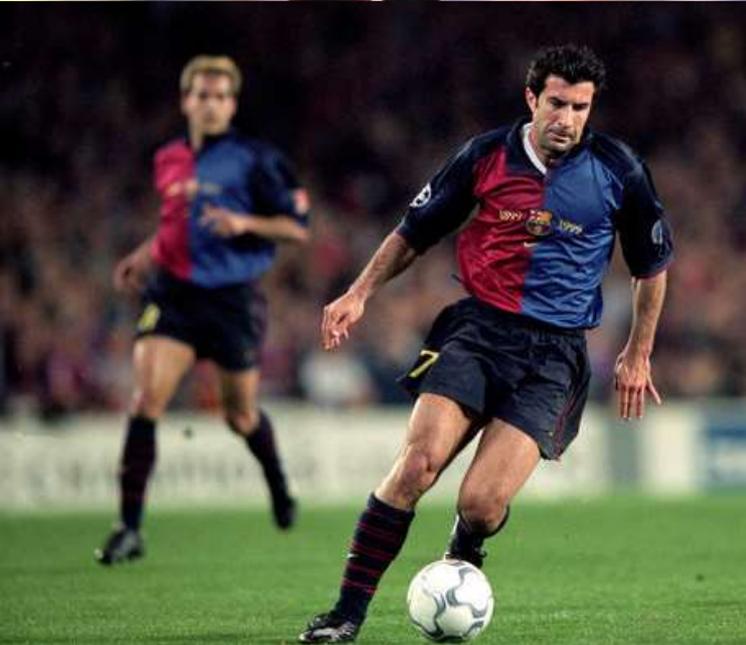
Other teams to follow Arsenal with golden features are PSV Eindhoven, Kaiser Chiefs, and Inter Milan with their tribute kits, and also featured are Fulham, Ajax, and Juventus (home and away).

Finally, we also feature the Lazio 2000-01 Puma Centenary Home Shirt and their Macron 115th-year anniversary effort. Don't worry, they also released a 120th-anniversary shirt if you were worried.



Mats Hummels – Started his career at Bayern Munich, then left to join Borussia Dortmund before re-joining Munich, and then leaving for Dortmund once again. Also won 76 caps for the German national team





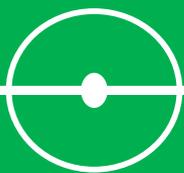
David Albelda – Former defensive midfielder who played for Valencia for almost 20 years, playing 480 games as well as captaining the side, with 2 loan spells at La Liga rivals Villarreal





Matthew Le Tissier – 8 capped England international who spent his entire professional career at Southampton, renowned for his spectacular goals and formidable penalty record (47 from 48)





Yoann Gourcuff – Former French Player of the Year (2009) won the domestic double with Bordeaux but had less successful spells at AC Milan and Lyon





Tony Cascarino – Winner of Ligue 2 twice (Marseille and Nancy) he is also the oldest player to score a hat trick in Ligue 1, doing so for Nancy at 37 years and 31 days





Marta – Often spoken of as the greatest female footballer of all time, winning the World Player of the Year 6 times and having scored at 5 separate World Cups finals





Marc Overmars – Speedy Dutch left-winger with great success at Ajax and Arsenal before joining Barcelona in 2000 but unable to replicate the success at the Nou Camp



The Serie A Greatest Nations XI



Finally, in our 15th issue, we can no longer bring you a Premier League greatest XI from one nation. We have exhausted all countries. Fear not, however, we can simply mix up our leagues and bring in a new feature.

In this issue, we bring you the greatest Serie A line-ups that only include players from one nation. In this issue, we are staying in Europe and bringing you Serie A talents from England, France, Germany, and Spain!

These are not based on statistics, appearances, goals, or 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 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, that the feature sticks to a rigid 4-4-2 formation and won't be changed to fit 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.



Rafinha – The younger brother of Thiago, who has represented the Brazilian national team, like his father Mazinho did, whereas Thiago opted to play for Spain



ENGLISH XI IN SERIE A

For a nation (in the 1990s) that was bought up on Italian football thanks to Channel 4, I still find it somewhat surprising how few English (and the British Isles) players turned out for Serie A teams, but nevertheless, we can field a pretty good XI.

In goal, we are not flush with options. Former England number one Joe Hart tried his luck at Torino when he was informed he had no future at Manchester City and played 36 league games in his sole season at the club.

Right-back, and it's another unwanted Manchester City player. Micah Richards spent time on loan at Fiorentina, in the same season as when Mo Salah excelled at the Florence club. At left-back, we have a bit more competition. We could have gone for Tony Dorigo or title-winning Ashley Young, but we've selected Ashley Cole for the number 3 shirt.

Centre-backs we have more to choose from. Paul Elliott flew the flag early and the likes of Axel Tuanzebe and Chris Smalling are playing in the league currently, but we've gone for Des Walker for his time at Sampdoria, and Fikayo Tomori for his impressive start at AC Milan.

In midfield, there's the old, the middle, and the new. Having not seen the likes of Trevor Francis, Gordon Cowans or Ray Wilkins perform in Italy we haven't picked them, and the new kids on the block, Nathaniel Chalobah, Ainsley Maitland-Niles, Ronaldo Vieira, Ben Wilmot are yet to make a significant impact. Therefore we are sticking with the middle. David Beckham would grace any right midfield. Paul Ince was widely praised for his time at Inter, and we feel compelled to play Paul Gascoigne based on the fanfare his move to Lazio created. On the left, picked over Lee Sharpe, it's Franz Carr for his stint at Reggiana.

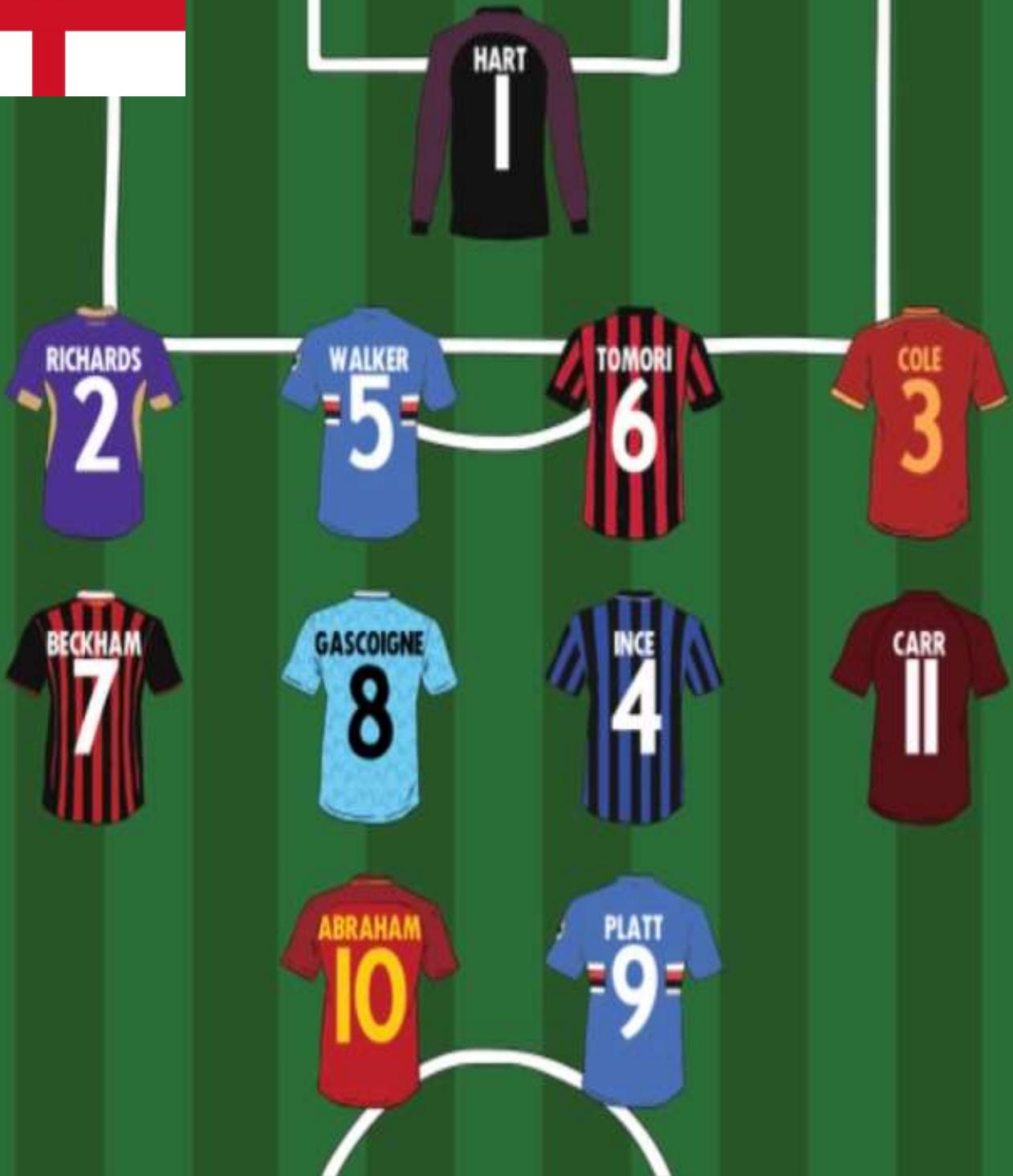
Upfront, again having not seen enough of Jimmy Greaves, Luther Blissett, Mark Hateley, or Paul Rideout, they miss out, as do Jay Bothroyd and Danny Dichio.

Instead, we go for Tammy Abraham after an outstanding first season at Roma, partnered alongside David Platt. Platt excelled at Bari (although relegated) and Sampdoria and even fitted in a season at Juventus.



Marcio Santos – Brazilian centre-back, whose performances for Brazil in their 1994 World Cup-winning campaign saw him selected in the team of the tournament





Alexander Isak – Swedish international forward who was signed by Borussia Dortmund with high hopes but it is only now at Real Sociedad he is seen to be realising his potential



GERMANS XI IN SERIE A

We head to Germany for this nation's XI in Serie A, and there is a common theme with the majority selected. The early 1990s was a vintage time for Germans to venture to Serie A.

In goal, again we struggle with too many options. We've had to go for Jens Lehmann even though his time at AC Milan was not entirely successful.

At right-back, we got Stefan Reuter for his time at Juventus and at left-back, we've Andreas Brehme. Jorg Heinrich at Fiorentina was a solid performer, and Robin Gosens promises much at Inter, whereas Christian Ziege was somewhat poor at AC Milan.

Centre-backs we could have looked at Benedikt Howedes (Juventus), Antonio Rudiger (Roma), or even Shkodran Mustafi (Sampdoria) but the calming Jurgen Kohler gets selected, after a very successful period at Juventus and a surprise choice of Matthias Sammer. He was criminally underplayed at Inter Milan but returned to Germany a far better player. Thomas Berthold can feel hard done by not to be in the XI after spells at Hellas Verona & Roma.

Midfield we are leaving out the likes of Emre Can, Stefan Effenberg, Thomas Hitzlsperger, Sami Khedira, and even Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. The latter performing in the 80s for Inter, so somewhat off our radar. Instead, we have the diminutive Tomas Hassler on the right. What a free-kick taker he was! On the left, we've Andreas Moller who would provide an attacking force and then Thomas Doll who often kept Gazza out of the Lazio side. The glue in the midfield keeping it all together is of course the outstanding Lothar Matthaus. Domestic and European success during his time at Inter Milan, and was arguably one of the best central midfielders of his generation.

Alongside Matthaus (and Brehme) at Inter was of course Jurgen Klinsmann, and he is picked, without even taking into account his spell at Sampdoria. Alongside we could have looked at Carsten Jancker (Udinese), Mario Gomez (Fiorentina), or Miroslav Klose (Lazio) but the easy choice is indeed Oliver Bierhoff. Outstanding at Udinese and AC Milan and ever so solid for Ascoli and Chievo sandwiched on either side.



Fabio Rochemback – Former Internacional, Barcelona and Sporting Lisbon midfielder who also played for Middlesbrough in the Premier League for three seasons (2005-2008)





Pedro-Gonzalez Lopez - 'Pedri' is the current holder of the Golden Boy trophy, and is very much seen as the shining light of the Barcelona squad



FRENCH XI IN SERIE A

What struck us first looking for the selection of players is there is a far greater choice of Frenchmen to have earned their crust in Serie A.

That is except of course goalkeepers! There is always a shortage. The current number one for AC Milan, Mike Maignan has started his career there in great fashion but we are going for former Parma, Verona, Fiorentina, Genoa, and Inter Milan number one, Sebastien Frey. 446 Serie A appearance is not to be sniffed at.

At right-back, we can't possibly look beyond the great Lillian Thuram. Hugely successful at Parma and Juventus, and equally brilliant at centre-back. Jonathan Zebina is worth a shout but no one is replacing Thuram. At left-back, we've selected Vincent Candela. Part of the Capello title-winning Roma team, he and Cafu up and down the flanks were a great feature of that side. Theo Hernandez started very promisingly at AC Milan at left-back so deserved recognition, and Patrice Evra at Juventus was a success.

At centre-back, there are plenty to choose from. Some to mention that aren't selected are Laurent Blanc, Bruno N'Gotty, and Adi Rami. The pairing selected is Marcel Desailly and Philippe Mexes. Both performed superbly for AC Milan and the latter also turned out for Roma at the highest level.

In midfield, the theme appeared to be quantity over quality. Vast numbers of midfielders came to Italy with great promise and reputations but left with these tarnished. The likes of Ibrahim Ba, Benoit Cauet, Ousmane Dabo, Vikasj Dhorasoo, Ludovic Guily, Yoann Gourcuff, Olivier Kapo and many more!!!

Successful midfielders unlucky to not make the XI are Patrick Vieira, Didier Deschamps, Jeremy Menez, Blaise Matuidi, Christian Karembeu, and Alain Boghossian.

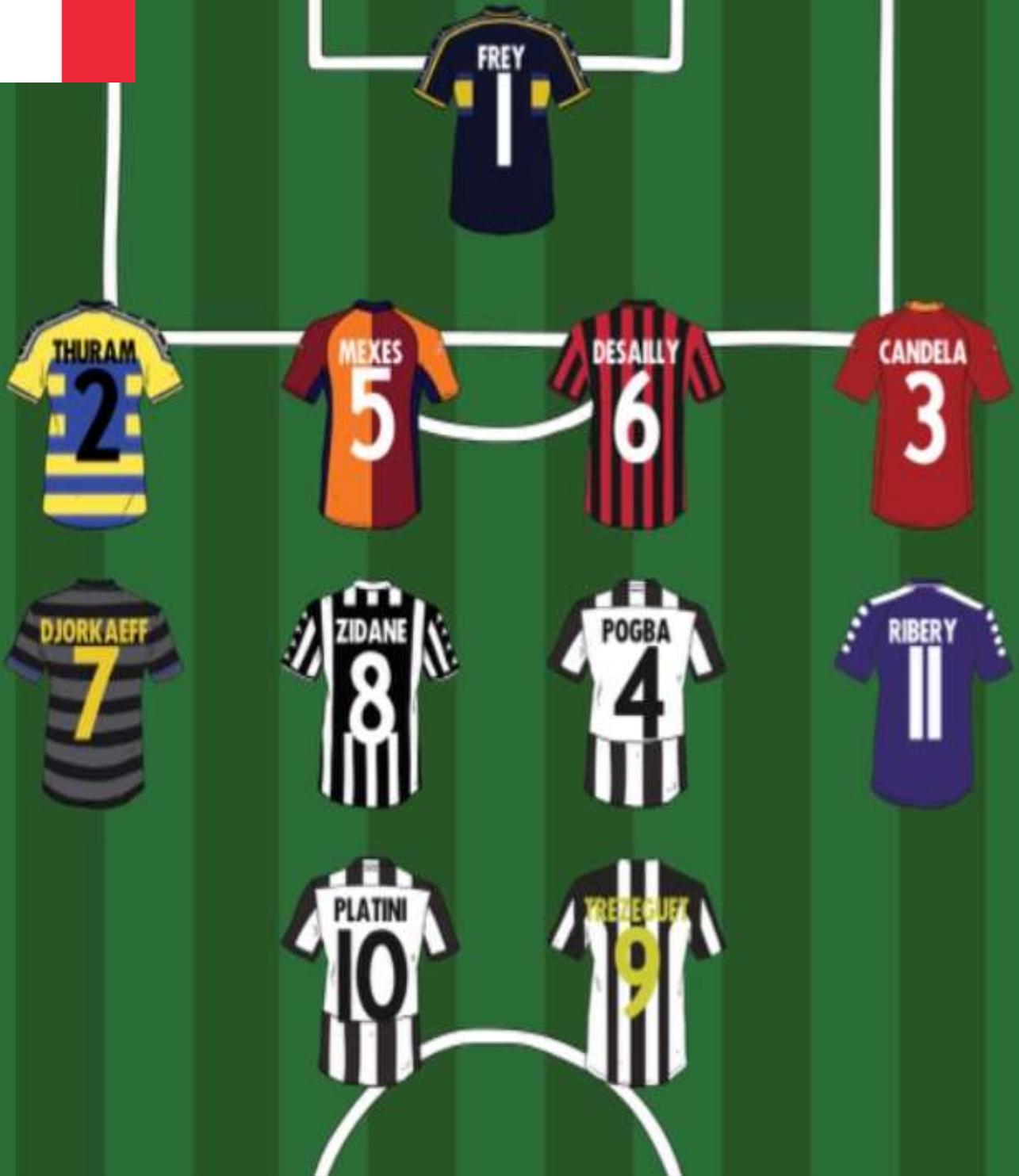
The starting midfield is Youri Djorkaeff (Inter), Zinedine Zidane and Paul Pogba (Juventus), and Franck Ribery (Fiorentina & Salernitana)

Upfront, we have to start Michel Platini for his outstanding efforts in the 1980s for Juventus and the question is who partners him. Ultimately we have to pick the highest-scoring Frenchman in Serie A, with 123 goals, and that is David Trezeguet, who scored all of these for Juventus



Dede – A Brazilian left-back made his name at Dortmund winning the Bundesliga twice, with compatriot Evanilson as the right-back for the German side





Bruno Fernandes – Average spells with Udinese and Sampdoria but Fernandes came alive at Sporting Lisbon, scoring 33 goals in the 2018/19 season before moving to Manchester United in 2019



SPANISH XI IN SERIE A

If German players were in vogue for Serie in the 90s, Spanish was the opposite. I counted 5 Spanish players transferring to an Italian club in the 1990s. Luckily the number has increased in recent years, so we can bring you a relatively solid Spanish XI.

