

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020 ■ 7.15PM ■ £3.50



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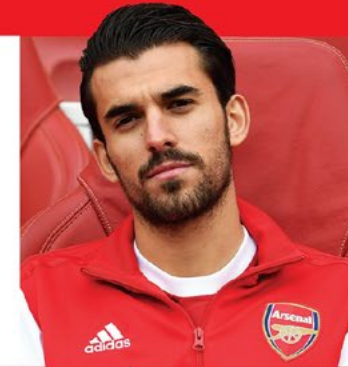
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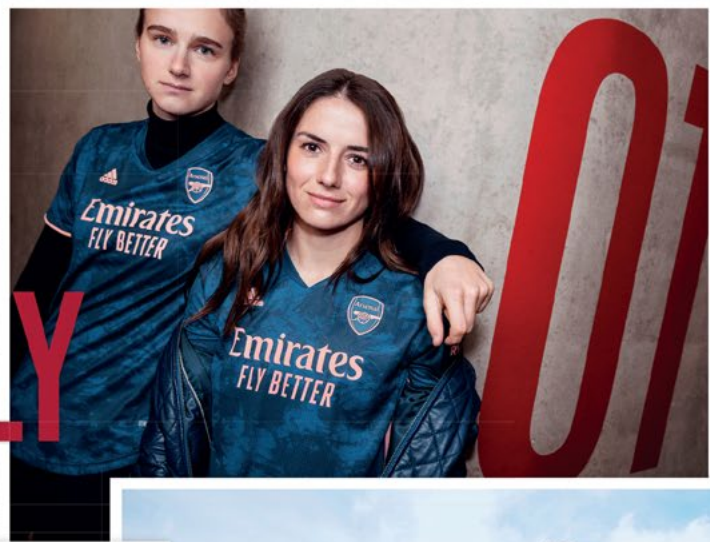
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COVER Bukayo Saka showing typical poise at Elland Road

THIS IS FAMILY



MIKEL ARTETA

We included a lot of young players again in the side in Norway on Thursday, and again they reacted in exactly the way we wanted.

I was really pleased with the performance and the personality that everyone showed on the pitch. It was great for Flo Balogun especially, he really deserved his goal. He's worked really hard and handled the speculation around him in a mature way. Reiss Nelson has also made some big steps in the past month or so. He wants to take on players, he's unpredictable and I love that sort of player on the wings. He can improve defensively, but he's a much more mature player this season.

It was a big objective of ours to qualify from the group stage as quickly as possible, and now we are giving full attention to the Premier League again.

But we know we're still a long way from where we need

to be. This is part of the process. We understand the challenges we have. At this club it's important to win every game as soon as possible. So far we have played 16 games in all competitions, and all four of the defeats have been in the Premier League, so it is a little bit imbalanced.

There are a lot of things to do, short term and medium term, we have seen a lot of changes not only on the pitch but structurally as a club as well. It's been difficult, it's been a challenging time in the last three or four months.

We have to settle and everyone has to realise where we are now, but I see the future as really bright. I'm a really positive person and I tend to learn more when things don't go well and when we have defeats. We have to understand





why they happen, be really critical first of all with myself and try to understand the players better, and give them more solutions to win.

You cannot build something new from something that has been damaged and hurt badly. When I was at the Emirates 12 months ago, you could see a split between our own fans and the team. I was shocked. You have to rebuild that. To do that first you have to build the foundations.

You have to prioritise that process when you start, and where you are going to get to. To do that you need some pieces that have to fill in there, and you have to start to create a puzzle and try to manage it because there will be bad moments and you don't want to break it. All the time you have to be very alert because it takes very little to break what you are building.

On top of that, we are in very unusual circumstances. We have been playing without fans for nearly the whole year and of course that affects the players.

For example with the lockdown: you win at Old Trafford, you feel excited, your adrenaline is high, you go home and want to celebrate. But you just go home – some of the

“WHEN YOU TRY TO BUILD A NEW PROJECT, YOU NEED TO ENGAGE THE FANS. THEY HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE TEAM IS TRANSMITTING”

players live by themselves – sit on the sofa, and that's it. To find that purpose and say, 'Okay, I work so hard for this moment, I want to enjoy it, want to have people around me' but you have nothing, so it is a completely different life.

In our case, when you try to build a new project, you need to engage the fans with the team. They have to see live what the team is transmitting. It is completely different on the TV, you are not able to do that. Without creating that chemistry between players and fans, for them to believe, for them to see live what we are trying to do, it is complicated. We need that. The players have to feel, "wow, these guys are really behind us, they are liking what we are trying to do... I feel more motivated, more engaged, I want to participate" - and we are lacking that.

We obviously need to score more goals. To be the top team that we want to be is impossible without scoring a lot of goals. It's not due to a lack of attacking players, because we have attacking players on the pitch all the time, but we



need to make decisions earlier, better and they have to be more ruthless. But it's the most difficult thing in football and sometimes we go through these patches. I have to help the players overcome it as quickly as possible.

We played Auba through the middle at Leeds and in some moments it worked really well. We had a patch in the first half when we were really good, efficient, we pressed high, we created some really good opportunities, and made it really hard for them. Then there was a spell for 15 or 20 minutes of the first half where we started to give the ball away, we did not control certain spaces against them and they suffocated us. They do it against every team in the Premier League. It's impossible to dominate that team for 90 minutes. And then in the second half when you hope you are going to get things adjusted, we go to 10 men and then obviously it's a mountain to climb.

In the circumstances it wasn't a bad point after having ten men for nearly half the game. I'm never happy with a point but we know what a challenge we faced. The way we reacted to it, the resilience that we showed, the effort that all the players put in to try and overcome their advantage, it was phenomenal. At the end we have to take a point because, credit to Leeds, they had chances to score.

I've said what I wanted to say on Nico's red card – it was unacceptable, but now we move on. His response has been what we wanted, and you saw that on Thursday as well.

Wolves give us another huge challenge at home tonight. For me they are one of the most consistent teams in the league, who have recruited in an intelligent way in the past few years. They are a solid team and always hard to beat. We need to build on our positives and play to our strengths. If we do that, we can start building some momentum again. Thanks for your support. ■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

I enjoyed watching the team on Thursday – we scored some really good goals and it's given everybody a lift again after our defeat last weekend.

It was clearly a frustrating match against Leeds for some different reasons – in the end we had to take a point and look at the positives.

Again we looked solid and defended really well as a team, as we have been doing this season. We know we need more goals but it is really, really tough to have many chances when you play 10 against 11.

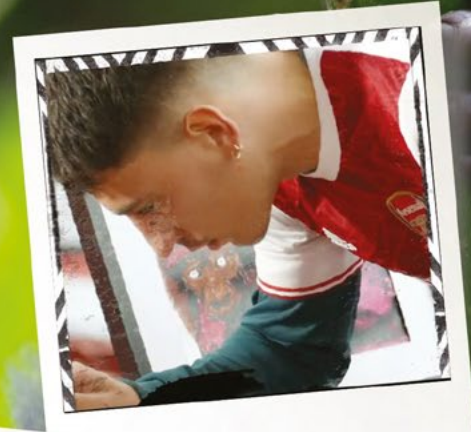
I played through the middle more against Leeds and I know over the past few weeks there has been a lot of talk about me playing on the left or playing in the middle. All I

want to say is that I can play everywhere, I don't mind really. Everyone knows where I prefer to play, but this doesn't matter because I prefer to have more than just one option where I can play. That's because I want to help the team but also because I want to learn as well. You learn every day, whether you are young or older, and I'm still learning and truthfully I feel good everywhere. I believe it can develop your game if you play in different positions.

That's what's happened to me because your movements are different if you play on the left for example. There you ▶



WHAT DID AUBA, HECTOR AND LENO NAME THEIR BABY GORILLAS?



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have to sometimes play more in the pocket, to try to connect with the midfield players. It's different to the striker position, as a number nine. It's completely different, sometimes you have to be wide, but when you are a striker you mainly stay more central so that's the main difference. But I've learnt a lot of things since I've been playing on the left side.

It also gives me opportunities in games because a lot of defences are attracted by the number nine. Laca and Eddie are doing a great job there and so they leave space for us sometimes to come and run in behind the defence. So it's helped me and I'm still learning, as I said, as a left winger.

It's all part of learning and developing as a team, and that's what we are doing.

