

The



Halfway Line



Serial goal scorers across Europe

This issue also features:
Famous Football Stadia
Stand Out Player Profiles
U20 World Cup Golden Boot Winners



Treatment Room
Historical Line Ups
The Boot Room
And lots more.....



Editors note: Pre-match pep talk



Welcome back to issue 9 of The Halfway Line.

We have firmly got into the Christmas spirit here at the magazine, no pre planned red card in the previous issue meaning we can have the festive period off!

All things being Christmas we thought we'd try to put on our own nativity, A Halfway Line Christmas pantomime if you like? But we'd need a storyline and some characters.

Picture the scene; it's an International football match, between Turkey and Greenland, obviously! The match is being hosted on a neutral ground, in fact Bari's Stadio San Nicola (English: Saint Nicholas Stadium) It just so happens an array of footballers past and present have switched international elegancies to Turkey. The team have to win by three clear goals.

The team are 2-0 up with minutes to play. Thomas '*Partey*' sets '*Claus*' Thomson off on a run, he passes it wide to '*Roudolphe*' Douala on the wing, he crosses it into the box where it goes over Jason '*Euell*' and '*Gifton Noel-Williams*' but Roque '*Santa*' Cruz nods it down to his strike partner. The former South Korean forward '*Choi Soon-ho*' hammers home the team's, and his third of the game meaning a victory, a hat trick and the result showing 3-0, scorers: Ho, Ho, Ho!!!

'Tis the season to be jolly and to give presents and issue 9 is our gift to you. As Christmas is more for the young folk we take a look at some youngsters in this issue, namely those named top scorer at the FIFA Under 20 World Cup tournaments gone by and see what became of them in their careers.

The main profile for this time of year is the big name himself, Father Christmas, but as he didn't have a stellar footballing career, instead we bring profiles on some particularly interesting footballers, all for very different reasons.

Christmas is a wonderful tradition and we are traditionalists ourselves and so you'll be delighted to know we've the usual features in this issue with the likes of historical line ups, best ever XI's and of course nations best XI representatives in the Premier League and of course lots more.

So unpack your '*Santa is a ***** fan*' hat, check the Boxing Day fixtures and keep your fingers crossed you get the Match Annual yearbook in your stocking, and of course as always.....enjoy and have a Merry Christmas.



Manuel Neuer – The original 'sweeper keeper' is currently the captain of Bayern Munich and the German national team



The Halfway Line Up

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Christian Poulsen – The Halfway Line favourite who has played in the Bundesliga, La Liga, Serie A, Premier League, Ligue 1 and the Eredivisie completing the big 6 leagues



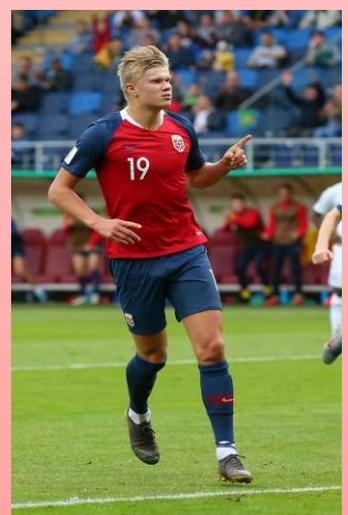
World Cup U20 heroes

If I tell you the winners of the U20 FIFA World Cup top goal scorers in the following years, 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2019 I imagine you can tell me a fair bit about them.

2001 - Javier Saviola
2005 - Lionel Messi
2007 - Sergio Aguero
2019 - Erling Haaland

Fair to say these players are quite well known quantities in modern football.

We don't want to tell you what you already know so instead we've picked the top scorers from these years of the FIFA U20 World Cup, 1989, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2011 and see if they went on to achieve great things like the others have, or in Haaland's case, promises too...



Benjamin Mendy – In the 2017/18 season, he played 7 league games and 5 internationals, yet still won the Premier League and the World Cup!



1989 - Oleg Salenko

A unique achievement in that he is the only player in history to win the golden boot at the U20 World Cup as well as the World Cup itself.

He did of course score 5 goals in one game at the 1994 World Cup Finals in the USA against Cameroon (a record in itself) and those goals combined with one strike against Sweden saw Salenko share the golden boot with Hristo Stoichkov.

His six goals won it in 1994 and it was 5 goals in the juniors competition. His goals in the U20 tournament won him a move to Dynamo Kiev and his goals at the USA World Cup won him a move to Valencia.

He struggled at Los Che and moved on to Scottish giants Rangers.

His time there, and success, was limited also and his career post a move to Turkey petered out.

Interestingly his game for Russia when he score the 5 goals was his last for his country. He ended his senior international career with just 8 games and 6 goals.



Gareth Southgate – As nation team manager he became only the third (after Alf Ramsey and Bobby Robson) to reach a World Cup semi-final with the England team



1997 – Adailton

A whopping 10 goals for Adailton at the Malaysia U20 World Cup and a move straight after the tournament saw him transfer from Guarani in Brazil to Parma in Italy.

The move was not a successful one and a loan move to Paris Saint-Germain followed. This too failed to live up to expectations and it was back to Italy.

He moved to Verona and stayed for 7 seasons. It was his last season there that was his most productive, scoring 15 goals in Serie B.

He moved on again, to Genoa and Bologna and ended his club career in Romania but never truly fulfilled his potential and never gained a full international cap for the Brazil national team.



Michael Essien – In 2005 when ‘The Bison’ arrived at Stamford Bridge he was the most expensive African footballer at the time



1999 - Pablo Couñago

Spain won the competition in 1999 with Counago the top scorer with 5 goals. The Spanish squad included a certain Xavi and Iker Casillas.

After the tournament Counago joined Recreativo on loan but did not do a great deal there so moved back to parent club Celta Vigo. It was then he headed to British shores and joined Ipswich Town.

He remained at Portman Road for the majority of his professional career and then moved around the globe, including spells in Vietnam, Hong Kong and Finland, as well as a loan spell at Crystal Palace.

Xavi and Casillas won 133 and 167 caps for Spain respectively as well as a winning the World Cup but Counago sadly failed to win a single senior Spanish cap and needless to say not a senior World Cup winners medal either.



George Boateng – With 85 yellow cards, he is the highest non-British player to be booked in the Premier League



2003 - Eddie Johnson

I somewhat feel the footballing world should be grateful for Basketball, Ice Hockey, Baseball and American Football, because without those sports I think the USA would probably have dominated 'soccer' by now.

In 2003, pacey forward Eddie Johnson top scored at the UAE tournament and looked to be a new superstar in the making coming from a country that in theory should be able to take the footballing world by storm. However by 2011 he was having a loan spell to Preston North End, failing to score in 16 appearances, and the USA national team have still yet to make an indent in world football dominance.

Johnson played with decent success in the MLS, for example becoming the first player to score back to back hat tricks in the competition, but when his move to Europe finally materialised in 2008 it was to English club side Fulham, and it was a considerable flop. 19 league clubs and zero goals saw loans to Cardiff City, Aris in Greece and to Preston. He scored 2 goals for Cardiff and zero for Preston (totalling 71 games in the UK, returning 2 goals) and he was packing his bags back to the US to the MLS.



Marcus Bent – Has played for the most amount of Premier League clubs, 8, more than any other one player



2011 - Henrique Almedia

Our first player featured here who as well as winning the Golden Boot also won the Golden Shoe as the tournaments best player.

He is also the first player we've featured who never moved permanently from his home nation post his U20 World Cup successes.

Almedia scored 5 goals in the Colombia tournament whilst on the books of São Paulo and during his time at the club he experienced 3 loan moves.

Then Botafogo took him, and loaned him out twice. Then to Gremio who loaned him out 4 times. He is now at his fourth permanent club, Goias, his 13th club move at just 29 years of age.

It could have been very different had in 2012 he been granted a work permit for a transfer to English club side Queens Park Rangers but it was not meant to be. Post 2011 Almedia didn't even win another international cap at any age level.



Louis Saha – The scorer of the fastest ever FA Cup final goal, coming just 25 seconds into the 2009 final whilst playing for Everton





Never had a transfer move Best XI



Radamel Falcao – In 2012 he finished as top goalscorer in the Europa League for the second straight year and became the first player to win consecutive Europa League titles with two teams



Never had a transfer move Best XI

Below we list a line up of XI players, who are one club men! Never leaving their first ever club, not even on loan and becoming absolute club heroes in the process.

Packie Bonner – Republic of Ireland World Cup hero of 1990 played for Celtic his entire career playing a total of 642 appearances.

Jamie Carragher – Merseyside born and only ever played for Liverpool, doing so an incredible 737 times.

Loic Perrin – French centre back who played for St. Etienne for 17 years, making a total of 470 games, but ended his last ever game a tad early after being sent off!

Tony Adams – Captain of Arsenal at 21 years of age, winning the league title across 3 decades and playing 672 games for the Gunners.

Maurice Malpas – The Dundee United defender spent his entire 21 year career at Tannadice, even being awarded 2 testimonial matches! He played 826 games for the club.

Xabi Prieto – The Spanish midfielder played 529 games for Real Sociedad, his home town team, yet never won an international cap.

Michael Zorc – The German midfielder only ever played for Borussia Dortmund, doing so on no less than 572 times. Only made 7 appearances however for the German national team though, making his debut at 30 years of age.

Paul McStay – As his surname suggests, he hung around just one club in his career, Celtic, appearing for the hoops 678 times, also captaining the side a great number of times as did 2 of his great Uncles.

Ryan Giggs – The poster boy of Premier League football, played at the highest level his entire career and donned the red shirt of Manchester United 963 times!

Francesco Totti - The Emperor of Rome played for his home town club 786 times, including taking his team to league success in Serie A. He currently sits third in the all time Serie A appearances list, appearing 619 times.

Matthew Le Tissier – 540 games for Southampton, and with no doubt multiple offers to leave for *better more successful* clubs, though he remained loyal to the Saints, and along the way somewhat dominated the Match of the Day goal of the season competition with some absolute beauties.

We tried to keep the XI fairly original, so you'll note the absence of some famous names like Paolo Maldini, Jack Charlton, Lars Høgh, Rogerio Ceni and Franco Baresi, all in the bracket of legendary one club footballers.



Gheorghe Hagi – Nicknamed "The Maradona of the Carpathians", he is arguably the greatest Romanian footballer of all time



Classic Kits

Every issue The Halfway Line features some classic kits. It maybe purely kit based, it could be a classic kit being worn by a classic player, or a classic kit in a classic match.

In this issue we take a look at perhaps the least celebrated kits in our time, and ones that probably aren't at the top of peoples (kids) Christmas present list. **The goalkeeper kit.**

It wasn't even until the mid 1990's when goalkeepers were recognised with their own full kit. Check out the archives where the goalkeeper would wear the same shorts as the outfield players.

We are including a mixed bunch in this issue in terms of some good, some bad and some just outright unique, perhaps not in a good way..

In the 1990's when the goalkeepers full kits did evolve, there were some absolute beauties.

Check out the arm pads on the silver Adidas offering being styled by Bruce Grobbelaar. Compare that to nowadays where a large majority of keepers don't even wear long sleeve jerseys, let alone having the necessity for extra padding!

The 90's adidas collection continues with the another Liverpool offering seen (David James) that was also styled by Newcastle United and Shaka Hislop. Adidas continued with their unique kits with Newcastle United, on show in this article with the inclusion of the Tyne Bridge silhouetted onto the kit. This mirrored their sponsor at the time of Newcastle Brown Ale's brand design.

Newcastle United and Aston Villa when sponsored by Asics, had a really colourful number, that really catches the eye, as did Denmark's 1992 offering from Hummel and we've a page dedicated to Umbro's offerings in the mid 1990's that you could be excused for mistaking them for winter pyjamas – some belters in there.

The articles gives us the opportunity to introduce Carlos Navarro Montoya. The Colombian shot stopper played just shy of 400 games for Boca Juniors between 1988-1996, but our favourite takeaway is his choice of kit. Look carefully on the page given to him, and you will see on his shirt there is a cartoon picture of himself driving a lorry!! Would like to offer up more of an explanation of this one, but instead we'll just revel in its glory.

Fellow South American and favourite of ours at the magazine is Jose Luis Chilavert, replacing the entire front of his club kit with a cartoon picture of a Bulldog, that happened to be his nickname.

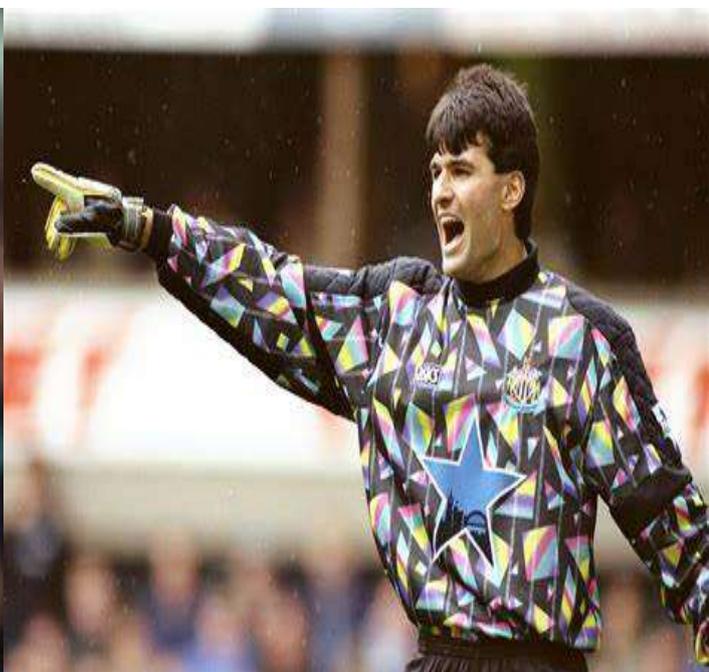
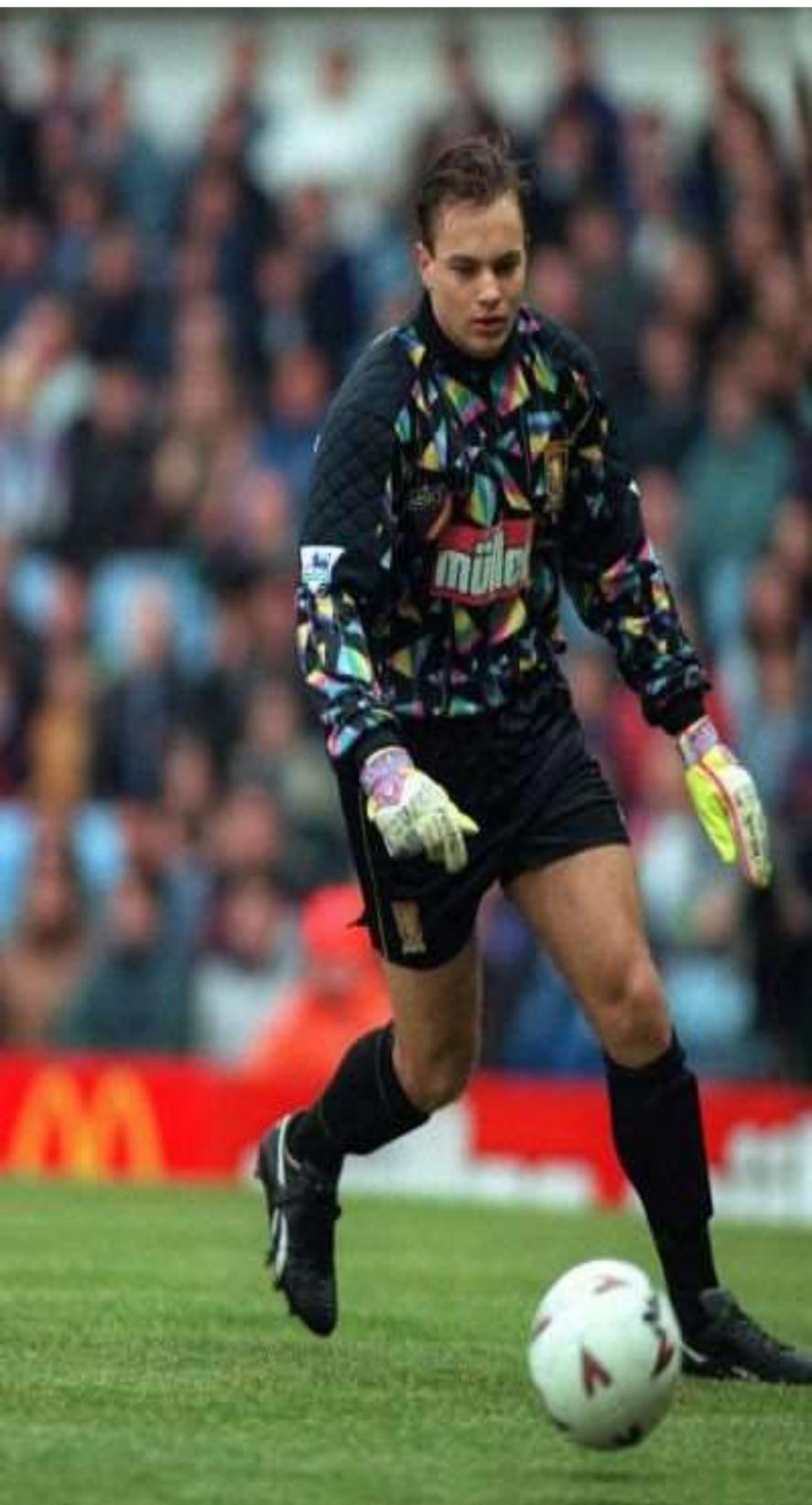
Interesting find of ours, at Barcelona in the late 90's, their Kappa offering showed the full name of the keeper brazened across the arms of the kit. Ruud Hesp and Vitor Baia the models for such efforts, but makes you wonder did that ever put the club off signing a keeper with a longer name!

And of course how can we feature goalkeeper kits and not give Jorge Campos and his mad collection of 'outfits' top billing – he gets a page to himself.



