



UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL WARSAW 2015

FC DNIPRO DNIPROPETROVSK & SEVILLA FC



# FINAL 2015 WARSAW

FC DNIPRO DNIPROPETROVSK  
v SEVILLA FC



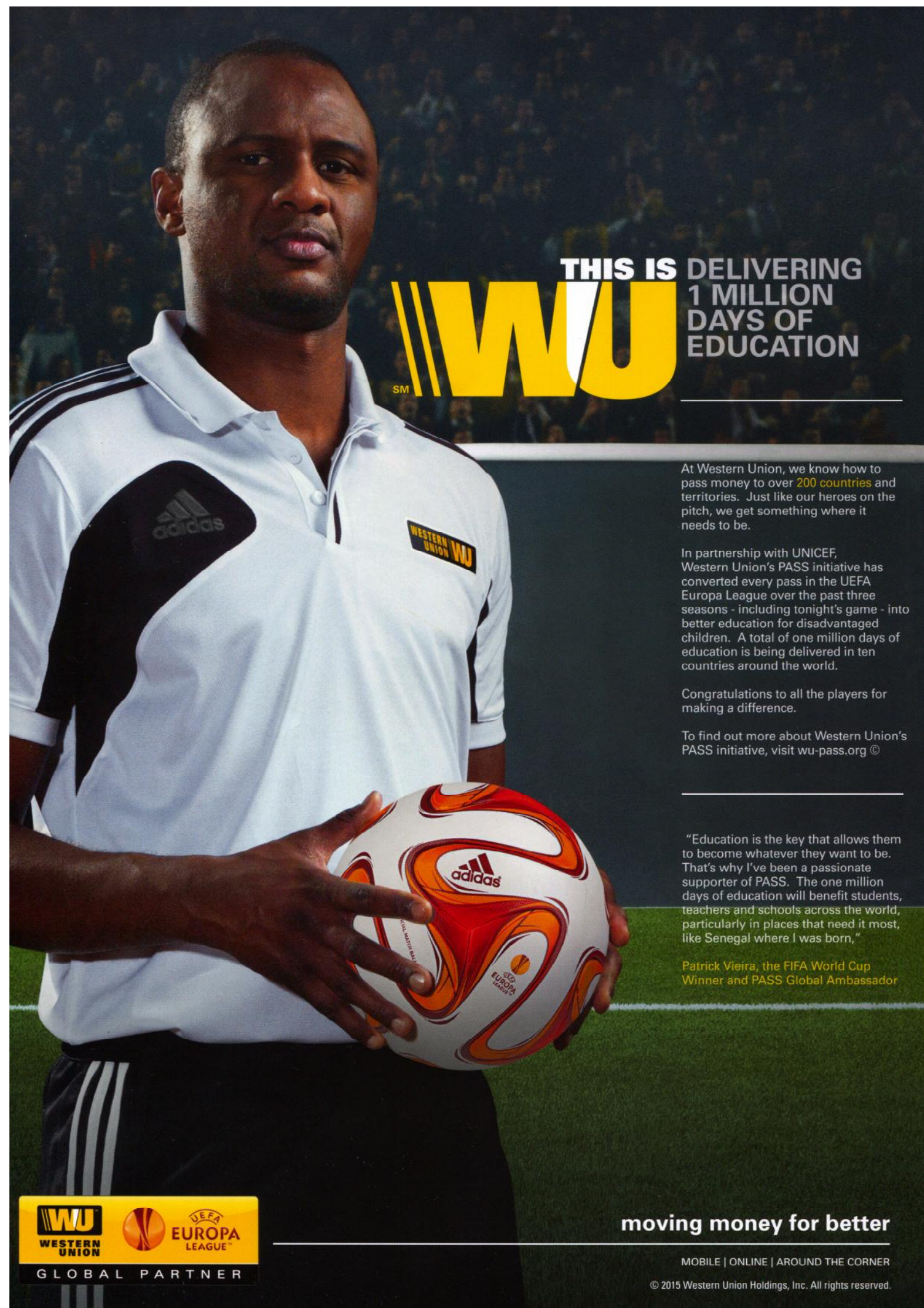
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Patrick Vieira, the FIFA World Cup Winner and PASS Global Ambassador

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GLOBAL PARTNER

**FINAL 2015 WARSAW**

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# 2014

Sevilla FC 0  
SL Benfica 0  
UEFA Europa League final,  
Juventus Stadium, Turin

As red and white confetti falls, Sevilla FC experience a mixture of jubilation and relief following a nerve-jangling 4-2 shoot-out in the 2014 UEFA Europa League final. Goalkeeper Beto was the hero; having kept a clean sheet for 120 minutes, he saved two spot kicks to seal a record-equalling third trophy for the Hispalenses. On the pitch, SL Benfica were forced to watch another team lift the trophy for the second season running.





# NO TO RACISM



## RESPECT

UEFA.org



### UEFA President's message

Welcome to the final of the UEFA Europa League, the showpiece match concluding the sixth season of the competition in this format. As well as the opportunity to lift the trophy, FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk and Sevilla FC have the added incentive of a possible place in next season's UEFA Champions League as a reward, which adds a little extra incentive to tonight's proceedings.

That all four semi-final clubs emerged having participated in the group stage of the UEFA Europa League shows the strength in depth of European football and the great progress that this competition has made.

Being in Poland again brings back fond memories of UEFA EURO 2012, when the co-hosts staged some excellent matches – including some at this National Stadium in Warsaw – and served up an excellent atmosphere. We have seen a sustainable legacy for football in this country as a result of that tournament and I would like to offer my thanks to the Polish Football Federation and its president, Zbigniew Boniek, for all of the hard work not only for this match but in his commitment to developing football across the country. It only remains for me to wish the very best of luck to both teams, in expectation of an exciting match played in a spirit of respect and fair play. Enjoy the final!

**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

### Wypowiedź Prezydenta UEFA

Witam Państwa z okazji finału Ligi Europejskiej UEFA, przed nami finałowy mecz, który będzie zwieńczeniem szóstego sezonu rywalizacji w tym formacie. Oprócz szansy na zdobycie trofeum, dodatkową motywacją dla SSC Napoli / FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk i Sevilla FC / ACF Fiorentina jest możliwość wywalczenia udziału w przyszłorocznej Lidze Mistrzów UEFA, co dodatkowo podnosi stawkę dzisiejszego spotkania.

Fakt, że wszystkie cztery kluby zakwalifikowały się do półfinałów dzięki ich wynikom w fazie grupowej Ligi Europejskiej UEFA, pokazuje głębię siły europejskiej piłki nożnej i olbrzymie postępy tego turnieju.

Ponowny pobyt w Polsce przywodzi na myśl miłe wspomnienia z UEFA EURO 2012, kiedy współgospodarze zawodów zorganizowali kilka znakomitych meczy – także tu, na Stadionie Narodowym w Warszawie – i zapewnili doskonałą atmosferę.

Widzimy, że owe Mistrzostwa pozostawiły w tym kraju trwałe dziedzictwo futbolu i chcę podziękować Polskiemu Związkowi Piłki Nożnej i jego prezesowi – Zbigniewowi Bonkowi za ciężką pracę włożoną nie tylko w ten mecz, ale w zaangażowanie w rozwój piłki nożnej w całym kraju.

Pozostaje mi tylko życzyć powodzenia obydwu zespołom i liczyć na ekscytujący mecz rozegrany w duchu szacunku i fair play. Życzę wspaniałego finału!

**Michel Platini**  
Prezydent UEFA







# Witamy w Polsce

A very warm welcome to Poland and the city of Warsaw for the final of the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League. The chance to organise this prestigious match is very important to us, so that we can show the great strides we have made in terms of infrastructure and stadiums and as a means of inspiring us on to further progress. The interest in tickets has been high, and we have witnessed the appetite that there is in Poland for top-level football. And people arriving in the city may be pleasantly surprised as well: the hotel industry is thriving, the streets are clean and well-organised and it's a busy and vibrant place with old squares and beautiful restaurants.

We have worked very hard to develop youth football in Poland so that we can give the sport a bright future. We have built almost 3,000 artificial pitches in order to help young players; we have facilities in every city. UEFA have also helped us, and another pitch will be opened thanks to this final.

Importantly, more and more young players are starting to train and we hope that this match will give them moments of great football and inspiration. We hope that you enjoy the final and that at the end of it, we can say that we've had a huge football party!

**Zbigniew Boniek**

**Polish Football Federation President**

Serdecznie witamy w Polsce i Warszawie z okazji finałów Ligi Europejskiej UEFA 2014/15. Bardzo ważna dla nas była możliwość organizacji tego prestiżowego meczu, pozwalała nam to pokazać olbrzymie postępy, jakie poczyniliśmy w zakresie infrastruktury i stadionów. Jest to też dla nas inspiracja do dalszego rozwoju. Zainteresowanie biletami było olbrzymie – jesteście świadkami tego, że w Polsce jest apetyt na futbol z najwyższej półki. Pozytywnie zaskoczeni mogą też być goście przybywający do miasta: hotelarstwo kwitnie, ulice są czyste i dobrze zorganizowane, a samo miasto tętni życiem i oferuje przybyszom stare skwery i piękne restauracje.

Cieężko pracowaliśmy nad tym, by rozwinąć w Polsce futbol młodzieżowy – konieczny fundament przyszłych sukcesów. Aby pomóc młodym zawodnikom wybudowaliśmy w kraju blisko 3000 sztucznych boisk, każde polskie miasto dysponuje już boiskiem. Otrzymaliśmy też wsparcie ze strony UEFA, dzięki temu finałowi utworzymy kolejne boisko.

Co ważne, coraz więcej młodych zawodników zaczyna trening i mamy nadzieję, że ten mecz da im chwilę wielkiego futbolu i inspirację. Mamy nadzieję, że mecz finałowy przyniesie Państwu wiele radości i po ostatnim gwizdku będziemy mogli powiedzieć, że uczestniczyliśmy w wielkim, piłkarskim święcie!

**Zbigniew Boniek**  
Prezes PZPN







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# FINAL BERLIN 2015



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## Welcome to Warsaw

It is an honour to welcome you to Warsaw for the final of the UEFA Europa League, a prestigious event for our city. Our guests will get to know Warsaw as a dynamic European city, where sport is very important.

More and more people are enjoying an active way of life here. We have hundreds of races of different types and lengths and we have a new cycling set-up in the city. Through this match, interest in football will definitely increase too. We are a city – and indeed a nation – of football fans and for younger players, it will be a showcase of what can be achieved through the sport.

We have the infrastructure not only for the staging of international sporting events but also for developing sport. Pitches are being modernised across the city, as we have seen recently in both the Rembertow and Radosc districts. In fact, every district of this city now has at least one high-quality, relatively new pitch. We hope that you enjoy your time in this welcoming city and take many wonderful memories from the UEFA Europa League final in Warsaw. Enjoy the match.

**Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz**  
Mayor of Warsaw

## Witam w Warszawie

Czuję się zaszczycona mogąc powitać Państwa w Warszawie przy okazji finału Ligi Europejskiej UEFA, prestiżowego wydarzenia w naszym mieście. Nasi goście będą mieli okazję do poznania Warszawy – dynamicznego europejskiego miasta, w którym sport odgrywa ważną rolę.

Coraz więcej mieszkańców prowadzi aktywny styl życia. Mamy setki wyścigów różnych rodzajów i na rozmaitych dystansach, miasto wprowadziło też nowy program wypożyczania rowerów. Zaś ten mecz bez wątpienia zwiększy zainteresowanie piłką nożną. Jesteśmy miastem, a w rzeczy samej krajem, miłośników piłki nożnej. Dla młodszych zawodników dzisiejszy finał będzie pokazem, co można osiągnąć poprzez ten sport.

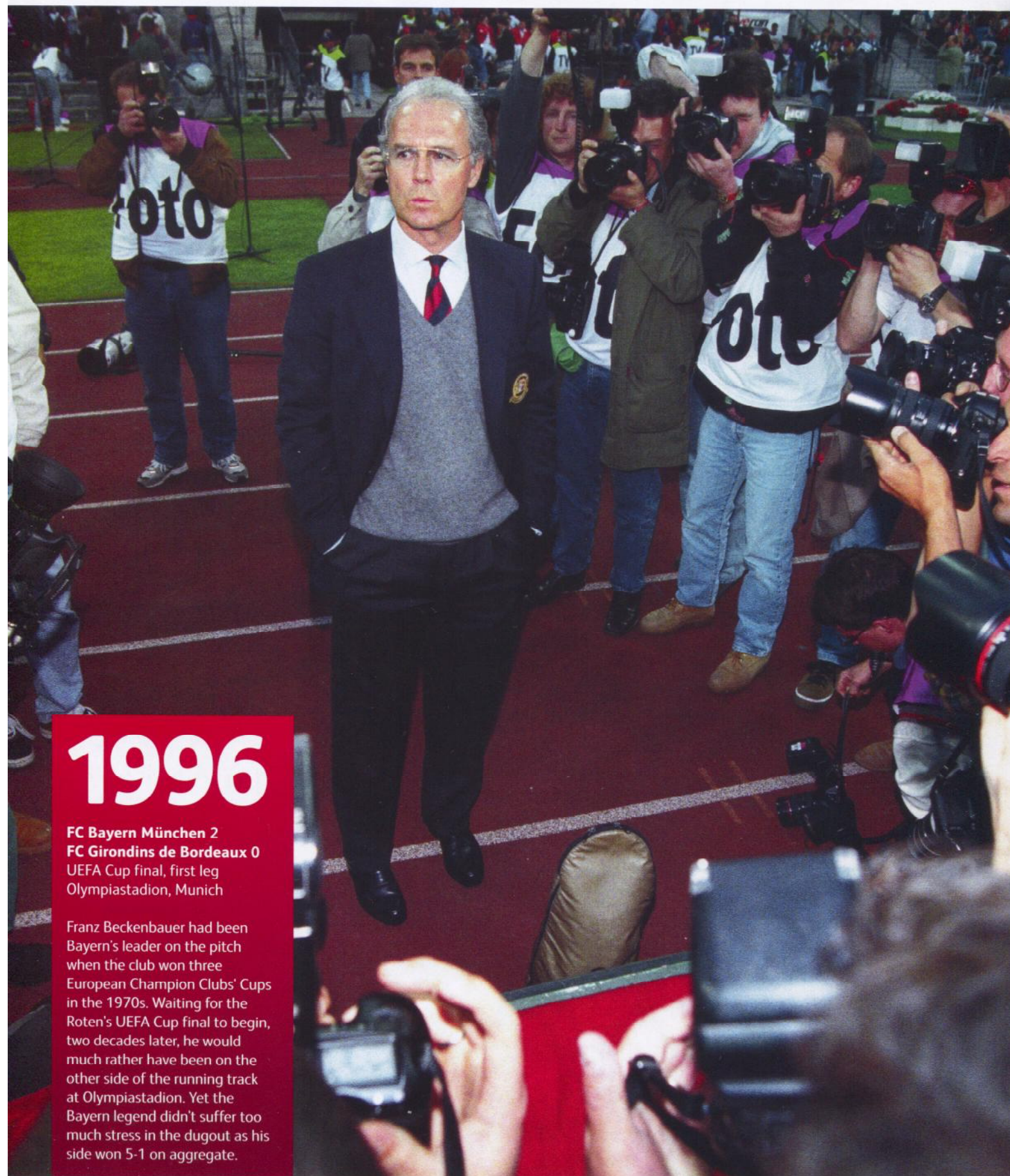
Infrastruktura, jaką dysponujemy, pozwala nie tylko na gościnie międzynarodowych imprez sportowych, ale także na rozwój sportu. Na terenie całego miasta modernizujemy boiska, ostatnio w dzielnicach Rembertów i Radość. W rzeczy samej, każda dzielnica naszego miasta dysponuje co najmniej jednym, wysokiej jakości, stosunkowo nowym boiskiem.

Mamy nadzieję, że Państwa wizyta w naszym gościnnym mieście będzie miła i wyniosą Państwo wspomnienia z finału Ligi Europejskiej UEFA w Warszawie. Życzę wspaniałego meczu.

**Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz**  
Prezydent m. st. Warszawy

# FINAL 2015 WARSAW





1996

FC Bayern München 2  
FC Girondins de Bordeaux 0  
UEFA Cup final, first leg  
Olympiastadion, Munich

Franz Beckenbauer had been Bayern's leader on the pitch when the club won three European Champion Clubs' Cups in the 1970s. Waiting for the Roten's UEFA Cup final to begin, two decades later, he would much rather have been on the other side of the running track at Olympiastadion. Yet the Bayern legend didn't suffer too much stress in the dugout as his side won 5-1 on aggregate.



Seedorf has signed up as UEFA's Global Ambassador for Diversity and Change

## FORCE FOR GOOD

Clarence Seedorf is helping to encourage tolerance in football

Football is an exceptional tool for the promotion of tolerance and unity, something that UEFA has recognised with the appointment of Clarence Seedorf as Global Ambassador for Diversity and Change. Twenty years after lifting European football's biggest prize for the first time, the four-time UEFA Champions League winner and former Netherlands international was enrolled to use his experience to create new concepts and initiatives, and to be a voice and role model for inclusivity and against discrimination; "a leader" in the words of the UEFA President, Michel Platini.

### What motivates you about your ambassadorial role with UEFA?

I am really honoured to be part of this whole project. After I spoke with the [UEFA] President, I felt his passion and his ideas were very convincing. And of course I'm going to commit fully, together with UEFA, to fighting this fight. I thank the President for the support that he is giving me and my belief [is that I can] make this world a little bit

better. The leadership that UEFA is showing says a lot about where we want to go, and I am sure that together we can gather enough people to create a great and positive movement.

### How important is education to making football a more diverse world?

Education is the sole cause for change, for peace and for help in the fight against racism and discrimination in general, so that's definitely the core of our future. It's about creating awareness and speaking about these issues, and creating a better solution than we have today. Through that process of awareness, we can finally find the right solutions and the right actions to make a difference.

### How have you seen developments in football in terms of diversity?

Globalisation has changed the world and I think that football is the perfect instrument to set an example and to help adapt to this new world. So let's get together and start the ball rolling!

## Disabled fans' attendance record in Poland

Last month brought up a historic milestone in Polish football as, for the first time, more than 1,000 disabled fans attended a match, representing nearly 10% of all spectators. WKS Śląsk Wrocław took on KS Lechia Gdańsk on 18 April at Municipal Stadium – a venue purpose-built for UEFA EURO 2012 – in a match that now sets the example.

UEFA's football social responsibility partner, the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) arranged for the disabled

fans to attend as part of their 'Total Football, Total Access' week of action, in cooperation with the Wrocław-based Klub Kibiców Niepełnosprawnych (KKN) –



Disabled fans at WKS Śląsk Wrocław v KS Lechia Gdańsk

Poland's biggest disabled supporters' association.

The goal was to promote access to live matches for supporters with various

disabilities and to create an inclusive matchday experience. While the record initially seemed difficult to break, the result turned out to be a triumph. Hardly any disabled

people were attending live football a few years ago, but there are now regularly 200 members at a match – an increasing number that will have been further boosted by last month's remarkable achievement.

Football is changing the lives of disabled people in Poland, and it is hoped that the Wrocław initiative will inspire other clubs in Europe to establish similar records, making football accessible and enjoyable for all.



### NO SMOKING POLICY

A No Smoking policy will be in operation across all internal and external areas of National Stadium Warsaw once fans have passed through the turnstiles for the UEFA Europa League final. The No Smoking policy brings health benefits to fans and anyone working at the match by lowering exposure to second-hand smoke. Any person using tobacco or e-cigarette products in the stadium will be asked to stop. Thank you for respecting the No Smoking policy, and enjoy the game.





# ROAD

1

**18.09.14 Matchday 1  
LEADING FROM THE FRONT**  
PAOK FC captain Stefanos Athanasiadis kicks off his side's bid for a fourth successive progression from the group stage in devastating style with an 18-minute hat-trick. The Greek club run out 6-1 winners against debutants FC Dinamo Minsk in Group K.

2

**18.09.14 Matchday 1  
SIX OF THE QUICKEST**  
FC Steaua București become the first team to score six in a UEFA Europa League match since the competition's inception in 2009/10. All the goals against Aalborg BK come in 22 second-half minutes, aided by the 57th-minute dismissal of Danish goalkeeper Nicolai Larsen.

3

**02.10.14 Matchday 2  
CROWD SOURCED**  
VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach coach Lucien Favre sees his team earn a 1-1 Group A draw on his return to FC Zürich, where he claimed two Swiss titles. Gladbach take 10,000 fans to the game, an operation that involves the largest chartered train trip in the club's history.

4

**23.10.14 Matchday 3  
HISTORY MAKERS**  
Qarabağ FK become the first Azerbaijani club to win a UEFA group stage game after a 1-0 Group F victory at FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk. Muareem Muareem's 21st-minute strike is a worthy winner – he cuts inside two defenders before curling a low shot into the far corner.

9

**11.12.14 Matchday 6  
CONSOLATION VICTORY**  
Although Dinamo Minsk are unable to reach the knockout stage, they make history by becoming the first Belarusian club to beat Italian opposition in UEFA competition with a 2-1 away success against Group K winners ACF Fiorentina.



# WA



Qarabağ make history for Azerbaijan (left); Gladbach fans out in strength; Dynamo Kyiv's keeper Shovkovskiy (above)



10

**11.12.14 Matchday 6  
YOUNG BOYS STAY LATE**  
Two late goals allow BSC Young Boys to leapfrog their opponents AC Sparta Praha and take second place in Group I. Guillaume Hoarau (pictured, top right) nets a 75th-minute spot kick and Renato Steffen scores in the fourth minute of added time to complete a tense win.

# TO



Record-breaking hat-tricks, torrential downpours, historic triumphs, sold-out stadiums and stunning goals – just some of the highlights from an enthralling UEFA Europa League campaign

5

**06.11.14 Matchday 4  
WOLVES AT THE DOOR**  
VfL Wolfsburg move within touching distance of a place in the round of 32 after substitutes Aaron Hunt and Nicklas Bendtner both score twice to help secure a second victory in a fortnight against Russia's FC Krasnodar. All goals in the 5-1 success come in the second half.

6

**06.11.14 Matchday 4  
ROOM TO SPARE**  
FC Salzburg qualify for the knockout stage with two Group D matches to spare after a hat-trick from Jonathan Soriano helps them to a 5-1 triumph at GNK Dinamo Zagreb. Strikes from Kevin Kampl and Massimo Bruno make Angelo Henriques' goal a mere consolation.

7

**27.11.14 Matchday 5  
EVER-LASTING GLOVE**  
FC Dynamo Kyiv No1 Olexandr Shovkovskiy keeps a clean sheet on his 582nd competitive appearance for the team, which breaks Oleh Blokhin's club record. Second-half goals from Jeremain Lens and Miguel Veloso give the Ukrainian club a 2-0 victory against Portugal's Rio Ave FC.

8

**27/28.11.14 Matchday 5  
GAME OF TWO HALVES**  
In a match played over two days because torrential rain forced a suspension at half-time in Portugal, PSV Eindhoven ensure their passage from Group E with a 3-3 draw at Estoril Praia. Georginio Wijnaldum's late equalising goal is the 3,000th in the UEFA Europa League.

# RS AW

11

**19.02.15 Round of 32, first leg  
ALL GOODISON**  
Romelu Lukaku hits a hat-trick as Everton FC end Young Boys' seven-match winning streak at home in Europe with a 4-1 stroll in the Swiss capital. The Gelb-Schwarzen take the lead through a Hoarau effort before two goals in five minutes leave the Toffees in charge.

12

**19.02.15 Round of 32, first leg  
HAPPY (AWAY) DAYS**  
Three goals in the first 27 minutes set Trabzonspor AŞ on the way to their heaviest home defeat in Europe and Rafael Benítez's SSC Napoli hurtling towards the last 16. The pick of the goals is finished by Gonzalo Higuaín after superb play from midfielder Manolo Gabbiadini.

13

**19.02.15 Round of 32, first leg  
GREEN LIGHT**  
Celtic FC and FC Internazionale Milano produce a pulsating 3-3 draw at Celtic Park. An added-time strike from late substitute John Guidetti earns the Bhoys a draw. The Swede's 93rd-minute equaliser denies the Italian giants their first ever victory over 90 minutes in Glasgow.

14

**26.02.15 Round of 32, second leg  
GUINGAMP GONE**  
Dynamo Kyiv progress to the last 16 after Oleh Gusev's penalty finally defeats a dogged EA Guingamp. Serhiy Rebrov's side lost 2-1 in the first leg in France against a side from a town of 9,000 inhabitants who had already gone further in Europe than ever before. →





**16**  
26.02.15 Round of 32, second leg  
**POLE APART**  
Polish forward Arkadiusz Milik scores twice on his return to his homeland – adding to his strike from the first leg – for AFC Ajax at Legia Warsaw. Milik, watched by Poland coach Adam Nawalka, nets both goals before half-time in a 3-0 win on the night and a 4-0 triumph on aggregate.

**17**  
12.03.15 Round of 16, first leg  
**KING KEV**  
A Kevin De Bruyne double puts Wolfsburg in command against Inter after the Nerazzuri take the lead in the sixth minute. De Bruyne responds in style, setting up Wolfsburg's equaliser and getting the next two goals himself to give Wolfsburg a 3-1 cushion to take to San Siro.

**18**  
12.03.15 Round of 16, first leg  
**LUCKY 13**  
Reigning champions Sevilla FC make the perfect start, Vitolo finishing from Kevin Gameiro's pass with only 13 seconds on the clock to score the fastest goal in UEFA Europa League history. The early strike sets up a comfortable 3-1 success at fellow Liga side Villarreal CF.

**19**  
19.03.15 Round of 16, second leg  
**FALL OF ROME**  
Three goals in the first 22 minutes place Fiorentina firmly in control at Stadio Olimpico in an all-Italian tie following a 1-1 draw in the first leg against AS Roma. Gonzalo Rodríguez converts from the spot, with Marcos Alonso making it two, before José María Basanta heads in a third.

**20**  
19.03.15 Round of 16, second leg  
**AGAINST THE ODDS**  
Despite conceding 62% possession to their opponents, missing five first-choice players through injury or suspension as well as coach Myron Markevych through illness, Dnipro advance on away goals at Ajax. Yevhen Konoplyanka's stylish finish proves to be the crucial strike.



**21**  
19.03.15 Round of 16, second leg  
**DYNAMIC**  
Kyiv's superb performance to overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit against Everton means there is no English club in the last eight of any UEFA competition for the first time since 1992/93. Andriy Yarmolenko and Antunes both score spectacular goals in the 5-2 win.

**23**  
16.04.15 Quarter-finals, first leg  
**PERFECT PRESENT**  
On his 55th birthday, Benítez watches his Napoli team inflict the heaviest European home defeat (4-1) on Wolfsburg. Higuaín opens the scoring before setting up Marek Hamšík for the first of his two goals. Sub Gabbadini adds a fourth before Bendtner's consolation.

**24**  
07.05.15 Semi-finals, first leg  
**BACK IN FRONT**  
Aleix Vidal had never scored a goal in European competition before. Yet Sevilla's 25-year-old right-back gets his side off the mark against Fiorentina in the first leg, strikes again and then plays a killer pass for Gameiro to make it 3-0 as the Spanish side put one foot in the final.

