

November 2020 Issue 8

The



Halfway Line



EURO '92 REVISITED!

Also this issue:

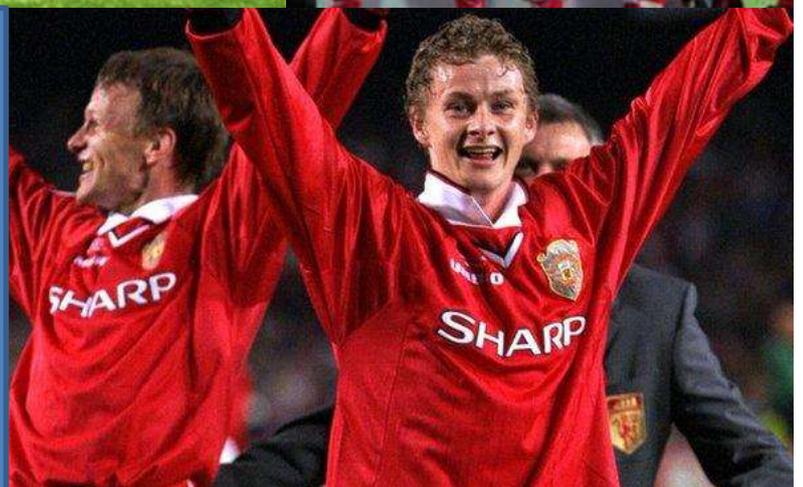
Super Subs

One Season Wonders

Forever Injured Footballers

Strange Transfers and

Much much more



Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

Welcome to issue 8 of The Halfway Line. This issue is available for just £0.99* and you get a free binder just in time for Christmas.

(*Normal price £7.99)

Remember that scam!!!

We think we know our audience. Here's a few reasons why. If you open a paracetamol pack I bet you always get the end with the folded paper. If you weigh yourself and you are heavier than expected, you do the normal thing right? Diet, exercise??? No no no - you move the weighing scales to another part on the bathroom floor tiles to try to lose weight that way!

But back to football; Here's how we really know you. If the referee falls over it's hysterical and you can't help but laugh, same if the assistant referee drops their flag. You love a good old fashioned drop ball contest, especially when both players see it as an opportunity to avoid the ball and just go for each other, and there is nothing quite like a back pass free-kick, with all 22 players in the box, 11 defenders on the line ready to charge!

We are back to normal after our bumper edition for issue 7, but we are still bringing you great content.

In this issue we are heading back in time, incredibly 28 years in fact, to remember the European Championship of 1992. Want to feel old? Erasure were number one in the single charts, the European Union had just been founded, America had just witnessed the LA riots and the top two grossing films of the year were Aladdin and The Bodyguard!!

We are also looking at some unfamiliar family connections within football that you might not have been aware of.

Gives us the chance to share this great family anecdote. When Darren Ferguson was fired as manager of Preston North End immediately the manager of Manchester United, a certain Alex Ferguson recalled 3 players who he'd sent on loan to Preston from United, as a sign of solidarity to his son. Even better than that, and no relation whatsoever but playing a beautiful tactical game, Tony Pulis, the Stoke City manager at the time did exactly the same thing and pulled 2 of his players back from loan at Preston as a reaction to Darren's sacking. Very smooth Tony.

We also profile some players seriously unlucky with injuries throughout their careers as well as looking at players with a very similar attribute to that of Santa Claus, one season wonders!

Those who tell you Quorn is an adequate substitute for meat, well, there are wrong. Those that tell you a sweetener is a good substitute for sugar, again wrong. There aren't many great subs out there, perhaps aside for a foot long meatball marinara, grilled with cheese, but we've managed to roll them out for this issue in a Super Subs feature.

All the above and the usual features including classic kits, forgotten men, historical line ups and much much more.

So quit putting together your 29 fold accumulator covering 15 different divisions that will win you (in your head) thousands, pause Saint and Greasvie and stop worrying about the seagulls following the trawler.

It's team to sit down, grab a Lucozade sport tablet (remember those!) and read issue 8 (yes **eight**, like how Final Score on Grandstand spelt out results when huge score lines came in) and of course as always..... Enjoy!



Nélson de Jesus Silva – Dida, as he was known saved 3 penalties in the 2003 Champions League final penalty shoot out for AC Milan, defeating Juventus



The Halfway Line Up

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Willy Sagnol – French right back whose move from Monaco to Bayern Munich saw him win five league titles and one Champions League with the German giants



Transfer signings you wouldn't necessarily have expected

Luther Blissett – AC Milan 1983

By the end of the 1982/83 campaign Blissett had just enjoyed a fruitful season with Watford in the then first division, helping the Hornets finish second to Liverpool and finishing as the division's top goal scorer with 27 strikes.



This prompted Italian giants AC Milan to spend £1m on the hit man and take him to the San Siro.

Sadly the form was not replicated in Serie A and after just 5 goals in 30 games he was transferred back to Watford for half the money.

The rumour (unfounded) is perhaps Milan got the wrong man and had actually intended to buy Watford team mate John Barnes instead! A case of mistaken identity?



Frank de Boer - The second most capped outfield player in the history of the Dutch national team, with 112 caps



Dale Jennings – Bayern Munich 2011

After Jennings' first and only season (2010/11) at the time in English football, he was voted League One Apprentice of the Year after 6 goals in 29 league games for Tranmere Rovers in an overall impressive season.

Instead of being plucked from Prenton Park and heading to the Championship, or Premier League, remarkably at just 19 years old Jennings was signed by German giants Bayern Munich! Sadly for Jennings an early injury and established players in the first team, his two years in Germany were spent with Bayern Munich II, and he failed to register a first team appearance in the Bundesliga. His adventure ended in 2013 when he moved back to England with Barnsley.



Ronnie O'Brien – Juventus 1999

Irishman O'Brien signed for Middlesbrough in 1997 at 18 years old, but failed to make a league appearance in 2 years. From nowhere an offer of a 5 year contract came in from Juventus! It was of course accepted, but having made just one appearance in the Intertoto Cup in 3 years he made a move to the US and MLS, to FC Dallas.

O'Brien was no stranger to the US. In August 1999, e-mails circulated urging Irish people to vote for Ronnie O'Brien in the Time's magazine 'Person of the Century' Internet poll, caused O'Brien to lead the poll, above those such as Albert Einstein and Martin Luther King Jr. After the poll crashed due to attracting too much traffic, Time magazine removed O'Brien from the running, restating the rule that "whimsical candidates will not be counted."



Matthijs de Ligt - He became the youngest player ever (17 years and 285 days old) to play in a major European final when he started for Ajax against Manchester United in the 2017 UEFA Europa League Final





Sami Al-Jaber – Wolverhampton Wanderers 2000

You will not find any representation from Saudi Arabia in the Premier League (yet) but perhaps their most famous player did actually play in England. At the turn of the century Sami Al-Jaber signed on loan for Wolves. He is his country's second highest international goalscorer with 46 goals in 156 internationals from 1992 to 2006. Al-Jaber appeared in four consecutive FIFA World Cup tournaments, from 1994 to 2006, scoring in three of them.

He sadly failed to make the desired impression at Molineux, appearing only 5 times, and no permanent transfer followed and he returned to his homeland.

Claudio Caniggia – Dundee 2000

The roll call of clubs reads; River Plate, Verona, Atalanta, Roma, Benfica, Boca Juniors...and Dundee.

After a somewhat controversial career with fall outs with coaches and drug bans, the Argentine World Cup star, (scored in both 1990 and 1994 tournaments) due to a friendship made in Italy with Ivano Bonetti, signed for Dundee, as Bonetti was the Don's manager at the time.



Sebastian Kehl - The defensive midfielder amassed over 360 games for Borussia Dortmund, captaining the side under Jurgen Klopp



Al-Saadi Gaddafi – Perugia 2003

Perugia have a habit of pulling a slightly random transfer out of the hat, see the likes of Hidetoshi Nakata, Jay Bothroyd and Ahn Jung-hwan, but perhaps none so random as the son of Colonel Gaddafi!

Al-Saadi is the third son of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, and when you are the country's leader's son, you are likely to get a few benefits. Whilst participating in the Libyan football league it has been suggested one law forbade announcing the name of any football player with the exception of Gaddafi's. Only numbers of other players were announced. Referees favoured Gaddafi's club and security forces were used to silence protests!

Then in 2003 he signed for Perugia, and he bought an entourage. Included were a technical consultant and a personal trainer, namely Diego Maradona and former Canadian Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson. What could possibly go wrong? Well surprise surprise, after just one substitute appearance he failed a drugs test (shock) and never played for the club again. There were further failed moves in Italy with Udinese and Sampdoria.

At least he could take pride in being named captain of his country and president of the Libyan Football Federation, naturally.



Youri Djorkaeff – World Cup and European Championship winner with France was also the first French player to play in the MLS



Kyle Lafferty – Sion 2012 and Palermo 2013

The Northern Ireland striker left Glasgow Rangers at the time they were relegated from the Scottish Premiership due to financial irregularities, and his choice of next club surprised a few.

Lafferty signed for the Swiss club FC Sion and immediately found himself team mates with Gennaro Gattuso, who at the turn of the year began the role of player manager of the side, who were struggling in the league.

Lafferty mustered 5 league goals in 25 league appearances for the Swiss club side, but then found himself on the move once more.

This time to Italy, and to Serie B playing for Palermo. His strike partner on his debut was a certain Paulo Dybala! He scored 11 goals in 34 matches to help the club be promoted to Serie A as champions in his only season, and won the Fans' Player of the Season award. However, club president Maurizio Zamparini called him an "out-of-control womaniser" and claimed that this lifestyle resulted in him being sold to Norwich City in the June of 2014.



David Platt – Former England captain who can count 3 Italian sides as former clubs (Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria) he'd played for during his career





Dietmar Hamann – In October 2000 he scored what proved to be the last goal scored at the 'old' Wembley before its demolition when he scored for Germany against England





Never cost a transfer fee Best XI



Roger Milla - At the age of 42, Milla broke his own record as the oldest goalscorer in a World Cup by scoring against Russia in the 1994 FIFA World Cup



Never cost a transfer fee Best XI

Below we list a line up of XI players, who if we have got this right, never cost a club a transfer fee. The criteria of having moved clubs at least once has to be met of course but take a look at the line up that never saw a transfer fee cross the path of a chairman when signing these players.

Peggy Arphexad – Torn here between Arphexad and Stuart Taylor. The latter moving between the likes of Arsenal, Crystal Palace, Manchester City, Aston Villa Reading and Leeds United but he was in our last XI, so Arphexad plays having turned out for Lens, Lille, Leicester City, Liverpool and Coventry City and not a penny spent on him.

Jon Otsemobor – Not the most famous of names, but the former Liverpool youth player left Anfield in 2005 and embarked on moves to the likes of Rotherham United, Crewe Alexandra, Norwich City, Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday and MK Dons, and each and every move was a free transfer.

Sol Campbell – One of the most famous free transfers in modern football, Spurs to Arsenal, was followed up with a few more, moving to Portsmouth, Newcastle United, Notts County and back to Arsenal with no transfer fee ever involved.

Joel Matip – Not a big number of clubs on the CV but Matip didn't cost Schalke 04 or Liverpool a penny.

Marc Albrighton – Having spent his youth career at Aston Villa, after 5 years in the first team he was released. Leicester City picked him up for free, and within 2 years made him a league champion. Not a bad bit of business.

Mathieu Flamini – The French combative midfielder counts Marseille, Arsenal, AC Milan, Arsenal again and Crystal Palace as his former clubs, but not a transfer fee in sight.

Phillip Cocu – The former Dutch midfielder moved from PSV Eindhoven to Barcelona, and then back to PSV before finishing his career in the UAE, not costing any of those clubs a transfer fee.

Esteban Cambiasso – Having been signed as a youngster by Real Madrid he was loaned to Argentinian clubs before making his name at the Bernabeu, then leaving on a free to Inter Milan, then to Leicester City and one final free transfer to Olympiakos.

Steve McManaman – The first and perhaps the most high profile Englishman to make the most of the Bosman ruling. Leaving Liverpool for Real Madrid in 1999, and then a free transfer back to England with Manchester City 4 years later.

Raul Gonzalez – The Spanish forward played the majority of his career for Real Madrid, but did sneak in free transfers to Schalke 04, Al Sadd and New York Cosmos before hanging up his boots.

Roy Essandoh – Ok, this one is a little odd, and we can't be 100% sure of the facts with regards other transfers, but when Wycombe Wanderers were short of a striker in 2001, their manager Laurie Sanchez placed an advert on Teletext for strikers to get in touch – Essandoh did, got signed (for free) and promptly scored a winner in an FA Cup match against Leicester City.



Alessandro Del Piero – Highest appearance maker (705) and goal scorer (290) for Italian giants Juventus over a period of 19 years playing for the club



Classic Kits

In 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 take a slightly different view to our previous selections. Think of it along the lines of the following:

Eddie the Eagle Edwards, The TAB Clear drink, The Ford Probe car and The El Dorado TV series.

All absolutely awful and essentially more famous for being failures than successes.

Well this issues kit features are aligned to that. We have picked you some complete rascal replica kits that are absolutely awful.

There is the 1994-96 grey and orange effort from Chelsea. At least it had some colour to it. Manchester United's 1995-96 grey away kit was so bland, they even attempted to blame a poor first half performance against Southampton because of the kit.

Hull City's club nickname is the Tigers, but that is no excuse to style a tiger skin as the home kit, but it is by no means the worst.

You will see a broccoli based kit (La Hoya in Spain), a tuxedo based kit (Cultural Leonesa in Spain), a sausage and mash based kit (Bedale AFC in England) and a human torso based kit (Club Deportivo Palencia in Spain). We kid you not.

We take offence to the Wales collar from 2006, it is just so big! There are efforts from Scunthorpe United and Birmingham City where it appears a tika tape factory exploded nearby. Athletic Bilbao celebrated their centenary with a new kit, but really shouldn't have bothered – looks like a murder scene!

There is a Stoke City entry because of our pet hate as the sponsor is the same as the kit make. Barcelona and Newcastle United don't have a huge amount in common aside from orange and yellow kits do not work. Cameroon have two entries, and they are outstanding. The first is a onesie. Yes, you read that right. An all in one football kit!! And then to combat I assume the high temperatures they fashioned a vest top! Outrageous.

Atletico Madrid channelled their inner 7 year old and styled a Spider Man themed away kit. Jury is out.

The best (or worst) is an effort from the MLS from 1978 when Colorado Caribous had tassels on their shirt!! The club and kit, unsurprisingly survived for just a sole season...what a waste!



Anthony Martial – In 2015, he completed a move to Manchester United from Monaco for £36 million, potentially rising to £58 million. This was the highest transfer fee paid for a teenager, breaking the previous record of £27 million United paid for Luke Shaw a year earlier





Sami Hyypia – A signing for £2.6 million followed by over 300 league appearances he has to be one of not only Liverpool's but the Premier League's bargain buys of all time





Ramón Rodríguez Verdejo – Commonly known as Monchi, was a back up goalkeeper for Sevilla but his role as the club's Sporting Director is where he has excelled, recruiting the likes of Adriano, Baptista, Rakitic and Dani Alves over the years





David Ginola – At the end of his 4th season in English football (1999), and his 2nd with Tottenham he was named PFA Players' Player of the Year





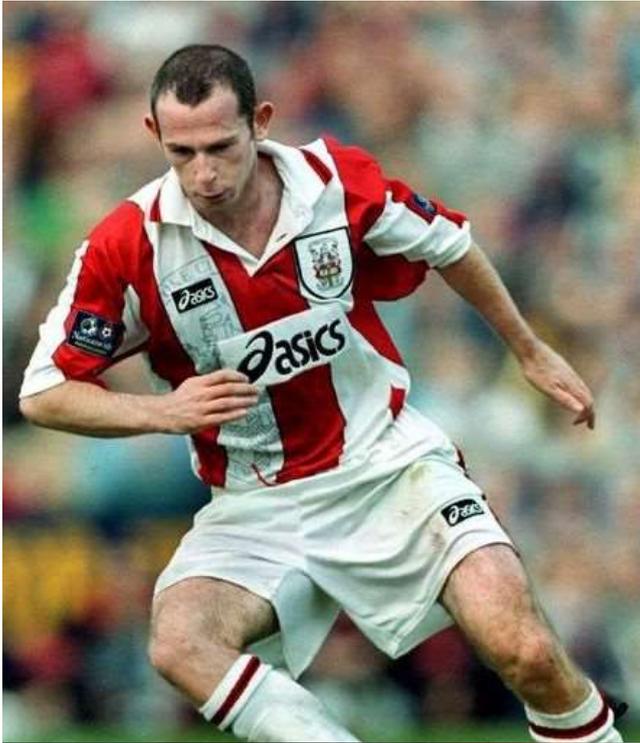
Thomas Hitzlsperger – Arguably the most high profile ex-footballer to have come out as gay, having done so after retirement in 2013





Jermaine Pennant – One of a very select few to have worn an electronic tag on his ankle whilst playing Premier League football





Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - Became the sixth fastest to score 50 goals in the Premier League, behind Andy Cole, Alan Shearer, Ruud van Nistelrooy, Fernando Torres and Mohamed Salah



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Vladimir Jugovic – Winner of the European Cup/Champions League with two separate sides; Red Star Belgrade in 1991, and Juventus in 1996



SUPER SUBSTITUTES

There must be grave disappointment when the gaffer reads out the first team line up and your name is not called. You aren't in the first 11 and instead you are warming the bench. We take a look in this issue at some stats and info on the most productive, used, and speedy & impactful substitutes, known to the likes of us, as *'Super Subs.'*

The first ever sub used in the English league was Keith Peacock, who in August 1965 came on for Charlton Athletic to make history.