Goalie = limited choices. Same old story. However, having Pepe Reina in the sticks is no bad thing. Reina featured for Napoli, AC Milan and Lazio.

In defence, we have Alvaro Odriozola on the right, who is on loan to Fiorentina from Real Madrid, and we've another Fiorentina player on the left. Marcos Alonso had a very successful spell, from 2013 to 17.

In the centre of defence, we look beyond Chico Flores and Pablo Mari and instead select Raul Albiol (Napoli) and the perhaps unknown adventure of Ivan Helguera at Roma in 1997.

Midfielders there is a case for what could have been. Imagine a foursome of Joaquin, Pep Guardiola, Ivan De Le Pena and Gaizka Mendieta. Sadly, the quartet failed to shine in the Italian league.

Instead we field Jose Callejon (Napoli & Fiorentina), Borja Valero (Fiorentina & Inter), Fabian Ruiz (Napoli) and Luis Alberto (Lazio). Premier League fans could question are Valero and Alberto the same players that struggled with WBA and Liverpool?

Other midfielders considered, all attacking natured, were Pedro, Suso, Michu, Christian Tello, Javier Farinos, and Bojan Krkic.

Upfront there are fewer options. Old La Liga favourites Fernando Torres and Diego Tristan were unable to recreate their home form in Serie A, and so instead we field two Juventus forwards in Alvaro Morata, back for a second spell in Turin, and Fernando Llorente, who complimented his Juventus spell with time also at Napoli and Udinese.



Memphis Depay – Dutch forward who started his career at PSV Eindhoven, then struggled at Manchester United but his form at Lyon won him a move to Barcelona





Zvonimir Boban – Croatian attacking midfielder who shone for AC Milan in the 1990s, though missed out on the 1990 World Cup for Yugoslavia as he kicked a police officer during a riot in a Red Star Belgrade versus Dinamo Zagreb game



COUNTRY FOCUS

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

The Cameroonian Football Federation is the governing body of football in Cameroon. It is known as FECAFOOT.

On 11 December 2021, the acting President of FECAFOOT - former Cameroonian international striker, Samuel Eto'o, was elected President of the organisation.



The Cameroon national football team represents Cameroon in men's international football.

The team is nicknamed the 'The Indomitable Lions.'

The team has qualified eight times for the FIFA World Cup, more than any other African team (in 1982, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2010, and 2014). However, the team has only made it once out of the group stage. They were the first African team to reach the quarter-final of the FIFA World Cup in 1990, losing to England in extra time. They have also won **five Africa Cup of Nations** and **Olympic gold in 2000**.

The team represents Cameroon both in FIFA and Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The country's most capped player is **Rigobert Song**, with 137 international caps. Song is currently the nation teams manager. Aside from Zinedine Zidane, Song is the only player to have been sent off in two different World Cups, once against Brazil in 1994 and against Chile in 1998. He also holds the record as the youngest player ever to be sent off in a World Cup, aged 17.

The nation's record goalscorer is **Samuel Eto'o** with 56 goals from 118 appearances.



Lucas Hernandez – French centre-back who when moving from Atletico Madrid to Bayern Munich became the club's and Bundesliga's most expensive ever signing, for €80 million



The Championnat du Cameroun de football (also known as MTN Elite One since 2007 for sponsorship reasons) is the top division of association football in Cameroon, governed by the Cameroonian Football Federation since its establishment in 1961.



Coton Sport Football Club de Garoua, or simply Coton Sport, is based in Garoua and with 16 league titles, are the most successful domestic side in the league, above second-placed Canon Yaoundé with 10 league titles

Roger Milla is perhaps the most famous of Cameroonian footballers. He started his career at the famous academy of Dynamo Beervelde. He was one of the first African players to be major stars on the international stage. He played in three World Cups for the Cameroon national team.

He achieved international stardom at 38 years old, an age at which most forwards have retired, by scoring four goals at the 1990 FIFA World Cup and thus becoming the oldest goalscorer in World Cup history. He helped Cameroon become the first African team to reach the World Cup quarter-finals. Four years later, at the age of 42, Milla broke his own record as the oldest goalscorer in World Cup by scoring against Russia in the 1994 FIFA World Cup.

Milla is also remembered for his trademark goal celebration of running to the corner flag and performing a dance.

To date, there have been 31 Cameroon players to play in the Premier League, with a variation of success.

Those with distinguished Premier League CVs would arguably be Lauren, Joseph-Desire Job (most goals), Geremi, Alex Song, and Joel Matip.

Honourable mention to Marc-Vivien Foe, who was a Manchester City player at the time of his death, in 2003.



Christian Pulisic – ‘Captain America’ became the first American to play in, and win the UEFA Champions League in 2021, playing for Chelsea





THE BOOT ROOM

The ADIDAS F50

The launch of the Adidas F50 in 2004 was the start of a very long journey for the German sports giant. To this day new F50 designs are still released. Looking at the early releases here in black and yellow, and black and white, it's impossible not to picture the likes of Ashley Cole, Robin Van Persie, or Arjen Robben styling these versions. The concept of hiding boot laces was trending, and the F50 made this option look pretty cool. Added to this there were various colour combinations that would work perfectly with some kit designs, it was an instant hit.

Then in 2006, the F50 seemed to be on the boot all of the big players featuring at the German World Cup, namely all the German internationals! The shiny look to this version again with the hidden laces worked well, and also showed the brand's three stripes as a more dominant feature.

Then came Lionel Messi. The F50 now associates itself with one of the greatest ever players to grace the football pitch. In 2009 Messi scored in a Champions League final and celebrated by kissing his boot that had come off whilst scoring. The boot was of course the F50.



Habib Beye – Former Senegalese right back, who was a favourite at Marseille and also spent time in England with Newcastle United, Aston Villa, and Doncaster Rovers





Ezequiel Garay – Retired Argentinian centre back who having left his homeland represented Racing Santander, Real Madrid, Benfica, Zenit St. Petersburg, and Valencia



TREATMENT ROOM

Finger Dislocation

Finger dislocation is a common injury. It occurs when the bones of the finger are moved (dislocated) from their normal position. A dislocated finger can occur in any of the joints of any finger, but it occurs most often in the middle knuckle of the little, ring, middle, or index finger.

Causes of a Dislocated Finger

A dislocated finger is caused by a "jamming" force being applied to the end of the finger, or the finger may be forcefully overextended. Either of these situations or a combination of both can result in a dislocation. For example:

- During sports activities, a basketball or baseball may strike the tip of an outstretched finger.
- Your finger might get caught in equipment such as a game jersey or pads.
- You might fall onto your outstretched hand.

Symptoms of a Dislocated Finger

A dislocated finger is usually obvious. The finger appears crooked, swollen and is very painful. It may be bent upward or at strange angles. You probably won't be able to bend or straighten the finger if it is dislocated. Also:

- Numbness or tingling with a severe dislocation.
- The injured finger may appear a pale colour.
- The dislocation may cause a break in the skin
- If this occurs, you should get medical attention right away.



Jadon Sancho - English winger who broke many a record when playing in the Bundesliga for Borussia Dortmund including the youngest ever player to score 9 Bundesliga goals, breaking Lukas Podolski's record



Finger Dislocation Treatment

It is not recommended that you treat a finger dislocation at home. A visit to your doctor or the emergency department is usually necessary.

- If you have a dislocated finger, the finger will swell. To prevent further injury to the finger, immediately remove any jewellery, such as rings.
- Apply an ice pack to your injured finger and elevate the hand above the level of your heart

Medical Treatment for a Dislocated Finger

The doctor may realign the dislocated bones of your finger with a simple technique. This will often require a local anaesthetic injection into the finger to help decrease or stop the pain and allow the doctor to reduce the dislocation and realign the bones. You may also receive medications by mouth, injection, or IV to help the pain and ease the reduction.

Outlook for a Dislocated Finger

Most simple finger dislocations can be put back into place easily. Full function in the injured finger will usually return. Mild or moderate discomfort or disability can continue for 12-18 months. You may expect some permanent swelling or disfigurement of the injured joint. There is an increased risk of developing arthritis in the joint later.

Occasionally, a fragment of the dislocated joint or some surrounding tissue can become lodged between the displaced bones. This prevents the bones from going into place. Surgery may be necessary to put the bones into the correct position. Results of this surgery are usually very good, but some functionality may be lost.



David Pizarro – Chilean central midfielder featured for Serie A clubs Udinese, Inter Milan, Roma and Fiorentina as well as a 5 match cameo for Manchester City in 2012 in the Premier League



Quiz time

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

1. Can you name 9 former Chelsea players to have scored in a Champions League final from 1990 to date, but not for Chelsea.
2. Can you name 12 players to have won the England Premier League and the Scottish Premiership?
3. Can you name 11 players to have won the Champions League and the Copa Libertadores?
4. What do Graeme Le Saux, Romelu Lukaku, David Luiz, Nemanja Matic and Didier Drogba have in common?
5. What links Romario, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo (Brazilian), and Fabio Cannavaro's FIFA World Player of the Year awards?
6. Which players have the most Premier League appearance for the following clubs? Arsenal, Manchester City, and Tottenham Hotspur?

Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Ji-Sung Park, Ruud Van Nistelrooy, Gabriel Heinze, Bastian Schweinsteiger, and also been managed by Jose Mourinho and Louis Van Gaal, yet never played for Manchester United. Who am I?
2. I have played with Thibault Courtois, Christian Benteke, Fernando Torres, Marko Arnautovic, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, Nicklas Bendtner, and Samir Nasri. Who am I?
3. I have played with Kurt Zouma, Gervinho, Djimi Traore, Eden Hazard, Ilkay Gundogan, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, and Luuk De Jong. Who am I?
4. I have played with Sergio Ramos, Javier Saviola, Gonzalo Higuain, Angel Di Maria, Lassana Diarra, Alphonse Areola, and Juanfran but I have never played for Real Madrid. Who am I?
5. I played with Stephane Henchoz, Glen Johnson, Jason McAteer, Michael Owen, Joe Cole, Danny Murphy, Stig Inge Bjornebye, James Milner, and John Arne Riise, and been managed by Roy Hodgson and Graeme Souness but I have never played for Liverpool. Who am I?

What club links the following players?

1. John Hartson, Aaron Ramsey, Giovanni Van Bronckhurst, and Francis Jeffers?
2. Mathieu Flamini, Philippe Senderos, Patrick Vieira and Asmir Begovic?
3. Dan Petrescu, Mark Hughes, Ken Monkou, and Luis Boa Morte?
4. Thiago Alcantara, Xabi Alonso, James Rodriguez and Philippe Coutinho?
5. Youri Djorkaeff, Michael Ballack, Mario Basler and Carsten Jancker?
6. Djimi Traore, Vladimir Smicer, Antonie Siberski, and Pegguy Arphexad?
7. Benito Carbone, Alessandro Del Piero, Juninho Paulista and Adam Le Fondre?
8. Flavio Conceicao, Rivaldo, Djalminha and Mauro Silva?



Alexander Tetley – Former Norwegian international who played over 250 games for Norwich City from 2012 to 2021 as a defensive midfielder



Quiz Answers from Issue #14

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

1. Can you name 5 clubs since 1970 to have won a European trophy despite having never won their domestic league? **West Ham United, Parma, Bayer Leverkusen, Villarreal and Real Zaragoza**
2. Which continent has won the most World Cups? **Europe with 12 (South America has 9)**
3. Can you list Dani Alves' squad numbers for Barcelona? **20, 2, 22, 6 and 8**
4. Salomon Rondon and Duncan Ferguson share what unique goal scoring record in the Premier League? **Premier League hat trick and all three goals were headers**
5. 32 players have 100+ goals in the Premier League but who reached that total fastest of all? And who was the youngest to reach 100 first? **Quickest – Alan Shearer. Youngest – Michael Owen**
6. Carlos Valderrama played for 2 European sides. Can you name them? **Montpellier and Real Valladolid**

Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Gary Speed, Andy Cole, Chris Waddle, Laurent Blanc and Clive Allen – Who am I? **Eric Cantona**
2. I have played with Steve McManaman, Gareth Bale, Thierry Henry, Carlos Vela and Yannick Bolasie - Who am I? **Bradley Wright-Phillips**
3. I have played with Peter Crouch, Ronaldo (Brazilian), Jari Litmanen, Milan Baros, Kevin Campbell and Davor Suker – Who am I? **Nwankwo Kanu**
4. I have played with Robert Huth, Mark Schwarzer, Michael Duberry, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Asmir Begovic, Danny Granville and Carlo Cudicini, but I have never played for Chelsea – Who am I? **Jonathan Woodgate**
5. I have played been signed by Steve Bruce, Rafa Benitez, Arsene Wenger, held a transfer fee record, started a Champions League and an FA Cup final, played in 4 different countries and played over 230 Premier League games but never received an international cap – Who am I? **Jermaine Pennant**

What club links the following players?

1. Abele Pele, Trevor Steven, Chris Makin and Steven Fletcher? **Marseille**
2. Johan Elmander, David Bentley, Harry Kane and Thomas Helveg? **Norwich City**
3. Jimmy Bullard, Finidi George, Martin Reuser and Maricco Taricco? **Ipswich Town**
4. Tammy Abraham, Ashley Cole, Christian Panucci and Robert Di Matteo? **Chelsea**
5. Rod Wallace, Brett Ormerod, Ray Wallace and Rob Hulse? **Leeds United**
6. Darren Ferguson, Ben Foster, Terry Cooke and Mathias Pogba? **Wrexham**
7. Neville Southall, Gareth Farrelly, Michael Branch and Robbie Blake? **Bradford City**
8. Phil Babb, Yakubu, Roy Wegerle and George Boateng? **Coventry**



Alex Witsel – Belgian central midfielder has played in Belgian, Portugal, Russia, China, and Germany. Once received an 8 man ban for a tackle that broke an opponents leg



Forgot they played for them?

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

But for a selection of teams, it is also possible to name a starting lineup 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 from the past. Blackpool, Bournemouth and Ipswich Town are the 3 teams in this issue, though not all the players played for them in the Premier League.

Have a look at the lineups 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???



Kai Havertz – Scorer of the 2021 winning goal in the Champions League and currently the youngest player to play 50 and 100 league appearances in the Bundesliga



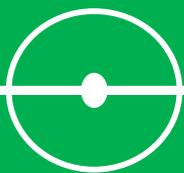
BLACKPOOL



Donny Van de Beek – Dutch central midfielder was instrumental in Ajax’s charge to the 2018/19 Champions League semi-final, scoring in the first leg against Tottenham Hotspur



AFC BOURNEMOUTH



Riccardo Taddei – Italian forward who appeared infrequently for Fiorentina before a somewhat nomadic career in the lower Italian divisions



IPSWICH TOWN



Arkadiusz Milik – Polish centre-forward who has scored goals in Germany, Holland, Italy, and now France, playing for Marseille



Historical Line Ups

In this issue of Historical Line-ups, we are rolling out the team line-ups of previous Division One/Championship playoff finals. Often billed as the most cash-rewarding fixture in the world, the winner will not only take part in the Premier League the following season, but the club also become a recipient of the TV money the Premier League receives. We are talking big bucks.