**25**  
14.05.15 Semi-finals, second leg  
**FINISHING TOUCH**  
It isn't the best goal Dnipro No11 Yevhen Seleznyov has scored but his close-range finish after 58 minutes of the second leg against Napoli may be the most important. His effort gives the Ukrainian hosts something to protect and they hold on to reach their first European final.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The campaign in numbers

### TOP SCORERS

Alan	8
Romelu Lukaku	8
Gonzalo Higuaín	7
Stefanos Athanasiadis	6
Guillaume Hoarau	6
Lior Refaelov	6
Jonathan Soriano	6
Luciano Vietto	6

### MOST ASSISTS

Luciano Vietto	6
Andriy Yarmolenko	6
Kevin De Bruyne	5
Colin Kazim Richards	5

### MOST PASSES COMPLETED

Gökhan Inler	523
Juan	449
Veli Kavlak	444
Phil Jagielka	442
Robin Knoche	438

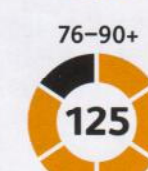
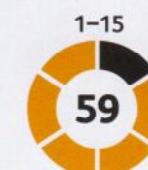
### MOST GOALS SCORED PER GAME

Salzburg	2.88
Villarreal	2.20
Everton	2.10
Four teams	2.00

### HIGHEST POSSESSION

Ajax	61%
Mönchengladbach	60%
Tottenham	59%
Athletic Club	57%
Five teams	55%

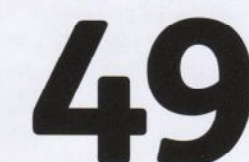
### TIMES OF GOALS



NATIONS REPRESENTED IN THE GROUP STAGE



GOALS SCORED



APPEARANCES AS A COACH FOR UNAI EMERY

### MOST APPEARANCES OF PLAYERS IN THIS CAMPAIGN

Daniel Carriço	47
Óscar Cardozo	44
Jermain Lens	43
Jan Vertonghen	39

### MOST PROLIFIC GOALSCORERS IN THIS SEASON'S COMPETITION

Óscar Cardozo	20
Giuseppe Rossi	14
Jonathan Soriano	14
Romelu Lukaku	13

### TOP SCORING NATIONS IN 2014/15

Spain	41
Belgium	35
Netherlands	34
Brazil	32
Argentina	26
France	26
Italy	23
Ukraine	23



it took Vitolo to score for Sevilla against Villarreal



it took Claudiu Keșerü to score his hat-trick for Steaua against Aalborg



played by Denys Boyko and Douglas



ITALIAN TEAMS IN THE ROUND OF 16  
Fiorentina, Inter, Napoli, Roma and Torino



BETWEEN THE STADIUMS OF DINAMO MOSKVA AND ESTORIL, WHO MET IN GROUP E



# A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Introducing ten players who have thrilled supporters and tormented the opposition during this UEFA Europa League campaign

## KEVIN DE BRUYNE

VfL Wolfsburg • Age 23 • Midfielder

The creative hub of Dieter Hecking's exhilarating Wolfsburg team, De Bruyne is another product of Belgium's flourishing football academy. Born in Ghent in 1991, the attacking midfielder began his career at KRC Genk, attracting the attention of Chelsea FC who signed him in 2012. He returned to Genk on loan before spending the 2012/13 campaign loaned to SV Werder Bremen. In January 2014, unable to cement a place in Chelsea's first team, he joined the Wölfe in a €25m deal.

### What he's good at

Five goals and five assists in this season's UEFA Europa League prove that De Bruyne is just as adept at converting chances as he is at creating them. An inventive playmaker, he has the power to bring team-mates into the game with his superb vision and accurate passing. He loves dribbling and taking on defenders and has the ability to whip in a penetrating cross.

### Highlight of his campaign

De Bruyne's first goal of this season's competition remains his best: a rocket-powered volley from 25m at home to LOSC Lille in the group stage.



## GÖKHAN INLER

SSC Napoli • Age 30 • Midfielder

Every side needs a player like Inler: diligent, tireless and industrious, he is the engine of the Napoli midfield. Born in Switzerland to Turkish parents, he began his career at FC Basel 1893 before moving on to FC Aarau and FC Zürich. In 2007 he signed for Udinese Calcio, staying four seasons with the Zebre before switching to Napoli in 2011. A calf injury restricted his appearances in Serie A this season but the 30-year-old has missed just two matches in the UEFA Europa League.

### What he's good at

No player has completed more passes in the current UEFA Europa League than Inler. The defensive midfielder is accomplished at sitting in front of the Partenopei back four, providing the first line of defence against opposition attacks with his decisive and effective tackling.

### Highlight of his campaign

The Swiss international's performance in Napoli's 4-1 triumph at Wolfsburg in the quarter-final first leg didn't make many headlines, but he put in an impressive shift to repel the Wölfe and enable Gonzalo Higuaín and Marek Hamšík to grab the glory.

## HARRY KANE

Tottenham Hotspur FC • Age 21 • Forward

Few people outside north London had even heard of Harry Kane when Spurs began their UEFA Europa League campaign at AEL Limassol FC back in August. But there can be

few fans across Europe who don't know his name by now. A natural, intuitive striker, Kane lashed home the winner in that play-off first leg in Cyprus and hasn't stopped scoring since, with five goals in the group stage. Making his senior England debut in March, Kane was voted Young Player of the Year by the Professional Footballers' Association a month later.

### What he's good at

Kane has that uncoachable gift of being able to arrive in the right place at the right time, with the capacity to find space and finish with confidence. Not blessed with explosive pace or devastating aerial power, he has a sixth sense in the penalty area and has been likened to Gary Lineker, Jürgen Klinsmann and Gabriel Batistuta.

### Highlight of his campaign

Kane's hat-trick in a 5-1 victory against Asteras Tripolis FC in October demonstrated his predatory instincts, with an angled long-range effort followed by a neat close-range finish and a header to bag the match ball. He even ended the night in goal after Hugo Lloris was sent off.

## YEVHEN KONOPLYANKA

FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk • Age 25

• Midfielder

A flying winger full of verve and creativity, Konoplyanka has been one of the leading men in the Dnipro's spirited run to their first European final. The Dnipro No10 combined his nascent football career with karate, and even attained a black belt before

Kane has had an incredible breakthrough season for Spurs



Ukrainian Messi'. His confident run down the left wing and pull-back set up Roman Zozulya to score the goal that gave his side a 1-0 lead against AFC Ajax in the last 16 first leg.

### Highlight of his campaign

In the second leg against Ajax, with the tie locked at 1-1 in extra time, Konoplyanka found the net to secure Dnipro's place in the quarter-finals, cutting inside from the left and firing in a low, curling shot from the edge of the area.

## ROMELU LUKAKU

Everton FC • Age 22 • Forward

Eight goals in the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League underline Lukaku's formidable talent. Growing up in Antwerp, he had a poster of Didier Drogba on his bedroom wall and the Ivorian icon has been a big influence on him. He signed for RSC Anderlecht on his 16th birthday and made his first-team debut 11 days later. After two impressive campaigns in Belgium's top flight, he transferred to Chelsea FC in 2011 in a €12m deal. He rarely featured at Stamford Bridge and joined Everton last

summer after spells on loan with West Bromwich Albion FC and at Goodison Park.

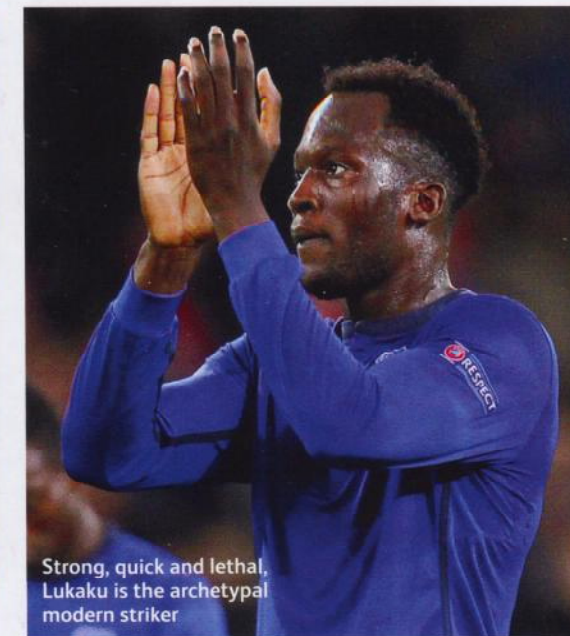
### What he's good at

Big, fearless and athletic, the 22-year-old has the power to give defenders sleepless nights, and he can be all but impossible to shift off the ball. There's more to his game than muscle and hustle though – he can execute a delicate finish when required.

### Highlight of his campaign

In a 4-1 success at BSC Young Boys in the round of 32, the Belgian bagged a 'perfect' hat-trick, executing a glancing header and a tidy right-footed finish from close range, before making a brilliantly timed run to chip the keeper with his left foot and complete the set.

Strong, quick and lethal, Lukaku is the archetypal modern striker



deciding to concentrate on the beautiful game. After a spell at home-town club FC Olimpik Kirovohrad, he joined Dnipro, making his first-team debut at the age of 17 in 2007. Now a regular in the Ukraine national team, the 25-year-old is one of Europe's most talked-about players.

### What he's good at

Konoplyanka is fast and direct, with ball skills that have earned him the nickname 'the

Inler provides the steel in Napoli's gifted midfield



**DNIPRO'S FLYING WINGER KONOPLYANKA ATTAINED A BLACK BELT IN KARATE BEFORE DECIDING TO FOCUS ON THE BEAUTIFUL GAME**



## FINAL 2015 WARSAW

Born in New South Wales, Australia, Ryan began his career with A-League club Central Coast Mariners FC, before signing for Brugge in 2013, and has since established himself as his country's first-choice stopper.

### What he's good at

At 1.82m, the 23-year-old is not the biggest goalkeeper in the world, but he makes up for that with his agility and alertness. Decisive and resolute, he excels at distributing the ball and launching attacks. With the Blauw-Zwart being coached by Michel Preud'homme, one of Europe's best keepers in the 1990s, he has the perfect mentor.

### Highlight of his campaign

Ryan kept his team in contention for a place in the last four with a string of breathtaking saves in the first meeting with Dnipro, denying Ruslan Rotan from close range, then diving low to his left to frustrate Konoplyanka with a spectacular one-handed stop, before using his feet to block another effort in added time.

### MOHAMED SALAH

ACF Fiorentina • Age 22 • Forward

Vincenzo Montella's thrilling Fiorentina side have been branded 'little Barcelona' on account of their expansive brand of football and Salah is one of the reasons why.

The gifted Egypt winger launched his career with El Mokawloon SC before joining Basel in 2012. He helped the Rot-Blauen reach the semi-finals of the UEFA Europa League in 2013, finding the net against Chelsea in a 5-2 aggregate defeat. Two more goals against the Blues in the UEFA Champions League the following season prompted the Premier League club to sign him in a €13m deal in January 2014, but in February this year, he headed to the Viola on loan to gain more experience.

### What he's good at

The 22-year-old has blistering pace and hypnotic dribbling skills and his low centre of gravity makes it hard to shrug him off the ball. In the quarter-final first leg against FC Dynamo Kyiv, his original marker Antunes was substituted on 24 minutes after trying to track Salah's remorseless running. He also has an eye for a killer pass, as he showed setting up Josip Ilić for the opener in the 1-1 draw at home to AS Roma.

### Highlight of his campaign

In registering the goal that sealed victory against Tottenham in the round of 32, Salah displayed both skill and persistence, cutting in from the right and playing a glorious one-two with Mario Gomez before evading Jan Vertonghen to rifle the ball home.



Salah has been in superb form for the Viola since his loan move from Chelsea

Involved in 12 goals, Vietto helped the Yellow Submarine sink opponents



**BRANDED THE 'NEW AGÜERO', VILLARREAL STAR VIETTO IS THE LATEST GOLDEN BOY OF ARGENTINIAN FOOTBALL**



### DENIS SUÁREZ

Sevilla FC • Age 21 • Midfielder

He might have one of the most famous surnames in football, but Suárez is definitely his own man. The attacking midfielder is technically a team-mate of the more celebrated Suárez, having signed for FC Barcelona in 2013 after two seasons in England with Manchester City FC. He arrived at Estadio Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán on loan at the beginning of this campaign.

Most of Suárez's appearances in the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League have come from the bench, yet he has still made a massive impact on the competition, scoring the winner on three occasions to help Sevilla get to the final.

### What he's good at

The 21-year-old has been schooled in the Spanish art of midfield wizardry, with an impressive range of passing and breathtakingly close control, as his dribbled goal against Croatian side HNK Rijeka in the group stage showed. Elegant and

composed, he can play in the centre or operate out wide, earning comparisons to Manchester City's David Silva.

### Highlight of his campaign

His stunning strike in the 88th minute of the quarter-final first leg at home to FC Zenit. The ball dropped perfectly for Suárez to smash home a rip-roaring right-footed volley from the edge of the box that gave Sevilla a priceless 2-1 lead and had coach Unai Emery punching the air in delight.

### LUCIANO VIETTO

Villarreal CF • Age 21 • Forward

Branded 'the new Sergio Agüero' after some storming performances this season, Vietto is the latest golden boy of Argentinian football, though things haven't always gone his way. He was released by Club Estudiantes de La Plata as a teenager before finding a home at Racing Club de Avellaneda's academy, where coach Diego Simeone saw something he liked in the 17-year-old and promoted him to the first team.

After three seasons, he moved to the Liga in 2014, helping the Yellow Submarine proceed to the last 16 of this term's UEFA Europa League with six goals and six assists.

### What he's good at

Now 21, Vietto is the ideal fit for Villarreal's brand of fluid, fast-breaking

football, rooted in playing out from the back. An assured finisher, he is equally dangerous arriving from deep or hunting for chances in the penalty area – and is pretty useful with his head too. He rarely gives keepers time to anticipate his next move, as he demonstrated against Apollon Limassol FC, cheekily scooping the ball over goalkeeper Isli Hidi's head in his side's 2-0 away win in the group stage.

### Highlight of his campaign

In a 4-0 victory against FC Astana in the play-off second leg, Vietto broke the deadlock with a classy volley from inside the area, lashed home a right-footed rocket to make it 2-0, before delivering a perfectly weighted through ball for Nahuel Leiva to score the fourth.

### ANDRIY YARMOLENKO

FC Dynamo Kyiv • Age 25 • Forward

One of the most naturally creative players in this season's UEFA Europa League, Yarmolenko made six goals to help Dynamo reach the quarter-finals and, for good measure, scored another four himself.

The quicksilver attacker first joined the club as a 13-year-old, but left after a solitary campaign because he found it hard to compete physically with other players. After spells with a few local clubs, Yarmolenko returned to Kyiv in 2007 and, having grown up into a 1.87m athlete, soon managed to break into the senior fold. Now 25, having won almost 50 caps for Ukraine, his spellbinding performances have made him one of Europe's most highly rated forwards.

### What he's good at

Fast and fearless, Yarmolenko plays on the wing but likes to break into the box. The Dynamo No10 is left-footed yet prefers to play on the right, enabling him to cut inside and shoot on his stronger foot, as he did when he scored against Everton in the round of 16 second leg. He's fearless and inventive, as witnessed by his brilliantly choreographed free-kick against FC Steaua București in the group stage.

### Highlight of his campaign

The opening goal in Kyiv's 5-2 home success against Everton in the last 16 was the best of his haul in the 2014/15 competition. After tormenting the Toffees' defence with a spot of Cristiano Ronaldoesque trickery, Yarmolenko lashed an unstoppable arcing effort past goalkeeper Tim Howard from 27m. ●



Brugge's Australian No1 Ryan kept nine clean sheets in this campaign



## FINAL 2015 WARSAW

### Kevin De Bruyne

**VfL Wolfsburg 1-1 LOSC Lille, 02/10/2014**  
The Wölfe needed something on which to feed. Having lost their campaign opener 4-1 against Everton FC, Dieter Hecking's side were behind again with the match into its last ten minutes at VfL Wolfsburg Arena. Then Ricardo Rodriguez swung in a corner with his left foot and Lille defender Simon Kjær headed it, but only as far as De Bruyne. Watching the ball loop towards him, the Belgian midfielder shuffled his feet, planted his left foot and struck with his right. "Kevin is surely one of the best players Wolfsburg have ever had," says defender Marcel Schäfer. With this volley, which flew straight as an arrow into the top corner, De Bruyne proved he has the game-changing ability to one day top that list.

### Erik Lamela

**Tottenham Hotspur FC 5-1 Asteras Tripolis FC, 23/10/2014**  
Lamela had previous. Following his 'rabona' goal in the group stage, where he wrapped his left leg around the back of his right to strike the ball, videos emerged online of the Argentinian scoring with the same piece of skill as a youngster for his first club CA River Plate. So, why didn't he just open his body and curl the ball in with his right foot? Well, in addition to allowing him to hit the ball with his stronger foot, it caught everyone off guard – his stance didn't suggest a first-time shot, nor was there time to do anything about it once the ball had left his boot. "It just happened in a flash," he says.

"I wasn't thinking about doing something like that, I just wanted to score and it was the most effective, comfortable way of making it happen."

### Romelu Lukaku

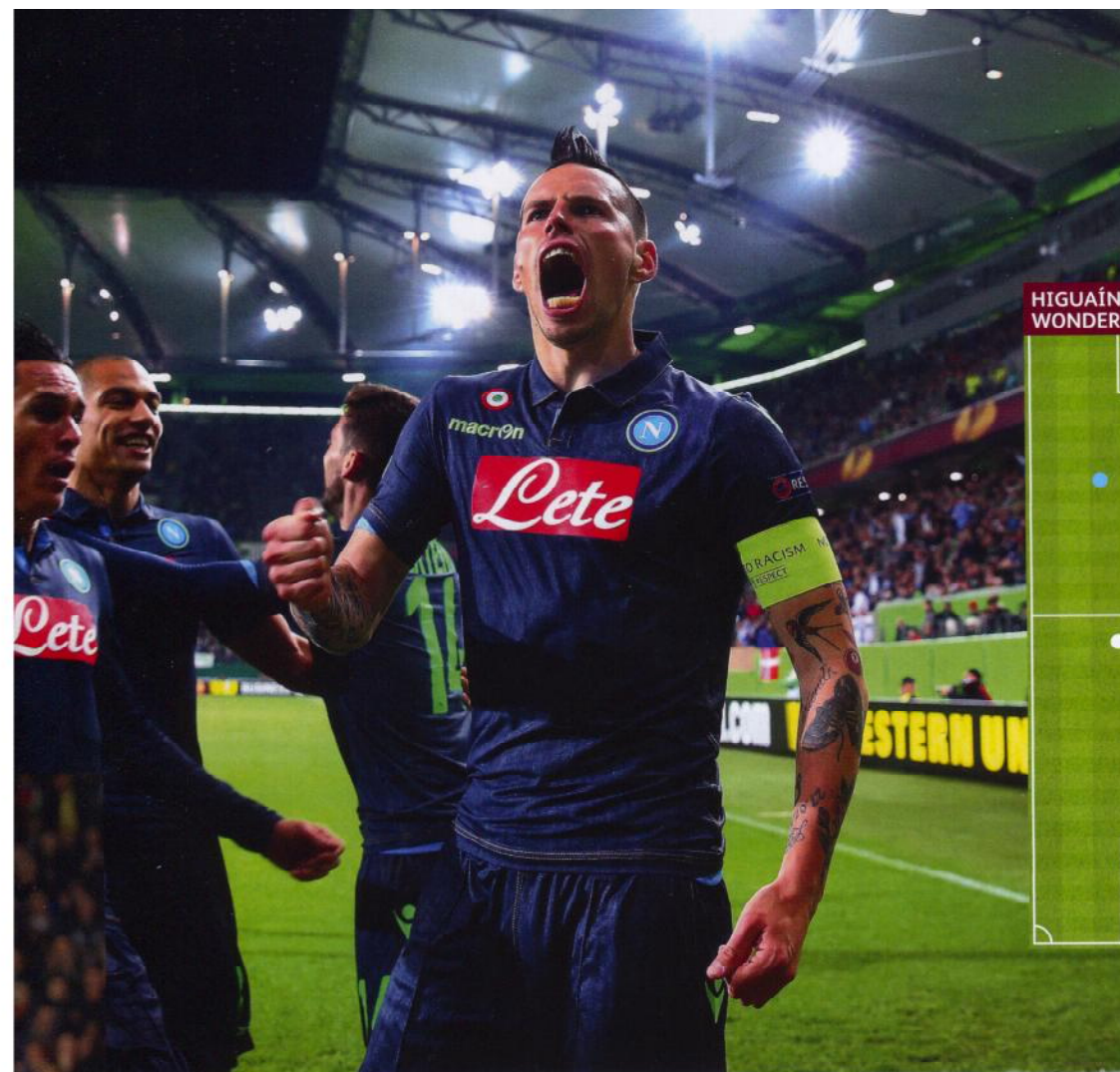
**VfL Wolfsburg 0-2 Everton FC, 27/11/2014**  
Thirteen seconds, five players, nine touches. The beauty of Everton's opening goal in Germany came from its simplicity. From the moment Marcel Schäfer's shot fell at Phil Jagielka's feet, the counterattack was on. From the captain, the ball pinged to Aiden McGeady, Leon Osman and Kevin Mirallas – each of whom took only a touch – before Lukaku broke free. The Belgian striker looked to have lost control, but he outmuscled the Wolfsburg defence before sending the ball past Diego Benaglio with his left foot.

### Granit Xhaka

**Villarreal CF 2-2 VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach, 27/11/2014**  
There is something satisfying about seeing a ball crash in off the crossbar – especially when it has come from as far out as Xhaka's free-kick equaliser for Gladbach. Around 25m out, near the right-hand edge of the penalty area, the 22-year-old released a missile-like effort towards the far post. With the Swiss midfielder so renowned for his powerful left-footed shots –

# SIMPLE, SUBLIME, STUNNING

Celebrating six strikes from this UEFA Europa League campaign that have had supporters cheering, pundits purring and pulses racing



he had scored with another such free-kick against Hannover 96 in the Bundesliga only a month earlier – Villarreal goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo knew what to

expect, but could do nothing to prevent the ball ending in the back of his net.

### Vitolo

**Villarreal CF 1-3 Sevilla FC, 12/03/2015**  
Vitolo didn't take long to make his own piece of UEFA Europa League history – 13.21 seconds to be precise. From the kick-off, Sevilla worked the ball to centre-back Nicolas Pareja who launched it forward. Though captain Vicente Iborra was beaten to the header, the ball still flicked on to Vitolo, who played a one-two with Kevin Gameiro, cushioned the ball on his chest and slotted a volley past onrushing goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo. The goal set Sevilla on course for a 5-2 aggregate victory in this last-16 tie, and replaced Ismael Blanco's, after 15.19 seconds for AEK Athens FC against FC BATE Borisov in 2009, as the competition's fastest ever.

### Marek Hamšík

**VfL Wolfsburg 1-4 SSC Napoli, 16/04/2015**  
It would be hard to overstate the technique and vision required to play a pass like Gonzalo Higuaín's defence-splitter for Hamšík. Once Christian Maggio had picked up the ball from Raúl Albiol and worked it to the Argentinian No9 between two Wölfe defenders, Hamšík's movement was on Higuaín's radar immediately. After a couple of touches, the striker arced his pass with such perfect weight that his team-mate needed only continue his run and stick a leg out to score.



Clockwise from left: De Bruyne's right-foot thunderbolt hits the net; Xhaka (No34) celebrates; Lukaku wheels away; Lamela stays calm after his wonder strike; Hamšík roars his approval. Top right: how Higuaín's pass set the Slovakian midfielder free



# WHERE PLAYERS BECOME HEROES

The UEFA Europa League has been the perfect showcase for some of the game's greatest emerging talent – as these eight stars of past campaigns all testify

## David De Gea

A former goalkeeper himself, Club Atlético de Madrid coach Abel Resino was never afraid to blood youth in his former position. But when, in September 2009, Atlético custodian Sergio Asenjo was representing Spain at the FIFA U-20 World Cup and replacement Roberto tore his right thigh during a UEFA Champions League group stage tie in Porto, Resino had no choice but to field local teenager De Gea.

Atlético lost the match and found a goalkeeper. "It was difficult to sleep that night with all the emotions I felt," said De Gea later. "It was a dream come true to make my debut for Atlético, especially in a Champions League game."

A few days later, on his league debut, he saved a penalty from Real Zaragoza's Marko Babić, and even when Resino was replaced by Quique Flores in October 2009, De Gea kept his place. By the end of the season, an outstanding UEFA Europa League performance in Lisbon against Sporting Clube de Portugal, a clean sheet in the quarter-final second leg at Estadio Vicente Calderón against Valencia CF and terrific

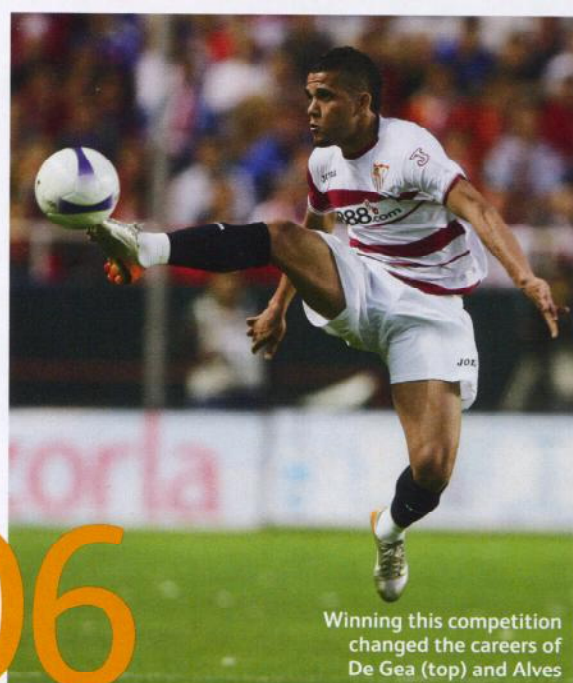


# 2010

saves from Fulham FC's Zoltán Gera and Simon Davies in the final ensured the young understudy had become the undisputed No1.

After less than a year as a first-teamer, the boy who had been with Atleti since the age of 13 had a UEFA Europa League winners' medal and become widely regarded as the hottest Spanish goalkeeping prospect since Iker Casillas and Víctor Valdés.

After another successful campaign the following season, De Gea signed for Manchester United FC, having been personally scouted by manager Sir Alex Ferguson. His acclimatisation to English football wasn't always straightforward, but he has added physical presence to his natural shot-stopping abilities and proved a worthy replacement for long-serving keeper Edwin van der Sar.



Winning this competition changed the careers of De Gea (top) and Alves

## Daniel Alves

By the time he made his professional debut for Salvador's EC Bahia against Paraná Clube in 2001, Alves had prepared for life as a teak-tough Brazilian defender by working as a farmer alongside his father and as a waiter. His performances on Brazil's Atlantic coast soon captured attention across the ocean and in 2002, still only 19, he was loaned to Sevilla FC.

