September 2020 Issue 6

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The alfway Line

DEADLY DUOS & FORMIDABLE STRIKE PARTNERSHIPS

Also in this issue:

Surprise Packages; Unexpected league winners

Representing more than one nation

Crazy games of football and lots more

Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

Another month, and another issue. These are coming around quicker than a Robbie Keane transfer to a club he madly supported as a young boy.

As a young boy in the 1980's growing up my ambitions were pretty clear. Play football, win the league for my team, win the cup final, play for my country and of course win the World Cup. Chuck in dating Pamela Anderson and you're close to capturing the dreams of most 1980's born boys. Well welcome to The Halfway Line's new favourite footballer ever! Adil Rami, 80's born (1989), the French centre back only went and completed the entire set!!! Legendary status achieved.

Now have you ever had a few too many drinks, ordered something on eBay or Amazon and when it comes you've no idea what you've ordered? So you've set yourself up for a nice surprise? Yes, us too.....

What about these facts that you'll find really rather surprising?

Did you know that Ashley Young has more assists for John Carew than Dennis Bergkamp does for Thierry Henry in the Premier League?

Or that Fabrizio Ravanelli played more Premier League games for Derby County than he did for Middlesbrough?

Ok what about this one; in 1985 Peter Reid was voted 4th in the World Soccer player of the year award behind only Michel Platini, Preben Elkjaer and Diego Maradona.

We love a surprise here at The Halfway Line and in this issue we focus on some surprise packages in terms of European football league winners.

We mentioned above playing for your country must be fulfilling a child hood dream, but what about playing for two countries, or even three! We look at some of the players to have done such things and chuck in a few surprises here as well!

You won't be surprised we've got the usual collection of articles for you in Issue 6, including forgotten men, best XI's from a new set of nations, the boot room, the treatment room and plenty more.

So it's time to get out of the Tactics Truck, pause your game of headers and volleys, and you'll have to wait for another time to work out what the pink Italian sports paper says in Gazzetta Football Italia, as it's time to tuck into issue # 6 of The Halfway Line.

Enjoy.

Oliver Kahn – At the 2002 World Cup he became the only goalkeeper in the tournaments history to win the Golden Ball



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Jorginho – The Brazilian right back started the 1994 World Cup final against Italy before being replaced by Cafu



Playing for your country and another one (or two)

It has been said many a time it is the pinnacle of a footballer's career to represent their country. How good must it feel to do it twice then and represent 2 countries! Or even in extreme circumstances to do so for 3 different countries.

What we aren't trying to explain here in this article is the what's and why's of such circumstances as that's a different kettle of fish and beyond our field of expertise but we'll simply highlight the facts and the players and some of those may surprise you.

There are players that spring to mind when you think of dual nationality and playing for a country for which they were not born in, like the Portuguese/Brazilian duo of Pepe and Deco. Both born in Brazil but went on to represent the Portugal nation team 110 and 75 times respectively. A number of Brazilian born players have nationalised to other countries and gone on to represent those nations like Eduardo da Silva playing for Croatia, or Alessandro Santos ('Alex') who played for Japan on 82 occasions or Mário Fernandes who represented Russia at the 2018 World Cup.

However none of these players ever played for Brazil so they come up short for this article. Lets look at those who have played for more than one nation.

Aldair – Brazilian centre back won the World Cup in 1994 and was pivotal in Roma's Serie A winning team in 2000/01



Declan Rice 3 Caps – Republic of Ireland. 2018 9 Caps – England. 2019 to date





<u>Wilfred Zaha</u> 2 Caps – England. 2012–2013 17 Caps – Ivory Coast. 2017 to date





Claude Makelele – Won league titles in France, Spain and England and good enough to have a midfield position named after him!



Diego Costa 2 Caps – Brazil. 2013 24 Caps – Spain. 2014 to date





Robert Prosinecki 15 Caps – Yugoslavia. 1989–1991 49 Caps – Croatia. 1994–2002



Prosinecki is the only player in history to have scored a goal in a World Cup tournament for 2 different nations! Doing so in 1990 for Yugoslavia and 1998 for Croatia.

Alessandro Costacurta – The oldest goal scorer in the history of Serie A, scoring at 41 years and 25 days of age



The following contributions are more to do with politics and countries breaking up but worth mentioning.

Dejan Stankovic has appeared in 3 separate World Cups during his international career: 1998 for Yugoslavia, 2006 for Serbia & Montenegro and 2010 for Serbia.

Over the course of 8 years, **Igor Shalimov and Andrei Kanchelskis** represented the USSR (1990–92), CIS (1992) and Russia (1992–98) as the Soviet states were broken up.

Famous footballers of yesteryear (pre 1992!) are not to be forgotten here.

Ferenc Puskas, regarded as one of the greatest players of all time represented **Hungary**, with some aplomb (85 caps with 84 goals!) and followed it up with 3 goals in 4 games for the **Spanish** national team.

Puskas' Real Madrid team mate, another all time great, Alfredo Di Stefano took it one further and represented his home nation of Argentina (6 caps), Colombia (4 caps) and then Spain (31 caps).

Joining Di Stefano in representing 3 different nations was Laszlo Kubala. Voted one of Barcelona's greatest ever players, the Hungarian striker played for his home nation (3 caps) but not before earning 4 caps for the then Czechoslovakia and then going on to play 19 times for the Spanish nation team.

He added 4 appearances for Catalonia, just for good measure.

Matthias Sammer – Won Euro 1996 with Germany where he was named the tournament's best player, and was subsequently awarded the Ballon d'Or later that year



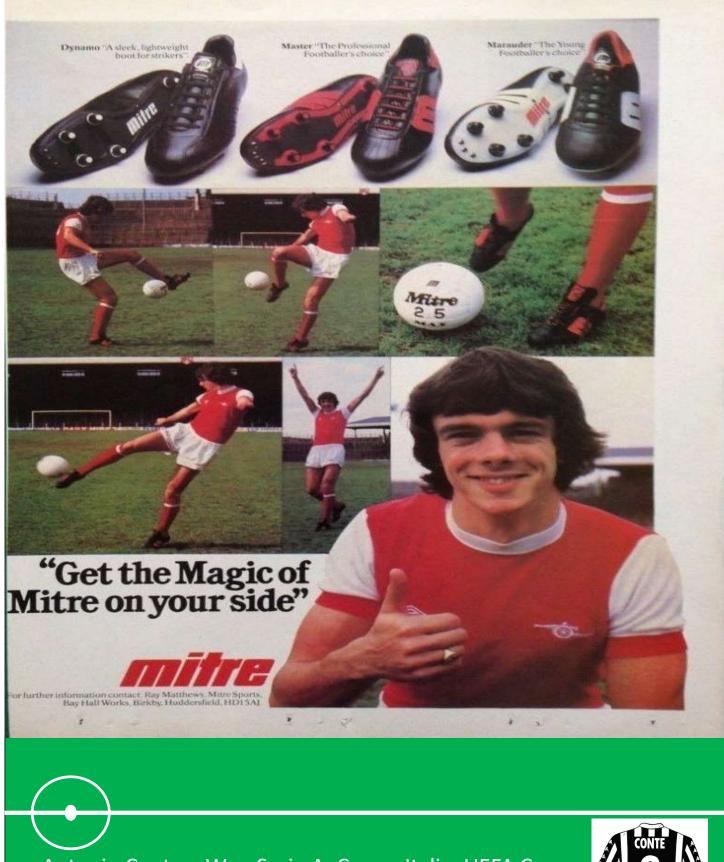
Now the surprise one.. Michel Platini

Regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time, Platini won the Ballon d'Or three times, in 1983, 1984 and 1985. He represented **France** on 72 occasions, and in 1984, Platini captained France to success in the European Championship on home soil. His individual impact on the tournament was huge with nine of France's 14 goals in just five games (the top goal scorer in Euro '84). Platini made his last appearance for France on 29 April 1987, in a European Championship qualifier at home to Iceland, a few weeks before announcing his retirement from all football. Then 'post' retirement, in November 1988 he played an international

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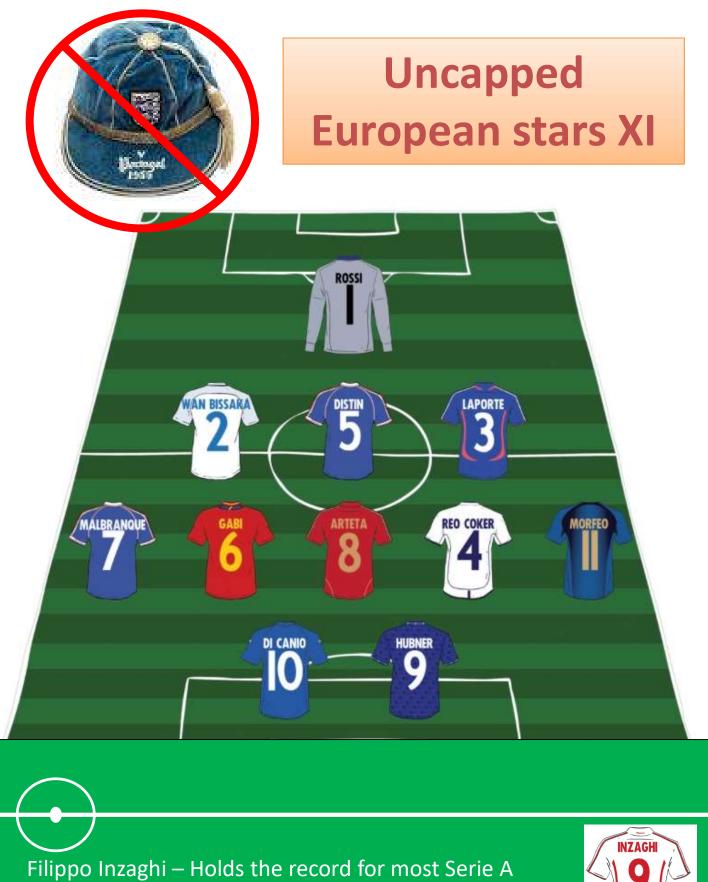
Luis Figo – In the top 5 of assist creators in La Liga history and won the Ballon d'Or in 2000





Antonio Conte – Won Serie A, Coppa Italia, UEFA Cup, Champions League, Supercoppa, UEFA Super Cup, Intercontinental Cup, and Intertoto Cup for Juventus





Filippo Inzaghi – Holds the record for most Serie A hat-tricks (10) since football began in 1992. He is actually joint third on the list



Uncapped European stars XI

Stefano Rossi – Playing for AC Milan, behind the likes of Mauro Tassotti, Franco Baresi, Alessandro Costacurta and Paolo Maldini, winning Serie A titles and a European Cup. The back 4 mentioned all received international recognition for Italy but Rossi, despite his heroics never received a cap. Shout out to Carlo Cudicini, who also never made the grade at this level.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka – We doubt this will be a lasting appearance in this XI, but to date the English right back lays claim to be the most expensive Englishman (£45 million + £5 million on additions) yet to win an international cap.

Sylvain Distin - Made 402 English Premier League appearances, the most of any foreign outfield player, but he never received any international call-ups for France.

Aymeric Laporte – Like Wan-Bissaka, surely this one can't last forever? The French defender, who has never played in the French domestic league, has yet to win a cap. £57 million Manchester City spent on his services but Les Bleus yet to require his skill set.

Steed Malbranque – Poor Malbranque, not selected for the French national team or the Belgium (place of birth) national team. Steady career at Lyon, Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham amongst others, but not enough to earn that elusive cap.

Gabi – One thing the Spanish national team have been blessed with in the last 15 years is central midfielders and that could explain Gabi's omission from any Spain team sheet. Over 400 games for Atletico Madrid with La Liga and European trophies, but no caps to his name.

Mikel Arteta – Faced with the same problem as Gabi, the former Barcelona, Rangers, PSG, Everton and Arsenal midfielder was never able to break the stronghold of the dominate Spanish midfield. Perhaps hindered by only playing 15 La Liga games in his career.

Nigel Reo-Coker – Former Wimbledon, West Ham United and Aston Villa captain. Made over 200 Premier League appearances and warranted a £8.5 million price tag, but alas, not an international cap to show for it.

Domenico Morfeo – The talented left sided Italian midfielder represented a host of top Serie A sides in the 1990's and 2000's, but clearly never did enough to impress the national coaches, as no caps were earned.

Paolo Di Canio – The highest scoring Italian in Premier League history who played for the likes of Lazio, Napoli, Juventus and AC Milan in Serie A was not once capped by the Azzuri.

Dario Hübner – Fellow Italian striker with plenty of goals to his name, but no caps to accompany them. Hübner consistently battled for the title of top scorer in Serie A coming 1st alongside David Trezeguet in the 2001–02 season, at 35 years old. Along with Igor Protti, Hübner is the only player to have won the top scoring titles in Serie A, Serie B, and Serie C1.

Juan Roman Riquelme – Boca Juniors legend was voted Argentinian footballer of the year 4 times during his career



<u>Club sides that make up National</u> <u>sides</u>

If you had to guess a Premier League team that you could list a full team of players to have played for them and one nation, you'd be forgiven for thinking Arsenal and France, and perhaps Chelsea and Portugal. This would be based on the recruitment drive from the two clubs' most successful managers of all time, who also happened to be from the nation suggested. However if you can name a French goalkeeper to play in the Premier League for Arsenal or a Portuguese centre forward to pull on the Chelsea shirt in the league, you are doing better than us! Our findings do however let us list both teams to play an XI with players from just one nation although for Arsenal it is Spain and for Chelsea it is the Netherlands. Also on board with the ability to do so is Manchester United flying the French flag and the blue half of Manchester, City, getting the Samba feel and fielding an XI of all Brazilians.

Take a look and see if you can do it with another team and nation?