In more recent times the fixtures have become more cagey affairs but we've selected far more entertaining games from the past, and on show are the line-ups of the winners.

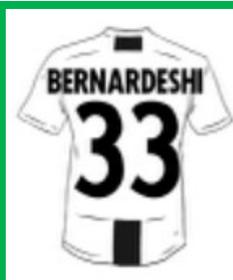
The players, team, and fixtures are:

- 1) Swindon Town versus Leicester City - 31st May 1993
- 2) Bolton Wanderers versus Reading - 29th May 1995 (Reading finished 2nd in the league but only the 1st place team secured automatic promotion that season)
- 3) Charlton Athletic versus Sunderland - 25th May 1998
- 4) Ipswich Town versus Barnsley - 29th May 2000
- 5) Swansea City versus Reading - 30th May 2011

Take a look at the line-ups and see if it triggers some memories of the games, goals, and players.



Federico Bernardeschi – A well-trodden path of leaving Fiorentina as their creative number 10 and heading to Juventus where he has won 3 Serie A titles and 2 Coppa Italia's



31st MAY 1993

SWINDON TOWN v's LEICESTER CITY
4 - 3

HODDLE
MASKELL
TAYLOR
ROBIN

JOACHIM WALSH
THOMPSON

DIGBY

HODDLE

TAYLOR

ROBIN

CALDERWOOD

MONCUR

MACLAREN

SUMMERBEE

LING

MASKELL

MITCHELL

SUBS:

+ WHITE

+ HAZARD

MANAGER: GLENN HODDLE

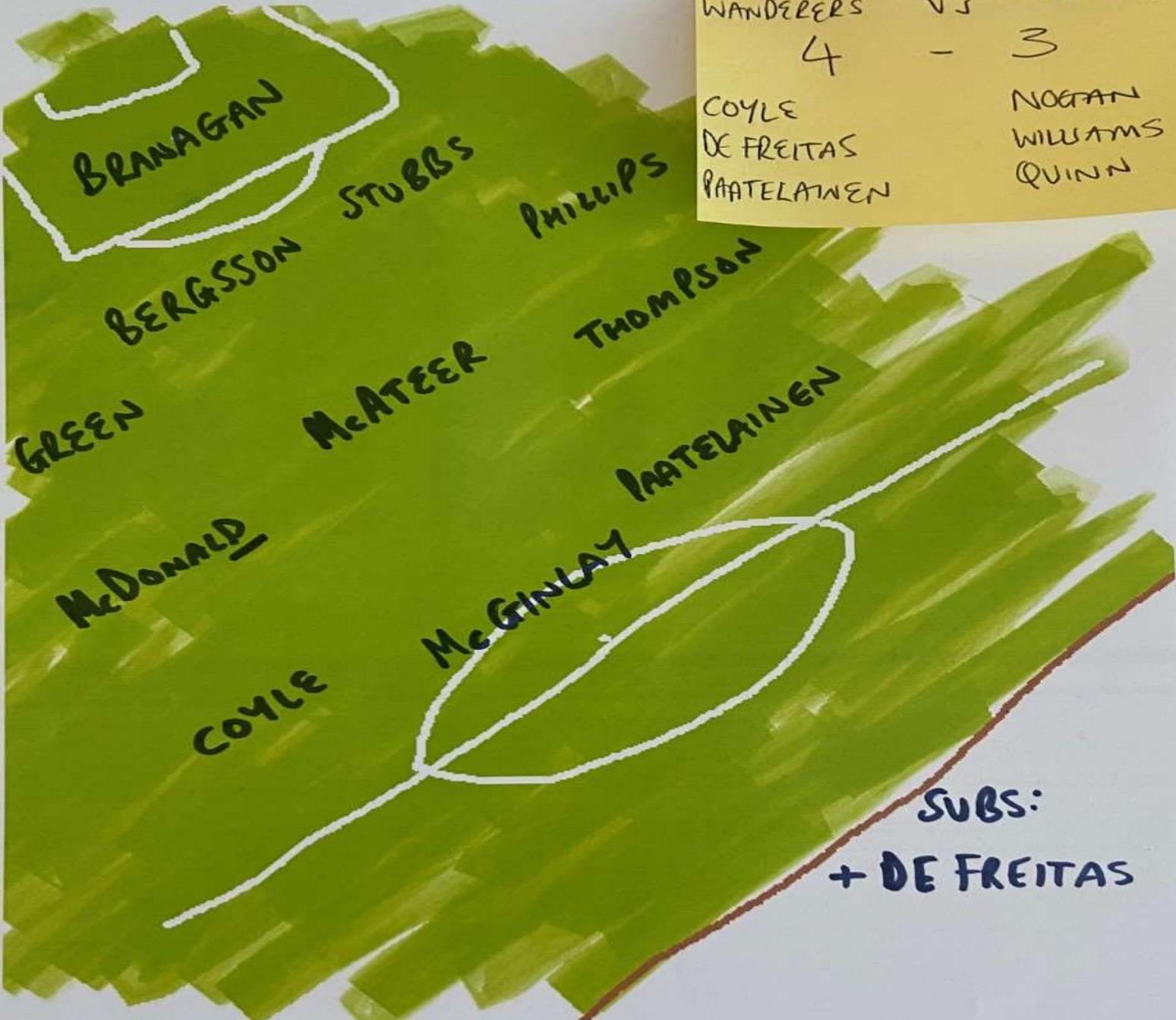


Lucas Torreira – Uruguayan defensive midfielder, who has never played in his homeland having played for Pescara, Sampdoria and Fiorentina in Italy as well as Arsenal and Atletico Madrid



29th MAY 1995

BOLTON WANDERERS	V'S	READING
4	-	3
COYLE DE FREITAS PAATELAINEN		NOGTAN WILLIAMS QUINN



SUBS:
+ DE FREITAS

MANAGER: BRUCE RIOCH



Jan Bednarek – Polish centre-back signed by Southampton from Lech Poznan. Against Manchester United in 2021 he scored an own goal, conceded a penalty and was sent off in a 9-0 defeat



25th MAY 1998

CHARLTON	v's	SUNDERLAND
ATHLETIC		
(pens) 4	-	4
MENDONCA (x3)		QUINN (x2)
RUFUS		PHILLIPS
		SUMMERBEE



MANAGER: ALAN CURBISHLEY



Brett Ormerod – Predominately lower league striker who can claim to have scored in all four divisions for Blackpool



29th MAY 2000

IPSWICH
TOWN

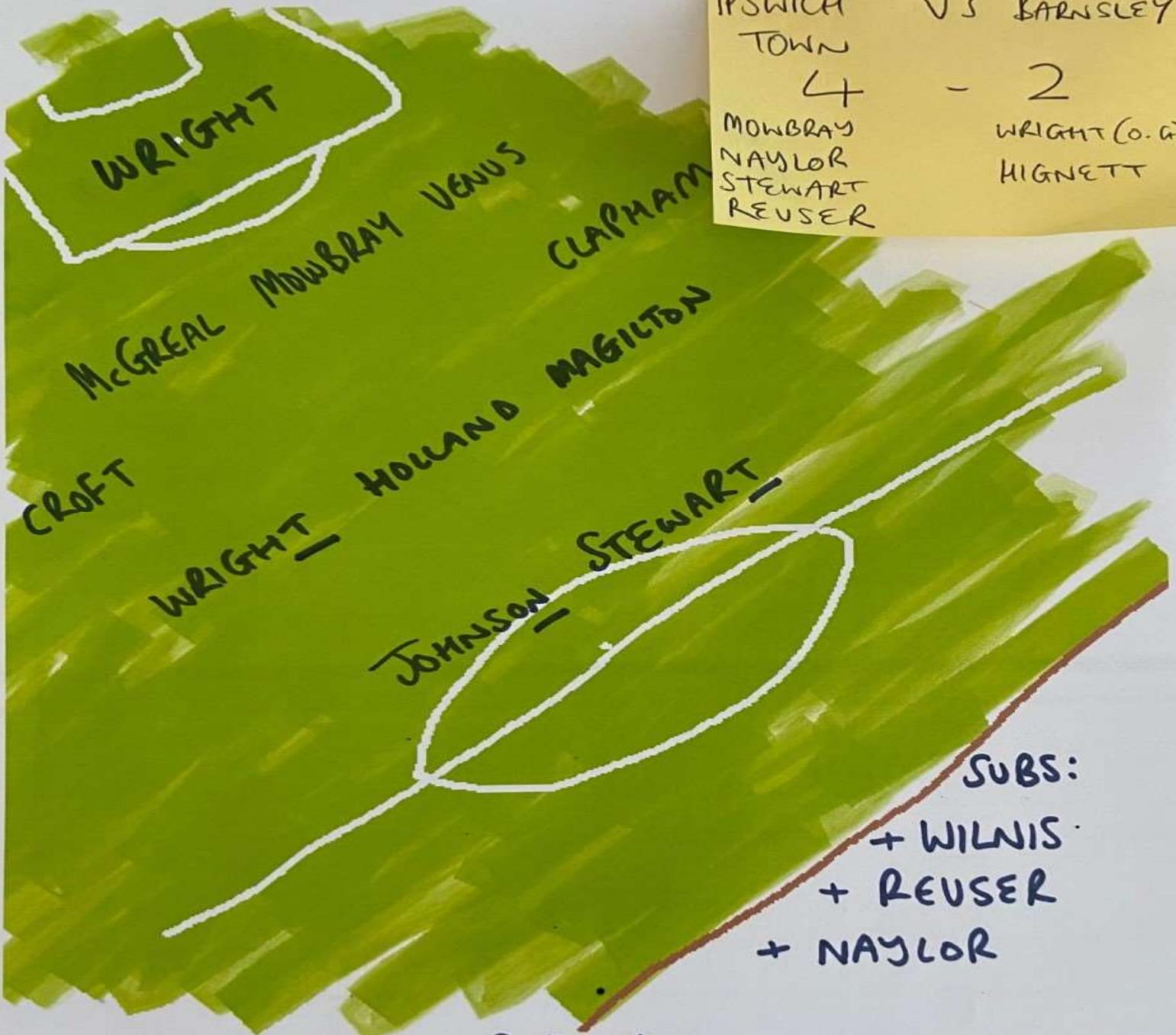
4

MOWBRAY
NAYLOR
STEWART
REUSER

V'S BARNESLEY

- 2

WRIGHT (O.G.)
HIGNETT



SUBS:
+ WILNIS
+ REUSER
+ NAYLOR

MANAGER: GEORGE BURLEY



Facundo Ferreyra – Argentine centre-forward who excelled at Velez Sarsfield and Shakhtar Donetsk, but flopped at Newcastle United and Benfica



30th MAY 2011

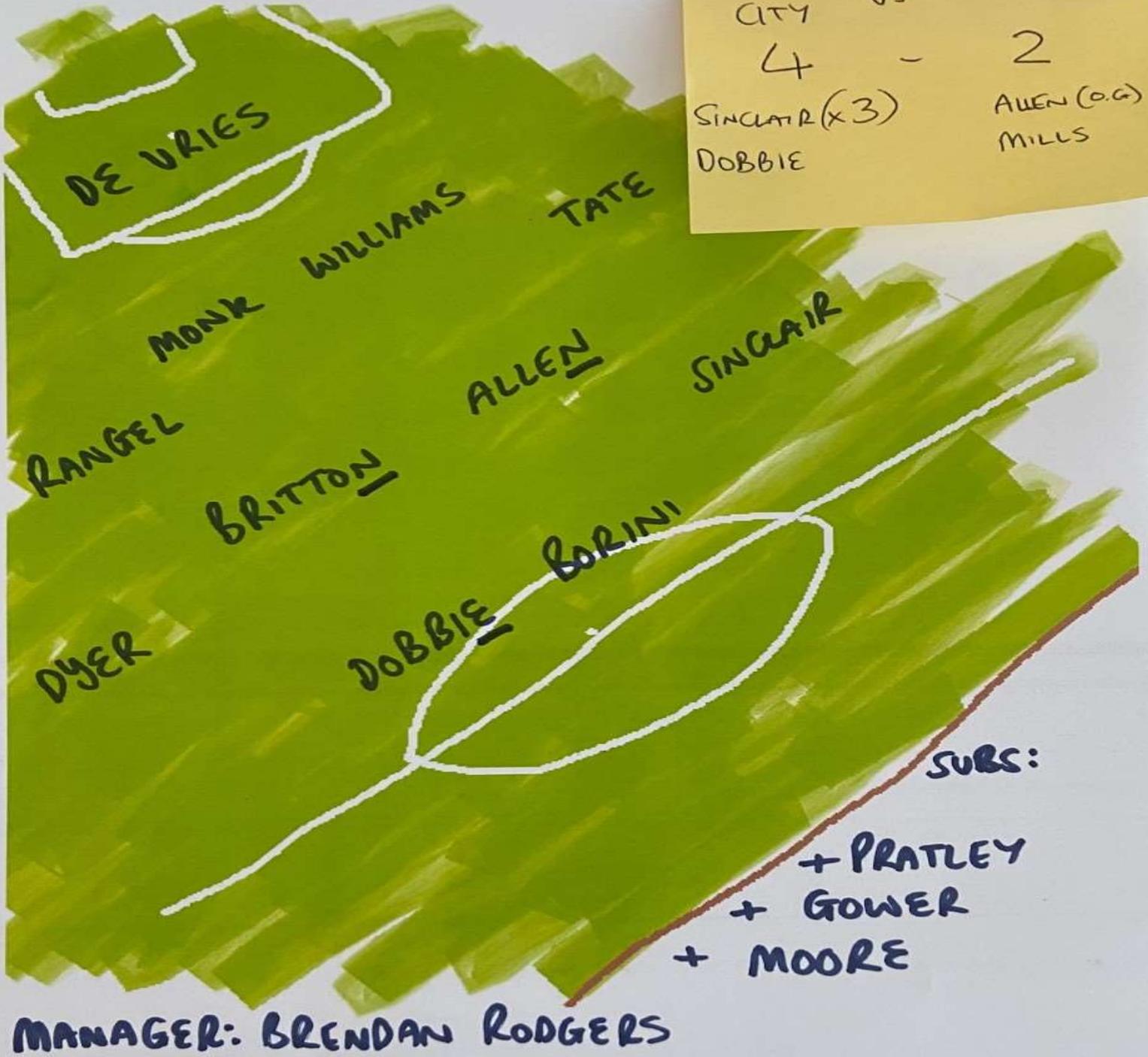
SWANSEA CITY vs READING

4 - 2

SINCLAIR (x3)

ALLEN (o.g.)
MILLS

DOBBIE



Mikkel Damsgaard – Danish winger, plying his trade in Serie A for Sampdoria, scored the Euro 2020s only direct free-kick, against England in the semi-final



The Brazilian League

Structure explained



The Brazilian football league system is a series of interconnected leagues for football clubs in Brazil. It consists of several independent pyramids, which are the national pyramid and the state pyramids. As these pyramids are independent, clubs usually compete in a state pyramid and a national pyramid. Both the national pyramid and the state pyramids consist of several levels. The best-placed teams in the states championships as well as the best clubs ranked by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) compete in the Copa do Brasil.

The Structure

There are two simultaneous and independent functioning pyramids in Brazil's football, the national pyramid, and the state's pyramids.

While the national competitions are organized by CBF, the state championships are organized by the respective football federations of each state (for example, the Campeonato Pernambucano is organized by the Pernambuco Football Federation).

The national pyramid competitions start in May and end in December. The state pyramids have varying durations and schedules in each state. In states with clubs competing in the national first and second divisions, the state championships run from January/February to April/May.



Alan Smith – Scored on his Leeds United debut, 3 minutes from coming off the bench against Liverpool at Anfield in the 1998/99 season, then sadly broke his leg at the same stadium for Manchester United in 2006



Campeonato Brasileiro Série A

The Campeonato Brasileiro Série A commonly referred to as Brasileirão is a Brazilian the top of the Brazilian football league system,

Contested by 20 clubs, it operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the Campeonato Brasileiro Série B.

Due to historical peculiarities and the large geographical size of the country, Brazil has a relatively short history of nationwide football competitions. Only in 1959, with the advancements in civil aviation and air transport and the need to appoint a Brazilian representative to the first edition of the Copa Libertadores was a nationwide tournament created, Taça Brasil. In 1967, the Torneio Rio-São Paulo was expanded to include teams from other states, becoming the Torneio Roberto Gomes Pedrosa, which was also considered a national tournament. The first tournament downright called a national championship was held in 1971, although it was only referred to as "Campeonato Brasileiro" starting in 1989.