By 2005, Alves had established himself in Andalusia, most often on the right side of



Deco inspired the Porto side that won the UEFA Cup under Mourinho

# 2003

midfield. Once fellow attacking right-back Sergio Ramos had departed to Real Madrid CF, Alves blossomed. That season, his club would win the UEFA Cup: their first international trophy and their first significant piece of silverware since 1948.

Missing only one European game, Alves became the defensive linchpin – and springboard of many an attack – of a team that conceded just three goals after the group stage, and fully deserved the accolade of being named UEFA's player of the tournament. By now a Brazilian international, Alves was attracting interest from other clubs, but when Sevilla retained the UEFA Cup and won the Copa del Rey the following season, he was still there. He finally joined FC Barcelona in the summer of 2008.

In Catalonia, Alves slotted seamlessly into one of the greatest club teams of all time. A tireless runner, who could shoot with both feet, put in a pinpoint cross and balance his defensive and attacking duties, he soon endeared himself to Barça fans. After winning the Liga five times and the UEFA Champions League twice, he is widely considered one of the best right-backs of his generation.

## Deco

When José Mourinho took over FC Porto in January 2002, he promised that the club would win the Primeira Liga by the end of his first full season. Not for the last time Mourinho was right, but slightly uncharacteristically he undersold himself because Porto also managed to win the UEFA Cup.

Mourinho built his super-fit, meticulously trained team around the similarly meticulous Anderson Luís de Souza, otherwise known as Deco. Sold by SL Benfica in 1999, the Brazilian import soon found his twinkling feet at Porto. He really began to catch the eye during the 2002/03 campaign, as the Dragões won 13 consecutive league games and remained unbeaten for the first 21 matches. The UEFA Cup stage proved to the wider world something that Porto supporters already knew: Deco was the complete midfielder, blessed with unerring→

**The UEFA Cup proved to the wider world something that Porto supporters already knew: Deco was the complete midfielder**



## FINAL 2015 WARSAW

distribution, a winning way with a jinky dribble, a fearsome free-kick and a healthy goal-to-game ratio. The bigger the match, the more Deco influenced it.

He was outstanding when Porto overturned a home loss against Panathinaikos FC and unplayable when they raced into an unassailable 4-1 lead in the semi-final first leg against SS Lazio. When Porto travelled to Seville to face Celtic FC in the final, Deco was everywhere, providing the cross that led to Derlei scoring Porto's opener and finding Dmitri Alenichev for the second.

A season later, he was UEFA Club Footballer of the Year and a UEFA Champions League winner. That summer, he signed for Barcelona, where he won the UEFA Champions League again. And, in 2008, he became Luiz Felipe Scolari's first Chelsea FC signing before returning to Brazil to finish his career with Fluminense FC.

### Gianluigi Buffon

Buffon was hardly unknown before Parma FC's UEFA Cup-winning campaign in 1998/99. In his early 20s, he was already an Italian international and was dubbed Superman by adoring Parma fans, but his obvious abilities were not widely recognised outside Italy. Parma's UEFA Cup triumph changed all that.

The son of a weightlifter and discus-thrower, Buffon is a supreme athlete, fearless and gifted with an almost uncanny knack of anticipating where a striker will shoot. He played a key role in the side's run to the final, pulling off key saves against Fenerbahçe SK and Wisła Kraków in the early rounds. When Atlético were defeated twice in the semi-finals, the bulk of Buffon's work was done.

**At 37, Buffon remains Juve's first-choice shot-stopper and rivals Dino Zoff as the greatest Italian goalkeeper of all time**

The Moscow final against a suspension-ravaged Olympique de Marseille was a fairly straightforward affair, with the Italian side winning 3-0. Parma's stellar three-man defence of Lilian Thuram, Roberto Sensi and Fabio Cannavaro was rarely breached, but when it was, Buffon was there, authoritative and serene.

Afterwards, he was chosen as Serie A goalkeeper of the year – the first of nine such awards for him – and was voted best young European footballer. In 2001, Buffon became the world's most expensive goalkeeper when he joined Juventus for €52m. He has since won numerous Serie A titles and one FIFA World Cup.

At the age of 37 Buffon remains Juve's first-choice and rivals Dino Zoff as the greatest Italian goalkeeper of all time.

### Zinédine Zidane

A teenage sensation at AS Cannes, in 1990/91 Zidane almost single-handedly took the club to places they had never visited before visited: fourth place in Ligue 1 and subsequently the UEFA Cup. One year later, the precocious playmaker joined FC Girondins de Bordeaux. Once again he flourished, scoring his first European goal in a 5-0 UEFA Cup win against Ireland's Bohemian FC in 1993.

In 1995/96, Bordeaux were ready to become a European force with fellow French internationals Christophe Dugarry and Bixente Lizarazu starring alongside Zidane. Their route to the UEFA Cup final

# 1999



Buffon was given the nickname Superman by Parma supporters



Butragueño became a Madrid legend with his UEFA Cup exploits

# 1985

was circuitous, as they qualified by winning the UEFA Intertoto Cup. Their campaign looked doomed after a 2-0 defeat against AC Milan in the quarter-final first leg – they were languishing in mid-table in Ligue 1, while the Rossoneri looked comfortable atop Serie A. In the second leg at Stade du Parc Lescure, Zidane was at his imperious best, inspiring the Marine et Blanc to a 3-0 win with Dugarry scoring twice. Alain Juppé, the French prime minister and mayor of Bordeaux, declared: "I'm speechless. They really played like gods."

Ultimately, Bordeaux's exhausting season ended in anticlimax. Zidane and Dugarry both missed the first leg of the final against FC Bayern München and could not turn things around in Bordeaux. That second leg was Zidane's last game for a French club.

In a glittering career with Juventus, Real Madrid CF and France, he won the FIFA World Cup, UEFA EURO 2000, the UEFA Champions League, a Ballon D'Or and, in the 2002 UEFA Champions League final, scored one of the most celebrated goals in the history of the game.

### Dennis Bergkamp

The youngest of four sons born to a west Amsterdam plumber-cum-electrician, Bergkamp was steeped in football from the day he was christened Dennis in honour of Manchester United's Scottish striker Denis Law. (Depending on who is telling the tale, the extra 'n' was either the result of an administrative mix-up or to avoid the name being confused with Denise.)

By the age of 12, Bergkamp's natural ability had been recognised by AFC Ajax and in 1986 the 17-year-old made his first-team debut against Roda JC. By 1990 he was rattling in Eredivisie goals at will and when Ajax won the UEFA Cup in 1992, Bergkamp became one of the most coveted strikers in the European game.

His six goals, spread across every round bar the final (he missed the second leg), made him the Amsterdammers' top scorer in that campaign. A deflected free-kick against Örebro SK and a semi-final tap-in against Genoa CFC were run-of-the-mill, but his other four strikes established his trademark style. Similar and similarly brilliant, Bergkamp outpaced the defenders of FC Rot-Weiss Erfurt, CA Osasuna (twice)

and KAA Gent, before slotting home low into the corner of the net.

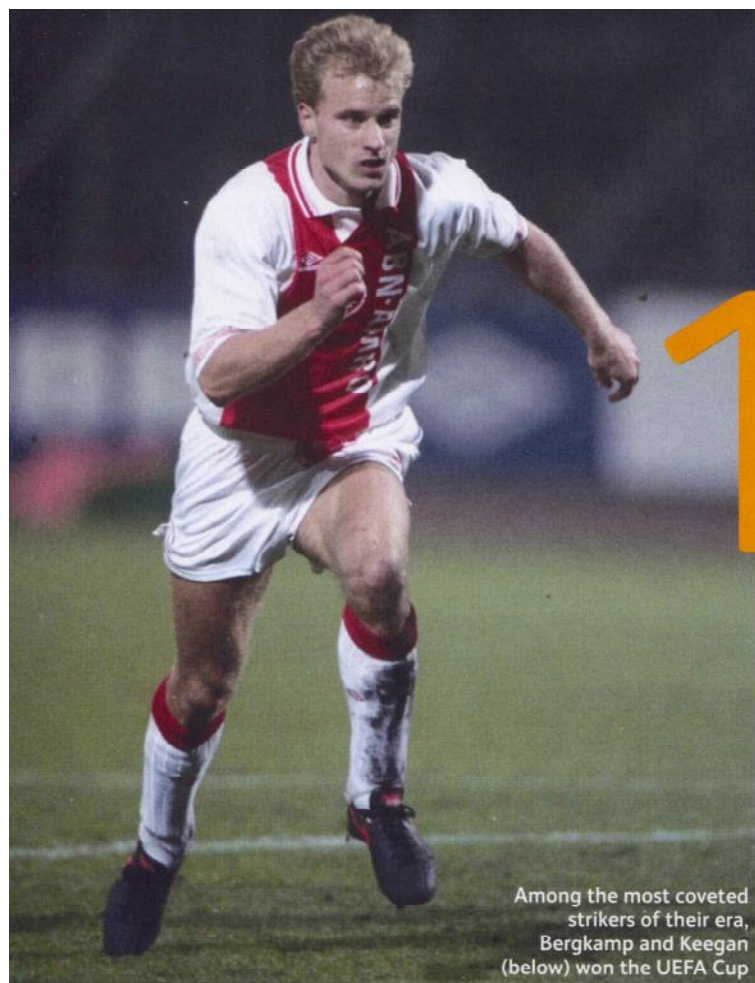
Such richness of talent could not go unnoticed for long. Nine months after that UEFA Cup triumph, at the age of 23, the newly crowned Dutch footballer of the year moved to Serie A to join FC Internazionale Milano, fulfilling his long-standing ambition of playing in the same league as his hero Law. →



Zidane's Bordeaux overcame Patrick Vieira's Milan in the 1995/96 UEFA Cup quarter-finals

# 1996





Among the most coveted strikers of their era, Bergkamp and Keegan (below) won the UEFA Cup



# 1992

Butragueño came of age that night, scoring a hat-trick. His first was a cleverly taken header and it was followed by two poacher's goals that confirmed his nickname, El Buitre (the Vulture). He was on target again in 1985/86 as the Blancos retained the UEFA Cup and won the first of five successive Liga titles. Butragueño finally left Spain in 1995 for Celaya FC in Mexico but has returned to Madrid as a club ambassador.

## Kevin Keegan

By his own admission, Keegan wasn't the most naturally gifted footballer in Europe, but his determination was world class.

Born in the Yorkshire mining village of Armthorpe, he signed for nearby lower-league side Scunthorpe United FC, where he became a teenage first-teamer before being plucked from obscurity by Liverpool FC in 1971.

"I learned so much from Bill Shankly," Keegan said. "He used to say if I was a road-sweeper, my street would be the cleanest in the borough. I took that to heart. I do everything with enthusiasm and passion. I never look back, so I don't have regrets." He scored a scuffed goal on his debut and a year later was an England international as Liverpool qualified for the UEFA Cup.

Small and busy, Keegan was an all-action revelation in Europe – hence the nickname the Mighty Mouse – and scored twice in the re-arranged UEFA Cup final first leg against VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach. His first was a diving header that keeper Wolfgang Kleff hardly moved for. Kleff took revenge when he plunged to his right to stop Keegan's penalty, but the Reds' No7 had the last laugh, first sweeping home John Toshack's knockdown for his second and then lofting over a corner for Larry Lloyd to make it 3-0. Mönchengladbach battered Liverpool in the second leg and scored twice, but Keegan, playing much deeper, showed he had become a great all-rounder as Liverpool ran out 3-2 victors.

After moving to Hamburger SV in 1977, Keegan was similarly revered. He was twice voted European Footballer of the Year before successful spells with Southampton FC and Newcastle United FC, followed by a managerial career that included a spell in charge of the England national team. ●

**"I learned so much from Shankly," said Keegan. "He used to say if I was a street cleaner, mine would be the cleanest street in the borough"**



# 1973

After two patchy campaigns in Italy, Bergkamp joined Arsenal FC in 1995, where he spent 11 trophy-laden seasons before hanging up his boots at the age 37. He is now Ajax's assistant coach.

## Emilio Butragueño

It's as hard to imagine now as it was then, but in the mid-1980s Real Madrid were not only far from being Europe's finest, they had not been the best team in Spain since they completed a hat-trick of Liga titles in 1980. Little did the Blancos faithful know, but another golden era was beckoning.

The club could only manage fifth in the Liga in 1985, but they did win the league cup and the UEFA Cup. The season also marked the emergence of a supremely intelligent, young Spanish striker called Butragueño, who would stay for another decade and become a Madrid great.

Born in the capital and a graduate of Madrid's youth system, he had made his senior debut the season before, but by that October he had scored on his international and European debuts against Wales and FC Wacker Innsbruck respectively. Madrid's progress in that season's UEFA Cup was far from straightforward. Tottenham Hotspur FC were beaten only by an own goal and Madrid had to turn around first-leg deficits against FC Internazionale Milano (2-0), HNK Rijeka (3-1) and, most remarkably, RSC Anderlecht, when Madrid were beaten 3-0 in Brussels before winning 6-1 in Spain.



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# DNIPRO

In their first European final, never having previously progressed past the last 16 of this competition, FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk are the surprise package of this campaign. Myron Markevych's team have kept five clean sheets in eight matches in the knockout stage, scoring in all but one of those games – and shown immense resilience in what has already become one of the greatest seasons in the club's 97-year history.



**Jan LAŠTŮVKA**

Position Goalkeeper  
Date of birth 07/07/1982  
Nationality Czech  
UEFA club apps 30

Three-times capped Czech international Laštůvka was signed from FC Shakhtar Donetsk in 2009. Twice a Ukrainian champion with the Pitmen, adding to the Czech league title he won with FC Baník Ostrava, he is an experienced keeper.



**Denys BOYKO**

Position Goalkeeper  
Date of birth 29/01/1988  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 30

Standing 1.94m tall, Boyko cuts an imposing figure in the Dnipro goal. The 27-year-old has played every minute of this campaign, his superb reflexes have helped the Ukrainian side keep seven clean sheets. Recruited from FC Dynamo Kyiv in 2013, he has two caps for Ukraine.



**Denys SHELIKHOV**

Position Goalkeeper  
Date of birth 23/06/1989  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 0

A product of Dnipro's academy, Shelikhov has made 12 appearances in Ukraine's top flight. A former Under-21 international, who gained valuable experience on loan to FC Volyn Lutsk in 2012, he is a reliable keeper waiting for his chance in the first team.



**Alexandru VLAD**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 06/12/1989  
Nationality Romanian  
UEFA club apps 8

Vlad was signed in 2013 from CS Pandurii Târgu Jiu, who had just finished second in the Romanian league. The 1.75m-tall left-back, who can also play in the centre of defence, says his decision to move to Ukraine was influenced by his compatriot Răzvan Rat.



**Ondřej MAZUCH**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 15/03/1989  
Nationality Czech  
UEFA club apps 45

Though out for the rest of the season with a knee injury, Mazuch was a key figure at the heart of Dnipro's defence in the group stage. Confident and physically powerful, the Czech international centre-back won two league titles with his last club RSC Anderlecht.



**Yevhen CHEBERYACHKO DOUGLAS**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 19/06/1983  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 37

A centre-back who can operate as a holding midfielder, Cheberyachko has played more than 150 games for Dnipro since arriving from FC Kharkiv in 2009. Capped twice by Ukraine, the 31-year-old has made 22 interceptions during this campaign.



Position Defender  
Date of birth 04/04/1990  
Nationality Brazilian  
UEFA club apps 20

Strong, 1.90m-tall, with great positional play and reading of the game – he has amassed 53 interceptions this season – centre-back Douglas has established himself as a regular this campaign. He moved to Dnipro in 2013 from Brazilian club CR Vasco da Gama.



**Valeriy LUCHKEVYCH**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 11/01/1996  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 8

Son of former Ukraine midfielder Ihor Luchkevych, Valeriy made his senior debut this season as a defender but has since more regularly featured on the wing. He is Dnipro's only representative in Ukraine's 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup squad.



**Oleksandr SVATOK**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 27/09/1994  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 1

A tough central defender from Dnipro's academy, Svatok was given his senior debut in the UEFA Europa League back in November 2013, though he is yet to appear in this campaign. A Ukrainian youth international, he went out on loan to Volyn Lutsk earlier this season.



**Artem FEDETSKIY**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 26/04/1985  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 44 (8 goals)

Primarily a right-back, but able to play across the back four, 38-times capped Ukraine international Fedetskiy came up through Shakhtar Donetsk's youth system and joined Dnipro in 2012. His father Andriy was a striker for Volyn Lutsk and FC Metalist Kharkiv.



**Oleksandr MIHUNOV**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 13/04/1994  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 0

Pacy left-back Mihunov, another Dnipro academy graduate, made his first-team bow against FC Olimpik Donetsk in September. He has since featured once more in the Ukrainian Premier-Liha, but is yet to make his mark in Europe for the club.



**Serhiy KRAVCHENKO**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 24/04/1983  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 24 (2 goals)

Son of the former Shakhtar striker of the same name, Donetsk-born Kravchenko signed for Dnipro from Dynamo in 2010. He has since played more than 100 times across the midfield, though injuries have restricted his contribution in recent years.→





**Jaba  
KANKAVA**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 18/03/1986  
Nationality Georgian  
UEFA club apps 38 (3 goals)

A steely holding midfielder who can shoot from distance, Georgia captain Kankava came from FC Arsenal Kyiv in 2007. It was his deflected strike to take the lead against Olympiacos in the round of 32 first leg that kick-started Dnipro's impressive knockout stage campaign.



**Yevhen  
KONOPLYANKA**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 29/09/1989  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 38 (8 goals)

Playmaker in chief for Dnipro and Ukraine, Konoplyanka is an all-rounder on the left wing, able to play off either foot, as proven by his goal and two assists so far in this campaign. A black belt in karate, he has been voted Ukraine's player of the year three times.



**Léo  
MATOS**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 02/04/1986  
Nationality Brazilian  
UEFA club apps 19

Right-footed, but playing at left-back since Egidio's return to Brazil, Matos has caught the eye since being given his chance and played every minute from the round of 16 second leg against AFC Ajax. He reached the last 32 in 2014 with FC Chornomorets Odesa.



**Roman  
BEZUS**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 26/09/1990  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 29 (3 goals)

An attacking central midfielder with fine dribbling and passing abilities, Bezus signed from Dynamo Kyiv in January and has since featured in seven UEFA Europa League matches. Since his debut in 2011, he has scored four times in 19 appearances for Ukraine.



**Bruno  
GAMA**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 15/11/1987  
Nationality Portuguese  
UEFA club apps 29 (2 goals)

Gama transferred to Dnipro from RC Deportivo La Coruña in 2013. A versatile attacking midfielder, who was joint top scorer at the 2004 UEFA European Under-17 Championship, Dnipro's Portuguese No20 has played all 14 games of this campaign.



**Valeriy  
FEDORCHUK**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 05/10/1988  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 8

A steadfast midfielder known for his tireless work in front of the Dnipro defence, Fedorchuk chipped in at the other end by setting up Konoplyanka's away goal in extra time against Ajax that took the Ukrainian side into the last eight. He signed from FC Lviv in 2010.



**Yevhen  
SHAKHOV**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 30/11/1990  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 17 (4 goals)

Shakhov's Dnipro roots run deeper than his academy upbringing – his father, also named Yevhen, was top scorer in the Soviet League with 16 as the club won the title in 1988. The 24-year-old midfielder scored the winner against Club Brugge KV in the quarter-finals.



**Ruslan  
ROTAN**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 29/10/1981  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 63 (7 goals)

Sixteen years since his Dnipro debut, split only by a three-year spell at Dynamo Kyiv, the captain is as influential as ever. Adding to his goals against FC Internazionale Milano and Olympiacos, Rotan has made 46 tackles in this campaign, more than any other Dnipro player.



**Andriy  
BLYZNYCHENKO**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 24/07/1994  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 1

A fast dribbler, usually deployed at right midfield, Blyznychenko is still to play in this campaign but has already scored two winners in the Ukrainian league. He made his senior debut in the UEFA Europa League in November 2013, in a 4-1 victory against Pandurii Târgu Jiu.



**Nikola  
KALINIĆ**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 05/01/1988  
Nationality Croatian  
UEFA club apps 38 (9 goals)

Acquired from Blackburn Rovers FC in 2011, Croatian international striker Kalinić is Dnipro's three-goal leading scorer en route to Warsaw. A typical out-and-out striker, his 1.87m height helps him dominate in the air and register many headed goals.



**Yevhen  
SELEZNYOV**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 20/07/1985  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 37 (11 goals)

Scorer of both goals against SSC Napoli in the semi-finals, Seleznyov is aiming for a second winners' medal in this competition having lifted the UEFA Cup with Shakhtar in 2009. His eye for goal and ability to make play from deep make him a constant threat.



**Roman  
ZOZULYA**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 17/11/1989  
Nationality Ukrainian  
UEFA club apps 38 (9 goals)

Though out for the rest of the season with a knee problem, Ukraine striker Zozulya made a telling contribution with the only goal of the round of 16 first leg against Ajax. A robust and persistent centre-forward, his energetic presence will be missed in Warsaw.



**MATHEUS**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 15/01/1983  
Nationality Brazilian  
UEFA club apps 47 (12 goals)

Though troubled by injury in this campaign, Matheus returned to the first team in the semi-final second leg. A versatile attacker, whose speed is usually utilised on the right wing or through the middle, the Brazilian switched to Dnipro from SC Braga in January 2011.



The Dnipro lineup that won the semi-final second leg and secured the club's place in the final



# MYRON MARKEVYCH

Dnipro's formidable coach says victory in Warsaw against a strong Sevilla side would be a huge event for the club, the city and Ukraine



**What have you been working on most in training to prepare for this final?**

I'd probably say the tactical preparation, because now this is very important in football. Physically, our team is basically ready so the main thing is to ensure they understand what I want from them.

**After nine years with FC Metalist Kharkiv, how long did it take to establish your way of playing at FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk?**

It was tough at the beginning because at Metalist we preached a slightly different style of football and I wanted to bring this across to Dnipro. At Metalist we had a lot of South Americans who understood exactly what I was saying and took it on board. At Dnipro, this took three to four months. Now they do understand and you can see the difference in the way they're playing.

**What are the three key components that have allowed the team to get this far?**

Mainly our tactical preparation. Because we were playing against quality opposition, we were able to give the players some tactical advantages. Of course, we didn't lose the physical battle and there is the commitment of the players.

**Dnipro have also showed a very strong team spirit. Has this been a key factor in the team's success?**

Yes, you could put it like that. The team is a really close-knit unit and only thinks about getting great results, so this has helped us somewhere along the line.

**You seem very adept at motivating your players. What will you say to them to get them up for the final against Sevilla FC?**

We won't think up anything new. We need to study Sevilla well because they're also a very good side. We will try to show our best qualities and, naturally, try to neutralise their best players.

They are one of the best in Europe, there's no doubt about that – they're in the top ten.

They're one of the best teams in the Spanish league. I have watched them play against Barcelona and Real Madrid and they were on equal terms with these top-quality outfits.

Above all, this is down to their technical abilities on the ball, quick thinking. Of course, there are also leaders in the team that we'll need to pay attention to.

**Is their main strength in attack?**

Yes. They are similar to Napoli in this respect. But at the same time, they also leave gaps.

**Were SSC Napoli your toughest opponents en route to the final?**

Yes, Napoli were the best team we've come up against this season. Maybe Inter as well.

**"It took three or four months to establish my way of playing at Dnipro. Now they understand and you can see it in the way they're playing"**

who we also played in the Europa League.

They're an excellent team. I said to the guys before the first leg that only the utmost commitment and tactical nous will ensure we come out on top. I'm glad this showed.

**You showed in the semi-final against Napoli that you're not afraid to take risks, putting 19-year-old Valeriy Luchkevych into the starting lineup.**

He has an enormous desire to play football. I understood that this was a bit of a risk, since the lad is only 19, but his attitude made me put him in the starting XI and I'm pleased that it worked out well.

**This season has been difficult for you, competing on three fronts. Does the fact you're in the final prove that your efforts were directed in the right place?**

Yes. I felt when we got through the tie against Olympiacos that we could scale the heights in this competition. We then set our sights on the Europa League because we don't have enough resources to compete on three fronts.

**Your defence has been the foundation for your success in this competition.**

**How important are players such as Denys Boyko and Douglas?**

They're our starting players, along with [Yevhen] Cheberyachko, who isn't looking bad at all right now. We're short on players there. For us it's very important that all our players in defence stay fit.

**Could the fact Sevilla have more experience in games at this level, having won the competition last season, work against Dnipro in the final?**

I don't think so. Both teams qualified for the final and they're playing at the same level, especially as it's the end of the season, so I don't think it's important. Yes, they're more experienced, I've already said Sevilla are the favourites in this match, but we will try to play well.

**Yevhen Konoplyanka has stood out during the campaign and has long been an important player for Dnipro. What are his best qualities?**

His individual technique, first of all. Pace, good dribbling, he always keeps the pressure on defenders – not just the full-back, but the whole defence – who are really wary of him.

**What would victory in Warsaw mean to Dnipro and Ukrainian football?**

A lot. It would be a significant success because, basically, nobody is backing us. So, for Dnipro it would be a really important achievement. It would be a huge event for the people of Ukraine and Dnipropetrovsk.



Having built a reputation as one of Europe's most capable coaches, Markevych, 64, is aiming for a first piece of silverware

## THE MAKING OF MYRON MARKEVYCH

### Studying the game

Born in Vynnyky, Lviv Oblast, to former youth coach Bogdan Markevych in 1951, Myron Markevych's playing career was modest. A midfielder, he played for FC Karpaty Lviv reserves, SKA Lviv, FC Spartak Ordzhonikidze and FC Torpedo Lutsk. He became player-coach at Lutsk in the late 1970s and, by the age of 27, was fully focused on managing. He graduated from Moscow's Higher School of Coaches in 1983.

### Building a reputation

Markevych joined FC Metalist Kharkiv in 2005 and earned himself a reputation for attacking football. After three successive third-place finishes from 2007, in 2012/13, his last full season, he led the club to a first top-flight runners-up spot. He also enhanced his reputation outside Ukraine with a four-game unbeaten spell in charge of the national team in 2010 and made the UEFA Europa League last eight in 2012.

### A European finalist

Having left his job in Kharkiv in February 2014, Markevych took over from Juande Ramos at FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk three months later. While continuing to play attacking football domestically, he has proved his versatility in this competition where Dnipro have been difficult to break down, set out in a solid 4-2-3-1 and exploiting the pace and creativity of Yevhen Konoplyanka on the counterattack.

### The right temperament

Perhaps surprising, given the intensity with which his teams play, is how calmly Markevych comes across. That coolness is reflected in his interests in fishing and music. A keen piano player, the 64-year-old has a diverse taste in music – from Mozart to the Beatles. He made the obligatory stop at the museum devoted to the latter when Metalist visited Liverpool to face Everton FC in the 2007/08 UEFA Europa League.





Dnipro skipper Rotan says team spirit is key to the club's progress to the final

# “This fairy tale has gradually started to turn to reality”

A club stalwart, Dnipro's inspirational captain **RUSLAN ROTAN** reflects on a historic campaign, team spirit and what it will take to defeat Sevilla in Warsaw



**You have spent most of your career at FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk. Could you have imagined that the team would get so far this season?**

Nobody could have expected it, but if our dreams initially felt like a fantasy, gradually this fairy tale started to turn into reality, as we advanced with each match and became more confident. We are in the final of a respected European competition. It will probably only really sink in later on. For now, we are overwhelmed by wonderful emotions.