Romario – Winner of the 1994 World Cup Golden Ball with 5 goals scored during the finals, that Brazil ultimately won







Dimitar Berbatov – Arguably the greatest Bulgarian footballer of all time and he is the country's leading ever goal scorer





Rafinha – The Brazilian right back had significant success at namely Bayern Munich but somewhat surprisingly only won four international caps







Xabi Alonso – Firm favourite of the magazines as he scored two goals from *the halfway line* during his successful spell at Liverpool

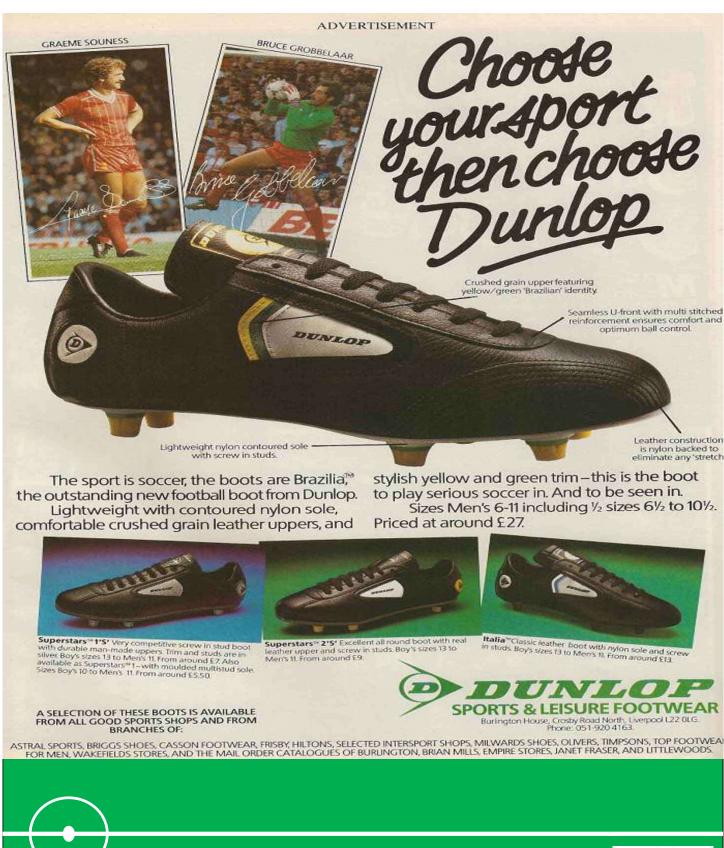






Ray Parlour – Holds the record for the most Premier League appearances by an Arsenal player (333)





Aaron Ramsey – Can claim to have scored 2 FA Cup Final winning goals for Arsenal, in 2014 & 2017



Classic Kits

Every issue The Halfway Line features some classic kits. It maybe purely kit based, it could be a classic kit being worn by a classic player, or a classic kit in a classic match. In this issue we are focusing on a particular kit colour – Black. Don't forget, Will Smith once told us, the good guys dress in black, remember that.....

There are 3 categories that the black kits can fall into:

1 - The Originals 2 - AIK (Solna) and 3 - The trend followers.

The black kit right now is very fashionable, very in vogue and ticks the box for a very attractive looking strip.

Those pre-2018 perhaps had a intuition that this would be the case. We see examples of European giants Manchester United, Juventus, AC Milan and Real Madrid with black away kits with very simple designs, but the dark colour allows for the sponsor, kit make or stripes to pop out and be all the more striking.

Then in 2018 AIK struck. Along with Nike, the Swedish top flight side released a classic black kit and it sold out within minutes of the release. The design blacked out everything. The Nike tick, the club badge and the wording across the middle of the shirt. It is an awesome offering and so slick. That kit with a pair of blacked out Copa's, and you are suddenly the James Bond of football players.

And post that the trend was set and they all followed. Chelsea, Inter Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Monaco, Barcelona, Manchester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and even international sides Portugal and Holland. All producing away kits predominately black, and it just works.

So much for the fashion trend, the likes of Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool have released black tops that are fan's kits. Fully blacked out shirts that aren't for the first team but released for only the fans to wear.

The trend has continued to celebratory kits. Not often Borussia Dortmund and Torquay United are mentioned in the same sentence, but both released 'blacked' out kits to recognise their own significant anniversaries.

The one outlier in the gallery is that of Los Angeles Football Club. Founded as recently as 2014, LAFC are a wearer of a black kit but it is their home kit offering. Not many have gone down that route but for us that decision should be widely applauded.

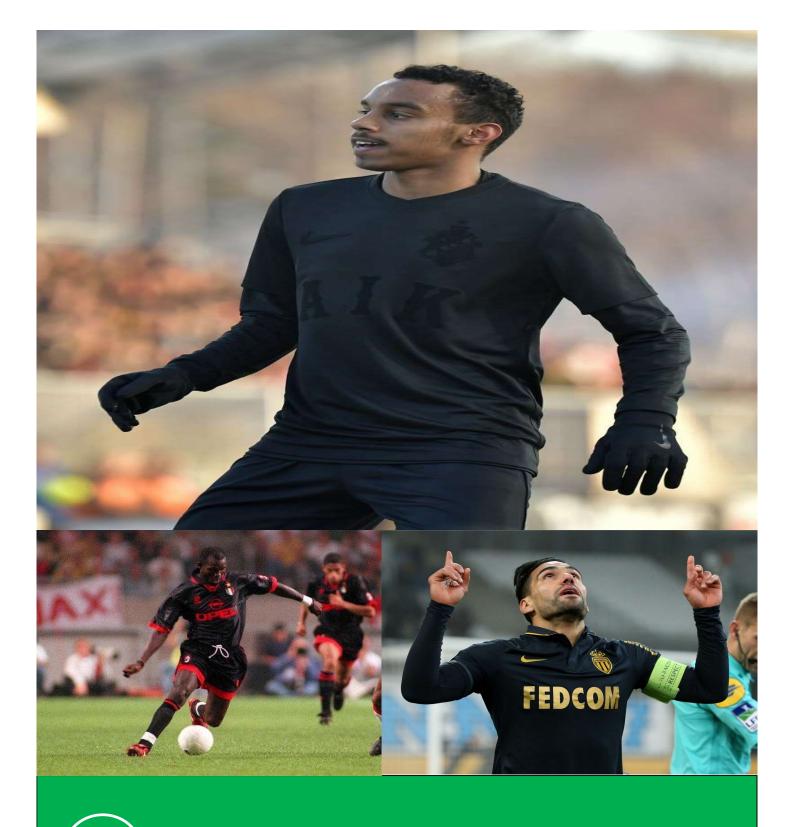
Ruud Van Nistelrooy – Won the top scorer award in three separate leagues; the Dutch, English and Spanish top divisions





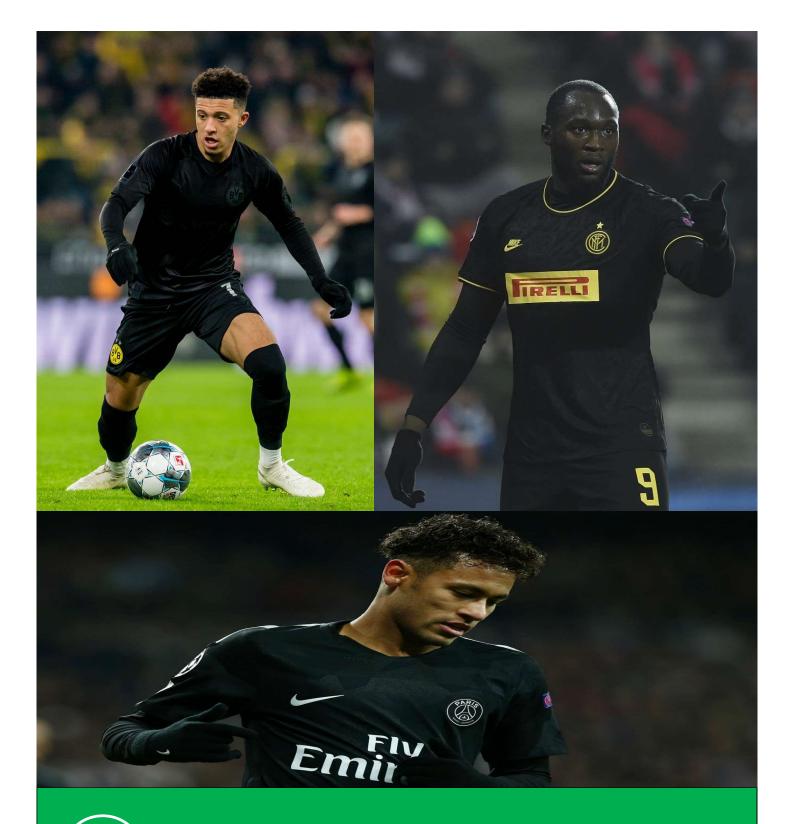
Hatem Ben Arfa – Extremely talented French attacker that seemed to be held back in his career due to attitude problems





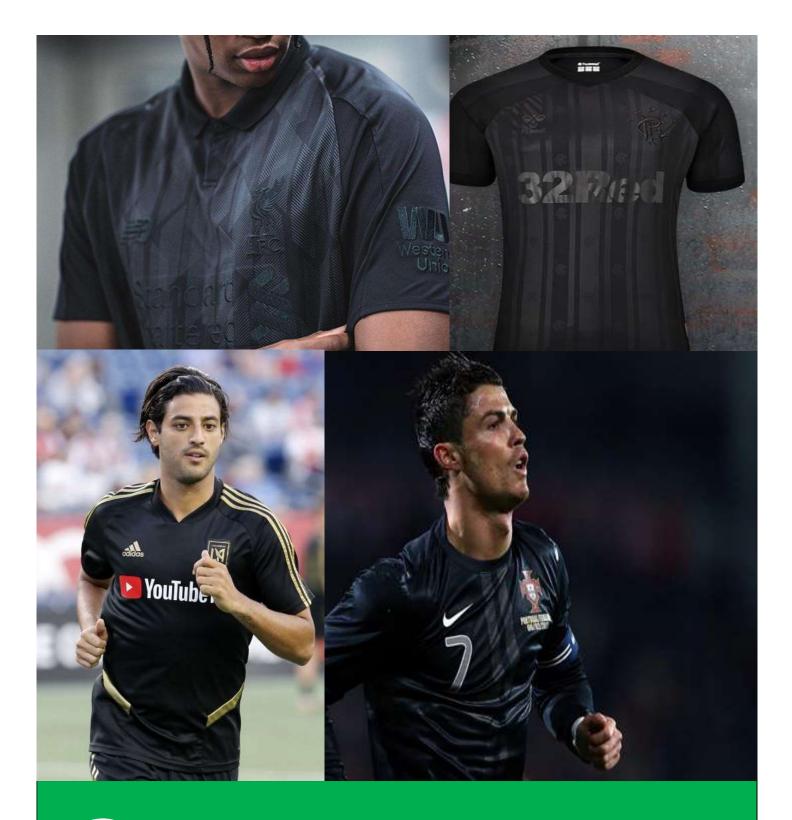
Santi Cazorla – The Spanish midfielder could lay claim to have been the most two footed player in Premier League history





Alvaro Recoba – Stole the show on Ronaldo's Inter Milan debut by scoring 2 goals on his first appearance in a 2-1 victory against Lecce in 1997





David Silva – In September 2019 he became the youngest player to reach 200 wins in the Premier League overtaking Chelsea defender John Terry







Hakim Ziyech – Moroccan attacking midfielder who starred for Ajax in their 2019 Champions League campaign





Aldo Duscher – The Argentine defensive midfielder perhaps best known for a tackle that led to David Beckham breaking his metatarsal in 2002 whilst playing for Deportivo La Coruna



The Premier League Greatest XI Nationalities

Featured here are the greatest line ups that only include players from one nation. In the this issue we are staying in Europe, and making our way to the East of the continent, featuring Romania, the Czech Republic,

Croatia and Serbia.









These are not based on statistics, appearances, goals, records, these are merely the view of the author. That said some are self-explanatory and would imagine would not ignite too much debate, but others, perhaps less fashionable positions could irk the reader and encourage a discussion as to why the their favourite right back is not in the starting XI. I have intentionally not included a subs bench, as I fear I'd not have much space left. It should be noted, the feature sticks to a rigid 4-4-2 formation and won't be changed to fit in players of the same position.

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

Marco Delvecchio – Scorer of Italy's goal in the final of Euro 2000, in which they ultimately lost to a golden goal scored by France's David Trezeguet



ROMANIA XI

As with previous issues, we are not blessed with huge choices but for the Romanian XI we can field a full team and therefore we will.

Title winning goalkeeper and giant of a man Costel Pantilimon plays in goal. Stints followed at Sunderland and Watford, unsurprisingly not as successful as his time at Manchester City.

At right back and right midfield we are alternating positions with Dan Petrescu and Cosmin Contra. The former takes the recognition as the most successful of Romanian imports, mainly for his 5 years at Chelsea, who was equally at home attacking or defending up and down the right flank.

Razvan Rat plays at left back and the centre back pairing is Gabriel Tamas and Vlad Chiriches.

The expensive Florin Gardos was sadly stopped in his tracks with injury and was unable to recover sufficiently for this XI, and nor for Southampton's.

The midfield promised lots, but delivered little. The much travelled Gheorghe Popsecu warmed the hearts of Tottenham Hotspur fans with a winner in the North London derby and fellow White Hart Lane midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu was part of the attacking Ossie Ardiles revolution that fell flat.

Completing the midfield is the attack minded Florin Andone who needs a vastly improved season with Brighton & Hove Albion or it is unlikely he'll receive another chance.

Up front is a tale of unfulfilled promise. Adrian Mutu started his Chelsea career with four goals and three games. At that time it looked as though he would enjoy life in West London. He did, perhaps way too much, but sadly more so away from the football pitches than on them. Bans and ultimately a transfer took him away from the Premier League.

The second striker spot is taken by Viorel Moldovan who just pips Florin Raducioiu, but in truth neither making great impressions before being moved on.

Walter Samuel – Part of the Inter Milan team under Jose Mourinho that won the treble in 2010, successfully partnering Lucio in the centre of defence





Andrew Robertson – In 2019 he became the first Scot to win the Champions League since Darren Fletcher (an unused substitute in 2008) and the first to actually be on the field in a winning team since Paul Lambert in 1997



CZECH REPUBLIC XI

There is a decent spread of Czech goalkeepers, ala Radek Cerny, Jan Lastuvka, and early 90's representation from Ludek Miklosko, Jan Stejskal and Pavel Srnicek, but there could another hundred to list off and still be irrelevant.

When the holder of the most clean sheets in Premier League history (202 in 443 apps) is Czech, then he plays – Petr Cech.