The most subbed player in the history of the Premier League is the ever green **Ryan Giggs**. 'Pulled off' by the manager 134 times in his 634 appearances. Nolberto Solano in second place with 130 and Paul Scholes third with 126.



Sadio Mane – The player to have scored the fastest ever Premier League hat trick, scoring 3 times for Southampton in 2015 against Aston Villa in just 2 minutes and 56 seconds!



The player to have been brought on as a sub the most in the Premier League is the ever tall Peter Crouch. He has been called upon the most from the bench, and we'd love to know the % of times it was when his team were losing and there were 10 minutes or less to play. His number totals 157 substitute appearances.



| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Peter Crouch | 157 | 11 Adam Johnson | 105 |
| Jermain Defoe | 149 | 12 Louis Saha | 101 |
| James Milner | 144 | 13 Daniel Sturridge | 98 |
| Shola Ameobi | 143 | 14 Paul Scholes | 95 |
| Shane Long | 133 | 15 Olivier Giroud | 92 |
| Carlton Cole | 130 | 16 Danny Welbeck | 92 |
| Joe Cole | 123 | 17 Luke Moore | 89 |
| Theo Walcott | 122 | 18 Andy Carroll | 86 |
| Nwankwo Kanu | 118 | 19 Ole Gunnar Solskjaer | 83 |
| Victor Anichebe | 107 | 20 Duncan Ferguson | 83 |

(Stats as at April 2020)



Deco – 2 time winner of the Champions League with different teams, as well as winning 4 league titles in 4 different countries (Portugal, Spain, England and Brazil)



In those 157 sub appearances, Crouch managed 16 goals coming off the bench which doesn't make him the most prolific substitute marksman.

That honour goes to **Jermain Defoe**, who hit the back of the net 24 times when coming off the bench in the Premier League.



Second on the list and closing in with 20 goals is Olivier Giroud, followed closely by Javier Hernandez with 19. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Nwankwo Kanu and Daniel Sturridge chipped in with 17 apiece off the bench.



Diego Forlán - A two-time winner of both the Pichichi Trophy and the European Golden Shoe, as well as the joint top goal scorer at the 2010 World Cup



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's 17 Premier League strikes off the bench may be a surprise to some that it is not more. Often the go to guy by Sir Alex Ferguson to replace the likes of Cole, Yorke or Sheringham during his time at Manchester United, he carried the tag of not only the baby faced assassin but also a genuine super sub.

His antics, alongside Sheringham on that famous night in Barcelona in 1999 going along way to cemented that nickname, as well as hero status.

Of the 17 substitute goals, 4 of them put his name in the Premier League history books. 23% of his substitute goals came in one game. Actually in one half. Well, if we are going to be specific, the 4 goals (the most scored from a substitute in the Premier League) came in only 10 minutes.

Nottingham Forest hosted Manchester United on 6th February 1999 and with the score at 4-1 to the away team, Solskjaer was bought on in the 71st minute. He scored his first on 80 minutes, his second in the 87th minute and struck twice in the 90th minute to secure his hat trick and the record.



Arturo Vidal – Winning La Liga with Barcelona in 2017/18 was his eighth consecutive league title he'd won in Europe (also winning with Bayern Munich and Juventus)



Making a quick impact has to be the thought on any substitutes mind, wanting to prove themselves to the manager and put them firmly in the starting eleven for the following match.

In the North London derby on 22nd December 2007, Arsenal were hosting Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League. The game was finely balanced at 1-1 after 74 minutes.

Arsenal won a corner and the manager Arsene Wenger made a quick change before the set piece was taken.

On came Nicklas Bendtner in an attacking move replacing Emmanuel Eboue. Impacts don't come quicker than Bendtner's; Running into the box in time for the corner to be taken and unmarked by the Spurs' defence he headed the ball in the goal, some 6 seconds after entering the pitch! Unsurprisingly this is the record for the quickest goal scored by a substitute in the Premier League.

Arsenal went on to win the game 2-1.



Emre Can – Upon leaving Liverpool he became the 10th German to play for Juventus, before leaving after only 1.5 seasons, moving to Borussia Dortmund





Bendtner's goal was quick and impactful, but heading to Germany and the Bundesliga we find a quite remarkable substitute appearance from serial scorer Robert Lewandowski.

On 22nd September 2015 Bayern Munich found themselves 1-0 down at home to Wolfsburg at half-time.

As a reaction Lewandowski was bought on at the half time interval to help turn the game around. And oh boy, he did that alright.

The leveller came in the 51st minute, he put Bayern in the lead in the 52nd minute and the hat trick goal came in the 55th minute. A 4 minute hat trick. Not bad. Oh, wait there is more. His 4th came in the 57th minute, and his 5th (yes, **fifth**) came in the 60th minute. 5-1 and a nine minute 5 goal haul. Unbelievable.

In a bizarre twist of fate Wolfsburg looked to their bench to respond. Who did they bring on in the 78th minute to get them back into the match? None other than Nicklas Bendtner. Sadly no quick fix on this occasion or even a goal and Bayern saw the game out 5-1.



Dani Ceballos – Selected in the team of the tournament for both the 2017 and 2019 Under 21 European Championships team of the tournament representing Spain



The latest hat trick goal scoring substitute in the Premier League is Steven Naismith. On 12th September 2015, he was brought into the action (quite early) after just 9 minutes in an Everton fixture at Goodison Park against Chelsea. He struck in the 17th, 22nd and 82nd minute to secure the match ball and 3 points for Everton.



The record for the quickest goal scored by a substitute in a World Cup tournament goes to the Danish centre forward Ebbe Sand.

In the 1998 tournament, Sand came on for Denmark against Nigeria in the first round of the knock out stages and notched after just 16 seconds after coming on, scoring the Dane's third in a 4 -1 victory.



Valerin Ismael – Centre back formerly of Bayern Munich and one time record transfer signing for Crystal Palace. Now manager of Barnsley





Special mention to Mario Gotze and Eder. Both players appeared as substitutes in the 2014 World Cup Final and the 2016 European Championship Final respectively, and promptly went on to score the winning goals in the final securing the tournament trophy for their nation.

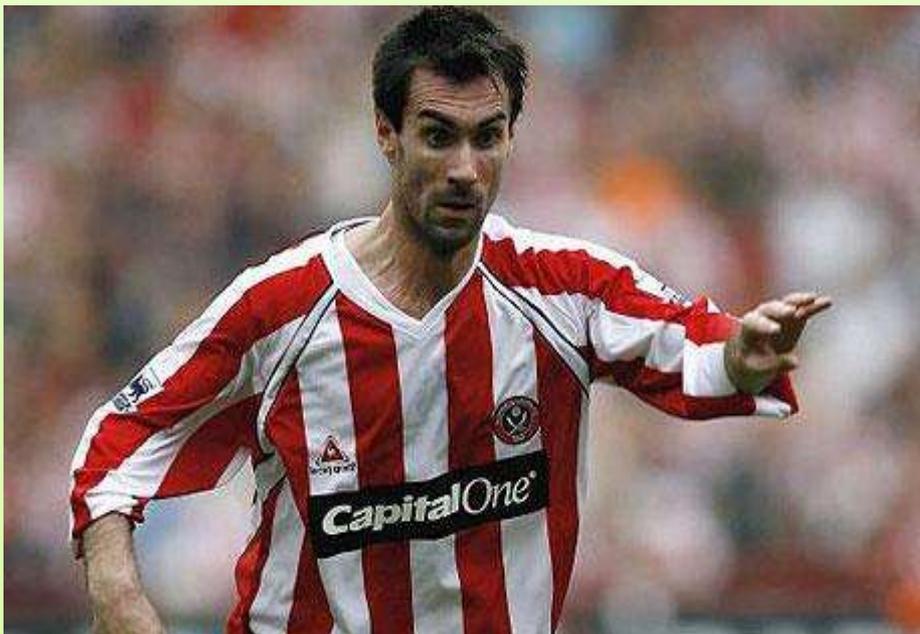
The manager's words, "go make a name for yourself" never more apt than perhaps these two efforts.



Stephan Lichtsteiner – Amassed 100 Serie A games for Lazio, 200+ for Juventus and over 100 international caps earned for Switzerland



A quick mention to Lars Ricken: The one club legend at Borussia Dortmund entered the Champions League final in 1997, aged just 20, against Juventus, with his boyhood club defending a 2-1 lead, with the Italians having just pulled a goal back. Subbed on in the 70th minute, it took him all of 16 seconds, and with his first touch of the ball he made it 3-1 and secured the Champions League title.



If looking for the opposite of a super sub, perhaps look no further than Keith Gillespie.

Whilst on the books of Sheffield United in 2007, playing Reading in the Premier League he was brought on and was promptly sent off some 12 seconds later!!!

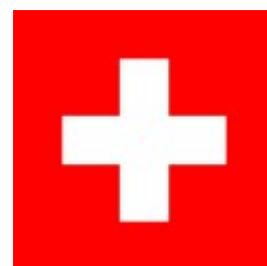


Gervinho – Ivorian attacker, who since moving on from Arsenal has played in Italy for Roma and Parma, as well as Hebei China Fortune in China



The Premier League Greatest XI Nationalities

Featured here are the greatest line ups that only include players from one nation. In this issue we are heading back into Europe. We're covering the Poland, Greece, Austria and everybody's favourite neutral, Switzerland.



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 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.

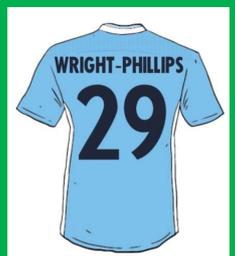


Fabio Coloccini – His time at AC Milan was mostly spent on loan to Spain, before moving there permanently to Deportivo and then moving on to Newcastle United, becoming a real fan's favourite





Shaun Wright-Phillips – The former Manchester City, Chelsea and Queens Park Ranger's winger who scored on his England debut in 2004 against Ukraine



POLAND XI

A surprisingly few options for the nation of Poland, but we can put together a semi competitive XI.

The goalkeeper position, as with other nations we've seen is the one with the most selection headaches. Artur Boruc, Wojciech Szczesny and Premier League winner Tomasz Kuszczak are all able performers, but we are going for Jerzy Dudek. Forever in the hearts of Liverpool fans for his Champions League final heroics in 2005.

Dariusz Kubicki of Aston Villa fame from 1992 starts at right back, and the unfortunate Marcin Wasilewski is a starting centre back. Unfortunate in the sense he played 4 games for Leicester City in their title winning season, and you need 5 to qualify for a winners medal. Alongside him is Jan Bednarek whose steady career at Southampton suggests he could be a mainstay in this division. At left back is the fantastically named Zbigniew Kruszyński. The third Pole to play in the Premier League with Wimbledon who also had a spell with Coventry City.

Only really one other defender, in Jarosław Fojut of Bolton Wanderers, but his solitary league appearance doesn't put him in good stead.

In midfield we start on the right with Robert Warzycha. He was one of only thirteen players not from the British Isles to play on the opening weekend of the FA Premier League and was also the first player from mainland Europe to score in the Premier League.

His goal was the only one scored by a Polish player in the competition until Wasilewski scored in January 2015, 22 years later.

In the central we play Ebi Smolarek (Bolton) and Grzegorz Krychowiak (WBA), though their best football played was away from the Premier League. Coming in from the left we've Kamil Grosicki, who impressed at a struggling Hull City and trying again now with West Brom. Mateusz Klich appears a fans favourite at Leeds United, but this XI came too soon for his inclusion.

Up front we are not blessed with options, and we hope the midfield chip in with goals. Grzegorz Rasiak, a somewhat surprising signing by Spurs did well with Derby County and Southampton but at a lower level (Championship) partners Emmanuel Olisadebe who incredibly gets selected after 2 appearances with Portsmouth and the same amount of Premier League goals as Rasiak...none.



Tiago Mendes - During his time at Stamford Bridge his loss percentage in the league was 2.94%, just once in 34 appearances, which was the lowest in history for any player having appeared at least 20 times





Jesus Neves – Sevilla’s record appearance holder, who in the past has suffered from chronic homesickness, to the extent he walked out of training camps in Spain because they were too far away from Seville



GREECE XI

Greek goalkeepers in the Premier League do not come around often! The choice was between Kostas Chalkias of Portsmouth and Orestis Karnezis of Watford. As Portsmouth had a few Greeks play for them, but none of the others feature, we'll select Chalkias – a European Championship winner no less.

In defence we've Vassilios Borbokis who represented Derby County for 2 seasons in the late 90's at right back and Jose Holebas of Watford at left back. The latter offered a mean dead ball threat with his delivery. Neither Kostas Stafylidis of Stoke and Charis Mavrias of Sunderland threatening the full back spots.

The centre back partnership makes up in grit what it is lacking in pace! Nikos Dabizas, who has to live with the memory of being the defender for the great Dennis Bergkamp goal, and Sokratis Papastathopoulos. The latter beating off other Arsenal competition in Stathis Tavlaridis and Konstantinos Mavropanos. Sotirios Kyrgiakos spent time with Liverpool and Sunderland and can consider himself unlucky not to oust either starting centre back.

On the right of midfield is Giorgos Donis. The pacey right winger was the first Greek to play in the Premier League, and on the left is perhaps the best to have played in the league, Stelios Giannakopoulos, who starred for Bolton Wanderers.

In the centre you have the European Championship winning captain Theo Zagorakis, who played for Leicester City over 2 seasons and he plays alongside the Greek legend Giorgios Karagounis who is the most capped player in the history of the Greece national team, with 139 caps. He became the 8th member of the European Championship winning team to play in the Premier League.

Missing out is Angelos Basinas, Giannis Skopelitis (both Portsmouth) and Vassilis Lakis (Crystal Palace)

Up front we start with Georgios Samaras who fared much better at Celtic than he did at Manchester City and West Brom, but he did much better than Apostolos Vellios did at Everton (22 league appearances with 3 goals).

Vellios himself despite his figures doing a great deal more than either Theofanis Gekas at Portsmouth or the expensive Kostas Mitroglou, who set Fulham back a transfer fee in the region of £12 million, repaying it with zero goals.

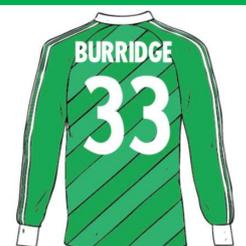


David Luiz – Holds the Premier League record for most penalties conceded by a single player in a single season, totalling 5





John Burridge – The record holder of the oldest player to have played in the Premier League, at the age of 43 years, 4 months and 26 days



AUSTRIA XI

The goalkeepers tell a tale of back ups! The first Austrian in the Premier League was a goalkeeper. Alex Manninger played back up to David Seaman at Arsenal but still managed a club record 6 clean sheets in a row. Jurgen Macho's stint at backing up Tomas Sorensen at Sunderland was good enough for Chelsea to have him be their back up for a season. Manninger takes the starting berth, and good time to remind readers he spent the latter part of his career on the books of Juventus and Liverpool.

Our remaining options are somewhat defensive, but it's a team nevertheless. Right back is Martin Hiden. His move to Leeds in 1998 saw him as the first outfield Austrian player in the Premier League and sees off competition from Moritz Bauer of Stoke City. Stoke City also bought Kevin Wimmer from Tottenham Hotspur for £18m to not really ever play him, but he makes our team, alongside steady performer Sebastian Prodl of Watford. Premier League winner Christian Fuchs plays at left back with no real competition.

Other defenders of note are Kevin Danso, Alek Dragovic and Markus Suttner.

You'll note no Paul Scharner or Emmanuel Pogatz at centre back. Their versatility sees them take the central midfielder roles. The former doing so on a number of occasions for WBA and Wigan, when he wasn't colouring his hair in different shades.

To add an attacking verve to the line up we've Andreas Weimann on the right and the best Austrian to grace the league, and most expensive, Marko Arnautovic on the left. At his worst he was a grumpy sulk desperate to leave wherever he was, but at his best he was a true match winner.

Up front, perhaps coming as a surprise to you is Burnley striker Ashley Barnes. This is based on his solitary appearance for the Austrian U20 team in 2008! That will be his last appearance for *the Burschen*, as he started his application for naturalisation as an Austrian citizen in 2018, but it was ultimately unsuccessful after it was rejected by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior in February 2019, thus confirming his ineligibility to represent Austria further.

He's choice for a partner, Austrian fans may have wished these two were denied the opportunity to play for the nation team. 3 appearances for Sheffield Wednesday by Christian Mayrleb is not enough to oust Stefan Maierhofer whose 9 games for Wolves gets him the nod.