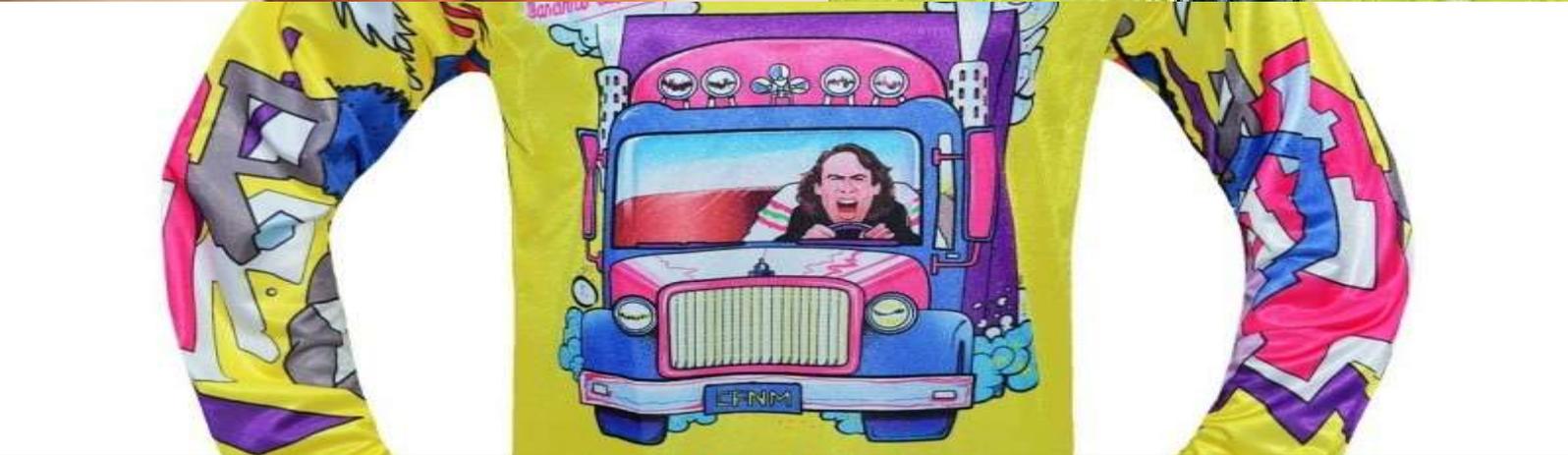
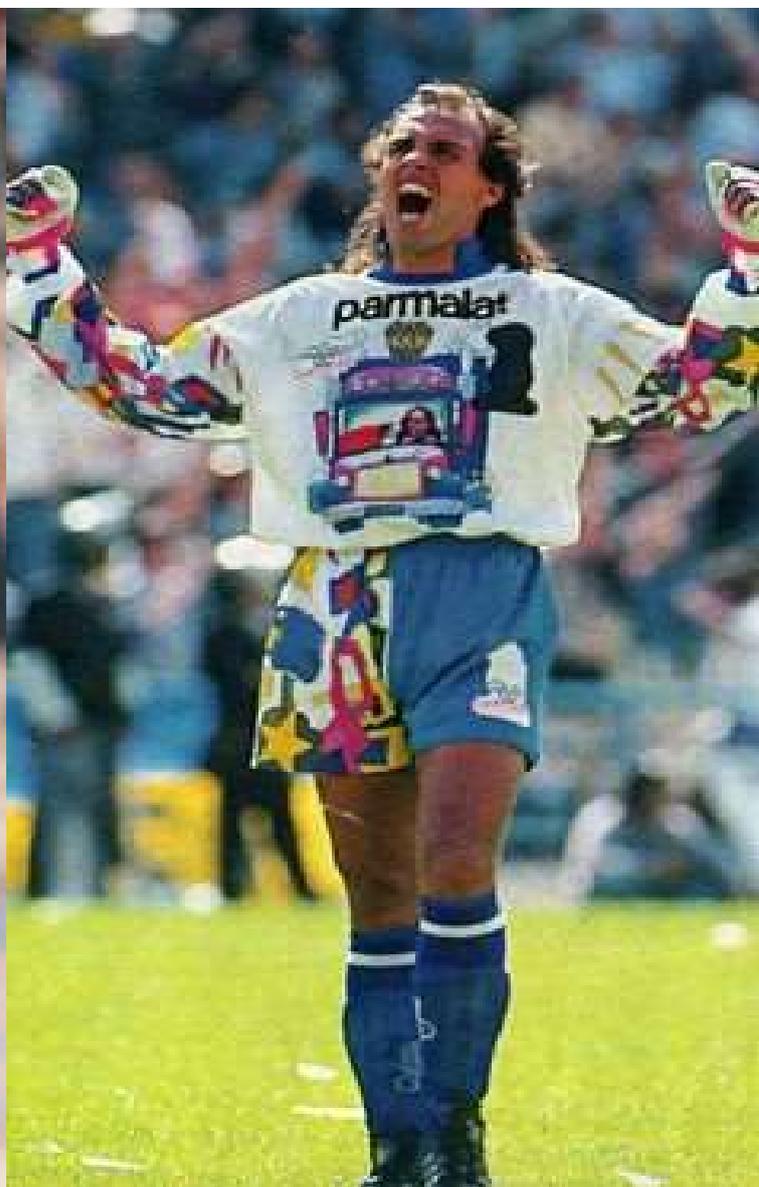
Juan Sebastian Veron - When he moved to Manchester United in 2001 for a fee of £28.1 million he became the most expensive transfer in English football and was the first Non-UEFA player to break the English transfer record





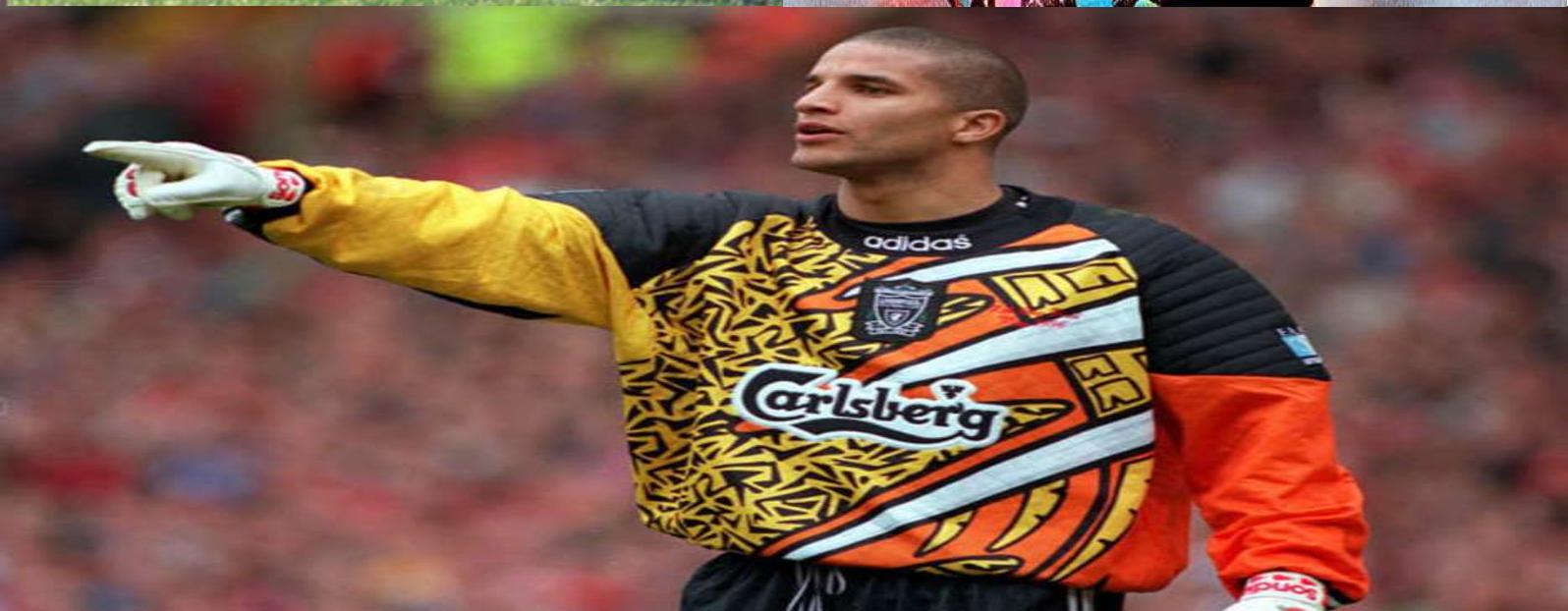
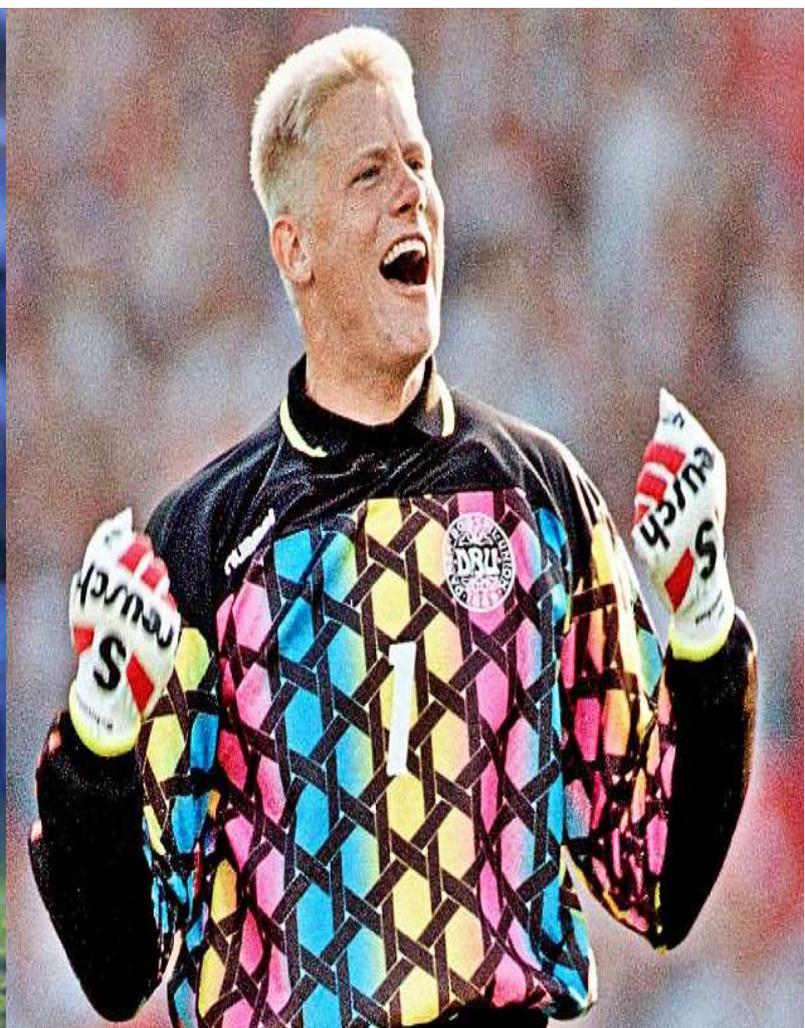
Mario Stanic – A league top scorer at Club Brugge in 1995/96 before moves to Serie A with Parma and the Premier League with Chelsea





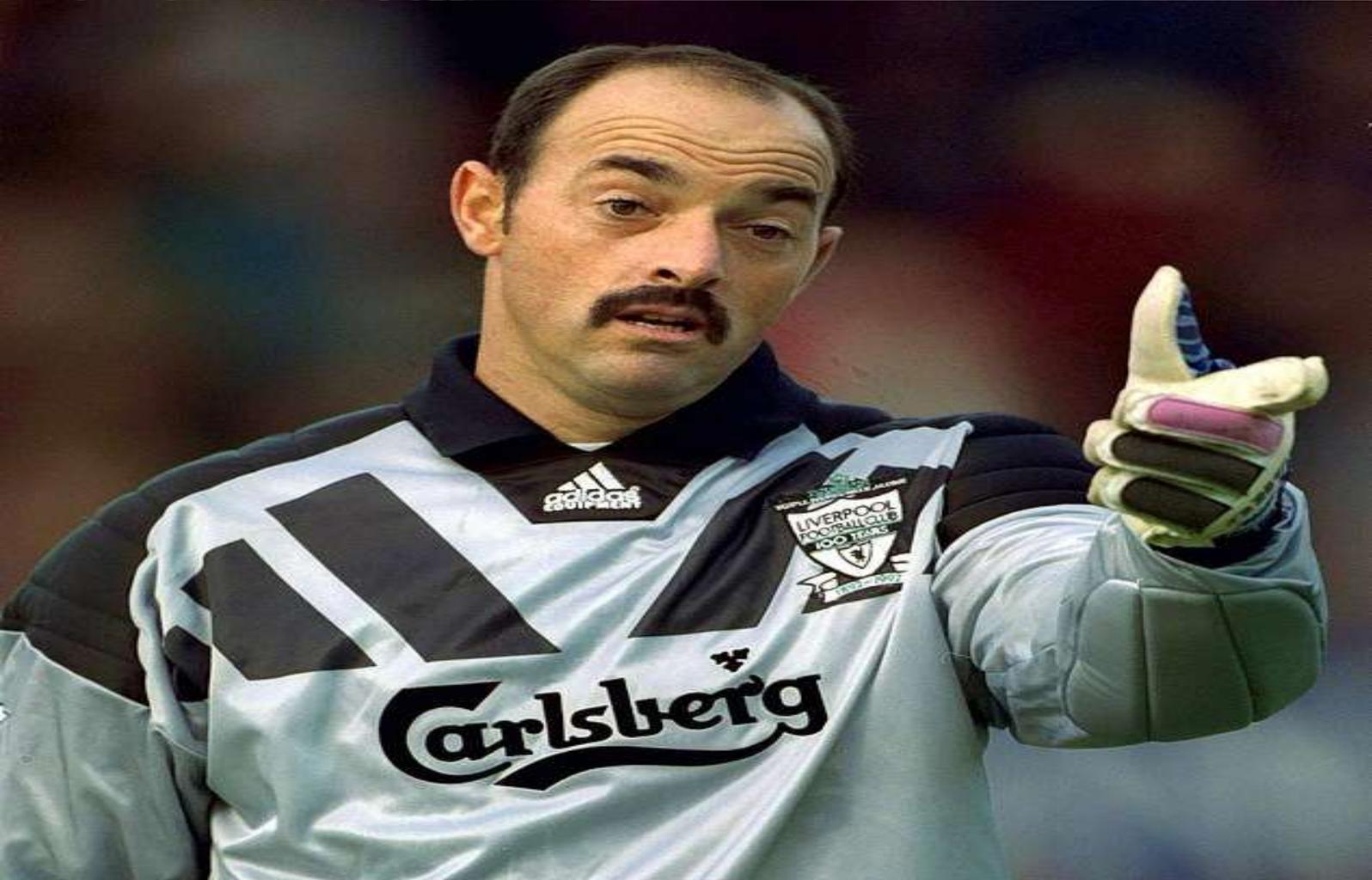
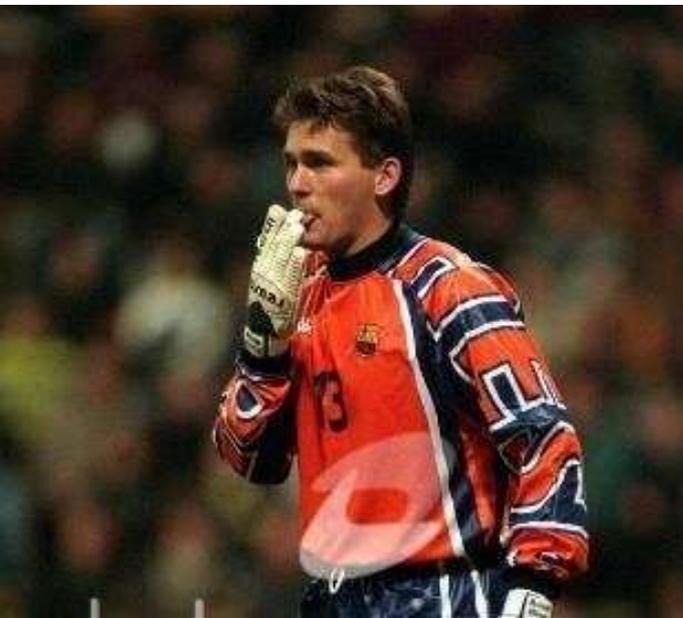
Danny Murphy - Scored the deciding goal in 1–0 wins against Manchester United at Old Trafford for Liverpool, a feat he achieved three times in four seasons (2000–01, 2001–02 and 2003–04)





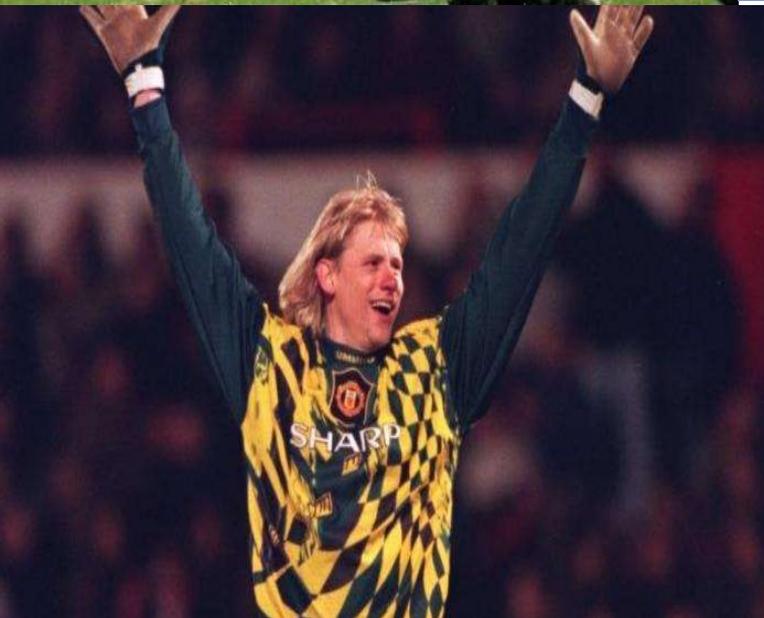
Gaizka Mendieta – Captained Valencia to consecutive Champions League finals in 2000 and 2001, scoring in the latter but sadly losing both finals





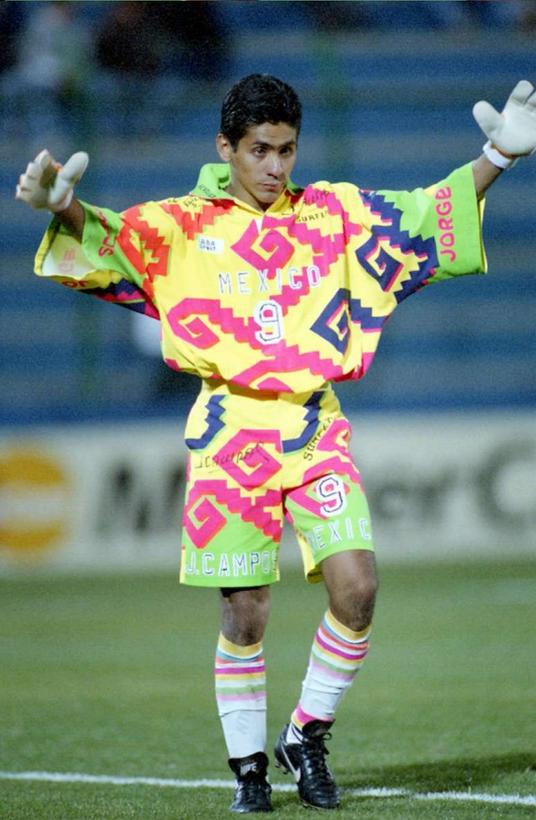
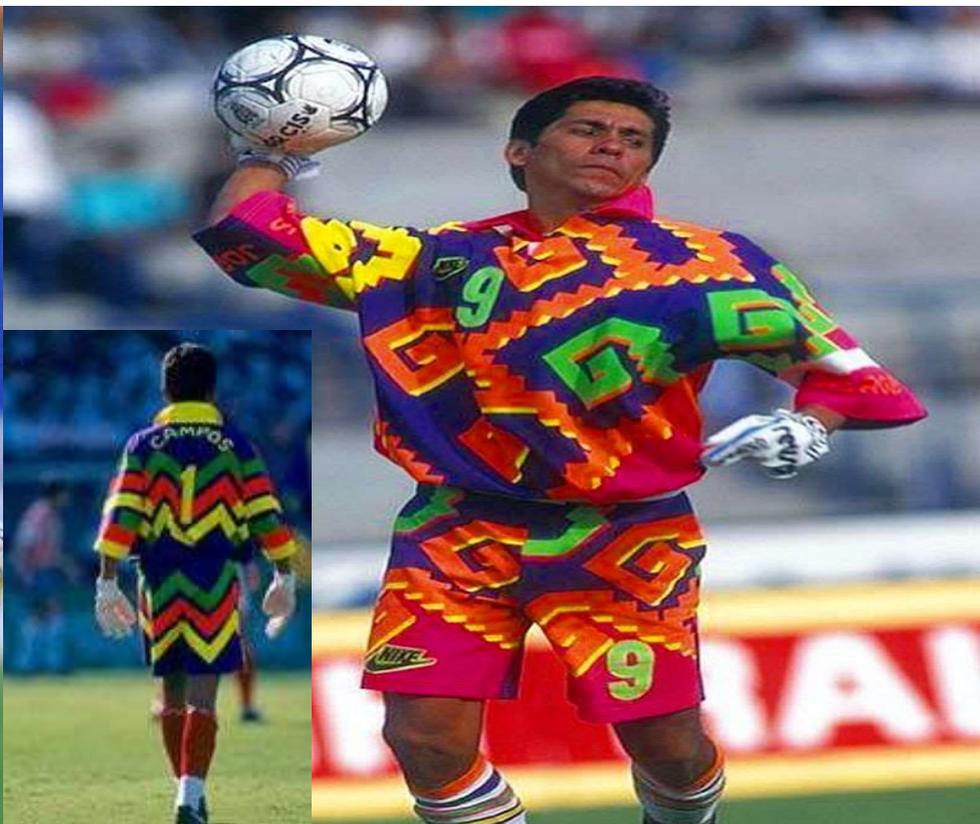
Florent Malouda – Ligue 1 Player of the year with Lyon in his last season before moving to Chelsea in 2007





Damien Duff – In the 1997 FIFA World Youth Championship in Malaysia, representing the Republic of Ireland, he scored the first ever Golden Goal in a World Cup match





Emmanuel Petit – Has a World Cup final goal and assist to his name following his heroics in the 1998 final with France



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Lars Ricken – One club man, playing for Borussia Dortmund over 300 times also scored in the Champions League final a mere 16 seconds from coming on as a substitute in 1997



Goal scorers in multiple leagues

It is Christmas time and in this festive period the currency usually dealt in is presents. However the currency we are interested here at The Halfway Line is goals, and lots of them.

What makes a great scorer? We have looked some of the characteristics in the past, but we've not looked at the ability to do it in multiple countries.

Each top league (the usual 6 we feature: Premier League, La Liga, The Eredivisie, Ligue 1, The Bundesliga and Serie A) all have difficult challenges to navigate as a goal scorer, but that has not deterred a number of players.

We have rolled out the players for you that have scored in 4 of the top leagues, and this is not an exhaustive list so have a think of the players we may have missed out.

Then we list out the players to have scored in 5 of the top leagues, of which we think it is an exhaustive list, so we definitely want to hear from you if we have missed any out.

The holy grail is for a player to score in all 6 leagues. Typically our feature from issue #1, Christian Poulsen was a defensive midfielder so although he played in all the top leagues, he sadly didn't register a goal in all of them.

A player to score in all 6.... now that would be a Christmas present.