The defence offers workman like defenders as opposed to outstanding talents. Zdenek Grygera has Ajax and Juventus on his CV and was of course good enough for Fulham. Thomas Repka was somewhat of the crazy possessed type and David Rozenthal and Ondrej Celustka at Newcastle United and Sunderland respectively, were marginally better than Tomas Kalas, Martin Jiranek and Radoslac Kovac.

The midfield contribution is the strongest part of the Czech XI. Manchester United signing a right winger in 1996 couldn't have happened at a worse time for Karel Poborsky as he immediately had competition with a certain David Beckham. Floppy long hair seemingly their only shared attribute.

More successful were Patrick Berger and Tomas Rosicky. Both hampered by injuries, the latter more so, but at times were able to show their true class. Both possessed a mean strike from outside of the box adding to the midfield threat. Making up the midfield is Vladimir Smicer, who never truly excelled at Liverpool but his role in the 2005 Champions League final will never be forgotten by Red's fans.

Up front, even though he wore the number 5 shirt during his spell at Liverpool, the top scorer and golden boot winner at the Euro 2004 tournament, Milan Baros starts, alongside Matej Vydra. Vydra's inclusion is based on successes in the Championship, with 3 different clubs, in the hope he will eventually turn that into Premier League form.

He still has a chance, whereas Roman Bednar and Libor Kozak failed and ultimately moved on.

Marouane Fellaini – Upon signing for Everton he managed to get booked 10 times in his first 17 games





Paolo Cannavaro – The brother of Fabio had a considerably successful career himself, namely for Parma, Napoli and Sassuolo



CROATIA XI

You might have us on a technicality here with our Croatian goalkeeper. Our criteria has altered slightly to players to be signed by or contracted to a Premier League club.

Stipe Pletikosa signed for Tottenham Hotspur in 2010 but never managed to make a league appearance, offering only one league cup appearance as a token gesture! But it is more than any other Croatian goalkeeper did, so the 114 capped international plays in the sticks.

At least he made an appearance, more than Robert Jarni did at Coventry, so the left back slot has to see Vedran Corluka deputise but his versatility allows for that.

At right back it sees another slight shift, where Dejan Lovren plays in order to accommodate Slaven Bilic and Igor Stimac in the central positions.

Boris Zivkovic and Nikola Jerkan during their short stints in the league doing nothing to warrant a selection.

In midfield plays a talented four. Harry Redknapp would be delighted to see Niko Kranjcar on one flank, and Mario Stanic plays the other. The latter never reaching the heights of his successes in Belgium and Italy, but nevertheless talented and worth a place.

In the central positions, Mateo Kovacic partners the greatest Croatian import to date, Luka Modric. A player who seems to generate extra time and space on the ball and has gone on to reach great heights during his time at Real Madrid, domestically and of course internationally with the nation team.

There are not a great deal of challengers for the midfield spots, with Igor Biscan often the butt of jokes during his time with Liverpool. However Aljosa Asanovic deserves a mention for the upgrade in skill and technique he bought to Derby County in the late 90's.

Upfront many strikers came and failed to shine, including Bosko Balaban, Nikola Kalinic and the ever so unfortunate Eduardo da Silva. Events at St. Andrews in February 2008 curtailed not only a potentially successful season for Arsenal, but also a successful career at the club for Eduardo.

The partnership up front oozes class, though the prime of their careers were played on different shores to that of England. Alen Boksic and Davor Suker were exceptional talents and even their short stints in the Premier League out do the efforts of the likes of Andrej Karamic, Mladen Petric and Ivan Klasnic.

Granit Xhaka – In the Euro 2016 tournament he represented Switzerland, against Albania, coming up against his older brother Taulant





Mauro Bressan – Perhaps the scorer of the greatest overhead kick ever, against Barcelona in the Champions League in November 1999 for Fiorentina



SERBIA XI

The overriding theme of the Serbian imports is they were either really good or made no impact whatsoever. Doesn't seem to many in the between profiles!

The goalkeeper selection is made easy by the lack of options. Vladimir Stojkovic made only a handful of appearances whilst at Wigan Athletic so despite his 80+ international caps the starting berth goes to Sasa Ilic. A hero at Charlton Athletic for his play off final penalty saves in the 1997/98 to get the Addicks promoted.

At right back it's the world class Branislav Ivanovic. A mainstay in the Chelsea back four with significant success and although no great competition, his credentials are likely to fight off any coming his way. At left back we have another league winner, Aleksander Kolorov at Manchester City. The dead ball threat and attacking nature of his game means we'll forgive his 11 squad number at the Etihad.

At centre back perhaps we have the finest Serbian import. Nemanja Vidic captained and won trophies at Manchester United and his partnership with Rio Ferdinand arguably the best in Premier League history. Playing alongside we've selected Dejan Stefanovic. No trees pulled up at Sheffield Wednesday but his time under Harry Redknapp at Portsmouth and a steady time at Fulham gets him picked.

Matija Nastasic at Manchester City looked promising in his early stages but seemingly didn't convince the management and Goran Bunjevčević at Spurs equally never really made the grade.

The midfield selection offers steel and flair. On the wings we have Sasa Curcic on the right who is picked based on his career at Bolton Wanderers and not Aston Villa or Crystal Palace and on the left it's Dusan Tadic, the assist king, who Southampton fans must rue his sale to Ajax.

In the middle of the park, Nemanja Matic takes the holding midfield spot, excelling at Chelsea and Manchester United and plays alongside Luka Milivojevic who is absolutely on penalty duty for the team. A bargain signing for Crystal Palace.

A decent number of other Serbian midfielders have tried and failed to make an impression in the league, from the expensive Markovic to the failed efforts for Tosic, Jovanovic and Jokanovic.

Up front follows the same theme. Darko Kovacevic and Mateja Kezman literally scored goals everywhere they played, except in the Premier League. The tall Nikola Vidic was an expensive mistake for Birmingham City and so our starting forwards are the aggressive Alexander Mitrovic, more of a talisman for Fulham than Newcastle United, and then Savo Milosevic for a semi decent recent for Aston Villa in the mid nineties, even though we recall the threat of him wearing a bandana in games when the Villains first signed him.

Nemanja Matic – His first spell at Chelsea was ended as he was used as a make weight for the David Luiz transfer from Benfica





Joshua Kimmich – German international now a mainstay in the Bayern Munich team as well as the national team



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



Pierre Wome – The Cameroon full back has played and scored in the Italian, English, Spanish and German top flight



Strike Partnerships

We have to start this article with an important disclaimer. No one at The Halfway Line is a world class striker. Never have we been one, nor sadly do we think we ever will be. However we are happy to throw out our opinions and make it be known what we think makes a deadly striker, or in this case a deadly duo.

What makes for a successful season for a striker? It's a tough one to answer as the threshold or benchmark will most likely differ depending on what club you play for and what you are fighting for including trophies, safety or even for your name to be on the team sheet.

The criteria we are setting for qualification to be deemed a deadly duo is one of 2 things:

You have to have scored at least 20 goals in a season. That's our new benchmark for success as a striker and both need to have achieved it,

0r

You have to have won something as a team. Goals win you matches so in theory the more you score the more you win. We want to highlight those successful campaigns where a strike partnership has been pivotal in achieving that success.

The partnership of SAS (Shearer and Sutton) won Blackburn Rovers the Premier League in 1995/96 with Sutton's 15 league goals supplementing Shearer's haul of 34, though interesting both Jurgen Klinsmann and Teddy Sheringham of Tottenham Hotspur both scored more than Sutton (21 and 18) that season. Sheringham not a stranger to partnering Shearer either, with success at international level with England in the Euro'96 tournament.

Moise Kean – In May 2017 he became the first player born in the 2000's to score a goal in one of Europe's five major leagues



Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley/Dwight Yorke

When Manchester United signed Andy Cole in January 1995 they very much knew he was able to perform in a partnership. His link up with Peter Beardsley for Newcastle United in the 1993/94 season was nothing short of outstanding. Cole scored 34 goals that season supported by Beardsley's 21.

Two players from the same Premier League team to both score more than 20 goals is a seriously infrequent occurrence. It has only happened on 3 other occasions. 2009/10 – Frank Lampard (22) and Didier Drogba (29) for Chelsea 2013/14 – Luis Suarez (31) and Daniel Sturridge (21) for Liverpool & 2018/19 – Sadio Mane (22) and Mohamed Salah (22) for Liverpool Cole and Beardsley's total of 55 goals between them puts them on top of the competition above.

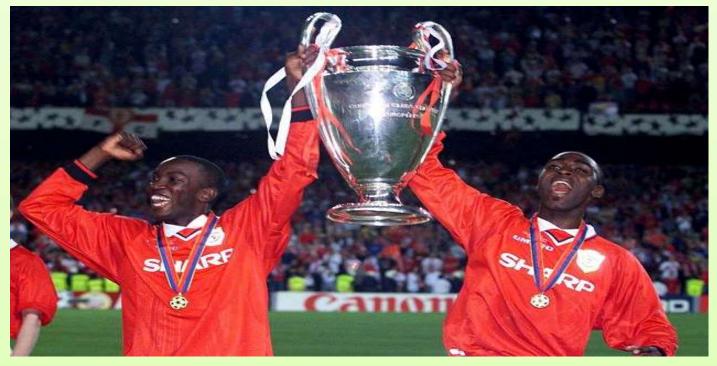


Javi Garcia – Former Real Madrid, Benfica and Manchester City defensive midfield who also had a successful spell in Russia with Zenit St. Petersburg



Cole's next partnership was when Manchester United bought Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa in 1998. Immediately the chances were the partnership would fair better than his current one with Teddy Sheringham (was not as good as the Klinsmann or Shearer efforts), as Cole had a long standing grudge with him and the pair barely spoke!

With Yorke however there became a somewhat telepathic partnership that evolved and the players combinations in the 1998/99 season saw Manchester United win an unprecedented treble.



Cole struck 17 times in the league (24 overall) and Yorke hit 18 league goals to win the Premier League golden boot (29 overall).

The goals by Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in the Champions League final take the headlines, but the partnership of Cole and Yorke you could argue got them to the final itself, as well as the significant contribution in the successful league and FA Cup campaigns with **53** goals scored as a partnership.

Daniel Sturridge – The first Englishman to win the Champions League with two different English clubs

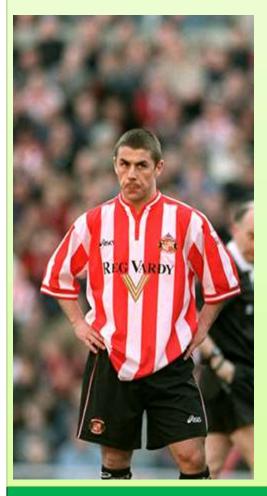


Little and Large

If we are taking strike partnerships it would be a miss of us not to include a little and large combination.

The first focus goes to the Kevin Phillips and Niall Quinn combo from their time together at Sunderland.

In Kevin Phillips' first season in the Premier League, 1999/00, saw him achieve the most goals scored in the Premier League in a debut season (30 which is somewhat ahead of Fernando Torres on 24 in second place) and of course the European Golden



Boot at the same time.

However big the Quinn support role was, he 'only' managed 14 league strikes that season. The previous year however saw both criteria's met. as Sunderland gained promotion to the Premier League by winning the Championship and the little and large combo saw a goals return of 25 for Phillips and 21 for Quinn.



Cristian Tello – Former Barcelona youth player, who moved to Porto and Fiorentina on loan before returning to Spain to play for Real Betis



The second duo to match the Little and Large combination as well as score 20+ goals a season and have team success sees us venture from British shores.

Heading to Belgium and specifically to domestic giants (will be relevant in the context of this article) Anderlecht.

For two seasons, 1999/00 and 2000/01, the Brussels based Purple and Whites played up top the Canadian **Tomasz Radzinski**, who measured up at 5 foot 9 inches

alongside the Czech Republic hit man **Jan Koller**, who stands at 6 foot 8 inches!!

Anderlecht won the domestic league in both seasons the pair played together so them achieving success has the box ticked.

Specifically in the 2000/01 season the players sat 1st and 2nd in the race for the league's top goal scorer award, critically both registering over 20 goals apiece.

Koller got 22 and Radzinski bagged 23.





Michael Keane – Managed just 1 league appearance for Manchester United but now a full England international with +150 league appearances for Burnley and Everton



Hulk and Radamel Falcao

Power and pace do not always go hand in hand and a player with both doesn't come around often. One way to counter that is simply combine the two attributes with the bringing together of two players.

Nothing encompasses power and pace more so then when Hulk and Radamel Falcao were team mates at FC Porto and specifically during the 2010/11 season.



Under the management of Andre Villas-Boas Porto brushed aside all in their way and completed the League, Cup and Europa League treble. An added benefit of playing so many games in winning a treble is your strike force get the opportunity to bang in plenty of goals and these two did not disappoint.

Falcao registered a modest 16 goals in the league and 4 in the cup but topped those up with an incredible 18 goals in 15 Europa League games.

Hulk was equally prolific with 23 league goals, 3 cup goals and 8 strikes of his own in the Europa League.

Total strikes between them in the 2010/11 season = 74 goals!

Andre Villa-Boas - At the age of 16, Villas-Boas found himself living in the same apartment block as Sir Bobby Robson, who was then manager of Porto. Following a debate between the two, Robson appointed Villas-Boas to Porto's observation department



Sergio Aguero and Diego Forlan

A partnership is likely to flourish if half the partnership is a recent recipient of the European Golden Boot (we saw that with Phillips earlier) but add to this partnership we have a double European Golden Boot winner in Diego Forlan. Not bad for a player ridiculed for his spell at Manchester United.

The season after his 2nd Golden Boot, Forlan struck 18 times in the league for Atletico Madrid topped up with another 10 in other competitions, namely the Europa League. Up front with the Uruguayan was the Argentine Sergio Aguero. He struck a modest 12 times in La Liga with another 7 in cup competitions, totalling 19 goals for the season. A total goals partnership of (28+19) 47 goals. The previous 2 seasons they'd struck an impressive 42 and 52 goals respectively but what stands out in the 2009/10 season was victory in the Europa League campaign, meaning our criteria is



Whilst we are talking La Liga and although we don't like to point out the obvious to our readers, the Barcelona triple act of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar conjured up a quite remarkable 2015/16 season.