Since 1959, a total of 156 clubs have played in the Campeonato Brasileiro. Seventeen clubs have been crowned Brazilian football champions, thirteen of which have won the title more than once.

Palmeiras is the most successful club in the Campeonato Brasileiro, having won the competition **ten** times, followed by **Santos** with **eight** titles and **Corinthians** and **Flamengo** with **seven** titles. Santos' Os Santásticos won five consecutive titles between 1961 and 1965, a feat that remains unequalled.

The state of **São Paulo** is the most successful state, amassing 32 titles among five clubs.

Winners of Serie A and all the way to 6th place teams, and winners of the Copa do Brasil all qualify for the following years Copa Libertadores.



Nenad Tomovic – Serbian right back, has played for Red Star, Genoa, Lecce, Fiorentina, Chievo, SPAL and now AEK Larnaca in Cyprus



Most states have at least one secondary tournament, involving smaller clubs not in the top two leagues of the national championship.

These lesser championships run from July to December. Besides the trophy, it may award the winner(s) places in the main tournament or in the Brazilian Cup next year.

Smaller states, whose clubs do not take part in national competitions have longer competitions, usually running during the "winter" months: April to October.

National League

In the national pyramid, there are four leagues, the Série A, Série B, the Série C and the Série D. The Série A, Série B and Série C currently consist of 20 teams each. Série D was contested by 40 teams and expanded to 68 in 2016. Série A and Série B are contested in a double round-robin format by all clubs; Série C and Série D have regional groups.

Each year, the four worst-placed clubs in the Série A are relegated to the Série B and the four top-placed clubs in the Série B are promoted to Série A. This relation of four promoted and four relegated is the same for the other levels.

The clubs competing in the Série D are the bottom four from last season's Série C and the best-placed state championship clubs from the previous season which are not competing in the Série A, B, or C.

Clubs that are successful in their state leagues can rise higher in the pyramid, be promoted to the Série D, and eventually to higher levels. Some state federations organize special competitions with the purpose of qualifying teams to the Série D.

Since the national and state pyramids are independent a team can be in a national division and also be in a lower division in the state league in the same season.



Mustapha Papa Diop – A former Senegalese midfielder, who didn't make the grade at Marseille and spent time at Odense and FC Lyn in Denmark



State Leagues/Championships

In the state pyramid, which consists of several independent state championships, the participating clubs, which also include Série A, Série B, and Série C clubs, are limited to their own states.

However, there are some minor exceptions, like in the Campeonato Brasiliense, where Unai from Minas Gerais, and Luziânia and Bosque Formosa Esporte Clube from Goiás also compete, due to their proximity to Brasília, the capital of the Brazilian Federal District.

The leagues are usually divided into two, three, or four levels. The number of clubs per level, as well as the number of levels, are different in each state. For example, in São Paulo there are 16 clubs in the first level, but in Minas Gerais, there are 12, and in Rondônia, there are just eight clubs.

Also, the number of promoted and relegated clubs is different from one state to the other. Since 2009, the best-placed clubs in the state leagues not already qualified for Série A, B, or C qualify for the Série D.

As the Série A, Série B, and Série C clubs usually have to be seeded to avoid fixture congestion, some rules adopted may be quite unfair. In the 2008 Campeonato Carioca, the big four (Botafogo, Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco da Gama) always played home against the other participating clubs.

There are currently **27** State championship leagues in Brazil.

Copa do Brasil (like the English FA Cup)

The Copa do Brasil is contested between the winners and best-placed clubs of the previous season's state championships, and by the best-placed clubs in the CBF ranking. Since 2013, it is played between the months of April and November.



Jonathan Moreira – Brazilian right-back played for Cruzeiro, Santos, Fluminense and Athletico Paranaense in his homeland as well as time with Inter and Parma in Serie A



Campeonato Brasileiro Série A

To give an example of how different states are represented in Serie A, this is the current make up of the division.

No. of teams	State	Teams
5	Sao Paulo	Corinthians, Palmeiras, Red Bull Bragantino, Santos and São Paulo
3	Rio de Janeiro	Botafogo, Flamengo and Fluminense
2	Rio Grande do Sul	Internacional and Juventude
2	Ceara	Ceará and Fortaleza
2	Golas	Atlético Goianiense and Goiás
2	Minas Gerais	América Mineiro and Atlético Mineiro
2	Parana	Athletico Paranaense and Coritiba
1	Mat Grosso	Cuiabá
1	Santa Cartarina	Avai

Campeonato Brasileiro Série A records

Appearances

Goals

1 Fabio	600
2 Rogerio Ceni	575
3 Leonardo Moura	490
4 Diego Souza	470
5 Paulo Baier	429
6 Wellington Paulista	414
7 Fabio Santos	397
8 Zinho	369
9 Clemer	368
9 Ramon	368

1 Roberto Dinamite	190
2 Fred	166
3 Romario	154
4 Edmundo	153
5 Zico	135
6 Diego Souza	132
7 Tulio	129
8 Serginho Chulapa	127
9 Washington	126
9 Luis Fabiano	117



Pictured above are Fabio and Dinamite

To try to give some context here, Fabio has 1165 career appearances, so State league, cup (and continental games) are a serious undertaking also.



Rodney Sneijder – The younger brother of Wesley, who didn't make the grade at Ajax, but unlike his brother he was able to represent Dundee United in Scotland



Who is playing against who?

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

In this issue, we've put together 2 line-ups, and for each team, there is a common theme. You know the deal with this now.

Perhaps the inclusion of club colours, and the club badges somewhat gives the game away and we'll change tactics to make it more difficult.

The first line-ups are a combination of two European giants of the game. Linked by the great Johan Cruyff, Ajax Amsterdam and Barcelona are often compared due to their style of football, but here we have linked them by playing staff. Cruyff would manage one of the teams, as would Ronald Koeman, but we actually need them both to play, to make up the full 22 players.

One tiny element of artistic license is the inclusion of goalkeeper Andre Onana. He qualifies undoubtedly for the Ajax line-up, but can only claim to have features for the Barcelona youth teams.

The second set of line-ups is less of European giants but very much rivals in their own league, Ligue 1 in France.

Before the domination of Lyon and Paris Saint-Germain in the 2000s, the fierce rivals of French football were Monaco and Marseille.

We are able to put together 2 full line-ups of players to have played for both sides during their careers, and I am sure you will agree there are some absolute monsters that appear in the teams.



Matteo Bianchetti – Italian centre back, although on the books of Inter Milan, never made a first-team performance at the club instead spending time at Verona, Spezia, Empoli and Cremonese



AJAX VERSUS BARCELONA



Roberto Inglese – Italian striker, currently on the books of Parma, played in the lower Italian leagues with Pescara, Chievo, Carpi and Lumezzane





BARCELONA VERSUS AJAX



Scott Malone – English left-back, who represented Huddersfield Town in the Premier League and strong performer in the Championship with Derby County, Fulham, Cardiff City and Millwall





MONACO VERSUS MARSEILLE



Arsen Zakharyan – Young and very promising Russian midfielder, who at 19 has been voted Dynamo fan’s player of the season two years in a row, 2021 & 2022



MARSEILLE VERSUS MONACO



Anderson Rui Barros

Genghini Bernardi

Ocampos Sauzee

Di Meco Blondeau

Christanval Boli

Porato



Liam Delap – Rory Delap’s son is on the books of Manchester City, playing as a forward, and has 2 Premier League appearances to his name to date



League titles in a row

Bayern Munich recently sowed up their Bundesliga triumph in the 2021/22 season which was their 10th league trophy in a row. That is remarkable consistency, even though it could be aimed at the club they are the richest club in the country and often have the pick of the best talent in the country, although in recent years their recruitment has looked outside of Germany.



It got us thinking about who are the clubs with a better run of consecutive league title wins.

Looking close to home, the record of consecutive Premier League wins is only three in a row. This has been achieved twice by just one club, Manchester United (1998-2001 and 2006-2009)

North of the border and in Scotland three '9 in a rows' have been achieved, once by Glasgow Rangers and twice by Celtic. A great statistic is with their latter run, from 2011-2020, midfielder Scott Brown captained the Celtic side in every one of those successful campaigns.

But consecutive wins of 3 and 9 don't touch the sides, and we can go even better than the Bayern Munich achievement of 10.



Jorge Silva – Young Portuguese right back, with no breakthrough to the first team, having played for the youth teams at giants Porto and Benfica



League titles in a row

11 league titles in a row



**Dinamo Zagreb
Croatia**

2006-2016



Players of note to have contributed to the 11 in a row are Eduardo da Silva, Luka Modric, Mario Mandzukic, Bosko Balaban, Dejan Lovren, Andrej Kramarić, Mateo Kovačić, Milan Badelj, and Marcelo Brozović



Fabio Vanni – French youngster on the books of Marseille, with the goalkeeper having dual citizenship with Italy



League titles in a row

13 league titles in a row



**Rosenborg
Norway**



1992 – 2004



Players of note to have contributed to the 13 in a row are Stig Inge Bjornbye, Harald Brattbakk, Bjorn Tore Kvarme, Oyvind Leonhardsen, Steffen Iversen, Vegard Heggem, and John Carew.

Harald Brattbakk won 4 in a row, left, and won the league in Scotland and Denmark to then returned and won another 4 in a row!



Frank Simek – USA centre-back made a solitary League Cup appearance for Arsenal before moving on loan to QPR and Bournemouth and then joining Sheffield Wednesday and Carlisle United permanently



League titles in a row

13 league titles in a row



**BATE Borisov
Belarus**

2006 - 2018



Players of note to have contributed to the 13 in a row are Aliaksandr Hleb, Vitali Rodionov, and Mateja Kežman.

Vitali Rodionov, a striker at the club, won a record 12 of the titles in a row in the 12 years he was at the club.



Max Taylor – Young English defender whose career at Manchester United was halted due to ill health, but now back on the career track with Rochdale



League titles in a row

14 league titles in a row



Skonto
Latvia

1991 - 2004



Latvijas
čempionvienība
futbolā

SKONTO'92
R Ī G A

Latvijas
kausa
ieguvēja



Players of note to have contributed to the 14 in a row are Marians Pahars, Aleksandrs Koļinko, Vitālijs Astafjevs, Igors Stepanovs, Imants Bleidelis, Valentīns Lobaņovs, Andrejs Rubins.

The club was only formed in 1991, therefore they won the first 14 titles they ever competed in, and for two seasons running the team did not lose a single match. Sadly the club no longer exists having collapsed with financial troubles.



Samuel Edozie – Young winger at Manchester City who reportedly signed for the club, for a seven-figure fee from Millwall at the age of just 16



The top 100 The Halfway Line players!



Have you ever tried listing out your favourite/best 100 players? Well, it is blooming hard! We started off at 1, and worked backwards, ending up with about 50 different line-ups!

Each player we've selected has had an incredible career path, jammed-packed trophy cabinet and magical moments for club, country or both.

There is no suggestion here we are right or expect the reader to agree with us, it is merely our view on the best players we have had the luck to watch throughout their careers. Why don't you have a go, and list out your 100 favourite players? If we had to list our top 100 players again next month, there's no guarantee the order would be the same!

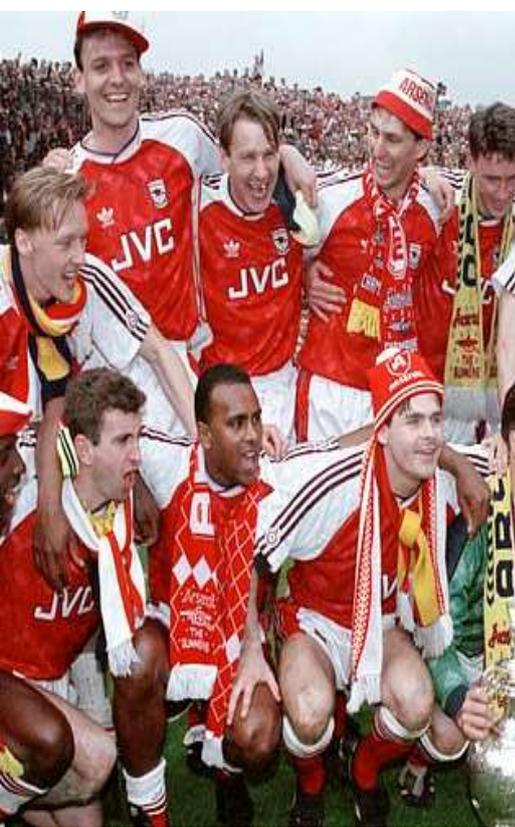
When listing the players, to jog the memory bank, we've included their professional career paths, memorable honours, and The Halfway Line's most memorable moment of their careers.

We've allowed ourselves one rogue entry, for old times sake, placed in at number 100 (a joint entry). These two players helped me fall in love with the game but don't judge, the remaining 99 shouldn't ruffle too many feathers....



Matt Macey – Former Arsenal youth goalkeeper who made two first-team appearances now finds himself in between the sticks for Hibernian





100 – Paul Merson and Anders Limpar

Merson
Clubs – Arsenal, Brentford (L), Middlesbrough, Aston Villa, Portsmouth, Walsall.

Honours – English First Division (*3), FA Cup, League Cup, Cup Winners Cup, Intertoto Cup, 1989 Young Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – September 1991, outside of the right foot cross to Alan Smith to score a diving header against Austria Vienna. Has forever stayed in my mind.

Limpar

IF Brommapojkarna, Orgryte, Young Boys, Cremonese, Arsenal, Everton, Birmingham City, AIK, Colorado Rapids

Honours – English First Division, FA Cup (*2), League Cup

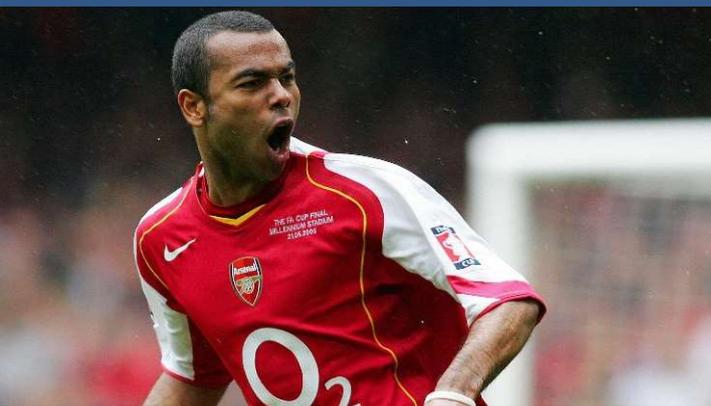
Favourite HWL moment – a 40-yard chip at Highbury against Liverpool – an absolute genius on his day.

99 – Angel Di Maria

Clubs – Rosario Central, Benfica, Real Madrid, Manchester United, Paris Saint-Germain

Honours – Portuguese, Spanish, and French league titles, one Champions League, a Copa America and an Olympic Gold medal

Favourite HWL moment – Man of the match in the 2014 Champions League final for Real Madrid.



98 – Ashley Cole

Clubs – Arsenal, Crystal Palace (L), Chelsea, Roma, LA Galaxy, Derby County

Honours – Premier League (*3), FA Cup (*7), League Cup, Champions League and, Europa League

Favourite HWL moment – Performances against Ronaldo in tournament football for England.



Ebrima Darboe – Arriving in Italy as an underage migrant from The Gambia, he now finds himself in the Roma first team at the age of 21 playing in the defensive midfield role





97 – Juan Roman Riquelme

Clubs – Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Villarreal, Argentinos Juniors

Honours – Argentine Primera Division (*5), Intertoto Cup (*2), Olympic Gold medal, and 4 times Argentine Footballer of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – 2004-05 season with Villarreal when took the club to the semi-final of the Champions League. (Also ability to produce outrageous nutmegs worth noting).

96 – Paul Scholes
Clubs – Manchester United
Honours – Premier League (*11), FA Cup (*3), League Cup (*2), Champions League (*2)
Favourite HWL moment – Scholes’s ability made him one of the most naturally gifted players of his generation and amongst all his highlights, the one that sticks out is the outside-of-the-box volley for United against Aston Villa, smashing in off the bar. Strikes against Middlesbrough and Bradford City were also in the running.



95 - Ronald and Frank De Boer

Clubs – Ajax, Barcelona, Glasgow Rangers, Al-Rayyan, Al-Shamal

Honours – Eredivisie (*5), L Liga, Champions League and Ronald named twice Dutch Football of the year

Favourite HWL moment – Hard to look anywhere other than the Ajax 1994/95 team that dominated Europe with the twins.



Anthony Elanga – Swedish winger, whose father represented Cameroon, is now firmly a first-team member for Manchester United after a breakthrough season in 2021/22



94 – Daniele De Rossi

Clubs – Roma and Boca Juniors

Honours – Coppa Italia (*2), Argentine Primera Division, 2006 World Cup, and 2009 Serie Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – Refusal to come on as a substitute for Italy, instead telling the coach to pick an attacking player, as the Azzuri had to win the game and he wasn't the right player to come. Also, rumoured he placed his World Cup medal in the coffin of the Italian national team's kit man of the 2006 squad.