Lorik Cana – Upon signing for Sunderland in 2009 he became the first Albanian to play in the Premier League





Philippe Coutinho - 4

Inter Milan - *Italy*

Espanyol, Barcelona - *Spain*

Liverpool - *England*

Bayern Munich - *Germany*



Kevin Prince Boateng - 4

Schalke, Hertha Berlin,
Eintracht Frankfurt - *Germany*

Las Palmas - *Spain*

Portsmouth - *England*

AC Milan, Fiorentina, Sassuolo
- *Italy*



Yakubu Aiyegbeni – Premier League hat tricks for Portsmouth, Middlesbrough and Everton and the third highest African goal scorer in the Premier League





Obafemi Martins - 4

Inter Milan - *Italy*

Levante - *Spain*

Newcastle United, Birmingham
City - *England*

Wolfsburg - *Germany*



Stevan Jovetic - 4

Fiorentina, Inter Milan - *Italy*

Sevilla - *Spain*

Manchester City - *England*

Monaco - *France*



Juan Carlos Valeron – Featuring mainly for Deportivo La Coruna, a stylish, creative central play maker whose career was held back by injuries





Jürgen Klinsmann - 4

Inter Milan, Sampdoria - *Italy*

Monaco - *France*

Tottenham Hotspur - *England*

Stuttgart, Bayern Munich - *Germany*

Michy Batshuayi - 4

Marseille - *France*

Chelsea, Crystal Palace –
England

Valencia - *Spain*

Borussia Dortmund -
Germany



Marcio Amoroso – Brazilian centre forward who top scored in Serie A with Udinese and in the Bundesliga with Borussia Dortmund



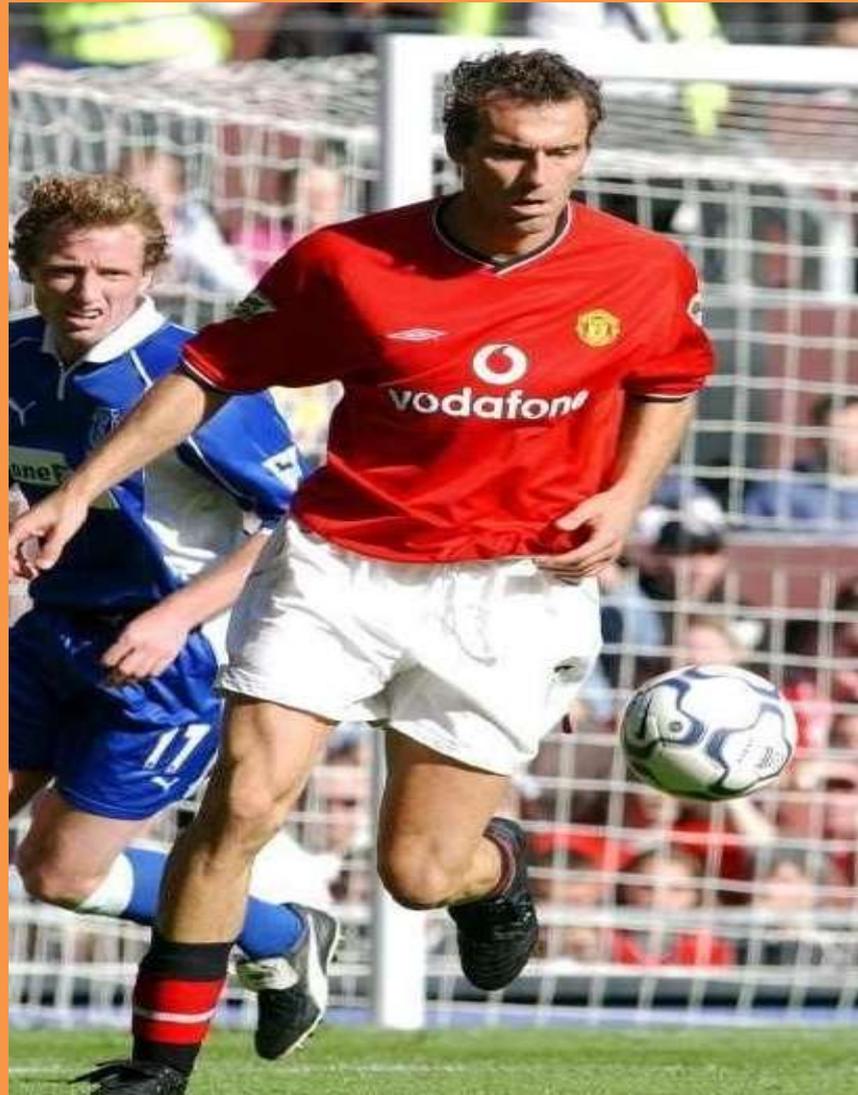


Thierry Henry - 4

Monaco - *France*
Arsenal - *England*
Juventus – *Italy*
Barcelona - *Spain*

Laurent Blanc - 4

Montpellier, St. Etienne, Auxerre,
Marseille - *France*
Manchester United - *England*
Napoli, Inter Milan – *Italy*
Barcelona - *Spain*



Juninho Paulista – The diminutive Brazilian joined ‘Boro on three separate occasions and is widely regarded as the club’s best ever player





Mido - 4

Ajax - *Holland*

Marseille - *France*

Tottenham Hotspur, Wigan,

Middlesbrough - *England*

Celta Vigo – *Spain*

(never scored for Roma – Italy)



Pierre Wome - 4

Werder Bremen - *Germany*

Fulham - *England*

Bologna, Brescia – Italy

Espanyol - *Spain*



Alain Goma – French centre back who played in his homeland for Auxerre and PSG and in England for Newcastle United and Fulham





Jon Dahl Tomasson - 5

Feyenoord - *Holland*

Stuttgart - *Germany*

Newcastle United – *England*

AC Milan – *Italy*

Villarreal - *Spain*



Jonathan De Guzman - 5

Eintracht Frankfurt - *Germany*

Feyenoord - *Holland*

Swansea City – *England (Wales)*

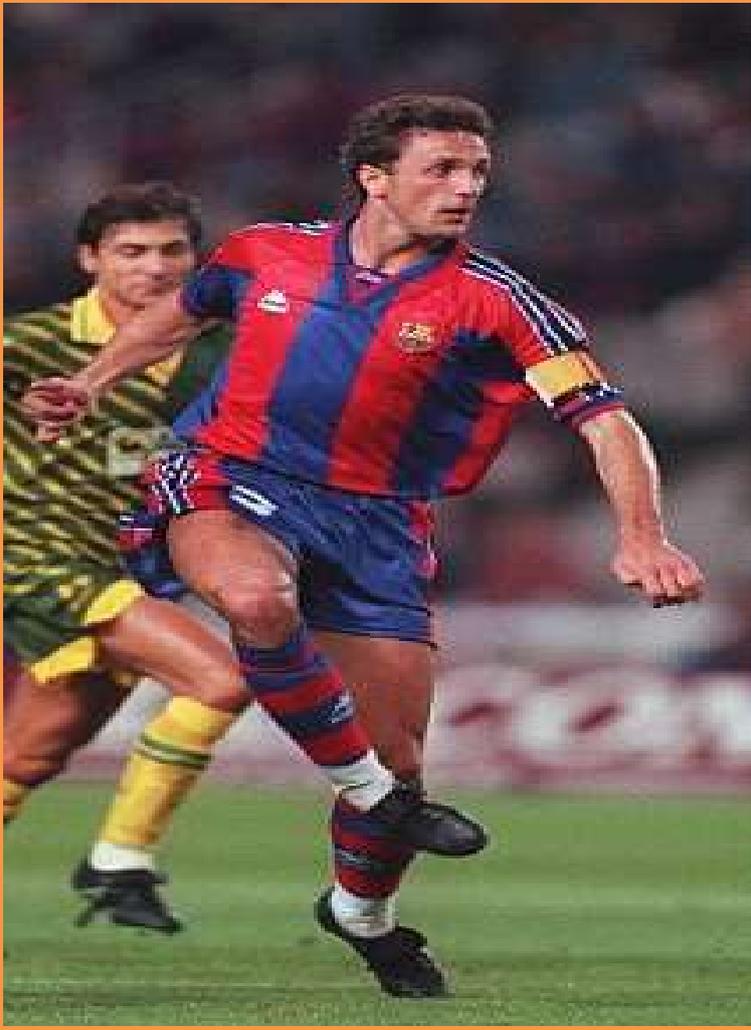
Napoli, Chievo – *Italy*

Real Mallorca, Villarreal - *Spain*



Enzo Maresca – Italian midfielder who never gained international recognition shone at Sevilla, scoring twice in their 2006 Europa League final victory over Middlesbrough





Gheorghe Popescu - 5

Hannover 96 - *Germany*
Tottenham Hotspur – *England*
PSV Eindhoven – *Holland*
Barcelona – *Spain*
Lecce - *Italy*



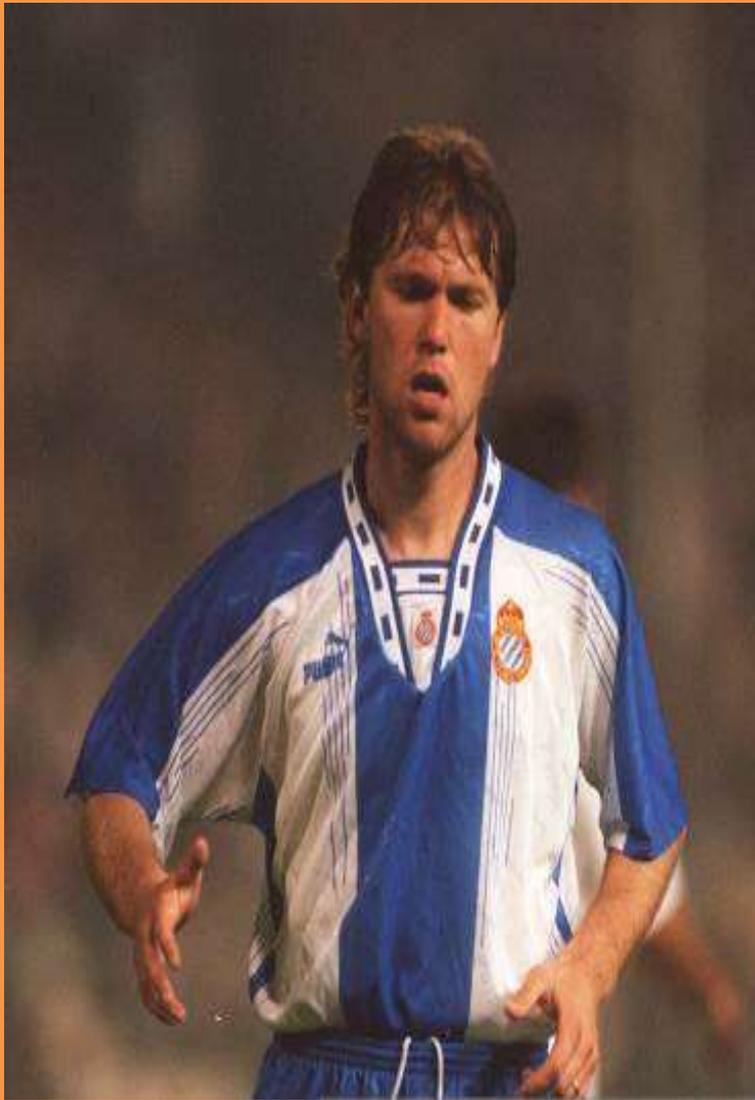
Zlatan Ibrahimović - 5

Manchester United – *England*
Ajax – *Holland*
Barcelona – *Spain*
AC Milan, Inter Milan, Juventus
– *Italy*
Paris Saint-Germain - *France*



Chris Smalling - On 11 February 2015, Smalling became the first player in the history of the Premier League to score two first-half goals as a substitute





Florin Raducioiu - 5

Stuttgart - *Germany*

West Ham United – *England*

Bari, Verona, AC Milan, Brescia - *Italy*

Espanyol – *Spain*

Monaco - *France*



Bojan Krkic - 5

Mainz - *Germany*

Stoke City – *England*

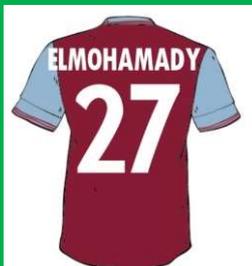
Roma - *Italy*

Barcelona – *Spain*

Ajax - *Holland*



Ahmed Elmohamady – The Egyptian right back has signed for Steve Bruce on three occasions in his career for Sunderland, Hull City and Aston Villa



The Premier League Greatest XI Nationalities

Featured here are the greatest line ups that only include players from one nation. In the this issue we are heading all over the globe! We have representation from the Caribbean with Trinidad & Tobago, there is European flavour with Slovakia, we have a Euro '92 inspired mash up with CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) that is representing the former Soviet republics, mainly because one nation couldn't provide all 11 players, and we have Senegal as our African representative in this issue also.



CIS



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

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



Cesar Azpilicueta – The Spanish defender played every minute of every game in Chelsea's title winning campaign of 2016/17





Shaun Maloney – In 2005/06 he became the first player to claim both the SPFA Players' Player of the Year and the SPFA Young Player of the Year awards in the same season



Trinidad and Tobago XI

In goal we looked at Tony Warner, who was an able back up goalkeeper but just never really got a chance to play a great deal as those he deputised for never gave him an opportunity. However the number 1 jersey for this side is an easy pick. Shaka Hislop was a tremendous servant for all clubs he represented and a fan's favourite at Newcastle United, West Ham United and Portsmouth.

In defence we've a sibling partnership. Former Arsenal youth players Justin and Gavin Hoyte both managed Premier League appearances for the Gunners, Justin more than his younger brother Gavin. In the centre back spot alongside, Ian Cox plays having represented Crystal Palace in the early era of the Premier League and then at left back, the only Trinidad born defender, is the former Aston Villa and Bolton Wanderers defender Jloyd Samuel who sadly is no longer with us.

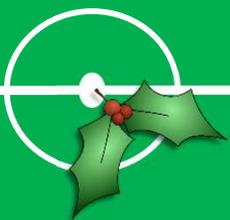
In to the midfield and on the right hand side we've Carlos Edwards. Originally signed by Wrexham along with other Trinidad players he took the opportunity to prove himself and was signed by Sunderland, helping them to promotion to the Premier League where he did not disgrace himself.

On the left we have representation from Barnsley that hasn't happened before in this series! Trickster and entertainer Clint Marcelle brings flair to the team.

In the centre we are playing the finest Trinidad export to date, and he is of course better known for his time further forward up the pitch. Dwight Yorke was such a clever player he could play anywhere. In 2006 when the country qualified for their first ever World Cup, Yorke played central midfield as he did later on his career at Sunderland.

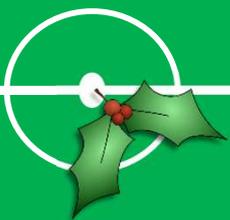
Alongside Yorke is our first wildcard in this feature as this player never actually played in the Premier League! However he played in England for Port Vale, Brighton & Hove Albion and Coventry City and even managed to play for LA Galaxy alongside David Beckham and it is Chris Birchall. He too made the 2006 World Cup squad.

Upfront in the absence of Yorke the choice was between 3 strikers for 2 spots. Jason Scotland didn't produce enough at Wigan Athletic and so we go for Stern John and the well travelled Kenwyne Jones, completing a Sunderland top two.



Yossi Benayoun – Became the first player to score a hat trick in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup (since joined by Sergio Aguero and Harry Kane who have achieved the same)





Liedson – Brazilian born and Portuguese nationalised striker, was prolific for Sporting Lisbon, scoring 173 goals in 313 games from 2003 to 2011



Slovakia XI

Ok this XI won't be winning much, but it's a first team eleven and so it matches the criteria.

In goal, it is a 3 way battle, Fulham's Marek Rodák, Everton's Ján Mucha or Newcastle United's Martin Dúbravka and it's in fact a no brainer, A) based on the number of games the first two actually played and B) the fact Dúbravka is a far better keeper!

At right back it's Igor Balis. Tough character up and down the flank for West Bromwich Albion who helped them to promotion and did the club a decent service in the top division.

At left back we looked at Vratislav Gresko, who played for Blackburn Rovers briefly after spells at Inter Milan and Parma and did ok, but it should be no 'surprise' our left back is Vladimir Kinder... Sturdy performer for Middlesbrough during their Wembley cup final era of the late 90's.

The first centre back selection is by far the best Slovak import in the Premier League era. Martin Škrtel came to Liverpool from Zenit St. Petersburg for a snip £6.5 million and with his build and style he seemed perfectly suited to the English game. 9 seasons at the club and they received a £5million fee at the point of sale. Great business.

Next to Škrtel is Stanislav Varga, who did well enough at Sunderland for Celtic to buy him and then for the Black Cats to buy him back!

In to the midfielder and the options slim down somewhat. On the right wing Vladimir Weiss plays. Youth product at Manchester City never truly made the grade but based on promise and a small stint at Bolton Wanderers sees him selected.

On the left is the versatile Marek Cech, who did a job for West Brom more often than not at left back but his desire to push forward gets him selected higher up field.

In the centre of the park based on them being midfielders and Slovakian they are picked!!!! Ján Kozák of West Brom (who else) plays alongside Ondřej Duda who was loaned to Norwich City for one season. Neither player doing enough for permanent transfers but they make our team!

Up front we've the most prolific of Slovakian players to have played in the Premier League. Szilárd Németh, scored the goals exclusively for Middlesbrough and partnering him is Miroslav Stoch, who can calm to have won the FIFA Puskas award, that recognises the best goal of the year scored. Sadly the goal was scored in Turkey after he had left and he actually only played 4 times for Chelsea and never scored!!



Boudewijn Zenden – It was his winning penalty to secure the League Cup for Middlesbrough in 2005, the club's first ever piece of silverware



CIS



Emerson Palmieri – The Brazilian born Italian left back signed for Chelsea in 2018 after a successful spell at Serie A side Roma



Russia and it's former Republics XI

As we enter issue 9 and therefore the 9th best nations XI feature we have slowly run out of nations to provide a full 11 players!! We shall not be deterred. We are going back to 1992 and reforming the CIS as was the case for the European Championships where the team was represented by republics within the old Soviet!

In goal it's a 1990's favourite with the Russian Dmitri Kharine. He played for Chelsea between the sticks and truth be told there aren't many other options but he was decent enough, and better than the Estonian Mart Poom.

At right back the obvious choice is the Ukrainian Oleg Luzhny who won the Premier League with Arsenal. Not the most gracious of footballers but always did a job when called upon.

At centre back, as Latvia was a former state we should mention Igor Stepanovs but the fact we are selecting the Ukrainian Oleksandr Yevtushok who played 3 games for Coventry City shows just how good we think Stepanovs was!!!

Alongside is a former Georgian defender who excelled first in Scotland before moving to England with Blackburn Rovers.

Zurab Khizanishvili. Joined Rovers in a period where they seemed very able to picking out bargains from around the globe who had a knack to perform at this level.

Left back we at last have some competition. Oleksandr Zinchenko has found it difficult to be a permanent fixture in the Manchester City side but he is a very able back up and shows 2 Premier League winners medals to prove it. We are selecting another Premier League winner though in Yuri Zhirkov, who Chelsea saw enough in to spend £18 million on!

In to midfield and we are staying in Russia for the right midfielder. Andrei Kanchelskis was an original 'foreigner' in the Premier League and was outstanding at times for Manchester United. He played further games with Everton, Southampton and Manchester City.

On the left we are playing another Russian and it's Andrei Arshavin. Signed by Arsenal after an outstanding 2008 Euros tournament, he blew hot and cold at the Emirates, with perhaps his finest moment away from home at Anfield scoring all 4 goals against Liverpool in a 4-4 draw.

Our last Russia in the XI is another one to have turned up at Chelsea but he made his impressions away from the Bridge mostly on loan. Alexey Smertin also played for Charlton, Portsmouth and Fulham. Others not to make the line up are Diniyar Bilyaletdinov of Everton, Andrey Yarmolenko of West Ham and Andriy Voronin of Liverpool. All came with reputations and left with them in tatters really. Henrik Mkhitaryan is also excluded for being involved in the worst transfer swap deal of all time, for all parties involved.

The final midfield spot goes to perhaps the best to have left the former Soviet republics to ply their trade in England. Georgi Kinkladze was part of an exceptional Dinamo Tbilisi in his homeland when he joined Manchester City and lit up the league, similarly how Juninho did for Middlesbrough, with his skill and fearless approach to the division and opponents.

The forward line has plenty of pretenders that we'll come to but the first selection is Marian Pahars. The diminutive Latvian forward was a steal for Southampton and in a struggling team consistently carried the team. The only surprise perhaps was no move materialised to a team not fighting an annual relegation battle.

