

NICOLAS PÉPÉ FORWARD

In the summer of 2019 Nicolas Pépé became Arsenal's record signing as he joined from Lille. The left-footed forward is a threat playing on either wing. On August 11th 2019 he made his Arsenal debut, as a substitute, in a 1-0 win away at Newcastle. With lightning pace and quick feet, Nicolas has been worrying Premier League defenders ever since.

Surprisingly, Nicolas was a goalkeeper until the age of 14! When his family moved to Poitiers, he joined the local team as an outfield player. He then signed for Angers in 2013 and made his professional debut the following year. By 2017 Nicolas had a reputation as a dangerous winger and joined Ligue 1 side Lille.

In Nicolas's final season with Lille, 2018/19, he scored 22 goals and made 11 assists. The only other player to score more than 20 goals and make over 10 assists in Europe's top five leagues was Lionel Messi! As a result of his performances he was named in the Ligue 1 Team of the Season. As one of the brightest prospects playing in Europe, Arsenal did well to sign Nicolas in the summer.



Although the winger was born in France, he represents Ivory Coast at international level. He made his international debut in November 2016, against France. Nicolas played for the national team, nicknamed The Elephants, at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

Nicolas has settled under the management of Mikel Arteta and is becoming a consistent performer for the Gunners. He will surely be a top-class player for years to come.

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- In which position did Nicolas play in until the age of 14?
Left-back
Centre-back
Defensive midfielder
Goalkeeper
- In what year did Nicolas make his professional debut?
2013
2014
2015
2016
- What does the phrase “brightest prospect” mean in this text?
A young player with potential
An intelligent player
A happy player
A player at the peak of their career
- “... is becoming a consistent performer.” What type of word is performer?
Noun
Adjective
Adverb
Verb
- Put these events from Nicolas’s career in order.

Number from 1 for the earliest event to 4 for the most recent event.

- ☐ He joined Poitiers
- ☐ He was named in the Ligue 1 Team of the Season
- ☐ He came on as a substitute away at Newcastle
- ☐ He made his international debut against France



ANSWERS: 1) Goalkeeper 2) 2014 3) A young player with potential 4) Noun 5) From top: 1, 3, 4, 2.