League goals scored by Suarez (40) and Messi (26) were 66 between them and in total competitions the pair struck a ridiculous **100 times** (Suarez with 59 & Messi 41). Add Neymar's contribution to the calculation and its 90 league goals and 131 goals overall. The following season the trio scored a further 111 (M = 54, S = 37 N = 20)

Paulo Sousa – Won the Champions League with Juventus in 1996 & then won it the year after with Borussia Dortmund, defeating Juventus in the final



Edin Dzeko and Grafite

You'll see more on the achievements from this duo later on in the issue but for now remember just this: In the 2008/09 season they were lethal.

Bosnian Edin Dzeko who had been at Wolfsburg for one season prior was partnered up front with Brazilian Grafite. He too had arrived at the club the previous season. In 2007/08 the pair combined for a modest 21 goals (12 for Grafite & 9 for Dzeko) in all competitions. Their second season together however created fireworks!

Dzeko struck 26 times in the league with another 10 in other competitions and Grafite hit 28 in the league (in just 25 games) with another 7 in cup competitions. That's **71** goals between them.

This ticks all the boxes. Both with +20 goals in the league, and in terms of success, Wolfsburg secured the 2008/09 Bundesliga title with the pair striking an impressive 67.5% of the title winning team's goals!



Federico Macheda – Manchester United's youngest ever goal scorer, doing so at 17 years, 7 months and 14 days old



Luc Nilis and Partners

Luc Nilis at Anderlecht formed a credible partnership with the Dutchman John Bosman (no, not that one) and the pair frequently topped the scoring charts.

In the 1993/94 season Anderlecht won the domestic Belgium double and the pair scored 25 & 20 league goals respectively.

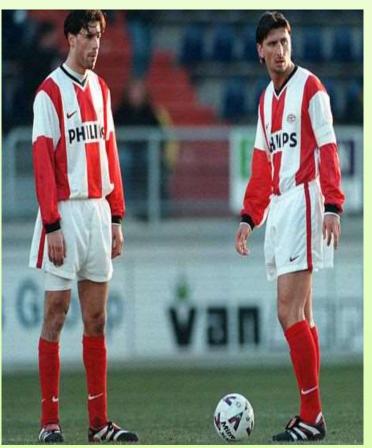
Then Nilis moved to PSV Eindhoven and continued his rich vein of form partnering at times the Brazilian centre forwards Romario and Ronaldo.

However the partnership that stands out is the one with Ruud Van Nistelrooy.

In the 1998/99 season, Nilis and Van Nistelrooy scored 55 league goals between them (RVN = 31 & Nilis = 24), and the pair were 1st and 2nd in the Eredivisie goal scoring charts, however the league title escaped them.

In the 1999/00 season though PSV did secure the league title, with Van Nistelrooy contributing 29 goals (in 23 games), supported by Nilis' 19 league goals, as well as 19 league goals coming from fellow forward Arnold Bruggink.

A terrifying trio indeed hitting 67 goals between them in the league alone.



Seydou Keita – Upon joining Barcelona in 2008 he became the first Malian player ever to represent the Catalans





Steven Sessegnon – Twin brother of Ryan Sessegnon, and both cousins of former Sunderland and West Brom midfielder Stephane Sessegnon



<u>Historical Line Ups</u>

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

In this issue we look to a now defunct competition. Back before the introduction of the Europa League we had the UEFA Cup. Previously a competition for teams to have finished in certain (high) positions in their domestic leagues would compete against each other in a knock out cup competition. Then when the European Cup Winners' Cup competition was scraped the winners of the domestic cup competitions were also entered into the UEFA Cup. The format of the competition also went through some changes. From 1972 to 1997 the final of the UEFA Cup was played over 2 legs, until this moved to a one game final played at a neutral stadium.

This format ran from the 1997/98 season until the last UEFA Cup final in 2008/09. From then on the competition was revamped and renamed to the Europa League.

The games we remember here are from the one legged UEFA Cup Finals that throw up some classic games amongst a very strong field of teams competing.

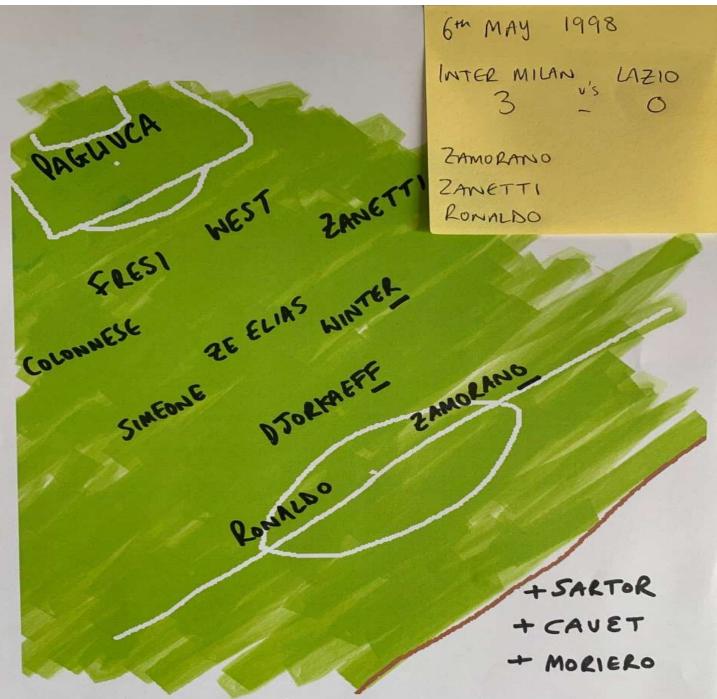
UEFA Cup Finals:

- 1) Inter Milan v's Lazio 1998
- 2) Parma v's Marseille 1999
- 3) Feyenoord v's Borussia Dortmund 2002
- 4) Valencia v's Marseille 2004
- 5) Sevilla v's Middlesbrough 2006



Philippe Senderos – The Swiss defender played for Arsenal, AC Milan, Valencia and Rangers amongst others, and is probably still having nightmares about Didier Drogba

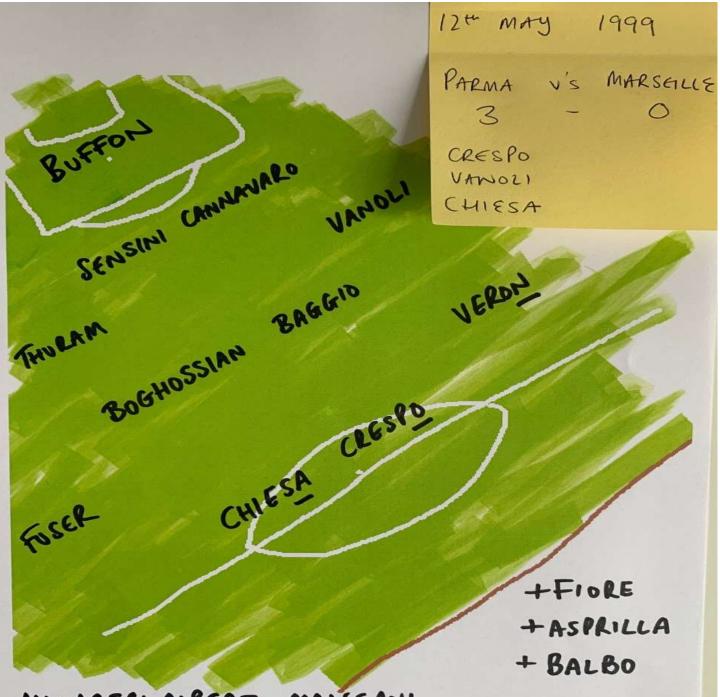




MANAGER: LUIGI SIMONI

Armand Traore – Represented a number of British clubs but more surprisingly played for Juventus 10 times in Serie A in the 2010/11 season

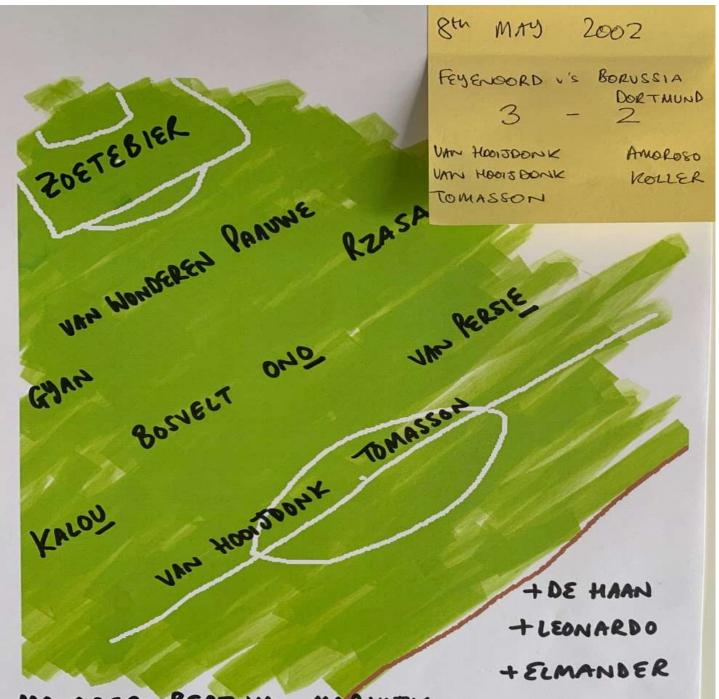




MANAGER: ALBERTO MALESANI

Nile Ranger – Former Newcastle United youth player found himself hindered by disciplinary issues ultimately ending a promising career

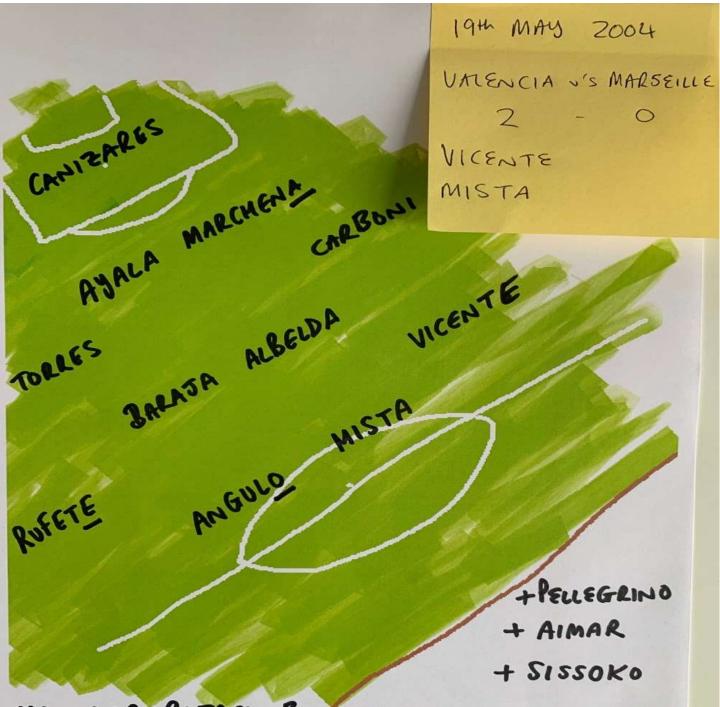




MANAGER: BERT VAN MARNIJK

Andre Wisdom – Former Liverpool youngster with loan spells away including Red Bull Salzburg until a permanent move to Derby County

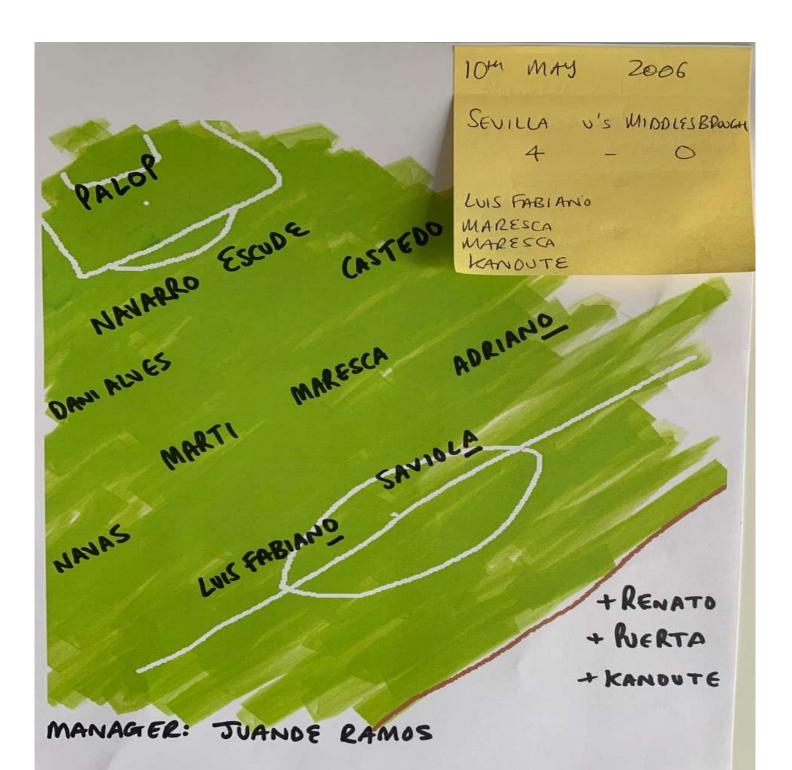




MANAGER: RAFAEL BENITEZ

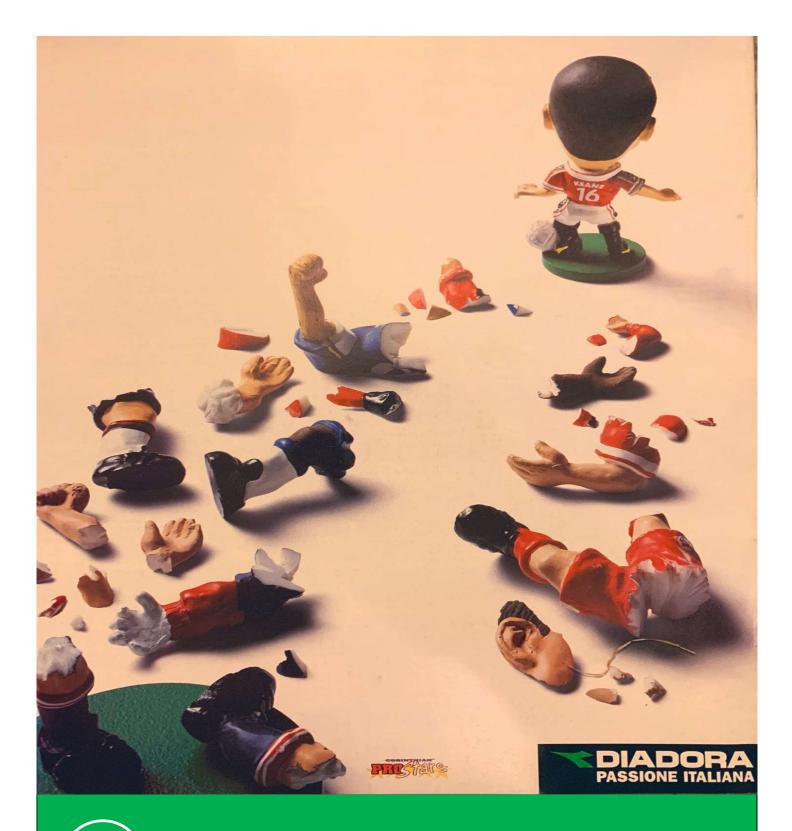
Darren O'Dea - Has played centre back for clubs in Scotland, England, Canada, Ukraine and India and represented the Republic of Ireland internationally