His strike partner is the harder decision. Temur Ketsbaia, Sergei Rebrov, Roman Pavlyuchenko and Pavel Pogrebnyak all came to the league but never set it alight and so through nostalgia and romance we are defaulting to Andriy Shevchenko who sadly has lost his legs by the time he arrived at Chelsea but as a true great of our time he gets in to the eleven.



Jon Harley – A left back of great promise as a youth player at Chelsea, but a move to Fulham in 2001 failed to take the player to the levels hoped





Capone – A Brazilian defender who was part of the Galatasaray team that beat Arsenal in the UEFA Cup final of 2000 on a penalty shoot out



Senegal XI

Can you name me a Senegalese international to play in the Premier League before 2002? No, nor can we! That is because there weren't any. The sole representatives before Senegal announced themselves on the international scene at the World Cup, in the Premier League were none other than Premier League cult hero Ali Dai and the lesser know Djibril Diawara who rocked up at Bolton a year before the Japan/South Korea World Cup.

The Senegal XI almost didn't happen and that's due to the goalkeeper situation. Only since Chelsea purchased Édouard Mendy in the summer of 2020 did we have an option. Luckily for this XI he has hit the floor running and so by default and huge promise, he takes the number one jersey.

At right back it was a straight choice between 2. Fernando Coly of Birmingham or Habib Beye from more of his time at Newcastle United, not Aston Villa. In truth, neither player shone but the fact Beye had a brilliant terrace song made for him, he gets selected. In the style of Happy Days...."Monday, Tuesday, Habib Beye, Wednesday, Thursday Habib Beye!!" Get it?

Left back again we aren't spoiled for choice. Armand Traore had huge potential at Arsenal but stiff competition got in his way, though believe or not he still managed 10 league games for Juventus!! Instead the position goes to Pape Souare. A relatively unknown quantity when signed for Crystal Palace but was a solid performer and only failed to make more appearances due to an unfortunate car accident that derailed his Premier League career.

A centre back partnership here gives you strength and commitment. Ibrahim Sonko was a huge fans favourite at Reading, helping the club to the Premier League and did a job for Stoke City and Hull City. The latter two clubs also benefited from Abdoulaye Faye, who makes the team for his performances at Bolton Wanderers, Newcastle United and West Ham United.

Souleymane Diawara, Lamine Diatta and Papy Djilobodji really not doing anything to threaten the starting spots at centre back.

In midfield we get more competition for places.

Centre midfield positions are somewhat stereotyped with tough tackling defensive players. Aliou Cisse and Salif Diao were mainstays of the 2002 Senegal World Cup squad, in fact I think 10 of the 23 man squad ended up playing in the Premier League. Cisse was the national sides captain but he doesn't make this eleven.

Unlucky also not to feature is Papa Bouba Diop, the size of a wardrobe and fondly remembered at Portsmouth for his efforts and FA Cup winners medal. Last 2 to mention before the selection picks are Cheick Kouyate and Amdy Faye, both decent performers perhaps just lacking that final bit of quality. Instead we pick Idrissa Gueye, who after a slow start at Aston Villa blossomed at Everton and was sadly taken by the money train that is PSG and playing alongside him is Mohamed Diame, who can count 4 Premier League clubs on his CV, leaving a mark on each club before moving on.

On the left it was hard to leave out Henri Camara, another World Cup hero for Senegal. He played for no less than 5 Premier League clubs, although 3 of these as loans perhaps works against him as you question his team work and commitment. The same could be said for Diomansy Kamara, who like Henri, also had a loan spell at Celtic. Neither perhaps having the *flash* or the *focus* to secure a permanent move...

Instead the number 11 shirt goes to perhaps the best player of the Senegalese 2002 World Cup squad, and the most controversial of characters in this side. El Hadji Diouf certainly made more enemies and headlines than friends but he did enough for Liverpool to sign him instead of Nicolas Anelka in 2002. Sadly his time at Anfield was not a success but he found his place in Bolton Wanderers folk law with his tenuous and at times, flair filled performances.

Sadly more known to opposition fans for his appalling behaviours but perhaps every best XI needs a bad guy.



Matthew Kilgallon – Began his career at Leeds United, and the centre back also featured for Sheffield United and Sunderland in the Premier League



Senegal XI - continued

On the opposite flank, we have the opposite type of character it would seem! Sadio Mane has developed into one of the world's best players since his move to Liverpool. Huge credit to Southampton for bringing him to the league and he simply has never looked back. The league's fastest ever hat trick, a Premier League golden boot winner and a smile so wide it warms the hearts of even the non Liverpool faithful. No competition for places here despite the fact Watford paid around the same amount for Ismaila Sarr as Liverpool did for Mane!

Nothing quite like a double act for our forward line and not many in this series have been club mates as well This partnership didn't last as long as the Toon Army would have liked but when Demba Ba and Papiss Cisse first clicked at Newcastle United it looked like a match made in heaven. Add to it Cisse's long range strike at Chelsea it's hard to leave them out. Ba went on to Chelsea and will perhaps best be known for scoring the goal at Anfield after the 'Gerrard' slip.

Mame Biram Diouf, Mbaye Niang, Diafra Sakho and Oumar Niasse all came to these shores but left without making an lasting impression.

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



Rob Lee – Famously not given a squad number by Ruud Gullit when manager of Newcastle United but won his place back under Bobby Robson





goal!

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Neil Etheridge – He became the first Filipino player to play in the Premier League in 2018, doing so for Cardiff City



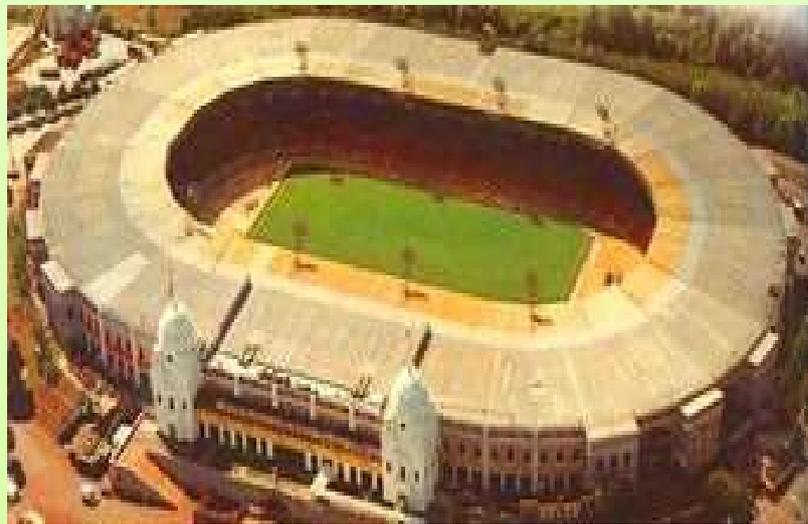
Iconic Football Stadiums

Every great show needs a great theatre. When the show is over and replaced, a new show steps in and plays to the same theatre.

In football, team line-ups vary, goal scorers vary and results vary, but the common theme each and every season is the football stadium that you go to, to watch your heroes week in, week out.

Fans will have their own route to the stadium following finely tuned routines, stopping off at the same chip shop, buying the programme from the same stall each time and then the opportunity to escape from real life for an hour and a half in your gladiator's auditorium. It is all part of the fun of going to watch live football. As football has progressed as to have the stadiums, and they have had to of course to be able to supply the demand and being able to do that in a safe manner.

With new stadiums you can lose some of the connection to the team and traditions can be lost, but putting that aside, some stadiums (old and new) can be works of art. We selected a handful of our favourite stadium's in this issue of The Halfway Line.



Lee Cattermole – Sits 8th on the list of yellow cards recipients and joint 2nd on the list for red cards in the Premier League



San Siro, Milan



The Stadio Giuseppe Meazza in the San Siro District of Milan, Italy

Home to: AC Milan and Inter Milan

Capacity: 75,923

Famous game: 1990 World Cup opener when Cameroon beat Argentina 1-0.

Famous goal(s): Gareth Bale's hat trick for Spurs against Inter Milan in the Champions League in 2010, some 6 years before he went back there to win the final with Real Madrid.



Stephane Mbia – The former Queens Park Rangers midfielder played for Sevilla for 2 seasons, winning the Europa League in both campaigns



La Bombonera, Buenos Aires



The Alberto J. Armando Stadium, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Home to: Boca Juniors

Capacity: 54,000

Record: 57,000

Fact: Coca-Cola are only allowed to show sponsorship in the stadium if they change their colour scheme to Blue and Yellow. Red and White are the colours of Boca's main rivals, River Plate.

La Bombonera roughly translates to 'The Chocolate Box.'



Johnnie Jackson – The former Tottenham Hotspur youth player held in high regard at Colchester United and Charlton Athletic



Maracanã, Rio de Janeiro



The Maracanã Stadium, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Home to: Flamengo, Fluminense and Brazil National team

Capacity: 78,830

Record: 199,854 (in 1950)

Famous game: The 2014 World Cup final where Germany beat Argentina 1-0.

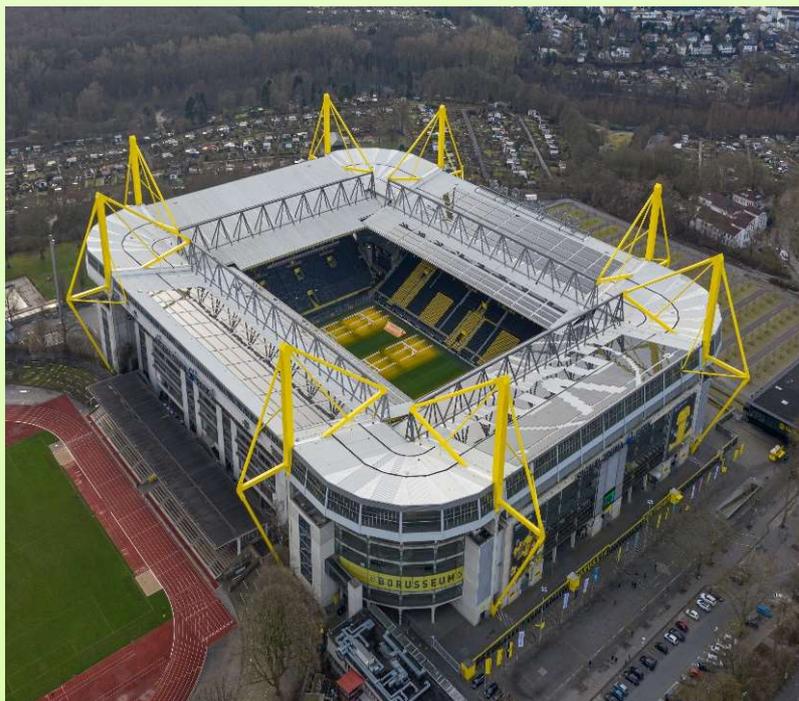
Famous goal: John Barnes' amazing solo run for England against Brazil in 1984.



Michael Mancienne – Highly thought of Chelsea youngster, who surprised many by moving on from Stamford Bridge to Hamburg in the Bundesliga in 2011



Westfalenstadion, Dortmund



The Signal Iduna Park, Dortmund, Germany

Home to: Borussia Dortmund

Capacity: 81,365

Record: 83,000

It is Germany's largest stadium, and the third-largest home to a top-flight European club. It holds the European record for average fan attendance, set in the 2011–2012 season with almost 1.37 million spectators over 17 games at an average of 80,588 per game.



Yan Valery – Young French right back on the books of Southampton having signed from Rennes in 2015 and debuting in 2018



Estadio Azteca, Mexico City



The Estadio Azteca, Mexico City, Mexico
Home to: Club America, Cruz Azul and the Mexican National team

Capacity: 87,523

Record: 119,853 for football and 132,247 for boxing!

Famous game (s): The only stadium to host 2 World Cup finals, 1970 and 1986.

Famous goal(s): The Hand of God goal and the slalom run by Diego Maradona for Argentina against England in 1986.



Dejan Iliev – Young Macedonian goalkeeper on the books at Arsenal who actually made the bench in their 2019 Europa League final defeat to Chelsea





We always like the aerial shots of Football Stadiums that are ridiculously close to other Football stadiums.

Look for example at these two pictures.

To the left we have Nottingham Forest's stadium, the City Ground that is 0.5 miles away, via the River Trent, from their main rivals stadium, Notts County, who play at Meadow Lane.

Below we have Dundee United's Tannadice stadium some 0.2 miles away from Den's Park, home to their rivals Dundee.



Steven Caulker – Can lay claim to have scored on his England debut, against Sweden in 2012, which to date is his only international appearance





This set up has to be the winner in terms of close proximity! 400 metres separate the stadiums of great Argentine rivals **Racing Club** and **Independiente**.

Racing play at the **Estadio Presidente Perón**, and Independiente play at The **Estadio Libertadores de América**.

Not much of a trek for an away day fixture for either set of fans!



Tom Carroll – The former Tottenham Hotspur youth product has yet to fulfil his true promise with moves to Swansea City and Queens Park Rangers



One Game One Goal

We have written previously the sheer ridiculousness of Lionel Messi's and Cristiano Ronaldo's goal scoring ability. It is borderline unbelievable. At the time of writing (21/12/2020) Messi has 450 league goals in 498 league appearances and Ronaldo's 586 league games have seen him score 462 league goals.

That sees Messi score 0.9 goals per game, and Ronaldo at 0.78 goals a game.



They are the greatest in modern times no doubt, but they can't lay claim to have scored in every match they have ever played in the top league!

We can offer this up on an international level and give **Danny Wallace**, **David Nugent** and **Francis Jeffers** their moment in the spotlight, as they all share the achievement of winning one England cap and scoring one goal!

Pretty decent ratio that.



But what about a player to have a 100% goal scoring record in the English Premier League? Having scored in every game they have ever played in, in the top flight in England

We have only stumbled across 4 players with such an achievement, and it would have been so wrong not to share them with you!



Kevin N'Doram – The French U21 international, now playing for Metz is the son of former Nantes striker Japhet N'Doram, who won the French league with Nantes in 1994/95



Aidan Newhouse

1 Premier League game, 1 Premier League goal

Wimbledon

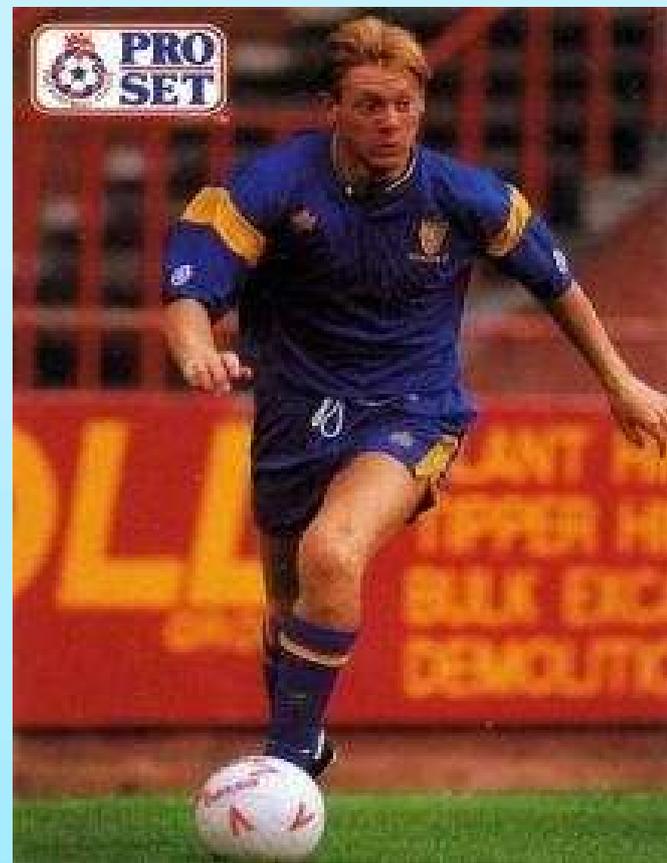
1992-93 season



Centre forward Newhouse managed just seven league starts in as many years with the "Dons" but what is important is he played in one Premier League game.

Newhouse scored in a 3–2 defeat to Aston Villa at Selhurst Park on 3rd October 1992.

It was in that game Dalian Atkinson scored the solo goal worldie and a fan ran on the pitch with an umbrella to shield him from the rain as he celebrated. The goal won goal of the season. Newhouse came on as a sub in the 23rd minute and scored in the 34th minute. Such was the quality of the goal, some news vendors actually created Wimbledon midfielder Paul Miller with the goal as Newhouse merely stuck out a leg and helped on Miller's goal bound shot within the six yard box. But they all count! Newhouse didn't feature in the Premier League ever again.



Dan Potts – The English left back made 5 league appearance for West Ham United before moving to Luton Town and is the son of Steve Potts, who managed 394 more league games for the Hammers



Gary Bull

1 Premier League game, 1 Premier League goal
Nottingham Forest
1994-95 season



Gary Bull cousin of Steve Bull, the record goalscorer for Wolverhampton Wanderers, had made his name at Barnet before moving to Forest, only making 12 league appearances for the club over 2 years.

Importantly though one of those was in the Premier League when he was called upon due an injury to Stan Collymore for a match against Crystal Palace on 2nd January 1995.

Bull headed in the winner, securing a 1-0 home win over Crystal Palace that took Forest up to fourth place in the table at the time.

Bull moved on from Forest to Birmingham, York City amongst others before settling at Boston Town.



Jonas Lossi – The one capped Danish international joined Everton in 2019 as a back up goalkeeper following a spell with Huddersfield Town



Chris David

1 Premier League game, 1 Premier League goal

Fulham

2013-14 season



Fulham had already been relegated when they hosted Crystal Palace on 11th May 2014 but their campaign still ended on a high note, especially for midfielder Chris David.

The Dutchman, a first half substitute, coming on in the 23rd minute for his Premier League debut struck an equaliser in the 90th minute to secure a point for the West Londoners.

This was also David's first ever professional game of football, so it was the ultimate debut for the midfielder.

He only managed a further 5 appearances with Fulham in the Championship before moving back to Holland with Go Ahead Eagles.



Pablo Maffeo – A Spanish right back made 3 competitive appearances for Manchester City but having spent more time out on loan, he moved to Stuttgart permanently in 2018



Josh Harrop

**1 Premier League game, 1 Premier League goal
Manchester United
2016-17 season**



Josh Harrop marked his senior debut with a goal for Manchester United against Crystal Palace on the 21st May 2017, the last day of the 2016–17 Premier League season.

His goal, was the first in a 2–0 win. His strike made him Manchester United's 100th different goal scorer in the Premier League.

Perhaps surprisingly Harrop decided against extending his stay at Manchester United and instead opted for a move to Preston North End, with the Red Devils being entitled to some transfer compensation from the Lilywhites.

Harrop now the only one of the 4 players with a realistic chance to get a second game in the Premier League and a second goal.



Paolo Dellafiore – Argentine born, former Italian U21 left back made his debut for Inter Milan in the Champions League in 2004 before moving on to Palermo, Parma, Siena amongst other clubs



Who is playing against who?

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

First up is a classic rivalry. El Clásico, where Spanish giants Barcelona take on Real Madrid, in what is one of the most anticipated games in the footballing calendar each year.

Some terrific players have played in this game, and we've put together a Barcelona and Real Madrid line up, with 22 players, all that have something in common. Are you able to spot what it is that they all have in common?

That is right – all of the players have also played for AC Milan!!!

Sticking with AC Milan and with the rivalry theme, we have also put together an AC Milan derby XI versus an Inter Milan XI. A fierce Italian fixture every year, at a shared stadium, it is a tremendously fought affair where emotions run high.

These 22 players may not however be too angry or leave too much in the tackle, and we are asking if you can spot why?

Each player listed here in the 2 line ups are Brazilians!

We still have 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.



Jamie Cumming – Youth goalkeeper on the books of Chelsea, now at 21 spending time out on loan to Stevenage



Barcelona and AC Milan



Yigithan Guveli – Young Turkish centre back who began his career with Fenerbahce before moving on after making just 2 league appearances



Real Madrid and AC Milan



Higuain Ronaldo

Kaka

Robinho

Diaz

Emerson Essien

Hernandez Julio Cesar Panucci

Diego Lopez



Quincy Owusu-Abeyie – Former Arsenal youth product, the left winger went on to have a slightly nomadic career across Russia, Spain, Portugal and Greece amongst others



Inter Milan and Brazil



Ronaldo

Adriano

Coutinho

Hernanes

Vampeta

Ze Elias

Roberto Carlos

Maicon

Lucio

Juan Jesus

Julio Cesar



Grady Diangana – His transfer from West Ham United to West Bromwich Albion bought criticism from Mark Noble, stating the club shouldn't be selling their best young players



AC Milan and Brazil



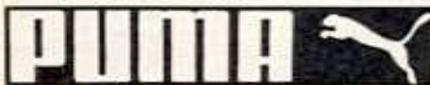
Vladimir Tatarchuk – Retired Russian midfielder, started his career at CSKA Moscow but played the majority of his time at FC Krasnodar. His father was a Russian international, who once scored against England at Wembley



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Nathan Ake – The Dutch left sided defender started his senior club career at Chelsea, but post a £40million move from Bournemouth, he is now a Manchester City player



Player Profiles

We could have profiled English strikers Jamie Vardy or Ian Wright and how their rise to the top came after a very late start and yet they both scored over 100 Premier League goals and became league champions.