**Myron Markevych is one of the most respected coaches in Ukraine. How has he contributed to your success?**

The first day he came, he said to us, “You guys have a good team here. You play well together. We will improve some components, but first of all we need to improve mentally and become more confident.” And we definitely did, we started to really believe that we could do more.

**After a challenging group stage, you faced Olympiacos FC in the round of 32. Was the 2-0 victory at home a surprise?**

We really wanted to win and were very focused. Perhaps playing at home gave us an added incentive. In the first half the game was pretty equal at 0-0, but in the second half we scored a goal, and we cheered up. When we got another we believed we could beat them. Our fans worried that it would be hard for us away from home, as Olympiacos played so well there, but we prepared for that psychologically and we succeeded.

**Has the team improved game by game?**

Of course. Most of the team have played together for a long time and we know each other very well. With every match we have grown stronger and more confident mentally.

**Dnipro have shown great team spirit.**

The most important thing is the atmosphere in the team. That is to say, when you can rely

on your team-mate and he will never let you down – that's very important, whether you are on the pitch or in training. When we train, we work hard and don't fool around. And in everyday situations, we help each other, we invite each other out, we relax together. That is probably the key to us reaching the final.

**In the semi-finals, SSC Napoli were seen as the favourites. What was your view?**

It was an interesting feeling, because we wanted to play against Napoli; they were probably the strongest of all the teams we could get if you take into account the rankings and players. And in a way we were relaxed, because they're a good team. In the first leg we didn't play well – the 1-1 didn't reflect how poorly we played. But Denys [Boyko] did his job and saved the team. And that result made us more confident for the next match. At home we played very well and didn't allow our opponents to do much.

**How will you prepare to face Sevilla FC in the UEFA Europa League final?**

Everyone understands that the pressure will be much greater – and everyone understands that one game can turn a fairy tale into reality. Our goal is in front of us, we need to keep cool-headed and prepare for this in a calm way, while keeping in mind this is a final.

## Defining moments

### Morale booster

Rotan is a threat in dead-ball situations. In the round of 32 first leg against Olympiacos, he whipped in a free-kick that eluded everyone, made it 2-0 to Dnipro and gave the team the confidence to progress.

### On the rebound

Away to the Greek champions, Rotan's free-kick rebounded to Artem Fedetskiy who headed home to all but seal the tie.

### Breaking the deadlock

In the quarter-final second leg against Club Brugge KV, with extra time seeming inevitable, Rotan's pass found Yevhen Shakhov in space to score the goal that took Dnipro into their first European semi-final.

Because it doesn't happen every day of your life, for me it will be the first time. And I'm very proud of it.

**What can you say about Sevilla? What are their strong points? What can Dnipro offer?** We should respect Sevilla, they're the current holders of this trophy. They're a very good Spanish team with fast players and fast attacks: everything that football requires today, this team has. They are a good, strong team in their own championship, and they're in the final against us in the Europa League.

**Does the fact that you have less international experience help your team?**

Our international experience is significant. But what will matter more is motivation, how you approach this physically and mentally. Whoever is more resilient, will win.

**As a captain, do you feel a greater responsibility out on the pitch?**

Out on the pitch we are 11 players doing one job. I must help the boys and they must help me, and together we have a common goal. If it's required, I am always there and I will always help and give advice when needed. But a goal is achieved by the entire team, and not a single person, the captain.

**How have Dnipro changed during your career?**

I remember when we had an old training ground and everything was falling apart. We had lots of problems in the beginning, with nutrition and things. The club has grown, it has stepped up on the international stage and now we have almost everything to achieve results. There is a modern training base, with modern pitches, and we can focus on playing football. And we can see the results today.

**What does this club mean to you?**

I've been at Dnipro since I was 14. The club is everything to me, it's in my heart, I can't imagine myself without it. Now we are in the final of this prestigious tournament. We want this trophy in our club museum very much.



## FINAL 2015 WARSAW

### CULT HERO

Tuesday 30 August 1966 was a special day for fans of FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk; not only was it the opening of their new home, Meteor Stadium, it was the day an 18-year-old named Roman Shneiderman (right) made his home debut. The midfielder, who joined the club in 1961 at the age of 12, shone as Dnipro climbed to the Soviet Union's top flight, finishing sixth in 1972, and went on to make a club-record 360 league appearances. Given the captain's armband in 1973, he remained the team's leader until he hung up his boots in 1977. Still wanting to contribute to the game, Shneiderman later worked as a referee. He passed away on 3 March 2010, aged 63.

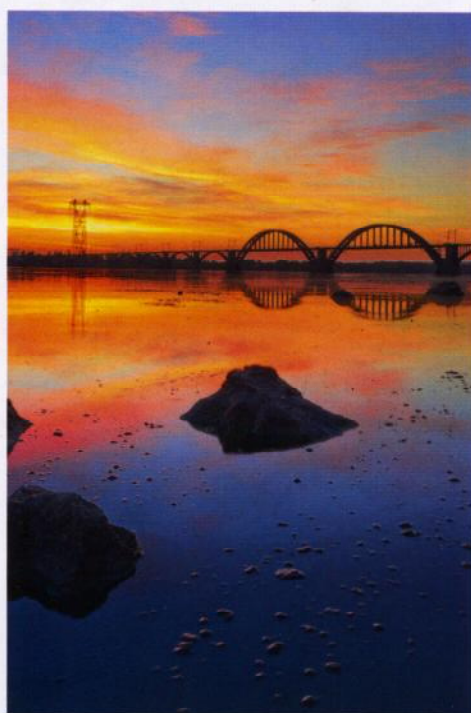


# THE STORY OF DNIPRO

Get to know the Ukrainian club's roots, heroes and feats

### ORIGINS

Dnipro's industrial roots can be traced back as far as 1918, to a team founded by the city's BRIT technology school. This side were later incorporated into the Petrovets steel plant sports club and, after the formation of the USSR league in 1936, they became known as Stal (steel) and then Metallurg (metal worker). In the early 1960s, the club gained a new patron in rocket and missile manufacturer Yuzhmash and were renamed Dnipro in reference to Ukraine's longest river, the Dnieper, which flows through the city.



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### HONOURS

Soviet League (2)  
1983, 1988

Soviet Cup (1)  
1989

Soviet League Cup (2)  
1986, 1989

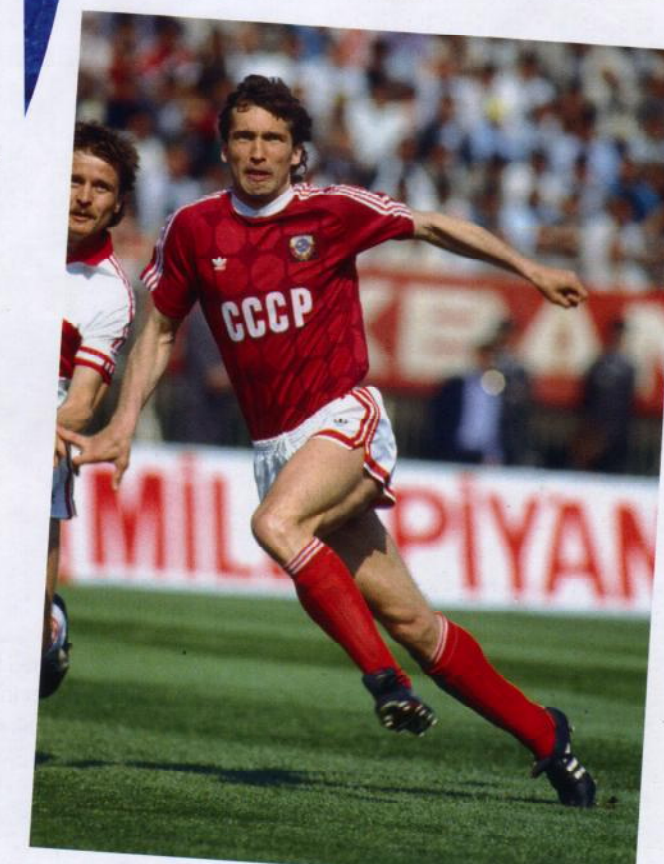
### FINEST EUROPEAN MOMENT

The jubilation in Kyiv's rain-drenched NSK Olimpiyskiy stadium showed how much it meant to Dnipro's players, coaches and fans to reach their first European final. Yevhen Seleznyov (left) scored both his side's goals in the semi-final tie against SSC Napoli and goalkeeper Denys Boyko was in outstanding form. Little could quite match the exhilaration of that night, but the Ukrainian club have twice contested the quarter-finals of the European Champion Clubs' Cup. In 1985, with Oleh Protasov leading their attack, they overcame Trabzonspor AŞ and PFC Levski Sofia and tested a gifted FC Girondins de Bordeaux team featuring Alain Giresse and Jean Tigana before losing in the shoot-out. Five years later, they were convincingly beaten by SL Benfica in the last eight. Dnipro now have the chance to become the second Ukrainian club to win this competition since independence – after FC Shakhtar Donetsk in 2009.



### CREST

In 1962, Dnipro's very first crest established three constant themes: a football, water and the club's initial. Fourteen years later, inspired by new trends in design, the club opted for a shield topped with a wave. That version didn't last too long – the badge was revamped again, with the boat and parallel footballs introduced in 1987. Modernised four times since then, Dnipro's emblem has been entirely blue and white for the last 11 years.



### TOP SCORER

If you just consider the statistics, there was nothing remarkable about Dnipro's 1982 campaign: they finished ninth of 18, a position lower than the previous season, lost as many matches as they won and averaged exactly one goal per game. One of those 34 goals was scored by an 18-year-old local named Oleh Protasov (above). Over the next five seasons, the forward struck a further 105 goals in all competitions, becoming the club's all-time record marksman. Having joined Dnipro when he was eight, Protasov signed for FC Dynamo Kyiv in 1987. By the time the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, he had also scored 29 goals for the national side, second only to Oleh Blokhin (42), including two at the 1988 UEFA European Championship. He returned to Dnipro as coach in 2006, guiding the team into the UEFA Cup.

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# DNIPRO ROAD TO WARSAW

How the Dniprovani overcame quality opposition to reach their first European final

## HIGHEST SCORERS

Nikola Kalinić	3
Yevhen Seleznyov	2
Ruslan Rotan	2
Artem Fedetskiy	2

## MOST TACKLES

Ruslan Rotan	46
Jaba Kankava	29
Yevhen Cheberyachko	25
Artem Fedetskiy	22
Douglas	20
Valeriy Fedorchuk	20

## MOST ASSISTS

Artem Fedetskiy	2
Roman Zozulya	2
Yevhen Konoplyanka	2
Ruslan Rotan	1

## MOST INTERCEPTIONS

Douglas	53
Yevhen Cheberyachko	22
Ruslan Rotan	22
Jaba Kankava	18
Egidio	17
Valeriy Fedorchuk	17
Valeriy Luchkevych	17

## MOST PASSES

Ruslan Rotan	451
Yevhen Konoplyanka	308
Jaba Kankava	270
Douglas	240
Artem Fedetskiy	204
Yevhen Cheberyachko	196

## MOST SHOTS ON GOAL

Yevhen Konoplyanka	16
Nikola Kalinić	13
Ruslan Rotan	9
Yevhen Seleznyov	7
Artem Fedetskiy	6

30

dribbles completed by  
Yevhen Konoplyanka

45%

average possession enjoyed by  
Dnipro in this campaign



## Fedetskiy pounces

On matchday six, FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk needed a win to have any chance of pipping AS Saint-Étienne and Qarabağ FK to second place in Group F. Just when hopes were ebbing away against the French side, right-back Artem Fedetskiy scored the game's only goal, sending the Ukrainian club from bottom to second place.

Fedetskiy, who began his career as a right-winger at FC Arsenal Kyiv, pounced in the 66th minute. Ruslan Rotan's fine curling free-kick had rattled the left-hand post and Verts defender Loïc Perrin could only divert the ball for Dnipro's No44 to fire high into the net.

the round of 16. Protecting a 1-0 lead from the first leg in Kyiv, Myron Markevych's men arrived in Amsterdam with five first-choice players absent through injury or suspension and their coach laid up with a virus. Midfielder Riechedly Bazoer finally levelled for Ajax on the hour mark, sending the tie into extra time.

In the 97th minute, Konoplyanka cut in from the left, skirted the box and curved a low shot inside Jasper Cillessen's left post. It was the away goal Dnipro needed. Although Ajax headed a late winner on the night, Konoplyanka and his team-mates were the ones celebrating at the final whistle.

## Extra special

A sublime strike by Dnipro captain Yevhen Konoplyanka was required to overcome AFC Ajax by the finest of margins in

## Brugge toppled

In a quarter-final dominated by defences, it was an inspired substitution by Markevych that paved the way to Dnipro's first European semi-final.

When Yevhen Shakhov replaced Roman Bezus in midfield against Club Brugge KV at the start of the second half of the second leg in Kyiv, the aggregate score was still 0-0. Eight minutes from time, the 24-year-old collected a pass in space from Rotan, turned inside and beat Australian goalkeeper Mathew Ryan with a deflected left-footed effort into the top corner. The only goal over the two legs, the No28's strike ended the Blauw-Zwart's

record 15-match unbeaten run in the UEFA Europa League.

## Saving grace

Goalkeeper Denys Boyko's exploits in the semi-final against SSC Napoli played a big part in Dnipro's triumph.

At times, the tie almost became a duel with Gonzalo Higuaín. In Naples, the 1.97m-tall keeper blocked the Argentinian forward on various occasions in a frantic second half. In his most memorable save, a glancing deflection off his right calf sent the ball skidding away as Higuaín tried to nutmeg him at the near post. Thirteen minutes from time, Dnipro's 27-year-old custodian denied the same player with an acrobatic fingertip stop. It was a similar story in the second game in Kyiv, with Boyko repeatedly thwarting Higuaín in one-on-ones as Dnipro kept a clean sheet.

## KEEPER BOYKO'S EXPLOITS IN THE SEMI-FINAL TURNED INTO A PERSONAL DUEL WITH HIGUAÍN



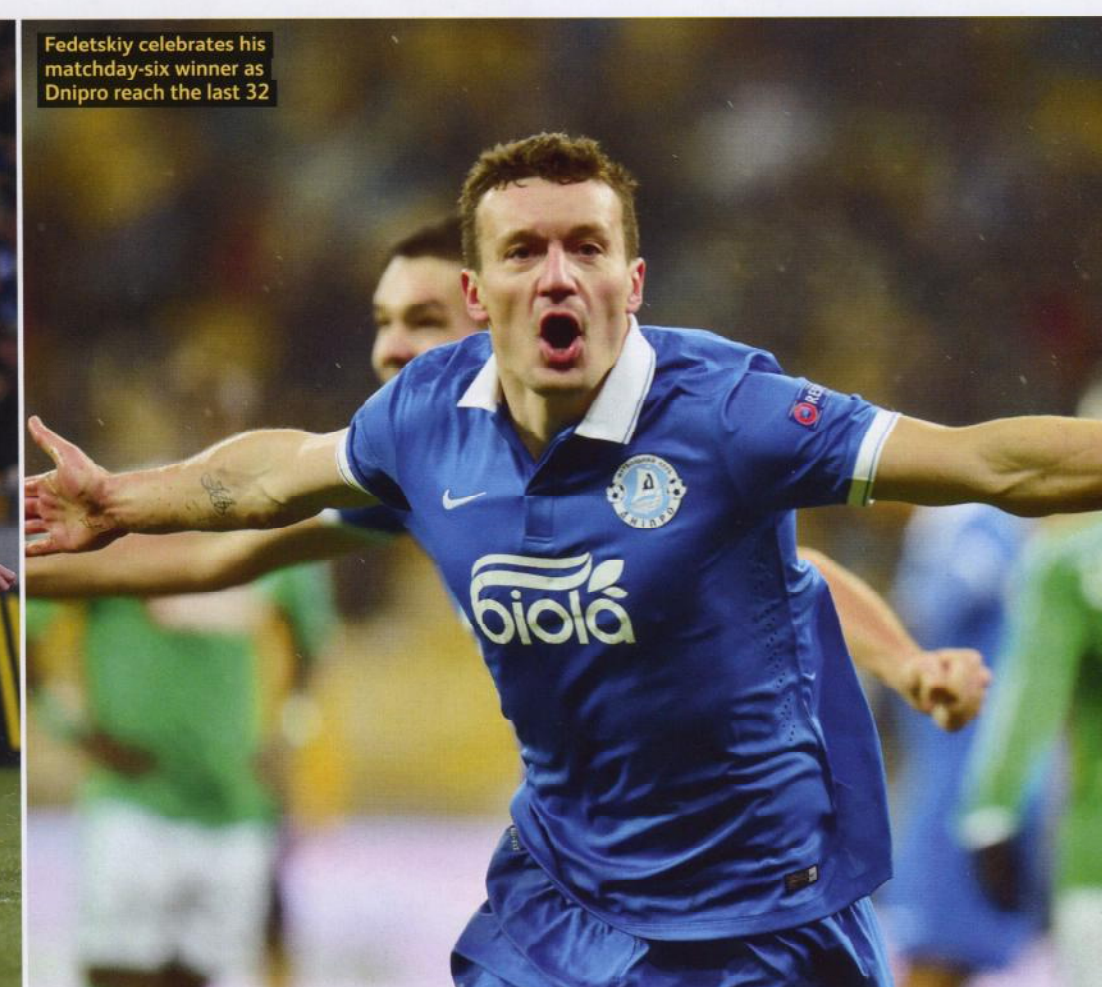
Keeper Boyko punches clear from Napoli in the semi-final, second leg



Shakhov ends Brugge's long unbeaten run in the quarter-final, second leg



Fedetskiy celebrates his matchday-six winner as Dnipro reach the last 32







## FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk

### GOALKEEPERS

Jan Laštůvka ☐ 16  
Denys Boyko ☐ 71  
Denys Shelikhov ☐ 77

### DEFENDERS

Alexandru Vlad ☐ 2  
Ondřej Mazuch ☐ 3  
Yevhen Cheberyachko ☐ 14  
Douglas ☐ 23  
Valeriy Luchkevych ☐ 24  
Oleksandr Svatok ☐ 39  
Artem Fedetskiy ☐ 44  
Oleksandr Mihunov ☐ 90

### MIDFIELDERS

Serhiy Kravchenko ☐ 4  
Jaba Kankava ☐ 7  
Yevhen Konoplyanka ☐ 10  
Léo Matos ☐ 12  
Roman Bezus ☐ 19  
Bruno Gama ☐ 20  
Valeriy Fedorchuk ☐ 25  
Yevhen Shakhov ☐ 28  
Ruslan Rotan ☐ 29  
Andriy Blyznychenko ☐ 97

### FORWARDS

Nikola Kalinić ☐ 9  
Yevhen Seleznyov ☐ 11  
Roman Zozulya ☐ 18  
Matheus ☐ 99

### COACH

Myron Markevych

REFEREE Martin Atkinson (ENG)

ASSISTANT REFEREES Michael Mullarkey, Stephen Child (ENG)

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REFEREES Anthony Taylor, Andre Marriner (ENG)

FOURTH OFFICIAL Pavel Královec (CZE)

RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE Jake Collin (ENG)



## Sevilla FC

### GOALKEEPERS

1 ☐ Mariano Barbosa  
13 ☐ Beto  
29 ☐ Sergio Rico

### DEFENDERS

2 ☐ Benoît Trémoulinas  
3 ☐ Fernando Navarro  
5 ☐ Diogo Figueiras  
15 ☐ Timothée Kolodziejczak  
21 ☐ Nicolas Pareja  
23 ☐ Coke  
24 ☐ Alejandro Arribas

### MIDFIELDERS

4 ☐ Grzegorz Krychowiak  
6 ☐ Daniel Carriço  
10 ☐ José Antonio Reyes  
12 ☐ Vicente Iborra  
17 ☐ Denis Suárez  
18 ☐ Gerard Deulofeu  
19 ☐ Éver Banega  
20 ☐ Vitolo  
22 ☐ Aleix Vidal  
25 ☐ Stéphane Mbia

### FORWARDS

7 ☐ Kevin Gameiro  
9 ☐ Carlos Bacca  
14 ☐ Iago Aspas

### COACH

Unai Emery



# A VIEW FROM THE

	 <b>Marco Laurysen</b> Club Brugge KV	 <b>Tony Fitz</b> Everton FC
What has being in the UEFA Europa League meant to you?	"For a club like Brugge to get so far in Europe, getting to the UEFA Europa League quarter-finals doesn't happen every year. You can see the effect it's had, we went on to win the Belgian Cup final."	It has been the highlight of our season. It's been a few years since we last played European football. While it ended in disappointment, it is exciting to play new teams and sample different cultures.
What was the high point of your team's campaign?	Our match at Beşiktaş was fantastic. We weren't used to hearing the noise 65,000 Turkish supporters make. 	We had a few good results this season, but the highlight was beating a very good Wolfsburg team in Germany to top the group with a game to spare.
Who has been your star player in Europe this season?	Firstly Refa, Lior Refaellov (right). He scored so many goals for us. Our keeper, Mat Ryan, has been exceptional in Belgium and in Europe.	<b>Romelu Lukaku. He scored eight, including a hat-trick against Young Boys. He is young and will get better.</b>
Which team was your toughest opponent of the campaign?	Torino were very difficult at home. Beşiktaş were our toughest opponent though – they had already beaten Tottenham and Liverpool, so it was great to be the small Belgian team beating the Turkish giant.	Despite the scorelines against Wolfsburg you could see they were a good team, but the toughest has to be Dynamo Kyiv. Maybe we could have scored more at Goodison, but we were beaten convincingly in Kyiv.
And who was the opposing player who most impressed you?	<b>We were lucky, mostly avoiding big stars, but Dnipro's No10 Yevhen Konoplyanka was a dangerous forward.</b>	I enjoyed watching Kevin De Bruyne and Ivan Perišić at Wolfsburg, but the player who impressed me most was Dynamo's Andriy Yarmolenko. He's intelligent, technically gifted and was very good in both games.
How did your coach cope with the challenge of UEFA Europa League football?	 Everything is down to the fighting spirit Michel Preud'homme (left) has brought to the team. Whenever we've been down, he's got us fighting to the last minute. We've never given up.	There was an expectation we would do well with Roberto Martínez's attacking philosophy, and that gained momentum through the campaign. Ultimately, defensive naivety and a lack of quality cost us.
What was your best away trip of this campaign?	All the trips have been fun. The greatest atmosphere was of course at Beşiktaş. We were completely outnumbered and never expected that we would defeat them. It was amazing, a very special night.	Each of the five trips were memorable, but my favourite was Wolfsburg. A good away win, our fans were fantastic and the German food and beer was amazing!
And your favourite souvenir?	After the game against Aalborg we went to a bar. There was a fan wearing two pins: an Aalborg and a Europa League one. We got chatting and he gave me both. They're not big, but they're a souvenir with a special connection.	Apart from the collection of bruises from celebrating goals, the only souvenirs I brought back were scarves and programmes. 

# STANDS

Five fans share their memories of a European campaign full of fun, friendship and a few new badges

 <b>Remco Ravenhorst</b> Feyenoord	 <b>George Rinaldi</b> ACF Fiorentina	 <b>Holger Schlabs</b> VfL Wolfsburg
The goal scored by Elvis Manu (right) in the play-off, when all our hope seemed lost, made our stadium explode with joy. 	The Viola have had a turbulent past ten years, but playing in the Europa League on a regular basis shows how far the team has come. I cannot put into words how proud I am to be a Fiorentina fan.	You really get to see some interesting corners of Europe you may not otherwise visit. This season we mainly had games in well-known capital cities, but it is exciting when you get to go off the beaten track too.
The home win against Sevilla. No one was expecting that. Ask any supporter about that game and a smile will appear on their face!	The only way you could top beating Roma 3-0 at Stadio Olimpico is winning the Europa League! It is not often a team wins in Rome by such a margin. It helps when your father is a Roma fan too!	Our away win against Inter. No one would have tipped us to go through. You could feel the club had reached a level of maturity and really wanted to win the trophy. 
Jordy Clasie, without doubt. Clasie is one of the many success stories of Feyenoord's academy, where he spent almost his entire youth career – well illustrated by a photo of him as a youngster with Robin van Persie.	I don't want to be boring and say it's a team effort, but I feel everyone has played their part. If there's one player I expect to provide a moment of brilliance to win us a game it would be Mohamed Salah.	Kevin De Bruyne (right), by some distance. He's been amazing. Our goalkeeper Diego Benaglio also put in some great performances.
<b>Sevilla had the most quality. In Seville it was clear we were playing the holders. It could have been worse than 2-0.</b>	Tottenham gave us a run for our money. Spurs created a number of chances and could have been out of sight. We took our opportunities, which is what you have to do at this level. 	Napoli blew us away in Wolfsburg. Unfortunately, I think the match came as the players were starting to tire from chasing a Champions League spot in the Bundesliga and the German Cup.
Andrej Kramarić. In the 3-1 away loss against Rijeka, he scored all their goals. It is not something I'd like to be reminded of.	Andros Townsend (right) tore up our defence in the first leg against Spurs. We looked in total disarray every time he got the ball on the wing and ran at us.	Napoli have many good players, but Gonzalo Higuaín put in a great performance against us. I also thought Romelu Lukaku was strong against us in the group stage, when we lost 4-1 to Everton.
It has been a while since we were here and Fred Rutten (right) did a good job. At the same time, however, we lost too many points in the league.	Vincenzo Montella got it spot on. When we were playing badly he was able to make swift changes to the set-up. The team are now used to changes in style and adapting to new positions during a match.	We had a couple of seasons fighting relegation, so to make the quarter-finals of the Europa League was a pretty major improvement. Tactically, Dieter Hecking has proved he has what it takes.
Each trip was unique and I wouldn't have missed one of them for anything in the world. The biggest thank you goes out to all my friends with whom I can share all the memories and experiences.	I wasn't in Rome, so it would have to be Spurs. We were in full voice and held our scarves aloft. It showed how much we have progressed to be playing this stature of club again. I really felt right at home.	<b>Lisbon. It's a beautiful city. We would go for three days to the away games so we had a chance to see the sights.</b>
I'm not that into souvenirs. What I cherish most are my photos and memories. I've displayed my tickets in my living room. They remind me every day of everything being in the Europa League brought us.	<b>None – other than José María Basanta's away goal at Tottenham, which was brilliant to claim!</b>	I got some scarves, of course. My favourite I swapped with some Everton fans. We had a lot of fun with them in Liverpool and in Germany. They're great people, the kind you can happily have a laugh and a beer with.



# THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL

The UEFA Europa League offers players an unrivalled tour of Europe. It's their opportunity to bask in the Catalonian sun, catch up on the news on a flight to Istanbul and be hailed as a homecoming hero in Moscow



## Snow business

Valencia CF striker David Villa braves the wintry weather to sign autographs in Kiev in 2009. The round of 32 first leg finished 1-1. David Silva opened the scoring with Artem Milevskiy equalising for FC Dynamo Kyiv. After a 2-2 draw in the second leg in Spain, Kyiv progressed on away goals.