Adil Rami - The Halfway Line favourite Rami, is a World Cup winner with France, as well as playing his club football with the likes of Lille, AC Milan, Valencia and Fenerbahce





Stephen Appiah – The former Ghanaian captain who led his nation to their first ever World Cup, and played for the likes of Udinese, Parma, Juventus and Fenerbahce in his domestic career



SWITZERLAND XI

The Swiss have not blessed us in the goalkeeper category in the Premier League. We are mulling over 2 games played by Patrick Foletti for Derby County and Eldin Jakupovic, who incredibly still plays for Leicester City having signed in 2017. His 2 games for the Foxes and 26 for Hull City mean he gets the jersey.

Defenders we have lots more options. At right back we looked at Marc Hottiger (first Swiss to play in the Premier League) who was close to selection, but Kevin Mbabu and Phillipp Degen were not. We've gone for Bernt Haas over all the options, including Stephan Lichtsteiner, for his efforts at Sunderland and West Bromwich Albion.

At left back, selected over Bruno Berner at Blackburn Berner, is Reto Ziegler who gets the nod mainly for his long distance strike for Spurs against Liverpool at Anfield in 2005. What a rocket. He rocked up at Wigan also.

Centre back we are seemingly spoilt for choice. Quantity not quality perhaps. Those in the reckoning were the Arsenal duo Philippe Senderos and Johan Djourou, Newcastle's Fabian Schar and Norwich's Timm Klose. Instead we are starting with Stephane Henchoz and Ramon Vega. Both solid enough defenders, with slightly less mistakes in their locker than the others considered.

If we are selecting Ziegler because of a goal, then Pajtim Kasami has to play in midfield. His goal for Fulham against Crystal Palace in 2013 was a complete worldie, and so he is our first selection on the right of midfield.

Central midfielders are Granit Xhaka, who is slowly improving at Arsenal under the guidance of Mikel Arteta, and alongside him is Gokhan Inler. Wasn't amazing at Leicester City but he won the Premier League there becoming the first Swiss player to do so.

In from the left is the talented Xherdan Shaqiri. Too good for Stoke City, and perhaps not good enough for Liverpool, but a great player to have in the squad.

A midfielder unlucky to miss out was Valon Behrami, but the likes of Johann Vogel and Gelson & Edimilson Fernandes didn't make the cut.

The striking options are woeful. Almost non-existent in fact. Selected by default due to no other options are Albanij Ajeti, who signed for West Ham for £8million, played 9 times, scored none and then moved to Celtic!

At least Josip Drmic scored in the Premier League, (just once) for Norwich City and so he plays alongside.



Luke Chadwick – Former Manchester United winger who moved on to West Ham United, Stoke City and Norwich City, before playing for MK Dons, the team he made the most number of appearances for in his career



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



Leonardo Spinazzola – Italian international full back on the books of Roma, having spent his early career at Juventus

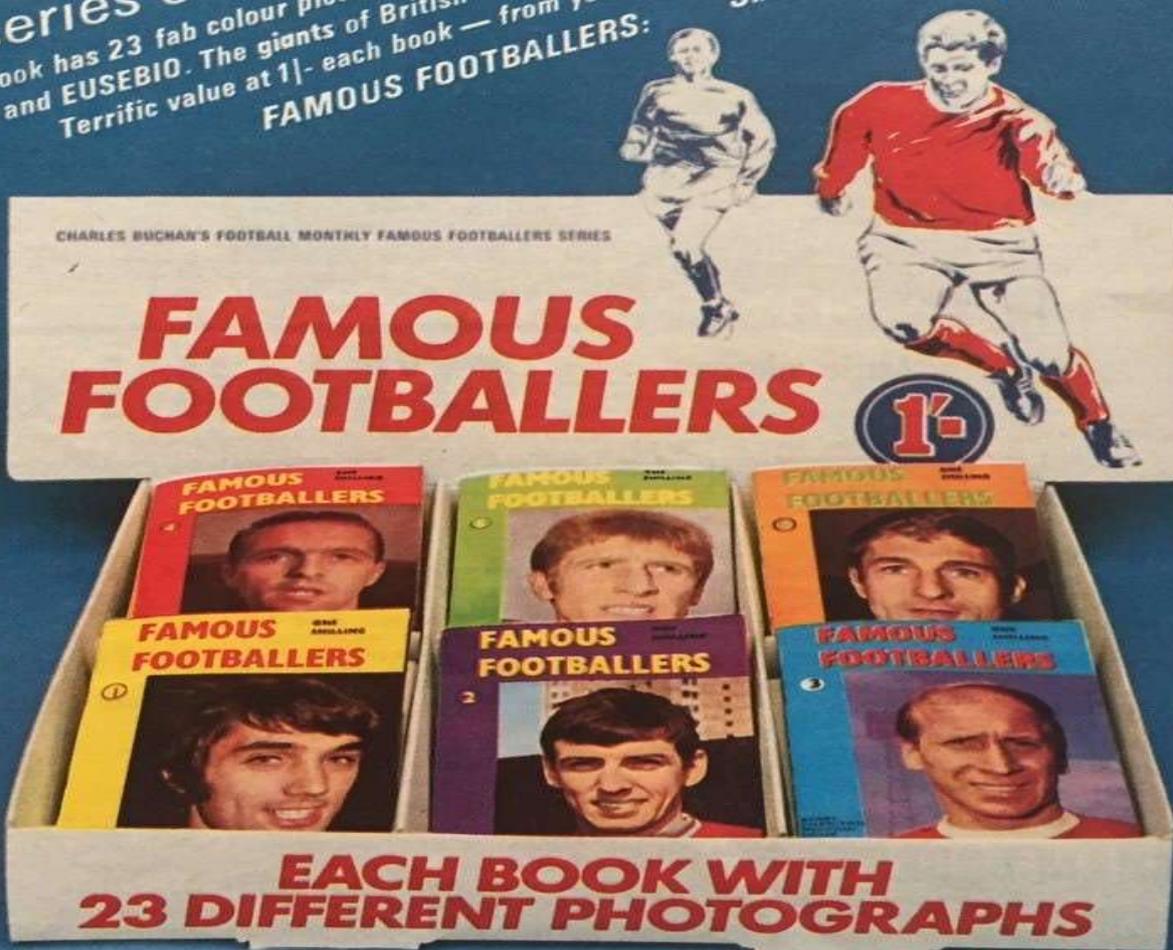


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Alexander Lacazette – French striker, formerly of Lyon, has scored Arsenal's first Premier League goals in the past 2 seasons (2019 & 2020)

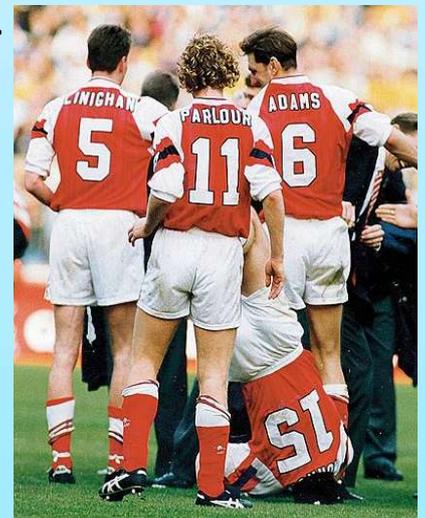


SICKNOTES – INJURED PLAYERS



Some injuries and outcomes you simply can't legislate for, like Pierluigi Casiraghi at Chelsea, or Luc Nilis at Aston Villa. Freak injuries that sadly end player's careers. Or comical moments, like your club captain dropping you whilst celebrating a cup win.

Unfortunately for other players whilst one injury doesn't finish their career, a multiple of injuries begins to define their careers. There are players we feature here that are almost better known for their injury records than they are for their playing ability. Sicknotes, injury prone or simply just unlucky, lets look at the patients, sorry players we've picked out for you.



Scott McTominay – Manchester United and Scotland midfielder whose claim to fame is he is the scorer of United's 2000th Premier League goal



Darren Anderton

The original sicknote, cruelly taking this nickname throughout his Premier League career with Tottenham Hotspur. Anderton was a talented, although quiet forward, good enough to warrant England selection under Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle despite the injury record.

Anderton managed 13 seasons in the top flight, 12 with Spurs and a solitary campaign with Birmingham City.



The three seasons between 1995 and 1998 Anderton really struggled and only managed 39 league appearances, threatening his place in the 1998 World Cup squad. He recovered and credit to Anderton from 1998 onwards he prolonged his career and appearances to a decent level, playing up to 37 years of age. But ask anyone what springs to mind when referring to a 'Sicknote' footballer and the majority will respond with Darren Anderton.



Jamie Redknapp

If your knees go, your career isn't far behind following suit. Ask yourself was Gazza ever the same after the 1991/92 FA Cup final injury?

Redknapp had terrible trouble with his knees and it led to his premature retirement at the age of just 31.

Hugely talented central midfielder, who excelled at Liverpool and was so much more than a 'Spice Boy.'

His last 6 seasons however with clubs Liverpool, Spurs & Southampton saw the appearances made column read 0, 4, 17, 17, 14 and 16.



Paolo Tramezzani – Italian left back who managed 6 league appearances for Tottenham Hotspur from 1998 to 2000 before returning to Italy



Kieron Dyer

Dyer in full flight, progressing under Bobby Robson at St. James Park was a joy to watch. Changes to management and perhaps attitude, things went a bit stale and a fresh start was needed. West Ham United answered the call and Dyer headed back South for a new start. It didn't go to plan. 10 days after his league debut Dyer broke his right leg in 2 places in a League Cup match. It was the start of 4 seasons of suffering at Upton park. The broken leg put Dyer out of action for 17 months and he never truly recovered and along with significant hamstring injuries Dyer's appearances in the league for the Hammers per season read 2, 7, 10 and 11. Not great for him, or the £6 million transfer fee West Ham invested.

On to Queens Park Rangers to try again. On the opening game of the 2011/12 season with



3 minutes on the clock, Dyer was stretched off injured and missed the entire league campaign! A second season followed with a mere 4 games added. Such a shame and such a waste of talent.

Harry Kewell

With all the fanfare of his announcement and fury at agent fees, you have to question was Kewell's move to Liverpool worth it.

2 Cup final starts (2005 Champions League, and 2006 FA Cup) resulted in substitutions from injury. In 2007 he missed an entire year of football and in 2008 he managed just 10 league appearances for the Reds, before both parties agreed to part ways.



Joshua King – Former Manchester United youngster who was the 6th Norwegian to score a Premier League hat trick, after bagging the match ball whilst playing for Bournemouth



Arsenal

Seems odd to focus on one particular club, but in the last 15 years, Arsenal seem to have dominated not only the most horrific of injuries but also the most consistent in having long term injury problems for players.

They'll be readers telling the Arsenal fans to dry their eyes, but once upon a time ago when Arsenal were the countries leading side, it seemed a favoured approach in order to stop them in their tracks was the physical approach. The old 'they don't like it up them' style. Memories of the Old Trafford fixture when United players seemingly targeted the likes of Jose Antonio Reyes.

There are consequences to such tactics and the ankle of **Abou Diaby** and the leg bones of Aaron Ramsey & Eduardo da Silva can provide evidence of that. Eduardo recovered, although not at the Arsenal level and Ramsey too recovered, winning 2 FA Cups and a lucrative move to Juventus. Abou Diaby was not so lucky. After a shattered ankle in an away fixture to Sunderland the long road to recovery took longer and longer each time he bounced back and the promise of a 'new Vieira' was taken away and Arsenal never saw the best of the player they had real high hopes for.

In fact his list of injuries were so long you only have to google it and you are presented with a complete run down. Add to that the ever so unfortunate **Jack Wilshere** and **Tomas Rosicky**, you have 3 of the most injury prone Premier League footballers ever seen, suffering the majority of their injuries at one club. (Credit to those who put the following graphics together)



Amadou Diawara – Roma midfielder, started his career at club side San Marino, the only club based in San Marino authorised to play in the Italian football leagues



JACK WILSHERE'S HORROR INJURY RECORD

1 PELVIS

PELVIC INJURY (2020) - 1 DAY OUT

2 GROIN

GROIN STRAIN (2019-20) - 77 DAYS OUT

3 KNEE

LEFT KNEE SURGERY (2012) - 125 DAYS OUT

KNEE INJURY (2016) - 11 DAYS OUT

4 LOWER LEG

LEFT FIBULA FRACTURE (2015-16) - 247 DAYS OUT

LEFT FIBULA FRACTURE (2017) - 112 DAYS OUT

5 ANKLE

SPRAINED RIGHT ANKLE (2011) - 56 DAYS OUT

ANKLE SURGERY (2011-12) - 127 DAYS OUT

INFLAMED ANKLE (2013) - 30 DAYS OUT

SPRAINED LEFT ANKLE (2013) - 6 DAYS OUT

LEFT ANKLE LIGAMENTS (2014-15) - 126 DAYS OUT

SPRAINED ANKLE (2018) - 77 DAYS OUT

ANKLE SURGERY (2018-19) - 124 DAYS OUT

6 FOOT

FATIGUE FRACTURE - RIGHT FOOT (2012) - 104 DAYS OUT

HAIRLINE CRACK LEFT FOOT (2014) - 57 DAYS

ILLNESS
OCT 26 2014 - NOV 9
2 WEEKS

BACK
NOV 14 2010 - NOV 23
1.5 WEEKS

HIP
FEB 9 2013 - FEB 16
1 WEEK
(MISSED 0 GAMES)

HAMSTRING
JAN 8 2010 - FEB 9
4.5 WEEKS

BOTH ANKLES
9 INJURIES
112 WEEKS



Fran Merida – Former Arsenal youngster, not making the grade there or at Atletico Madrid, but still playing in Spain for Espanyol

ABOU DIABY'S

INJURY RECORD

BODY

ABDOMINAL STRAIN
(NOVEMBER 2008)

HEAD

CONCUSSION
(APRIL 2007)

BACK

BACK INJURY
(NOVEMBER 2007)

RIGHT LEG

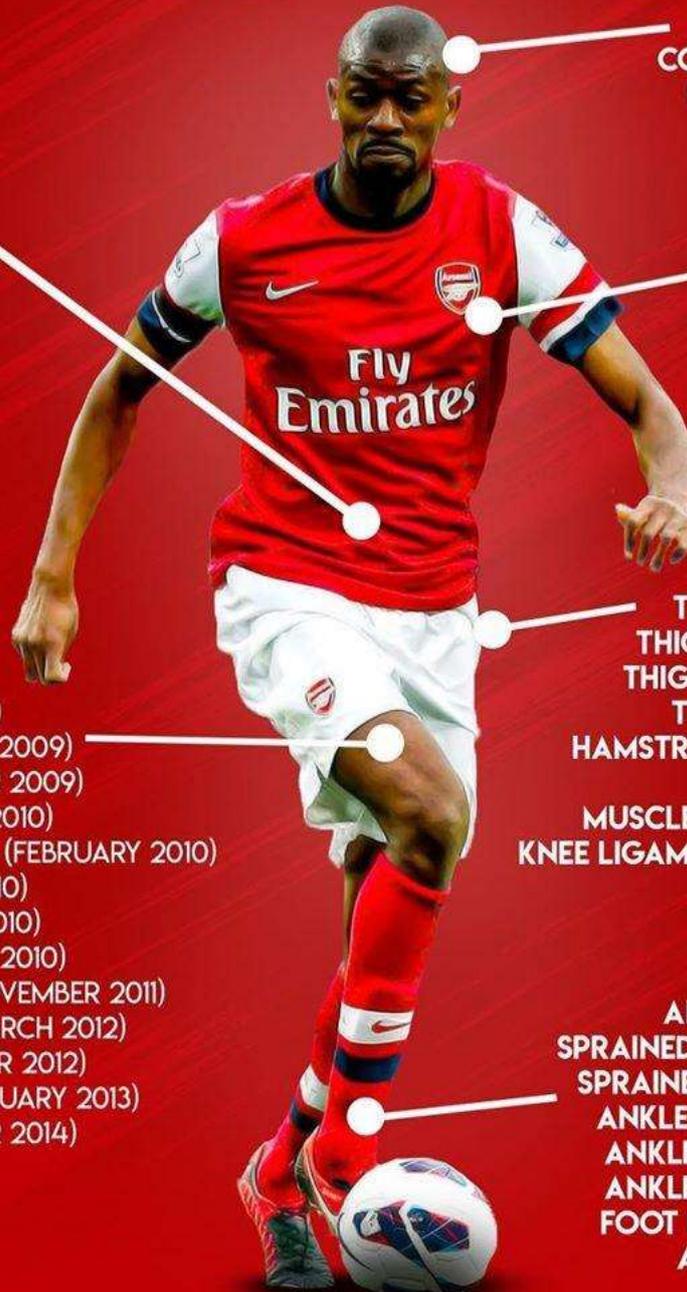
CALF STRAIN
(FEBRUARY 2008)
CALF STRAIN
(MARCH 2008)
CALF STRAIN
(FEBRUARY 2009)
KNEE INJURY (JULY 2009)
GROIN STRAIN (AUGUST 2009)
CALF STRAIN (NOVEMBER 2009)
CALF STRAIN (JANUARY 2010)
KNEE LIGAMENT INJURY (FEBRUARY 2010)
CALF STRAIN (MARCH 2010)
CALF STRAIN (AUGUST 2010)
CALF STRAIN (DECEMBER 2010)
HAMSTRING INJURY (NOVEMBER 2011)
HAMSTRING INJURY (MARCH 2012)
THIGH STRAIN (SEPTEMBER 2012)
CALF/SHIN INJURY (FEBRUARY 2013)
CALF INJURY (SEPTEMBER 2014)