We could have detailed how players such as Carlos Tevez, Frank Ribery or Joleon Lescott overcame horrific events and subsequent facial injuries as youngsters to go on and make international footballers of themselves.

Or perhaps profiled Gianluca Vialli whose upbringing compared to most professional footballers was very very different to the 'norm.'

Or even list out the players who have battled the demons of multiple addictions and overcome these to get to and then remain at the very top of the game.

Trouble is, you know all about these players. Our desire at The Halfway Line is to bring to your attention the unknown, the hidden treasures of the footballing world and that's what we have tried to do with this feature.

We have instead profiled six relatively unique footballers, past and present and backing that up with a brief description as to why they peaked our interest and wanted to share with you.

Some of the players of course you will know and so to counteract that we've looked to incorporate all the quirks we discovered about them in the feature so at least you've learnt something new.



Wellington Silva – A former Brazilian U21 international who was on the books at Arsenal for 6 years but never once making a first team appearance



Rio Mavuda

If you head to Wikipedia and search up some footballer's profiles, you see place of birth. For example, search up Francesco Totti and you will see Rome, Italy and his association with the city is iconic to his name and career. The same can be said for the likes of Steven Gerrard (Merseyside) and Josip Guardiola (Catalonia).

Next time you are on the web look up Rio Mavuda's Wikipedia profile page and look for place of birth. It reads that Mavuda's birth certificate states he was 'Born at sea.'

His mother, an Angolan national gave birth to Rio in international waters during the period of the Angolan civil war, in 1984. His mother sadly died 2 years later and his father 12 years after that. His father, Mafuila was a member of the Zaire 1974 World Cup squad so football was in his blood. And his challenging upbringing did not hold him back in following in the same career footpath as his father.



Fernando Nelson – In between spells at Sporting Lisbon and Porto, he spent 2 seasons with Aston Villa performing solidly at right back



Mavuda started his career at Bordeaux and after a successful period there he moved to Villarreal in La Liga, but with limited success in Spain.

To kick start his career he moved, firstly on loan, and then permanently to Lille and it worked out perfectly for him. In 2010 he was part of the double winning campaign with Lille, Mavuda himself making no less than 46 appearance over the season.

Then in 2014 he equalled his father's achievement by making a World Cup squad himself. Though for Rio it was France, making his tournament debut in the group stages against Honduras.



Ozgur Cek – Turkish left sided player now plying his trade with Denizlispor after having realised his dream of playing for Fenerbahce



Nil Lamptey

Robinho, Freddy Adu, Neymar Jr.....all players in recent history to have been tagged as the new Pele. Each have achieved slightly different highs and lows in their careers, though none of them of course reaching the dizzy heights of the great Brazilian.

Way back before these 3 were on the scene, there was another new Pele. Smuggled into Nigeria at 15 years of age from Ghana, as the Ghanaian FA confiscated his passport, Nii Lamptey travelled on to Belgium with the then captain of Nigeria Stephen Keshi on a fake passport and signed for Belgium giants Anderlecht. At 16, due to a change in law, he made his debut for Anderlecht, becoming the youngest ever player to play in the Belgium league.



He very quickly impressed but was on the move once again, this time to Holland to play for PSV Eindhoven in the 1993 season, again impressing for the side despite his age.

It was at this time he also gained fame due to his mirrored ability in the Championship Manager football computer game.

Despite his performances at PSV, he was allowed to move again, this time to Aston Villa and it began a downward spiral. Suggestions of medalling from agents selling him to the highest bidders certainly did not help.

He mustered a mere 10 league games at Aston Villa, followed by a further 6 at Coventry City. Stints in Italy, Argentina, Turkey, Portugal, and Germany were equally unsuccessful and personal struggles did not help Lamptey's career.



Enrico Zampa – Italian defensive midfielder who managed just one league appearance for Lazio before playing at a lower level in the Italian leagues



Having to deal with racism was bad enough, but personal tragedy also hit. Lamptey lost 2 children in tragic circumstances, and then soon after this, he left his wife after he discovered his remaining 3 children were in fact not biologically his.

Lamptey played out his career in China, South Africa before returning to Ghana, but perhaps Lamptey's most successful part of his career was at international level, during his youth. In the 1991 FIFA Under 17 World Championships, he led Ghana to the title, also being named player of the tournament at just 15 years old.

He followed this up with a bronze medal for Ghana at the Barcelona Olympics and even scored on his senior international debut for the Black Cats at the age of 16. The African Pele may not have achieved what the footballing world expected, but for an 8-year-old being kicked out of his family home, surely any type of career with the feeling of being wanted is a remarkable success.



Marcus Tavernier – Youth player at Middlesbrough, who has won caps at England U19 and U20 levels, now featuring in the first team at the Riverside stadium



Sebastian Abreu

A couple of names to throw out to you; Marcus Bent, who played for a record 8 Premier League sides and Trevor Benjamin, totalled up 31 club moves including loans over the course of his career. That's more clubs than an American Golf Store shop!

But we can better that for you, and no disrespect to the above two players mentioned, this player profile can hold themselves up as a seasoned international, winning no less than 70 caps.

Sebastian Abreu went through 29 unique clubs moves, 12 loans and totalled **34** moves in total across 11 countries, being recognised along the way by the Guinness Book of Records for playing for the greatest number of teams! Chuck in the 70 caps, 2 World Cup tournaments, 3 Copa Americas, winning one with Uruguay, you are talking one helluva career! He sits 7th on the all-time goal scoring list for his country and neither Bent or Benjamin can say that!



Nicola Bellomo – The Italian attacking midfielder has moved around clubs including Bari, Chievo, Torino and is now settled at Reggina



As he is the record holder, it is only fair we list out the clubs.

Year	Club	Loan Club
1995–1996	Defensor	
1996–1998	San Lorenzo	
1998–2004	Deportivo La Coruña	
1998		→ Grêmio (loan)
1999–2000		→ Tecos (loan)
2000–2001		→ San Lorenzo (loan)
2001		→ Nacional (loan)
2002–2003		→ Cruz Azul (loan)
2003		→ América (loan)
2004		→ Tecos (loan)
2004–2005	Nacional	
2005–2006	Sinaloa	
2006	Monterrey	
2007	San Luis	
2007–2008	UANL	
2008		→ River Plate (loan)
2008	Beitar Jerusalem	
2008–2009	River Plate	
2009		→ Real Sociedad (loan)
2009–2010	Aris	
2010–2012	Botafogo	
2012		→ Figueirense (loan)
2013–2015	Nacional	
2013–2014		→ Rosario Central (loan)
2015		→ Aucas (loan)
2016	Sol de América	
2016	Santa Tecla	
2017	Bangu	
2017	Central Español	
2017	Puerto Montt	
2018	Audax Italiano	
2018	Magallanes	
2019	Rio Branco	
2019–2020	Boston River	



Ivanildo Fernandes – Young Portuguese centre back who is still on the books of Sporting Lisbon, but has spent time away from the club on loan in Portugal and Turkey



Kazuyoshi Muira

'Kazu' Muira is well known in world football for the fact at 53 years of age he is the oldest footballer in worldwide professional leagues. He is still active, playing for Japanese club side Yokohama FC, in his 15th season with the club! He has played professional football over 5 decades! It is some achievement, yet his age is only half the story. It is his early career path that is perhaps lesser known.

At the age of 15 he travelled from Japan to Brazil seeking a career in professional football. He succeeded and in 1986 he signed for Brazilian club side Santos, before moving to Palmeiras and Cortiba before heading back to his homeland.

In his first spell in Japan he was hugely successful and with Verdy Kawasaki winning multiple league titles and his goals saw him voted Most Valuable Player in 1993.



Nicolo Rovella – The young Italian centre back made his Genoa debut back in 2019 as 19 year old and counts 2 U21 caps to his name to date



He then made history in 1994 by signing for Serie A side Genoa, the first Japanese player to play in Italy (not Hidetoshi Nakata), and although his sole strike was against fierce rivals Sampdoria, his time there was not a great success, and nor indeed was his time at Croatia Zagreb. He headed back once again to Japan, and aside from a 4-match stint in Australia he has remained there ever since, some 21 seasons. His strike rate has significantly halted, which is in no way a criticism!



Muira was no slouch at international level and is the second highest goal scorer in the nation's history with 55 strikes in 89 appearances, though was cruelly robbed of a spot in the Japan World Cup squad in 1998, the nations first ever appearance in the tournament, despite playing a leading role in helping the side qualify.

He will of course mainly be remembered for the outrageous longevity of his career, and we wait to see how far on from 53 years he can continue to play!



Danny Wilson – Scottish centre back who had great promise at Rangers, becoming their youngest ever player to play in a Champions League match, but his move to Liverpool in 2010 fell somewhat flat



Mohamed Kallon

15 years old and sprung into the limelight by signing for Serie A giants Inter Milan is no mean feat. To have already played for your country by then, before playing for your new team, is epic in terms of achievements!

Mohamed Kallon came from a footballing family, his eldest brother, Kemokai is the highest capped Sierra Leone international of all time.

Post the move to Inter, Kallon spent a number of seasons out on loan to gain experience, but when he came back to the club, he faced competition from the likes of Ronaldo, Christian Vieri and Alvaro Recoba. Due to their injuries, he managed 28 league appearances in his first full season at the San Siro, and 9 league goals. Injuries then caught up with Kallon himself, and his career was further halted when he failed a drugs test in Serie A and was banned from football for 8 months. Inter Milan recruited heavily in the forward department and so the time Kallon was ready to return there was no place for him.



Ergun Penbe – Trophy laden career for the left back during his time at Galatasaray, who wore the shirt number 67 in honour of the vehicle plate identification code number of his hometown, Zonguldak



He embarked on a journey across Europe and the Middle East before return to a club in Sierra Leone that he had a special connection too..

A Sierra Leone league club, formerly known as Sierra Fisheries was taken over in 2002, by a certain Mohamed Kallon. He bought the club for a reported fee of \$30,000 and promptly renamed the club Kallon FC!

When looking for his next club move in 2009, why not head home and play for your own club?

We love that idea here at the magazine and want to proactively endorse such purchases for better known clubs around the world!



Stanislav Lobotka – Slovakian international midfielder now on the books of Napoli following a big money move from Celta Vigo in the January 2020 transfer window



Kalusha Bwalya

Not being old enough, nor a big follower of Zambian football, I would have assumed before a fixture kicked off in 1988 who the winner would be of this particular match. Italy played Zambia in the 1988 Olympic games, and I would have said the Europeans would be a shoe in for a victory. Transpired that was not the case. Zambia smashed Italy 4-0 with striker Kalusha Bwalya taking home the match ball after scoring a hat trick! That some what shocked the footballing world as although it was the Olympics, Italy were 3 times world champions let us not forget.

The elation of the 1988 Olympic successful (a quarter final defeat) was significantly overshadowed by events in 1993, when an aircraft transporting the Zambian national team to a World Cup qualifier crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, killing all 30 passengers and crew on the aircraft. 5 members of the 1988 Olympic squad perished that day, but not Bwalya. He was playing his club football for PSV Eindhoven and was on a separate flight from the Netherlands to Senegal, meaning he was saved from that tragic flight.

He had moved to PSV in 1989 after four very productive seasons at Cercle Brugge, of which 2 saw him crowned top goal scorer and Player of the Year.

His success continued at PSV, winning two league titles and one domestic dup.



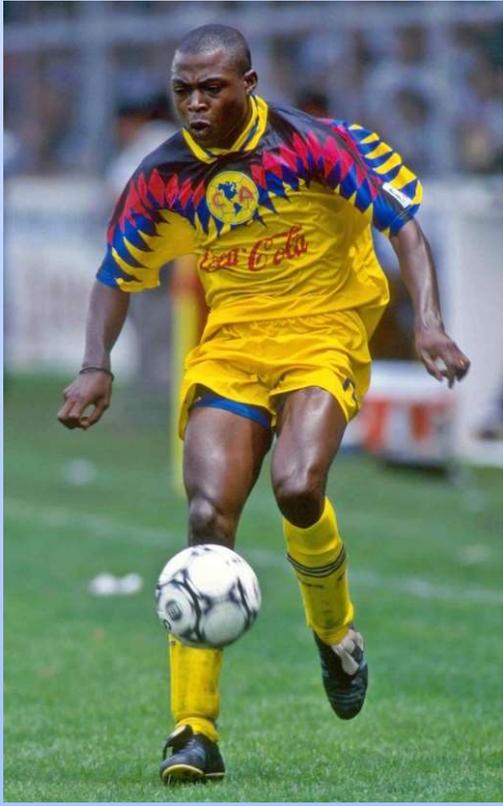
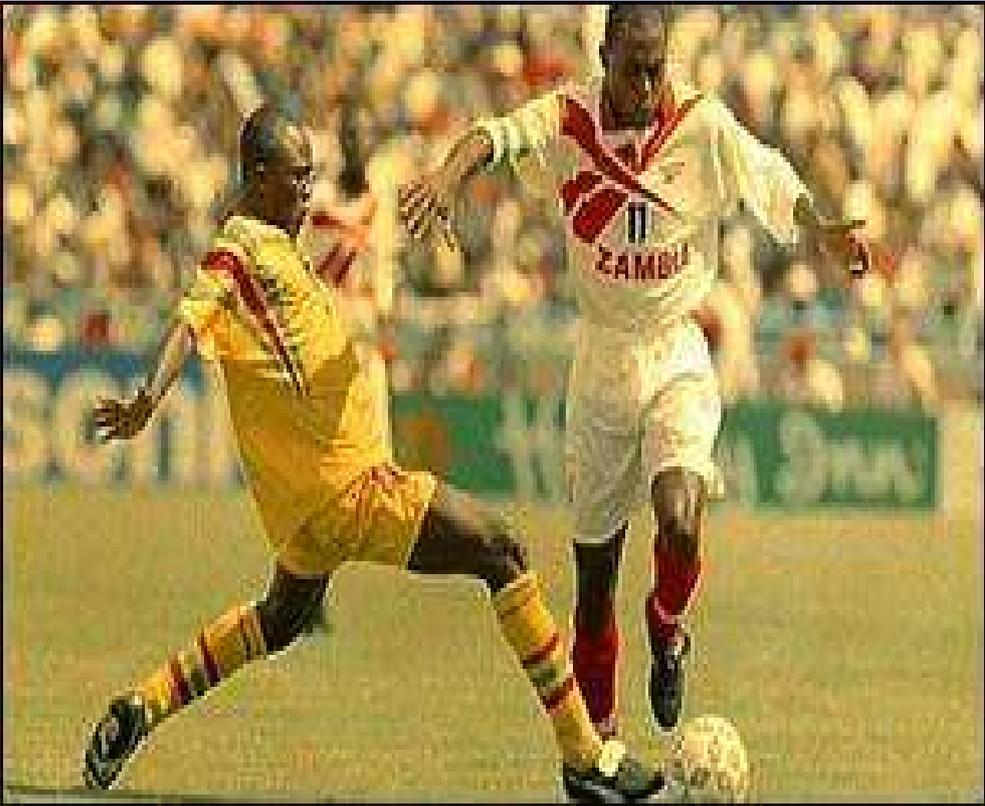
Riccardo Meggiorini – Perhaps the striker's main claim to fame is he was part of the transfer package that took Diego Milito and Thiago Motta from Genoa to Inter Milan, and he and Leonardo Bonucci transferred to Bari



Post the awful circumstances with regards to the Zambian national team, he, as the team leader, spearheaded the 'Copper Bullets' to the Tunisia Africa Cup of Nations in 1994, taking them all the way to the final losing to eventual winners Nigeria. In 1996, he took the team to a third-place spot, as well as winning the top scorer award at the tournament.

That was to be the pinnacle of his successes with Zambia, despite filling the role as player manager in the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign, that proved unsuccessful, and he finished his club career in the Mexico leagues, most notably with Club America.

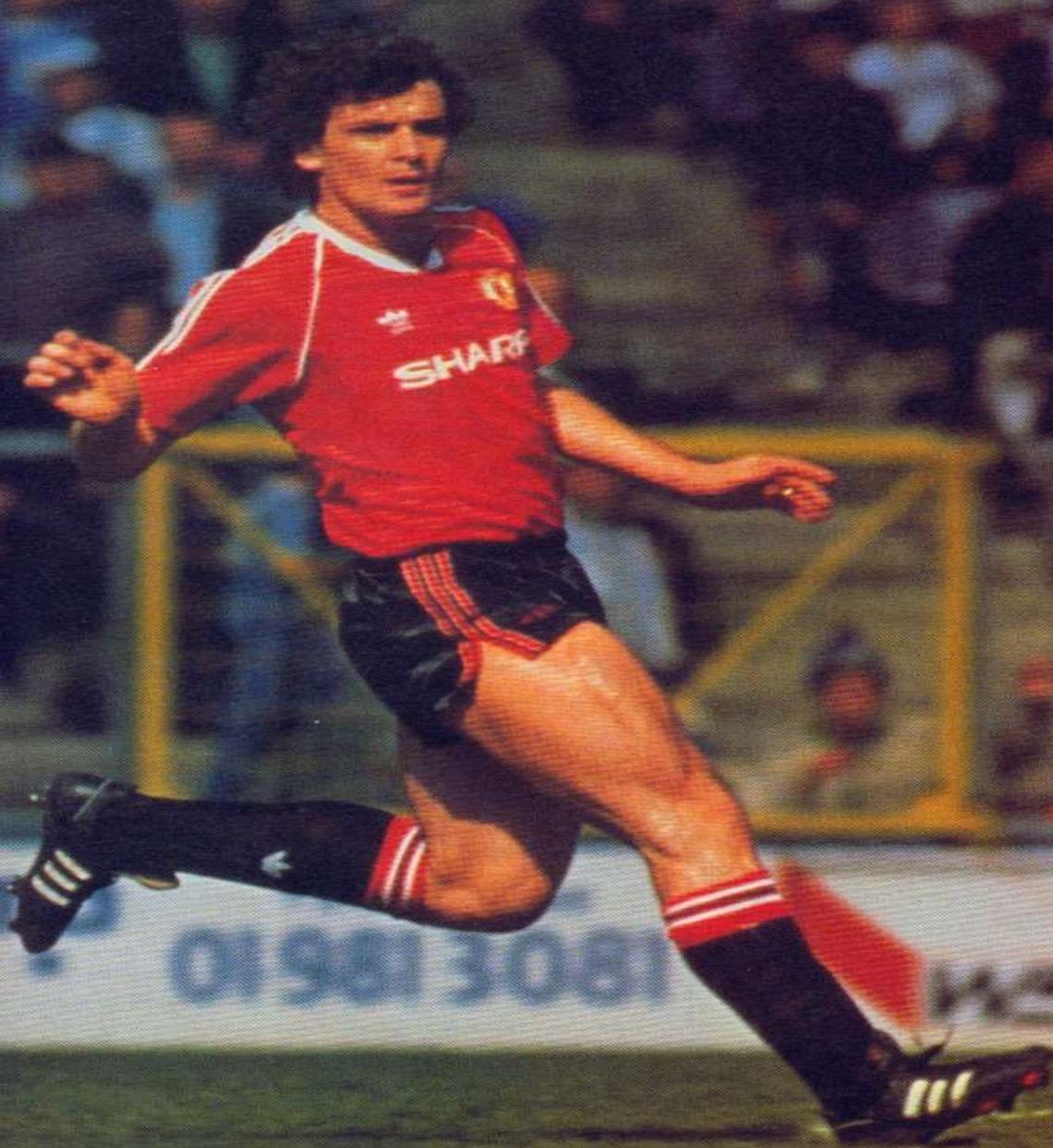
His reputation within football took quite the hit as in August 2018, FIFA banned Bwalya for two years from all football-related activities at both national and international level. The FIFA adjudicatory chamber of the independent Ethics Committee found him guilty of having violated article 16 (Confidentiality) and article 20 (Offering and accepting gifts and other benefits) of the FIFA Code of Ethics. It is alleged that Bwalya received a bribe in the form of a gift from Mohammed Bin Hammam, a Qatari official.



Callum Hudson-Odoi – Upon making his England debut in 2019 he become the youngest ever player to make his debut in a competitive match, aged 18 years and 135 days



Mark Hughes in Top Gear – adidas.



Every time Mark Hughes stepped out on his way to becoming 1988/89 PFA Player of the Year he was wearing adidas boots.

If you want to follow in Mark Hughes' footsteps look for the new Legend soccer boot from adidas.



Its all leather uppers, flexible soles and padded lining are all designed for outstanding comfort.

With Manchester United he also wears adidas team kit from head to toe. The official replica kit is currently available to you.