93 - Adriano

Clubs – Flamengo, Inter Milan, Fiorentina (L), Parma, Sao Paulo (L), Roma, Corinthians

Honours – Serie A (4*), Coppa Italia (*2), Copa America, and Confederations Cup

Favourite HWL moment – Although it didn't result in a goal, our favourite moment is when Adriano played for Inter, away to Valencia, and pirouetted around a defender in golden Nike Mercurial Vapor II R9 boots.

92 – Rui Costa

Clubs – Benfica, Fate (L), Fiorentina, AC Milan

Honours – Primera Liga, Coppa Italian (*3), Serie A, Champions League, 1992 Toulon tournament as well as top scorer and best player

Favourite HWL moment – Can a style of play be a favourite moment? Rui Costa never seemed to break a sweat, his socks rolled down and ability to glide past players with ease, but not with great pace. Although more successful at AC Milan, we look back at his time with Fiorentina, loading the bullets for Batistuta, as the best time of Rui Costa's career. His rocket against England in the 2004 Euros wasn't a bad strike either.



Marco Sportiello – Currently on the books of Atalanta in Serie A, since 2013, having also started his youth career at the club





91 – Bixente Lizarazu

Clubs – Bordeaux, Athletic Bilbao, Bayern Munich, Marseille

Honours – Intertoto Cup, Bundesliga (*6), DFB Pokal (*5,) Champions League, 1998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – Would have to be his involvement in the French national side from 1998-2000 when the team dominated world football.

90 - Robin Van Persie
Clubs – Feyenoord, Arsenal, Manchester United, Fenerbahce
Honours – UEFA Cup, FA Cup, Premier League, Consecutive Premier League Golden Boot awards
Favourite HWL moment – It has to be goal-based for RVP. Not his looping heading for Holland against Spain, not his rasping volley for Arsenal against Charlton Athletic but his volley for Manchester United against Aston Villa.



89 – Jari Litmanen

Clubs – Reipas, HJK, MyPa, Ajax, Barcelona, Liverpool, Lahti, hansa Rostock, Malmo, Fulham

Honours – Eredivisie (*5), Champions League, UEFA Super Cup, FA Cup, League Cup, UEFA Cup, Finnish Player of the Year (*9)

Favourite HWL moment – Playing international football over 4 decades is some achievement but his performances in the 1993/94 season for Ajax were outstanding leading to him being named Footballer of the Year in Holland.



Tommaso Pobega – One capped Italian international is on the books of AC Milan but currently on loan to Serie A rivals Torino



88 – Filippo Inzaghi

Clubs – Piacenza, AlbinoLeffe (L), Hellas Verona (L), Parma, Atalanta, Juventus, AC Milan
Honours – Serie B, Serie A (*3), Coppa Italia, Champions League (*2), Club World Cup, 2006 World Cup, 1997 Serie A Young Player of the Year
Favourite HWL moment – In general, it would have to be the fanatical goal celebrations, even for tap ins, but to pick a moment it would be the 2 goals in the 2007 Champions League final to win it for AC Milan.



87 – Eden Hazard

Clubs – Lille, Chelsea, Real Madrid
Honours – Ligue 1, Premier League (*2), La Liga (*2), Champions League, Europa League, 2015 Premier League Player of the Year
Favourite HWL moment – A match-winner on his day. Regularly destroyed Premier League opponents, none more so than Arsenal, with a fine solo goal against the London rivals in 2016/17.



86 – Edgar Davids

Clubs – Ajax, AC Milan, Juventus, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Tottenham Hotspur, Crystal Palace, Barnet
Honours – Eredivisie (*3), Champions League, UEFA Cup, Serie A (*3), Coppa Italia
Favourite HWL moment – December 1995, Anfield, the Republic of Ireland versus Holland in the Euro 1996 qualifier. There wasn't a blade of grass not covered by Davids that game – simply unplayable .



Nicola Zalewski – Italian-born, Polish international midfielder on the books of Roma, with 16 Serie A appearances in the 2021/22 season



85 – Ruud van Nistelrooy

Clubs – Den Bosch, Heerenveen, PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Hamburg, Malaga

Honours – Eredivisie (*2), Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup, La Liga (*2) and twice Dutch Footballer of the Year (1999 & 2000)

Favourite HWL moment – For us, it was any moment Van Nistelrooy was in the 18 yard box – One of the most ruthless finishers in the modern game.



84 – Alessandro Costacurta

Clubs – AC Milan, Monza (L)

Honours – Serie A (*7), Coppa Italia, Champions League (*5), Super Cup (*4), and the Intercontinental (*2)

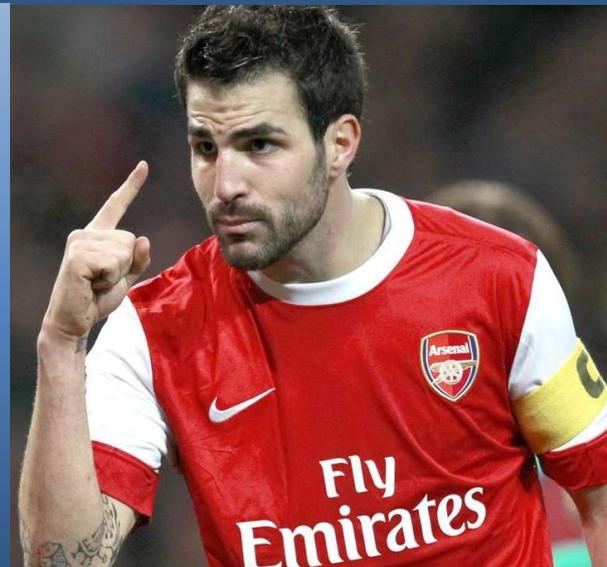
Favourite HWL moment – Very often in the shadows of Baresi and Maldini, but of equal importance. He scored in his final home game for AC Milan at the age of 41 years and 25 days old, 15 years after his last strike. To be at the highest level for such a period of time speaks volumes of Costacurta's ability.

83 – Cesc Fabregas

Clubs – Arsenal, Barcelona, Chelsea, Monaco

Honours – FA Cup (*2), Premier League (*2), League Cup, La Liga, Copa del Rey, Club World Cup, 2010 World Cup, 2008 & 2012 European Championship, and PFA Young Player of the Year 2008

Favourite HWL moment – March 2006, Robert Pires slide tackles Patrick Vieira of Juventus on the Highbury turf, the ball is played to Thierry Henry, who in turn plays in Cesc Fabregas, who takes a touch sets himself, and places the ball past Gianluigi Buffon. Patrick who?



Jacopo Da Riva - Young Italian midfielder who plays for SPAL on loan from parent side Atalanta whom he debuted for in 2020



79 – Patrick Kluivert

Clubs – Ajax, AC Milan, Barcelona, Newcastle United, Valencia, PSV Eindhoven, Lille

Honours – Eredivisie (*3), Champions League, La Liga, Euro 2000 Golden Boot and Dutch Football Talent of the Year 1995

Favourite HWL moment – To score the winner in the Champions League final at the age of 18 years, 10 months and 23 days old would most likely be his favourite moment as well as ours!!!



78 – Alan Shearer

Clubs – Southampton, Blackburn Rovers, Newcastle United

Honours – Premier League, Premier League Golden Boot (*3) and PFA Players Player of the Year 1995 & 1997, and 1996 European Championship Golden Boot winner

Favourite HWL moment – Shearer may have the record of 260 Premier League goals, but our favourites are the first 2 goals of that total, for Blackburn Rovers against Crystal Palace on 15th August 1992. Two ‘worldies’ that were a sign of things to come.



77 – Javier Zanetti

Clubs – Tallers, Banfield, Inter Milan

Honours – Serie A (*5), Coppa Italia (*4), Champions League, UEFA Cup, and the Club World Cup

Favourite HWL moment – Despite the 858 appearances for Inter Milan, we’ve gone for a moment with the Argentine national team. His spin and a clever finish from a free-kick routine against England in the 1998 World Cup Round of 16 game.



Brandon Barker – Youth player for Manchester City, appeared once for the first team before a permanent move to Glasgow Rangers, and now featuring on the left wing for Reading





76 – Hernan Crespo

Clubs – River Plate, Parma, Lazio, Inter Milan, Chelsea, AC Milan, Genoa

Honours – Argentine Primera Division, Copa Libertadores, Coppa Italia, UEFA Cup, Premier League, Serie A (*3)

Favourite HWL moment – Chelsea goals against Arsenal and Wigan were special, and loved his dink against Liverpool in the Champions League final but would look to his overhead volley for River Plate in 1996 against Sporting Cristal as the best.

75 – Frank Lampard

Clubs – West Ham United, Swansea City (L), Chelsea, New York City, Manchester City

Honours – Intertoto Cup, Premier League (*3), FA Cup (*4), League Cup (*2), Champions League and Europa League

Favourite HWL moment – April 2005, Lampard scored both goals for Chelsea away to Bolton Wanderers that secured their first Premier League.



74 – David Trezeguet

Clubs – Platense, Monaco, Juventus, Hercules, Baniyas, River Plate, Newell's Old Boys

Honours – Ligue 1 (*2), Serie A (*2), Serie B, 1998 World Cup, and 2000 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – The 2000 European Championship was won courtesy of a Golden Goal scored by Trezeguet to defeat Italy in the final.



Michale Ndary Adopo – French midfielder who is on the books of Torino but gaining valuable experience on loan to Viterbese in Serie C



73 – Kevin De Bruyne

Clubs – Genk, Chelsea, Werder Bremen (L), Wolfsburg, Manchester City

Honours – Belgium Pro League, Belgium Cup, DFB Pokal, Premier League (*4), FA Cup, League Cup (*5), Bundesliga Young Player of the Year 2013, Bundesliga Player of the Year 2015, and twice PFA Players Player of the Year (2020, & 2021)
Favourite HWL moment – KDB is known for this assist ability in England but did you know in the 2015 season with Wolfsburg he totalled 27 assists in all competitions (+16 goals).



72 – Gareth Bale

Clubs – Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, Real Madrid
Honours – La Liga (*3), Copa del Rey, Champions League (*5), UEFA Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*3), and twice PFA Players Player of the Year (2011 & 2013)

Favourite HWL moment – 72nd seems a little harsh on Bale, so prepared to take stick for that, but our favourite moment has to be the overhead kick goal in the 2018 Champions League final for Real Madrid against Liverpool.



71 – Toni Kroos

Clubs – Bayern Munich, Bayer Leverkusen (L), Real Madrid

Honours – Bundesliga (*3), DFB Pokal (*2), Champions League (*5), La Liga (*3) Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*5) and the 2014 World Cup

Favourite HWL moment – His 2 goals in the 7-1 demolition of Brazil in the 2014 World Cup semi-final was impressive, but we just love the fact he demands to wear the same style of adidas boots that he has worn since 2013.



Felix Afena-Gyan – Ghanian international striker, became the first player born in 2003 to score in Serie A, doing so for Roma in November 2021



70 – Luka Modric

Clubs – Dinamo Zagreb, Zrinjski Mostar (L), Inter Zapresic (L), Tottenham Hotspur, Real Madrid
Honours – Croatian League (*3), La Liga (*3), Cope del Rey, Champions League (*5), Super Cup (*3) World Cup Club (*4), and Ballon d’Or 2018 and 10 times Croatian Player of the Year
Favourite HWL moment – There are countless trophies to mention, countless assists, and performances for Croatia in major international tournaments but our favourite moment is the volley against Turkey in Euro 2016, beating his strike for Tottenham Hotspur away to Bolton in 2012.



69 – Christian Vieri

Clubs – Torino, Pisa, Ravenna, Venezia, Atalanta, Juventus, Atletico Madrid, Lazio, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Monaco, Sampdoria, Fiorentina
Honours – Coppa Italia (*2), Serie A, Cup Winners Cup and 2 time Serie A Italian Footballer of the Year (199 & 2002)
Favourite HWL moment – Despite his goal scoring antics in Italy, his 24 goals in 24 games for Atletico is too good to ignore.



68 – Frank Rijkaard

Clubs – Ajax, Sporting Lisbon, Real Zaragoza, AC Milan
Honours – Eredivisie (*5), Serie A (*2), European Cup/Champions League (*3), Cup Winners Cup, 1988 European Championship
Favourite HWL moment – He scored the winner for AC Milan in the 1990 European Cup final, and the assist against them in 1995.



Filippo Tripi – 20-year-old Italian defensive midfielder who plays for Roma, making his debut in November 2020 in the Europa League



67 – Yuri Djorkaeff

Clubs – Grenoble, Strasbourg, Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain, Inter Milan, Kaiserslautern, Bolton Wanderers, Blackburn Rovers, New York Red Bulls
Honours – Cup Winners Cup, UEFA Cup, 1998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship
Favourite HWL moment – The Inter Milan goal against Roma, a hybrid bicycle kick/cartwheel style goal from an angle that appeared impossible to score from. A highly underrated player in our view.



66 – Wesley Sneijder

Clubs – Ajax, real Madrid, Inter Milan, Galatasaray, Nice, Al-Gharafa
Honours – Eredivisie, La Liga, Serie A, Turkish Super Liga (*2), KNVB Cup (*2), Coppa Italia (*2), Champions League and Club World Cup
Favourite HWL moment – The 2010 season at Inter Milan was special, winning the treble under Jose Mourinho so can't be overlooked but worth mentioning Sneijder's last season with Ajax where he scored a career-high 18 league goals in 30 appearances.



65 – Pavel Nedvěd

Clubs – Skoda Plzen, Dukla Prague (L), Sparta Prague, Lazio, Juventus
Honours – Czech First Division (*3), Serie A (*3), Serie B, Coppa Italia (*2), Cup Winners' Cup, Super Cup, Ballon d'Or 2003
Favourite HWL moment - In the 1999 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup Final, Nedvěd scored the decisive goal against Mallorca for Lazio's 2–1 win. This proved to be the last goal of the tournament, which was later discontinued. His performance for Czech Republic in the Euro 2004 should also be mentioned as the team got to the semi-finals.



Bruno Mota – Swiss midfielder had a very short career with Sampdoria and was unable to add to his one Swiss U21 cap





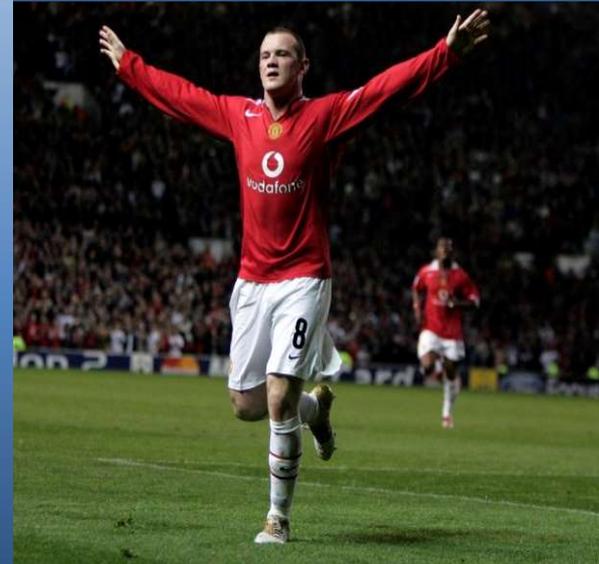
64 – Juan Sebastián Veron

Clubs – Estudiantes, Boca Juniors, Sampdoria, Parma, Lazio, Manchester United, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Bransden

Honours – Primera Division (*2), Copa Libertadores, Coppa Italia (*4), Serie A (*2), UEFA Cup, two-time South American Footballer of the Year (2008 & 2009)

Favourite HWL moment – It has to be the assist for a David Beckham strike at Old Trafford against Birmingham City in 2002 – Veron could float through the midfield and at times made it look effortless. Check out the pass, it is delicious.

63 – Wayne Rooney
Clubs – Everton, Manchester United, D.C United, Derby County
Honours – Premier League (*5), FA Cup, League Cup (*3), Champions League, Europa League, PFA Players of the Year 2010, and two-time PFA Young Player of the Year 2005 & 2006, and to date England's record goal scorer
Favourite HWL moment – April 2005 Rooney unleashed a volley against Newcastle United at Old Trafford, which we love as only 10 seconds before he was in the ear of the referee moaning.



62 – Alessandro Nesta

Clubs – Lazio, AC Milan, Montreal Impact

Honours – Serie A (*3), Coppa Italia (*3), Champions League (*2), 2006 World Cup

Favourite HWL moment – Making defending look cool.