LEFT LEG

KNEE INJURY
(FEBRUARY 2007)
THIGH STRAIN (APRIL 2008)
THIGH STRAIN (AUGUST 2008)
THIGH STRAIN (JANUARY 2009)
THIGH STRAIN (APRIL 2009)
HAMSTRING INJURY (MARCH 2012)
CALF STRAIN (APRIL 2012)
MUSCLE INJURY (SEPTEMBER 2012)
KNEE LIGAMENT INJURY (MARCH 2013)

RIGHT FOOT

ANKLE INJURY (MAY 2006)
SPRAINED ANKLE (FEBRUARY 2007)
SPRAINED ANKLE (AUGUST 2007)
ANKLE INJURY (OCTOBER 2009)
ANKLE INJURY (OCTOBER 2010)
ANKLE INJURY (OCTOBER 2010)
FOOT INJURY (SEPTEMBER 2010)
ANKLE INJURY (JULY 2011)



Anatoliy Tymoshchuk – With 144 appearances, he is the most capped Ukrainian of all time. Won league titles in Ukraine, Russia and Germany



TOMAS ROSICKY'S INJURIES

ILLNESSES

Tonsillitis *January 2001*
 Appendicitis *September 2003*
 Flu *November 2013*

GROINS

Groin Injury *September 2005*
 Groin Injury *August 2006*
 Groin Injury *February 2007*
 Groin Injury *November 2007*
 Groin Injury *December 2009*
 Groin Injury *March 2010*
 Groin Injury *August 2011*
 Groin Strain *March 2012*
 Groin Injury *March 2014*

CALFS AND SHINS

Calf Muscle Strain *November 2001*
 Shin Injury *August 2005*
 Calf Injury *January 2013*
 Calf Injury *October 2013*
 Calf Injury *December 2013*
 Calf Injury *October 2014*

KNEES

Knee Injury *August 2007*
 Knee Injury *November 2009*
 Knee Injury *May 2010*
 Knee Injury *September 2011*
 Knee Injury *July 2015*

HAMSTRINGS

Hamstring Injury *January 2005*
 Hamstring Injury *November 2006*
 Hamstring Injury *December 2006*
 Hamstring Injury *April 2007*
 Hamstring Injury *July 2007*
 Hamstring Injury *January 2008*
 Hamstring Injury *August 2009*
 Hamstring Injury *April 2013*
 Hamstring Injury *September 2013*

HEAD

Broken Nose *January 2014*

ARMS

Broken Forearm *February 2004*

BODY

Abdominal Strain *September 2004*

BACK

Back Injury *May 2002*
 Back Injury *February 2012*

THIGHS

Thigh Muscle Strain *February 2002*
 Thigh Muscle Strain *September 2002*
 Thigh Injury *February 2003*
 Thigh Muscle Strain *May 2006*
 Thigh Injury *September 2007*
 Thigh Injury *April 2014*
 Thigh Injury *November 2011*
 Thigh Injury *May 2012*
 Thigh Injury *December 2014*
 Thigh Injury *January 2016*

FEETS AND ANKLES

Foot Injury *July 1999*
 Ankle Injury *August 2000*
 Ankle Injury *September 2010*
 Achilles Tendon Injury *June 2012*
 Ankle Injury *August 2013*
 Ankle Injury *March 2014*

by xmakelele



Justin Hoyte – The first Englishman to play and score at the Emirates Stadium for Arsenal, before switching his international allegiances to Trinidad and Tobago





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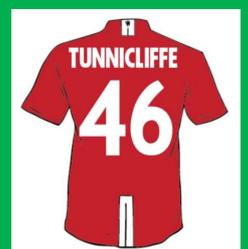
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Ryan Tunnicliffe – Ex Manchester United youth player who followed Rene Meulensteen to Fulham, along with Larnell Cole, neither working out too successfully



ONE SEASON WONDERS!!

Although Father Christmas is only good for one season, at least he is consistent and turns up every year!



That can't be said for every footballer. We have hand picked a selection of players, well actually to be more precise, a selection of centre forwards, who for one season in their careers looked like they may well be superstar world beaters only to never actually follow it up with any consistency.

As always we are adding a certain disclaimer: the consistency we are looking for is the ability to maintain the standard achieved in the league competition where the dizzy heights were indeed once reached.

This is British focused and we've predominately looked at the Premier League for our one season wonders, but before we start, we'll leave this here for Arsenal fans to consider...Pascal Cygan, before his move to the Gunners, in his last year in France, won the season's Golden Ball award!! That has to be the definition of a one season wonder!



Danny Welbeck – One of a select few to have played Premier League football for Manchester United and Arsenal, as well as Sunderland, Watford and Brighton & Hove Albion in the top league



Andrew Johnson – Crystal Palace 2004/05

Andrew Johnson in the 2003-04 had helped Crystal Palace win promotion to the Premier League, banging in 27 league goals in the process.

The season back in the Premier League was of significant success for Johnson personally, but a disaster for The Eagles.

Johnson scored **21** league goals that season and was the highest scoring Englishman in the top division. Worth noting 11 of the goals were from the penalty spot, but they still had to be dispatched, which Johnson did dutifully.

The disaster for Palace is they were relegated that year. Johnson stayed another year at Selhurst Park but failed to regain promotion. He moved on to Everton and initially started brightly, scoring 11 goals in his first season.



His next 6 seasons in the top flight, playing for Everton, Fulham and QPR he mustered a low tally each campaign of 6, 7, 0, 3, 3, 0 goals making his achievements in 2004/05 very much a one season wonder.



Chico Ramos – Portuguese midfielder spent his youth career with Porto only making 4 senior appearances before moving on



Marcus Stewart – Ipswich Town 2000/01

In a similar pattern to Johnson at Palace, Marcus Stewart had helped Ipswich Town gain promotion to the Premier League, this time in the 1999/00 season. The parallel continued as in the 2000/01 season Stewart scored the most goals by a Englishman in the Premier League that campaign, with **19** strikes.

The similarities end there though as Ipswich were able to finish 5th in the league, with relegation not even flirted with.

The follow up season, where the Tractor Boys had to wrestle with a European campaign as well didn't end so well. Ipswich were relegated and Stewart only managed 6 league goals.

Stewart was given another crack at the whip, signing for Sunderland but the fate was the same, but with less goals. His solitary league strike coincided with consecutive relegations for the striker from the Premier League back to the Championship.

He seemingly found his level as in the next 2 seasons with the Black Cats he scored 16 goals in both Championship campaigns.



Arijanet Muric – Kosovan goalkeeper who is a back up for Manchester City, though yet to make a Premier League start for the club



Marco Negri – Glasgow Rangers 1997/98

Instead of a one season wonder, can we do a 10 game wonder? This is Marco Negri's first 10 games as a Rangers player in 1997 following a transfer from Perugia.

| Opponent | Score | Negri Goals |
|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| Hearts | 3 - 1 | 2 |
| Dundee United | 5 - 1 | 5 |
| Aberdeen | 3 - 3 | 1 |
| St. Johnstone | 2 - 0 | 2 |
| Kilmarnock | 3 - 0 | 2 |
| Motherwell | 2 - 2 | 1 |
| Hibernian | 4 - 3 | 2 |
| Dunfermline At. | 7 - 0 | 4 |
| Dundee United | 1 - 2 | 1 |
| Kilmarnock | 4 - 1 | 3 |

The little known Italian smashed 23 goals in his first 10 games. An outstanding return. By the end of the season he had played 29 league games and fired in a total of **32** goals. The goals tally was

enough to win the league's golden boot, a full 14 goals ahead of his nearest competition, but it wasn't enough to wrestle the title from rivals Celtic. It is suggested his initial run came to an end after suffering a serious eye injury, attributed to a squash match with teammate Sergio Porrini. Injuries continued to curtail his Ibrox career and he only managed another 3 games in 3 years for Rangers and no more goals!!!



Sieben Dewaele – Anderlecht's young midfielder currently on loan to Dutch side Heerenveen



Roque Santa Cruz – Blackburn Rovers

2007/08

When Blackburn Rovers bought Santa Cruz from Bayern Munich it bought to an end an 8 year association with the Bavarian club. In those 8 years, the best goals total in a season the Paraguayan had achieved in the league was 5 goals. Nevertheless, the Blackburn scouts saw something in him, and he proved them right. In his first season at Ewood Park the giant marksman struck **19** times. An incredible return on a £3.5 million transfer, and he took home the Blackburn Rovers Player of the Season award to go alongside the goals scored.



He was rewarded with a new contract at the club who also conveniently signed his brother Julio (he never played for the club), but the goals dried up. He scored just 4 league goals the following season, but what is more remarkable is Manchester City still decided to splash £17.5 million on the striker the following summer and he repaid them with 3 league goals over 2 seasons, as well as a loan move back to Blackburn which saw a return of no goals in 9 league games! The 2007/8 season remains the only double figure scoring campaign in Santa Cruz's European club career.



Ignasi Miquel – Another promising youngster 'poached' by Arsenal from Barcelona's La Masia academy, who failed to live up to expectations



Michu - Swansea City 2012/13

Miguel Pérez Cuesta, or simply Michu as he was affectionally known made the move to Wales, and the Premier League in 2012/13 joining Swansea City from Rayo Vallecano. The season prior, with Vallecano, was Michu's first season in the top flight of professional football, and he'd done remarkably well in his debut season in La Liga. 15 league goals was enough for Michael Laudrup to bring him to the Liberty stadium.

To say he hit the floor running would be an understatement and the statistics back that up. Michu struck **18** times in the league in 35 appearances, in addition to his 3 in the League Cup campaign that Swansea ultimately won. This was their first major piece of silverware.



Sadly Michu couldn't replicate the form into the next season, or any other season for that matter. He played just 17 games the following season, scoring 2 league goals, and then spent time away from Swansea, on loan to Napoli, failing to score there, before returning to the lower leagues in Spain once again.



Alexander Merkel – Former AC Milan youth player and Udinese player, now playing in Saudi Arabia and representing the Kazakhstan national team



Benni McCarthy – Blackburn Rovers 2006/07

OK, we feel kind of bad including McCarthy in this feature, but he had such a good season with Blackburn in 2006/07 and although the rest weren't terrible, they were never close to the standard he produced in his first season at Rovers.

Bought from FC Porto, for a steal of £2.5million, the South Africa striker had performed admirably in Portugal but his goals to games ratio had fallen in each of the 4 seasons he was there.

To Blackburn Rovers and the Premier League and it seemed like a match made in heaven. In his first season, McCarthy struck **18** league goals in 36 games.

Impressive statistics, but then fellow one season wonder Santa Cruz rocked up and took the limelight, and the goalscoring opportunities it seemed. McCarthy did manage 8 league goals and another 10 the following season, but the Midas touch had left him. That was further evidenced with a move to West Ham United that saw 11 games played over two seasons with a return of zero goals scored.



Tosin Adarabioyo – Fulham centre back who came through the ranks at Manchester City but never managed a first team league appearance for the Citizens



Who is playing against who?

We mentioned in our last issue we might mix it up a little with this feature, so here goes.

This issue shows a fairly traditional line up against the fiercest of rivals in the Premier League.

First up is the classic North London derby with **Arsenal** taking on neighbours **Tottenham Hotspur** in the Capital's grudge match. Oh no, wait it's not that one, we start with the Merseyside derby that sees **Everton** take on their nemesis in **Liverpool**. Hang on, we are confused. See if you can work it out.

Is it Arsenal v's Spurs, or is it Everton v's Liverpool...

Then we go up North. The Manchester derby. **City** versus **United**. 11 blues against 11 reds fighting for the bragging rights. Oh, hang on, it's not the Manchester derby, it's another London derby as we feature players from **Chelsea's** Premier League history against players from their bitter rivals **West Ham United**.

Or is it?

Is it Manchester City v's Manchester United, or is it Chelsea v's West Ham United...

You get it? It's both, a first team XI that combines players that have played for 2 teams that when put against another set of 11 players, you have a hybrid of lines up that can offer you no less than 2 local derbies.

Literally 2 for the price of 1!!

There are a few more 'who is playing against who' ideas boiling up here at The Halfway Line so keep looking out for new XI's and seeing if you can spot what the quirk is in each issue.



Joao Mario – Started his career at Sporting Lisbon before moves to Inter Milan, West Ham United and Lokomotiv Moscow, but now back at Sporting





Arsenal and Everton



Alejandro Grimaldo – Former Barcelona youth player, the Spaniard is now in his 5th season at Benfica as the club's first choice left back





Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool



Alexis Saelemaekers – AC Milan midfielder and Belgium international who moved to Italy from Anderlecht in 2020





Chelsea and Manchester City



Reece Wabara – A solitary league appearance for Manchester City before moving out first on loan and then permanently before retiring to focus on his fashion label





West Ham United and Manchester United



Jared Borgetti – The first Mexican to play in the Premier League (Bolton Wanderers) wore the 58 shirt at Cruz Azul as a publicity stunt for a radio station XEAV-AM (580 AM), branded at Canal 58



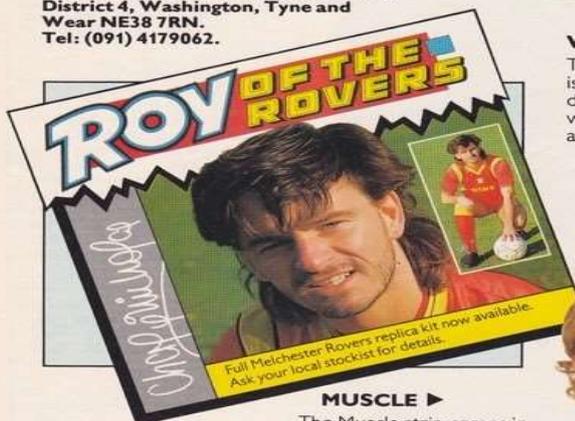
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1000 RUSD

WINDRUNNER SHIRT



MUSCLE ▶

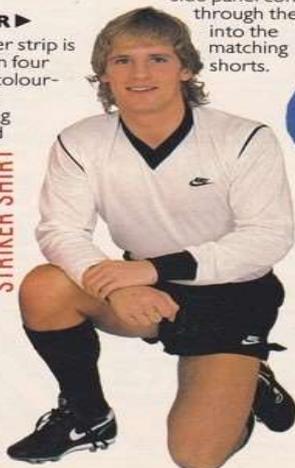
The Muscle strip comes in four different colourways, each with a contrasting side panel continuing through the shirt into the matching shorts.

STRIKER ▶

The Striker strip is available in four different colourways with contrasting shorts and socks.

Paul Walsh

STRIKER SHIRT



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Felipe Aguilar – Colombian centre back who played for Santos in Brazil before moving to Athletico Paranaense



PREMIER LEAGUE RECORDS



On this and the next 4 pages we look at some of the Premier League records in place, some better known than others, and perhaps store these as they could put you in great stead for any future football quizzes you may find yourself taking part in. This are as at 09/11/2020.