In training, Mark Hughes and United always use adidas Tango footballs – the world's best selling soccer ball range.

For your training why not choose the Tango Scorpion, a hand stitched 32 panel ball with a full year's guarantee.

active bodies by
adidas 



Veysel Unal – Young Turkish forward who began his career at Alanyaspor but now having moved on to Afjet Afyonspor



Historical Line Ups

In this issue we are celebrating the longevity of Ryan Giggs' Premier League career.

He is of course the most decorated winner of the competition itself and sits second in the overall appearances list. He was the first player in history to win two consecutive PFA Young Player of the Year awards (1992 and 1993). He is the only player to play in each of the first 22 seasons of the Premier League, as well as the only player to score in each of the first 21 seasons. He was elected into the PFA Team of the Century in 2007, the Premier League Team of the Decade in 2003, as well as the FA Cup Team of the Century. Giggs also holds the record for the most assists in Premier League history, with 162.

We thought we'd evidence his longevity in the league with 5 starting line ups, all taken from opening games of a season in the Premier League, spread out over the 22 seasons he was active with Manchester United and it'll give you a flavour of the variety of teammates he had over his outstanding career.

- 1) Manchester United versus Newcastle United 2000 (H)
- 2) Manchester United versus West Bromwich Albion 2002 (H)
- 3) Manchester United versus Bolton Wanderers 2003 (H)
- 4) Manchester United versus Fulham 2006 (H)
- 5) Manchester United versus Swansea City 2013 (A)

Quirky element to this, each line up sees a different goalkeeper between the sticks.



Tyreece John-Jules – Youth striker on the books at Arsenal currently gaining first team experience out on loan to Doncaster Rovers

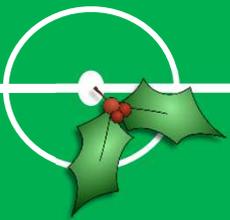
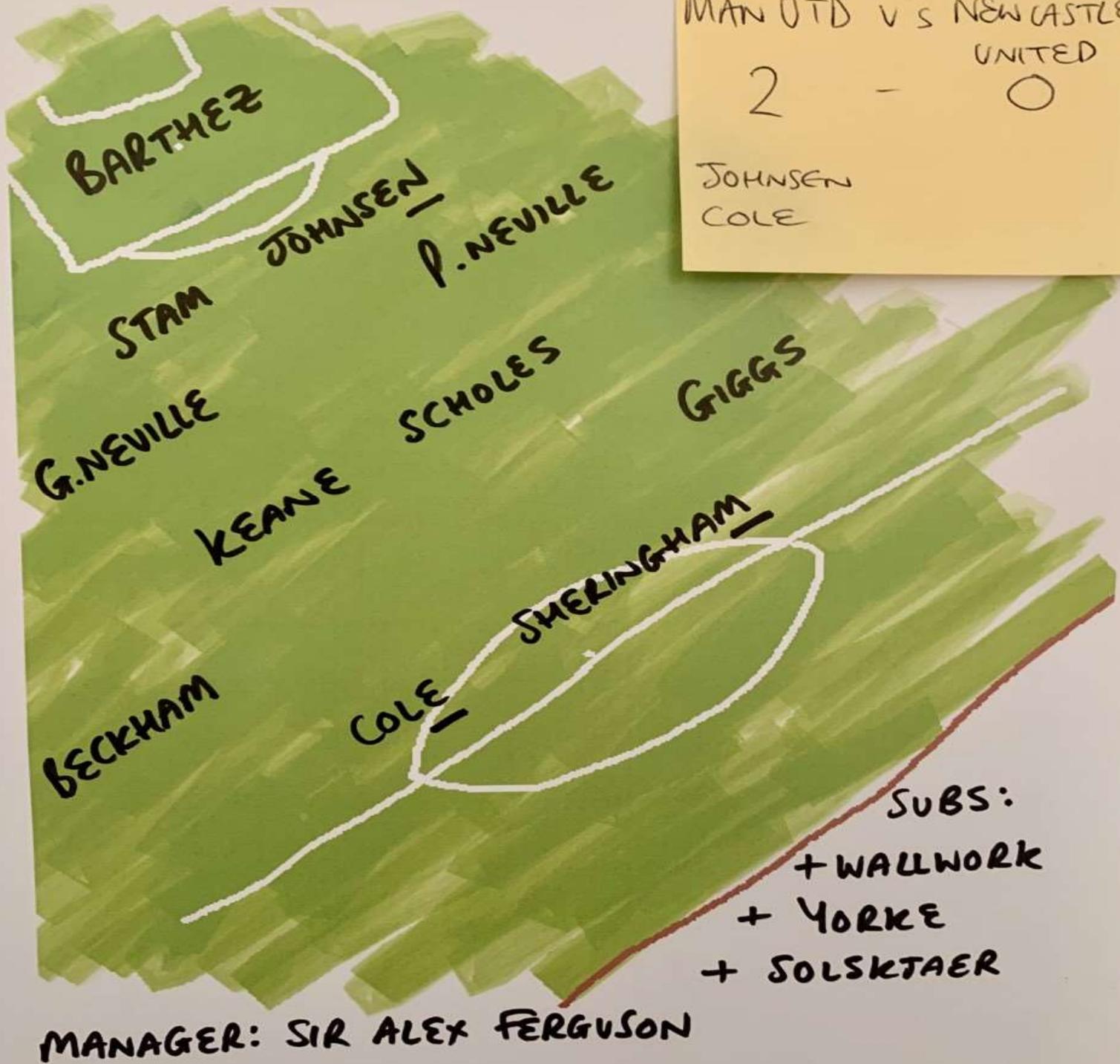


SUNDAY 20th AUGUST 2000

MAN UTD v's NEWCASTLE
UNITED

2 - 0

JOHNSEN
COLE



Marco Meli – Young Italian striker on the books of Fiorentina, but currently out on loan to Serie C club side Ravenna

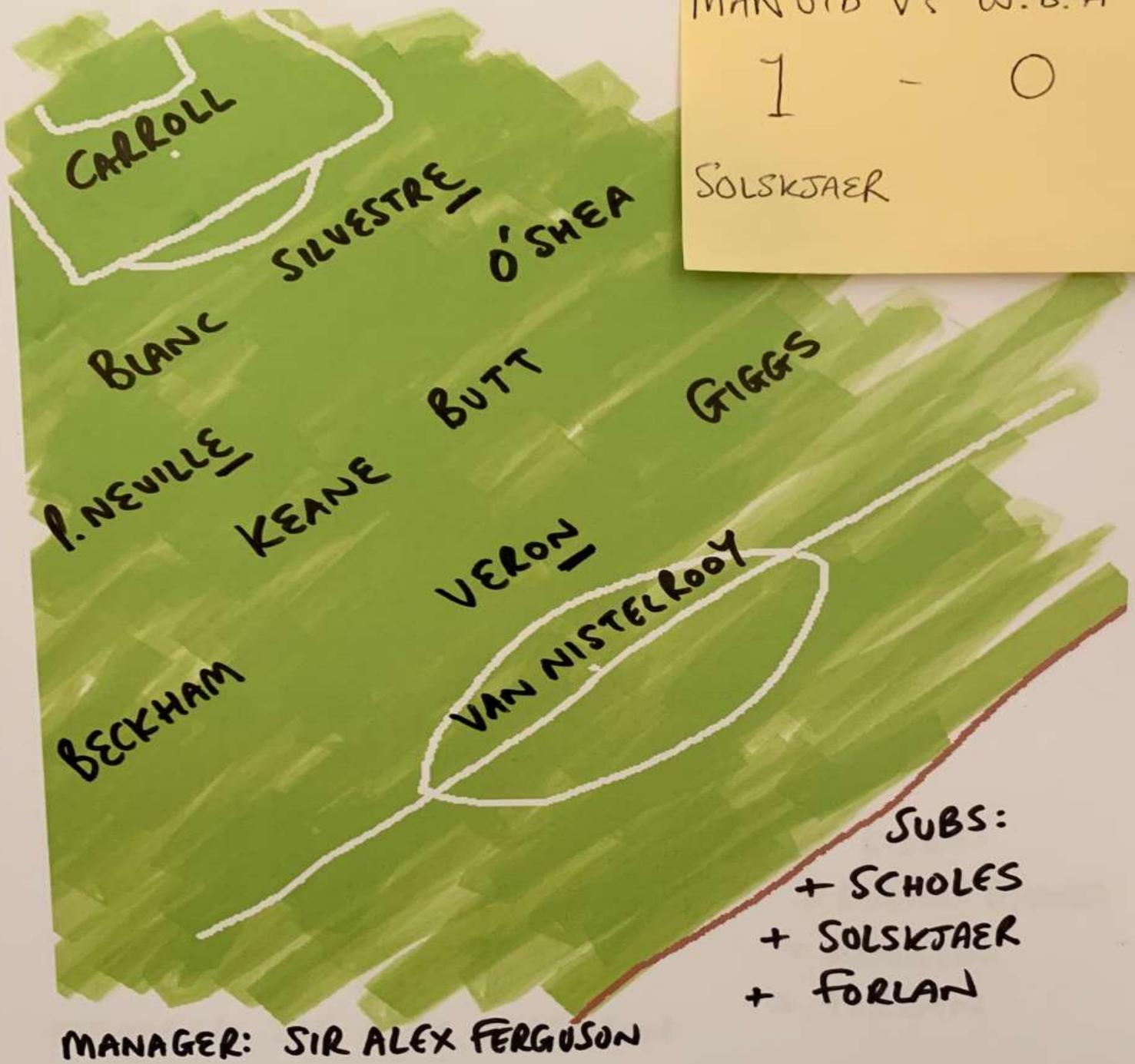


SUNDAY 17th AUGUST 2002

MAN UTD V's W.B.A

1 - 0

SOLSKJAER



Sodinha – The Brazilian although on the books of Udinese from 2008-2011 never made the breakthrough and instead found form at Brescia

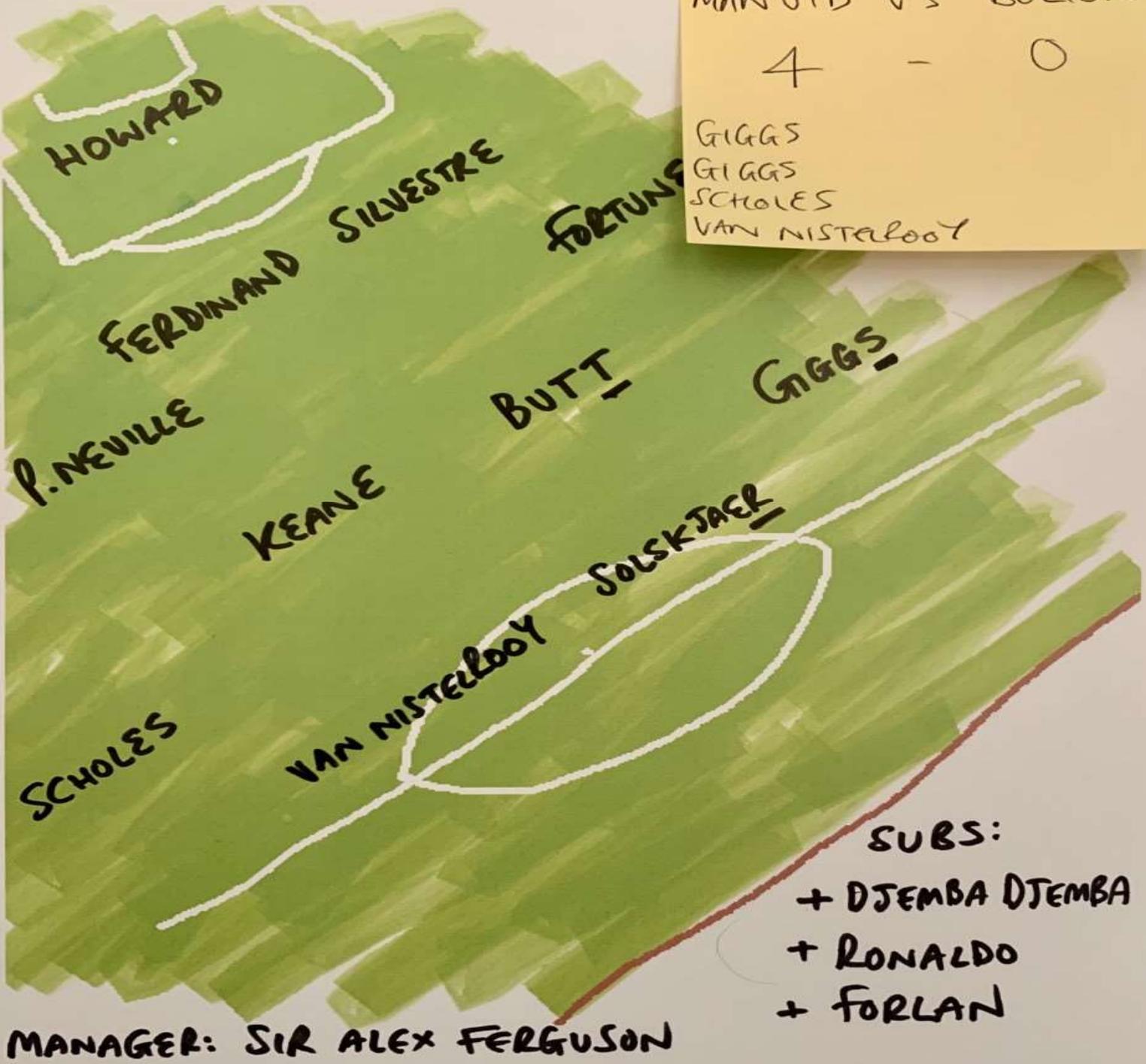


SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2003

MAN UTD V's BOLTON

4 - 0

GIGGS
GIGGS
SCHOLES
VAN NISTELBOOY



Andrea Zanchetta – Currently the manager of the U18 Inter Milan team, and he managed 2 Serie A appearances for Inter, before moving on to Foggia, Chievo and Lecce

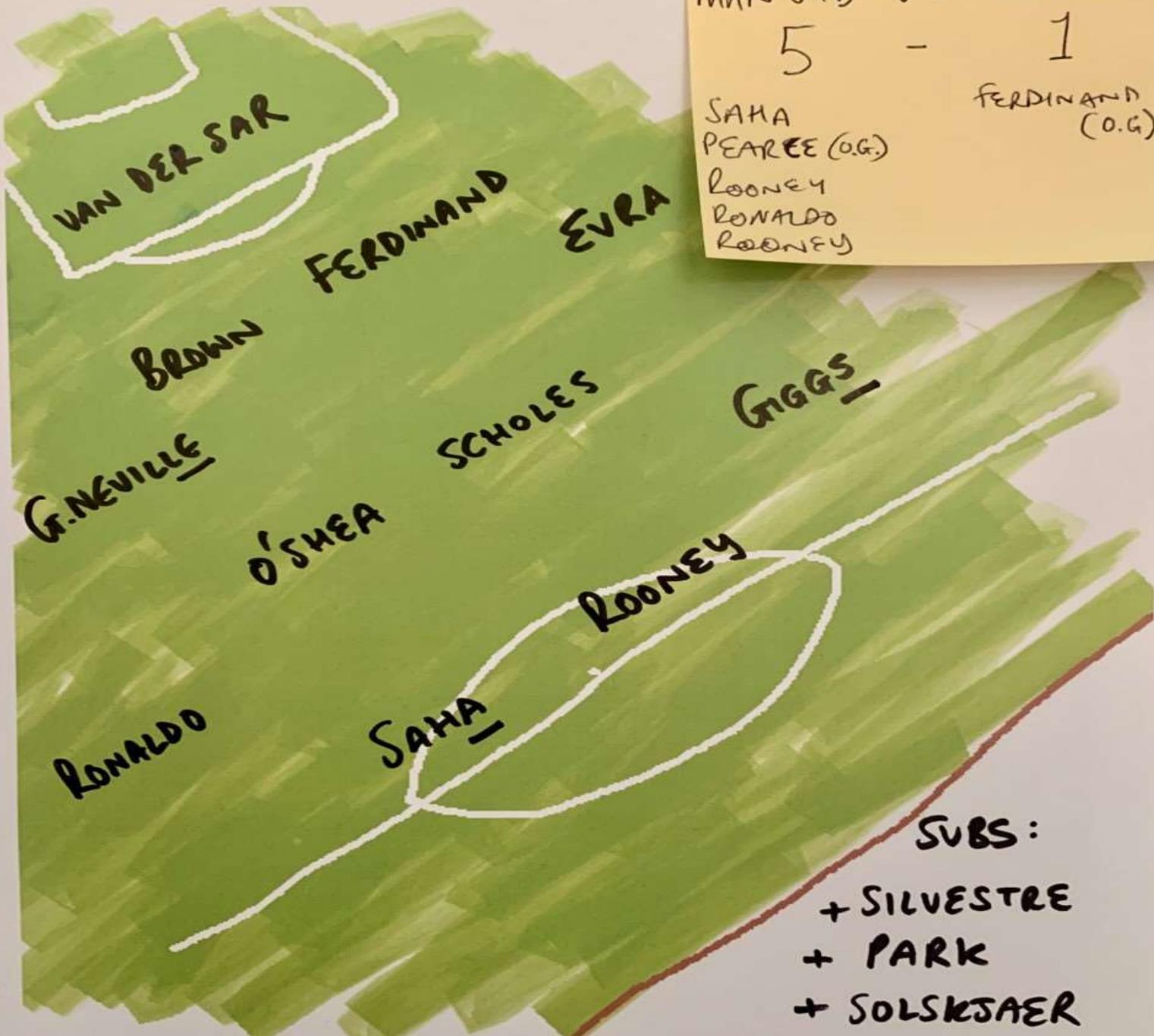


SUNDAY 20th AUGUST 2006

MAN UTD V's FULHAM
5 - 1

SAHA
PEARCE (O.G.)
ROONEY
RONALDO
ROONEY

FERDINAND
(O.G.)



SUBS:

- + SILVESTRE
- + PARK
- + SOLSKJAER

MANAGER: SIR ALEX FERGUSON



Ricardo - The Portuguese goalkeeper famously saved Darius Vassell's penalty in Euro 2004 without gloves on and then stepped up to score the decisive penalty in the shoot out, knocking England out



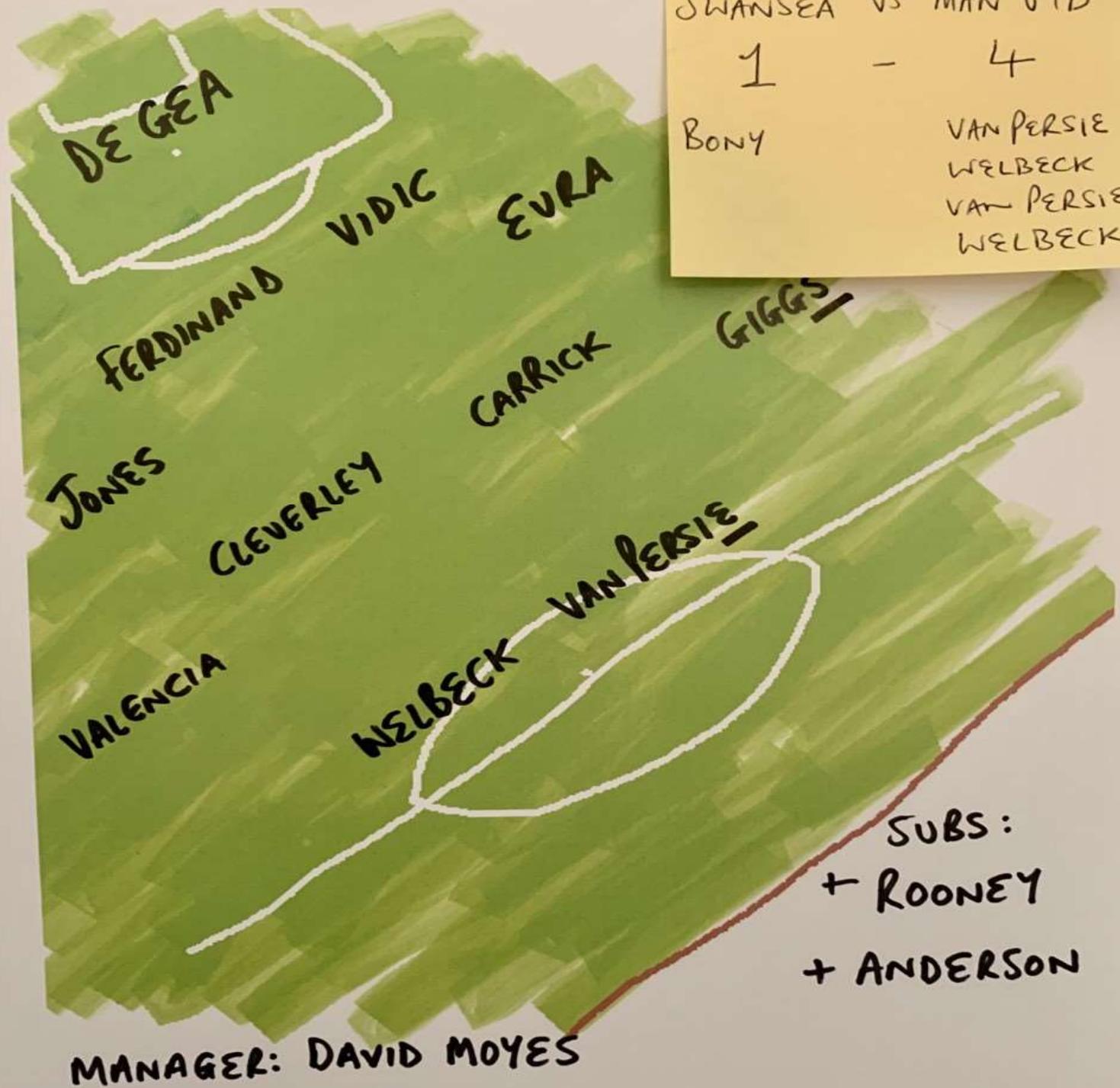
SATURDAY 17th August 2013

SWANSEA VS MAN UTD

1 - 4

BONY

VAN PERSIE
WELBECK
VAN PERSIE
WELBECK



David Neres – The Brazilian right winger signed by Ajax from Sao Paulo was a crucial part to the club's journey to the Champions League semi finals in 2019



Play football like Ronaldo...

