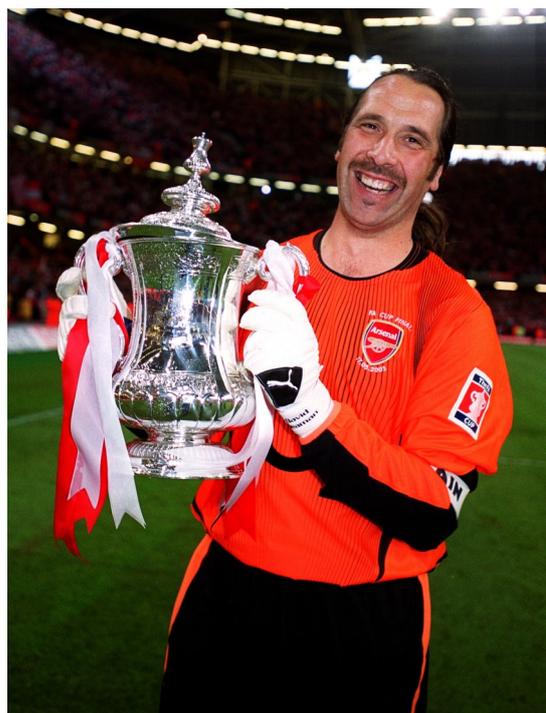


DAVID SEAMAN CLUB LEGEND



David Seaman is considered one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time. In 1990, he joined Arsenal from Queens Park Rangers for £1.3 million, a British record for a goalkeeper at the time. It turned out to be a bargain.

Seaman's performances won over the fans in no time and he became a rock in Arsenal's defence. The team kept 23 clean sheets and conceded just 18 goals in the title-winning season of 1990/91. Seaman had sharp reflexes, excellent positional sense, great judgement and bags of courage.

The 1994 European Cup Winners' Cup Final win was probably Seaman's finest individual moment. With a broken rib, the Yorkshireman had pain-

killing injections and still kept out the talented Parma team. The next season he pulled off three superb saves in a semi-final penalty shoot-out against Sampdoria.

He took his fantastic form onto the international scene, becoming one of England's heroes at Euro '96. Penalty saves against Scotland and Spain made him a household name and his England career stretched for eight years.

David continued to win trophies at club level. Seaman was perfect for new manager Arsène Wenger and was first choice in the double-winning sides of 1998 and 2002. The keeper was getting to the end of his career and some people were beginning to doubt him. David proved them wrong.

It was April 2003, Seaman was approaching his 40th birthday and Arsenal were defending a 1-0 lead in the FA Cup semi-final against Sheffield United at Old Trafford. In the closing minutes Seaman seemed stranded as Paul Peschisolidi's header looked certain to equalise. But the Arsenal keeper threw himself across the goal and somehow clawed the ball away from under the crossbar.

It was just like David to save the best for last and the perfect way to silence those critics. A legend for club and country, he was Arsenal's greatest ever keeper.