Ravel Morrison – 11 clubs at 27 years of age, including clubs in Italy, Mexico, Sweden and now in Holland still trying to find a home to allow the supposed talent to flourish





Lewis Grabban – Joins the list with David Nugent, Jordan Rhodes and Matej Vydra as a prolific championship goal scorers, but not yet proven in the Premier League



Weird & wonderful games of football

If you start a talk about the greatest games of football ever in this country during the Premier League era you'll likely not get further than the "Collymoooooooooco closing in" Liverpool 4 Newcastle United 3 match at Anfield in 1996 or a newer addition to the conversation, the "Agueroooooooooooooo" Manchester City 3 QPR 2 title decider at the Etihad in 2012 and to be fair you'll probably not hear an argument against those.



What we want to do though at The Halfway Line is bring to your attention perhaps not the greatest games of football but a collection of the weird and wonderful games that may well have passed you by.

When we say weird and wonderful we mean a collection of games that bring you postponements, games lasting under a minute, heartbreak and of course our favourite currency at The Halfway Line, goals!

Roque Mesa – Spanish midfielder who spent a year at Swansea City before moving back to Spain with Sevilla



The Battle of Bramall Lane

On 16 March 2002 Sheffield United hosted promotion chasing West Bromwich Albion (WBA) at Bramall Lane. What happened at this match you actually need to go back to 10 March 2001 when Sheffield United played Nottingham Forest. In that match Forest's Andy Johnson caught the Blades midfielder Georges Santos with an elbow and fractured Santos' cheekbone and gave him a badly damaged eye socket.

Then Johnson transferred to WBA, and Santos had a grudge to settle it seemed and this match was the perfect opportunity.

Sheffield United were already down to 10 men by the time Santos was called upon from the bench by Blade's manager Neil Warnock. Goalkeeper Simon Tracey had been shown a red card as early as 9 minutes on the clock. Santos was subbed on into the action in the 64th minute of the game.

In the 65th minute (yep, one minute later) Santos executed an extremely high and poorly timed two-footed lunging tackle/revenge mission on Johnson that earned him a straight red card and saw a melee on the pitch with the majority of players involved who were still on the pitch. Along with Santos, Sheffield United attacker Patrick Suffo was also sent off, for a head butt. Suffo too had been on the pitch for a minute!

At the time of the fracas WBA were 2-0 up and after a further strike Sheffield United saw two players leave the field injured and with no substitutes available the referee had no choice but to abandon the game on 82 minutes as the Blades were left with just 6 players on the pitch.

WBA were awarded a 3–0 win and the 3 points by the Football League. Patrick Suffo received a 6 match ban as did Georges Santos and neither player ever played for United again.



Mattia De Sciglio – Italian international who plays right back for Juventus having started his career at AC Milan



Estonia v's Scotland

Both nations were drawn in the same World Cup 1998 qualifying group and on 9th October 1996 the scheduled game in Tallinn was all set to go ahead.

Scotland travelled to the stadium early and trained there the evening before the game. The Scots noted the inadequacy of the stadium's floodlights and complained about this. FIFA took this on board and changed the kick off time for the game from 18:45 to 15:00. The Estonian FA took offence to this and therefore refused to change their plans. The Estonian

team failed to turn up for the 15:00 kick off.

The result was a 3 second international football match, which saw Scotland awarded a 3-0 victory (they even did the national anthem at the beginning).

Well, that's what they thought. FIFA convened and decided that actually the game should be replayed! This was to take place in February 1997 at a neutral ground, the Stade Louis II in Monaco.

The replayed game ended 0-0 but further controversy was avoided as Scotland amassed enough points in the group to qualify for the 1998 World Cup as the highest placed runners up in European qualifying.



Brandon Williams – Young English left back came through the ranks at Manchester United and making his debut in 2019



Deportivo La Coruna v's Valencia

On 14th May 1994 Deportivo La Coruna played Valencia in the last game of the season in La Liga. The scene was set at the Riazor Stadium because if Deportivo were to win the game, they would secure not just their first league title but also their first ever major trophy of any description in front of their 30,000 fans.

They had at one stage in the season a 7 point lead at the top but had struggled during the run in meaning they had to win their final league game or at least match the result of their nearest challenges, reigning champions, Barcelona.

At half time if was 0-0 and Deportivo were seemingly letting the nerves get the better of them however Barcelona were trailing at home to Sevilla. Then Barca turned the screw and not only levelled in their game but took the lead. Deportivo had to now score and win the game. Their entire season, and history of the club about to be thrown away by one substandard performance, What a shame, what a waste.

But wait, with just minutes until the end of the game, Deportivo were awarded a penalty! If scored, the title would be theirs.

Donato, who had successful netted 5 penalties in the season had been subbed off. The rumour is the team's top goal scorer, Brazilian Bebeto refused the opportunity to take the spot kick as he had missed one the week earlier.

The responsibility was given to Deportivo's Serbian centre back, Miroslav Djukic. He fluffed his lines and his penalty was saved and the dreams of 30,000 fans and 11 Deportivo La Coruna players were over.



David N'Gog – Played for Liverpool, Bolton Wanderers and Swansea City and then had spells in Greece, Scotland, Hungary and Lithuania



<u>Manchester City v's Huddersfield</u> <u>Town</u>

We've often asked ourselves what happens if 2 players score a hat-trick in the same game, who gets to take home the match ball? Guessing nowadays with 'multi- ball' that's no longer an issue, but what about back in the 'old days? And what if more than 2 players scored a hat-trick? Surely not?

Well on 7th November 1987 that predicament was a reality, in a second division match between Manchester City and Huddersfield Town at Maine Road.

Midfielder Neil McNab opened the scoring for City against a Huddersfield Town team who would ultimately face relegation at the end of the season.

Following McNabs' strike, the City forwards took over and Tony Adcock, Paul Stewart and David White all slammed home hat-tricks to make the score 10–0 before Huddersfield claimed a late consolation.



Maurizio Ganz – Former Italian striker who's former clubs include both Milan clubs, AC and Inter



Tottenham v's Arsenal

On 13th November 2004 Tottenham Hotspur hosted fierce local rivals Arsenal in the North London derby in a Premier League game.

Derby games are often tight affairs, neither team wanting to lose face against their arch enemy. Even though Arsenal were a superior team at the time form quiet often goes out the window in the these types of games.

The idea of a tight game was firmly thrown out of the window in this instance. Arsenal triumphed in the game, winning a nine goal thriller, 5–4. Due to Arsenal's superiority perhaps the end result is not that surprising, or 'weird' but what we found intriguing about the game was the goal scorers.

The Arsenal goal scorers on the day were Thierry Henry, Lauren, Patrick Vieira, Freddie Ljungberg and Robert Pires with Spurs responding with goals from Noureddine Naybet, Jermain Defoe, Ledley King and Freddie Kanoute.

Nine separate goal scorers in the game! Time to check the history books, must be a record!



Julio Baptista – The 'Beast' was prolific at Sevilla but never got to the same level at Real Madrid, Arsenal and Roma



Motherwell v's Hibernian

On Wednesday 5 May 2010 Motherwell hosted Hibernian in a Scottish Premiership League game.

The teams at the time were separated by just one point with Motherwell in fourth and Hibs in fifth. This was the season's penultimate match and the fourth placed team would challenge for a Europa League qualifying spot.

Hibs raced into a 4-2 half time lead including a first half hat-trick from Colin Nish and you'd assumed with a half time team talk of keep it tight, don't conceded and we've got these points in the bag.

By 65 minutes it had got even better as Hibs struck a further two goals to take the score line to 6-2. A great away win that would see them over take their rivals to fourth place.

That is what should have happened. Instead, Hibs hit the self destruct button and conceded 3 goals in 9 mins, giving Motherwell a fighting change to get something out of the game with 14 minutes to play.

Did they? Of course they did and in the 90th minute the home team were awarded a penalty to square up the game 6-6.

Substitute Ross Forbes stepped up and incredibly saw his penalty saved and the ascendency was back with Hibs, until 3 minutes into injury time when Motherwell's Lukas Jutkiewicz pounced with a stunning tight-angled left-foot volley to secure the point and retain fourth place in the table.



Hakan Unsal - During the 2002 World Cup Rivaldo was about to take a corner and Ünsal kicked the ball at him, annoyed about the time Rivaldo was taking. The ball hit Rivaldo on his legs but he collapsed dramatically holding his face and consequently Ünsal was sent off



Internet find!

Regular readers will know that we at The Halfway Line try to do the dirty digging through the internet so you don't have to in an attempt to find cool, retro or quirky football related stuff.

This issue we have come across one that is right up our street.

We love football (assume you guessed this by now) but we also share a love of music and back in our younger years we'd like nothing more than a summer music festival hanging out with mates without a care in the world. Watching the Lightening Seeds singing 'It's Coming Home' at Glastonbury just before England versus Colombia in the 1998 World Cup a particular highlight.

When we heard that the artist/designer of the yearly Reading and Leeds music festival poster was a football fan as well it was well worth investigating the rumour that went with it.

The designer would go about listing off the names of the bands who would be performing at the festival as you would expect from a festival poster, but as a Chelsea Football Club fan he added something extra....

Hidden amongst the line ups in the posters, there are random ex-Chelsea footballers included that the completely innocent music fan would be none the wiser! What a genius!!

We've included the posters from 2001, 2002, 2009, 2010. 2011 and 2012. See if you can spot the random Chelsea player in and amongst the legitimate bands scheduled to play!!

Denis Glushakov - Russian international who plays as a defensive midfielder and box-to-box midfielder







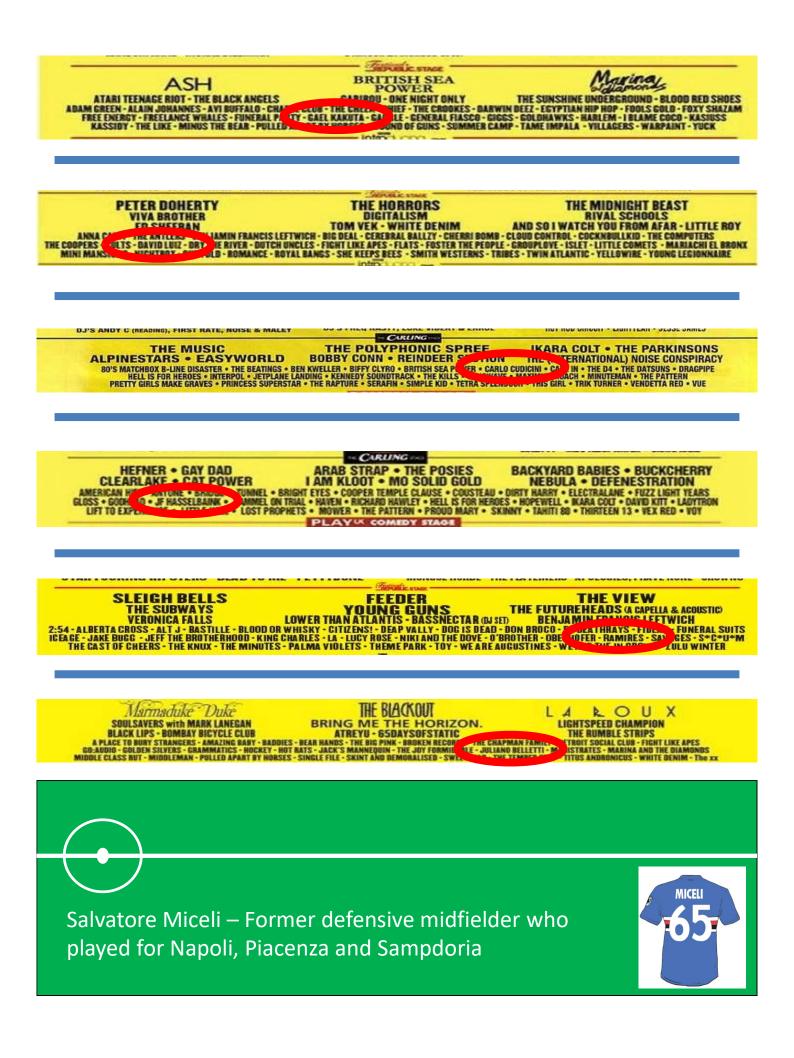






for French club side Lille





BAR ONE - today's best smoke at ten for one and four!

Juan Manuel Margas – Peruvian left wing back, who's most impressive time in Europe was with Fiorentina

The referee who stopped to smoke a BAR ONE



CIGARE



In this issues Boot Room we have another submission from the sportswear giants Nike.

It says a lot about the calibre of a footballer if they have a boot made especially for them. Think about it, not many have.

Introducing to the Boot Room the Nike Air Mercurial boots. The boots were originally released in black, but a version in silver/blue/yellow were released for the 1998 World Cup especially for Ronaldo – or R9 as the tongue on the boot announced.