GOAL SCORERS

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Goals |
|------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| 1 | Alan Shearer | England | 260 |
| 2 | Wayne Rooney | England | 208 |
| 3 | Andrew Cole | England | 187 |
| 4 | Sergio Agüero | Argentina | 180 |
| 5 | Frank Lampard | England | 177 |
| 6 | Thierry Henry | France | 175 |
| 7 | Robbie Fowler | England | 163 |
| 8 | Jermain Defoe | England | 162 |
| 9 | Harry Kane | England | 150 |
| 9 | Michael Owen | England | 150 |

ASSISTS

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Assists |
|------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Ryan Giggs | Wales | 162 |
| 2 | Cesc Fàbregas | Spain | 111 |
| 3 | Wayne Rooney | England | 103 |
| 4 | Frank Lampard | England | 102 |
| 5 | Dennis Bergkamp | Netherlands | 94 |
| 6 | David Silva | Spain | 93 |
| 7 | Steven Gerrard | England | 92 |
| 8 | James Milner | England | 84 |
| 9 | David Beckham | England | 80 |
| 10 | Teddy Sheringham | England | 76 |



Josh Onomah – Former Tottenham Hotspur youth player who was part of the winning U20 World Cup squad with England in 2017



CLEAN SHEETS

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Clean Sheets |
|------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Petr Cech | Czech Republic | 202 |
| 2 | David James | England | 169 |
| 3 | Mark Schwarzer | Australia | 151 |
| 4 | David Seaman | England | 141 |
| 5 | Nigel Martyn | England | 137 |
| 6 | Pepe Reina | Spain | 136 |
| 7 | Brad Friedel | United States | 132 |
| 7 | Tim Howard | United States | 132 |
| 7 | Edwin van der Sar | Netherlands | 132 |
| 10 | Peter Schmeichel | Denmark | 128 |

YELLOW CARDS

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Bookings |
|------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Gareth Barry | England | 123 |
| 2 | Wayne Rooney | England | 102 |
| 3 | Lee Bowyer | England | 99 |
| 3 | Kevin Davies | England | 99 |
| 5 | Paul Scholes | England | 97 |
| 6 | Scott Parker | England | 92 |
| 7 | Robbie Savage | Wales | 89 |
| 8 | Lee Cattermole | England | 88 |
| 9 | George Boateng | Netherlands | 85 |
| 9 | Kevin Nolan | England | 85 |

RED CARDS

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Red Cards |
|------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 | Richard Dunne | Ireland | 8 |
| 1 | Duncan Ferguson | Scotland | 8 |
| 1 | Patrick Vieira | France | 8 |
| 4 | Lee Cattermole | England | 7 |
| 4 | Vinnie Jones | Wales | 7 |
| 4 | Roy Keane | Ireland | 7 |
| 4 | Alan Smith | England | 7 |
| 8 | Gareth Barry | England | 6 |
| 8 | Joey Barton | England | 6 |
| 8 | Luís Boa Morte | Portugal | 6 |

OFFSIDES

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Offside |
|------|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Emmanuel Adebayor | Togo | 328 |
| 2 | Jermain Defoe | England | 314 |
| 3 | Darren Bent | England | 276 |
| 4 | Dimitar Berbatov | Bulgaria | 238 |
| 5 | Christian Benteke | Belgium | 203 |
| 6 | Jamie Vardy | England | 199 |
| 7 | Robin van Persie | Netherlands | 198 |
| 8 | Gabriel Agbonlahor | England | 195 |
| 9 | Sergio Agüero | Argentina | 194 |
| 10 | Romelu Lukaku | Belgium | 192 |

APPEARANCES

| Rank | Player | Nationality | Apps |
|------|---------------|-------------|------|
| 1 | Gareth Barry | England | 653 |
| 2 | Ryan Giggs | Wales | 632 |
| 3 | Frank Lampard | England | 609 |
| 4 | David James | England | 572 |
| 5 | James Milner | England | 544 |

OWN GOALS

| Rank | Player | Nationality | OGs |
|------|-----------------|-------------|-----|
| 1 | Richard Dunne | Ireland | 10 |
| 2 | Jamie Carragher | England | 7 |
| 2 | Martin Skrtel | Slovakia | 7 |
| 4 | Wes Brown | England | 6 |
| 4 | Phil Jagielka | England | 6 |



Zinho Vanheusden – Young Belgium centre back who moved to Inter Milan as a youngster only to move back to Standard Liege for a record £12.5 million and we see as one to watch



- Most different clubs played for: 8
Marcus Bent (for Crystal Palace, Blackburn Rovers, Ipswich Town, Leicester City, Everton, Charlton Athletic, Wigan Athletic, and Wolverhampton Wanderers)
- Most consecutive Premier League appearances: 310, **Brad Friedel** (14 August 2004 until 7 October 2012)
- Most yellow cards in total: 1,687, **Chelsea**
- Most red cards in total: 96, **Everton**
- Most consecutive Premier League matches scored in: 11, **Jamie Vardy** (for Leicester City, 29 August – 28 November 2015)
- Most Premier League hat tricks: 12, **Sergio Agüero**
- Most Premier League hat tricks in a season: 5, **Alan Shearer** (Blackburn Rovers, 1995–96)
- Youngest player to score a Premier League hat trick: 18 years and 62 days, **Michael Owen** (for Sheffield Wednesday v. Liverpool, 14 February 1998)
- Oldest player to score a Premier League hat trick: 37 years and 146 days, **Teddy Sheringham** (for Portsmouth v. Bolton Wanderers, 26 August 2003)



Vadim Karpov – Russian centre back who made his CSKA Moscow debut at the age of 17



- Most appearances without a booking: 201, **John Barnes**
- Longest consecutive run without conceding a goal: 14 games (1,311 minutes), **Edwin van der Sar** (for Manchester United, 2008–09)
- Most assists from one player to another: **24, Frank Lampard to Didier Drogba**
- Most EPL defeats, ever: **West Ham United, 383**
- Most EPL draws, ever: **Everton, 306**
- Highest finish with a negative goal difference: 3rd, **Norwich City** (1992–93) Goal difference of -4.
- Shortest spell as manager (excluding caretakers):
 - Fewest days: 41 days, **Les Reed** (Charlton Athletic, 14 November – 24 December 2006)
 - Fewest games: 4 games, **Frank de Boer** (Crystal Palace, 26 June – 10 September 2017)
- Most goals in a season (42 games): 34
 - **Andy Cole** (Newcastle United, 1993–94)
 - **Alan Shearer** (Blackburn Rovers, 1994–95)
- Most goals in a season (38 games): 32, **Mohamed Salah** (Liverpool, 2017–18)



Ian Maatsen – 18 year old Dutch left back currently on loan to Charlton Athletic from parent club Chelsea



Premier Leagues Highest Transfer Fee Paid

| Rank | Player | Fee (min.) | Year | Transfer from | Transfer to |
|------|-------------------|------------|------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Paul Pogba | £89m | 2016 | Juventus | Manchester United |
| 2 | Harry Maguire | £80m | 2019 | Leicester City | Manchester United |
| 3 | Romelu Lukaku | £75m | 2017 | Everton | Manchester United |
| 3 | Virgil van Dijk | £75m | 2018 | Southampton | Liverpool |
| 5 | Nicolas Pepe | £72m | 2019 | Lille | Arsenal |
| 6 | Kepa Arrizabalaga | £71.6m | 2018 | Athletic Bilbao | Chelsea |
| 7 | Kai Havertz | £71m | 2020 | Bayer Leverkusen | Chelsea |
| 8 | Ruben Dias | £65m | 2020 | Benfica | Manchester City |
| 9 | Rodri | £63m | 2019 | Atletico Madrid | Manchester City |
| 10 | Riyad Mahrez | £60m | 2018 | Leicester City | Manchester City |

Premier Leagues Highest Transfer Fee Received

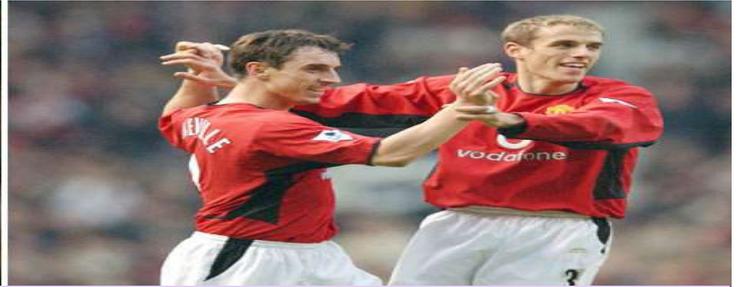
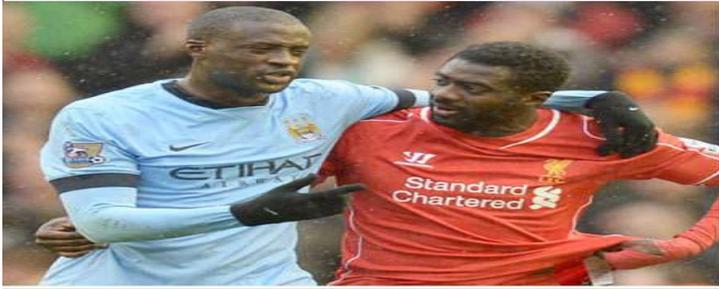
| Rank | Player | Fee (min.) | Year | Transfer from | Transfer to |
|------|-------------------|------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Philippe Coutinho | £106m | 2018 | Liverpool | Barcelona |
| 2 | Eden Hazard | £89m | 2019 | Chelsea | Real Madrid |
| 3 | Gareth Bale | £86m | 2013 | Tottenham Hotspur | Real Madrid |
| 4 | Cristiano Ronaldo | £80m | 2009 | Manchester United | Real Madrid |
| 4 | Harry Maguire | £80m | 2019 | Leicester City | Manchester United |
| 6 | Romelu Lukaku | £75m | 2017 | Everton | Manchester United |
| 6 | Luis Suarez | £75m | 2014 | Liverpool | Barcelona |
| 6 | Virgil van Dijk | £75m | 2018 | Southampton | Liverpool |
| 9 | Romelu Lukaku | £74m | 2019 | Manchester United | Inter Milan |
| 10 | Riyad Mahrez | £60m | 2018 | Leicester City | Manchester City |



Oleg Lanin – Russian midfielder started at Krasondar now plying his trade at Yenisey Krasnoyarsk



FAMILY CONNECTIONS



We've covered a few family topics in the past issues of The Halfway Line; classic Father and Son duos, including Son's matching the Dad's Champions League winners medals (Sanchis, Maldini, Busquets and Zidane). The latter also the first where the Dad was the manager at the time the Son won it.

There's the 13 brothers to have played Premier League football together at the same time, no doubting the Neville's and the Toure's as the most successful sibling pairings.

It would be a miss not to mention World Cup winning brothers. Jack and Bobby Charlton were victorious brothers playing for England in 1966 taking home World Cup winning medals.

The first brother pairing, and the only other winning siblings to win the World Cup were Friedrich "Fritz" Walter and Ottmar Walter, for West Germany in 1954, with Fritz captaining the side. Quick research into the German brothers and you'll discover a quite astonishing goal scoring records they both had for their club side FC Kaiserslautern. Fritz scored 357 league goals in 364 games and Ottmar scored 307 league goals in 275 games!

We thought we'd look at some other family connections, some you'll recognise and some may catch you by surprise.



Giovanni Pinto – Former Parma defender who has played for Ascoli and Pescara, now playing left back at Catania



THE ALLENS

Between them, the Allen family have just about every London club covered. Brothers **Les** and **Dennis** Allen played for Chelsea, Spurs and QPR, Charlton, Reading and Bournemouth respectively. Les' sons **Clive** (QPR, Arsenal, Crystal Palace, Spurs, Chelsea and Millwall) and **Bradley** (QPR and Charlton) both played professionally, while Dennis' son **Martin** starred for West Ham and QPR (and went on to manage Brentford amongst a number of others). Les and Dennis' nephew **Paul** (son of their brother Ron) won the FA Cup with West Ham and Spurs, while Clive's son **Oliver** ended up playing for Barnet. Surely Leyton Orient and Fulham are due an Allen appearance?

THE WALLACES

On 22nd October 1988 **Rod**, **Ray** and **Danny** Wallace became the first 3 brothers to play a professional English league game together in 67 years. All three played for Southampton against Sheffield United in the top division.

Rod and Ray left the Saints for Leeds United, with the former winning a league title there before moving north of the border with Rangers. Danny moved on to Manchester United, winning the FA Cup, the League Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup with the Red Devils.



Alain Sutter – Ex Swiss international wide midfielder who shone at the 1994 World Cup in America, before later moving to the US to play for Dallas Burn



Former PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona and Bayern Munich defensive midfielder **Mark Van Bommel** amassed 79 international caps for Holland. Some of which were whilst playing under the guidance of **Bert van Marwijk**. This also happened to be his Father-in-Law! Thank God they got on! So much so Van Bommel has since stepped in to be van Marwijk's assistant for the Saudi Arabia and Australian national teams.



Keeping it close to the family, when **Scott Parker** was looking for a combative midfielder whilst managing Fulham in the Championship he needed to look no further than his wife's phone contact list and to dial her brother, **Harry Arter**. The pair were both youth players at Charlton Athletic and when Arter was out of favour in the Bournemouth team, his Brother-in-Law gave him a call and the central midfielder played 28 league games to help ensure Fulham made the play-offs, that they were ultimately successful in.



Adam Smith – Former Tottenham Hotspur youngster who made one Premier League appearance for them, but then played over 100 games at right back in the top league with Bournemouth



Did you know that the father of former Marseille attackers, and Premier League players **Andre Ayew** and **Jordan Ayew** is none other than the former Marseille



legend, and Ghanaian superstar **Abedi Pele**? We'd read in the past that Englishman Roy Hodgson has been around so long he'd been able to manage both Abedi and Jordan as a coach! This is unfounded as we can't find the link to Abedi Pele.

Pele is a difficult name to follow, and never more so when related to the great Brazilian himself. The son of Pele, Edson Cholbi Nascimento, commonly known as **Edinho**, was a footballer himself, playing in goal for Santos. Where as Pele had a hugely successful 22 year playing career, Edinho went further and managed a 33 year..... prison sentence! In 2005, he was arrested for money laundering and drug trafficking. He appealed the sentence and was allowed to remain free during his appeal. In 2014, he was given a 33-year sentence for the charges but adamantly denied any involvement. A court reduced the sentence to 12 years and 10 months, but Edinho was told to serve his sentence in jail. In 2017, Edinho started to serve his sentence in prison, but was given the semi-open regime in the following year. In September 2019, he was given the open regime.



Davide Merola - Young Italian forward who mustered one appearance for Inter Milan in Europe before moving on



This one may take you by surprise. Can you spot the relatives this picture?



Believe it or not, but **Mark Viduka** and **Luka Modric** are blood relatives, and cousins!

The former Leeds United, Newcastle United and Middlesbrough striker Viduka was born in Australia, but has Croatian roots through his father.

Viduka Sr emigrated Down Under in the 1960s.



Last one for you....

Other than being a striker for Inter Milan, what else do **Obafemi Martins** and **Mario Balotelli** have in common?

Abigail Barwuah.

Balotelli's sister is Martins' wife, making the strikers Brothers-in Law.



Evgeniy Bashkirov - Former Zenit youth player played for Tom Tomsk and Rubin Kazan in Russia before moving to the Polish league



Choose a City. Choose a Football team. Choose a favourite player. Choose being part of a football family. Choose away days. Choose getting up at 4am to travel, cards on the train to the game, singing songs to absolute randomness. Choose meat pie & chips, choose a pint of flat beer. Choose your replica kit. Choose a player's name on the back. Choose shouting at the ref. Choose leaving work early to get to the game. Choose Match. Choose Shoot. Choose 90 minutes. Choose Match of the Day. Choose watching Kidderminster Harriers on the telly just because it is on. Choose wasting 4 hours on Friday picking your Fantasy Football team line up. Choose Panini sticker albums. Choose Des Lyman. Choose Ceefax page 302. Choose playing World Cup in the playground. Choose buying a match day programme and not reading it. Choose a Hot Dog at halftime. Choose biting your nails, feeling miserable, hating your team, your manager and every one of the 11 players who have royally messed up your weekend, only to do it all again next week. Choose the hairs standing up on the back of your neck, the elation, the joy, the unexplained hugging of a stranger, the chanting at the opposition in their misery and the sheer unexplained joy of celebrating another 3 more points in the points column.

Choose your club.

Choose Football.

Football Life



Orlando Sa - Played for Fulham and Reading in England but most successful during his spell at Standard Liege



Historical Line Ups

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 are featuring 5 different line ups that perhaps don't always get the attention they deserve, as the other line up in the game takes the glory.

We are looking at the World Cup final losers.

It must be one hell of a lonely place when the final whistle is blown, and your tournament and dreams are over and you have to watch the winning team in all their glory.

The ticker tape, the elation, the lifting of the golden trophy. That's got to hurt. What is better: To lose the World Cup semi final or the World Cup final? That's a debate for another time.