## Flare players

Kevin Keegan and Emlyn Hughes, garbed in the height of 1970s fashion, play cards outside Barcelona airport in 1976. The first leg of the semi-final at Camp Nou ended 1-0 to Liverpool FC. Bob Paisley's side finished the job by drawing the second leg 1-1 at Anfield en route to their second UEFA Cup triumph.







### Parking the bus

Twice European champions AC Milan arrive at Saint Mel's Park in the Republic of Ireland ahead of their second round first-leg match against Athlone Town AFC in 1975. The game finished 0-0, but Giovanni Trapattoni's side progressed thanks to Francesco Vincenzi's hat-trick at San Siro.

### Returning heroes

PFC CSKA Moskva, led by coach Valeri Gazzaev, are welcomed home at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after having beaten Sporting Clube de Portugal in the 2005 final in Lisbon. A goal down at half-time, the Army Men fought back to win 3-1 with goals from Aleksei Berezutski, Yuri Zhirkov and Vágner Love.



### Papers and planes

Brazilian midfielder Ilsinho makes his way down the plane as his team-mates peruse the papers on FC Shakhtar Donetsk's flight to Istanbul for the 2009 final, where they faced Thomas Schaaf's SV Werder Bremen. It would take a 97th-minute, extra-time winner from Ilsinho's compatriot Jádson for the Pitmen to take the trophy back to Ukraine.

**MILAN COACH GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI SAID HIS TEAM'S 1975 TRIP TO ATHLONE WAS "A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE"**



### Selfie stop

Bremen playmaker Diego poses for a photo with a fan in Barcelona ahead of the side's 2007 semi-final against RCD Espanyol. The German club lost the tie 5-1 on aggregate but reached the final two years later. The Brazilian No10 won the competition with Club Atlético de Madrid in 2012.





FINAL 2015 WARSAW

Robson jigs with delight after Terry Butcher scores the only goal of the game in Ipswich's 1981 UEFA Cup semi-final in Cologne



# THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

Bobby Robson led Ipswich to UEFA Cup glory in 1981. His legacy still resonates

WORDS Susan Gardiner

Lifting a European trophy is a great achievement for any coach, but for Bobby Robson to win the UEFA Cup in 1981 with a comparatively small club like Ipswich Town FC was little short of miraculous.

Robson didn't win the trophy with the 'sleepy Suffolk club' of popular cliché. Ipswich had won the English league in 1962 under Alf Ramsey and their supporters were demanding and knowledgeable. Having inherited an ageing squad on his arrival in January 1969, Robson rebuilt the Ipswich side at least three times before reaching the two-legged UEFA Cup final in 1981. He brought in only 18 players in 13 years, but each was an improvement on what went before. In addition, the man who would go on to win trophies with FC Barcelona, FC Porto and PSV Eindhoven developed a highly effective scouting team and made stars of players such as attacking midfielder John Wark, central defender Kevin Beattie and right-back George Burley.

Despite having very little managerial experience – he had lasted just months at his only previous post with Fulham FC – Robson transformed Ipswich. They came close to being league

champions seven times (finishing second behind Aston Villa FC and Liverpool FC in 1981 and 1982 respectively) and defeated Arsenal FC in the FA Cup final in 1978.

## A promising start

Town's first experience of the UEFA Cup came in 1973/74, after finishing fourth in the league the previous season. In the first round they met Real Madrid CF and beat them 1-0 over two legs. "It is time to ... recognise why he is England's most sought-after young manager," enthused Jim Lawton in the Daily Express. "Robson coolly out-thought the masters of Real Madrid." Serie A champions SS Lazio were then beaten 6-4 on aggregate, including a 4-0 win at Portman Road. FC Twente were beaten home and away (3-1 on aggregate) before Ipswich went out in the quarter-finals, on spot kicks, after a 1-1 aggregate draw with 1. FC Lokomotive Leipzig.

Not a bad first European campaign by any standards, yet Robson was criticised for not being especially astute tactically. His early teams at Ipswich were fairly traditional, using long passes and

a direct style aimed at moving the ball up the pitch as quickly as possible. But they were never crude hoofers. Robson's sides used wingers and passing triangles – particularly on the left flank with forward Clive Woods, midfielder Brian Talbot and full-back Mick Mills – that could tie opponents in knots.

## "The best team in Europe"

If Robson's great strengths were man management and his ability to identify and nurture young players, his real masterstroke was to bring in a completely different kind of footballer. In 1978, he signed Dutch midfielder Arnold Mühren, a 1975 UEFA Cup finalist, from Twente. In the 1970s, it was unusual for English managers to sign foreign players and Mühren's style was not best suited to long balls from the back from Beattie and his fellow centre-back Allan Hunter. Robson changed tactics, instructing his men – not accustomed to playing with creative midfielders – to pass the ball to him. Mühren suggested bringing in his former team-mate Frans Thijssen, also from Twente. The Ipswich team was transformed to accommodate the two Dutchmen in wide positions, with Wark and Eric Gates in central roles behind forwards Paul Mariner and Alan Brazil.

Following that initial UEFA Cup venture, Ipswich qualified for Europe in eight of the following nine seasons. In 1980/81, their first European match was at Portman Road against Aris Thessaloniki FC. Ipswich won 5-1, three of Wark's four goals were penalties and Aris defender Giorgos Firois was sent off. Robson's team lost the away leg 3-1 but went through to meet Bohemians Praha 1905, winning 3-0 at Portman Road in the first leg before losing 2-0 in Prague in freezing conditions.

In the third round, Ipswich faced Polish club RTS Widzew Łódź, who had already knocked out Manchester United FC and Juventus and featured an emerging star called Zbigniew Boniek. Robson later recalled that Łódź's coach had been so confident, he even offered to have a bet with the Englishman about the outcome. "They underestimated us," Robson said. "We knocked them out of sight." After a 5-0 win at home in the first leg, Ipswich had to deal with temperatures of -14°C in the return. They lost 1-0 in Poland, despite dominating the game.

Their reward was a quarter-final tie against AS Saint-Étienne, one of Europe's most successful clubs, featuring such stars as Michel Platini and Johnny Rep. In the first leg, Ipswich travelled away, to face a club with a fearsome reputation at home. Yet, on a muddy pitch, Ipswich won 4-1 in front of 42,000 spectators, with striker Mariner scoring twice.

Robson thought this victory was his club's best ever performance in Europe. The Times emphatically agreed, writing: "The players are

laced together as tightly as a boot by team spirit. Ipswich just may be the best team in Europe."

After a 3-1 victory at Portman Road the following week, Town met 1. FC Köln – coached by Rinus Michels, creator of Total Football – in the semi-finals. After beating them 1-0 home and away, Robson's side had to face a two-legged final against AZ Alkmaar with several of his squad out injured. The Dutch champions-elect came to Suffolk advocating open, attacking football but played a physical, defensive game, hoping to leave with a clean sheet. The tactic failed and Ipswich won 3-0, which should have made lifting the trophy in Amsterdam a fortnight later much easier. In one of Europe's most thrilling cup finals, five goals were scored by half-time. In the end,

Ipswich prevailed, winning the UEFA Cup 5-4 on aggregate thanks to a dogged defensive display and some superb goalkeeping by Paul Cooper.

How much of this success was due to Robson's tactics, and how much to his man management? "During the European run [Robson] would watch our opponents and call us together to tell us about them," recalled Cooper. "He never used notes, but kept it all in his head. He'd go through their team, get to number seven or eight, and stop and say, 'Look, it doesn't matter. You're a better team than they are anyway.'"



Fans crowd Ipswich town centre to welcome home Bobby Robson's team after their success against AZ in the 1981 UEFA Cup final

"His knowledge of the game, his ability to bring out the best in players, his pride in youngsters coming through the ranks set him apart"

## Flexibility and innovation

Putting 1.68m-tall striker Gates in the 'hole' behind the front men was a bold innovation for the time, as was Robson's use of four attacking midfielders. Mühren and Thijssen were crucial elements in creating a side that could successfully challenge for European honours. Robson may not be associated with a particular tactical scheme but he listened to colleagues and adapted his sides – as he proved by taking England to the FIFA World Cup semi-finals in 1990. It was this that enabled him to win the UEFA Cup with Ipswich.

The same trait left a lasting influence on three UEFA Cup-winning coaches: José Mourinho (who assisted him at Porto and Barcelona), André Villas-Boas (who, as a 16-year-old, wrote to Robson to discuss tactics and team selection) and Sven-Göran Eriksson (who, as an up-and-coming coach studying English methods, was invited to share the dugout with Robson at Ipswich).

When Robson died in 2009, at the age of 76, one of the most telling tributes came from the former Ipswich, Liverpool FC and Scotland player Wark. "He was much more than a manager to me," said the man who scored 14 goals in that successful 1981 UEFA Cup campaign. "I lost my father when I was 22 and Mr Robson was always there when I needed him ... but it was his knowledge of the game, allied to his ability to bring out the best in his players, which set him apart from most of his contemporaries. He also loved to see youth team players come through the ranks. It made him extremely proud. There are a lot of us that owe him a great deal."







# SEVILLA

Powering to their fourth UEFA Europa League final in the past ten seasons, the Hispalenses have scored 26 goals en route to Warsaw, gaining momentum as the campaign progressed, with an emphatic victory against ACF Fiorentina in the semi-finals. Unai Emery's talented Sevilla FC squad know they have the chance to make history in Poland by becoming the first club to win this competition four times.



**Mariano  
BARBOSA**

Position Goalkeeper  
Date of birth 27/07/1984  
Nationality Argentinian  
UEFA club apps 7

Recruited from UD Las Palmas in July 2014, the 30-year-old keeper provides experienced back-up. Injuries have blighted the Argentinian's first season at Sevilla but he starred in the Villarreal CF side that reached the UEFA Champions League semi-finals in 2006.



**BETO**

Position Goalkeeper  
Date of birth 01/05/1982  
Nationality Portuguese  
UEFA club apps 25

The 33-year-old stopper was the hero for Sevilla in the shoot-out win in the 2014 final, saving spot kicks from SL Benfica's Óscar Cardozo and Rodrigo. This has been a frustrating campaign for the Portuguese international who has been kept out of the starting XI by injuries.



**Sergio  
RICO**

Position Goalkeeper  
Date of birth 01/09/1993  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 10

Starting this season playing for Sevilla reserves in the third tier, 21-year-old Rico has seized the opportunity created by injuries to Beto and Barbosa. The 1.94m-tall, Seville-born keeper made a vital save to stifle Fiorentina's hopes of a comeback in the semi-final.



**Benoît  
TRÉMOULINAS**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 28/12/1985  
Nationality French  
UEFA club apps 43 (1 goal)

Attack-minded left-back Trémoulinas joined Sevilla from FC Dynamo Kyiv last summer, having made his name at FC Girondins de Bordeaux. He was at his most creative in the round of 16 against Villarreal, laying on an assist in each leg.



**Fernando  
NAVARRO**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 25/06/1982  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 53

Club captain Navarro is a strong, experienced and committed left-back who also plays in the centre. Barcelona-born, he came up through the ranks at Camp Nou before heading to RCD Mallorca. Signed in 2008, Navarro is the team's longest-serving player.



**Diogo  
FIGUEIRAS**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 07/01/1991  
Nationality Portuguese  
UEFA club apps 21

Right wing-back Figueiras is a capable defender who loves to get forward. He has supplied two assists in this UEFA Europa League campaign and has scored a contender for goal of the season in the Liga with his 40m strike against RCD Espanyol in January.



**Timothée  
KOŁODZIEJCZAK**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 01/10/1991  
Nationality French  
UEFA club apps 12

France-born but with Polish and Martinique parentage, 'Kolo' has played at every youth level for France up to the Under-20s. At 1.85m, he is a towering presence and has performed well in the middle – and on the left side – of defence for Sevilla this campaign.



**Nicolas  
PAREJA**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 19/01/1984  
Nationality Argentinian  
UEFA club apps 43 (1 goal)

Pareja has been a regular under Emery since Sevilla bought him outright from FC Spartak Moskva last summer, starting 26 Liga games and forming a formidable partnership with Carriço at the back. Pareja's superb season was cruelly ended with a cruciate ligament injury.



**COKE**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 26/04/1987  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 22 (2 goals)

Emery named right-back Coke as his vice-captain in the summer after he impressed during the club's run to the 2014 UEFA Europa League final. A steady defender, the former Rayo Vallecano de Madrid graduate is a calming influence at the back.



**Alejandro  
ARRIBAS**

Position Defender  
Date of birth 01/05/1989  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 3

Sevilla moved to sign Arribas on a free transfer last summer following two impressive seasons for CA Osasuna. Mainly used as a back-up option so far this campaign, the 26-year-old Madrid-born defender offers valuable cover in central defence.



**Grzegorz  
KRYCHOWIAK**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 29/01/1990  
Nationality Polish  
UEFA club apps 13 (1 goal)

Defensive midfielder Krychowiak has added steel to Sevilla's midfield since arriving from Ligue 1 side Stade de Reims last summer. The 25-year-old Polish international has made 46 interceptions and 39 tackles in this campaign, more than any other Sevilla player.



**Daniel  
CARRIÇO**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 04/08/1988  
Nationality Portuguese  
UEFA club apps 61 (4 goals)

Sevilla acquired Carriço after a loan spell that ended with a 2013 UEFA Europa League winners' medal. Able to operate as a centre-back and holding midfielder, the Portuguese has also represented AEL Limassol FC and Sporting Clube de Portugal in this competition. →





**José Antonio  
REYES**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 01/09/1983  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 90 (12 goals)

Twice a winner of this competition – with Club Atlético de Madrid in 2010 and with Sevilla last season – Reyes brings guile, skill and experience to Emery's side. Chipping in with a goal and an assist in the group stage, the wide midfielder is a goal threat.



**Vicente  
IBORRA**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 16/01/1988  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 34 (5 goals)

His goal and an assist against Villarreal in the round of 16 may indicate an increased goal threat from the midfielder this season. Making his name as a defensive midfielder at boyhood club Levante UD, Iborra has relished his more attacking duties under Emery.



**Denis  
SUÁREZ**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 03/01/1994  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 10 (3 goals)

This has been an impressive campaign from on-loan FC Barcelona midfielder Suárez. Winning strikes against Villarreal and FC Zenit – in the round of 16 and quarter-finals respectively – highlight the 21-year-old's composure and maturity.



**Gerard  
DEULOFEU**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 13/03/1994  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 8

One of the most talked-about prospects to emerge from Barça's La Masia academy for a number of years, Spanish international Deulofeu is capable of sublime moments of skill, but has mainly been deployed as an impact player in his first term on loan at Sevilla.



**Éver  
BANEGA**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 20/06/1988  
Nationality Argentinian  
UEFA club apps 38

The 26-year-old came to the Blanquirrojos in August to play for his former Valencia coach Emery. A box-to-box midfielder, Banega adds grit, quality and fine passing to the Sevilla side. The Argentinian has completed 300 of his 340 attempted passes so far.



**VITOLO**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 02/11/1989  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 27 (7 goals)

The former Las Palmas midfielder notched the fastest ever goal in the competition's history, striking after 13.21 seconds against Villarreal. A right-footed winger who is comfortable on either flank, Vitolo has hit three goals and two assists en route to Warsaw.



**Aleix  
VIDAL**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 21/08/1989  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 11 (2 goals)

The 25-year-old winger, signed from UD Almería last summer, had his best match for the club in the semi-final first leg, scoring twice against Fiorentina to help secure Sevilla's passage into the final. Even more impressive considering Vidal was playing as a right-back.



**Stéphane  
MBIA**

Position Midfielder  
Date of birth 20/05/1986  
Nationality Cameroonian  
UEFA club apps 50 (7 goals)

The Cameroon captain scored the away goal that sent Sevilla through to the 2014 final and has been just as impressive this season, since his move from Queens Park Rangers FC was made permanent. Mbia has chipped in again this campaign with three goals and two assists.



**Kevin  
GAMEIRO**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 09/05/1987  
Nationality French  
UEFA club apps 37 (13 goals)

With four goals and two assists, Gameiro has been in prolific form in this campaign. The French international scored the decisive spot-kick against SL Benfica in last season's final. Quick and versatile, Gameiro can lead the line, play in the hole or operate from the flanks.



**Carlos  
BACCA**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 08/09/1986  
Nationality Colombian  
UEFA club apps 38 (15 goals)

Colombian striker Bacca scored in both legs of the quarter-final and provided an assist in the first leg of the semi-final to help his side get to Warsaw. Signed from Club Brugge KV in July 2013, Bacca has been Sevilla's top marksman for the past two seasons.



**Iago  
ASPAS**

Position Forward  
Date of birth 01/08/1987  
Nationality Spanish  
UEFA club apps 4 (1 goal)

On loan from Liverpool FC, Aspas has been unlucky with injuries. He struck the opener in the group-stage draw away to HNK Rijeka but is best known for scoring the fastest treble in Spanish football: in three minutes and 51 seconds against CE Sabadell FC last December.



The Sevilla lineup that won the semi-final second leg in Florence



# UNAI EMERY

Sevilla FC's young, yet experienced, coach says his players will need to work hard and dig deep to prevail against a Dnipro side that have been a revelation



**You won the UEFA Europa League last year. Has this year been more difficult?**

The path to the final is tough. All your opponents are very difficult and we've played little finals along the way. We were up against Borussia Mönchengladbach, a team with great potential. We faced Villarreal, Zenit, Fiorentina. Now we have the prize of playing in the final.

**How has the team improved?**

We know that we have to perform for 180 minutes of every tie. You can't let up for even a single minute. Our strength stems from our experience last season. In terms of competitiveness and mental strength, we know how to approach games.

**Has the style of play changed?**

Ivan Rakitić, Alberto Moreno and Federico Fazio left. What has been maintained is how we compete; the way we search for the highest competitive level given our quality.

**Did you expect to reach this stage in Europe again after losing three key players?**

We've focused all our energy on the present. We never thought we were better than anyone. We knew that the journey would be very long and that we could simply compete at each stage, without thinking beyond that.

**How important is the UEFA Europa League?**

Looking back to the UEFA Cup days, the competition didn't have the level of competitiveness it has today. It has grown thanks to the boost by UEFA. The financial rewards are big, and there's the fact that the winners now qualify directly for the Champions League the following season.

**Sevilla had to secure qualification from the group stage in the final game.**

We qualified second behind an excellent Feyenoord side. Our objective was to qualify for the last 32. We wanted to finish first, but we had a tough group. There's room to make a mistake in the group stage.

**You've been a coach for more than a decade and you're just 43!**

I've been in Europe for seven straight years now. I try to make sure they are learning experiences. Competing in Europe gives you standing, weight, recognition, respect ...

It also enables you to grow by giving you knowledge, as you get to know other leagues, clubs and players.

**In the return leg against FC Zenit, there was a period when the team looked to be struggling. Did that moment epitomise the team's strength?**

With the number of hugely competitive ties we've played, there are naturally some very difficult moments. You have to know how to

**"We've focused all our energy on the present. We never thought we were better than anyone. We knew the journey would be long"**

handle them. The team had the experience from last season. For example, we lost 2-0 to Real Betis at the Sánchez Pizjuán and we had to go to their stadium to come back from a 2-0 deficit.

We pulled it off. It was key not to lose control. That's what we did in St Petersburg. At difficult times you have to be able to hang tough, pull together, get past it and make the most of your chances.

**The goal that took you through was scored by Kevin Gameiro. What's your view of him?** Kevin is highly regarded. He's very happy with us. It's been important for him to have

a regular run in the side. He has competition from Carlos Bacca and Iago Aspas, but everyone has to find their place, right? Kevin has had a number of injuries that have prevented him from playing even more regularly, but whenever he's fit he makes an important contribution.

**Gameiro's usual strike partner is Carlos Bacca. What are the Colombian's qualities?**

He also has a very strong competitive streak. He always wants to learn. He's earned everything that's come his way through hard work and hunger. His time in Belgium allowed him to get to know Europe, to grow and cut his teeth, and Sevilla has been the place where he's made the step up and established himself as a great player.

**Were the two legs of the semi-final against ACF Fiorentina your best performances?**

It was a difficult victory. The team didn't let up for a single minute of the 180 ... and that was reflected in the scoreline. A 5-0 aggregate win is a very big margin and it speaks volumes for our competitiveness.

**What do you think of the Dnipro team?**

They've been the revelation of this year's Europa League because they've knocked out teams that are historically much bigger. If they can beat those teams, they are also capable of beating Sevilla. We'll give them the respect they deserve.

**Do you feel comfortable that many consider Sevilla favourites?**

People don't analyse us like we analyse ourselves. They don't dig deep like we do. That's the basis of our reasoning, so we work as hard for each match as if it were Napoli, Wolfsburg, Tottenham or Roma.

**Sevilla could win this competition for a record fourth time. Is that extra pressure?**

We can't deny that we have the chance to make history. It shouldn't feel like pressure; it will serve more as motivation, like a dream we can achieve.

After reaching back-to-back UEFA Europa League finals, Emery is building a reputation as one of Europe's finest young coaches



## THE MAKING OF UNAI EMERY

### Playing days

Born in the Basque town of Hondarribia in Spain in 1971, Emery graduated from Real Sociedad de Fútbol's academy 19 years later. A left-sided midfielder, he played five Liga matches with the first team in 1995/96, scoring once against Albacete Balompié, before leaving the club. The following eight seasons were spent in Spain's lower tiers, with CD Toledo, Racing Club de Ferrol, CD Leganés and Lorca Deportiva CF.

### First steps in charge

After injuring his knee at Lorca at the beginning of the 2004/05 season, Emery was appointed coach. In his first season, he led them into Spain's second tier for the first time in the club's history. After coming close to back-to-back promotions, he took over at UD Almería. With the Rojiblancos he did achieve immediate promotion to the Liga and, in 2007/08, led them to eighth place, with Álvaro Negredo scoring 13 goals.

### Building his name

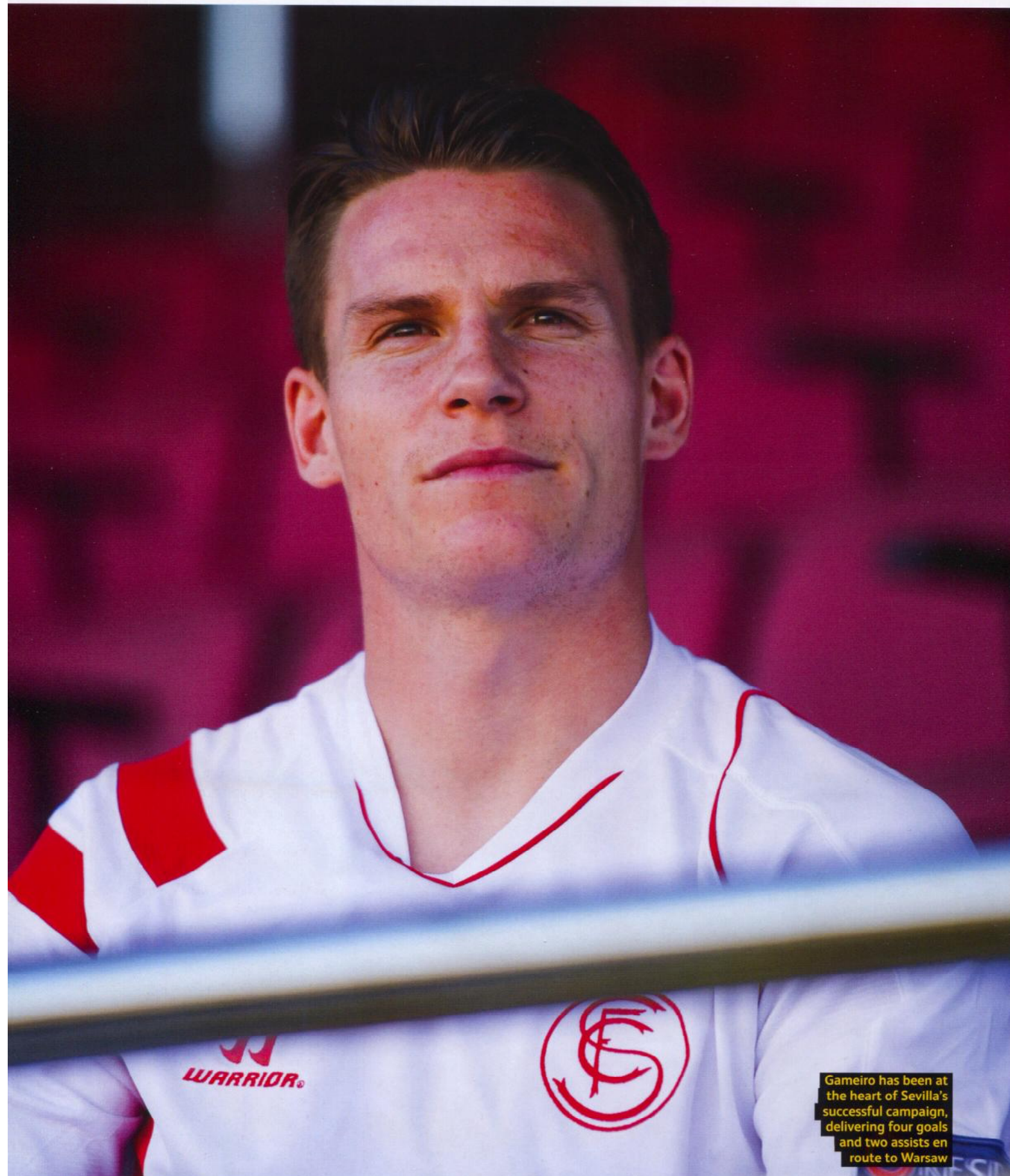
Emery's exploits with Almería caught the eye of Valencia CF and he helped to re-establish them as one of Europe's top clubs. After coming sixth in his first campaign, Emery led his side to three back-to-back third-place finishes. In 2010, the Blanquinegros reached the quarter-finals of this competition and in 2011 reached the last 16 in Emery's first UEFA Champions League campaign. After reaching the UEFA Europa

League semi-finals in 2012, Emery left for FC Spartak Moskva.

### Success with Sevilla

In January 2013, he returned to the Liga with Sevilla FC and managed to guide the Hispalenses to the final in Turin, where they overcame SL Benfica 4-2 in a shoot-out. A repeat performance against FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk would make him the first coach to retain the trophy in the UEFA Europa League era.





Gameiro has been at the heart of Sevilla's successful campaign, delivering four goals and two assists en route to Warsaw

# “I’m a player who comes alive at specific moments”

Sevilla's French forward **KEVIN GAMEIRO** reflects on what retaining this trophy would mean, his boyhood idols and perfecting a striker's instinct



**You're in the final for the second year in a row. Has the thought of retaining your trophy been an extra source of motivation?**

We are favourites to win this competition because we won it last year. Now, we mustn't dwell on that. We know Dnipro are a very good team and they aren't there by chance. It's up to us to put in a top performance.

**What do you remember of last season's win?**

Many things. It's a very long competition. We had some great moments, some tough ones too. Winning this trophy last year was simply exceptional.

**Was scoring the winning spot kick the highlight of your career so far?**

It isn't the best because my professional debut is something you don't forget. It was a very beautiful moment and winning the trophy for a club like Sevilla was exceptional. The fans were behind us. You feel the passion around the club. Scoring the winning penalty and winning the cup was fantastic.