Diafra Sakho – Scored in his first four starts for West Ham United, breaking a 26 year old record by Leroy Rosenior





Ronaldo debuted the boots in the 1998 World Cup opener against Scotland and not quite sure Colin Hendry was able to get a good look at the new boots as they would be speeding passed him quite rapidly!

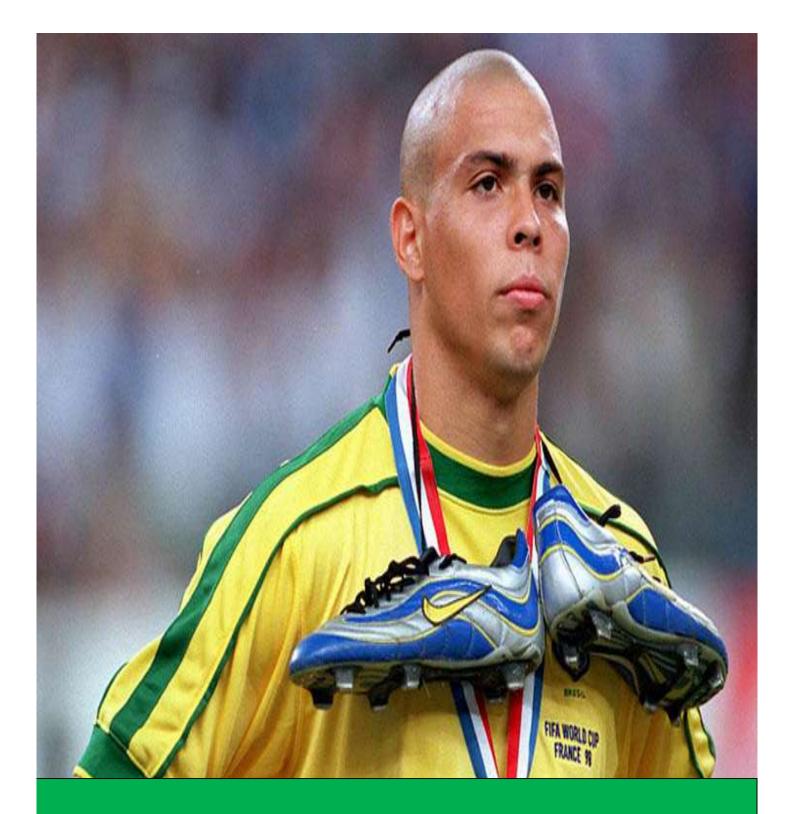
Now strictly speaking a pair of shinny sliver boots needs a certain type of player to wear them. Obviously as you know, The Halfway Line believes Ronaldo is highly qualified.

So the only issue with the boot is they are not exactly universally wearable. Could you imagine lining up against a centre back wearing a pair of the R9s! Or perhaps that's what makes them so special – you can only wear them if you are a phenomenon.



Anthony Vanden Borre – Debuted for Anderlecht at the age of 16, and has since joined the club twice more during his career. Had a brief spell on loan at Portsmouth in 2009





Stefano Sturaro – 4 times capped Italian midfielder, spent time at Juventus, but now back to his home club, Genoa who he has joined 4 times including loan spells

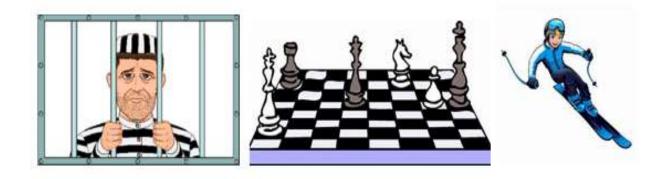


Guess the footballer

The design department have gone rogue again and hijacked this part of the issue. The next few pages are emojis or cartoon like pictures with the idea to say what you see, Catchphrase style and try to work out which former Premier League footballer we have tried to describe with the pictures.

Easy enough right? Answers are on page 94.

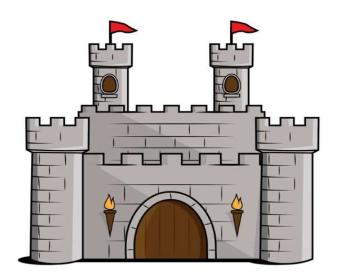




Henry Onyekuru – Bought by Everton in 2017 after top scoring in Belgium but never made a first team appearance after failing to get a work permit in the UK



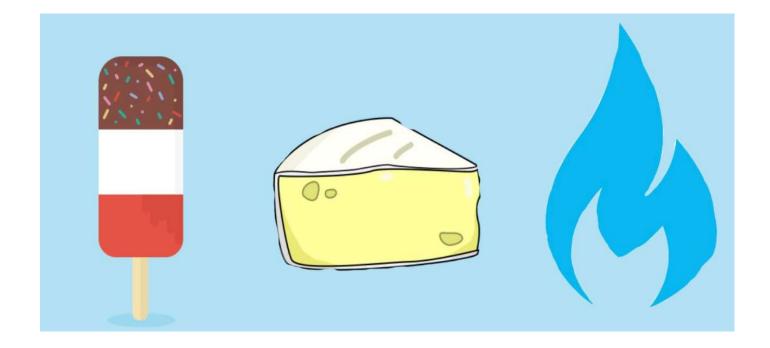






Denys Boyko – Ukrainian goalkeeper who plays for Dynamo Kiev and has been affiliated with the club since 2001







Paolo Vanoli - While at Parma he won both the UEFA Cup and Coppa Italia in 1999, and then in 2001 won the Coppa Italia again with Fiorentina, this time beating his former team Parma in the final. Vanoli scored in all three finals



The choice of both teams in the Wembley Final

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Matheus Pereira - Brazilian who plays as an attacking midfielder or right winger for Premier League club West Bromwich Albion



UP

REGP

KNICKERS.E HOSE

Surprise Packages

There are times during a football season surprises can happen here and there. It could be a pre-season favourite for the title has a slow start picking up points or at 'squeaky bum time' the leaders experience a mini wobble or even at times the bottom team can defeat the team at the top in a bizarre twist of form. However over the course of the season, be it 34, 36 or 38 games, the likelihood of you having picked the winner, between one or two teams is pretty high. If you did a straw poll now to see who would be the winner of the top 7 leagues in Europe at the end of the 2020/21 season we are pretty sure the answers would be aligned. That could be described as pretty boring and predictable.

Every so often though, and it isn't very often, a glitch in the matrix occurs and the form book goes straight of the window. It happens so infrequently, but when it does it gives hope to the masses, it excites all that are watching, that the underdog can conquer, that the rich and historical clubs don't have the divine right to win everything, and that you can dream to dream and one day your unfashionable club can triumph to the very peak of the league table, maintain the push and be victorious. David can beat Goliath and you can taste the sweet feeling of being crowned the champions.

We wanted to celebrate these acts of extraordinary achievements by the minnows of the leagues and it just so happens in the last 30 years of European football we can point to meteoric achievements in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, England, Holland and Portugal.

Sergei Ivanov – Russian midfield who plays for Zenit St. Petersburg, but yet to make the step up from the Zenit-2 team





DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA. La Liga Champions 1999-2000

Number of league title before 2000 = 0

Number of league title after 2000 = 0

Manager: Javier luerta

Captain: Fran

Top scorer: Roy Makaay (22)

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Deportivo La Coruña	38	21	6	11	66	44	+22	69
2	Barcelona	38	19	7	12	70	46	+24	64
3	Valencia	38	18	10	10	59	39	+20	64
4	Zaragoza	38	16	15	7	60	40	+20	63
5	Real Madrid	38	16	14	8	58	48	+10	62

Position finished in the 1998-99 season – 6th

In the last 30 years of La Liga the winners have been: (Overall league titles in brackets) Barcelona = 16 (26) Real Madrid = 9 (34) Atletico Madrid = 2 (10) Valencia = 2 (6) Deportivo La Coruna = 1 (1)



Thomas Heurtaux – French defender played for Caen and Udinese before a brief spell in Turkey before a return to Italy to play for Salernitana



DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA. La Liga Champions 1999-2000

Typical starting XI that contributed to 1999-2000 season title



Servet Cetin – Turkish centre back with the nickname Ayibogan which literally means, 'a man who could choke a bear' due to his height and strength





SAMPDORIA. Serie A Champions 1990-1991

Number of league titles before 1991 = 0

Number of league titles after 1991 = **0**

Manager: Vujadin Boskov

Captain: Roberto Mancini

Top scorer: Gianluca Vialli (19)

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	<u>Sampdoria</u>	34	20	11	3	57	24	+33	51
2	AC Milan	34	18	10	6	46	19	+27	46
3	Inter Milan	34	18	10	6	56	31	+25	46
4	Genoa	34	14	12	8	51	36	+15	40
5	Torino	34	12	14	8	40	29	+11	38

Position finished in the 1989-1990 season - 5th

In the last 30 years of Serie A the winners have been: (*one season no winner named) Juventus = 14 (36) AC Milan = 7 (18) Inter Milan = 5 (18) Roma = 1 (3) Lazio = 1 (2) Sampdoria = 1 (1)

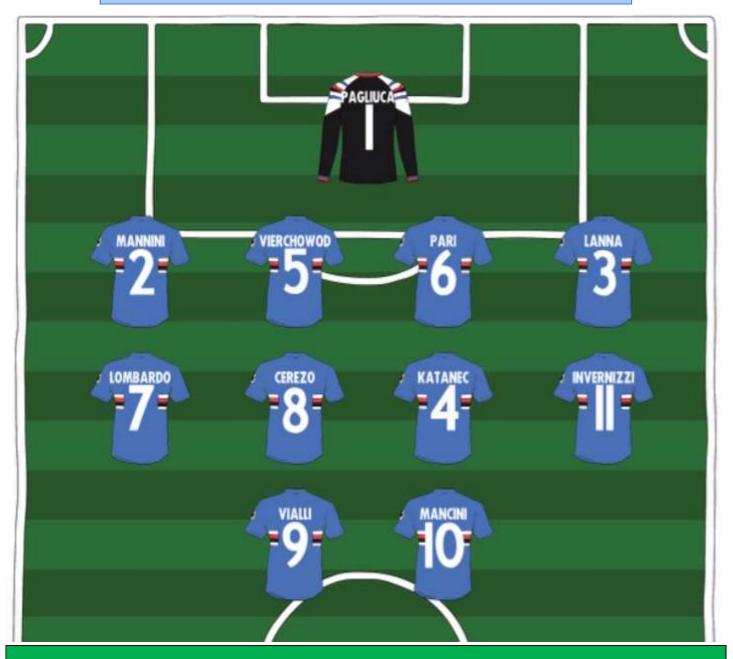


Jeremain Lens – Dutch winger who made his name at PSV Eindhoven before moving to Dynamo Kiev and Sunderland, with then loan moves to Fenerbahce & Besiktas, with the latter now made permanent



SAMPDORIA. Serie A Champions 1990-1991

Typical starting XI that contributed to 1990–1991 season title



Richard Kingson – Former Ghanaian international goalkeeper with short stints at Birmingham City, Wigan Athletic and Blackpool, who has an international goal to his name





MONTPELLIER. Lique 1 Champions 2011 - 2012

Number of league titles before 2012 = 0

Number of league titles after 2012 = **0**

Manager: René Girard

Captain: Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa

Top scorer: Olivier Giroud (21)

Pos	Team	Pld	w	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Montpellier	38	25	7	6	68	34	+34	82
2	Paris Saint-Germain	38	23	10	5	75	41	+34	79
3	Lille	38	21	11	6	72	39	+33	74
4	Lyon	38	19	7	12	64	51	+13	64
5	Bordeaux	38	16	13	9	53	41	+12	61

Position finished in the 2010-2011 season – 14th

In the last 30 years of Ligue 1 the winners have been: (*one season no winner) Paris Saint-Germain = 8 (9) Lyon = 7 (7) Marseille = 3 (10) Monaco = 3 (8) Bordeaux = 2 (6) Nantes = 2 (8) Lille = 1 (3) Auxerre = 1 (1) Lens = 1 (1) **Montpellier = 1 (1)**

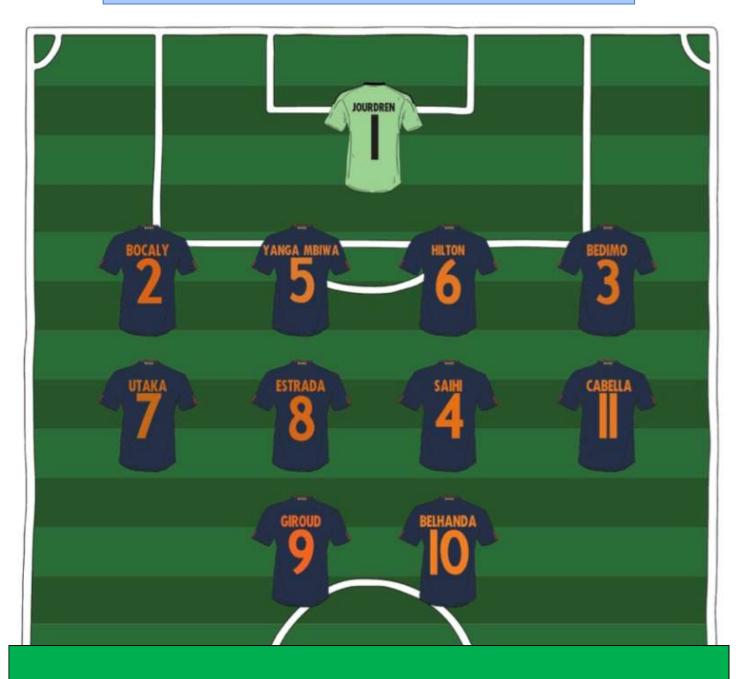


Riccardo Bonetto – Italian left sided player who started his career at Juventus, played mostly for Empoli and had a brief spell with Lazio



MONTPELLIER. Ligue 1 Champions 2011 - 2012

Typical starting XI that contributed to 2011 - 2012 season title



Olarenwaju Kayode – Nigerian international striker who in 2017 was signed by Manchester City but never made an appearance and moved on to Shakhtar Donetsk