61 – Fernando Redondo

Clubs – Argentinos Juniors, Tenerife, Real Madrid, AC Milan

Honours – La Liga (*2), Champions League (*3), Serie A

Favourite HWL moment – The piece of skill against Henning Berg at Old Trafford for Real Madrid in the Champions League.



Eric Lirussi – Udinese youth forward unable to make the breakthrough, nor during his time at Bologna, now playing in the lower Italian leagues



60 – Claude Makélélé

Clubs – Nantes, Marseille, Celta Vigo, Real Madrid, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain
Honours – Ligue 1, La Liga (*2), Champions League, Premier League (*2), FA Cup, League Cup (*2)

Favourite HWL moment – Surely is has to be the fact a position has been named after the defensive midfield maestro.



59 – Luis Suarez

Clubs – Nacional, Groningen, Ajax, Liverpool, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid
Honours – Eredivisie, League Cup, La Liga (*5), Copa del Rey (*4), Champions League, Copa America, Dutch Footballer of the Year 2010, PFA Players' Player of the Year 2014

Favourite HWL moment – The 2013/14 season for Liverpool was perhaps one of the most dominate of a single player in the leagues history. 31 goals in 33 games he was near on untouchable.



58 – Didier Drogba

Clubs – Le Mans, Guingamp, Marseille, Chelsea, Shanghai Shenhua, Galatasaray, Montreal Impact, Phoenix Rising
Honours – Premier League (*4), FA Cup (*4), League Cup (*3), Champions League, Turkish Super Liga, African Player of the Year 2006 & 2009, and twice Premier League Golden Boot winner (2007 & 2010)

Favourite HWL moment – The 2011/12 Champions League final, of course with the composure of the winning penalty is special, but take a look at the angle of his header to take the game into extra-time in the 88th minute. He had no right to score from there.



Joel Persson – Young Swedish centre-forward in the youth set up at Roma looking to progress up the ranks to the first team



57 – Roberto Carlos

Clubs – Uniao Sao Joao, Palmeiras, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Fenerbahce, Corinthians, Anzhi Makhachkala

Honours – Campeonato Brasileiro (*2), Campeonato Paulista (*2), La Liga (*4), Champions League (*3), Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup (*2), 2002 World Cup, Copa America (*2)

Favourite HWL moment – It seems an obvious choice but for defying science it has to be the 40-yard bending freekick against France in 1997.



56 – Marcel Desailly

Clubs – Nantes, Marseille, AC Milan, Chelsea, Al-Gharafa, Qatar SC

Honours – Champions League (*2), Serie A (*2), Super Cup (*2), FA Cup, 1998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – His charge into the box in the 1994 Champions League final and calm side foot finish for AC Milan.

55 – Gheorghe Hagi

Clubs – FC Constanta, Sportul Studentesc, Steaua Bucuresti, Real Madrid, Brescia, Barcelona, Galatasaray

Honours – Romania First Division (*3), Anglo-Italian Cup, Turkish Super Liga (*4), UEFA Cup, Super Cupa (*2)

Favourite HWL moment – Hagi's leading role in Romania's successful USA 1994 World Cup campaign, the highlight being the 3-2 victory against Argentina in the round of 16.



Simone Ianesi – Italian youngster on the youth books of Udinese, playing as a second striker, hoping to make it to the first team



54 – Zlatan Ibrahimovic

Clubs – Malmo, Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester United, LA Galaxy

Honours – Eredivisie (*2), Serie A (*7), La Liga, Ligue 1 (*4), Europa League, League Cup

Favourite HWL moment – A whole host of acrobatic goals, but the best one has to be the 35-yard overhead volley for Sweden against England, in a game he scored 4 goals.



53 – David Villa

Clubs – Sporting Gijon, Real Zaragoza, Valencia, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, New York City, Melbourne City (L), Vissel Kobe

Honours – Copa del Rey (*4), La Liga (*3), Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup, Emperor's Cup, 2010 World Cup, 2008 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – Despite all his club success our favourite moments came for the Spanish national team, and was the nation's top goalscorer in their 2008 & 2010 successes.



52 – Samuel Eto'o

Clubs – Real Madrid, Leganes (L), Espanyol (L), Real Mallorca, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Anzhi Makhachkala, Chelsea, Everton, Sampdoria, Antalyaspor, Konyaspor, Qatar SC

Honours – Champions League (*4), Copa del Rey (*2), La Liga (*3), Serie A, Coppa Italia (*2), Olympic Gold Medal

Favourite HWL moment – Back-to-back treble-winning campaigns (2008/09 – 2009/10) for different teams is an achievement unlikely to be matched.



Simone Trimboli – 20-year-old Italian midfielder made his debut for Sampdoria in 2022, with a further 3 Serie A appearance that season



51 – Gerard Pique & Carles Puyol

Clubs – Manchester United & Real Zaragoza (just Pique) and Barcelona

Honours – Pique – Premier League, La Liga (*8), Copa del Rey (*7), Champions League (*4), 2010 World Cup, 2012 European Championship

Puyol – La Liga (*6), Copa del Rey (*2), Champions League (*3), 2008 European Championship, 2010 World Cup

Favourite HWL moment – When Spain won the 2010 World Cup, they conceded just 2 goals, none of which were in the knock out stages.

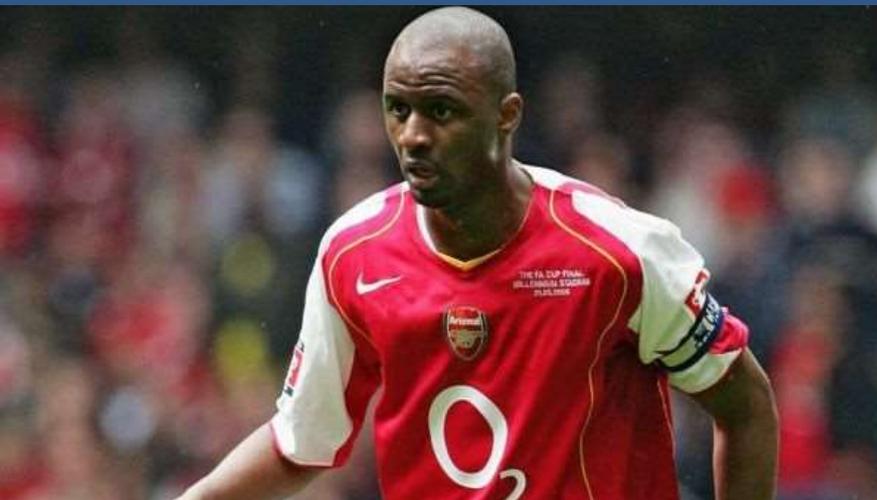


50 – Patrick Vieira

Clubs – Cannes, AC Milan, Arsenal, Juventus, Inter Milan, Manchester City

Honours – Premier League (*3), FA Cup (*5), Serie A (*4), 1998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – Enjoyed the Roy Keane tussles, but captaining the 2003/04 Arsenal team to the league title without defeat – the Invincibles.



49 – Karim Benzema

Clubs – Lyon, Real Madrid

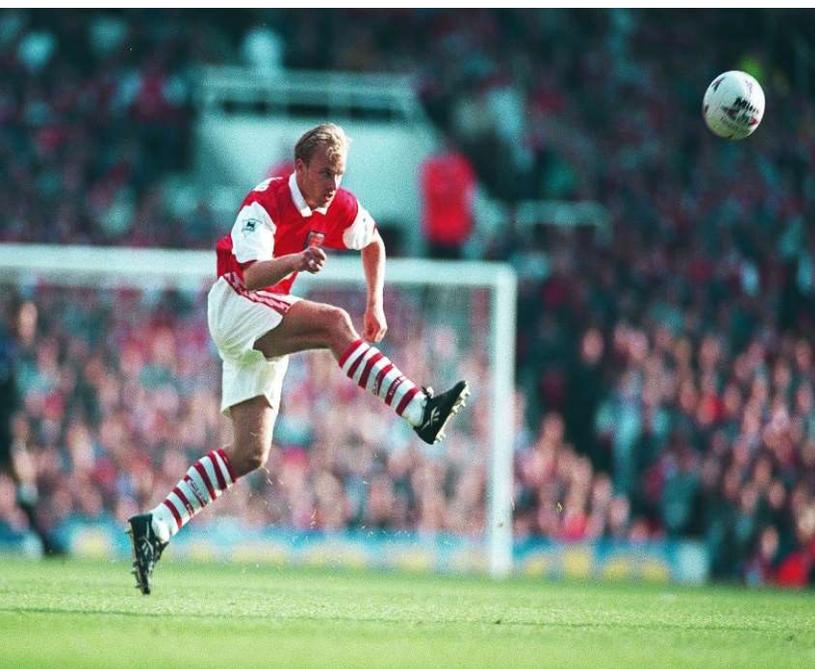
Honours – Ligue 1 (*4), La Liga (*4), Copa Del Rey (*2), Champions League (*5), UEFA Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*4), 2008 Ligue 1 top scorer, 2022 La Liga top scorer, 4 times French player of the year.

Favourite HWL moment – Like a fine French wine, Benzema has matured with age. The 2021/22 campaign was outstanding with 2 hat-tricks in the knockout stages of the Champions League.



Teden Mengi – Manchester-born youngster, on the books of Manchester United, and played for the club in the Europa League. Has spent time on loan at both Derby County and Birmingham City





48 – Dennis Bergkamp

Clubs – Ajax, Inter Milan, Arsenal
Honours – Eredivise, UEFA Cup (*2), Cup Winners Cup, Premier League (*3), FA Cup (*4), Dutch Football of the Year 1991 & 1992 and PFA Players’ Player of the Year 1998

Favourite HWL moment – The Holland goal against Argentina, the Arsenal goal against Newcastle, the Leicester City hat-trick – how do you pick? The performances in the 1997/98 season were out of this world, so that’s our favourite.



47 – Laurent Blanc

Clubs – Montpellier, Napoli, Nimes, Saint-Etienne, Auxerre, Barcelona, Marseille, Inter Milan, Manchester United

Honours – Ligue 1, Coupe de France (*2), Copa del Rey, Cup Winners Cup, Premier League, 998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship, 1990 French Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – We just love the fact Blanc is Montpellier’s top-ever goal scorer, and he is a centre back.



46 – Roy Keane

Clubs – Cobh Ramblers, Nottingham Forest, Manchester United, Celtic

Honours – Premier League (*7), FA Cup (*4), Champions League, Intercontinental Cup, Scottish Premier League, and 2000 PFA Players’ Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – Would have to be the performance against Juventus in the 1999 Champions League semi-final, driving his team to a 3-2 victory and into the final, that he would miss out on himself.



Charlie Savage – Manchester United youth midfielder, made his debut for the club in the Champions League against Young Boys in 2021. His father is the former Welsh international Robbie Savage



45 – Oliver Kahn

Clubs – Karlsruhe, Bayern Munich

Honours – Bundesliga (*8), DFB Pokal (*6), Champions League, UEFA Cup, Intercontinental Cup, FIFA 2002 World Cup Golden Ball, German Footballer of the Year (2000 & 2001), 1996 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – His performances in the 2002 World Cup were fantastic, but for us it's the man of the Match performance in the 2001 Champions League Final.



44 – Philipp Lahm

Clubs – Bayern Munich, Stuttgart (L)

Honours – Bundesliga (*8), DFB Pokal (*6), Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup, 2014 World Cup, German Footballer of the Year 2017.

Favourite HWL moment – He was a World Cup-winning Captain, never sent off in his career, but our favourite moment was the opening goal of the 2006 World Cup, against Costa Rica.

43 – Ryan Giggs

Clubs – Manchester United

Honours – Premier League (*13), FA Cup (*4), League Cup (*3), Champions League (*2), Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup, Club World Cup, PFA Young Player of the Year (1992 & 1993), PFA Players' Player of the Year 2009, Welsh Footballer of the Year 1996 & 2006

Favourite HWL moment – Incredible trophy haul, most Premier League appearances, and that goal against Arsenal in 1999, but our favourite moments are from Giggs' early career, as a skilful, pacey winger terrorising defenders with such ease. Love his goal against Tottenham at White Hart Lane in the 1992/93 season.



Sammeole Vianni – Former Napoli and Torino youth player who is on loan to Trento of Serie C to gain first team experience



42 - Neymar

Clubs – Santos, Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain
Honours – Campeonato Paulista (*2), Copa Libertadores, La Liga (*2), Copa del Rey (*3), Champions League, Club World Cup, Ligue 1 (*4), Coupe de France (*3), Olympic Gold Medal, South America Footballer of the Year (2011 & 2012)
Favourite HWL moment – His contribution to Barcelona’s comeback win against Paris Saint-Germain in the 2016/17 round of 16 Champions League game overturning a 4-0 deficit.



41 – Robert Lewandowski

Clubs – Delta Warsaw, Legia Warsaw II, Znicz Pruszkow, Lech Poznan, Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich
Honours – Polish First Division, Polish Cup, Bundesliga (*10), DFB Pokal (*4), Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup, 10 times Polish Player of the Year and the 2021 Best FIFA Men’s player.
Favourite HWL moment – His goals record in Germany is pure filth, including 41 goals in 29 games in one season, but 5 goals in 9 minutes against Wolfsburg in 2015 takes the biscuit!



40 – Arjen Robben

Clubs – Groningen, PSV, Chelsea, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich
Honours – Eredivisie, Premier League (*2), FA Cup, League Cup (*2), La Liga, Bundesliga (*8), DFB Pokal (*5), Champions League, Super Cup
Favourite HWL moment – Redemption in the 2012/13 Champions League final having missed a penalty in the previous season’s final for Bayern.



Jose Mamede – Retired Portuguese midfielder spent 9 years playing in Italy but predominately in the lower leagues and not the top flight





39 – Rafael Varane

Clubs – Lens, Real Manchester United
Honours – La Liga(*3), Copa del Rey, Champions League (*4), Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*4), 2018 World Cup
Favourite HWL moment – Similar to Nesta in a way, making defending look cool, and very easy!

38 – Jurgen Klinsmann
Clubs – Stuttgarter Kickers, Stuttgart, Inter Milan, Monaco, Tottenham Hotspur, Bayern Munich, Sampdoria
Honours – UEFA Cup (*2), Bundesliga, 1990 World Cup, 1996 European Championship. German Footballer of the Year 1988 & 1994, FWA Footballer of the Year
Favourite HWL moment – The goal celebration for Spurs against Sheffield Wednesday in 1994 on his debut immediately won English fans over.



37 – Dani Alves

Clubs – Bahia, Sevilla, Barcelona, Juventus, Paris Saint-Germain and Sao Paulo
Honours – Copa del Rey (*5), La Liga (*6), UEFA Cup (*2), Champions League (*3), Serie A, Coppa Italia, Ligue 1 (*2) Coupe De France, Copa America (*2), Olympic Gold Medal
Favourite HWL moment – Other than being the most decorated footballer of all time, the partnership with Leo Messi at Barcelona in the years 2009-2011 was incredibly joyous to watch.



Zach Awe - 18-year-old English centre back on the youth books for Arsenal waiting to make his breakthrough to the first team



36 – Hristo Stoichkov

Clubs – Hebros Harmanli, CSKA Sofia, Barcelona, Parma, Al-Nassar, Kashiwa Reysol, Chicago Fire, D.C United

Honours – Bulgarian First Division (*3), Bulgarian Cup (*4), La Liga (*5), Copa del Rey, European Cup, Cup Winners Cup, Super Cup (*2), 5 times Bulgarian Footballer of the Year, 1994 Ballon d'Or, 1994 World Cup Golden Boot

Favourite HWL moment – Aside from his performances in the 1994 World Cup, the Champions League game for Barcelona against Manchester United, in 1994 at the Nou Camp was special, as the Catalan giants destroyed United 4-0 inspired by Stoichkov.



35 – Alessandro Del Piero

Clubs – Padova, Juventus, Sydney FC, Delhi Dynamos

Honours – Serie A (*6), Serie B, Coppa Italia, Champions League, Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup, Intertoto Cup, 2006 World Cup,

Favourite HWL moment – Despite all the goals scored for Juventus, and there were a lot (domestic and European) our favourite moment was his goal for Italy against Germany in the 2006 World Cup semi-final.

34 – George Weah

Clubs – Bong Range United, Mighty Barrolle, Invincible Eleven, Africa Sports, Tonnerre Yaounde, Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan, Chelsea, Manchester City, Marseille, Al Jazira.

Honours – Liberian Premier League, Liberian Cup, Coupe de France (*3), Ligue 1, Serie A (*2), FA Cup, 1995 Ballon d'Or and 1995 FIFA World Player of the Year and 3 times Africa Footballer of the Year.

Favourite HWL moment – His spell at PSG was awesome, but we have to pick the solo goal he scored for AC Milan against Verona 1996, literally running the length of the pitch to score.