It's been nearly a year now since Mikel Arteta took over as manager and when you look back on the 12 months I think we have progressed a lot as a team. Last year we were at the point that we were doing – and we have to say the truth – we were doing badly. But maybe it wasn't about managers but about the players. The way we played and the way we behaved on the pitch. I think the behaviours were not so good and he changed that.

"THE FIRST THING HE SAID WHEN HE CAME IN CHARGE WAS 'YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR BEHAVIOURS. YOU HAVE TO HELP EACH OTHER'"

The first thing he said when he came in charge was 'you have to change your behaviours. You have to help each other and fight for each other.' I think we've made a lot of progress in such a short time. That's why everyone believes this is the way to follow.

As you know Mikel talks about 'trusting the process' and we have to keep doing that, because as I said, in a short period he has changed so many things. So imagine if you give him more time what he can achieve.

As captain and manager we have a close relationship. He gives me a lot of confidence but also a lot of responsibilities.

That's important if you want to be solid in your mind and in your game. You have to accept these responsibilities and he's told me a lot of times 'you have to take the leadership when we play games'.

That's why I say I'm still learning, because this is



something new for me in my career. I'm really happy to learn under him though and it's a real pleasure to be the captain of this team.

I'm still learning as a senior player – and it was great to see lads at the other end of their journeys doing so well on Thursday. And what a moment for Folarin Balogun. Your first goal is such an incredible feeling, he'll never forget that – there are many more to come from him too, believe me. It was brilliant for Reiss too, who scored like a striker and I was so pleased for Nico. He had a difficult afternoon at Leeds and bounced back in the best possible way, with a brilliant goal and a fantastic performance.

Today we are playing Wolves who are a team with a strong identity and you always know what you are going to face when you play them. They are doing very well again this season. They have a lot of Portuguese people at the club, they have a strong concept. That's important for teams and we are building our own concept at Arsenal. Maybe it's a little bit different but it's the same spirit. We are going in our own way – everyone knows the way we have to follow so I think it's a great example.

With everybody behind us, we know we can achieve big things together. Thanks for your support and come on you Gunners! ■

@AFCProgramme



VOICE OF ARSENAL



RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS

Following the death of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Arsenal Football Club would like to extend sincere condolences to his family, friends and the Jewish community.

The former Chief Rabbi was an Arsenal supporter and frequent attendee at Highbury and later Emirates Stadium. In fact, on the news that he had been installed as Chief Rabbi in 1991, newly elected Archbishop of Canterbury and fellow Arsenal fan George Carey, invited him to a first ecumenical meeting – in a box at Highbury for an infamous game against Manchester United, which the Gunners lost 6-2. The next day, a national newspaper carried a story highlighting those in attendance, saying: 'does this finally prove God does not exist!' To which the then Chief Rabbi replied in the next day's paper: 'To the contrary, what it proves is that God exists. It's just that He supports Manchester United!'

It's a story that Lord Sacks loved to tell about his footballing support and friendship with the Archbishop, a friendship which he used to highlight how Jews and Christians – indeed all religions – could meet in friendship and mutual respect.

Thanks for your support Lord Sacks and for being, in the words of the Prince of Wales, 'a light unto this nation'. ■



'The pitches are perfect. Is it absolutely necessary to play on them Arsène?'

STEVE BRADDOCK ENTERS GROUND MANAGEMENT HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to our Head Groundsman Steve Braddock who enters the Ground Management Association (GMA) industry Hall of Fame.

Steve becomes the second recipient of the award, joining the late Eddie Seward MBE who is the former Head Groundsman at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. Steve has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to sports turf management across professional football, including his innovation and leadership that has helped attract new talent and upskill other grounds staff.

Steve said: "I would of never have been able to achieve this without the backing of Arsenal Football Club, John Beattie and Arsène Wenger. They showed incredible belief in all I do, which has enabled me to raise the influence of grounds management and also train and mentor staff in the way I felt right. Of course, I also want to pay tribute to all the past employees, colleagues and suppliers who made my career possible". ■

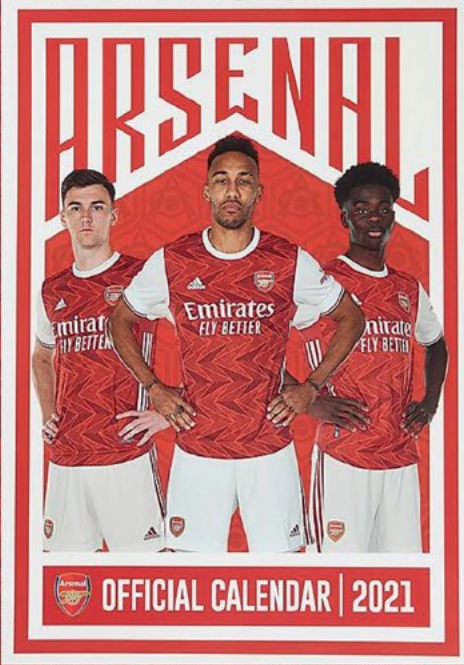
On duty come rain or shine (or snow)



THE YELLOW BALL IS BACK

Last weekend's Premier League fixtures, when we took on Leeds at Elland Road, saw the return of the 'Official Hi-Viz Match Ball'. The yellow ball will now be used throughout the winter. ■





WIN! WIN! WIN!

Our calendar providers Danilo have given us three of their superb 2021 calendars to give away – it's the perfect way to plot your way through what we hope will be a super-successful year for the Gunners.

All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning one of these calendars is tell us the dates of birth of the three calendar cover stars. We'll even give you the dates, you just tell us who was born on each date?

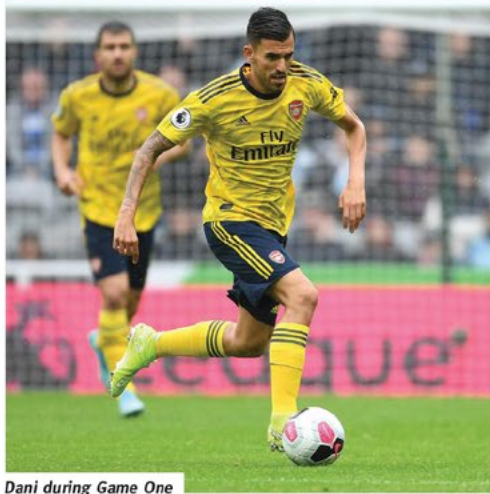
JUNE 5 JUNE 18 SEPTEMBER 5

Entries to us by Friday, December 4 by email: programme@arsenal.co.uk or Tweet us to [@AFCProgramme](https://twitter.com/AFCProgramme)

The 2021 calendar is available to buy on Arsenal Direct.

PEPE BANNED

Nicolas Pepe is unavailable today as he starts a three-match domestic suspension after being shown a red card in our goalless draw at Leeds last weekend. It is a mandatory three-match ban for violent misconduct, so he will also be banned for next week's north London derby and our home game with Burnley the following weekend. ■



Dani during Game One

50 UP FOR DANI

Congratulations to Dani Ceballos on reaching his half century of Arsenal appearances, when he came on in Thursday's Europa League match in Norway. The Spanish midfielder – now in the second year of his loan spell from Real Madrid – made his debut under Unai Emery back in August 2019 in a 1-0 win over Newcastle United. He's scored two goals so far in his 50 games, including an injury-time winner in last season's FA Cup quarter-final at Sheffield United. The breakdown of his appearances so far is as follows. Premier League 32, Europa League 9, FA Cup 5, League Cup 4. He is one of 19 players in the current squad to make at least 50 appearances. ■

PROGRAMME ITK

Remember the **2001/02 Champions League's** dreaded 'Second Group Stage'? Wolves manager **Nuno Espirito Santo** certainly does. As Arsenal failed to qualify from their group, Nuno watched his side Deportivo La Coruna qualify as the sub goalkeeper in both matches against Arsenal – both 2-0 wins for the Spaniards.

Arsenal's biggest away league win is often listed as the **7-1 victory** against Aston Villa at Villa Park in 1935, when Ted Drake famously scored all seven. But that time we were only matching the achievement of three years earlier, November 5, 1932, when Arsenal won 7-1 against Wolves at **Molineux**, thanks to a hat-trick from David Jack and two each from Cliff Bastin and Jack Lambert. For good measure, we beat Wolves 7-0 at Highbury two years later, on December 1, 1934. ■



REMEMBERING MARADONA

Arsenal Football Club were saddened to hear of the death earlier this week of Diego Maradona.