WOLFSBURG. Bundesliga Champions 2008 - 2009

Number of league titles before 2009 = 0

Number of league titles after 2009 = 0

Ма	nager: Felix Magath	Captain: Josue				Top scorer: Grafite (2						
Pos	Team		Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts		
1	<u>VfL Wolfsburg</u>		34	21	6	7	80	41	+39	69		
2	Bayern Munich		34	20	7	7	71	42	+29	67		
3	VfB Stuttgart		34	19	7	8	63	43	+20	64		
4	Hertha BSC		34	19	6	9	48	41	+7	63		
5	Hamburger SV		34	19	4	11	49	47	+2	61		

Position finished in the 2007-2008 season - 5th

In the last 30 years of Bundesliga the winners have been: Bayern Munich = 18 (30) Borussia Dortmund = 5 (8) Kaiserslautern = 2 (4) Stuttgart = 2 (5) Werder Bremen = 2 (4) Wolfsburg = 1 (1)

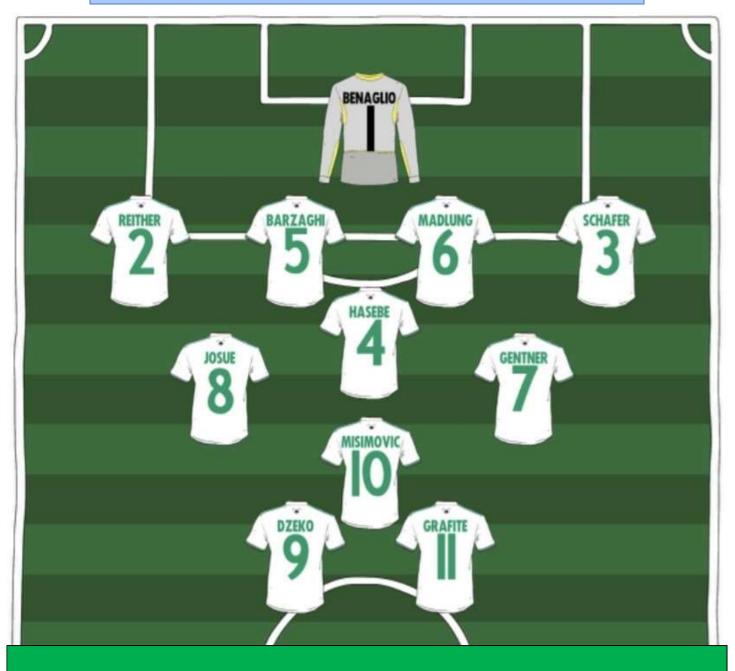


Simone Del Nero – Former Italian U21 left winger who played briefly with Lazio after an impressive spell at Brescia, but only managed a handful of appearances for the Biancocelesti



WOLFSBURG. Bundesliga Champions 2008 - 2009

Typical starting XI that contributed to 2008 - 2009 season title



Daniel Bessa – A former Inter Milan youth player bought from Brazilian club Atletico Paranaense, but never made the grade and is now back in his homeland with Goias





LEICESTER CITY. Premier League Champions 2015-2016

Number of league titles before 2016 = 0

Number of league titles after 2016 = 0

Manager: Claudio Ranieri

Captain: Wes Morgan

Top scorer: Jamie Vardy (24)

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Leicester City	38	23	12	3	68	36	+32	81
2	Arsenal	38	20	11	7	65	36	+29	71
3	Tottenham Hotspur	38	19	13	6	69	35	+34	70
4	Manchester City	38	19	9	10	71	41	+30	66
5	Manchester United	38	19	9	10	49	35	+14	66

Position finished in the 2014-2015 season – 14th

In the last 30 years of Premier League the winners have been: Manchester United = 13 (20) Arsenal = 4 (13) Chelsea = 5 (6) Manchester City = 4 (6) Liverpool = 1 (19) Blackburn = 1 (3) Leeds United = 1 (3) Leicester City = 1 (1)



Rubinho Fernandi Moedim – Brazilian goalkeeper who performed well enough at Genoa to warrant a move to Juventus in 2012, but only made 2 league appearances in 4 years



LEICESTER CITY. Premier League Champions 2015-2016

Typical starting XI that contributed to 2015 - 2016 season title



Corrado Colombo – Italian striker who won U21 caps and played for the likes of Inter Milan, Torino, Atalanta, Sampdoria and Bari





FC TWENTE. Eredivisie Champions 2009-2010

Number of league titles before 2010 = 0

Number of league titles after 2010 = $\underline{0}$

Manager: Steve McClaren

Captain: Blaise N'Kufo

Top scorer: Bryan Ruiz (24)

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Twente	34	27	5	2	63	23	+40	86
2	Ajax	34	27	4	3	106	20	+86	85
3	PSV	34	23	9	2	72	29	+43	78
4	Feyenoord	34	17	12	5	54	31	+23	63
5	AZ	34	19	5	10	64	34	+30	62

Position finished in the 2008-2009 season - 2nd

In the last 30 years of Eredivisie the winners have been: PSV Eindhoven = 13 (24) Ajax Amsterdam = 11 (34) Feyenoord = 3 (15) AZ Alkmaar = 1 (2) FC Twente = 1 (1)



Guilherme Alvim Marinato – Brazilian born goalkeeper who has played over 300 games for Lokomotiv Moscow and changed nationality to Russian and has won 13 caps for them





Typical starting XI that contributed to 2009-2010 season title



Fernando Muslera – Uruguayan goalkeeper who has played in Europe for Lazio and Galatasaray and amassed 116 caps for his country



These league championship winners have achieved what seemed impossible.

Leicester City were fighting a relegation battle the previous season, Deportivo La Coruna had gone through previous heart break (page 54), and Montpellier were fighting in a league where from 1990, the next 12 league titles went to 9 different teams. In Germany the monopoly of the Bayern Munich franchise is one seriously difficult 'machine' to break and in Serie A it is heading that way with the dominance of Juventus. Perhaps the heroics of FC Twente are the greatest, managing to break, alongside AZ Alkmaar, the supremacy of Ajax, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord.

Actually perhaps there is one other team that trumps them all.

The Primera Liga in Portugal was established in 1934. Over 70 teams have competed in the Primeira Liga but only five have been crowned champions.

The main contenders are the "Big Three" teams – Benfica (37 wins), Porto (29 wins) and Sporting CP (18 wins). There has only ever been 2 other occasions where a different team has won the league! The first were Belenenses in the 1945–46 season and then in 2000-01 **Boavista** somehow beat the odds, and the Big Three to claim their first, and to date their only league championship.

It's a true underdog story, the manager, 42 year old Jaime Pacheco worked with a team of grafters and unsung heroes. Not one player scored more than 10 league goals in the title winning season, and none of their Portuguese players in the squad were full internationals. A truly amazing achievement by the club, that you find yourself asking will, or can, that ever happen again?



Ervin Zukanovic – A Bosnia & Herzegovina international centre back has played for a number of clubs, but namely Sampdoria, Roma and Genoa



TREATMENT ROOM Concussion

Concussion is an injury to the brain, which results in a disturbance of its function. There are many symptoms of concussion, common ones being headache, dizziness, memory disturbance or balance problems.

What causes it?

Concussion can be caused by a direct blow to the head, but can also occur when a blow to another part of the body results in rapid movement of the brain, e.g. whiplash type injuries.

Onset of symptoms

The symptoms of concussion typically appear immediately, but their onset may be delayed and can appear at any time after the initial injury

It's important to remember that loss of consciousness doesn't always occur in concussion – in fact, it occurs in less than 10% of cases. Because of this, a concussed player may not have fallen to the ground after the injury, they could still be standing.

Who's at risk?

Concussions can happen to players at any age. However, children and adolescents (18 and under) are more susceptible to brain injury. They also:

- take longer to recover
- have more significant memory and mental processing issues

• are more susceptible to rare and dangerous neurological complications, including death caused by a single or second impact.

Sergei Kornilenko – Belarusian centre forward spent most of his career playing for clubs in Russia and Ukraine, aside from a 6 league appearance stint at Blackpool in the Premier League



How to recognise concussion

If any of the following signs or symptoms are present after an injury, you should suspect that a player has a concussion and remove them from play or training immediately – with no return on the same day.

Signs of concussion – what you might see

Any one or more of the following visual clues can indicate a concussion:

- Dazed, blank or vacant look
- Lying motionless on ground / slow to get up
- Unsteady on feet / balance problems or falling over / poor coordination
- Loss of consciousness or responsiveness
- Confused / not aware of play or events
- Grabbing / clutching of head
- Seizure (fits)
- More emotional / irritable than normal for that person

What to do next

Anyone with a suspected concussion must be immediately removed from play. Once safely removed from play they must not be returned to activity that day. Teammates, coaches, match officials, team managers, administrators or parents who suspect someone may have concussion must do their best to ensure that they are removed in a safe manner

Returning to play

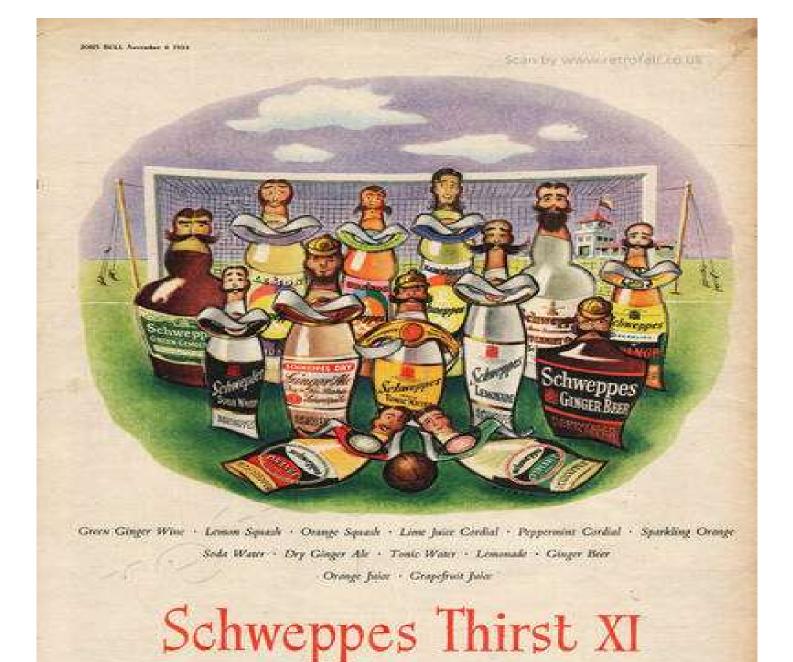
Rest the body, rest the brain

Rest is the cornerstone of concussion treatment. This involves resting the body, 'physical rest', and resting the brain, known as 'cognitive rest'. This allows symptoms to recover and, in the non-professional setting, allows a return to work or study prior to resuming training and playing.

In some circumstances – such as professional clubs, international teams and academies – there may be a enhanced level of medical care available. This allows closer supervision of a player's care and graduated return to play **(GRTP)**.

Andre Gomes – Portuguese international had impressive spells at Benfica and Valencia resulting in a move to Barcelona. Having struggled at the Nou Camp moved to Everton





TAMORE

CONTRACTOR NO.

Joao Carvalho – Portuguese midfielder who signed for Nottingham Forest in 2018 from Benfica for a then club record fee of £13.2 million

PPERVESCENCE LISTS

60



COUNTRY FOCUS

For this issue of The Halfway Line we are focusing on <u>Canada</u> as our country of choice.

The Canadian Soccer Association is the governing body of 'soccer' in Canada. It is a national organization that oversees the Canadian men's and women's national teams under the CONCACAF confederation.



The men's national teams nickname is the Canucks, or Les Rouges (the Reds).

The nations highest ever FIFA ranking was 40th in 1996.

The nation have only ever qualified for one World Cup, in 1986, in which they played 3 group stage games, lost all three and failed to score a goal.

They hope to put that right when they co host the 2026 tournament (with Mexico and the USA).

The country's highest appearance maker is **Julian de Guzman**, who played for Canada on 89 occasions and the leading goal scorer with 22 goals and perhaps their most famous player is **Dwayne De Rosario**, who played for a number of clubs in the Major League Soccer (MLS). Canada's newest superstar is **Alfonso Davies**, the first Canadian to win the Champions League, with Bayern Munich in 2020.

Canada has 3 teams competing in the MLS: Vancouver Whitecaps, Montreal Impact and Toronto FC.

There is also the Canadian Premier League, made up exclusively of Canadian teams, that was founded only 3 years ago in 2017.

Those 8 teams are Atletico Ottawa, Cavalry FC, FC Edmonton, Forge FC, HFX Wanderers FC, Pacific FC, Valour FC and York9 FC. **Forge FC** have 2 league titles so far, making them the most successful to date.

Andrea Bertolacci – Italian international (5 caps) midfielder who has played for Genoa, AC Milan and Sampdoria having started his career at Roma



The number of Canadian's to grace the Premier League is relatively small, in fact 10. Two originals in terms of when the Premier League started are Craig Forrest and Frank Yallop, who both played for Ipswich from 1992 to 1995. Forrest went on to play for West Ham United and briefly at Chelsea.





The others are Scott Arfield, Jim Brennan, Terry Dunfield, David Edgar, Junior Hoilett (3 separate clubs), Simeon Jackson, Paul Stalteri and lastly Tomasz Radzinski, who is the Canadian with the most Premier League goals to their name (36 goals).

On the reverse there are a number of players that have left European shores and moved to Canada to play in the MLS.

Giles Barnes, Robert Earnshaw, Kenny Miller and Nigel Reo-Coker have all played for the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Toronto FC were also represented by Robert Earnshaw, as well as Jermain Defoe, Steven Caldwell and Danny Dichio.

Montreal Impact ex-players include Alessandro Nesta, Bacary Sagna and Didier Drogba and are currently managed by Thierry Henry.

Before the launch of the MLS there was a previous version of an American League, the NASL, that folded in 1985 but before it's demise, the league, and the Vancouver Whitecaps themselves were able to attract some big name players, including England's very own **Peter Beardsley**.



Cristiano Piccini – An Italian international (3 caps) started his career at right back for Fiorentina, before moving abroad to play for Real Betis, Sporting Lisbon and Valencia



Quiz time

Try your luck with the following questions and find out the answers next month or email us at <u>Stan@thehalfwayline.com</u> to submit your answers.