If you want to become a football superstar, start from the boots. Discover the ultimate pieces made of 100% leather. The same shoes that top professional football players like Cristiano Ronaldo wear in their official games!

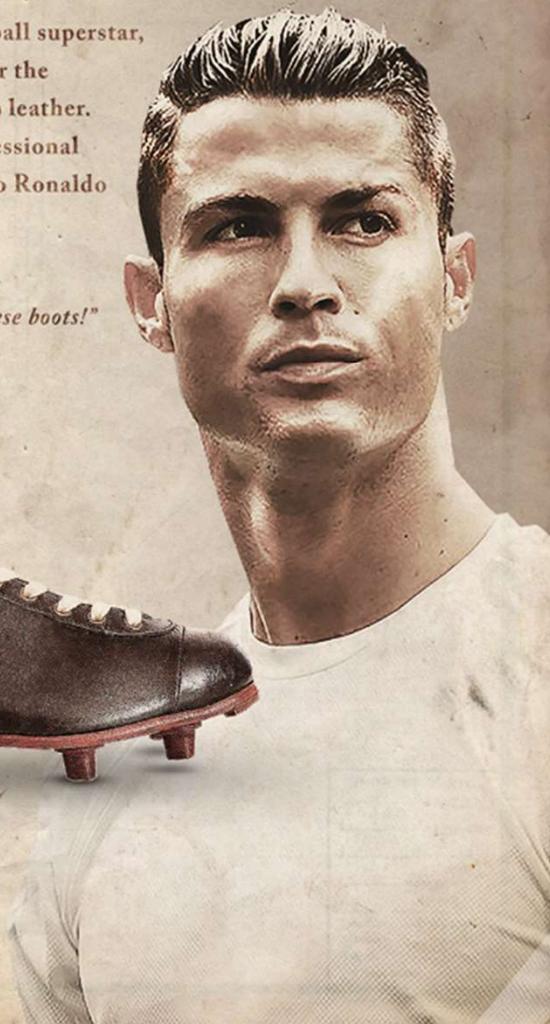
"I score more goals thanks to these boots!"

Ronaldo

REAL MADRIDS SUPERSTAR.



NIKE



Marco Ferreira – The former Portuguese international winger played for Porto and Benfica in his homeland and also signed for Leicester City in 2007 but failed to register an appearance



Players that fit certain kits



We gave the art department a free reign once again after we got discussing Premier League players who wore football shirts that donned their names on the front of their shirts as well as on the back. Believe us when we say there weren't many that we discovered.

Out of the two we got, one of them isn't even an exact match. Lee Sharpe when at Manchester United had the electronics firm Sharp across his chest and serial league winner with Leicester City, Andy King, styled King Power across his shirt. So the task was given to put players in shirts with sponsors that either suit their name or some association with them. Take a look..



Alfonso Camorani – The Italian defensive midfielder although played in Serie A with Fiorentina and Lecce, he spent most of his career in the lower leagues





Player – Paul Pogba
Kit & Sponsor – Fulham & Dabs.com
Link – The original ‘dabber’



Player – Paul Scholes
Kit & Sponsor – Middlesbrough & Garmin (Sat-Nav)
Link – Carried the nickname Sat-Nav due to his passing ability



Jonathan Obika – Former Tottenham Hotspur youth striker, made his debut for the club in the then UEFA Cup in 2008, and after multiple loan moves he moved permanently to Swindon Town





Player – Thomas Müller
Kit & Sponsor – Aston Villa & Müller
Link – The name matches

Player – Cesc Fabregas
Kit & Sponsor – Fulham & Pizza Hut
Link – The alleged culprit of 'pizza gate' at Old Trafford



Serdar Ozkan – Turkish winger, who has won 3 international caps played for Besiktas, Galatasaray and a whole host of Turkish league clubs, before landing at Bursaspor where he still plays now





Player – Alan Wright
Kit & Sponsor – Wimbledon & Tiny
Link – Measuring in at approximately 5 feet and 4 inches he is one of the shortest players to have played in the Premier League

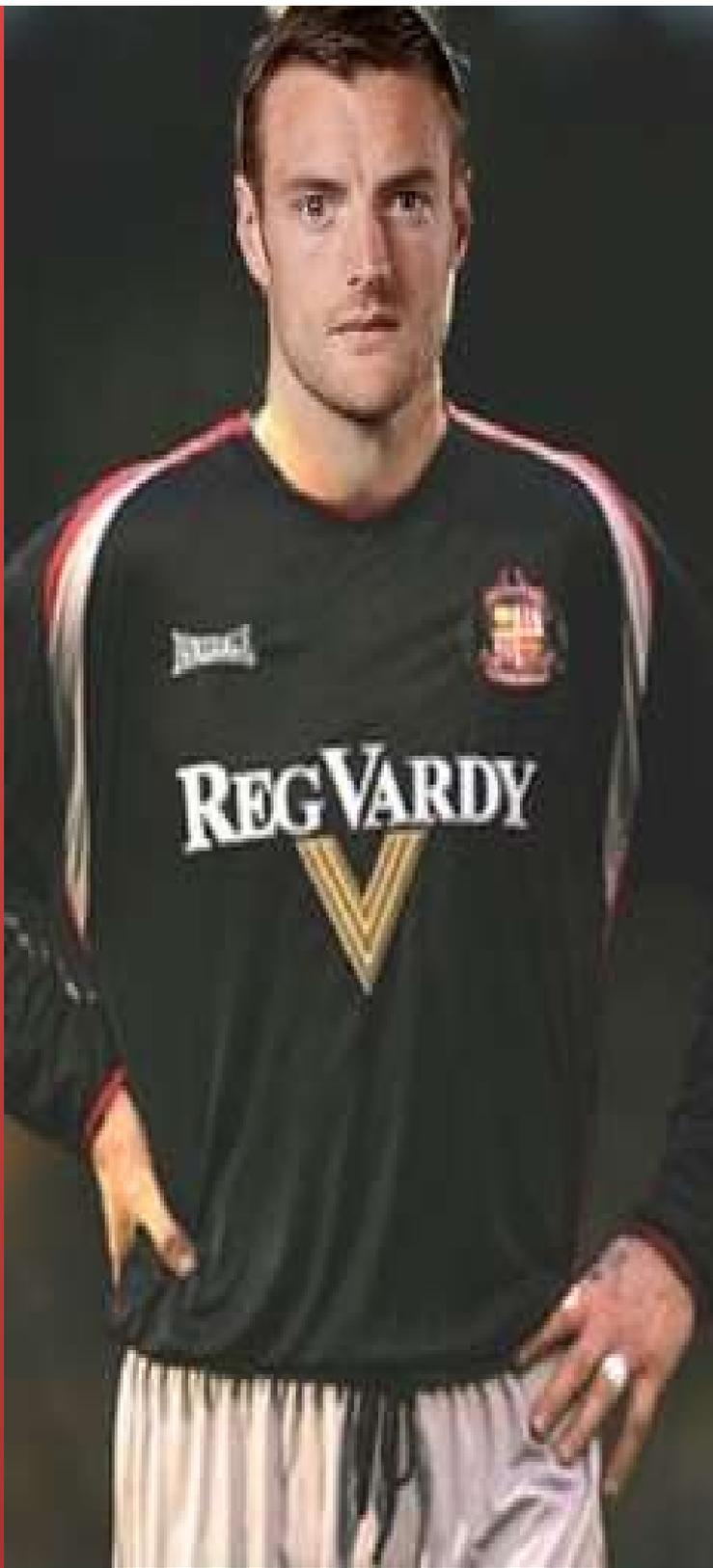


Player – Christian Pulisic
Kit & Sponsor – Brighton & Hove Albion & American Express
Link – The United States of America winger has many attributes but pace down the wing is certainly up there as one of his main strengths



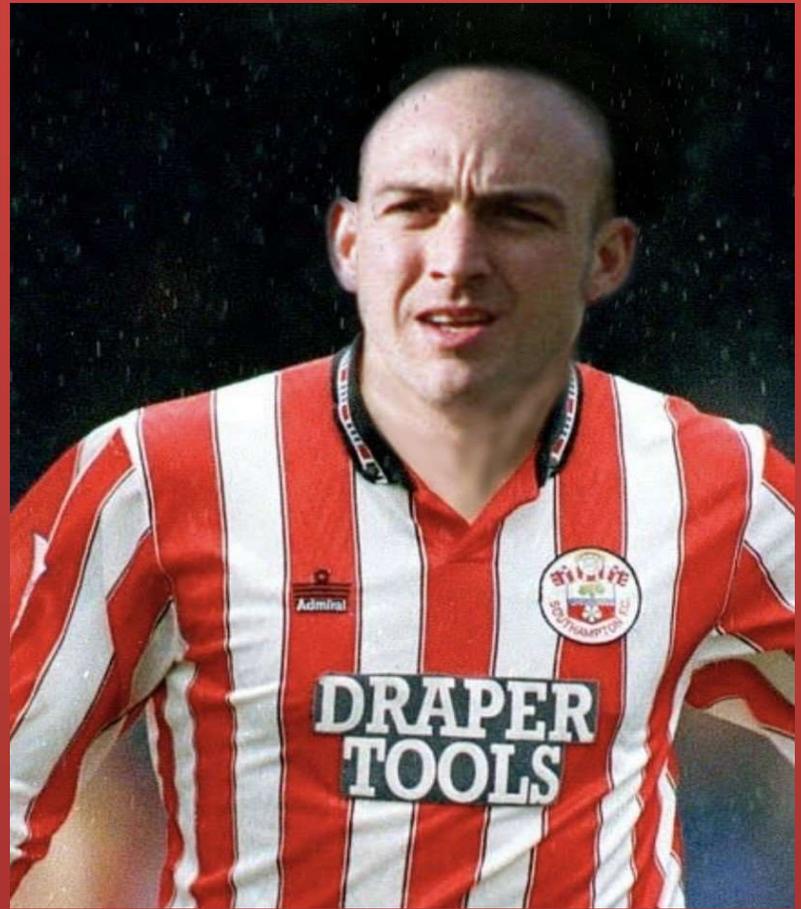
Pedro Silva – The now 23 year old goalkeeper has moved on from Sporting Lisbon to take the number 1 jersey at Vizela in order to be first choice between the sticks





Player – Jamie Vardy
Kit & Sponsor – Sunderland & Reg Vardy
Link – Nothing more scientific than the name matches

Player – Mark Draper
Kit & Sponsor – Southampton & Draper Tools
Link – Nothing more scientific than the name matches again



Reginaldo – Brazilian striker moved around clubs in Italy, namely Fiorentina, Parma and Siena, before a stint at Vasco da Gama and then returning back to Italy





Player – Kelechi Iheanacho
Kit & Sponsor – Wolves & Doritos
Link – A somewhat pathetic link to his name ‘Nacho’ and a famous brand of crisps!

Players – Kolo Toure and Yaya Toure
Kit & Sponsor – Manchester City and Brother
Link – The players, both played for Manchester City and of course are siblings, making the Brother sponsor very apt indeed



Andrea Raggi – Italian right back started his career at Empoli, spent time on loan to Sampdoria and finished his career in France with Monaco spending 7 years with the club



TREATMENT ROOM

Swallowing your tongue

Can You Swallow Your Tongue?

The short answer is No! 'Swallowing your tongue' is an urban myth that describes a footballer's airway being blocked by their tongue.

However we regularly hear football commentators on the TV say that the physio, as they run on the pitch, will need to be careful in case the unconscious injured player swallows their tongue.

However contrary to popular belief, it is not possible to swallow your tongue.

What does happen then?

A human being cannot swallow their tongue. If you were knocked out, there is a real danger of your airway becoming blocked. This may be caused by your tongue. But you don't actually swallow it, it just moves to the back of your throat. This potentially blocks your airway.

In unconsciousness the tongue can fall back, and the structures of the soft palate relax, blocking the airway. This is especially likely if the player is on their back.

How should you clear an airway?

If a player is knocked unconscious how do we stop the tongue from obstructing the airway?

There are two manoeuvres recommended, a chin lift or the jaw thrust. The jaw thrust should be used if there is a likelihood of spinal injury. Neither of these techniques involve placing your fingers inside the casualties mouth.



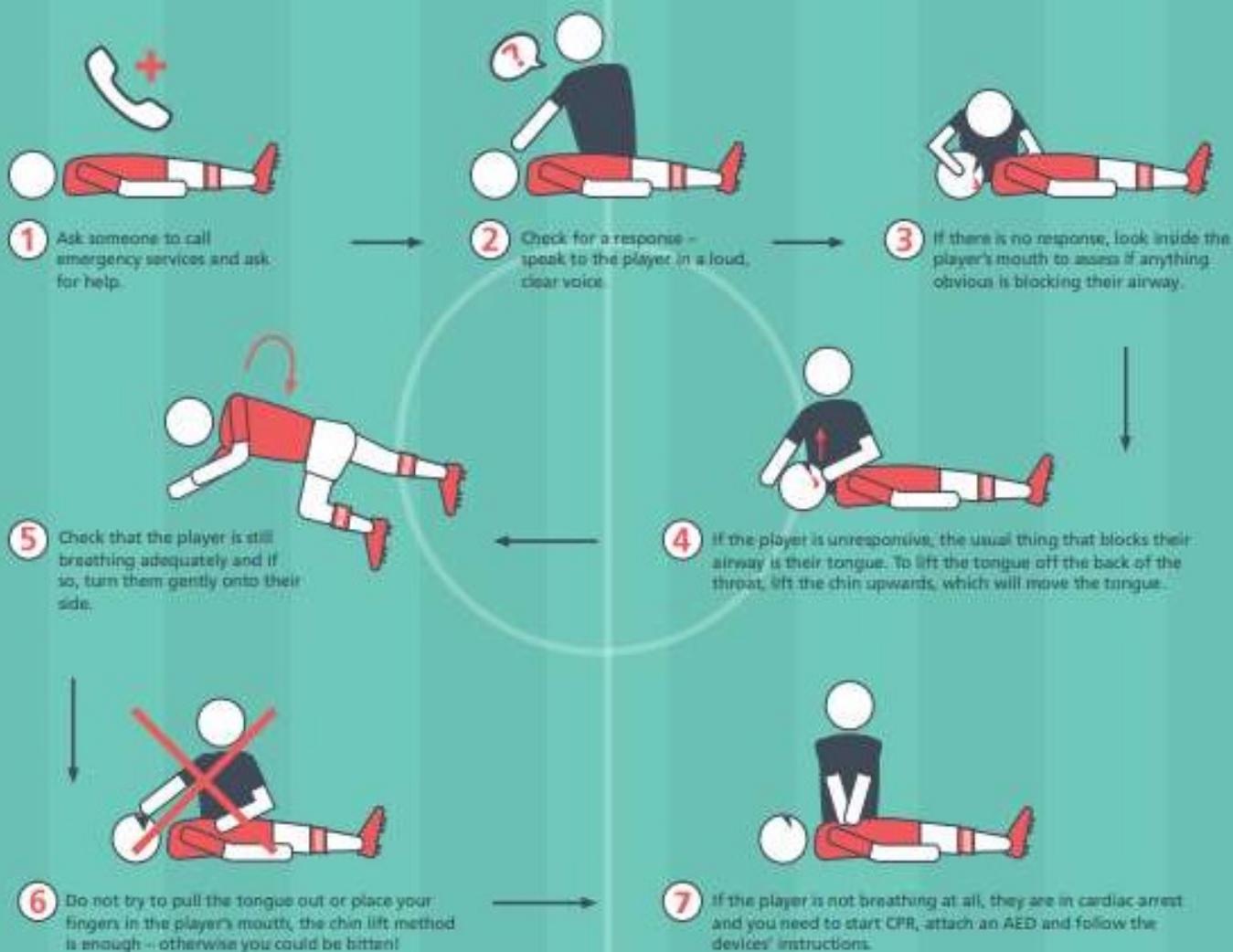
Dieudonne Mbokani – The DR Congo striker has excelled at clubs spells in Belgium and Ukraine, but failed to light up the Premier League with Norwich City and Hull City



CONTACT COLLAPSE

What to do when a player's tongue obstructs their airway

If a player collides with another player, a goalpost or the ground and remains unconscious, the airway may become obstructed if they are lying on their back. If so, do the following:



Guilherme Siqueira – Originally brought to Italy by Inter Milan, but never featured for them, the left back moved to Udinese and went on to play for Benfica, Atletico Madrid and Valencia





THE BOOT ROOM

Regular readers will know The Halfway Line's stance on flashy boots. The default is to swiftly move these on. Black leather boots are the benchmark, and really only special other coloured boots need apply to get an invitation to the Boot Room.

We have one such example in this issue.

Originally released in 2007, the Nike Total 90 Lasers are likely to be the only yellow boot to be submitted in our Boot room.

The reasons are three fold.

- 1) The Black and Yellow colour combo actually really works. It will depend on the kit that is being worn of course, but we are big fan of this combination.
- 2) The sweet spot on the bridge of the boot. Picture Wayne Rooney or Wesley Sneijder hitting a volley right on the sweet spot sending the ball top corner in off the bar - Oof!!
- 3) The sole of the boot is tremendous. The design of the bone formation with the phalanges, and the metatarsals is right up there for us, a fantastic design addition to the boot.

The boot was also released in different colour combinations, but for us it really works in the yellow and black – take a look at the gallery to make up your own mind.



Mauricio Pinilla – In the 2014 World Cup round of 16 game against Brazil, he struck the bar with a shot in the 119th minute with the game level at 1-1. Chile would lose in the penalty shoot out. To mark his near miss he got a tattoo of the shoot put on his back!





Oleksandr Gorshkov – The former Ukraine international (4 caps) also featured twice for Russia, had a stella career at Zenit St. Peterburg performing in a central midfield role





Michel Morganella – Swiss international right back became the first Swiss player to play for Palermo in Italy and represented the Rosanero over 100 times in the league



Manchester United's new strip is 100 years old.

United can now be seen playing in the colours of another team, Newell's Heath. The team that in 1902 became Manchester United. This new change strip is a piece of their history.

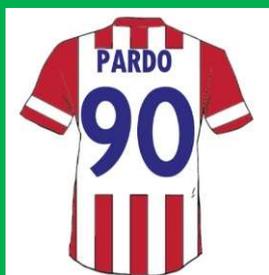
To get years, don't travel back in time. Just go to your local sports shop.



The heart and soul of football



Felipe Pardo – Colombian international winger played in his homeland before trying his luck in Europe in the Portuguese, Greek and French leagues before moving to Mexico playing for Toluca and Pachuca



COUNTRY FOCUS

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

The Federația Română de Fotbal (Romanian Football Federation), also known by its acronym FRF, is the governing body of football in Romania. They are headquartered in the capital city of Bucharest and affiliated to FIFA and UEFA since 1923 and 1955 respectively.



The top division in Romania is called Liga 1. The best performer is FCSB (known more often as Steaua Bucharest) with 26 titles, followed by cross-town rival Dinamo Bucharest with 18 trophies. Of the remaining 21 clubs which came victorious in the competition, eight have won it on at least three occasions—Venus Bucharest, UTA Arad, Chinezul Timișoara, Universitatea Craiova, Petrolul Ploiești, Ripensia Timișoara, Rapid Bucharest, and CFR Cluj

Ionel Dănciulescu has made the most appearances in the Liga 1, playing 515 games, and scoring 214 goals, that puts him second in the all time scoring charts. 252 goals for Dudu Georgescu puts him top. Despite his numbers, Danciulescu only won 8 international caps for Romania.