Here are our featured historical line ups

- 1) Italy versus Brazil 1994, USA
- 2) Brazil versus France 1998, France
- 3) Germany versus Brazil 2002, South Korea/Japan
- 4) France versus Italy 2006, Germany
- 5) Holland versus Spain 2010 South Africa



Nuno Tavares - Youngster who is part of Benfica's first team, deputising at left back when called upon



17th JULY 1994

BRAZIL v's ITALY

○ - ○

BRAZIL 3-2 on PENALTIES

LOS ANGELES

PAGLUICA

BARESI MALDINI

BENARNO

MUSSI

D. BAGGIO ALBERTINI

DONADONI

BERTI

R. BAGGIO

MASSARO

SUBS:

+ APOLLONI

+ EVANI

MANAGER: ARRIGO SACCHI



Eduardo Quaresma - Young centre back highly regarded at Sporting Lisbon, who at 18 has seen the club already reject offers from AC Milan for the defender, so another one to watch



12th JULY 1998
FRANCE v's BRAZIL
3 - 0
ZIDANE
ZIDANE
PETIT
PARIS



SUBS:
+ DENILSON
+ EDMUNDO

MANAGER: MARIO ZAGALLO



Andrei Marc - Romanian centre back who is currently on loan to Steaua Bucharest having previously played for rivals Dinamo



30th JUNE 2002

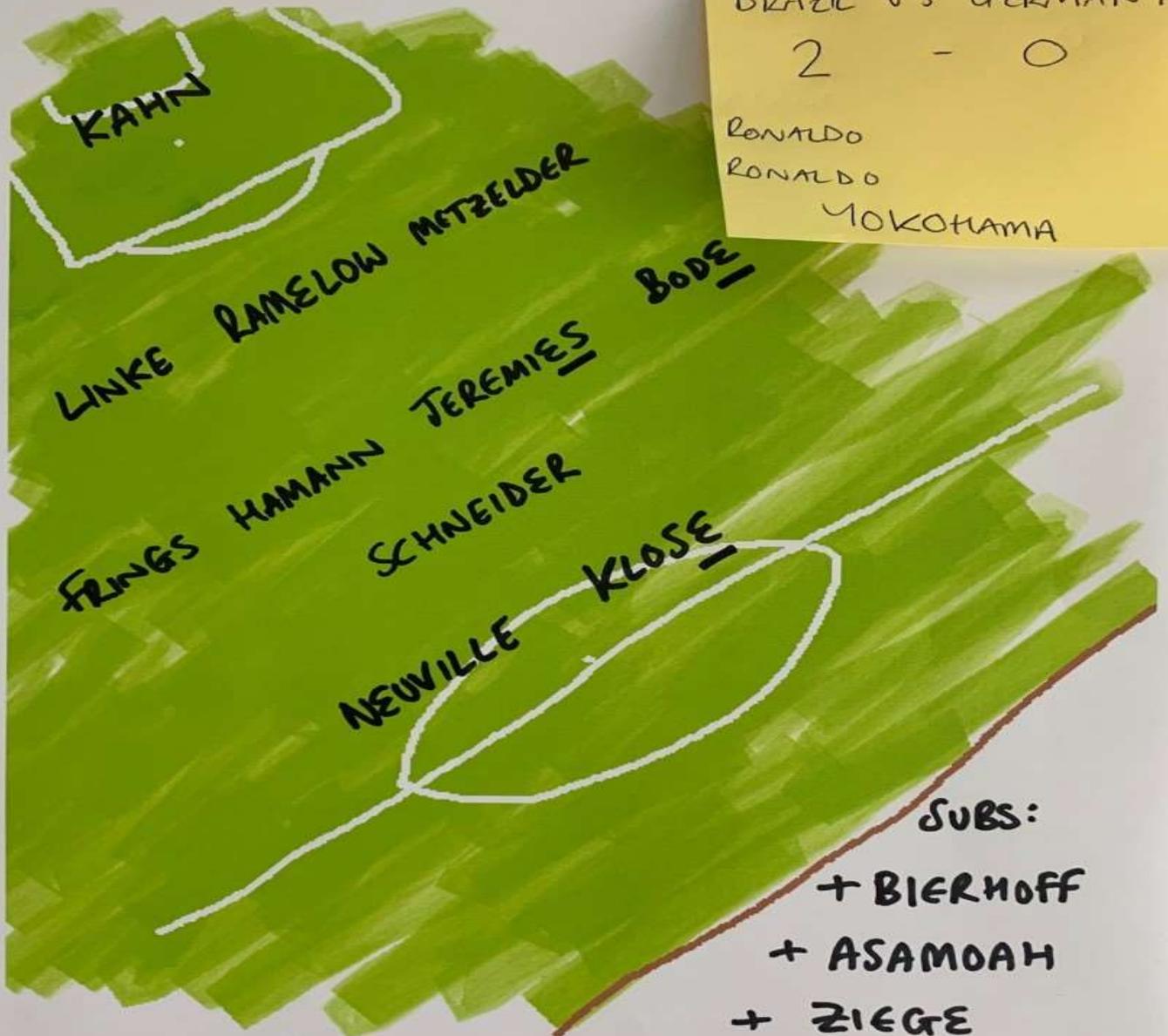
BRAZIL v's GERMANY

2 - 0

RONALDO

RONALDO

YOKOHAMA



MANAGER: RUDI VOLLER

SUBS:

+ BIERHOFF

+ ASAMOAH

+ ZIEGE



Costinha - Portuguese defensive midfielder, part of Jose Mourinho's successful Porto side that won the 2003 UEFA Cup and the 2004 Champions League



9th JULY 2006

ITALY v's FRANCE
1 - 1

MATERAZZI

ZIDANE

ITALY WON 5-3 ON PENALTIES

BERLIN

BARTHEZ

THURAM GALLAS

ABIDAL

SAGNOL

VIFIRA

MAKELELE

MALOUDA

RIBERY

ZIDANE

HENRY

SUBS:

+ DIARRA

+ TREZEGUET

+ WILTORD

MANAGER: RAYMOND DOMENECH



Sidnei - Brazilian centre back, spending his career in Portugal, Turkey, Spain as well as his homeland with Internacional



11th JULY 2010

SPAIN v's NETHERLAND

1 - 0

INIESTA

JOHANNESBURG

STERELENBURG

HEITINGA MATHIJSEN

VAN
BRONCKHORST

VAN DER
WIEL

DE JONG VAN BOMMEL

SNEIJDER KUYT

ROBBEN

VAN PERSIE

SUBS:

+ ELIA

+ VAN DER VAART

+ BRAAFHEID

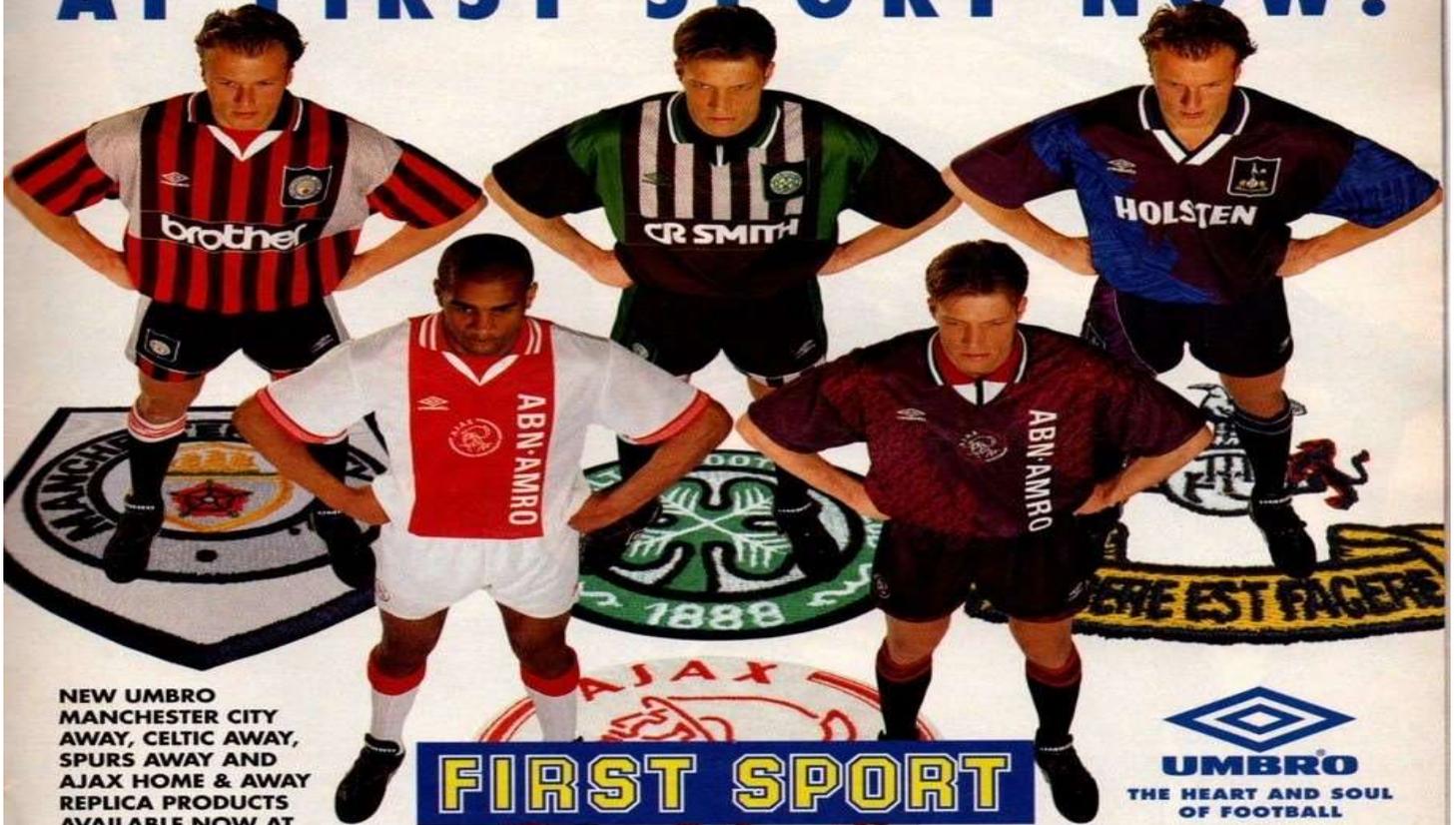
MANAGER: BERT VAN MARWIJK



Domenico Cristiano - Italian midfielder who spent the majority of his career in Serie B, starting out with Lazio



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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| | | | Brent Cross/Hounslow Glasgow/Southend Middlebrough/Watford Newcastle - Grainger St Metro Centre/Leeds Thurrock/Sheffield/Hull Bromley/Manchester. Manchester only. |

First Sport soccer specialist store Arndale Centre, Manchester. Please see Yellow Pages for your local First Sport stores.



Mounir El Hamdaoui - Dutch Footballer of the Year and Eredivisie top scorer in 2008/09 with AZ, moving on to the likes of Ajax and Fiorentina, having not made the grade at Tottenham Hotspur



EURO '92 REVISITED

Host Nation – Sweden

June 10th – 26th 1992

8 teams

1 hell of a tournament!



Where to begin?!

Sweden hosted the European Championships in 1992, and before it had even started it was highly eventful!

7 teams qualified and Sweden by default made up the competing teams. The 7 other teams were England, Scotland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, CIS (see below) and Denmark.

Originally, Yugoslavia qualified for the final stage and were to participate as FR Yugoslavia, but due to the Yugoslav wars, the team was disqualified and their qualifying group's runner-up, Denmark, took part in the championship. Remember that, as it is relevant later.

The Soviet Union qualified for the finals shortly before the break-up of the country, and took part in the tournament under the banner of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), before the former Soviet republics formed their own national teams after the competition. The CIS team represented the following ex-Soviet republics:

Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Tajikistan. Four out of 15 ex-republics were not members of the CIS: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania did not send their players; Georgia was not a member of the CIS at the time, but Georgian Kakhaber Tskhadadze was a part of the squad.



Igor Diveev - 21 year old Russian international defender plays for CSKA Moscow



It was to be the last tournament with only eight participants, the last to award the winner of a match with only two points, and the last tournament before the introduction of the back-pass rule, which was brought in immediately after the tournament was completed. When the next competition was held in 1996, 16 teams were involved and were awarded 3 points for a win. It was also the last major European tournament where only 2 subs could be used.

It was also the first major football competition in which the players had their names printed on their shirts, at around the time that it was becoming a trend in club football across Europe.

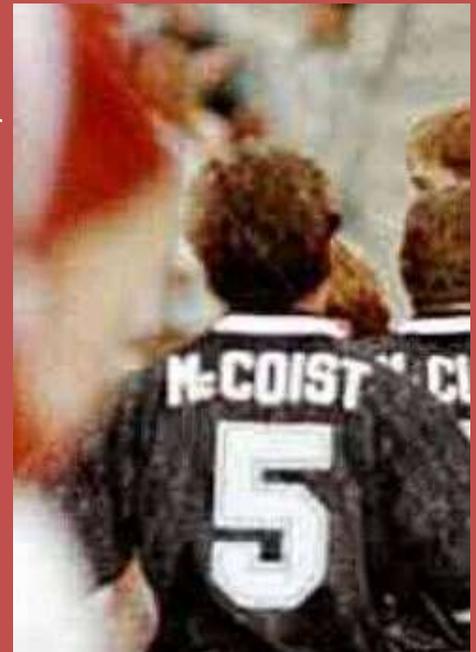
Not sure if the Scotland team missed the memo on the squad number lessons, as there were some horrific number allocations. Paul McStay (3), Ally McCoist (5), Brian McClair (6) and central defenders David McPherson and Stewart McKimmie in at number (8) and (9). Criminal!

The tournament kicked off with two groups of 4 teams, with the top 2 sides qualifying for the semi finals, and of course the winners of that to battle in the final.

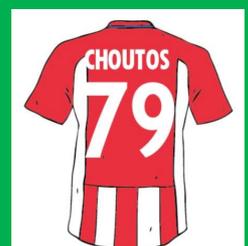
England were grouped with the hosts Sweden alongside Denmark and France.

Sweden held France to a 1-1 draw in the opening game and England played out a goalless draw against Denmark. In the next round of games, Sweden got their first win against Denmark, with the country's poster boy Tomas Brodin getting the winner. England once again drew 0-0, this time against France, meaning they would have to win their final group game against Sweden to qualify.

Before that however, Denmark began their journey of upsetting the odds and defeated France in their last group game, 2-1, in order to qualify for the semi-finals. Henrik Larsen and Lars Elstrup scoring the Danes first goals of the tournament.



Lampros Choutos - Played for Roma and Inter Milan in Italy but more successful in his homeland Greece with Olympiakos amongst others



England's, and in fact Graham Taylor's plan for the Sweden game seemed aligned to the previous 2 games. Uninspired and highly unconvincing. It actually seemed Taylor wasn't 100% sure on his best line up. Look at the 3 line ups used in the 3 group games (3 right backs!)



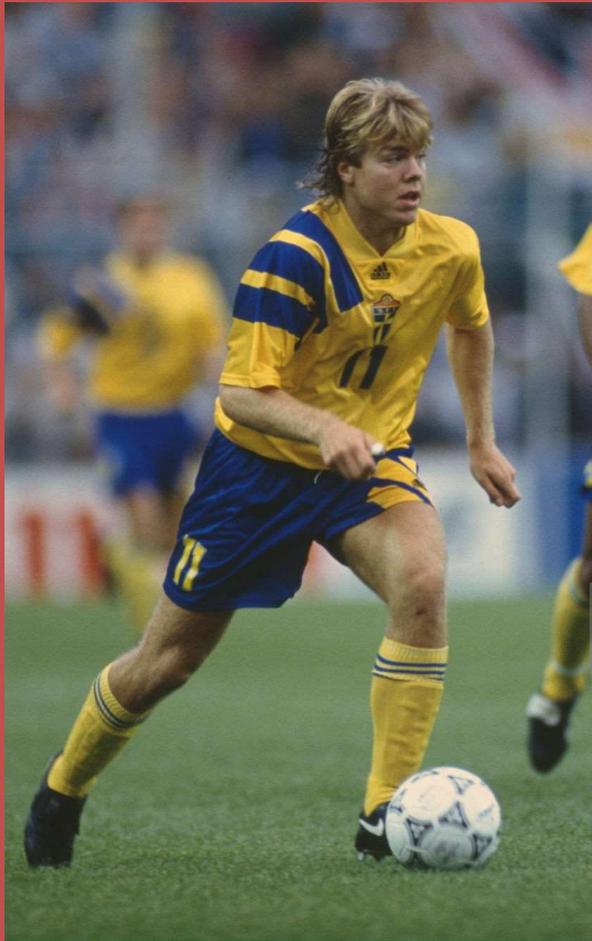
England actually started brightly and were 1-0 up After just 4 minutes with a goal from David Platt. Sweden pulled themselves back in to the game, and with the game posed at 1-1 in the 62nd minutes Taylor made a substitution that still today beggars belief. It was well known this was to be Gary Lineker's final hurrah at the international stage, and also very well known he was on 48 international goals, one short of the record for England. Of course that is relevant, but to take off your best goal scorer in a game you must win with less than half an hour to play, well, 'do I not like that.' England were shot of ideas and Sweden punished them and it was left to Tomas Brodin to fire home the winner with 8 minutes to play and send England packing out of Euro 1992.



Lois Openda - Belgium under 21 international who is out on loan to Vitesse from Club Brugge for the 2020/21 season



In the second group the results were less surprising. Both the Netherlands and Germany beating Scotland and drawing with the CIS in order to qualify and leaving the Scots to take out their frustrations in the dead rubber with CIS, defeating them 3-0.



The semi-finals saw the hosts take on Germany. Tournaments tend to inspire the home nation and their fan base, but this was a step too far. Germany's quality shone through, but not without a scare. Sweden went down 3-2, with a further strike from their main man, Brolin, his third of the tournament.

Karl-Heinz Riedle's double in the game also saw him level with Brolin's three tournament goals.

In the second semi-final Denmark took on reigning champions, the Netherlands.

The Netherlands had topped their group having dispatched Germany 3-1, and were of course firm favourites to reach the finals. In their line up they could call upon the trio of AC Milan players, Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, as well as up and coming superstar Dennis Bergkamp.

Whereas the group stage games were timid affairs, the semi-finals came alive and it can be said, so did Denmark. The Danes went ahead on two occasions, both goals by Henrik Larsen, now with 3 goals to his name. Incredible from the midfielder who didn't even feature in their first game and was a sub in their second. He now had 3 goals in 2 starts. Holland fought back twice however, and a fourth player struck their 3rd goal of the tournament. Dennis Bergkamp pegged Denmark back first and then Rijkaard took the game into extra time with an equaliser with just 4 minutes of normal time remaining.