Maradona's talent was revered by all in the world of football – none more so than by fellow players. On the rare occasions – the Amsterdam Tournament in 2005 and at Emirates in 2008 – that the Argentinian crossed paths with Arsenal Football Club, the players made a beeline for a photograph with the legend – as you can see here.

His legacy as one of the greatest players to have played the game will live forever.

RIP Diego. ■



OFFICIAL BETTING PARTNER OF
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LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1930/31, 1932/33, 1933/34,
1934/35, 1937/38, 1947/48,
1952/53, 1970/71, 1988/89,
1990/91, 1997/98, 2001/02,
2003/04

FA CUP WINNERS

1930, 1936, 1950, 1971, 1979,
1993, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2005,
2014, 2015, 2017, 2020

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

1986/87, 1992/93

CHARITY/COMMUNITY SHIELD WINNERS

1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1938,
1948, 1953, 1991 (shared), 1998,
1999, 2002, 2004, 2014, 2015,
2017, 2020

FAIRS CUP WINNERS

1969/70

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP WINNERS

1993/94

FA YOUTH CUP WINNERS

1966, 1971, 1988, 1994, 2000,
2001, 2009

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We were the UK's first club to install large-scale battery energy storage in 2018. The system can power Emirates Stadium for an entire match

ARSENAL IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIRST

Arsenal Football Club have become the first Premier League club to sign up to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

The UN initiative aims to bring together the global sports community with a commitment to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement and support the ambition to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The signatories to this initiative, which already include FIFA, The FA and the International Olympic Committee, aim to support these ambitions by adhering to the following five principles:

- Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility
- Reduce overall climate impact
- Educate on climate action
- Promote sustainable and responsible consumption
- Advocate for climate action through communication

In a 2019 study by the BBC and the United Nations-backed Sport Positive Summit, we topped the league table on sustainability among Premier League clubs. One year on, we are proud to build on the work we are already doing in this area and encourage positive climate action to our millions of supporters around the world. "Arsenal is committed to leading the way on sustainability among Premier League clubs and we are proud to be the first club to sign up to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework," said our operations director, Hywel Sloman. "Together with our partners, we've already implemented a number of environmentally friendly practices across the club. This includes becoming the first Premier League club to switch to 100 per cent green electricity since the beginning of our partnership with Octopus Energy in 2016, and a new partnership with aluminium packaging company Ball Corporation which is designed to help us and our millions of fans around the world reduce our impact on the environment."

Lindita Xhaferi-Salih, Sports for Climate Action Lead at UN Climate Change, added: "We are delighted to welcome Arsenal as the first Premier League club to the UN Sports for Climate Action community as we raise awareness of climate change and make a difference together." ■



DAVID O'LEARY ON THE POD!

We are now well into the second series of our podcast series 'In Lockdown' and next week's guest is the man who played more times for the club than any other player – David O'Leary.

If you've not listened to any of the shows in the series so far, each Tuesday we feature a different player from the club's past, for an in-depth interview about their time as a Gunner.

The interview with O'Leary will be available to download on Tuesday (December 1) from all the usual podcast providers.

Don't forget all our previous shows are also still available – former league champion Kevin Campbell features on the current episode, while previous interviewees include Nicklas Bendtner, Per Mertesacker and Alexander Hleb, while Dennis Bergkamp and Jack Wilshere were among those to be interviewed in the first series.

In Lockdown is available from your regular podcast provider – be sure to click subscribe so you automatically receive new episodes straight to your device. ■



REF WATCH

Today's referee Michael Oliver is from Northumberland and has been a Premier League referee since 2010.

Last season Michael was the man in the middle when we drew 1-1 with Wolves at home, won 2-0 at Molineux in the reverse fixture and lost 2-1 at Tottenham.

This term, Michael has already officiated at Emirates, in our 2-1 win over West Ham. In all, he has refereed eight Premier League games this season, issuing 19 yellow cards and two reds, one of which was in his last fixture at Villa Park when Brighton beat Aston Villa 2-1 and he dismissed Tariq Lamptey. ■

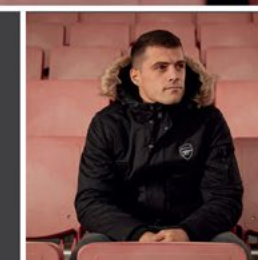


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ARSENAL REMEMBERS

VIOLET DEVENISH – Our beautiful Mum, who was a lifelong dedicated Arsenal fan for over 50 years, sadly passed away on October 28, 2020 aged 90 years. We will miss seeing you in your Arsenal colours. Love always Mick, Karen & Christine

ROBERT SHARP – Passed away on August 22, 2020 and is grieved deeply by wife Moira, son Robert, and

granddaughter Tabitha. Robert was a North Bank regular and 'Strollers' biggest fan. RIP Robert

RAYMOND LOCK - 1951 - NOV 2020. It is with great sadness that lifelong supporter Raymond Lock of St. Albans has passed away. Ray regularly attended matches and loved football. Thank you, Arsenal, for bringing much joy to Ray during his life ■

1

Elneny is the only Egyptian ever to represent the Arsenal first-team


6

Mo's appearances have come in six different competitions

2

He has scored two goals, contributed seven assists and lifted two trophies

MO'S 100



MOHAMED ELNENY'S ARSENAL APPEARANCES



STARTS 73

AS SUB 27



100

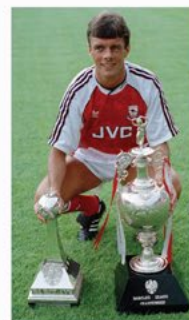
Mo Elneny made his 100th first-team appearance for us against Aston Villa earlier this month



MOHAMED'S APPEARANCES - BY COMPETITION



ALL-TIME LEADING APPEARANCES FOR ARSENAL

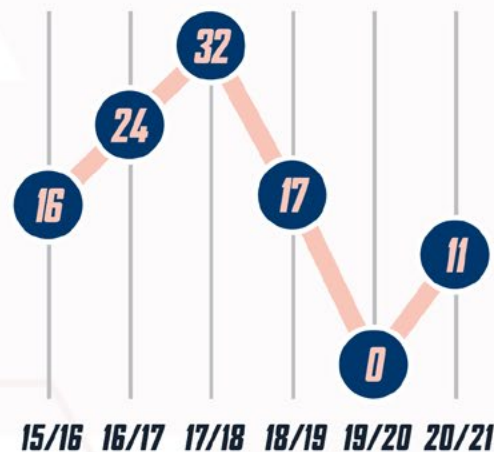


Player	Total
David O'Leary	722
Tony Adams	669
George Armstrong	621
Lee Dixon	619
Nigel Winterburn	584
David Seaman	564
Pat Rice	528
Peter Storey	501
John Radford	482
Peter Simpson	478



His debut came on January 30, 2016 – A 2-1 win over Burnley in the FA Cup

MOHAMED'S APPEARANCES - BY SEASON



CURRENT PLAYERS WITH 100+ APPEARANCES

Player	STARTS & SUBS	TOTAL
	237+17	254
	198+18	216
	174+12	186
	138+8	146
	106+30	136
	106+14	120
	89+22	111
	77+33	110
	73+28	101
	73+27	100

DANI

Dani Ceballos was back at the heart of the Arsenal midfield last Sunday, patrolling the central areas alongside Granit Xhaka.

A diligent defensive display, allied to the occasional opportunity to show his attacking flair, proved Dani's worth to Mikel Arteta and the coaching team, in a season when he's jostling for position in central midfield with Granit, new signing Thomas Partey, the rejuvenated Mo Elneny and Joe Willock. Now in his second season on loan at Arsenal from Real Madrid, the matchday programme caught up with Dani to discuss life in north London.

It feels like there's a lot of competition in midfield at Arsenal this season Dani, how do you see it?

Well, we have the same number of midfielders as last season – there are five of us if I'm not mistaken. Competition is a good thing in a football team because it means you push each other to raise your game. There are lots of ups and downs over the course of a season, as well as injuries. Regardless of whether you're playing more or less, you need to be at 100 per cent. Competition helps to raise the level of the team.

How did you feel when the team signed Thomas Partey? On the one hand he's a great player that will help the team, but on the other hand he plays in more or less the same position as you.

Yes, Thomas plays in a similar position to me but I wouldn't say it's the same as my position. I'd say he's more of a No.6, a defensive midfielder, though he's good with the ball too. Anybody who is brought in to contribute to the team is good news, but I'm relaxed and I know that I'm going to play a lot of minutes for Arsenal and at a good level too. ▶



49

UNDEFEATED

The question is, did Dani make his 50th appearance for Arsenal on Thursday?