**How would you sum up this campaign?**

I can't really compare. We have much more experience this year and this has helped us in certain matches to get where we are. We know what we have to do to win this final. We can't relax. It'll be a very important match and we'll have to give it our all.

**Would winning in Warsaw surpass last season's achievements?**

Last year's victory was really great because it was also my first year at Sevilla, and as a club it'd been a little while since we'd won a trophy like that. But this year too, we'd be over the moon to win it.

**You've scored four goals in the UEFA Europa League this season, including one against Villarreal CF. Is it harder facing a Spanish team you already know?**

Yes, it's always difficult, but we had that last year too against Real Betis. We played our

game and we knew how to surprise them from the first minute. We grew in confidence and, when that happens, things become easier.

**You also scored against FC Zenit in Russia. What do you remember about that goal?**

It was a very tough match. We were losing 2-1 and if we hadn't scored that goal, we'd have gone into extra time. The boss said to me when I went on that I'd get a chance and that I had to be ready to score. That's why you play football, for moments like that.

**You made it 3-0 against ACF Fiorentina in the semi-final first leg. How important was that goal in the tie?**

It wasn't definitive, but you know it's difficult for a team to come back from 3-0 down. We approached the return leg with the desire to win, rather than looking ahead to the final. It was a very good Sevilla performance and we managed to win the match.

**You've started many matches on the bench, come on and scored. Is that more difficult than playing the full 90 minutes?**

When you're a footballer you want to play every minute of every game. It's the coach's choice and that must be respected. When he calls on you, you have to be ready and that's what I try to do in each match when I'm

a substitute. The team is the most important thing and it's about winning.

**What goes through your mind when you get the ball in a shooting position?**

I don't stop to think – that's when I miss chances! What I mean is that I'm a player who comes alive at specific moments and when I see the ball I just try to put it in the back of the net.

**Do you judge your performances based on how many goals you score?**

It's important for an attacker to score goals over the course of the season and to reach a specific target. When a forward scores 15 or 20 goals a season, that means they're a good forward.

**Who taught you most about scoring goals?**

My dad was an attacker, so that helps, but I've always had that instinct for getting into the box. I've also had good coaches over the years who helped me to deal with certain scenarios in front of goal or the goalkeeper.

**Is the ability to score goals something you either have or you don't?**

No, I think that it's something that can be learned too. I stay behind after training because it doesn't come by itself.

**Was there a player you wanted to be when you were a boy?**

I'd say, like everyone I think, Ronaldo. Apart from that, I always admired Jean-Pierre Papin. He was another really great goalscorer, and I really liked him because his style was similar to mine – he didn't overthink things.

**What advice would you give a young striker hoping to reach this level?**

It's all about working in front of goal and maintaining the hope you're going to score. Even if you waste a chance, you can't dwell on it. You know you're going to get another one in the match and you have to show that you're able to put it away.

## Defining moments

### Spot on

Kevin Gameiro came off the bench to win the 2014 UEFA Europa League final – firing the ball right-footed inside the left post to give Sevilla FC a 4-2 victory in the shoot-out.

### Fast show

There were only ten seconds on the clock when Gameiro lofted the ball into Vitolo's path for the Spanish midfielder to score the competition's fastest ever goal, against Villarreal CF in their round of 16 first leg.

### Keep calm ...

... and bring on Gameiro. Hulk's goal in St Petersburg looked to be sending the quarter-final into extra time until Gameiro scored to send his side into the last four.



## FINAL 2015 WARSAW

### TOP SCORER

The Blanquirrojos' all-time leading marksman, Guillermo González del Río García (below) – otherwise known as Campanal I – joined Sevilla FC as a teenager in 1929 and went on to score 214 goals in 17 years with the club. A traditional No9 who was renowned for his strength in the air, he was the star of Sevilla's 1930s cup-winning sides, scoring five goals across the 1935 and 1939 Copa del Rey finals. After hanging up his boots, Campanal I coached CD Málaga, CD Alcalá and Coria CF, before he returned to manage Sevilla in 1949. In his first spell in charge, he led the team to second in the Liga in 1951 and gave a debut to his nephew, Campanal II, who also became a club legend. Campanal I died at the age of 71 in 1984.



# THE STORY OF SEVILLA

The Andalusian club's heroes, history and roots



### ORIGINS

Sevilla is one of Spain's oldest football clubs, a fact verified by a 125-year-old article published in the Dundee Courier. On page four of the paper's 17 March 1890 edition, a story tells of a group of young British men meeting in a pub in Seville on 25 January 1890 to celebrate Burns Night and, with some Spanish friends, deciding to form an official football club. The article stated: "A few enthusiastic young residents of British origin met in one of the cafes for the purpose of considering a proposal that we should start an athletic association, the want of exercise being greatly felt by the majority of us, who are chiefly engaged in mercantile pursuits."

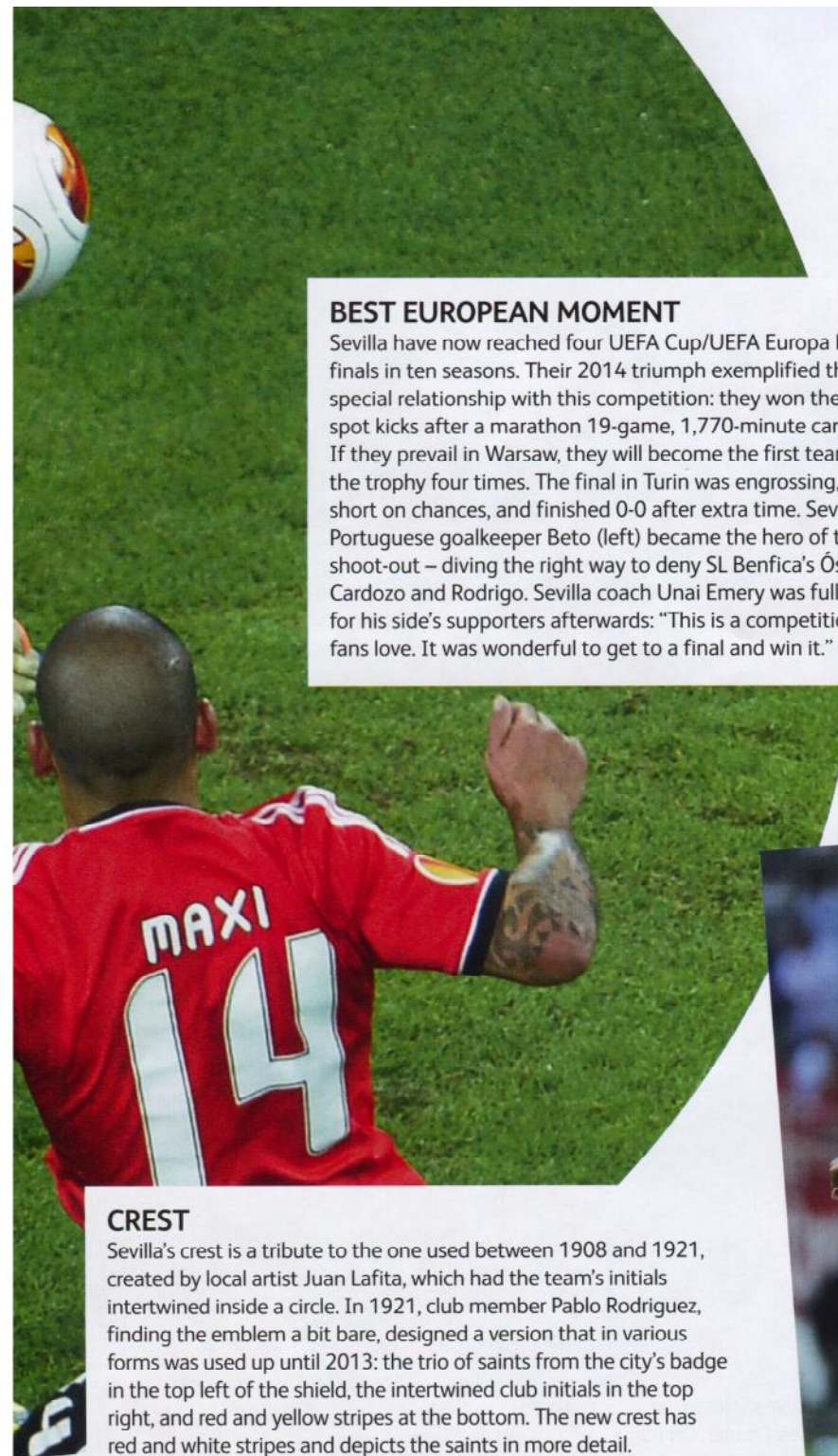
And the reason the Scottish newspaper would have decided to publish such a story? Many of Seville's oranges were shipped to Scotland to make Dundee's famous

marmalade. In March 1890, the new team played what is reputed to have been the first game "under association rules" in Spain, defeating the Huelva Recreation Club 2-0.



### BEST EUROPEAN MOMENT

Sevilla have now reached four UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League finals in ten seasons. Their 2014 triumph exemplified their special relationship with this competition: they won the final on spot kicks after a marathon 19-game, 1,770-minute campaign. If they prevail in Warsaw, they will become the first team to lift the trophy four times. The final in Turin was engrossing, though short on chances, and finished 0-0 after extra time. Sevilla's Portuguese goalkeeper Beto (left) became the hero of the shoot-out – diving the right way to deny SL Benfica's Óscar Cardozo and Rodrigo. Sevilla coach Unai Emery was full of praise for his side's supporters afterwards: "This is a competition our fans love. It was wonderful to get to a final and win it."



### CREST

Sevilla's crest is a tribute to the one used between 1908 and 1921, created by local artist Juan Lafita, which had the team's initials intertwined inside a circle. In 1921, club member Pablo Rodriguez, finding the emblem a bit bare, designed a version that in various forms was used up until 2013: the trio of saints from the city's badge in the top left of the shield, the intertwined club initials in the top right, and red and yellow stripes at the bottom. The new crest has red and white stripes and depicts the saints in more detail.



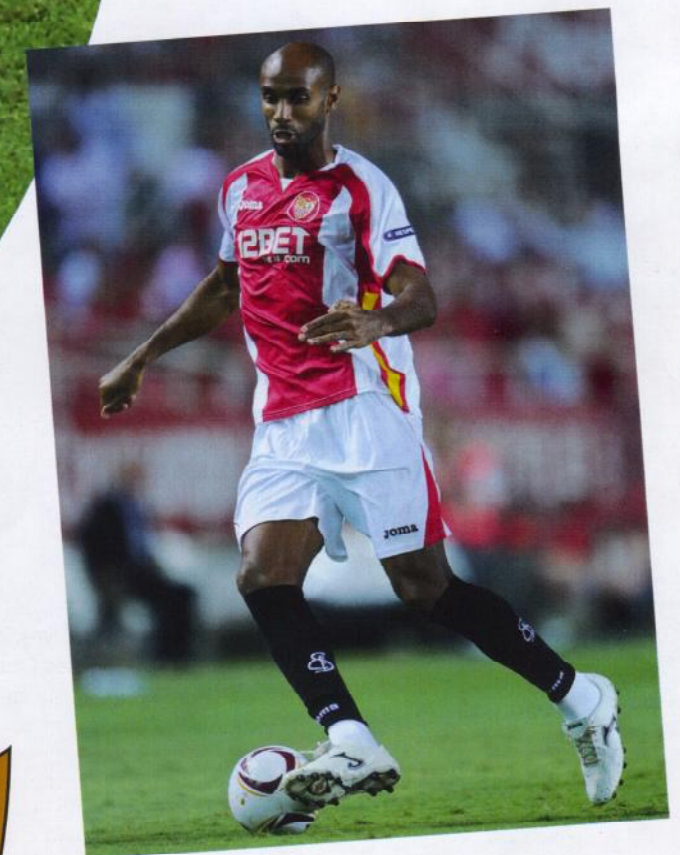
### HONOURS

UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League (3)  
2006, 2007, 2014

UEFA Super Cup (1)  
2006

Liga (1)  
1946

Copa del Rey (5)  
1935, 1939, 1948, 2007, 2010



### CULT HERO

"When we introduced a little-known player in 2005, who came from English football and from Mali, we thought he would be in the second team," said then-Sevilla president José María del Nido of former striker Frédéric Kanouté (above). "Nobody could ever imagine the goals he would score. Who would have thought that he would be with us for seven years and win more trophies than any other foreign player in Sevilla's history?" After solid stints with Olympique Lyonnais, West Ham United FC and Tottenham Hotspur FC, Kanouté played the best football of his career for the Hispalenses. In seven seasons, the Malian international collected two UEFA Cups, one UEFA Super Cup and two Copas del Rey – and scored 138 goals in all competitions.





# SEVILLA ROAD TO WARSAW

How the Hispalenses secured a place in the final for the second successive season

## HIGHEST SCORERS

Carlos Bacca	5
Kevin Gameiro	4
Denis Suárez	3
Vitolo	3
Stéphane Mbia	3

## MOST ASSISTS

Aleix Vidal	3
Carlos Bacca	2
Kevin Gameiro	2
Vitolo	2
Stéphane Mbia	2

## MOST PASSES

Daniel Carriço	370
Grzegorz Krychowiak	362
Éver Banega	340
José Antonio Reyes	243
Timothée Kolodziejczak	220

**1,170**

minutes played by Sevilla defender Daniel Carriço

## MOST TACKLES

Grzegorz Krychowiak	39
Daniel Carriço	33
Éver Banega	24
Stéphane Mbia	22
Vitolo	17

## MOST INTERCEPTIONS

Grzegorz Krychowiak	46
Daniel Carriço	36
Timothée Kolodziejczak	24
Stéphane Mbia	22
Diogo Figueiras	16

## MOST SHOTS ON GOAL

José Antonio Reyes	9
Carlos Bacca	8
Kevin Gameiro	8
Vicente Iborra	6
Denis Suárez	5
Grzegorz Krychowiak	5

**47%**

average possession enjoyed by Sevilla in this campaign



Mbia features in the top scorers, tackles, assists and interceptions lists



Vitolo celebrates scoring against Gladbach in the round of 32 second leg

## A quick start

The holders' first Group G match of this UEFA Europa League campaign perfectly encapsulates the combination of quality, confidence and luck that has helped carry them to successive finals.

Grzegorz Krychowiak and Stéphane Mbia did the early damage at Estadio Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán against Feyenoord. Sevilla FC had to ride their luck as the Dutch side mounted a spirited comeback in the second half. The visitors probably realised it was not going to be their night when midfielder Jens Toornstra's free-kick curled around the wall only to hit the inside of both posts before being gathered by the grateful Sergio Rico.

## Made to sweat

Sevilla had to dig in to make it beyond a spirited VfL Borussia

Mönchengladbach in a thrilling round of 32 second leg. The Spanish club started the match 1-0 up from the first leg, thanks to Vicente Iborra's goal and two splendid saves by Rico. Both teams looked to take the game to the other in the return with four goals inside the first 30 minutes – efforts from Granit Xhaka and Thorgan Hazard, younger brother of Chelsea FC star Eden, pegging Sevilla back after Carlos Bacca and then Vitolo had put them ahead.

The match then swung Sevilla's way with Xhaka's second-half dismissal, Vitolo scoring his second of the evening on a fast counter to complete a 4-2 aggregate success.

## Liga rivals sunk

Sevilla did most of the hard work in their round of 16 encounter with fellow Liga side Villarreal CF in the first leg. Unai Emery's team got off to a dream start at Estadio El Madrigal, Vitolo finishing from Kevin Gameiro's pass after just 13.21 seconds to clock up the fastest goal in UEFA Europa League history. Further strikes from Mbia and Gameiro made it 3-1 on the night.

In the return, the home side withstood an early fightback from the Yellow Submarine before goals from Iborra and Denis Suárez, either side of a Giovanni dos Santos effort, sealed a 5-2 aggregate triumph for the Hispalenses.

## Family values

"We are like a family," said defender Daniel Carriço after his team's 5-0 aggregate victory against ACF Fiorentina in the semi-final. After winning the home leg 3-0, Sevilla effectively put the tie to bed inside 27 minutes at Stadio Artemio Franchi, with Bacca and Carriço both finding the net.

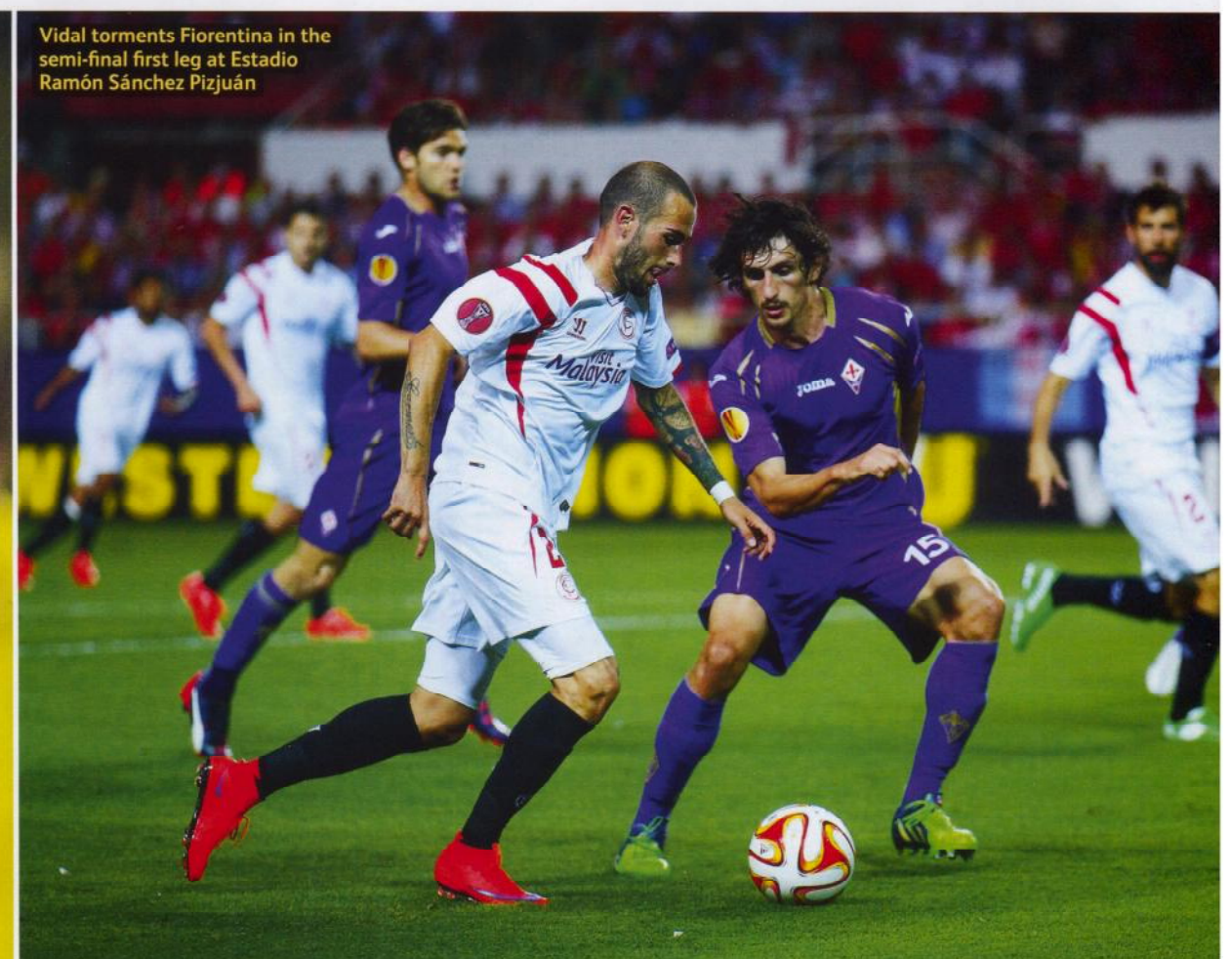
"It's incredible what we have been doing in the past two seasons," said the Portuguese No6. "We have reached the final of a very big competition for two years in a row. We wanted to make this gift to our fans who are always behind us."

Carriço's coach echoed these sentiments: "We can become the first team to win this competition four times," said Emery. "We won the title last season, so let's go and win this one as well. It would be huge for all Sevillistas."

**"WE WANTED TO MAKE THIS GIFT TO OUR FANS WHO ARE ALWAYS BEHIND US," SAYS CARRIÇO**



Vidal torments Fiorentina in the semi-final first leg at Estadio Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán





# GOLDEN TIMES

In the 1970s, Poland emerged as one of the world's most exciting national teams, brimming with talent, courage and attacking verve

WORDS CHRISTOPHER LASH



The victorious Poles collect their gold medals in Munich's Olympiastadion in September 1972



**G**rzegorz Lato picked up the ball just inside his own half. With Brazil's defence retreating, the winger feinted to pass before accelerating past his defender and racing on towards goal. As goalkeeper Emerson Leão came out to narrow the angle, Lato slid the ball past him into the net. He'd just scored the goal that meant Poland would beat Brazil 1-0 to finish third in the 1974 FIFA World Cup, earning himself the Golden Boot as tournament top scorer.

Poland's success seemed to come from nowhere, but it was no flash in the pan. Two years before, they had won gold in the football tournament at the Munich Olympics. In 1978, they were ranked fifth at the World Cup in Argentina and, despite the turmoil that followed General Wojciech Jaruzelski's imposition of martial law, achieved third place in Spain in 1982.

This glorious decade has cast a long shadow on Polish football, in much the same way that 1954 does for Hungary, or 1966 for England. There is no consensus about how a national side with little experience of major tournaments could suddenly become so accomplished. The mystery has only enhanced the era's nostalgic allure for many Poles.

## Weak precedents

Poland's national team had rarely distinguished themselves, their only appearance at a major tournament coming at the 1938 World Cup. Even four goals from Ernest Wilimowski could not avert a 6-5 extra-time defeat against Brazil in the first round. Twenty years later, Poland lost a play-off to the Soviet Union after finishing level on points in their qualifying group. And that, until 1974, was as good as it got.

The country had good players. Among the exceptional talents to represent Poland were strikers Wilimowski, Legia Warszawa's Lucjan Brychczy, Górnik Zabrze's Ernest Pohl and Ruch Chorzów's Gerard Cieślak. What they lacked was good coaches and, as a result, tactical nous and organisation – prompting some to liken the team to the Hussars, the country's dashing cavalry, famed for their reckless bravery in battle.

The analogy gained credence among those who argued that Polish footballers would give their utmost when all seemed lost, but didn't know how to play as part of a team.

## Górski enters, stage left

Things began improving at the start of the 1970s. National team coach Ryszard Konciewicz was succeeded by Kazimierz Górski who, with Polish Football Federation (PZPN) backing, began to reorganise the way the national side was run. Górski became a legendary figure →

**“Górski loved people and people loved him. He never looked down on anyone. That's why everyone loved him”**



## FINAL 2015 WARSAW

in Poland, his six years in charge now regarded as a golden age. On his watch, the team claimed gold in the football tournament at the 1972 Olympics, came third in the 1974 World Cup and took silver at the 1976 Olympics.

Górski came from a traditional working class background – his father Maksymilian was a train driver, his mother Zofia a seamstress – and grew up in the vibrant, multicultural city of Lwow (the modern-day Ukrainian Lviv). The young Górski learned to respect and get on with people from different backgrounds. As Andrzej Strejlau, his assistant coach at the 1974 World Cup, recalls: “He loved people and people loved him. He never looked down on anyone. That’s why everyone loved him, not just the players. They considered him one of them.”

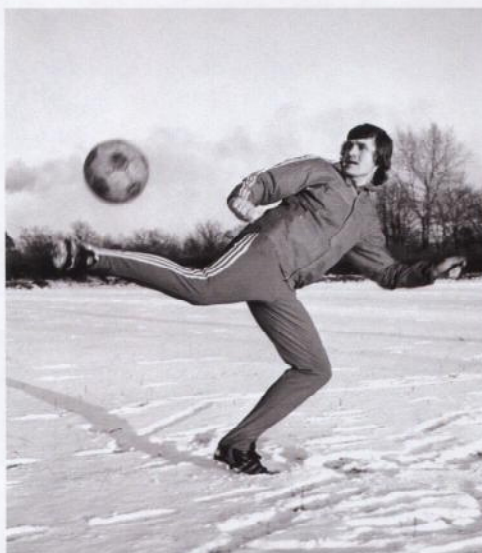
In Poland, Górski is renowned for his aphorisms. The most famous include: “Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, sometimes you draw”; “He’s a good coach but he’s not getting good results” and, in his version of the famous saying by West Germany coach Sepp Herberger, “The ball is round and there are two goals”.

He also didn’t take himself too seriously. Asked one day which team he thought would win, he replied: “I think the winning team will be the one that scores the most goals.”

But there was more to Górski than an affable manner and sunny disposition. In the 1974 finals, he dropped Adam Musiał before a key match because the defender had turned up 20 minutes late for training. Górski had cut his teeth managing the Polish Under-23 side, several lower-league Polish clubs and Legia Warszawa. During his apprenticeship, he developed his ideas, and perfected the intuition that would become a trademark. He always seemed able to find solutions for his teams before and during games, and convey his thoughts to players in a calm, reasoned way.

Yet no manager is an island. Górski was at the head of a highly organised system, instituted by the PZPN, designed to give the national team the best possible chance of reaching major finals. Regular meetings with clubs were arranged and fixtures rescheduled to help the national side thoroughly prepare for big games.

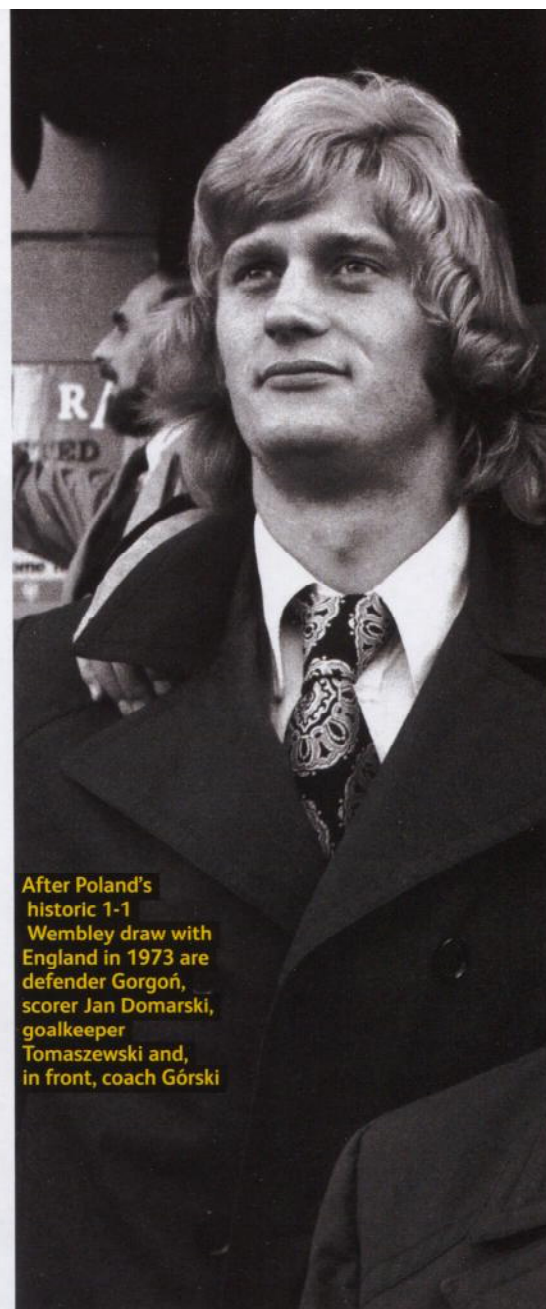
Górski was advised and supported by two very different assistants. Jacek Gmoch, who had a master’s degree in engineering, gave the coaching set-up a firm scientific foundation, organising a computer system with crucial data on Poland’s opponents. In their World Cup qualifier against England in 1973, he told the Polish forwards that Bobby Moore’s ball control could be less



Lubański juggles (top); Lato celebrates his 1974 goal against Brazil (above); and midfield dynamo Deyna (below)



After Poland’s historic 1-1 Wembley draw with England in 1973 are defender Gorgoń, scorer Jan Domarski, goalkeeper Tomaszewski and, in front, coach Górski



than immaculate. Their pressing of the England skipper led to Włodzimierz Lubański scoring in a vital 2-0 win.