Luis Fernando Centi – Now retired Italian midfielder who played for 14 clubs during his career including Piacenza, Como, Livorno Ascoli, SPAL and Atalanta



33 – Francesco Totti

Clubs - Roma

Honours – Serie A, Coppa Italia (*2), 2006 World Cup, Serie A Young Footballer of the year 1999, Serie A Footballer of the Year 2000 & 2003, European Golden Boot 2006/07
Favourite HWL moment – The loyalty to Roma as to be applauded as he could have undoubtedly won more by moving. Our favourite moment has to be the left foot volley he scored for Roma away to Sampdoria in 2006. WOW.



32 – Raul Gonzalez

Clubs – Real Madrid, Schalke, Al Sadd, New York Cosmos

Honours – La Liga (*6), Champions League (*3), Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup (*2), DFB Pokal, Qatar Stars League, 2 times Spanish League Top Scorer (1999 & 2001).
Favourite HWL moment – Any goal celebration that has Raul in a Real Madrid kit with the Kelme sponsorship, and the dog paw prints down the sleeves.

31 – Andrea Pirlo

Clubs – Brescia, Inter Milan, Reggina (L), AC Milan, Juventus, New York City

Honours – Serie B, Serie A (*6), Coppa Italia (*2), Champions League (*2) Club World Cup, 2006 World Cup

Favourite HWL moment – His Panenka penalty against England in 2012

30 – Kaka

Clubs – Sao Paulo, AC Milan, Real Madrid, Orlando City

Honours – Serie A, Champions League, La Liga, 2002 World Cup, 2007 Ballon d'Or, 2007 FIFA World Player of the Year.

Favourite HWL moment – the first 45 minutes of the 2005 Champions League Final against Liverpool.



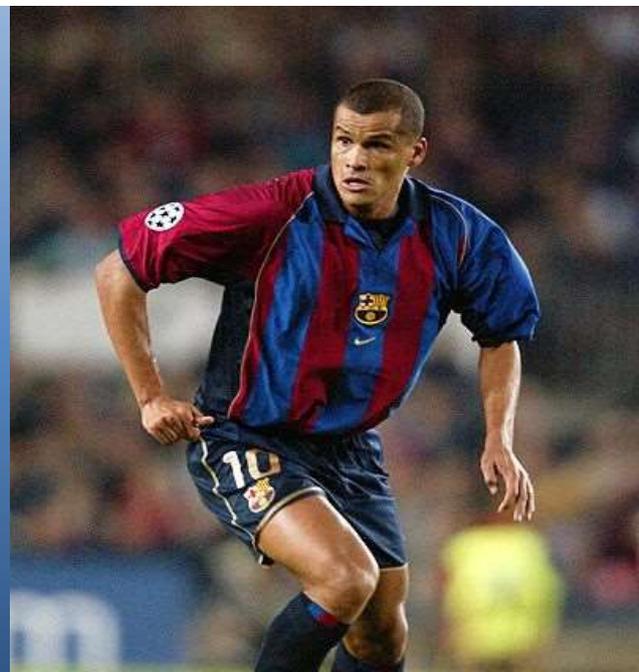
Cristian Zenoni - Former Italian right back, with 2 international caps played for Atalanta, alongside his twin brother Damiano, as well at Juventus, Sampdoria and Bologna



29 – Rivaldo

Clubs – Santa Cruz, Mogi Mirim, Corinthians, Palmeiras, Deportivo La Coruna, Barcelona, AC Milan, Cruzeiro, Olympiakos, AEL Athens, Bunyodkor, Sao Paulo, Kabuscorp, Sao Caetano

Honours – Brazilian Serie A, Campeonato Paulista, La Liga (*2), Copa del Rey, Coppa Italia, Champions League, Greece Super League (*3), Greek Cup (*20), Uzbek League (*3), 2002 World Cup, Copa America, 1999 Ballon d'Or, 1999 FIFA World Player of the Year. Favourite HWL moment – The overhead kick for Barca, against Valencia was insane, but not enough credit is given for his dummy assist in the 2002 World Cup final.



28 - Luis Figo

Clubs – Sporting Lisbon, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Inter Milan

Honours – La Liga (*4), Copa del Rey (*2), Cup Winners' Cup, Super Cup (*2), Champions League, Serie A (*4), Coppa Italia, 2000 Ballon d'Or, 2001 FIFA World Player of the Year. Favourite HWL moment – His strike for Portugal against England in the 2000 European Championships was pretty special.

27 – Andriy Shevchenko

Clubs – Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea
Honours – Ukraine First Division (*5), Ukraine Cup (*3), Serie A, Coppa Italia, Champions League, Super Cup, FA Cup, League Cup, 2004 Ballon d'Or
Favourite HWL moment – 1997/98 season, he announced himself to the football world with a first-half hat-trick for Dynamo Kyiv, away to Barcelona in the Champions League.



Marcelo Flores – Canadian born, but Mexico international (3 caps) is on the books of Arsenal, but at 18 the attacking midfielder is yet to make his first team debut



26 – Gabriel Batistuta

Clubs – Newell’s Old Boys, River Plate, Boca Juniors, Fiorentina, Roma, Inter Milan (L), Al-Arabi

Honours – Argentine Primera Division, Serie B, Coppa Italia, Serie A, Copa America.

Favourite HWL moment – Has hat-tricks in 2 separate world cups, but his strikes for Fiorentina in Europe against English giants Arsenal and Manchester United were unstoppable – loved a power strike did Batigol!



25 – Lothar Matthaus

Clubs – Borussia Monchengladbach, Bayern Munich, Inter Milan, New York MetroStars

Honours – Bundesliga (*7), DFB Pokal (*3), UEFA Cup (*2), Serie A, 1980 European Championships, 1990 World Cup, 1990 Ballon d’Or and 1991 FIFA World Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – Matthaus performances, and goals at the 1990 Italy World Cup finals was him at his very best.

24 – Ruud Gullit

Clubs – HFC Haarlem, Feyenoord, PSV Eindhoven, AC Milan, Sampdoria, Chelsea

Honours – Dutch Second Division, Eredivisie (*3), KNVB Cup, Serie A (*3), European Cup (*2), Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup, Coppa Italia, 1988 European Championship, 1987 Ballon d’Or.

Favourite HWL moment – The sheer excitement of Gullit’s arrival to the Premier League. From 1988 to 1994 he was one of the world’s best players and his move to England seemed a significant landmark in the League’s progression to one of the best in the world.



Davide Gavazzi – Italian midfielder has played for Sampdoria in Serie A, but mainly in the lower leagues with Como, Vicenza, Ternana and Avellino





23 - Cafu

Clubs – Sao Paulo, Zaragoza, Juventude, Palmeiras, Roma, AC Milan

Honours – Campeonato Brasileiro, Campeonato Paulista (*3), Copa Libertadores (*2), Intercontinental Cup (*2), Cup Winners' Cup, Serie A (*2), Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup, 1994 World Cup, 2002 World Cup, Copa America (*2)

Favourite HWL moment – The smile he wore seemingly forever when playing football made you think he realised just how lucky he was to do this for a living.

22 - Romario

Clubs – Vasco da Gama, PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Flamengo, Valencia, Fluminense, Al Sadd (L), Miami FC, Adelaide United (L)

Honours - Campeonato Brasileiro Serie A, Eredivisie, KNVB Cup, La Liga, 1994 World Cup, Copa America (*2), 1994 FIFA World Player of the Year, 2000 South American Footballer of the Year.

Favourite HWL moment – 3 games and 3 goals in the 1994 World Cup group stages on route to winning the tournament.



21 – Sergio Busquets

Clubs - Barcelona

Honours – La Liga (*8), Copa del Rey (*7), Champions League (*3), Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*3), 2010 World Cup, 2012 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – 21st seems quite high for Busquets, but his consistency at such a high level for such a long time makes him one of the best defensive midfielders of our generation, and yet somehow seems underrated. It's the consistency that is our favourite moment.



Cole Palmer – Young, English attacking midfielder on the books for Manchester City, with 4 league appearances for the club, and a first-team goal scored against Wycombe in the EFL Cup





20 – Manuel Neuer

Clubs – Schalke, Bayern Munich
Honours – Bundesliga (*10), DFB Pokal (*6), Champions League (*2), Super Cup (*2), Club World Cup (*2), 2014 World Cup
Favourite HWL moment – Neuer’s assist for Miroslav Klose’s goal for Germany in the 2010 World Cup.



19 – Kylian Mbappé

Clubs – Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain
Honours – Ligue 1 (*5), Coupe de France (*3), 2018 World Cup
Favourite HWL moment – His goal in the 2018 World Cup final. This kid has the potential to be the best in the world and will not be at 19th for long.



Nikos Michelis – Yet to make his first-team debut for AC Milan, the Greek U21 international is on loan to Willem II and the centre-back could be one to watch for the future





18 – Iker Casillas

Clubs - Real Madrid, Porto
Honours – La Liga (*5), Copa del Rey (*2), Champions League (*3), Super Cup (*2), Club World Cup, Intercontinental Cup (*2), Primeira Liga, 2010 World Cup, 2008 & 2012 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – His save from Arjen Robben in the 2010 World Cup Final when the score was at 0-0.

17 – Fabio Cannavaro

Clubs – Napoli, Parma, Inter Milan, Juventus, Real Madrid, Al-Ahli
Honours – UEFA Cup, Coppa Italia (*2), La Liga (*2), 2006 World Cup, Ballon d’Or, 2006 FIFA World Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – Anyone of the thousands of slide tackles or blocks that Cannavaro put his body on the line for.



Omari Hutchinson – an 18-year-old full Jamaican international (1 cap) has yet to debut for Arsenal’s first team but high hopes for the young midfielder having moved from Charlton Athletic





16 – Lilian Thuram

Clubs – Monaco, Parma, Juventus, Barcelona
Honours – Coupe de France, Coppa Italia, UEFA Cup, Serie A (*2), 1998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship, 1997 French Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – The fact that Thuram only scored 2 goals for France in 1423 appearances and they both happen to have been scored in the 1998 World Cup semi-final.



15 – Roberto Baggio

Clubs – Vicenza, Fiorentina, Juventus, AC Milan, Bologna, Inter Milan, Brescia.
Honours – Serie A (*2), Coppa Italia, UEFA Cup, 1993 Ballon d’Or, 1993 FIFA World Player of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – His performances for Italy in the knock-out stages of the 1994 USA World Cup. Doubles against Nigeria and Bulgaria, plus the winner against Spain, Baggio was at that time, the best player in the world and he proved on the world stage, regardless of what happened in the final.



Ibrahim Turan – Young Turkish full-back was on the books of Bursaspor but not in the lower leagues playing for Buyuk Anadolu





14 – Clarence Seedorf

Clubs – Ajax, Sampdoria, Real Madrid, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Botafogo
Honours – Eredivisie (*2), KNVB Cup, Champions League (*4), La Liga, Coppa Italia, Super Cup (*2), Club World Cup, Campeonato Carioca, Dutch Football Talent of the Year (1993 & 1994)

Favourite HWL moment – The 3 Champions Leagues with 3 separate clubs is a special achievement. We also love his Real Madrid strike against rivals Atletico in 1997 from closer to the halfway line than the penalty box.

13 – Sergio Ramos
Clubs – Sevilla, Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain
Honours – La Liga (*5), Copa del Rey, (*2), Champions League (*4), Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*4), 2010 World Cup, 2008 & 2012 European Championship
Favourite HWL moment – 180 international caps is a mad statistic, as is his disciplinary record as well as his super goalscoring record for a central defender. The favourite moment however has to be the 93rd-minute equaliser in the Champions League final against rivals Atletico, taking the game into extra time where Real came out 4-1 winners to win the club's 10 European Cup/Champions League.



Francesco Lodi – Former Italian U21 international (2 caps, 2 goals) started his career at Empoli before moving to Catania, Parma, Udinese and then back to Catania for his most productive spell





12 – Franco Baresi

Clubs – AC Milan

Honours – Serie A (*6), Serie B (*2), European Cup/Champions League (*3), Super Cup (*3), Intercontinental Cup (*2), Serie A Footballer of the Year 1990, 1982 World Cup

Favourite HWL moment – calmness personified. Baresi made defending into an art. He led the great AC Milan teams (1986-1996), including an undefeated league title. In 2 successful Serie A campaigns(1987/88 & 1993/94), under his defensive watch, the side conceded just 14 and 15 respectively. Considering he was injured, the 1994 World Cup final display confirmed his world class status.



Filippo Beradi - San Marino international, the right-winger played for Rimini and Torino, but now in Serie C with Ancona-Matelica





11 – Andres Iniesta

Clubs – Barcelona, Vissel Kobe

Honours – La Liga (*9), Copa del Rey (*6), Champions League (*4), Super Cup (*2), Club World Cup (*3), Emperor’s Cup, Japanese Super Cup, 2010 World Cup, 2008 & 2012 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – Having a World Cup final winning goal on your CV is going to be pretty hard to beat. Iniesta doesn’t strike you as a modern ball footballer, he wasn’t blessed with pace or strength but his ability was so good. He was part of the best team in the world (club and country) from 2008 to 2012.



Bruno Paz – Portugal defensive midfielder made his debut for Sporting Lisbon in 2018 in the Europa League but was never able to break into the first team





10 – Xavi Hernandez

Clubs – Barcelona, Al Sadd

Honours – La Liga (*8), Copa del Rey (*3), Champions League (*4), Super Cup (*2), Club World Cup (*2), Qatar Stars League, Qatar Cup, 2010 World Cup, 2008 & 2012 European Championship

Favourite HWL moment – Xavi just pips Iniesta into the top 10, having played for Barcelona and Spain a little more. The great Barcelona team and the great Spanish national teams he was a part of, all went through this man, he was instrumental in the team's unrivalled successes and seemed to do it all without breaking a sweat.



Daniel Fuzato – Brazilian goalkeeper on the books of Roma after a move from Palmeiras, and has spent time out on loan to Gil Vicente





9 – Gianluigi Buffon

Clubs – Parma, Juventus, Paris Saint-Germain

Honours – Coppa Italia (*6), Serie A (*10), UEFA Cup, Ligue 1, 2006 World Cup, 12 times Serie A Goalkeeper of the year, and 2016 Serie A Footballer of the Year

Favourite HWL moment – Buffon is the highest placed goalkeeper in the top 100 Halfway Line players. At 44 he continues to play professional, back at his first club Parma, and it's there where we have our favourite moment. In November 1995 Buffon made his club debut at 17 years old against AC Milan in Serie A and even that early one, you could tell he was going to be something special and he hasn't disappoint throughout this career.



Marko Livaja – Croatian international currently with Hajduk Split but spent time with likes of Inter Milan, Atalanta, Rubin Kazan, Las Palmas, and AEK Athens. His 28 league goals in 2021/22 is a Hajduk record for a single season





8 – Marco Van Basten

Clubs – Ajax, AC Milan

Honours – Eredivisie (*3), KNVB Cup (*3), Cup Winners' Cup, Serie A (*3), European Cup (*3), Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup (*2), 1988 European

Championship, 1988, 1989 & 1992 Ballon d'Or, 1992 FIFA World Player of the Year, 4 times Eredivisie Top Scorer, 2 times Serie A Top Scorer and 1985 Dutch Footballer of the Year.

Favourite HWL moment – Van Basten once scored 37 goals in 26 league games for Ajax in one season, he scored 2 goals in the 1989 European Cup final and has a back catalogue of outstanding goals, but the favourite has to be the 1988 goal against the Soviet Union in the European Championship final that the Dutch were victorious. The volley is quite simply outrageous.



Steeve-Mike Eboa Ebongue – Known as Steeve-Mike Eyango, the French midfielder debuted for Genoa and has spent time away on loan with Cosenza and Siena in Serie B and C respectively



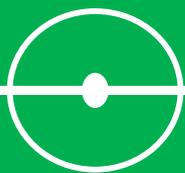


7 – Paolo Maldini

Clubs – AC Milan

Honours – Serie A (*7), Coppa Italia, European Cup/Champions League (*5), Super Cup (*5), Intercontinental Cup (*2), Club World Cup.

Favourite HWL moment – Our highest place entry for a player representing just one club. Helps he represented that one club on 902 occasions! Schooled by the already mentioned Baresi, and somehow exceeding his ability and performances and equally at home at left-back or centre back. Our favourite moments are the 2007 Champions League final victory, not bad for a 38-year-old, and then the 2000 European Championship. Watching Maldini play alongside Cannavaro and Nesta was watching a defensive masterclass and they were so unlucky not to win it. Nation team success was the one thing that escaped Maldini.



Patrick Olsen – Former Danish U21 international signed for Inter Milan from Brøndby but failed to make the grade and has since played for Lens, Grasshoppers, AaB, AGF and Śląsk Wrocław





6 – Thierry Henry

Clubs – Monaco, Juventus, Arsenal, Barcelona, New York Red Bulls.