ABOVE

The familiar sight of Dani encouraging his team mates, whether he's on the pitch or not

	PLD	GLS
PL	32	0
UEL	8	1
FAC	5	1
LC	4	0
TOTAL	49	2

"ONCE TRAINING IS OVER, I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT DAY TO COME. HE'S A VERY SPECIAL COACH"

Perhaps one of the biggest surprises this season has been the form of Mo Elneny. What have you made of him since he returned to the club in the summer?

Yeah, Mo is the kind of person that exudes energy. When the team needs a boost, he can provide it. I think all of the midfielders – Mo, Granit, Thomas and myself – are all good players and we all need to be at 100 per cent because the coach has two or three players to decide between in each position. It encourages you to give more and try to make an important contribution to the team.

Why do you think the team has been lacking that consistency this season?

I don't think it's just this season, I think Arsenal have been in need of some stability for a few years. Our objective remains to fight to be in the top four and get back into the Champions League, and if you look at our last two league games we've not been consistent enough. When you start out on a season, you need to find consistency – but we've not been able to do that yet, but I'm sure we're going to get to a point where we can win three or four games in a row. We need to keep pushing hard, maintain our positive dynamic and focus on being competitive and hard to beat.

Tell us why you were so keen to come back to Arsenal for this season?

Well, mainly because after lockdown last season I played well and was able to help Arsenal win a trophy. A coach had joined who had confidence in me and had got the best out of me. Once training is over, I can't wait for the next day to come. He's a very special coach and he can become one of the best in the world because he sees football on a level that other coaches I've had in the past haven't matched. Having said that, at the end of the day it's the players who play and it's our job to respond to him. I was really keen to come back to this league too, because it's a league that I like.

Are you really settled in London? Do you have family or friends here with you?

Yes, I spend time with my parents, my girlfriend and my little sister. There are Spaniards on the team too. London is the type of place where you can go and hear Spanish being spoken, English being spoken. It's the same for the Germans in the team. I'm really pleased with how settled I am in London. ▶



TOP

"Once training is over, I can't wait for the next day to come"

ABOVE

With team mate Eddie Nketiah after the win over West Ham

LAVAZZA IS RED!

CELEBRATING QUALITÀ ROSSA WITH ARSENAL

ONE PRIZE IS UP FOR GRABS!



LAVAZZA
TORINO, ITALIA, 1895



Official Coffee of Arsenal FC

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

You must have been disappointed not to be called up by Spain this time, but pleased to see Hector return to the selection?

Yes, I was hoping to go but I don't think I'd been in my best form. You have to be at 100 per cent in order to get a call-up for Spain and it's never easy to get into the squad, but at the same time I was just as pleased – if not more so – for Hector to get back into the squad after four years. It wasn't just because another player was injured – if you look at his stats, he's one of the best full backs in the league. He's worked really hard over the past two years since his injury, so I think it was well-deserved and just goes to show that hard work pays off.

“IF YOU LOOK AT HIS STATS, HECTOR IS ONE OF THE BEST FULL BACKS IN THE LEAGUE”

Other Arsenal players also had great experiences during the international break too, like Bukayo Saka playing his first full competitive match for England and Kieran Tierney being part of a momentous night for Scotland. Do you try to follow what players are doing with their countries?

To be honest with you, I just love football and I keep tabs on all the Arsenal players. Bukayo was named man-of-the-match in the first game, came on in the second half of the second game, if I remember rightly, and then was one of the key men in the third game. He's very young and has a huge future ahead of him, but everyone at the club – the coach and the players – have to take good care of him because he's a rough diamond. I was really pleased for Kieran too. I can't remember how many years it's been since Scotland have qualified for a major tournament [22, Dani!], but it's very well-deserved as he's a very hardworking player. I didn't see the game, but I'm sure winning on penalties was an amazing feeling for him, plus it would have brought a lot of joy to the country right now.

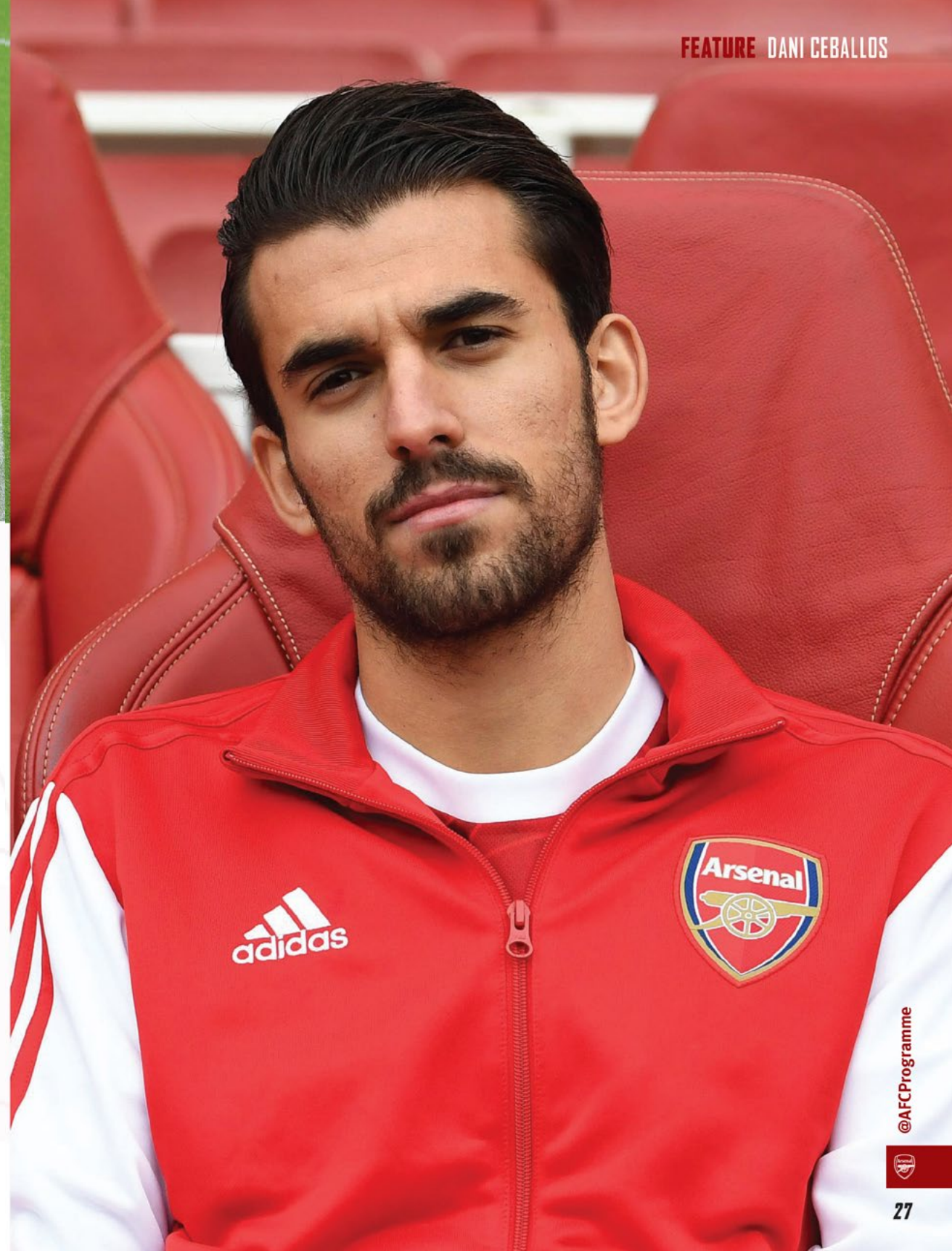
Looking at Wolves, Nuno Espirito Santo has developed a really strong Premier League team hasn't he?

Well, Nuno has a very well-drilled side that is really recognisable in that 5-3-2 or 5-2-3 formation. They have a really clear style. I don't think there are many other teams in the Premier League that are as well-drilled as they are. They've started very well this season and last year they only missed out on the Europa League because we won the FA Cup. If we want to get a good result, we're going to need to be at 100 per cent. ▶



FOLLOW ME

Follow Dani on Instagram! @daniful10



Your compatriot Adama Traore is a dangerman, what do you make of him?

I've known Adama since we were 16 or 17, when I saw him playing at youth level. Apart from the fact that he's a really intimidating figure in terms of his physique, I think he's really improved on a technical level and in terms of cutting inside or going wide, plus he scores goals too. I think he's a very special player that any coach in the world would love to have in their team.