Andros Townsend - Loaned out by Tottenham Hotspur on no more than 9 occasions before moving onto Newcastle United and now Crystal Palace



The Danes were shattered. Their star player Brian Laudrup was off injured, as to was Henrik Andersen. The centre back managed to dislocated his knee cap in a tackle with Marco Van Basten. Google the image, if you are not squeamish. Follow defender John Sivebaek was also injured but had to struggle to play on as they had no subs left, and their starting central defender Kent Nielsen wasn't even fit enough for the starting XI.

Remarkably the Danes held on for the 30 minutes of extra-time and the semi final went to penalties. Man mountain Peter Schmeichel made the one save in the shoot out, facing Marco Van Basten, and somehow Denmark had made it to the final! This was fairy tale stuff!



To the final; The Danes had eliminated the reigning European Champions and now in their way were the reigning World Champions. Germany were of course massive favourites for the final but lets take stock here of what Denmark had already achieved.

- Called up to the finals with just **10 days** to prepare due to the removal of Yugoslavia from the tournament.
- The nation's best ever player, Michael Laudrup (28 at the time), recent winner of the European Cup with Barcelona, by all accounts didn't bother going to the tournament as he thought their chances of success were pretty minimal.
- Bottom of their group after 2 matches with just 1 point facing elimination out of the tournament.
- Having to play the hosts, France, England, the Netherlands to get to the final and then to have to beat the World Cup holders Germany in the final.
- A players knee had pretty much popped out of his skin and the rest of the team were on their last legs



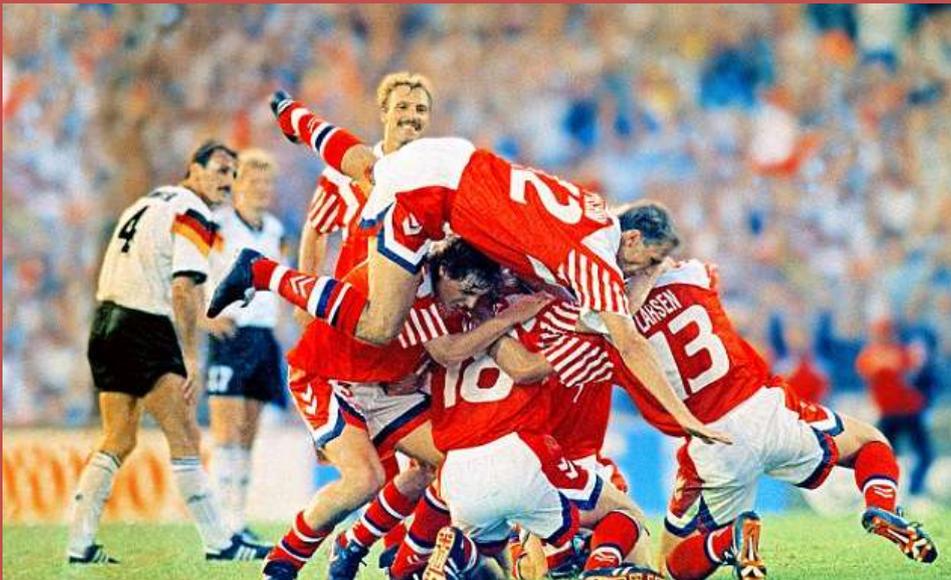
Anthony D'Alberto - Congolese defender plying his trade in Portugal first with Braga and now with Moreirense



Sometimes the luck is just with you. You know the rest...

Ask Arsenal fans what John Jensen's shooting was like? Woeful, off target, comical? But on 26th June 1992 when he spanked one goalward, he hit it like he'd never hit another shot in his life and bang, Denmark were 1-0 up in the final.

Peter Schmeichel somehow bettered his semi-final heroics and kept the German attackers at bay, and then in the 79th minute Kim Vilfort whipped a left foot strike into the net and the fairy tale became reality and Denmark had secured one of the most unlikely, yet one of the most memorable football success stories ever.



On the next page is the official UEFA team of the tournament. Does that make you wonder do those in charge of constructing such an XI, actually watch the tournament?

Few examples – Jocelyn Angloma, the French right back played 67 minutes of France's first game, came on as a sub at half time in their second game and didn't play in their last game. He makes the all star XI!! Perhaps more apt would have been the Swedish defender Jan Eriksson, who struck 2 goals in the group stage and helped Sweden to the semi-finals. There is also no place for Henrik Larsen and Tomas Brodin, arguably the 2 stand out players in the competition, nor a place for fellow 3 goal top scorer Karl-Heinz Riedle, but Marco Van Basten and Ruud Gullit (no goals between them) make the team of the tournament XI.



Gedson Fernandes - The young Portuguese midfielder who is on a 2 year loan to Tottenham Hotspur from Benfica with high hopes for success



EURO 1992 – UEFA OFFICIAL TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT



Tomas Tavares - Another Benfica youth product, a right back currently on loan to Alaves in Spain, and a youth international for Portugal



TREATMENT ROOM

Muscle tear

Muscles are strained or torn when some or all of the fibres within the muscle fail to cope with the demands placed upon them. A muscle is most likely to tear during sudden acceleration (for example sprinting for the ball) or deceleration (slowing down).

These are classified in three grades.

A **grade 1** strain only involves damaging a few fibres of the muscle, there will be localised pain but no loss of strength.

A **grade 2** strain is a tear of a significant number of muscle fibres with associated pain and swelling. Pain will be produced by a muscle contraction and strength and movement will be reduced. In this instance, the player is unlikely to be able to continue with the match.

A **grade 3** strain is a complete tear of the muscle and it may require different management for example protective bracing or surgery depending on where in the muscle the tear is.

Symptoms and signs

- sudden pain that worsens while contracting the strained muscle
- swelling and bruising
- loss of strength and range of motion

When muscle is initially injured, significant inflammation and swelling occurs. Patients often report the sensation of pain as the feeling of being "stabbed."

After this inflammatory phase, the muscle begins to heal by regenerating muscle fibres from stem cells that live around the area of injury. However, a significant amount of scar tissue also forms where the muscle was injured. Over time, this scar tissue remodels, but the muscle tissue never fully regenerates. It is thought that this makes a strained muscle prone to future injury



Pavel Mogilevets - Russian midfielder who played for Zenit St Petersburg, Rostov, Rubin Kazan and won 4 caps for Russia



Diagnosis

The diagnosis is usually made based on patient history and physical exam. In severe, grade 3 cases, the examining physician may actually be able to feel the defect where the muscle has completely torn.

Treatment and recovery

Nonsurgical, conservative treatment

Most muscle strains do not require surgery, and a full recovery is expected. If there is a partial tear then the athlete can return when they are pain free and have normal strength and motion. This usually occurs following anywhere from a few weeks to a few months of appropriate treatment and therapy. When the muscle is completely ruptured, the athlete may benefit from surgical repair.

Returning to sports and activity

Return to full activity is usually allowed when the patient is pain free, has full range of motion, and full strength. If an athlete attempts to return to their sport before these criteria are met, there is a high chance of reinjuring the muscle and sustaining a setback. Mild, grade 1 injuries may require only two to three weeks before an athlete can return. More severe injuries may require significantly more time.

Such a long period of lost playing time is less than ideal for professional and elite athletes, and some have advocated more aggressive treatment in this group. In a study that examined professional football players with severe hamstring tears with palpable defects, an intramuscular cortisone injection lead to a return to full activity time of 7.6 days, and 85% of the players did not miss a single game. However, the use of cortisone injections in the recreational athlete should be reserved for chronic or lingering injuries since there is a chance of weakening the remaining muscle and increasing the severity of the injury.



Luigi Scaglia - Italian versatile journeyman having spent time at Brescia, Torino and Parma amongst a number of other clubs





THE BOOT ROOM

This issue's submission to The Boot Room goes against The Halfway Line's beliefs. We are essentially featuring 'kick me' boots. You rock up to a game, see a player wearing these boots and straight away you want to kick them, and they can't complain to the ref, they are wearing **gold boots** for goodness sake!

Takes a brave player to wear gold boots. Or an extremely talented player, which kind of makes it OK.

Three styles to look at here;

A previous favourite of ours, the **Adidas Accelerator** & the **Adidas Precision**; really only acceptable to be worn by the then World Player of the Year, Zinedine Zidane (2000).

These 2 are the only Predators we are prepared to accept looking good in a colour other than black leather with red & white features.

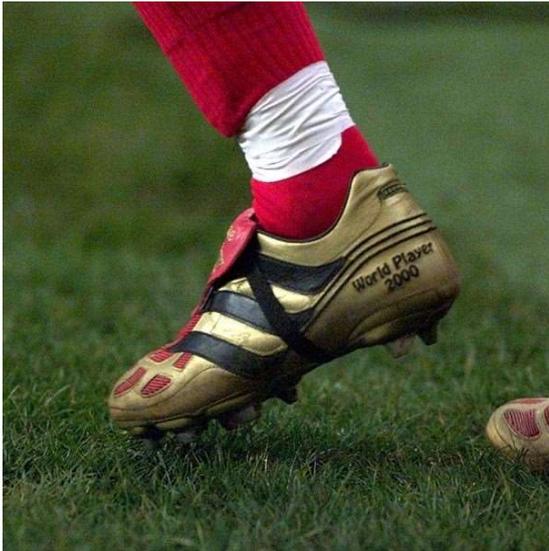
The **Nike Mercurial Vapor** has come in many forms, but the 2004-05 version, in gold styled by Thierry Henry, Adriano and the Brazilian Ronaldo are a real beauty. Perhaps lightest pair of boots we can recall going on the market.

And then finally the 2006 **R10 Nike Air Legends**, based heavily on the Tiempos, made especially for Ronaldinho, the world's best player at the time. He more often styled the predominately white boots when playing for Barcelona, but switched to gold for the 2006 World Cup finals playing for Brazil.



Sebastien De Maio - French centre back has played the majority of his career in Italy with Brescia, Bologna, Genoa, Fiorentina and Udinese





Mateja Kezman - Played top-flight football in the Netherlands, England, Spain, Turkey, France, Russia, Hong Kong and Belarus, winning championships in 5 different countries





Dentinho - Followed a well trodden path of leaving Brazil for Ukraine to play for Shakhtar Donetsk and now to Turkey with Besiktas



COUNTRY FOCUS

For this issue of The Halfway Line we are focusing on Mexico as our country of choice.

The Mexican Football Federation is the governing body of association football in Mexico. It administers the Mexico national team, and the Liga MX (the Mexican football league).



The men's national team's nickname is the El Tri (The Tricolor)

The nation's highest ever FIFA ranking was 4th in 1998, 2003 & 2006.

Mexico is historically the most successful national team in the CONCACAF region, having won eleven confederation titles, including eight CONCACAF Gold Cups and three CONCACAF Championships (the precursor to the Gold Cup), as well as three NAFC Championships, one North American Nations Cup, one CONCACAF Cup and two gold medals of the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Although Mexico is under the jurisdiction of CONCACAF, the national team has been regularly invited to compete in the Copa América from 1993 to 2016, finishing runner-up twice – in 1993 and 2001 – and obtaining the third-place medal on three occasions.

The country's all-time appearance maker is Claudio Suarez. The defender known as 'The Emperor' was capped 177 times, which is joint 4th on the all-time list. Their record goal scorer Mexico is former Manchester United and West Ham United striker Javier Hernandez, scoring 52 goals.

The Liga MX consists of 18 clubs. The season is split into 2 tournaments. The Apertura, which starts in the summer and the Clausura that starts in the winter. It is also the fourth most attended football league in the world behind Germany's Bundesliga, England's Premier League and Spain's La Liga.



Domenico Criscito - Italian international left back had spells at Juventus and Zenit St. Petersburg in between 3 spells at Genoa



Of the 56 teams to have competed in the Primera division of the Liga MX, **América** has won the title **13** times, followed by Guadalajara (12), Toluca (10), Cruz Azul (8), Leon, UNAL and UNAM (7), and Pachuca and Santos Laguna (6). The last league champions are Monterrey, who won the Apertura 2019 tournament.

América are one of the founding members of the Primera División. The club has a long standing rivalry with Guadalajara, as both are the most successful and most popular clubs in the country, and are the only clubs to have never been relegated. Matches between them are known as El Súper Clásico.

There have been 10 Mexican footballers to venture to England and play in the Premier League, with a mixture of success, though more flops than hits. Strikers **Javier Hernandez** and **Raul Jimenez** would be the hits, and less effective were Pablo Barrera, Jared Borgetti (the first in the league), Nery Castillo, Giovani Dos Santos, Guillermo Franco, Miguel Layun, Carlos Salcido and Carlos Vela.

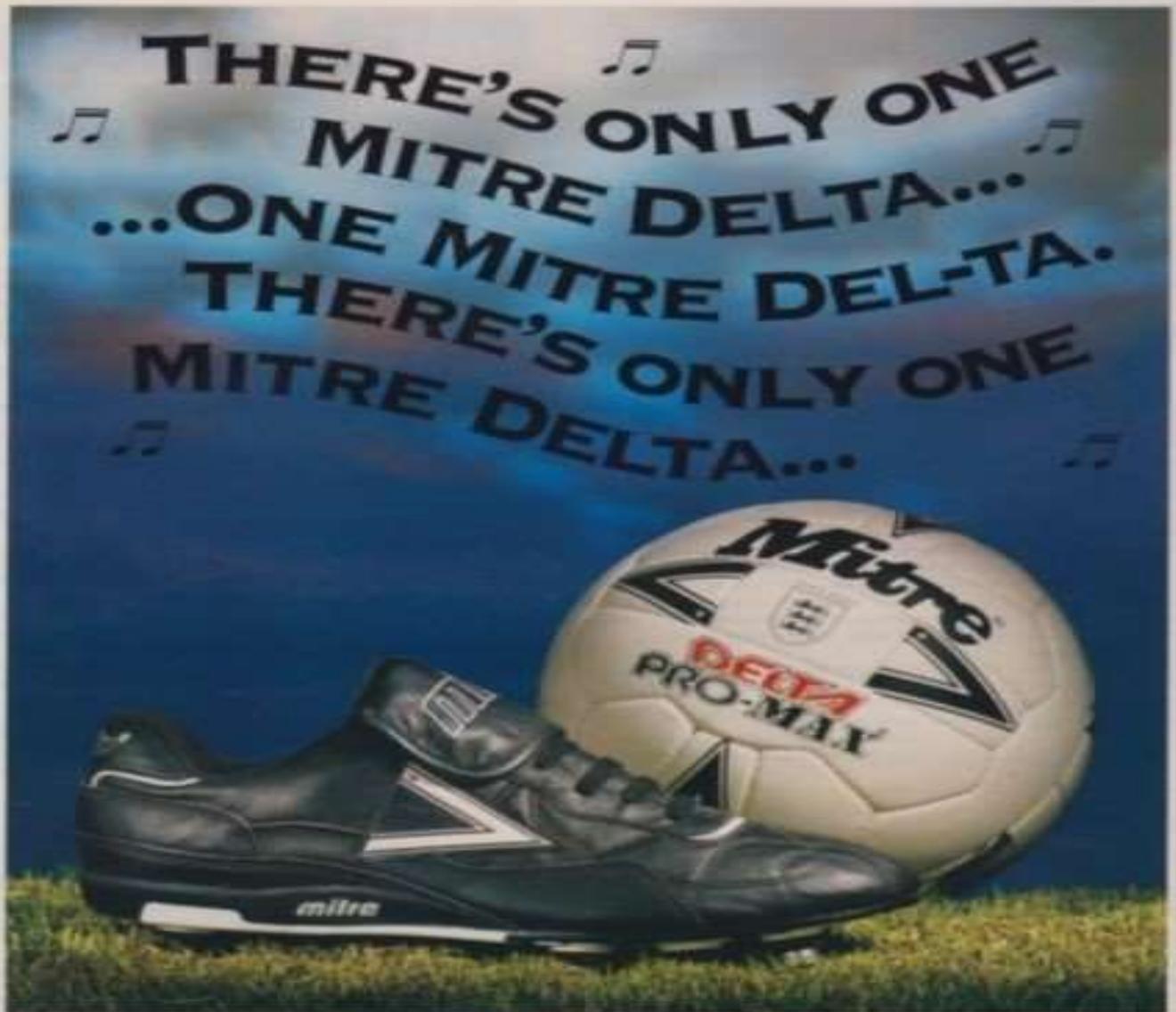


We can bring you 2 English footballers to have played in the Liga MX. Firstly, the well travelled and troubled **Ravel Morrison**. He joined Atlas in 2017 and made 18 appearances for the club. The second player was English born **Antonio Pedroza**, who was born in Cheshire to a Mexican father. He played 4 times for Crystal Palace in-between spells in the Mexican leagues, still playing today for Mineros de Zacatecas.



Mauro Bonomi - Former Italian U21 European championship winner in 1992 played for the likes of Lazio, Torino and Napoli during his career





The Mitre Delta has many supporters. Since 1884, over 40,000 professional league games and millions of amateur games have been played with the Mitre Delta football in the UK alone.

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All of which is proof - if proof were needed - that there really is only one Mitre Delta. International Ex.