- 1. Four Hondurans have played for Wigan Athletic in the Premier League. Can you name them?
- 2. Who was the first Cameroon player to score a hat-trick in the Premier League?
- 3. In this century who has captained a team to FA Cup glory and also tasted defeat as a manager in the final?
- 4. Everton have sold 5 players for more than £20 million. Can you name them?
- 5. What links Kevin Phillips, Craig Gardner, Liam Ridgewell and Curtis Davies?
- 6. Who is the highest capped Englishman to manage in the Premier League?

Teammates

- 1. I have been a teammate of Chris Bart-Williams, Claude Makelele, Michael Owen, Robert Green and Gareth Bale? Who am I?
- 2. I have been a teammate of Michael Ballack, Jonathan Woodgate, Nani, John-Arne Riise and Bernardo Silva? Who am I?
- 3. I have been a teammate of Paul Gascoigne, Ian Wright, Gareth Barry, Yakubu and Vinny Samways? Who am I?
- 4. I have been a teammate of Gianluca Vialli, Des Walker, Christian Vieri, Pavel Nedved and Muzzy Izzet? Who am I?
- 5. I have been a teammate of Stuart Downing, Nigel Pearson, Vladimir Jugovic, Neil Lennon and Tony Popovic? Who am I?

What club links the following players?

- 1. Jermaine Jones, Yiliray Basturk, Vratislav Gresko and Dani Carvajal?
- 2. Sone Aluko, James Maddison, Craig Hignett and Mike Newell?
- 3. Luis Alberto, Lucas Leiva, Djibril Cisse and Louis Saha?
- 4. Karim El Ahmadi, George Boateng, Ron Vlaar and Regi Blinker?
- 5. Matt Derbyshire, Rivaldo, Roy Carroll and Colin Kazim-Richards?
- 6. Alan Hutton, Samuel Eto'o, Gerry Armstrong and Juan Carlos Valeron?
- 7. Tony Cascarino, Joey Barton, Trevor Steven and Basile Boli?
- 8. Gianluca Festa, Paul Ince, Marco Branca and Gaston Ramirez?

Guess the footballer answers from page 70: Wanchope, Konchesky, Rocastle, Sheringham, Fabregas, and Van Persie.





Last Issues Quiz answers

- 1. Which former Premier League manager and player holds the record for most appearances in the Coppa Italia? Roberto Mancini
- 2. Can you name the United Kingdom's and Irelands men's national teams record goal scorers? ENG Wayne Rooney, SCO – Dalglish & Law, IRE- Robbie Keane, WAL – Gareth Bale & NIR – David Healy
- 3. When Hernan Crespo moved to Lazio from Parma in 2000, which 2 players moved in the opposite directions as part of the transfer? Matias Almeyda and Sergio Conceicao
- 4. Who was the first Brazilian to play in the Premier League? Isaías for Coventry City
- 5. Who is the only player to score in the Manchester derby, the Old Firm derby and the Merseyside derby? Andrei Kanchelskis
- 6. Which 2 grounds have shared Premier League football? I.e., 2 clubs have used 1 ground as their home ground. Selhurst Park (Crystal Palace & Wimbledon) and Loftus Road (QPR & Fulham)

Teammates

- 1. I have been a teammate of, Steven Pienaar, Arjen Robben, Samuel Eto'o, Lukas Podolski and Alain Saint-Maximin. Who am I? Wesley Sneijder
- 2. I have been a teammate of Matt Holland, Steven Gerrard, Fabio Borini, Glyfi Sigurdsson and Andy Carroll. Who am I? Jonjo Shelvey
- 3. I have been a teammate of Tyrone Mears, Jean-Pierre Papin, Karim Benzema, Dennis Bergkamp and Djimi Traore, Who am I? Sylvain Wiltord
- 4. I have been a teammate of Luis Enrique, Shaun Derry, Gheorghe Hagi, Bebeto and Joesph Yobo. Who am I? Roberto Prosinecki
- 5. I have been a teammate of Magno Vieira, Matthew Upson, Harry Kane, Paul Konchesky and Riyad Mahrez. Who am I? Jamie Vardy

What club links the following players?

- 1. Didier Drogba, Nicolas Anelka, Odion Ighalo and Obafemi Martins? Shanghai Shenhua
- 2. Nicolas Bendtner, Andres D'Alessandro, Edin Dzeko and Claudio Reyna? Wolfsburg
- 3. Juan Pablo Angel, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Youri Djorkaeff and Juninho Pernambucano? New York Red Bulls
- 4. Emile Heskey, Wes Hoolahan, Mario Jardel and Joe Ledley? Newcastle Jets
- 5. Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink, Robbie Fowler, Kevin Campbell and Ross McCormack? Cardiff City
- 6. Phill Babb, Jason McAteer, Paul Rideout and Jeff Kenna? Tranmere Rovers
- 7. Manuel Neuer, Rafinha, Leroy Sane and David Wagner? Schalke
- 8. Frederic Kanoute, Didier Zokora, Vinny Samways and Gael Kakuta? Sevilla

Bernando Silva - In the 2019 UEFA Nations League Finals, Silva played both matches and registered an assist in each as Portugal won the trophy and he was named the tournament's best player



Forgot they played for them?

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

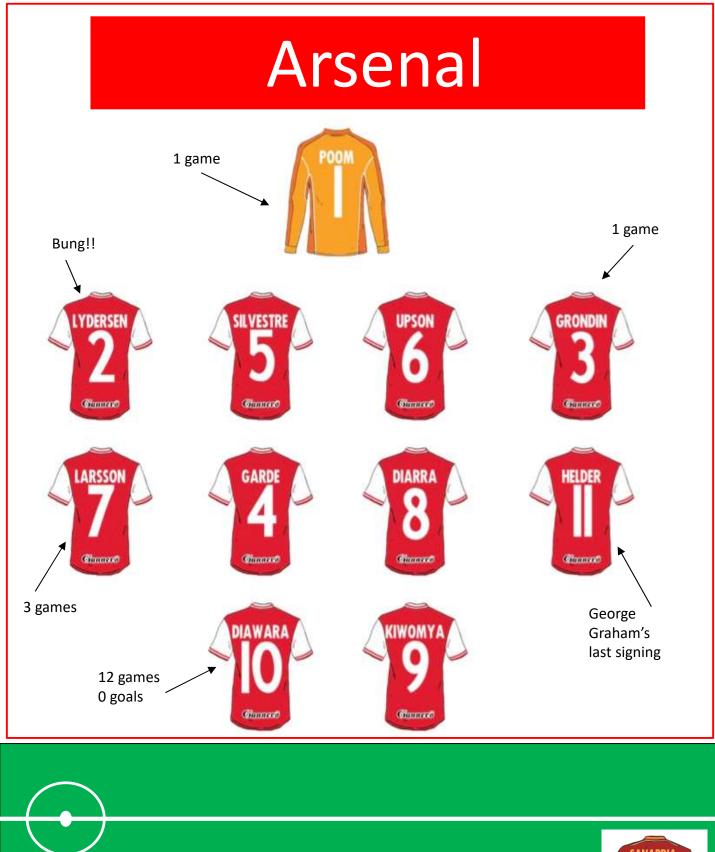
But for a selection of current and former Premier League teams it is also possible to name a starting line up of players that it is very easy to forget they actually played for the club, let alone become a fan favourite.

In this issue we look at 2 clubs that are arguably the most successful since the start of the Premier League, Manchester United and Arsenal, and then a unsung hero in terms of seasons spent in the Premier League, and that is Southampton.

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

Eduard Sobol – Ukrainian left back has been loaned out by Shakhtar Donetsk 6 times, with the latest spell in the Jupiler Pro League in Belgium with Club Brugge





Antonio Sanabria – Paraguayan international striker only made 2 Serie A appearance at Roma but faired better at Real Betis, including scoring a winner against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu



Manchester United



Umar Sadiq – Nigerian U23 forward used sparingly at Roma with 6 separate loan spells, including one to Glasgow Rangers now finds himself playing for Partizan Belgrade





Ivan Oblyakov – Russian central midfielder who plies his trade with CSKA Moscow, after having spent his youth career at rivals Zenit St. Petersburg



1 Oliver Kahn	Bayern Munich	1994-2008	51	Roque Mesa	Swansea City	2018-20
2 Jorginho	Bayern Munich	1992-1995	52	Mattia Di Sciglio	AC Milan	2011-20
3 Aldair	Brazil	1994-1998	53	Brandon Williams	Manchester United	2018-20
4 Claude Makelele	Chelsea	2003-2008	54	Daniel N'gog	Swansea City	2013-20
5 Alessandro Costacurta	AC Milan	1988-2007	55	Maurizo Ganz	Fiorentina	2001-20
6 Matthaus Sammer	Borussia Dortmund	1992-1998	56	Julio Baptista	Cruziero	2012-20
7 Luis Figo	Barcelona	1995-2000	57	Hakan Unsal	Galatasaray	1997-20
8 Antonio Conte	Juventus	1992-2004	58	Denis Glushakov	Lokomotiv Moscow	2007-20
9 Filippo Inzaghi	AC Milan	2001-2012	59	Andrey Ivanov	Spartak Moscow	2005-20
10 Juan Roman Riquelme	Boca Junior	1998-2014	60	Aleksandr Golovin	CSKA Moscow	2014-20
11 Romario	Brazil	1989-2001	61	Florentino Luis	Benfica	2018-20
12 Dimitar Berbatov	Bayer Leverkusen	2000-2003	62	Zeki Fryers	Tottenham Hotspur	2012-20
13 Rafinha	Flamengo	2018-2020		Tiago Djalo	Sporting Lisbon	2018-20
14 Xabi Alonso	Liverpool	2004-2009		Sergio Canos	Liverpool	2015-20
15 Ray Parlour	Arsenal	1993-2004		Salvatore Miceli	Sampdoria	2002-20
16 Aaron Ramsey	Arsenal	2008-2016		Juan Manuel Vargas	Fiorentina	2013-20
17 Ruud Van Nistelrooy	Real Madrid	2006-2010		Diafra Sakho	Bursaspor	2018-20
18 Hatem Ben Arfa	Lyon	2005-2008		Anthony Vanden Borre	Genoa	2007-20
19 Santi Cazorla	Arsenal	2012-2018		Stefano Sturaro	Genoa	2013-20
20 Alvaro Recoba	Inter Milan	1997-2008		Henry Onyekuru	Galatasaray	2019-20
21 David Silva	Manchester City	2010-2020	-	Denys Boyko (GK)	Dynamo Kiev	2009-20
22 Haklm Ziyech	Ajax Amsterdam	2018-2020		Paolo Vanoli	Fiorentina	2001-20
23 Aldo Duscher	Deportivo La Coruna	2000-2005		Matheus Pereira	Sporting Lisbon	2014-20
24 Marco Delvecchio	Roma	1995-2005	74	Sergei Ivanov	Zenit St Petersburg	2019-20
25 Walter Samuel	Inter Milan	2005-2014		Thomas Heurtaux	Udinese	2012-20
26 Andy Robertson	Liverpool	2017-2020		Servet Cetin	Galatasaray	2007-20
27 Maroune Fellaini	Manchester United	2015-2019		Jeremain Lens	Fenerbahce	2016-20
28 Paolo Cannavaro	Parma	1999-2006		Richard Kingson	Galatasaray	2003-20
29 Granit Xhaka	Arsenal	2016-2018		Riccardo Bonetto	Lazio	2009-20
30 Mauro Bressan	Fiorentina	2000-2001		Olarenwajo Kayode	Shakhtar Donetsk	2017-20
31 Nemanja Matic	Manchester United	2017-2020		Simone Del Nero	Lazio	2007-20
32 Josh Kimmech	Bayern Munich	2015-2020		Daniel Bessa	Inter Milan	2012-20
33 Pierre Wome	Inter Milan	2005-2006	_	Rubinho Fernando Moedim (GK)	Genoa	2006-20
34 Moise Kean	Juventus	2016-2018		Corrado Colombo	Bari	2009-20
35 Javi Garcia	Real Madrid	2004-2005		Guilherme Alvim Marinato (GK)	Lokomotiv Moscow	2006-20
36 Daniel Sturridge	Manchester City	2006-2008		Fernando Muslera	Lazio	2008-20
37 Christian Tello	Barcelona	2011-2013		Ervin Zukanovic	Genoa	2017-20
38 Michael Keane	Manchester United	2011-2015	-	Eboue Kouassi	Celtic	2016-20
39 Andre Villas Boas	Porto	2003-2004		Andre Gomes	Benfica	2012-20
40 Paulo Sousa	Inter Milan	1997-1998		João Carvalho	Benfica	2012-20
41 Frederio Mancheda	Sampdoria	2010-2011		Andrea Bertolacci	Sampdoria	2019-20
42 Seydou Keita	Valencia	2013-2014		Cristiano Piccini	Sporting Lisbon	2017-20
43 Steven Sessegnon	Fulham	2017-2020		Denis Vavro	Lazio	2019-20
44 Philippe Senderos	Valencia	2013-2014		Bernando Silva	Benfica	2013-20
45 Armard Traore	Arsenal	2006-2007		Eduard Sobol	Shakhtar Donetsk	2013-20
46 Nile Ranger	Newcastle United	2008-2009		Antonio Sanabria	Roma	2012-20
47 Andre Wisdom	Liverpool	2010-2016		Umar Sadig	Roma	2014-20
48 Darren O'Dea	Celtic	2005-2011		Ivan Oblyakov	CSKA Moscow	2013-20
49 Ravel Morrison	Manchester United	2003-2011		Roberto Soldado	Fenerbahce	2018-20
50 Lewis Grabban	Reading	2010-2012		Clautumaoe Blanco	Club Americas	2017-20

Roberto Soldado – Tottenham Hotspurs' previous transfer fee record (£26 million) flopped in the Premier League as could not replicate his La Liga form with Osasuna, Getafe and Valencia



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

- What ever happened to FC Anzhi Makhachkala?
- Crazy Footballers
- The best European strikers you have never heard of
- Kit Special & Bumper Issue

And the usual:

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



Cuauhtémoc Blanco – Came out of retirement a year after he stopped playing in order to play one final game for Club America. He wore the number 100 jersey and was subbed off 36 mins in