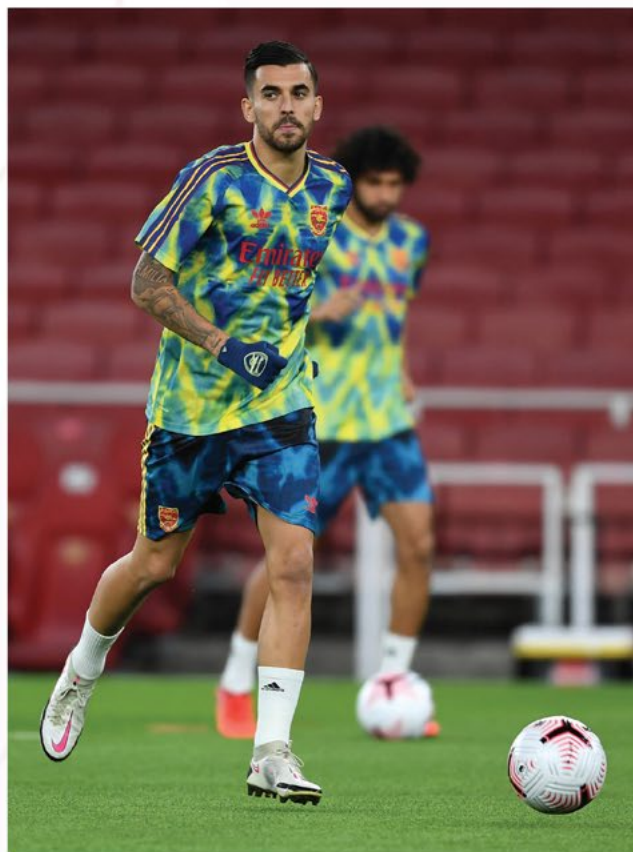
Another key player for Wolves is Joao Moutinho, who has been playing at an amazing level for over a decade. As a fellow midfielder, what do you like about his game?

Well, I think Joao Moutinho is a player we all know about. As you say, he's been going for 12 years, first in Portugal and now in England. He has great experience, he's won things and he's represented his country. I think he's so important for Wolves because he brings that stability that a team needs and manages the tempo of games. He's a very experienced player and he'll go down in the history of Portuguese football.

"I STARTED DOING IT BUT DIDN'T REALISE I HAD THE CLIPPERS BASICALLY ON!"

Lastly Dani, and this is an important one, tell us about the decision shave your hair off. Who did it? Did you do it yourself?

Well, it started off as a bit of a joke with my girlfriend and my parents. I was like: "I'm going to shave my head!" They didn't believe I had it in me. I started doing it but didn't realise I had the clippers basically on! I stopped for a minute but then realised there was no turning back, so ended up shaving it all off. At the end of the day I don't think the new look suits me too badly. I still feel like me – I'm happy with it! ■



ABOVE

Dani is now right at home in the squad, in his second season on loan from Real Madrid

LEFT

"I don't think the new look suits me too badly. I still feel like me – I'm happy with it!"



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PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 9

4.30pm • Sunday, November 22 • Elland Road



MATCH STATS	
25	TOTAL SHOTS 9
4	SHOTS ON TARGET 2
5	CORNERS 3
0	OFFSIDES 2
9	FOULS 8
66	POSSESSION % 34

LEEDS UNITED

- 1 MESLIER
- 10 ALIOSKI
- 6 COOPER
- 5 KOCH
- 2 AYLING (70)
- 23 PHILLIPS
- 15 DALLAS
- 43 KLICH
- 18 RAPHINHA
- 9 BAMFORD
- 22 HARRISON (80)

SUBSTITUTES

CASILLA, STRUJIK, POVEDA (80), HELDER COSTA, RODRIGO (70), DAVIS, ROBERTS

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 2 BELLERIN
- 16 HOLDING
- 6 GABRIEL
- 3 TIERNEY
- 34 XHAKA
- 8 CEBALLOS
- 28 WILLOCK (57)
- 14 AUBAMEYANG
- 19 PEPE
- 12 WILLIAN (46)

SUBSTITUTES

RUNARSSON, NELSON (46), MATLAND-NILES (80), SAKA (57) (80), LACAZETTE, NKETIAH, MUSTAFI

FIRST HALF

An attacking reshuffle saw Willian and Nicholas Pepe both start, and we were collectively bright and tenacious in the early stages. Pepe inadvertently hit the crossbar with an attempted cross from the left, and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang slashed a shot high and wide on the turn after excellent work from Hector Bellerin. Leeds goalkeeper Ilian Meslier wasn't tested, but Bernd Leno was. He had to save from Patrick Bamford – twice – and chances also came and went for Raphinha, Stuart Dallas and Mateus Klich as Leeds started to get on top.

SECOND HALF

Mikel Arteta brought on Reiss Nelson at half-time but our gameplan was undermined when Pepe was sent off by Anthony Taylor after an altercation with Ezgjan Alioski. Leno made a wonderful one-handed save to keep out a Dallas shot and substitute Rodrigo crashed a shot off the crossbar. We looked set for a Leeds siege but, instead, we opened up the home side on the break. One charge ended with an Aubameyang shot that was blocked by Liam Cooper's arm as the defender slid in. On this occasion, VAR was not called upon. Bukayo Saka raced through moments later but Meslier stood his ground to block the England international's shot. Bamford headed against the post and Raphinha hit the bar as Leeds continued to threaten - but we kept a valuable clean sheet. ■



Granit Xhaka was back in the Gunners midfield for our trip to Elland Road

LEFT

Reiss Nelson takes on fellow Arsenal Academy graduate Luke Ayling



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CURRENCY

Football historian **Jon Spurling** looks at the evolution of Arsenal players' positions – past and present

CHARLIE NICHOLAS **HOLE NEW BALL GAME**

Before Charlie Nicholas joined Arsenal in the summer of 1983 for £650,000 Celtic manager Billy McNeill described him as “the most exciting young player I’ve ever seen” after Charlie plundered 52 goals during the 1982/83 campaign for the Glasgow club. Opting against joining Liverpool, Manchester United or Tottenham, Nicholas described Arsenal as “the team of the future.” On his debut at Highbury against Luton Town in August, Nicholas flicked the ball around well, and goals from Tony Woodcock and Brian McDermott steered Arsenal to a 2-1 victory in front of a much-improved 39,348 crowd, the vast majority of whom were there to see him make his Highbury bow. The collective hysteria from Gunners fans that greeted his every move would have given Duran Duran a run for their money.

Away at Wolves two days later, Nicholas scored both goals in another 2-1 Arsenal win, and Desmond Lynam rounded off Grandstand by telling BBC viewers: “Arsenal are top of the league, thanks to that man, Charlie Nicholas.” It seemed that nothing could go wrong. “I’m

“NEILL AND DON HOWE NEVER QUITE SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT HIS BEST POSITION WAS”

hoping that I can just continue the form I showed last season in Scotland,” he explained. But Nicholas failed to live up to his star billing, and the goals dried up. There was an ongoing problem in that first season with his ankle. Surgery was required but Arsenal were reluctant to sanction it because they needed their star turn on the pitch. By his own admission, Nicholas wasn’t the quickest of forwards, and struggled when defenders clung like limpets to him. Terry Neill and coach Don Howe never quite seemed to know what his best position was. Don Howe – who replaced Neill as manager after the latter had ▶





been fired at Christmas '83 – began playing Nicholas in the 'hole' behind a front pairing of Tony Woodcock and Raphael Meade. Howe justified his decision by saying that Nicholas and Woodcock were too similar and that Meade would hustle better against tough British defenders.

“BUT LIKE THE TEAM’S FORM, NICHOLAS’S STELLAR DISPLAYS PETERED OUT”

The early signs were promising, with some lovely approach work from the Scot in Arsenal’s 3-1 home win against Watford on December 17, in which Meade netted a hat-trick. On Boxing Day, with Nicholas given freedom to roam at White Hart Lane, Arsenal won the north London derby 4-2, with the Scot netting twice, and setting up Meade for a fourth. In the new year, the arrival of target man Paul Mariner from Ipswich appeared to confirm that Nicholas would remain ‘in the hole’ for the foreseeable future.