Romulo - Brazilian right back with permanent spells at Fiorentina and Genoa and loan spells at Juventus and Lazio in Serie A



Quiz time

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

1. Who was the referee that Paolo Di Canio pushed over after being sent off for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal in 1998?
2. Who is the highest goal scorer in Premier League history totalling away goals only?
3. 5 Irishmen, 5 Welshmen and 5 Scotsmen have Premier League winner medals – can you name all 15?
4. Who was the first player to score at the 'new' Wembley, in an official FIFA match?
5. Which team have won the most League Cups (8) and which team have been runners up the most (6)?
6. What do Roberto Di Matteo, Mikel Arteta and Gianluca Vialli share in common?

Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Ray Wilkins, Faustino Asprilla, Nigel Winterburn, Paul Dickov and El Hadji-Diouf – Who am I?
2. I have played with Simao Sabrosa, Mikel Arteta, Arjen Robben, Fernando Morientes and Fabio Borini – Who am I?
3. I have played with Teddy Sheringham, Juninho Paulista, Slaven Bilic, Gary McAllister and Lee Bowyer – Who am I?
4. I have played with Mark Viduka, Marlon Harewood, Alan Pardew, Frank Lampard and David Platt – Who am I?
5. I have played with Jay-Jay Okocha, Geremi, Tuncay Sanli, Andrea Pirlo and Robbie Fowler – Who am I?

What club links the following players?

1. Victor Valdes, Tal Ben Haim, Sergio Conceicao and Olivier Dacourt?
2. Christian Ziege, Martin Dahlin, Kasey Keller and Paul Stalteri?
3. Zlatko Zahovič, Sergej Yuran, Maniche and Aly Cissokho?
4. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Mathieu Debuchy, William Saliba and Kevin Mirallas?
5. Andre Bikey, Vedran Ćorluka, Oumar Niasse and Garry O'Connor?
6. Arjen Robben, Virgil Van Dijk, Luis Suarez and Dusan Tadic?
7. Jesper Gronkjaer, Mario Melchiot, Brian Laudrup and Vernon Anita?
8. Richard Witschge, Pascal Chimbonda, Nikola Kalinic and Benjani Mwaruwari?



Marco Tumminello - Youth player at Roma moving onto Atalanta with great pedigree but so far unlucky with injuries



Last Issues Quiz answers

1. What's odd about West Ham United beating Spurs away in these 3 fixtures: In the league on 6th October 2013 (3-0), in the Carabao Cup on 25th October 2017 (3-2) and again in the league on 27th April 2019 (1-0)? **Each victory was at a different away ground. White Hart Lane, Wembley and the new Tottenham stadium**
2. What English club did Ally McCoist play for? **Sunderland**
3. Name the 2 Italian clubs Danny Dichio has played for? **Sampdoria and Lecce**
4. Who scored more goals for Crystal Palace, Ian Wright or Mark Bright? **Ian Wright (118. Bright scored 114)**
5. What did John Moncur give up to Paolo Futre, and Yossi Benayoun give up to Juan Mata? **The number 10 shirt**
6. Former Liverpool and West Ham United defender Rigobert Song was the first to achieve what in World Cup history? **Sent off in 2 separate World Cup final tournaments**

Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Roy Keane, Alan Shearer, Frank Lampard, Rio Ferdinand, Eyal Berkovic – Who am I? **Stuart Pearce**
2. I have played with Micah Richards, Sol Campbell, Robert Snodgrass, Robbie Fowler and Riyad Mahrez – Who am I? **Kasper Schmeichel**
3. I have played with Ronaldo, Gary Speed, Gareth Bale, Peter Crouch and Gaizka Mendieta – Who am I? **Jonathan Woodgate**
4. I have played with Robert Prosinecki, Danny Tiatto, Stilian Petrov, Oliver Dacourt and Obefami Martins – Who am I? **Mark Viduka**
5. I've managed the following players but never managed Manchester United or Liverpool: Andy Cole, Lee Sharpe, Teddy Sheringham, Ian Rush, Neil Ruddock, John Scales and Oyvind Leonhardsen – Who am I? **George Graham**

What club links the following players?

1. Svetoslav Todorov, Gary O'Neill, Teddy Sheringham and Andy Cole? **Portsmouth**
2. Dirk Kuyt, Robin Van Persie, Pierre Hooijdonk and Mateja Kezman? **Fenerbahce**
3. Butcho Gunechev, Adrian La Paz, Michele Serena and Finidi George? **Ipswich Town**
4. Heider Helguson, Hameur Bouazza, Jon Harley and Espen Baardsen? **Watford**
5. Takumi Minamino, Naby Keita, Sadio Mane and Somen Tchoyi? **Red Bull Salzburg**
6. Mesut Ozil, Serge Gnabry, Per Mertersecker and Marko Arnautovic? **Werder Bremen**
7. Gianfranco Zola, Nathaniel Chalobah, Gonzalo Higuain and Benito Carbone? **Napoli**
8. Jo, Nigel De Jong, Elano and Enes Unal? **Manchester City**



Tugay Kerimoğlu - Ageless Turkish central midfielder whose 94th and final cap for Turkey was marked with him wearing 94 on his shirt in a friendly against Brazil



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 some 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 clubs who have featured prominently in the Premier League since 1992, sharing around promotions and relegations between them.

Leeds United, West Bromwich Albion and Stoke City are our 3 teams this issue.

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



Pierluigi Gollini - 1 capped Italian goalkeeper currently first choice at Atalanta with a two year spell at Aston Villa and youth experience at Manchester United



Leeds United



Ewandro Costa - Brazilian winger on the books of Udinese but currently gaining experience out on loan back in Brazil



West Bromwich Albion



Ionut Radu - Young Romanian goalkeeper whose career in Italian has gone from Inter Milan to Genoa back to Inter and now serving Genoa on loan



Stoke City



23 games



17 games

15 games

13 games
1 goal



19 games
3 goals

10 games
2 goals



4 games
0 goals

7 games
0 goals



Abdou Diakhate - Young Senegalese midfielder was a youth player at Fiorentina not making the grade and then only managing one Serie A appearance for Parma and having since moved on

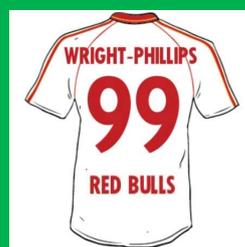


Page number glossary: Shows player and seasons they wore the associated number

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Dida | AC Milan | 2004-2010 | 51 | Ignasi Miquel | Arsenal | 2014-2015 |
| 2 | Willy Sagnol | Bayern Munich | 2000-2009 | 52 | Alexander Merkel | Udinese | 2012-2016 |
| 3 | Frank De Boer | Barcelona | 2000-2003 | 53 | Tosin Adarabioyo | Manchester City | 2015-2017 |
| 4 | Matthijs de Ligt | Ajax Amsterdam | 2017-2019 | 54 | João Mário | Sporting Lisbon | 2011-2012 |
| 5 | Sebastian Kehl | Borussia Dortmund | 2002-2015 | 55 | Alejandro Grimaldo | Benfica | 2015-2016 |
| 6 | Youri Djorkaeff | Inter Milan | 1996-1999 | 56 | Alexis Saelemaekers | Anderlecht | 2017-2020 |
| 7 | David Platt | Arsenal | 1996-1998 | 57 | Reece Wabara | Manchester City | 2010-2011 |
| 8 | Dietmar Hamann | Bayern Munich | 1994-1999 | 58 | Jared Borgetti | CD Cruz Azul | 2006-2008 |
| 9 | Roger Milla | Cameroon | 1990-1995 | 59 | Felipe Aguilar | Santos | 2018-2019 |
| 10 | Alessandro Del Piero | Juventus | 1994-2012 | 60 | Josh Onomah | Tottenham Hotspur | 2013-2014 |
| 11 | Anthony Martial | Manchester United | 2016-2019 | 61 | Zinho Vanheusden | Inter Milan | 2017-2018 |
| 12 | Sami Hyypia | Liverpool | 1999-2001 | 62 | Vadim Karpov | CSKA Moscow | 2018-2020 |
| 13 | Monchi | Sevilla | 1993-1998 | 63 | Ian Maatsen | Chelsea | 2019-2020 |
| 14 | David Ginola | Tottenham Hotspur | 1997-2000 | 64 | Oleg Lanin | Krasnodar | 2012-2015 |
| 15 | Thomas Hitzlsperger | Lazio | 2009-2010 | 65 | Giovanni Pinto | Parma | 2018-2019 |
| 16 | Jermaine Pennant | Liverpool | 2006-2008 | 66 | Alain Sutter | Dallas | 1997-1998 |
| 17 | Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang | Borussia Dortmund | 2013-2018 | 67 | Adam Smith | Tottenham Hotspur | 2008-2009 |
| 18 | Vladimir Jugovic | Juventus | 1995-1997 | 68 | Davide Merola | Inter Milan | 2018-2019 |
| 19 | Sadio Mane | Liverpool | 2016-2018 | 69 | Evgeniy Bashkirov | Zenit St Petersburg | 2008-2009 |
| 20 | Deco | Barcelona | 2004-2008 | 70 | Orlando Sá | Standard Liege | 2016-2019 |
| 21 | Diego Forlan | Manchester United | 2001-2005 | 71 | Nuno Tavares | Benfica | 2019-2020 |
| 22 | Arturo Vidal | Barcelona | 2018-2020 | 72 | Eduardo Quaresma | Sporting Lisbon | 2019-2020 |
| 23 | Emre Can | Juventus | 2018-2020 | 73 | Andrei Marc | Steaua Bucharest | 2019-2020 |
| 24 | Dani Ceballos | Real Madrid | 2017-2019 | 74 | Costinha | Dynamo Moscow | 2004-2006 |
| 25 | Valerin Ismael | Bayern Munich | 2005-2007 | 75 | Sidnei | Benfica | 2012-2013 |
| 26 | Stephan Lichtsteiner | Juventus | 2011-2018 | 76 | Domenico Cristiano | Napoli | 2003-2004 |
| 27 | Gervinho | Arsenal | 2011-2013 | 77 | Mounir El Hamdaoui | Fiorentina | 2014-2015 |
| 28 | Fabio Coloccini | AC Milan | 1999-2001 | 78 | Igor Diveev | CSKA Moscow | 2018-2020 |
| 29 | Shaun Wright-Phillips | Manchester City | 1999-2005 | 79 | Lampros Choutos | Panionios Athens | 2007-2009 |
| 30 | Tiago | Chelsea | 2004-2006 | 80 | Lois Openda | Club Brugge | 2018-2020 |
| 31 | Jesus Neves | Sevilla | 2003-2005 | 81 | Andros Townsend | Tottenham Hotspur | 2008-2009 |
| 32 | David Luiz | Paris Saint-Germain | 2014-2017 | 82 | Anthony D'Alberio | Braga | 2015-2017 |
| 33 | John Burridge | Manchester City | 1994-1995 | 83 | Gedson Fernandes | Benfica | 2018-2020 |
| 34 | Adil Rami | Fenerbahce | 2019-2020 | 84 | Tomás Tavares | Benfica | 2019-2020 |
| 35 | Stephen Appiah | Udinese | 1999-2000 | 85 | Pavel Mogilevets | Zenit St Petersburg | 2012-2014 |
| 36 | Luke Chadwick | Manchester United | 2000-2001 | 86 | Luigi Scaglia | Torino | 2009-2011 |
| 37 | Leonardo Spinazzola | Roma | 2019-2020 | 87 | Sebastien De Maio | Udinese | 2018-2020 |
| 38 | Alexandre Lacazette | Lyon | 2009-2011 | 88 | Mateja Kezman | Zenit St Petersburg | 2008-2009 |
| 39 | Scott McTominay | Manchester United | 2016-2020 | 89 | Dentinho | Shakhtar Donetsk | 2013-2015 |
| 40 | Paolo Tramezzani | Atalanta | 2002-2003 | 90 | Domenico Criscito | Genoa | 2003-2004 |
| 41 | Joshua King | Manchester United | 2010-2013 | 91 | Mauro Bonomi | Napoli | 2001-2004 |
| 42 | Amadou Diawara | Roma | 2019-2020 | 92 | Romulo | Fiorentina | 2011-2013 |
| 43 | Fran Mérida | Arsenal | 2008-2009 | 93 | Marco Tumminello | Roma | 2015-2017 |
| 44 | Anatoliy Tymoshchuk | Bayern Munich | 2009-2013 | 94 | Tugay | Turkey | 2007 |
| 45 | Justin Hoyte | Arsenal | 2002-2004 | 95 | Pierluigi Gollini (GK) | Atalanta | 2018-2020 |
| 46 | Ryan Tunnicliffe | Manchester United | 2010-2013 | 96 | Ewandro Costa | Udinese | 2016-2018 |
| 47 | Danny Welbeck | Manchester United | 2007-2008 | 97 | Ionut Radu (GK) | Genoa | 2018-2020 |
| 48 | Chico Ramos | Porto | 2015-2016 | 98 | Abdou Diakhate | Fiorentina | 2015-2016 |
| 49 | Arijanet Muric (GK) | Manchester City | 2018-2020 | 99 | Bradley Wright-Phillips | New York Red Bulls | 2012-2019 |
| 50 | Sieben Dewaele | Anderlecht | 2018-2020 | 100 | Mark Schwarzer | Australia | 2012 |



Bradley Wright-Phillips - Two-time MLS Golden Boot winner and currently holds the New York Red Bulls record for most goals scored



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

- Football Stadiums
- Profile on players with a special story
- Players to have scored everywhere they've played
- Where are they now? Feature on previous U20 World Cup stars

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

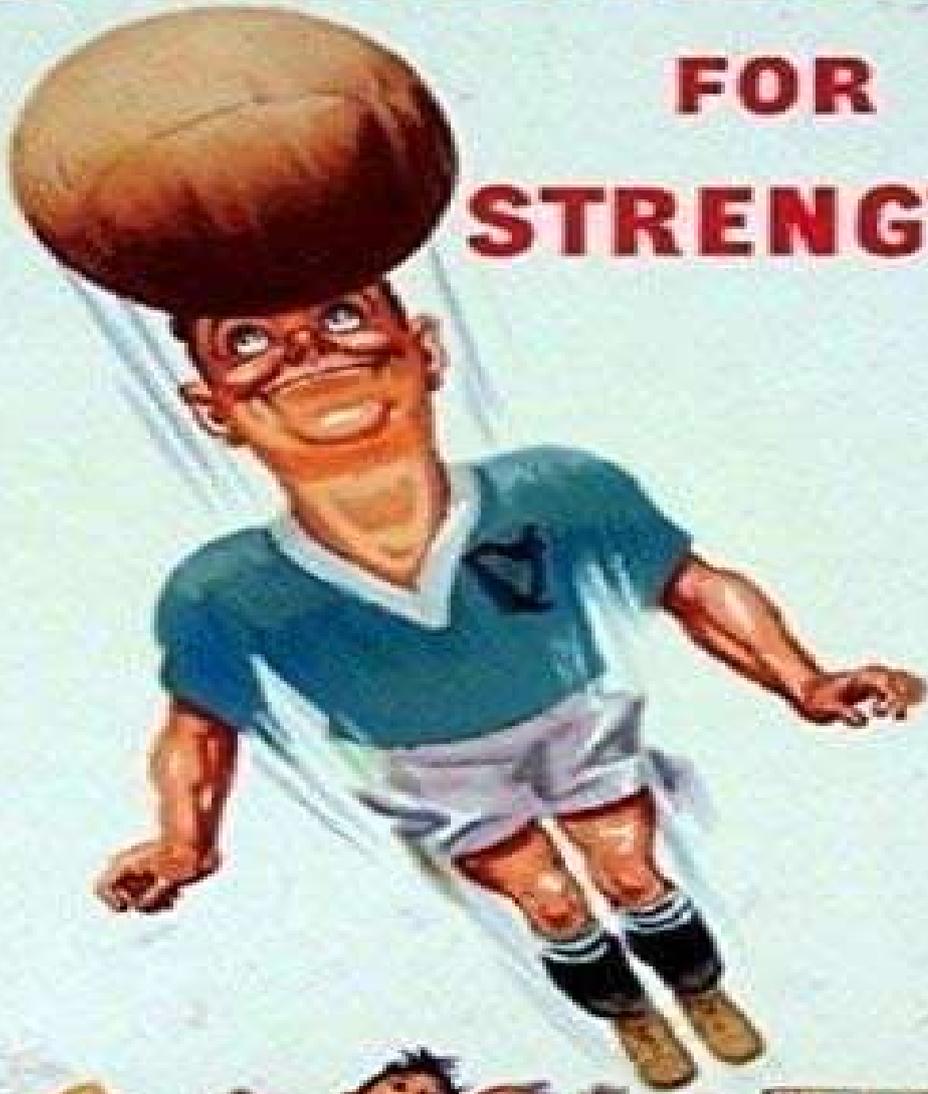


Mark Schwarzer - His team mates styled 100 shirt numbers in the warm up during an international for Australia against Jordan in 2012 to honour his century of caps. He went on to win 109 caps for the Soccerro's



GUINNESS

FOR
STRENGTH



26 05 1989 90m 22s