The last key member of the Polish coaching staff was Strejlau. A former forward, he had played under Górski at WKS Gwardia Warszawa and later coached the Poland U23 squad. He was renowned for his analytical approach to football, and alerted Górski to any promising young player. His greatest discovery was the powerful striker Andrzej Szarmach, whom he noticed playing for second-tier Arka Gdynia and who would go on to plunder 32 goals for Poland.

Górski drew on his assistants’ contrasting opinions to formulate a plan of his own. As journalist Jerzy Chromik says: “He had an exceptional ability to take what was best from their different points of view. He allowed them to argue between themselves the day before the match and the next morning chose what was most important for him. He listened to them for a couple of hours and he made a decision, usually the right one.”

### Golden generation

With a strong coaching staff and a sound organisational structure in place, all the national side needed were gifted players. Luckily for Górski, the country had an abundance in the early 1970s. Under the new system, it was harder for good players to slip through the net. Yet,



equally, this array of talent might have just been coincidence, with the Polish game enriched by the kind of golden generation that emerges in any country perhaps two or three times in a century.

The two greatest stars were probably Lubański and Kazimierz Deyna. A world-class playmaker who appeared to waltz across the pitch, Deyna had vision and could strike a powerful, accurate shot from distance. Lubański was phenomenally quick and a sharp finisher. Górski and his assistants unearthed other gems, notably Szarmach, the tricky, pacy winger Lato and composed defensive midfielder Henryk Kasperczak.

It helped that the core of the Poland side – particularly Lubański, Deyna, centre-back Jerzy Gorgoń and winger Robert Gadocha – had already proved themselves in European club competitions.

The first evidence of how good this team would become came at the 1972 Olympics. Inspired by Deyna, Lubański, Gadocha and Gorgoń, they won gold. In the first group stage, they beat Colombia 5-1 and Ghana 4-0, and topped the table after a 2-1 success against East Germany. The second group stage was tougher. In the pivotal match against the Soviet Union, Poland came back to win 2-1 with a Deyna penalty and an 87th-minute goal from substitute Zygfryd Szoltyś.

**“Górski allowed them to argue between themselves. He listened and made a decision, usually the right one”**

## 1970: THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

In 1970, Legia Warszawa made the semi-finals of the European Champion Clubs’ Cup, and Górnik Zabrze the final of the European Cup Winners’ Cup, losing 2-1 to Manchester City FC; the only time a Polish club has been in a UEFA competition final.

### Victory, by the toss of a coin

Górnik knocked out a strong FC Dynamo Kyiv side in 1968 to reach the last eight of the European Champion Clubs’ Cup, where they gave eventual winners Manchester United FC a tough test.

Cue the arrival of coach Michał Matyas. He was only in charge of Górnik for one season, 1969/70, but what a season. The road to the 1970 final took them past Olympiacos FC, Rangers FC and PFC Levski Sofia, but it is their semi-final encounter with Helenio Herrera’s AS Roma that will long be remembered. After drawing 1-1 in

Italy, Górnik were 2-1 up in the replay until a late Roma equaliser hushed the crowd.

That meant a third game in Strasbourg. Nothing could separate the sides, so the tie was eventually decided by the toss of a coin. Fortune shone on Górnik.

The final was strangely subdued. Górnik were outclassed by a Manchester City FC team featuring Colin Bell and Francis Lee (pictured scoring in the 2-1 victory). Their run did, however, win them many admirers.

### Pipped in the last four

Legia were less heralded than Górnik, but they had got to the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners’ Cup in 1965 and the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1969. Legia also possessed some very talented players, including their creative midfield talisman Kazimierz Deyna, who was central to the Polish national team in their years of



eminence, the exciting wide forward Robert Gadocha and experienced attacker Lucjan Brychczy.

It was coach Edmund Zientara’s first managerial role, but in his two campaigns in charge, Legia won the league in 1970 and reached a quarter-final and semi-final of the European Cup, beating Romania’s FCM UTA Arad, AS Saint-Étienne and Galatasaray AŞ.

In the last four, Ernst Happel’s Feyenoord, on their way to winning the competition, proved just too strong for the Warsaw outfit. Legia lost 2-0 on aggregate.







In the final, they beat Hungary by the same scoreline after another fightback, with Deyna scoring twice to bring his tally for the tournament to a golden boot-winning nine. Back home, the country was in raptures. Many commentators talked of a glorious new epoch of Polish football. Fans loved the national side's attacking style of play – and were impressed by their resilience in coming from behind to win those two crucial games.

Górski's plans were working. Unfortunately Poland suffered an unexpected blow in the 1974 World Cup qualifiers when Lubański was stretchered off in the 2-0 victory against England in Chorzow (he would miss the finals in West Germany the following year).

All Poland had to do to qualify was avoid defeat against England at Wembley in November 1973. Even gifted but eccentric goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski was pessimistic. "At the time, England were one of the best teams in the world," he said. "Three weeks earlier

they had hammered Austria 7-0 and we were at about the same level as them. There wasn't any doubt who would win, it was just a question of how many goals England would put past us. You could say that we went to Wembley as ugly ducklings and returned as beautiful swans."

On the night, intelligent counterattacking and a spectacular performance by Tomaszewski – dubbed a clown before the match by Brian Clough – helped seal their first World Cup finals place for 36 years.

## 1974 and all that

Poland had survived an onslaught at Wembley (two shots to England's 30) and were expected to struggle in a World Cup group including Italy and Argentina. The magazine *Piłka Nożna* put their chances of progressing at 35-40%, yet everything went right for Górski's side. They won five matches in a row, scoring 15 goals on the way. Only a 1-0 defeat against hosts West Germany stopped them reaching the final.

German full-back Paul Breitner said later: "I can remember one game where we beat a team who were fundamentally better than us. In fact, they were



Clockwise from top left: Poland celebrate 1982 World Cup qualification, Adam Nawalka stretches for the ball in 1978, and skipper Wladislaw Zmuda (right) prepares to swap pennants with USSR captain Aleksandr Chivadze in 1982

definitely the best team in the competition and still didn't win the World Cup. I mean Poland in 1974. They had a better team at that World Cup than Germany, Holland, Brazil, or anyone else. The Poles had the best team in 1974."

If one match summed up Poland's tournament it was their opening fixture against Argentina. Ignoring predictions of an easy victory for their vaunted opponents, Górski's side raced into a 2-0 lead within

ten minutes as Lato and Szarmach found the net. Argentina levelled in the second half before Lato popped up to make it 3-2.

The speed of Poland's attacking play shocked many in the media who hadn't seen them in action before. In the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, Hans Machmerth wrote: "I didn't realise Poland could play so well and in such a modern fashion." That triumph gave Poland the self-belief to approach their other games with no fear.

After years of being on the fringes of international football, Poland rejoiced in its success. There was even talk of a 'Polish' philosophy, which Streljau sums up as

**"England were one of the best teams in the world. There wasn't any doubt who'd win, just a question of how many goals they would score"**

"an attacking style of play, that's the way that Poles are, we don't like to defend. We always focused on quick counterattacks". Chromik says: "It was a style linked to our national characteristics: flair, fantasy and the Hussars. You have nothing to lose. Don't worry about the dangers. Just attack."

In other words Górski and his assistants had created a modified, organised version of the individualistic Polish Hussar football charges of the past. And it had worked brilliantly at the 1974 World Cup.

## The expectation game

Górski finally quit as Poland coach after winning a silver medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. Morale was low after the national side failed to qualify for EURO '76. New coach Gmoch shook up the team by dropping players who had grown complacent and introducing new training techniques. His medicine seemed to work as Poland breezed through the qualifying group to reach the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

As the tournament kicked off, many Polish supporters assumed that, as Gmoch boldly declared, they were in Argentina to win. Deyna, Lato and Kasperczak were still at the top of their game. Lubański was fit again and in midfield Gmoch could call on the precocious talent of Zbigniew Boniek.

Yet Poland's campaign never quite caught fire. Boniek, who says the 1978 side were the best Polish team of all time, felt they were unlucky to be drawn with hosts Argentina in the second group stage. That didn't help, but many pundits felt the panache of 1974 had gone. In truth, a fifth-place ranking was hardly a disgrace yet, with expectations so high, the blame game began as soon as the finals ended.

Many faulted Gmoch for his more defensive tactics. Chromik says: "With his academic approach, Gmoch complicated things unnecessarily. He stopped the players expressing themselves and didn't allow them to do what they wanted."

## A new work ethic

Gmoch was briefly replaced by Ryszard Kulesza, who had worked with him and Górski, before Antoni Piechniczek took the reins.

Piechniczek appeared a surprising choice. Unlike Górski, Gmoch and Streljau, he had no previous experience within the national set-up. He had made his name by steering OKS Odra Opole from the second tier to fifth place in the top flight in 1979.

Poland's new coach was from an area known for its deep-rooted faith in the value of hard work. Chromik says: "Piechniczek is from Silesia, a different region where people have a different mentality. They have a cult of work. Piechniczek believed that work and hard running would bring results – he was good at preparing sides."

The scoreboard as Poland beat Belgium in the 1982 World Cup; Boniek's move to Juventus broke new ground for Polish footballers

POLONIA - BELGICA

3-0

3' BONIEK  
26' BONIEK  
53' BONIEK

Piechniczek quickly united the squad and steered Poland to their third successive World Cup. Although the squad was strong – with Boniek, Lato and Szarmach all selected and hard-working RTS Widzew Łódź striker Włodzimierz Smolarek expected to do well – there was no talk of lifting the trophy in Spain.

The undoubted star was Boniek who would join Juventus after the finals. He got on the scoresheet in a 5-1 victory against Peru and, in the second group stage, hit a hat-trick as Belgium were beaten 3-0. After losing to eventual winners Italy in the semi-finals, Poland won the third-place play-off against France. The result did not obscure the fact that the team had still not quite attained the heights of the heroes of 1974.

Forty years on, in an era of open European borders, can Poland replicate that golden age? Or will the country be condemned to reminisce forever about the 1970s, in the misty-eyed way England fans recall Bobby Charlton and Geoff Hurst's achievements in 1966, or Hungarians dwell on the Magnificent Magyars of the 1950s?

It would take work, trust, patience ... and the emergence of a coach with the vision, tact and skills of the legend that is Kazimierz Kludiusz Górski. ●





# “TO WIN THE FINAL IS A TICKET TO ETERNITY”

Jerzy Dudek, ambassador for the UEFA Europa League final, reflects on glory, Polish hospitality and Istanbul

**U**ndoubtedly one of Polish football's finest footballing exports, Jerzy Dudek is a fitting ambassador for the 2015 UEFA Europa League final in Warsaw.

The former goalkeeper secured his place in the folklore of European club football with his feats during Liverpool FC's dramatic, against-the-odds UEFA Champions League win in 2005. His double reflex save from AC Milan's Andriy Shevchenko when the score was tied at 3-3 still looks unbelievable today and his subsequent heroics in the shoot-out secured his place in the game's history and made him a legend to the global army of Liverpool fans.

Famed for his bravery and rapid reactions, Dudek started his career at Concordia Knurów in Poland's third tier before doing so well in 15 games at GKS Tychy in the top flight in 1995/96 that Feyenoord signed him. He continued to thrive in Rotterdam, earning praise from coach Leo Beenhakker as “the best goalkeeper I've seen in 30 years”. Dudek was honoured as Dutch footballer of the year in 2000. The following summer he joined Liverpool, where he became world famous after Istanbul, later going on to play for Real Madrid CF as they won the Liga in 2008. In June 2013, Dudek wore the No60 shirt as he won his 60th – and final – cap for Poland.

**How did you feel about being asked to be UEFA's ambassador for this final?**  
I want to thank UEFA for giving me the chance to be so close to this competition.

The final is being played in Warsaw, in my country, and it's a great pleasure to represent UEFA in Poland.

**Do you expect a memorable final?**

Warsaw has everything it takes to make it a memorable final. It's part of the legacy of EURO 2012 – the experience from that tournament is now paying off. Real Madrid, Fiorentina and Sevilla have played friendlies here since then – these kind of teams want to play here now. Warsaw could make people talk about the 2015 final for years to come.

You can feel the excitement in the city. At first, no one could believe we were hosting the match: “Here? In our city, Warsaw? The Europa League final?” That excitement is increasing, all the way up until the day of the final.

There will be a great atmosphere outside the stadium and in the fan zones. The city is

**“WARSAW HAS EVERYTHING IT TAKES TO HAVE A MEMORABLE FINAL. WE POLES ARE VERY HOSPITABLE. WE WELCOME GUESTS WITH OPEN ARMS”**

ready, it looks good. The weather will be amazing – it always is when you play a European final. You can feel that something great is around the corner.

**How will the city welcome the finalists?**

We Poles are considered very hospitable. We like to have guests around and, even if it comes with some costs, we like to welcome them with open arms. The saying “there may be no money to live on, but there will always be enough money to dazzle your guests” is close to our hearts, and all the people who host these travelling supporters will have many stories to tell for the future. It will be great to see the fans having fun.

**What other sights would you recommend to visiting fans?**

Our country has a lot to offer. If I was a fan from other parts of Europe, I would spend two days in Krakow to truly see the city. I would take a high-speed train to Warsaw and wander around the capital to see all the city's secret spots and I would discover how the city was under Communism, watch the final and then take another train to Gdansk [on the Baltic coast].

**What does the trophy tour mean to the people of Warsaw?**

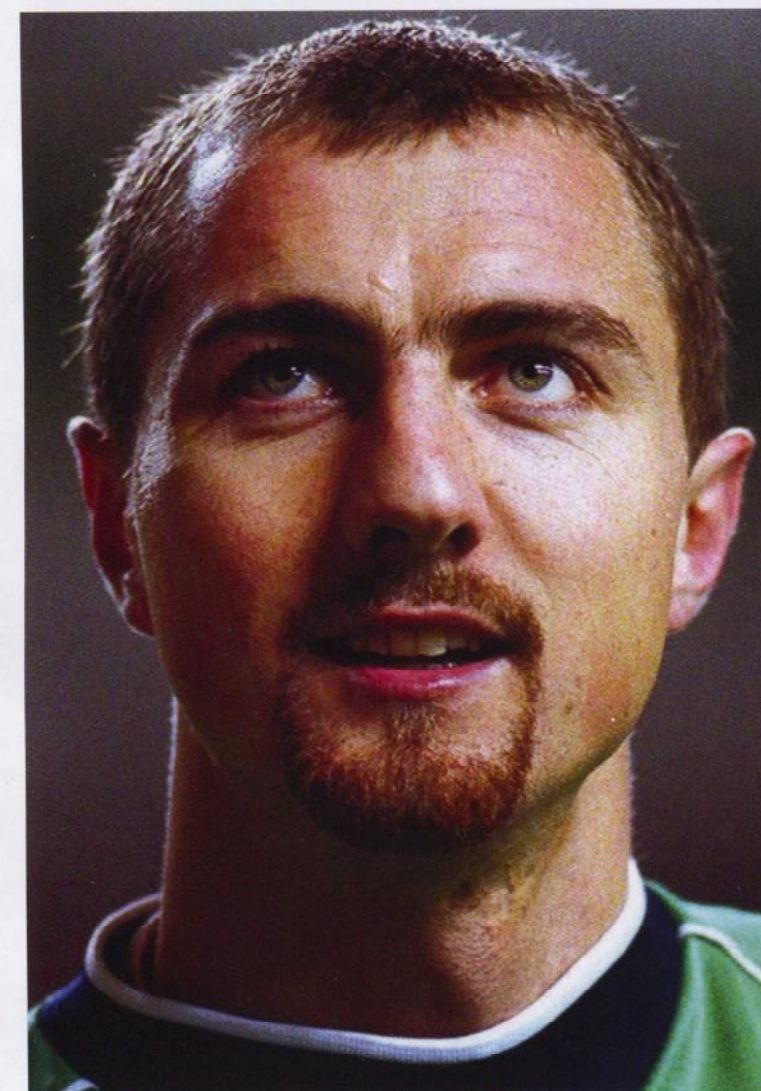
The trophy tour is inspiring for anyone who has not had a chance to see the trophy in person before. Fans can take a memorable photo – it's inspirational for younger generations.

**What advice would you offer to the players contesting the final?**

When you look at the teams that have reached the final, my words of advice are not necessary. There are some very experienced coaches, very experienced teams; they know the importance of the match. They know that they can't let themselves down now and can't lose focus, even for a moment. To win the final is a ticket to eternity – it always comes back. People will always remember you for it and smile when they are reliving it.

**You will always be remembered for your UEFA Champions League win with Liverpool FC in 2005. How does that feel?**

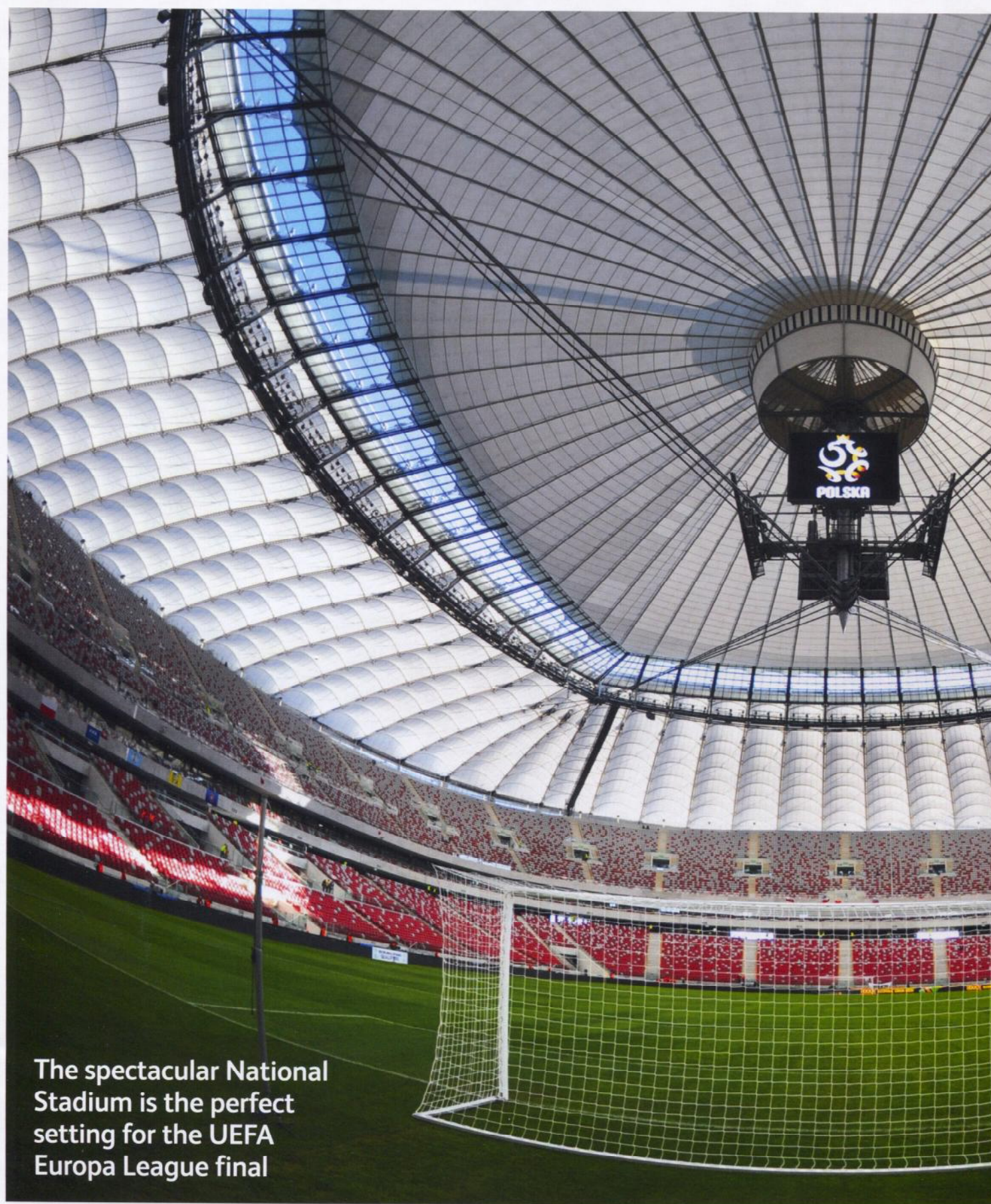
It's great. I played a few finals and always felt my mentality fit there nicely. Our final in Istanbul gave me and all of my team-mates a sense of immortality. Liverpool won it for the fifth time. The cup we won never went back to UEFA – it stayed in Liverpool, and it's there today. That trophy was unique and we are all proud at Liverpool because of it.



## A career in pictures

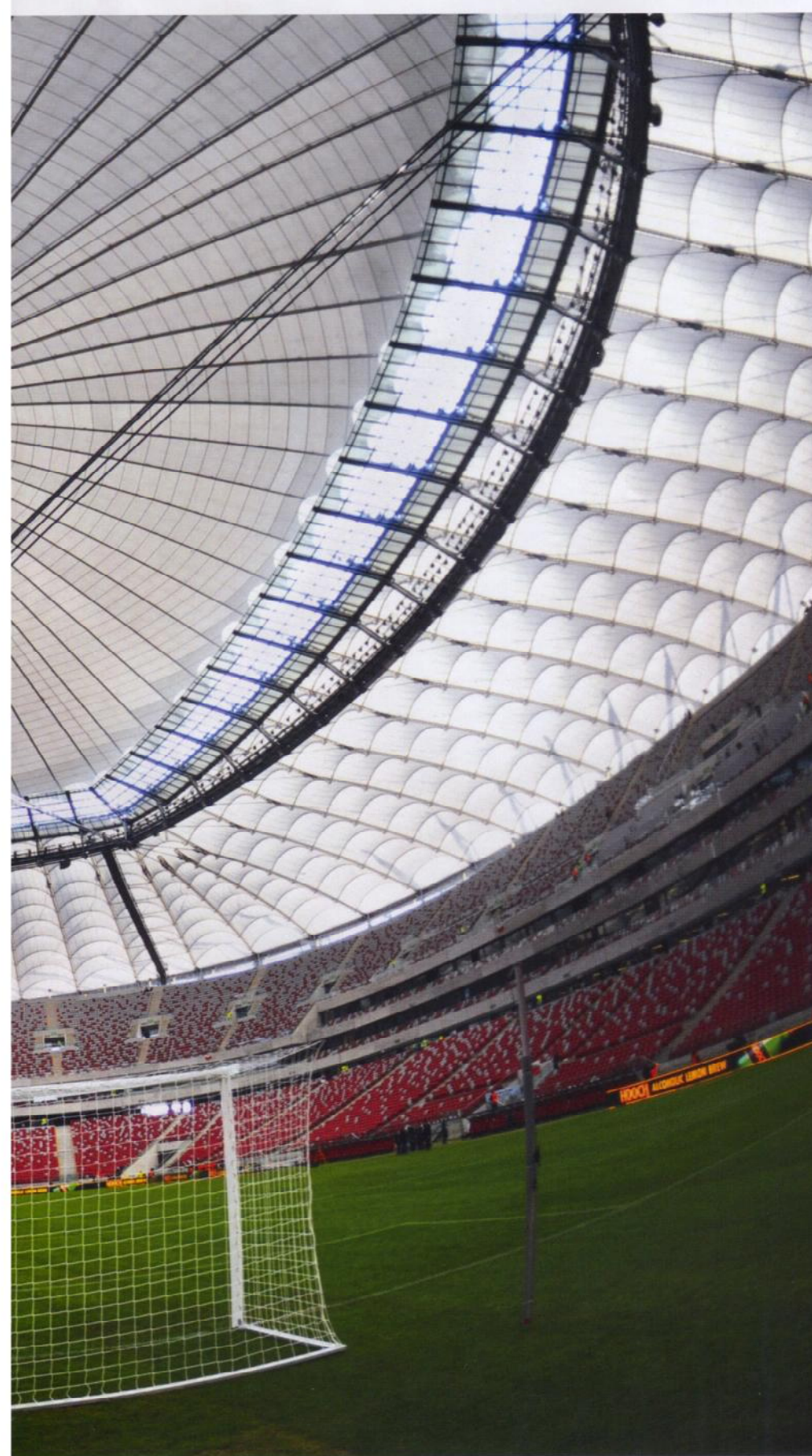
Clockwise from top left: Dudek directs his Feyenoord team-mates during the Dutch side's 1997/98 UEFA Champions League matchday one game against Juventus; celebrating UEFA Champions League success with Liverpool in 2005; with the UEFA Cup in Warsaw; all smiles with some of his national team-mates after Poland qualify for the 2002 FIFA World Cup; saving Shevchenko's spot kick to win the final for the Reds in 2005; a close-up of Dudek playing for Liverpool at Camp Nou in the 2001/02 UEFA Champions League





The spectacular National Stadium is the perfect setting for the UEFA Europa League final

# NATIONAL



**G**limmering white and red on the east bank of the Vistula River, across the Świętokrzyski Bridge from the old town, the National Stadium Warsaw is a vibrant symbol of the Polish capital's regeneration. There is something of the phoenix, too, about the way the country's new sporting hub rose from the ashes of its predecessor.

The old Tenth Anniversary Stadium (which commemorated Polish liberation in 1944), had opened in 1955, built largely from the rubble of buildings destroyed during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Nazi occupation. The vast, uncovered venue hosted the country's internationals until 17 April 1983, when Poland drew 1-1 with Finland in a UEFA EURO 1984 qualifier. Later that year Pope John Paul II celebrated mass in the stadium before a congregation of 100,000. From 1989 it became home to



**WHEN THE SUN SETS, THE RED-AND-WHITE FAÇIA PANELS WILL BE ILLUMINATED, LIKE A WAVING POLISH FLAG**



a huge open-air market, but had fallen into disrepair by the time of its closure in 2008.

By then Poland and Ukraine had been chosen to host UEFA EURO 2012. The old ground, with its oval shape and running track, was demolished and a state-of-the-art stadium erected on the site. In January 2012 the 56,070-capacity National Stadium Warsaw opened with a concert and futuristic lights and fireworks show that marked a new beginning for football in the Polish capital.