At the start of the following season, in a glorious late summer purple patch, Nicholas, tucked behind Woodcock

and Mariner, flourished as Arsenal surged to the top of the league. At Vicarage Road, he turned scorer and provider, displaying a full repertoire of feints and chipped balls for his team mates as the Gunners won 4-3. He also ran riot at Filbert Street, in a 4-1 win against Leicester City, and turned Sunderland defender Nick Pickering inside out at Highbury as Arsenal defeated Sunderland 3-2. Former Gunners defender David O’Leary recalled: “For six weeks or so, Charlie looked like the player we wanted him to be.” But, like the team’s form, Nicholas’s stellar displays petered out when the clocks went back in late October, and by the following season, with Paul Mariner injured, Nicholas was slotted back in up front as Howe’s Arsenal continued to splutter. He remained up front after George Graham took over at Highbury in May 1986, but despite scoring both Arsenal goals in the 1987 Littlewoods Cup final at Wembley, Graham jettisoned the Scot a few months later. Despite occasionally flourishing both as a striker and in a more withdrawn role, Charlie Nicholas sadly failed to prosper in either position in the long term. ■



JIMMY ROBERTSON EARNED HIS WINGS

Despite being heavily right footed, the leggy Scottish winger could function effectively on either flank, and did so after Bertie Mee signed him from Tottenham in October 1968. As Arsenal began to emerge from the shadows in the late ‘60s, Robertson proved to be highly adept in storming past his marker and crossing deep to the far post, where John Radford or George Graham would often be waiting, never better illustrated than against Sporting Lisbon in the 1969/70 Fairs Cup competition, when Robertson’s pinpoint cross was headed home by Graham. But on a handful of occasions, he also switched flanks because, as he later reflected: “I was desperate to play.” His flexibility convinced sections of the crowd who had been unforgiving towards the former Spurs man to warm to him more as Arsenal marched on in Europe. The arrival of winger Peter Marinello in January 1970 signalled the end of Robertson’s Arsenal career, and he joined Ipswich a few weeks later. ■

FIRST PAGE
Charlie Nicholas celebrates his first goal at Wembley in the 1987 League Cup final

OPPOSITE PAGE
July 1983 at Highbury and young fans flock around the exciting new signing

TOP
Jimmy Roberston challenges Coventry’s George Curtis in December 1968

ABOVE
Jimmy’s time with Arsenal was a struggle at times – because he arrived at Highbury from Tottenham!

COMMUNITY



PREMIER LEAGUE WOMEN & GIRLS PROGRAMME

Last season saw the launch of a new exciting partnership for our Premier League Girls Kicks programme. Fourteen professional football clubs in London received additional funding from the London Marathon Charitable Trust to develop their programme further and engage girls aged eight to 17 that may not be taking part in sport.

Through this programme we also work closely with the Brandon Centre, an organisation that provides free professional support to young people focusing on sexual

health, mental health and general wellbeing. A well-being worker from the Brandon Centre supports the delivery of each session and are well placed to offer additional support to any young people who may be experiencing challenges, such as increases in anxieties around lockdown or difficulties transitioning from primary to secondary school.

The girls are split into appropriate age groups to ensure that the activities are appropriate and as beneficial as possible.

Although 2020 has been a challenging year for all, we have still managed to keep our girls active by providing them with regular positive activities at home as well as

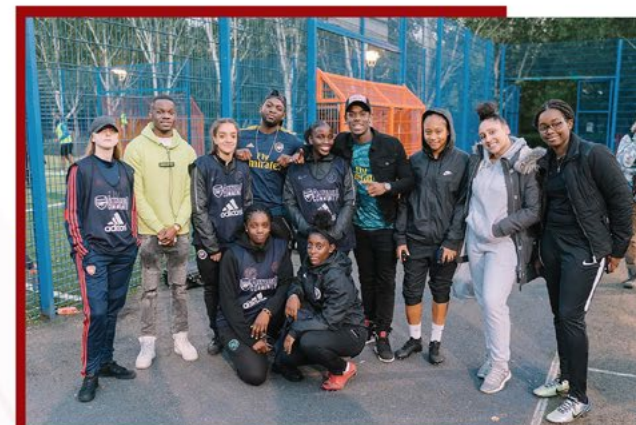
football sessions in the community when government guidelines have permitted us to do so.

We have been delivering weekly virtual sessions which have involved a mixture of fun activities such as quizzes and competitions as well as fitness exercises and basic ball skills that can be done within the home setting.

In September, we were able to resume our regular football sessions with the girls at a local facility. It was fantastic to have the girls get together and they were delighted to be back on the pitch. We know how important sport can be for both the physical and mental health of young people.

During the October half term we were able to organise a half day of internal matches where girls came together to play against one another. Having missed so much this year it was brilliant to be able to organise something enjoyable for the girls during the holiday period.

Thank you to the London Marathon Trust, Premier League Charitable Fund and the Brandon Centre for their support. ■



GETTING THEIR KICKS!

As you can see from the picture, Girls Kicks participants recently met movie director and music artist Rapman (centre) plus Bafta Rising Star award winner Micheal Ward (right) and actor Stephen Odubola (left). It was a fantastic experience for all girls, who have also been kept busy with virtual sessions in these most unusual times. ■



OPPOSITE PAGE

It was great to have the girls back in action over the October half term

ABOVE LEFT

Football sessions will resume when government guidelines permit

LEFT

Arsenal Women's Manuela Zinsberger coaches the girls

PS4

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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG GUNNERS

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Results and fixtures



YOUNG GUN

BROOKE

NORTON-CUFFY

TALKING TO Aidan Small

BORN

Hammersmith, 12/01/2004

HEIGHT & WEIGHT

5ft 11in and 74kg

JOINED ARSENAL

Under-10s

POSITION

Right back



The past two months have been crazy. To go from playing under-16s football to making my debut for the under-23s in such a short period of time is just unbelievable, and I'm so grateful for the opportunities that have been handed to me. It's a really exciting time in my life because this is what I've been training so many years for, and now I want to see what I can really achieve at this club.

I got my scholar over the summer and I also went on pre-season tour with the under-18s as an under-16. I played alright by my own standards (I think I can do better), so I was hoping to get a chance with the under-18s at some stage this season, but I didn't expect it to happen so fast! I'd been training really hard over the summer because in football you never quite know when an opportunity is going to present itself, so when Ken Gillard told me that I'd be making my debut for the under-18s, I was so happy.

I can't lie, I was nervous at the start because it was my first ever academy Premier League game, but the coaches

told me to stay calm, go out there and just play my usual game. I've obviously been playing in academy leagues for years now, but this is when it starts to become even more competitive and you really feel it in the game. Straight away I noticed that I couldn't take as many touches as I normally can. You need to keep the ball moving fast and whenever you take more than two touches, you need to be ready for a challenge from any direction.

It was a really valuable experience, but less than three weeks later, I was given an even bigger opportunity. As a right back, I knew that Ryan Aebiosu and Daniel Oyegoke were ahead of me in the pecking order at the academy. They're both very good players, but after they picked up injuries, I couldn't help but start to wonder who's going to fill those gaps for the under-18s and under-23s.

I was the natural fit in terms of position, but I only turned 16 in January and made my under-18s debut at the start of October! Back in the summer, I was hoping that I could train with the under-23s by the end of the season,

but on the Wednesday before they faced Liverpool in the Premier League 2, Ken told me that I'd be training with the under-23s ahead of the game on Friday.

At first I thought it would just be a training session, so I thought 'Alright, let's just train hard, impress Steve Bould, and see what happens'. But on the Thursday, I heard that I might be starting against Liverpool. I couldn't believe it!

"WHEN I FINALLY GOT OUT THERE, IT FELT LIKE JUST ANOTHER GAME – ONLY QUITE A BIT QUICKER."

Again, if I'm being completely honest, I was nervous before the game and even the night before! Liverpool are one of the best teams in the league too, but when I finally got out there, it felt like just another game – only quite a bit quicker.

Hubert Graczyk also made his debut that day and we kind of worked together to calm our nerves. We were just

talking back and forth and because he's a good mate of mine. It took my mind away from the game. We were both in the same boat and I think that really helped.

From a personal side of things, I was happy with how I performed and dealt with the physicality of PL2 football, but I didn't drop deep quick enough to receive the ball.

We looked at it in the week and noticed that I need to open my body up so that I can play forward quicker. At under-18 level, I could often get away with that because I'm physically stronger and quicker than a lot of players, but when I'm with the under-23s, I'm playing against men and they'll punish you for the smallest mistake. I think I corrected that in our 6-0 win over Blackburn.