Honours – Ligue 1, Premier League (*2), FA Cup (*2) La Liga (*2), Copa del Rey, Champions League, Super Cup, Club World Cup, 1998 World Cup, 2000 European Championship, European Golden Shoe 2004 & 2005, PFA Players' Player of the Year 2003 & 2004, FWA Footballer of the Year 2003, 2004, 2006 and 4 times Premier League Top Scorer.

Favourite HWL moment – There is not enough space to list all our favourite goals Henry scored or created but we will pick the 2002/03 season as a whole as our favourite. Henry was untouchable as a player that season, scoring 24 league goals and 20 assists in the league. This was a first for any of the top 5 European leagues. He backed that up the following season, leading the way in goals in the Invincible season for Arsenal, totalling 39 in all competitions.



Mykhaylo Mudryk – 21-year-old Ukrainian midfielder has 5 international caps to his name and is firmly a first-team choice for Shakhtar Donetsk, with a move to a bigger league touted for the youngster





5 - Ronaldinho

Clubs – Gremio, Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona, AC Milan, Flamengo, Atletico Mineiro, Queretaro, Fluminense
Honours – Campeonato Gaucho, La Liga (*2), Champions League, Serie A, Campeonato Mineiro, Copa Libertadores, Copa America, 2002 World Cup, Ballon d’Or, FIFPro World Player of the Year 2005 & 2006, FIFA World Player of the Year 2005 & 2006, South American Footballer of the Year 2013.

Favourite HWL moment – Has to be the 2005/06 season. Includes that away performance against Real Madrid, and comminating in the Champions League victory against Arsenal.



Franco Mussis - Argentine midfielder played for Gimnasia before moving to Europe but failed to perform at Copenhagen and Genoa and headed back to Argentina to play for San Lorenzo





4 – Cristiano Ronaldo

Clubs – Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus
Honours – Premier League (*3), FA Cup, League Cup (*2), Champions League (*5), Club World Cup (*4), La Liga (*2), Copa del Rey (*2), Super Cup, Serie A (*2), Coppa Italia, 2016 European Championship, Ballon d’Or 2008, 2013, 2014, 2016 & 2017, 2008 FIFA World Player of the Year, PFA Player’s Player of the Year 2007 & 200, Premier League Top Scorer 2008, La Liga Top Scorer 2011, 2014, 2015 and Serie A Top Scorer 2021.

Favourite HWL moment – One of the all-time greats no doubt, and this goal-scoring record is robot-like. The freekick for United against Portsmouth stands out, the rocket for United against Porto and the overhead kick for Real Madrid against Juventus stand out, but our favourite moment is surprising but we love the Ronaldo on the touchline for the 2016 European Championship final against France, taking on the role of coach to see the national team home in the final.



Brandon Sopyy – French right back transferred from Rennes to Udinese in 2021 and a very steady first season suggests U21 caps will be added to his U16, U17, and U18 collection





3 – Zinedine Zidane

Clubs – Cannes, Bordeaux, Juventus, Real Madrid

Honours – Intertoto Cup (*2), Serie A (*2), Super Cup (*2), La Liga, Champions League, Intercontinental Cup, 1998 World Cup, 2000

European Championship, Ligue 1 Young Player of the Year 1994, Ligue 1 Player of the Year 1996, 1998 Ballon d'Or, FIFA World Player of the Year 1998, 2000, 2003, FIFA World Cup Golden Ball 200, Serie A Footballer of the Year 2001.

Favourite HWL moment – The 1998 World Cup Final, and the Champions League volley in 2002 are special, but our stand-out moment is Zidane's performance at the 2000 European Championship. The highlight reels are just a snippet of just how good he was in that tournament where it seemed he could simply float through the games.



Oleg Danchenko – Ukrainian right-back, with U21 caps played for Shakhtar Donetsk, Anzhi Makhachkala and Rubin Kazan before trying his luck in Greece with AEK Athens



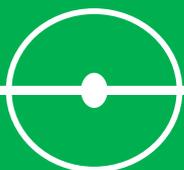


2 – Lionel Messi

Clubs – Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain

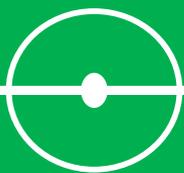
Honours – La Liga (*10), Cope del Rey (*7), Champions League (*4), Super Cup (*3), Club World Cup (*3), Ligue 1, Olympic Gold Medal, Copa America, Ballon d’Or 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, FIFA World Player of the Year 2009, The Best FIFA Men’s Player 2021, 6 times European Golden Shoe, FIFA World Cup Golden Ball 2014 and 14 times Argentine Football of the Year.

Favourite HWL moment – Very much in the argument for the best-ever player to grace the game. He came close to being the HWL number one, and moments like his 73-goal season in 2011/12 made him the single-season top scorer in the history of European club football.



Renato Veiga – Youth-level defensive midfielder for Sporting Lisbon. Already 6 U19 caps for Portugal, and could be one to watch from the club’s famous academy





Diego Moreira – Belgium-born, but Portuguese youth international plays on the right-winger and in 2022 made his first-team debut for Benfica. Likened to Nani, so could be another one to watch



1 - Ronaldo

Clubs – Cruzeiro, PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, AC Milan, Corinthians

Honours – Campeonato Mineiro, Campeonato Paulista, Copa da Brasil (*2), KNVB Cup, Cup Winners' Cup, Copa del Rey, UEFA Cup, La Liga, Intercontinental Cup, 1994 & 2002 World Cup, Copa America (*2), FIFA World Player of the Year 1996, 1997 & 2002, Ballon d'Or 1997 & 1998, Eredivisie Top Scorer 1995, La Liga Top Scorer 1997 & 2004, 1998 FIFA World Cup Golden Ball, and FIFA World Cup Golden Shoe 2002.

Favourite HWL moment – Quite simply, in our opinion, the greatest ever footballer we have had the pleasure and honour of watching. He grabbed our attention from his inclusion in the 1994 Brazil World Cup squad, and until 2011 he mesmerised defenders all over Europe and the world. The scandal is the years we lost to injury from 1999 to 2001, in what should have been his peak. He had a near goal to every game for his first three clubs, and his level of performance at the 1998 World Cup was insane, bar the final. Having won the 2002 World Cup, with 8 goals to his name he transferred to Real Madrid where his goal-fest continued.

His ability to run at pace with the ball and produce the skills to flummox defenders as he did was unrivalled. The skill in the 1998 UEFA Cup final against Lazio, followed by the last goal of the game when he placed Luca Marchegani on his rear was stupendous and we just love the fact he played the game how it should, with a huge smile on his face. R9, The Phenomenon, and for us, the very best of a darn good bunch.



Nicolo Cambiaghi - Italian forward for Pordenone on loan from Atalanta, with no appearances yet for the Serie A side



The Halfway Line complete rundown of the top 100 players we have had the pleasure of watching.

Going through it, it's somewhat embarrassing the level of quality players we have missed out on, and we aren't even going to list them to highlight those who fell short.

Honestly, try it – it's way harder than you might think.

1 Ronaldo		
2 Lionel Messi	35 Alessandro Del Piero	68 Frank Rijkaard
3 Zinedine Zidane	36 Hristo Stoichkov	69 Christian Vieri
4 Cristiano Ronaldo	37 Dani Alves	70 Luka Modric
5 Ronaldinho	38 Jurgen Klinsmann	71 Toni Kroos
6 Thierry Henry	39 Rafael Varane	72 Gareth Bale
7 Paolo Maldini	40 Arjen Robben	73 Kevin De Bruyne
8 Marco Van Basten	41 Robert Lewandowski	74 David Trezeguet
9 Gianluigi Buffon	42 Neymar	75 Frank Lampard
10 Xavi Hernandez	43 Ryan Giggs	76 Hernan Crespo
11 Andres Iniesta	44 Philip Lahm	77 Javier Zanetti
12 Franco Baresi	45 Oliver Kahn	78 Alan Shearer
13 Sergio Ramos	46 Roy Keane	79 Patrick Kluivert
14 Clarence Seedorf	47 Laurent Blanc	80 Steven Gerrard
15 Roberto Baggio	48 Dennis Bergkamp	81 Sergio Aguero
16 Lillian Thuram	49 Karim Benzema	82 Tony Adams
17 Fabio Cannavaro	50 Patrick Vieira	83 Cesc Fabregas
18 Iker Casillas	51 Carles Puyol & Gerard Pique	84 Alessandro Costacurta
19 Kylian Mbappe	52 Samuel Eto'o	85 Ruud Van Nistelrooy
20 Manuel Neuer	53 David Villa	86 Edgar Davids
21 Sergio Busquets	54 Zlatan Ibrahimovic	87 Eden Hazard
22 Romario	55 Gheorghe Hagi	88 Filippo Inzaghi
23 Cafu	56 Marcel Desailly	89 Jari Litmanen
24 Ruud Gullit	57 Roberto Carlos	90 Robin Van Persie
25 Lothar Matthaus	58 Didier Drogba	91 Bixente Lizarazu
26 Gabriel Batistuta	59 Luis Suarez	92 Rui Costa
27 Andriy Shevchenko	60 Claude Makelele	93 Adriano
28 Luis Figo	61 Fernando Redondo	94 Daniele De Rossi
29 Rivaldo	62 Alessandro Nesta	95 Ronald & Frank De Boer
30 Kaka	63 Wayne Rooney	96 Paul Scholes
31 Andrea Pirlo	64 Juan Sebastian Veron	97 Juan Riquelme
32 Raul Gonzalez	65 Pavel Nedved	98 Ashley Cole
33 Francesco Totti	66 Wesley Sneijder	99 Angel Di Maria
34 George Weah	67 Youri Djorkaeff	100 Paul Merson & Anders Limpar

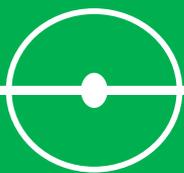


Yan Couto – Manchester City right-back, only 20 years old, spent time away on loan to Girona and Braga having been signed from Brazilian side Coritiba in 2020



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

1	Santiago Canivares	Valencia	1997-2008	51	Frank Simek	Arsenal	2003-2004
2	Achraf Hakimi	Paris Saint-Germain	2021-2022	52	Max Taylor	Manchester United	2019-2020
3	Frederic Dehu	Barcelona	1999-2000	53	Samuel Edozie	Manchester City	2021-2022
4	Luisao	Benfica	2003-2018	54	Matt Macey (GK)	Arsenal	2016-2018
5	Mats Hummels	Bayern Munich	2016-2019	55	Ebrima Darboe	Roma	2021-2022
6	David Albelda	Valencia	2001-2013	56	Anthony Elanga	Manchester United	2020-2021
7	Matthew Le Tissier	Southampton	1986-2002	57	Marco Sportiello (GK)	Fiorentina	2016-2018
8	Yoann Gourcuff	Lyon	2011-2015	58	Tomasso Pobega	AC Milan	2017-2018
9	Tony Cascarino	Marseille	1994-1995	59	Nicola Zalewski	Roma	2020-2022
10	Marta	Brazil	2002-2022	60	Jacop Da Riva	Atalanta	2021-2022
11	Marc Overmars	Arsenal	1997-2000	61	Luca Garritano	Inter Milan	2012-2013
12	Rafinha	Paris Saint-Germain	2020-2022	62	Brandon Barker	Manchester City	2015-2016
13	Marcio Santos	Ajax Amsterdam	1996-1997	63	Michel Adopo	Torino	2017-2018
14	Alexander Isak	Borussia Dortmund	2016-2019	64	Felix Afena-Gyan	Roma	2021-2022
15	Fabio Rochemback	Barcelona	2001-2003	65	Filippo Tripi	Roma	2020-2022
16	Pedri	Barcelona	2020-2022	66	Bruno Mota	Sampdoria	2006-2007
17	Dede	Borussia Dortmund	1998-2011	67	Eric Lirussi	Udinese	2019-2020
18	Bruno Fernandes	Manchester United	2019-2022	68	Joel Persson	Roma	2021-2022
19	Memphis Depay	Lyon	2020-2021	69	Simone Ianesi	Udinese	2021-2022
20	Zvonimir Boban	AC Milan	1995-1998	70	Simone Trimboli	Sampdoria	2021-2022
21	Lucas Hernandez	Bayern Munich	2019-2022	71	Teden Mengi	Manchester United	2019-2020
22	Christian Pulisic	Borussia Dortmund	2015-2019	72	Charlie Savage	Manchester United	2021-2022
23	Habib Beye	Marseille	2003-2008	73	Sammeole Vianni	Torino	2020-2021
24	Ezequiel Garay	Valencia	2016-2020	74	Jose Mamebe	Genoa	2006-2007
25	Jadon Sancho	Manchester United	2021-2022	75	Zach Awe	Arsenal	2012-2022
26	David Pizarro	Fiorentina	2012-2013	76	Luis Fernando Centi	Atalanta	2005-2006
27	Alex Tettey	Norwich City	2012-2021	77	Cristian Zenoni	Sampdoria	2003-2008
28	Alex Witsel	Benfica	2011-2013	78	Marceo Flores	Arsenal	2021-2022
29	Kai Havertz	Chelsea	2020-2022	79	Davide Gavazzi	Sampdoria	2012-2014
30	Donny Van Der Beek	Ajax Amsterdam	2015-2017	80	Cole Palmer	Manchester City	2019-2022
31	Riccardo Taddei	Fiorentina	1999-2001	81	Nikolas Michelis	AC Milan	2020-2021
32	Aruadiusz Milik	Ajax Amsterdam	2014-2015	82	Omari Hutchinson	Arsenal	2021-2022
33	Federico Bernardeshi	Juventus	2017-2021	83	Ibrahim Turan	Bursapor	2019-2020
34	Lucas Torreira	Sampdoria	2016-2018	84	Francesco Lodi	Udinese	2009-2010
35	Jan Benarek	Southampton	2017-2022	85	Filippo Beradi	Torino	2016-2017
36	Brett Ormerod	Southampton	2001-2005	86	Bruno Paz	Sporting Lisbon	2020-2021
37	Facundo Ferreyra	Benfica	2020-2021	87	Daniel Fuzato (GK)	Roma	2020-2022
38	Mikkel Damsgaard	Sampdoria	2020-2022	88	Marko Livaja	Inter Milan	2011-2013
39	Alan Smith	Leeds United	1998-1999	89	Steeve-Mike Eyango	Genoa	2019-2022
40	Nenad Tomovic	Fiorentina	2016-2018	90	Patrick Olsen	Inter Milan	2012-2014
41	Mustapha Papa Diop	Marseille	2005-2006	91	Mykhaylo Mudryk	Shakhtar Donetsk	2018-2021
42	Jonathan	Inter Milan	2011-2013	92	Franco Mussis	Genoa	2014-2015
43	Rodney Sneijder	Ajax Amsterdam	2010-2011	93	Brandon Soppo	Udinese	2021-2022
44	Matteo Bianchetti	Inter Milan	2011-2013	94	Oleg Danchenko	Shakhtar Donetsk	2018-2019
45	Roberto Inglese	Parma	2020-2022	95	Renato Veiga	Sporting Lisbon	2021-2022
46	Scott Malone	Derby County	2018-2020	96	Diego Moreira	Benfica	2021-2022
47	Arsen Zakharyan	Dynamo Moscow	2020-2022	97	Nicolo Cambiaghi	Atalanta	2018-2019
48	Liam Delap	Manchester City	2020-2022	98	Yan Couto	Manchester City	2021-2022
49	Jorge Silva	Lazio	2018-2020	99	Graizano Pelle	Sampdoria	2011-2012
50	Fabio Vanni (GK)	Marseille	2020-2022	100	Fernando Prass	Vasco da Gama	2010



Graziano Pelle – A former Italian international striker, played most of his best football outside of Italy with AZ and Feyenoord in Holland and with Southampton in England



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

- The legends of the English Football League
- Question and Answers to a former professional footballer – at first at The Halfway Line!
- Weirdest reoccurring fixture



And the usual:

- The Boot Room
- Classical Kits
- Historical Line Ups
- The Treatment Room
- Forgotten Men
- Best XI to have.....
- And much much more



Fernando Prass – Former Brazilian goalkeeper playing the majority of his career in Brazil with Coritiba, Vasco da Gama and Palmeiras. The 100 shirt was commemorative of him reaching that many games for the club





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FOOTBALL SHIRTS

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Retro Football Shirts started trading in 2018 and have since supplied over 4000 shirts to football fans and shirt collectors from Burnley to Bolivia!

The independent seller prides itself on supplying shirts of the highest standard. If they wouldn't wear it, it doesn't go on the website – simple as that.

Retro Football Shirts are working hard toward making the company more sustainable and environmentally friendly, and are aiming to reduce the use of single-use plastics and move to compostable packaging by the end of 2022.

Head to the website and enter the code **HALFWAYLINE10** for a 10% discount

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contact@retrofootballshirts.uk



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