Light is important in the new venue. When the sun sets during the UEFA Europa League final, the National Stadium Warsaw will be illuminated red and white on the city skyline, representing a waving Polish flag. The panels of the façade are not just decorative; the open structure means the temperature inside the building is close to that outside, even when the retractable roof is closed.→

# TREASURE





There's no shortage of patriotism at the National stadium, where Lewandowski (below) got Poland off the mark in 2012



## FIRSTS FOR WARSAW'S NATIONAL STADIUMS

### FIRST INTERNATIONAL 3 November 1957

In the first match at the Tenth Anniversary Stadium, Poland beat Finland 4-0 in a 1958 FIFA World Cup qualifier. The Poles missed out on the finals, losing 2-0 in a play-off with the Soviet Union. Poland also played Finland in the last ever international at the stadium, drawing 1-1 in a UEFA EURO qualifier on 17 April 1983.

### FIRST VISIT FROM EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS 21 May 1961

Search Poland 1-0 Soviet Union on YouTube and you'll find footage of the winning 73rd-minute penalty



by Ernest Pohl (above) and great jubilation among the 75,000 crowd. Beating the European champions, who included Valeriy Lobanovskiy and goalkeeper Lev Yashin, was a major achievement.

### FIRST VISIT FROM A BALLON D'OR WINNER 10 October 1971

Gerd Müller, who scored twice for West Germany in a 3-1 win against Poland in 1971, is the only reigning Ballon d'Or winner to play in Poland's national stadium.

### FIRST TOURNAMENT INTERNATIONAL 8 June 2012

Robert Lewandowski got UEFA EURO 2012 off to a flying start for the co-hosts. His 17th-minute header against holders Greece was the first goal scored at the National Stadium Warsaw, though Dimitris Salpingidis equalised and Poland finished bottom of Group A.

### FIRST VISIT FROM WORLD CHAMPIONS 11 October 2014

It took until last year for Germany to become the first reigning world champions to visit but, for Polish fans, it was worth the wait. In a UEFA EURO 2016 qualifier, Arkadiusz Milik and Sebastian Mila scored as Poland beat Germany 2-0; the first victory in 19 meetings.

The patriotic colour scheme, repeated in the red and white seating inside, seems to have inspired the national team. The Biało-Czerwoni (White-Reds) kept out Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal as the stadium's inaugural match in February 2012 finished goalless. Since then they have lost just one competitive fixture – 3-1 to Ukraine in a FIFA World Cup qualifier in March 2013.

Fittingly, the first player to score a competitive goal in the new showpiece was a Polish footballer – Robert Lewandowski, in a 1-1 draw against Greece in the opening fixture of UEFA EURO 2012. Other matches played at the stadium in that tournament included Poland's 1-1 draw with Russia – Jakub Blaszczykowski was on target this time – and Italy's semi-final triumph against Germany.

The playing surface at National Stadium Warsaw is protected by a retractable roof, essentially a net of steel cables made weatherproof with textile membranes, which can hold up to 18cm of wet snow, so the finalists of this season's UEFA Europa League can expect perfect conditions whatever the weather.

### A fitting venue

The striking design of the roof is the vision of German architects Gerkan, Marg and Partners, whose portfolio includes six host stadiums for the 2010 and 2014 World Cups, the reconstruction of Berlin's Olympiastadion and the upcoming modernisation of Estadio Santiago Bernabéu. In 2012 the firm won two World Stadium Congress Awards for its work in Warsaw: Best Multifunctional Stadium Design (the venue also holds pop concerts, conferences and a science fair as well as



**"IT IS A BEAUTIFUL STADIUM, A BEAUTIFUL CITY AND THE POLISH NATION WILL WELCOME EVERYBODY"**

other sports events) and Most Innovative Use of Technology in Stadium Design.

Former Poland goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek, the ambassador for this UEFA Europa League final, is confident the venue will prove worthy of the occasion. "We have one of the most beautiful stadiums in Europe," says the man who won league titles with Feyenoord and Real Madrid CF and the 2005 UEFA Champions League final with Liverpool FC. "This is the proudest moment for us after the European Championship in 2012; it is another opportunity to organise a fantastic match. Visitors can expect good parties both on and off the pitch! It is a beautiful stadium, a beautiful city and the Polish nation will welcome everybody." ●

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# MERMAIDS, MUSEUMS, MARKETS

One of Europe's most fascinating cities, Warsaw has something for everybody: parks, riverside walks and monuments to its complex history

Pride of place in Warsaw's Old Town Square Market is given to a statue of a sword-wielding mermaid who symbolises the city. This mythical creature also features on the Polish capital's coat of arms, many architectural details and the crest of football club WKS Gwardia Warszawa.

The legend goes that once upon a time a mermaid swam up the river Vistula from the Baltic Sea and, after taking a break near Warsaw's Old Town, decided to stay there. Local fishermen soon discovered that someone had been tangling their nets and releasing the fish. Seeking revenge they caught the mermaid, but were so moved by her singing they left her in peace. Yet one merchant was so besotted by her voice he decided to kidnap her. Luckily, a fisherman's son came to her rescue on hearing her cries. Such kindness prompted her to vow to return the favour if her saviours

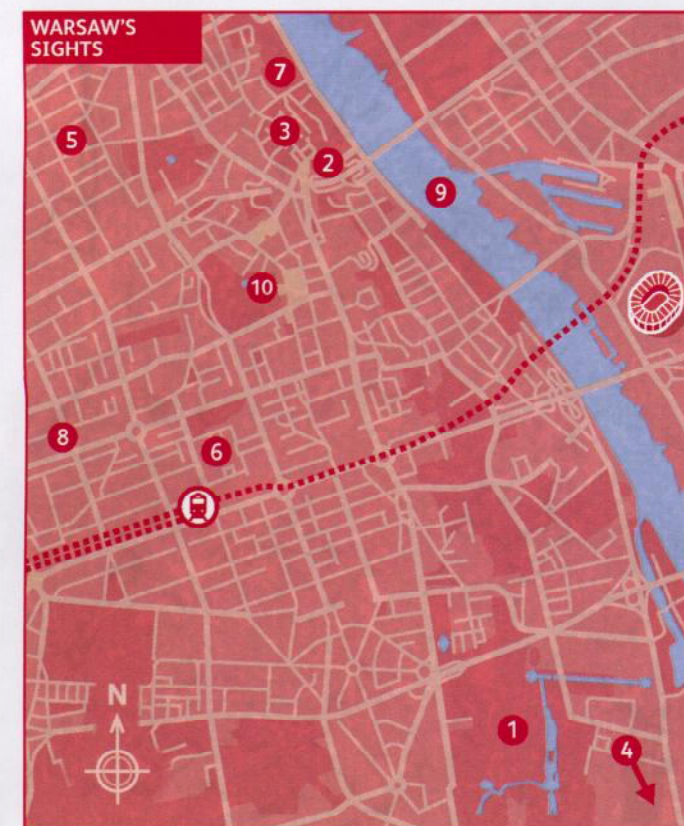
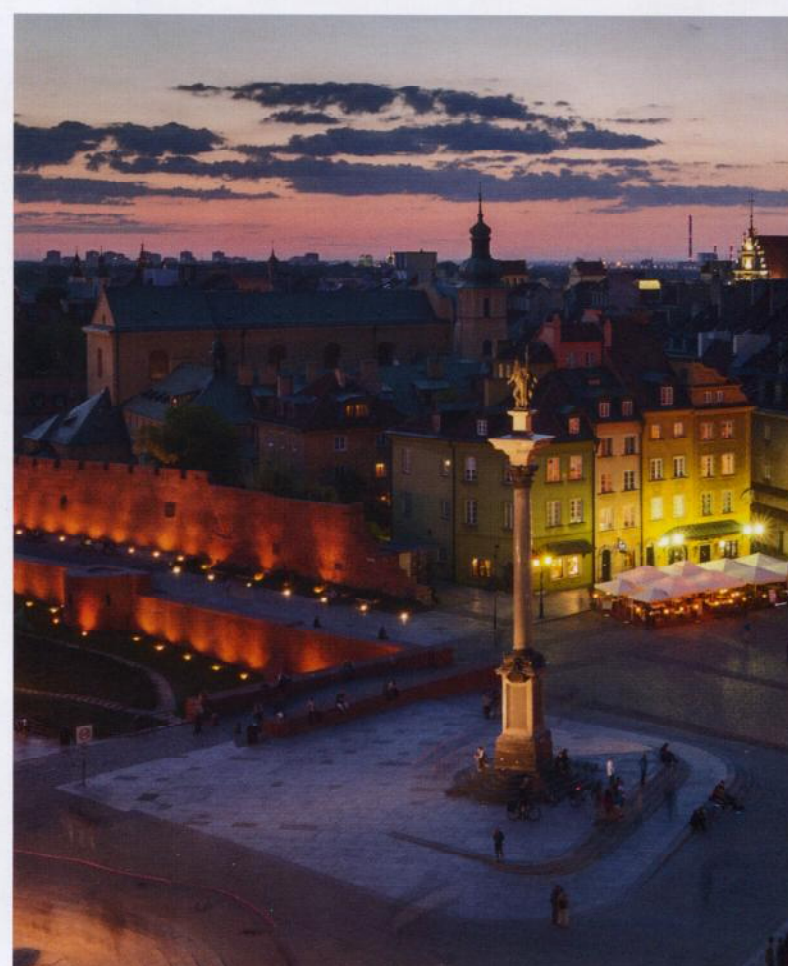
were in need. That is why the Warsaw mermaid is armed.

There is no single explanation for the city's name: tour guides have at least two versions. One says that Polish king Kazimierz Odnowiciel, travelling around the country, came upon a poor fisherman's home and was welcomed with open arms. As his hosts would not accept payment, he helped baptise their twins, Wars and Sawa. In return for their kindness to his son, the king said that if a new village were founded in the land he gave them, it would be called Warszawa.

The second story is slightly simpler: a married couple called Wars and Sawa, who lived in a small house near the river Vistula, once gave dinner to a prince who had got lost while hunting in the forest. He wanted to repay them for their generous hospitality and gave them part of this land, calling it Warszawa or, in English, Warsaw.



The Old Town Square Market (above) has been faithfully recreated; composer Chopin (right) is one of the star attractions in Łazienki Park



## 1 Łazienki Park

This 74-hectare, 17th-century park in the heart of the city goes some way to dispelling the myth that Warsaw is just a concrete jungle. Taking its name from the park's bathing pavilion, the Royal Baths Park was designed by Tylman van Gameren and is Warsaw's largest green space. Taken over by Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1764 following his election as King of Poland, the gardens are littered with stunning buildings, including the Palace on the Water, the Roman theatre (Theatre on the Isle) and two orangeries. The park's most famous structure is the statue of Frédéric Chopin, where free piano recitals of the composer's most popular works take place every Sunday in the summer.

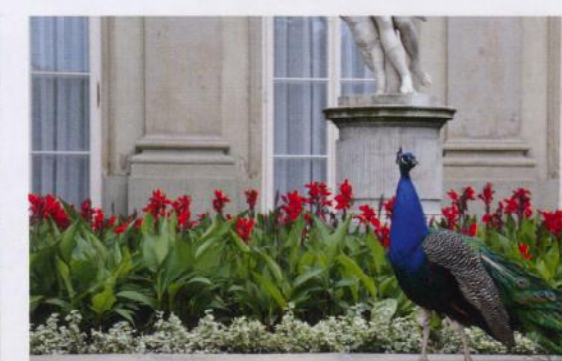
## 2 The Royal Castle

The castle was the home of Polish royalty before becoming a presidential palace and seat of

parliament. Reduced to rubble during the Second World War, it was painstakingly reconstructed between 1971 and 1984, with exiled Poles funding most of the work. Inside, highlights include the Canaletto room and the Audience rooms.

## 3 The Old Town Square Market

This labyrinth of winding, cobbled streets and picturesque plazas offers glimpses of the Warsaw of old. Rynek Starego Miasta, to give it its Polish name, is the heart of the city and has been since the 13th century. Destroyed during the Second World War, the market place was restored to its pre-war state once peace was secured. Using sketches and photographs, the buildings were reconstructed to look as they did back in their 17th-century heyday, when the square was awash with affluent merchant families.

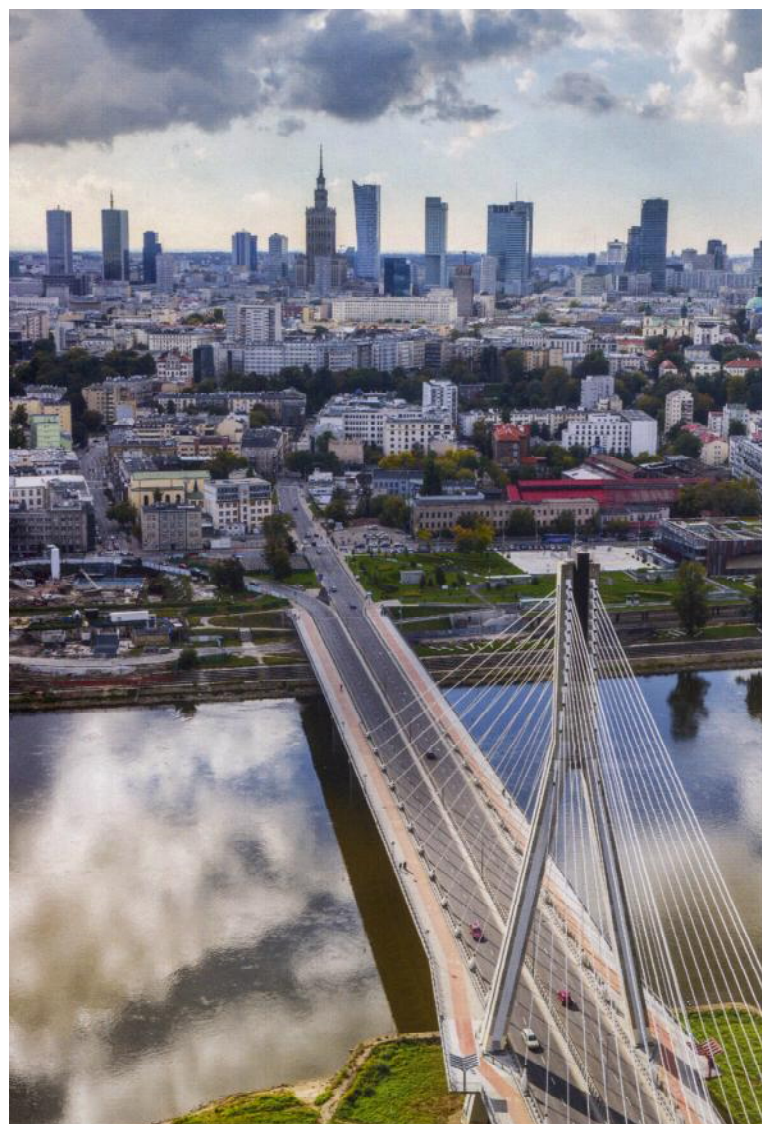


Around The Old Town Square Market, a labyrinth of cobbled streets and picturesque plazas offers a glimpse of the Warsaw of old

The Royal Castle with tower (left) is one of the highlights of the Polish capital; a peacock strolling in Łazienki Park (above); the statue of the mythological mermaid, who is a symbol of Warsaw (below)







The Świętokrzyski Bridge will carry fans over the Vistula River from the city to National Stadium

#### 4 The Wilanów Palace Museum

Wilanów Palace survived three Polish partitions and two world wars and so offers a fascinating insight into 17th-century Warsaw. Built for King John III Sobieski, it has been extended by subsequent rulers, each one adapting it to suit their tastes. In 1805, nobleman Stanisław Kostka Potocki created a museum in part of the palace. The palace gardens, designed in a baroque Italian style, are worth seeing.

#### 5 POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Warsaw had the largest of all the Jewish ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe during the Second World War. In late 1940, more than 400,000 people lived inside its walls – an estimated 300,000 of them were killed. Opened 70 years later on the site of the

**The monolithic Palace of Culture and Science is Warsaw's most visible landmark – its 114m-high terrace offers panoramic views of the city**

#### It's more than just cabbage

There is a widely held – but untrue – belief that Polish cuisine consists largely of bland, stodgy fare, designed to fill stomachs while ignoring subtlety or flavour. Yet one benefit of the country's turbulent history has been its impact on Poland's diet. In addition to Ukrainian and Russian influences – such as the delicious beetroot-based borscht soup – dishes from Germany, Hungary, France and Italy, as well as the country's traditional Jewish community, can all be tasted. Visitors should try *pierogi* (right), small crescent-shaped pastry parcels stuffed with a variety of sweet or savoury fillings and available fried (*smazone*) or boiled (*gotowane*, literally 'cooked'). The most popular variety is the *Ruskie* (Russian), made with potato and cheese. The national dish is the hearty *bigos*, a stew made from cabbage, tomato, mushrooms, meat and honey.



Warsaw Ghetto, the museum is a thought-provoking space charting the 1,000-year history of the Polish Jewish community. The Hebrew word 'Polin' in the museum's name translates as either 'Poland' or 'rest here' and relates to a legend surrounding the Jews' arrival in the country.

#### 6 The Palace of Culture and Science

This monolithic structure is the city's most visible landmark. The Palace has remained a source of debate in Warsaw since it was built as a gift from the Soviet Union in 1955. Home to theatres, cinemas, a swimming pool, two museums and the Polish Academy of Sciences, this art deco-like structure (Pałac Kultury i Nauki in Polish) is a popular attraction. The main draw is 30 storeys and 114m up, where a viewing terrace offers panoramic vistas of the city.

#### 7 The Multimedia Fountain Park

This spectacle runs every Friday and Saturday evening from May to September on the banks of the Vistula River in New Town. The shows vary, but they include an extravaganza of lights, water, classical and pop music, and star a certain mermaid.

#### 8 The Warsaw Uprising Museum

Located in the Wola district, the

museum opened in 2004, on the Uprising's 60th anniversary. The museum is an informative experience, with photographs, video footage and interactive displays, including a mock sewer, used by insurgents to cross the city undetected. There's a 1940s cafe at the end of the tour.

#### 9 Walk the Vistula River

During the warmer months, the network of paths, bike tracks, and even beaches along the banks of the Vistula River (the locals call it Wisła) make for an enticing trip. A ten-minute walk from the centre of the old city and near National Stadium, the hour-long stretch between the Łazienkowski and Gdański bridges is an interesting walk, with bars and cafes en route.

#### 10 The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Found in Piłsudski Square, the tomb is the only surviving part of the Saxon Palace, the seat of the Polish Ministry of War until its demolition during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. The tomb houses the remains of a soldier who died during the defence of Lwów, but since then earth from several Polish battlefields has been added to the urns found in the surviving pillars of the palace. A changing of the guard occurs every hour, on the hour, 365 days a year, while an eternal flame lights the tomb. ●



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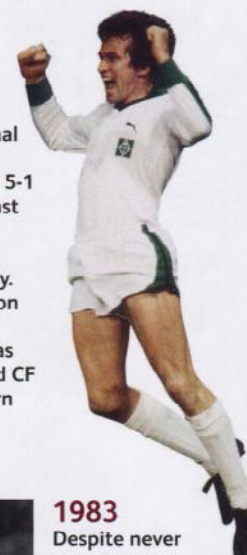


# ROLL OF HONOUR

All the winners – and selected special mentions – from the competition's finals

1975

A hat-trick by Jupp Heynckes in the second leg of the final gives VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach a 5-1 aggregate win against Dutch opponents FC Twente and their first European trophy. Heynckes would go on to win the UEFA Champions League as coach of Real Madrid CF (1998) and FC Bayern München (2013).



1983

Despite never enjoying European club success in his celebrated playing career, Paul Van Himst leads RSC Anderlecht to victory against SL Benfica, the Mauve-et-Blanc's third European trophy in eight years.

1992

With an away-goals victory against FC Torino, Louis van Gaal's AFC Ajax starlets become only the second club after Juventus to win all three UEFA club competitions.



2005

PFC CSKA Moskva become the first Russian club to win a major European trophy by beating Sporting Clube de Portugal 3-1 in the Lisbon team's own stadium.

## WINNERS

- 1972 Tottenham Hotspur FC
- 1973 Liverpool FC
- 1974 Feyenoord
- 1975 VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
- 1976 Liverpool FC
- 1977 Juventus
- 1978 PSV Eindhoven
- 1979 VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach
- 1980 Eintracht Frankfurt
- 1981 Ipswich Town FC
- 1982 IFK Göteborg
- 1983 RSC Anderlecht
- 1984 Tottenham Hotspur FC
- 1985 Real Madrid CF
- 1986 Real Madrid CF
- 1987 IFK Göteborg
- 1988 Bayer 04 Leverkusen
- 1989 SSC Napoli
- 1990 Juventus
- 1991 FC Internazionale Milano
- 1992 AFC Ajax
- 1993 Juventus
- 1994 FC Internazionale Milano
- 1995 Parma FC
- 1996 FC Bayern München
- 1997 FC Schalke 04
- 1998 FC Internazionale Milano
- 1999 Parma FC
- 2000 Galatasaray AŞ
- 2001 Liverpool FC
- 2002 Feyenoord
- 2003 FC Porto
- 2004 Valencia CF
- 2005 PFC CSKA Moskva
- 2006 Sevilla FC
- 2007 Sevilla FC
- 2008 FC Zenit
- 2009 FC Shakhtar Donetsk
- 2010 Club Atlético de Madrid
- 2011 FC Porto
- 2012 Club Atlético de Madrid
- 2013 Chelsea FC
- 2014 Sevilla FC



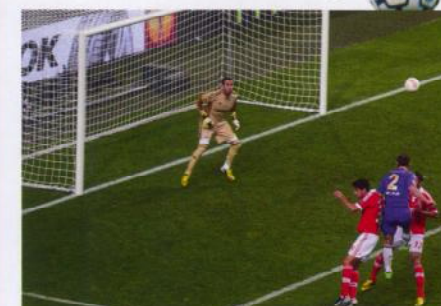
1981

The first of two European honours for manager Sir Bobby Robson, who leads unheralded Ipswich Town FC to UEFA Cup victory against AZ Alkmaar. Dutch midfielder Frans Thijssen scored for Ipswich against his countrymen in both legs. Sir Bobby also won the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup with FC Barcelona in 1997.



1998

Brazilian Ronaldo scores the third in FC Internazionale Milano's 3-0 win against SS Lazio in Paris, the first UEFA Cup final to be played as a single match.



2013

A header from Branislav Ivanović in the last minute of added time gives Chelsea FC a 2-1 victory against SL Benfica in Amsterdam and interim manager Rafael Benítez his second UEFA Europa League title following his triumph with Valencia CF in 2004.



# HALF-TIME QUIZ

So you know the UEFA Europa League? These questions will test you

## Name the season

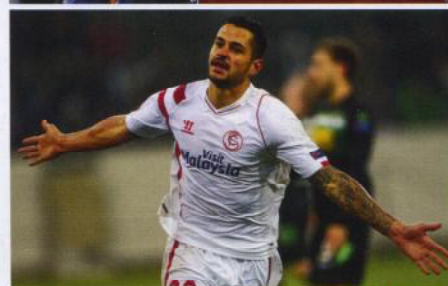
- 1 Ludwig Bründl scored ten goals, Tottenham Hotspur FC won an all-English final and K. Lierse SK humbled AFC Leeds United
- 2 All four semi-finalists were from Germany, Michel Platini and Johnny Rep scored five goals each for AS Saint-Etienne and the final was decided on away goals
- 3 Real Madrid CF become the first team to win successive UEFA Cups despite losing 5-1 to VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach, KSV Waregem knocked out AC Milan and Gheorghe Hagi scored three goals for FC Sportul Studențesc București
- 4 Henrik Larsson scored the first of his 31 goals in this competition, CD Tenerife reached the semi-final and FC Schalke 04 won the final with the aid of Huub Stevens' comprehensive database of penalty takers
- 5 Radamel Falcao scored a record 17 goals in one campaign, Manchester City FC fans discovered the 'Poznan' goal celebration and Juventus drew all six of their group games

## The missing link

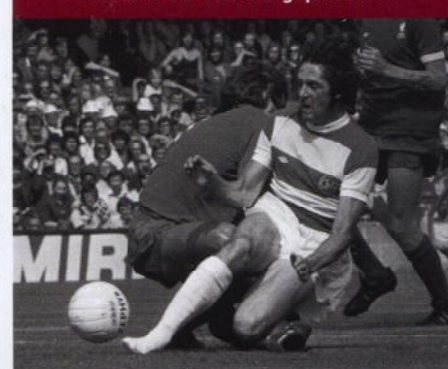
- 6 Bill Nicholson, \_\_\_\_\_, Bobby Robson, Keith Burkinshaw
- 7 Tottenham Hotspur FC, Bayer 04 Leverkusen, FC Schalke 04, \_\_\_\_\_, Sevilla FC, Sevilla FC
- 8 1972, 1979, 1982, 1992, \_\_\_\_\_, 2000, 2002
- 9 Stan Bowles, Kevin Hector, \_\_\_\_\_, Charlie George
- 10 Juventus, \_\_\_\_\_, Liverpool FC, Sevilla

## Number crunching

- 11 How many games did FC Girondins de Bordeaux play when they reached the final of this competition in 1996?  
a) 13 b) 20 c) 10
- 12 Italian clubs have won this competition more than any other country. How many times have they triumphed?  
a) 9 b) 12 c) 7
- 13 How many clubs have lifted the UEFA Cup and gone on to win the UEFA Champions League in the following season?  
a) 0 b) 5 c) 2
- 14 Giuseppe Bergomi made a record 96



Stellar coaches, once-familiar faces, remarkable feats, clubs great and small – all these feature in the history of this competition. These pictures are clues to some of our searching questions



- appearances in this competition. How many times did the Italian defender win it?  
a) 3 b) 0 c) 2?
- 15 How many countries were represented in the group stage of this season's UEFA Europa League?  
a) 10 b) 26 c) 19

## The name game

- Identify these UEFA Cup/UEFA Europa League winners by their nicknames
- 16 Cha Boom
  - 17 The Onion
  - 18 The Philosopher
  - 19 Mighty Mouse
  - 20 Rambo

## Season highlights

- 21 Who scored the winner for Qarabağ FK against FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk as they became the first Azerbaijani club to win a UEFA Europa League group stage match?
- 22 Which player scored the fastest goal in UEFA Europa League history, after 13.21 seconds in the round of 16 first leg?
- 23 Name the three UEFA Europa League-winning coaches to reach this season's quarter-finals.
- 24 Which seven-goal thriller in this season's round of 16 was watched by a UEFA Europa League record crowd of 67,553 fans?
- 25 Which team inflicted Liverpool's first European shoot-out defeat in the last 32?

## One of a kind

- 26 Which FIFA World Cup winner captained his side to a UEFA Cup triumph on the day his second daughter was born?
- 27 Which club celebrated reaching their first UEFA Cup final by commissioning a shirt that bore the names of their 12,000 season ticket holders?
- 28 Since 1998, when the final became a single match, only one club has won the trophy in their own stadium. Who are they?
- 29 Who was the only player not called Baggio to score for Juventus when they beat Borussia Dortmund in the 1993 final?
- 30 Who was the first Polish footballer to win this competition?

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