I can't thank Steve Bould enough for the opportunities that he's given me and now I want to repay that faith by continuing to perform on the pitch – whether that's with the under-18s or under-23s. It's a nice feeling knowing that you're trusted to make the step up and now I'm hungry for more. ■



BROOKE NORTON-CUFFY LOWDOWN

Earliest football memory Going to watch my brother's games when I was a kid

Got me into playing football My brothers and my dad

First footballer looked up to Didier Drogba

Favourite football shirt Real Madrid, 2015/16 season

Team supported as a child Manchester United

Best goal of all-time Cristiano Ronaldo v Porto 2008

Best goal I've scored Solo goal against Brighton U-12s

Best player I've faced? Jamie Bynoe-Gittens (Borussia Dortmund)

Best game I've had? Tottenham U-13. We won 4-1 scored and I scored a hat-trick

Best piece of skill I've done in a game Two stepovers and a Ronaldo chop to beat the defender, then I whipped it across goal for an assist. Against Norwich.

Best moment of my career so far Scoring on my England debut

RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	91
SHOOTING	80
DRIBBLING	84
PASSING	85
STRENGTH	92

One stadium I'd like to score in The Bernabeu

One type of goal I'd like to score A scorpion kick

Best training ground tip I've had Play with freedom

Another sport I'm good at Basketball

The important non-playing attributes for young footballers Humility and determination

ME

Favourite footballer Cristiano Ronaldo

Favourite follow on Instagram Louor7

Most played Spotify artist Lil baby

Best football attribute Crossing

Favourite pre-match song Abra Cadabra – Art of War

Favourite musician Polo G

I need on an away day Headphones

First-team player I look up to most Bukayo Saka

You may not know I'm an ex-basketballer



Emile Smith Rowe at the double against Blackburn

MATCH REPORTS



Catalin Cirjan scored a screamer

Emile Smith Rowe and Nikolaj Moller each scored twice as the under-23s secured our biggest-ever Premier League 2 victory.

Academy products Zach Awe, Zane Monlouis and Khayon Edwards all made their respective debuts at The County Ground, while Joe Ideho made his first appearance since joining us from Ajax in the summer.

Blackburn, who named 36-year-old Stewart Downing among their substitutes, started strongly and came close early on through Connor McBride.

But that didn't dent our confidence and following some fine footwork and attacking play from Folarin Balogun, Moller was on hand to finish at the far post.

Shortly after the restart, Catalin Cirjan fired a stunning effort into the top right corner, latching on to Moller's instinctive backheeled assist, before Balogun pounced on a defensive error and squared to Smith Rowe for a simple finish. Smith Rowe went on to double his tally just moments later, arriving late at the far post to meet Brooke Norton-Cuffy's delivery and fire past Antonis Stergiakis.

Joel Lopez then created our fifth of the evening with a searching pass across the face of goal, forcing Dan Pike to inadvertently put the ball into his own net, before Moller scored his second deep into injury time.

The Sweden youth international wreaked havoc on the Rovers' defence all evening and rounded off the scoring with a composed finish into the bottom corner.

That was our biggest win at this level since the reserves beat Crystal Palace 7-0 in December 1999. ■

"CIRJAN FIRED A STUNNING EFFORT INTO THE TOP CORNER, LATCHING ON TO MOLLER'S BACKHEEL"

Premier League 2
Friday, November 6
County Ground, Leyland

ARSENAL U23s Hein, Norton-Cuffy, Awe, Olowu (Monlouis 76), Lopez, Akinola, Smith Rowe (Edwards 72), Cottrell, Cirjan, Moller, Balogun (Ideho 81) UNUSED SUBS Hillson, Laing



0



6

MOLLER 44, 90, CIRJAN 51
SMITH ROWE 54, 61
PIKE 67 OG



COYLE 55



CIRJAN 6

ARSENAL WON 4-2 ON PENALTIES



Papa John's Trophy
Tuesday, November 10
Priestfield Stadium

ARSENAL U21s Macey, Monlouis, Saliba, Chambers (Laing 46), Lopez, Akinola, Smith Rowe, Cottrell, Cirjan, Balogun, Moller **UNUSED SUBS** Ejeheri, Dinzeyi, Bandeira, Edwards, Ideho



Calum Chambers played 45 minutes on his return from injury as our under-21s beat Gillingham on penalties to seal their place in the knockout stages of the Papa John's Trophy.

The England international has been on the sidelines since rupturing the anterior cruciate ligament of his left knee against Chelsea back in December, but he looked assured on his return to action, making a number of vital challenges.

Chambers partnered William Saliba at the heart of the defence, while Emile Smith Rowe also featured at Priestfield Stadium. Meanwhile, the hosts fielded on-loan Gunners Zech Medley and Trae Coyle.

We made a fine start to the game when, with just six minutes on the clock, Catalin Cirjan put us in front after preying on a defensive error.

Saliba started the move from deep, stepping into midfield and playing Joel Lopez through down the left flank, who floated an inviting delivery into the penalty area for Cirjan to poke home.

Folarin Balogun then had a goal disallowed for offside in a lively first-half, but after the restart Gillingham equalised through Coyle. Alex MacDonald delivered a cross to the back post and Coyle was on hand to finish with a first-time effort on his weaker left foot.

Shortly after, Balogun and Smith Rowe fired wide at the end of two promising counter attacks, before the on-loan Arsenal man was on target again for the home side shortly after, only to have his strike chalked off.

Matt Macey had to be alert to deny Coyle once more in the closing stages, but with the game deadlocked at the

final whistle, both sides received a point and the match went to a shoot-out.

Balogun, Nikolaj Moller and Ben Cottrell all scored from the spot for us, and with the hosts' missing twice, Cirjan secured the victory by slotting home a Panenka.

A total of 32 clubs are involved in round two of the competition with the draw split into Northern and Southern sections.

The winner of each group will be drawn at home and will play a runner-up of a group from the same region, but not from the same group they competed in from round one.

To ensure these conditions are met, the Northern and Southern draws will be split into two separate draws – Draw A and Draw B.

Round two matches will be played week commencing December 7. ■



TOP
Emile Smith Rowe in full flow

ABOVE
Folarin Balogun in possession

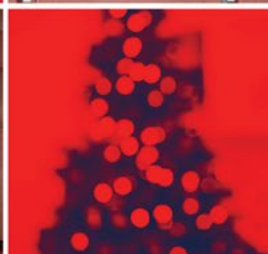
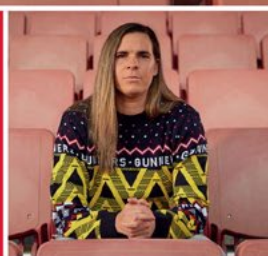
LEFT
Catalin Cirjan celebrates his early opener

OPPOSITE PAGE
Calum Chambers made his long-awaited comeback from injury

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ACADEMY NEWS

OMARI SIGNS ON

O mari Giraud-Hutchinson has signed his first professional contract. The 17 year old joined us at the age of 11 and has progressed through the academy age groups.

A winger and attacking midfielder, Omari is known for his technical ability, passing and speed.

He has featured regularly for our under-18s this season, providing five assists in seven league appearances – and last month he was included in the Europa League B list, a rule that enables three academy players born after 1999 to be eligible to be a part of our first team's UEFA Europa League squad.

The young midfielder played for England at under-17 level last season and has since trained with the under-18s.

We'd like to congratulate Omari on his first professional contract and look forward to supporting him with his continued development. ■



UP FOR THE CUP

Our under-17s kicked off their Premier League Cup campaign with a 3-2 win over Norwich City last month. Ken Gillard's (above) side found themselves trailing by two goals to nil at the break, following goals from Ken Aboh and Alex Matos, but they came out fighting in the second half to complete a dramatic comeback.

First, Jack Henry-Francis reduced the deficit with a cool finish inside the penalty area, before Omari Hutchinson scored direct from a corner!

We continued to dominate the game and with just seconds remaining, we pushed forward for one last attack and Khayon Edwards was on hand to convert Catalin Cirjan's cutback.