The national team, known as 'The Tricolours' play their home fixtures at the Arena Nationala, in Bucharest and the stadium is also shared by Steaua Bucharest and Dinamo Bucharest. In 1997 they reached as high as 3rd in the FIFA rankings.

Romania is one of the only four national teams from Europe—the other three being Belgium, France, Yugoslavia—that took part in the first FIFA World Cup in 1930. Since that performance, Romania have qualified for the 1934, 1938, 1970, 1990, 1994, and 1998 editions. The team's finest hour came in 1994 when it reached the quarter-finals. They were eliminated by Sweden on a penalty shoot-out after having previously defeated Argentina.



Pavol Bajza – Slovakian goalkeeper who played briefly for Parma in Serie A, for Vejle Boldklub in the Danish league and now for FC Slovaccko, back in his homeland



At the European Championships, Romania's best performance was in 2000 when they advanced to the quarter-finals from a group with Germany, Portugal and England, before falling to eventual runners-up Italy. They also reached the last eight in 1960 and 1972, and qualified for the 1984, 1996, 2008, and 2016 tournaments.

Dorinel Munteanu has won the most caps for Romania, winning 134 caps and the countries joint top scorers are Adrian Mutu (formerly of Chelsea) alongside their most famous player, Gheorghe Hagi (35 goals).

There have been 14 Romanian's to play in the Premier League with **Dan Petrescu** the most successful, having turned out for Chelsea and winning the FA Cup, the League Cup and the UEFA Cup Winners Cup as well as playing for Sheffield Wednesday, Bradford City and Southampton.

The only Romanian to win a Premier League winners medal is **Costel Pantilimon**, who played 7 games in the 2013-14 season in goal for Manchester City.

Believe it or not, there have been 6 players from England to venture to Liga 1.

The first was **Mark Burke**, who in 2001 joined Rapid Bucharest having previously played for Aston Villa, Middlesbrough and Wolverhampton Wanderers. He had spent time in Japan and Holland plying his trade before trying his luck in Romania.

The others to have done made the move to Liga 1 are Ross Jenkins, Wilson Kneeshaw, Jeffrey Monakana, Jordan Mustoe and Jordan Robertson.



Leandro Rodríguez – A Uruguayan forward signed for Everton in 2015 after a productive spell at River Plate, but only managed one appearance in 2 years, in the FA Cup, and has since moved to South America



Quiz time

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

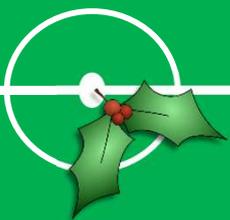
1. Gabriel Batistuta played for 3 Italian sides in his career, can you name them?
2. USA goalkeeper Tim Howard played for Everton, USA goalkeeper Kasey Keller played for Fulham, but which USA goalkeeper signed for both Everton and Fulham?
3. Steve Guppy and Jeff Kenna were the first players to achieve what in relation to Wembley stadium?
4. Who was the first African player to play in the Premier League?
5. Which two 20th Century Fox animal based animated films (released 2011 & 2017), when put together give you a title winner Premier League defender?
6. Luis Suarez and Ronaldo both left Barcelona in transfers that saw the world transfer record broken. True or False?

Teammates (all club level)

1. I have been club teammates with Robbie Keane, Teddy Sheringham, Jonathan Woodgate, Roberto Soldado and Luca Moura but I have never played for Tottenham Hotspur. Who am I?
2. I have been club teammates with Darren Peacock, Kevin Gallacher, Alan Shearer, Steve Guppy, Steve Howey and been managed by Kevin Keegan, but I have never played for Newcastle United. Who am I?
3. I have been club teammates with Stilian Petrov, Neil Lennon, Chris Sutton, Jiri Jarosik, Olivier Tebily, Stephane Henchoz and Olivier Kapo and been managed by Martin O'Neill, but I have never played for Celtic. Who am I?
4. I have been club teammates with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Nicolas Anelka, Michael Duberry, Bolo Zenden and Shaun Wright-Phillips but I have never played for Chelsea. Who am I?
5. I have been club teammates with Peter Schmeichel, Andrew Cole, Dion Dublin, Clayton Blackmore, Niall Quinn, Darius Vassell, Gary Pallister, Gareth Barry and David James, but I have never played for either Manchester United or Manchester City. Who am I?

What club links the following players?

1. Chris Armstrong, Les Ferdinand, Gudni Bergsson and Matthew Jansen?
2. Samir Nasri, Vincent Kompany, Mbo Mpenza and Cheick Tiote?
3. Nacho Monreal, Julio Baptista, Santi Cazorla and Isaac Success?
4. Henrik Mkhitaryan, Fred, Andrei Kanchelskis and Douglas Costa?
5. Jan Age Fjortoft, Dean Windass, Ashley Ward and Brian Deane?
6. Darren Huckerby, Robert Snodgrass, Jon Newsome and Ade Akinbiyi?
7. Kylian Mbappe, George Weah, Yuri Djorkaeff and John Arne Riise?
8. Philippe Coutinho, Jurgen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthaus and Matthias Sammer?



Atinc Nukan – The tall Turkish centre back transferred from Besiktas in RB Leipzig in 2015 but ended back on loan to the Turkish club, and now moved permanently to Goztepe in the Super Lig



Quiz time

1. Who was the referee that Paolo Di Canio pushed over after being sent off for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal in 1998? **Paul Alcock**
2. Who is the highest goal scorer in Premier League history totalling away goals only? **Wayne Rooney**
3. 5 Irishmen, 5 Welshmen and 5 Scotsmen have Premier League winner medals – can you name all 15? **Roy Keane, Denis Irwin, Darron Gibson John O'Shea, Damien Duff, Brian McClair, Darren Ferguson, Darren Fletcher, Andrew Robertson, Colin Hendry, Mark Hughes, Ryan Giggs, Clayton Blackmore, Andy King and Neco Williams**
4. Who was the first player to score at the 'new' Wembley, in an official FIFA match? **Giampaolo Pazzini**
5. Which team have won the most League Cups (8) and which team have been runners up the most (6)? **Liverpool most wins, and Arsenal most runners up.**
6. What do Roberto Di Matteo, Mikel Arteta and Gianluca Vialli share in common? **Foreign managers to have won the FA Cup with the same clubs as managers and players.**

Teammates (all club level)

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

What club links the following players?

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



Sofiane Hanni – The Algerian international was named Belgium Footballer of the Year in 2015/16, earning a move from Mechelen to Anderlecht



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.

Coventry City, Norwich City and Charlton Athletic are our 3 teams this issue.

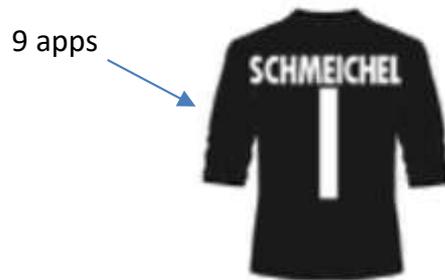
Have a look at the line ups and see if you remember the players pulling on the shirt in and when you can't, try to rack that memory bank and work out when and perhaps more relevant, why???



Carlos Vinicius – The top scorer in the Portuguese league in 2019/20, scoring 18 goals for Benfica saw him earn a season long loan move to Tottenham Hotspur where he has been used sparingly



COVENTRY CITY



4 apps
0 goals



15 apps
1 goal

3 apps
0 goals



6 apps
0 goals

12 apps
2 goals



Matteo Contini – An Italian centre back who can claim to have AC Milan, Parma, Napoli, Real Zaragoza, and Atalanta as just some of his former employers



NORWICH CITY



2 apps
0 goals



8 apps
0 goals



8 apps
0 goals



7 apps
0 goals



6 apps
1 goal



15 apps
2 goals



3 apps
0 goals



4 apps
0 goals



4 apps
0 goals



Carlos Strandberg – Former Swedish U21 striker spent a season with CSKA Moscow in Russia, with limited success and after spells back in Sweden, he is now leading the line for Saudi club side Abha, on loan from Al-Hazem



CHARLTON ATHLETIC



14 apps
0 goals



11 apps
0 goals



18 apps
0 goals



12 apps
0 goals



11 apps
0 goals

3 apps
0 goals

25 apps
2 goals



31 apps
4 goals



Stefan Simic – No relation to former AC Milan centre back Dario Simic, this defender has represented the Czech Republic and now plays for Hajduk Split



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

1	Manuel Neuer	Bayern Munich	2011-2020	51	Paolo Dellafiore	Parma	2010-2011
2	Christian Poulsen	Denmark	2007-2012	52	Jamie Cumming (GK)	Chelsea	2018-2019
3	Benjamin Mendy	Monaco	2016-2017	53	Yigitan Guveli	Fenerbahce	2016-2019
4	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	1995-2001	54	Quincy Owusu-Abeyie	Arsenal	2003-2004
5	Michael Essien	Chelsea	2005-2014	55	Grady Diangana	West Ham United	2016-2018
6	George Boateng	Aston Villa	1999-2003	56	Vladimir Tatarchuk	CSKA Moscow	2005-2007
7	Marcus Bent	Everton	2004-2006	57	Nathan Ake	Chelsea	2012-2013
8	Louis Saha	Everton	2009-2012	58	Wellington Silva	Arsenal	2014-2016
9	Radamel Falcao	Porto	2009-2012	59	Fernando Nelson	Porto	1999-2000
10	Gheorge Hagi	Galatasaray	1995-2001	60	Ozgur Cek	Fenerbahce	2011-2013
11	Juan Sebastian Veron	Parma	1998-1999	61	Enrico Zampa	Lazio	2010-2011
12	Mario Stanic	Chelsea	2000-2004	62	Marcus Tavernier	Middlesbrough	2017-2018
13	Danny Murphy	Fulham	2008-2012	63	Nicola Bellomo	Chievo	2014-2015
14	Gaizka Mendietta	Middlesbrough	2003-2006	64	Ivanildo Fernandes	Sporting Lisbon	2017-2018
15	Florent Malouda	Chelsea	2007-2013	65	Nicolo Rovella	Genoa	2018-2020
16	Damien Duff	Fulham	2009-2014	66	Danny Wilson	Rangers	2009-2010
17	Emmanuel Petit	Arsenal	1997-2000	67	Ergun Penbe	Galatasaray	1997-2007
18	Lars Ricken	Borussia Dortmund	1995-2007	68	Stanislav Lobotka	Napoli	2019-2020
19	Lorik Cana	Marseille	2005-2009	69	Riccardo Meggiorini	Torino	2011-2014
20	Yakubu Ayegbeni	Middlesbrough	2005-2007	70	Callum Hudson-Odoi	Chelsea	2017-2018
21	Juan Carlos Valeron	Deportivo La Coruna	2000-2013	71	Veysel Unal	Alanyaspor	2019-2020
22	Marcio Amoroso	Borussia Dortmund	2001-2004	72	Tyreece John-Jules	Arsenal	2018-2019
23	Juninho Paulista	Middlesbrough	1999-2000	73	Marco Meli	Fiorentina	2017-2019
24	Alan Goma	Fulham	2000-2006	74	Felipe Soderinha	Udinese	2007-2008
25	Enzo Marcesa	Sevilla	2005-2008	75	Andrea Zanchetta	Lecce	2006-2007
26	Chris Smalling	Fulham	2009-2010	76	Ricardo (GK)	Sporting Lisbon	2003-2006
27	Ahmed Elmohamady	Aston Villa	2017-2020	77	David Neres	Ajax	2016-2017
28	Cesar Azpilicueta	Chelsea	2012-2020	78	Marco Ferreira	Porto	2002-2003
29	Shaun Maloney	Celtic	2000-2007	79	Alfonso Camorani	Fiorentina	2003-2004
30	Yossi Benayoun	Chelsea	2011-2013	80	Jonathan Obika	Tottenham Hotspur	2008-2009
31	Liedson	Sporting Lisbon	2003-2011	81	Serdar Ozkan	Besiktas	2004-2005
32	Bolo Zenden	Middlesbrough	2004-2005	82	Pedro Silva (GK)	Sporting Lisbon	2016-2018
33	Emerson Palmieri	Chelsea	2017-2020	83	Reginaldo	Parma	2007-2008
34	Jon Harley	Chelsea	1999-2002	84	Andrea Raggi	Sampdoria	2008-2009
35	Capone	Galatasaray	1999-2002	85	Dieumerici Mbokani	Dynamo Kiev	2013-2015
36	Matthew Killagon	Leeds United	2002-2004	86	Guilherme Siqueira	Udinese	2006-2010
37	Rob Lee	Newcastle United	1999-2000	87	Mauricio Pinilla	Sporting Lisbon	2004-2006
38	Neil Etheridge (GK)	Fulham	2010-2014	88	Aleksandr Gorshkov	Zenit St. Petersburg	2003-2009
39	Lee Cattermole	Middlesbrough	2005-2006	89	Michel Morganella	Palermo	2012-2017
40	Stephanie Mbia	Sevilla	2013-2014	90	Felipe Pardo	Olympiakos	2015-2019
41	Johnnie Jackson	Tottenham Hotspur	2000-2001	91	Pavol Bajza (GK)	Parma	2012-2015
42	Michael Mancienne	Chelsea	2008-2011	92	Leonard Rodriguez	Everton	2016-2017
43	Yan Valery	Southampton	2018-2020	93	Atinc Nukan	Besiktas	2009-2013
44	Deyan Iliev (GK)	Arsenal	2018-2019	94	Sofiane Hanni	Anderlecht	2016-2018
45	Steven Caulker	Tottenham Hotspur	2010-2012	95	Carlos Vinicius	Benfica	2019-2020
46	Tom Carroll	Tottenham Hotspur	2011-2013	96	Matteo Contini	Napoli	2007-2010
47	Kevin N'Doram	Monaco	2015-2016	97	Carlos Strandberg	CSKA Moscow	2014-2016
48	Dan Potts	West Ham United	2011-2012	98	Stefan Simic	AC Milan	2015-2016
49	Jonas Lossi (GK)	Everton	2019-2020	99	Demba Ba	Besiktas	2016-2017
50	Pablo Maffeo	Manchester City	2015-2017	100	Eduardo Perez	Puelbas FC	2014-2015



Demba Ba – A prolific goalscorer in Germany, England, Turkey and China but perhaps best known for scoring for Chelsea after the infamous Steven Gerrard slip at Anfield in April 2014

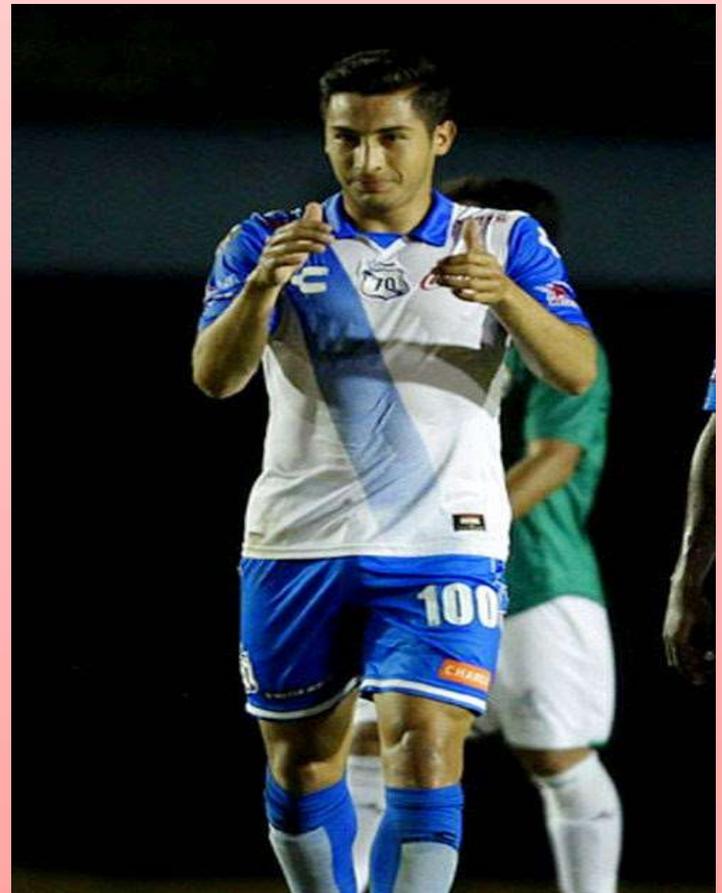


What's coming up in the next issue of The Halfway Line?

- The Invincible Teams
- Just how good were these players?
- The Greatest Comebacks
- Baby Booms – The Youngest of 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

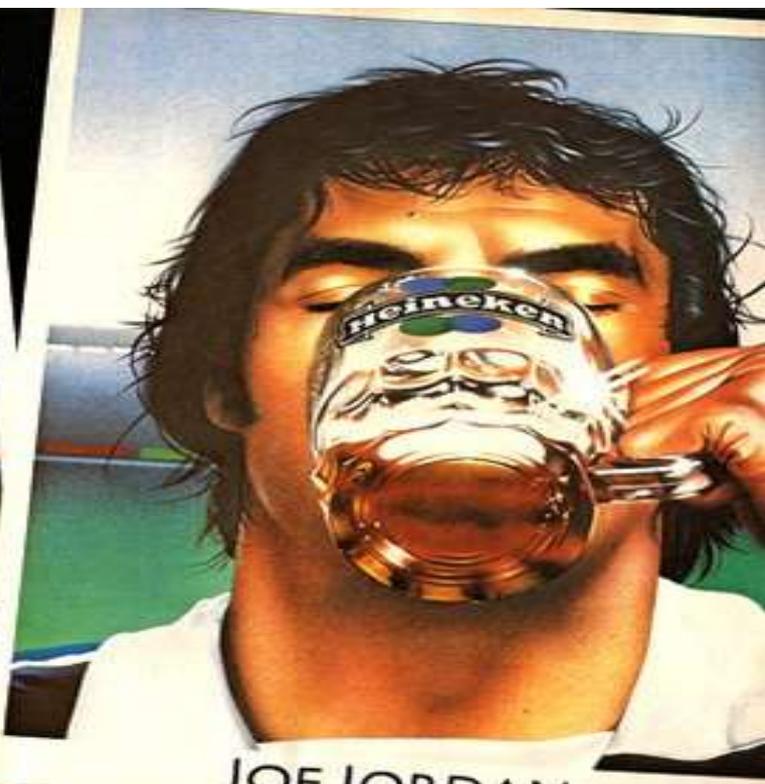


Eduardo Perez – A Mexican forward who currently plays for Atletico Morella having begun his career at Mexican club side Puelbas

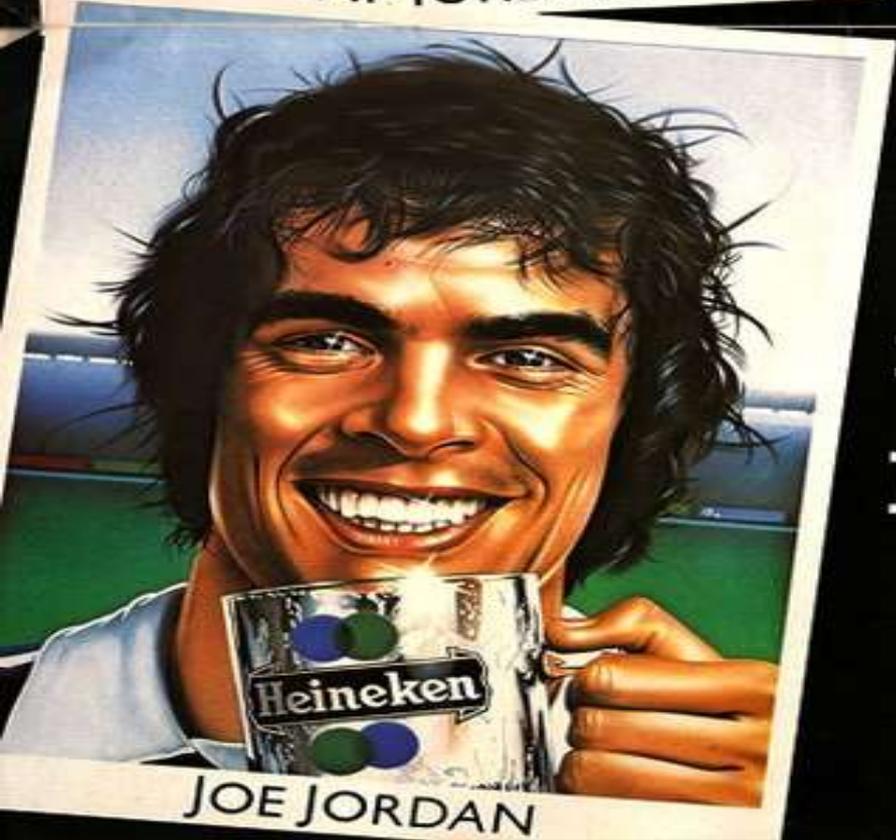




JOE JORDAN



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refreshes the
parts other
beers cannot
reach.**



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