It's worth noting that goalkeeper Remy Mitchell made his first start appearance of the season and made a number of fine saves, while Charles Sagoe Junior also started. Keep going, lads – we're right behind you! ■

Two of our young Academy stars supporting the odd socks campaign



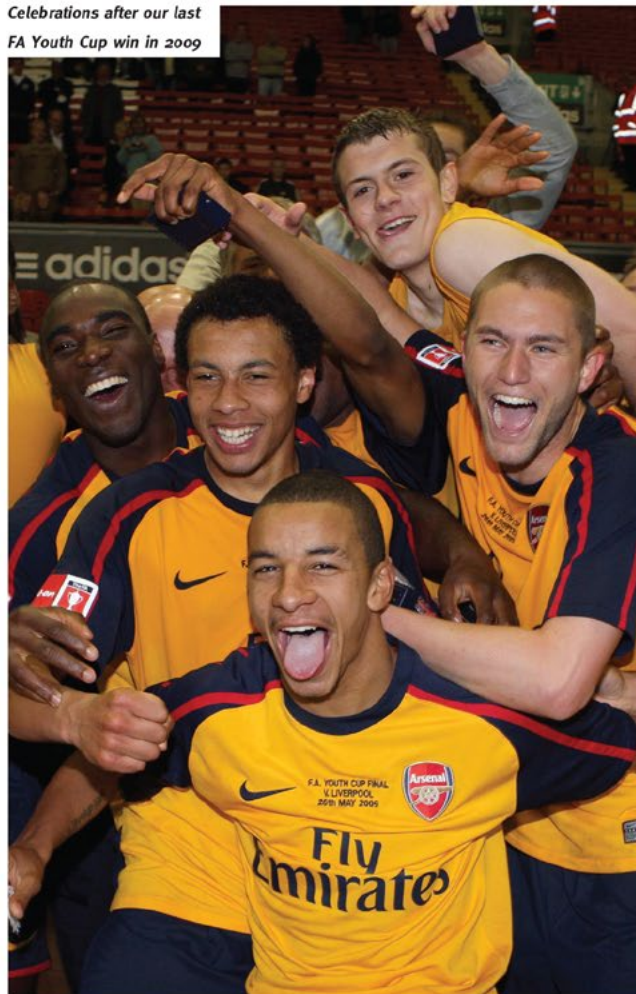
ARSENAL ACADEMY SUPPORT ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Our youth teams showed their support for Anti-Bullying Week on Monday, November 15 as they wore odd socks in their games against Tottenham Hotspur.

Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique.

This year's week has the theme "United Against Bullying", and our under-9s to under-14s were proud to show their support in the north London derby. ■

Celebrations after our last FA Youth Cup win in 2009



FA YOUTH CUP OPPONENTS CONFIRMED

Our under-18s are set to face Rotherham United in the third round of the FA Youth Cup.

This round of the competition sees the introduction of EFL Championship and Premier League teams, and Ken Gillard's side will be keen to improve on last season's quarter-final finish.

The game will be played at AESSEAL New York Stadium, on Tuesday, December 15 with a 7pm kick-off.

To be eligible for this year's competitions players must have been born between September 1, 2002 and before September 1, 2005. ■



ABOVE
Steve during his playing days with Arsenal youth

LEFT
On the sidelines as Colchester boss this season

ACADEMY ALUMNI

Catching up with former Arsenal Academy players as they continue their pro careers away from Emirates

STEVE BALL

With the youth team preparing to embark on the club's 67th campaign in the FA Youth Cup, followers of Arsenal's youth teams may have noticed a member of our triumphant vintage of 1988 making good progress in the world of management.

Steve Ball played six times in the triumphant youth cup run in 1987/88, scoring three times, including in the first leg of the final when a 5-0 win over Doncaster Rovers effectively secured the cup for the Gunners (the second leg ended 1-1 at Highbury). Playing alongside the likes of David Hillier, Francis Cagigao, Kevin Campbell, Steve Morrow and Neil Heaney, Ball was a highly rated midfielder but ultimately an ankle ligament injury prevented him breaking into the first-team and he headed to home town club Colchester United, where he enjoyed two stints as well as playing for Norwich City and Cambridge United in a 10-year playing career.

Moving into management, Ball moved through the non-League ranks of Stanway Rovers, Clacton Town, Leiston and Maldon and Tiptree before joining the Colchester coaching team in 2016 and was named manager in July this year. At the time of writing, Ball's 'U's' are impressing in League Two, in seventh position, and have won five of their last eight games. ■

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH STATS

UNDER-23 FIXTURES

Fri Sept 11	Southampton	H	1-2
Fri Sept 18	Brighton & HA	A	2-2
Sat Sept 26	Tottenham Hotspur	H	0-1
Sun Oct 4	Chelsea	A	0-3
Fri Oct 16	Manchester United	H	3-3
Sat Oct 24	Manchester City	A	1-4
Fri Oct 30	Liverpool	H	0-1
Fri Nov 6	Blackburn Rovers	A	6-0
Fri Nov 20	Everton	H	1-0
Fri Nov 27	Derby County	H	7pm
Fri Dec 18	Leicester City	H	7pm
Fri Jan 8	West Ham United	A	7pm
Sun Jan 17	Southampton	A	2.30pm
Fri Jan 22	Brighton & HA	H	7pm
Fri Jan 29	Tottenham Hotspur	A	12pm
Fri Feb 5	Chelsea	H	7pm
Fri Feb 12	Manchester United	A	7pm
Fri Feb 19	Manchester City	H	7pm
Fri Feb 26	Liverpool	A	7pm
Fri Mar 12	Blackburn Rovers	H	7pm
Sun Mar 21	Everton	A	1pm
Mon Apr 12	Derby County	A	7pm
Mon Apr 26	Leicester City	A	7pm
Fri Apr 30	West Ham United	H	7pm

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	8	5	1	2	15	9	6	16
Derby County	8	5	1	2	18	16	2	16
Blackburn Rovers	7	4	2	1	11	10	1	14
Chelsea	8	4	1	3	14	12	2	13
Manchester City	7	3	2	2	18	14	4	11
Manchester United	7	3	2	2	19	17	2	11
Tottenham Hotspur	7	3	2	2	10	8	2	11
Brighton & Hove Albion	8	3	2	3	12	16	-4	11
Everton	8	3	1	4	11	7	4	10
Leicester City	7	3	0	4	9	14	-5	9
Arsenal	9	2	2	5	14	16	-2	8
Southampton	8	2	2	4	12	15	-3	8
West Ham United	8	0	2	6	9	18	-9	2

UNDER-18 FIXTURES

* = won on penalties

Sat Sept 12	Southampton	H	4-2
Sat Sept 19	Tottenham Hotspur	A	0-2
Sat Sept 26	Crystal Palace	H	3-2
Sat Oct 3	West Ham United	A	2-3
Sat Oct 17	Brighton & HA	H	0-5
Sat Oct 24	West Bromwich Albion	A	3-1
Sat Oct 31	Norwich City	H	5-1
Sat Nov 21	Fulham	H	0-0
Sat Dec 12	Leicester City	H	11am
Sat Dec 19	Chelsea	H	11am
Sat Jan 9	Aston Villa	A	11am
Sat Jan 16	Southampton	A	11.30am
Sat Jan 23	Tottenham Hotspur	H	11am
Sat Jan 30	Crystal Palace	A	11am
Sat Feb 13	West Ham United	H	11am
Sat Feb 20	Brighton & HA	A	11am
Sat Feb 27	West Bromwich Albion	H	12pm
Sat Mar 13	Norwich City	A	11am
Sat Mar 20	Reading	H	11am
Sat Apr 10	Fulham	A	12pm
Sat Apr 24	Leicester City	A	11am
Sat May 1	Chelsea	A	11am
Sat May 8	Aston Villa	H	11am
TBA	Reading	A	TBA

EFL TROPHY FIXTURES

Tue Sept 8	Ipswich Town	A	2-1
Tue Oct 13	Crawley Town	A	2-1
Tue Nov 10	Gillingham	A	1-1*
Tue Dec 8	AFC Wimbledon	A	6pm

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Aston Villa	8	6	1	1	17	11	6	19
Crystal Palace	7	6	0	1	12	7	5	18
Tottenham Hotspur	8	5	2	1	23	8	15	17
Fulham	7	5	1	1	14	6	8	16
Brighton & Hove Albion	9	4	3	2	22	11	11	15
Chelsea	8	4	2	2	25	14	11	14
Arsenal	8	4	1	3	17	16	1	13
West Ham United	7	3	0	4	12	17	-5	9
Norwich City	8	2	1	5	16	19	-3	7
Reading	7	1	2	4	14	20	-6	5
Southampton	8	1	2	5	15	23	-8	5
West Bromwich Albion	7	1	1	5	11	20	-9	4
Leicester City	8	0	0	8	10	36	-26	0

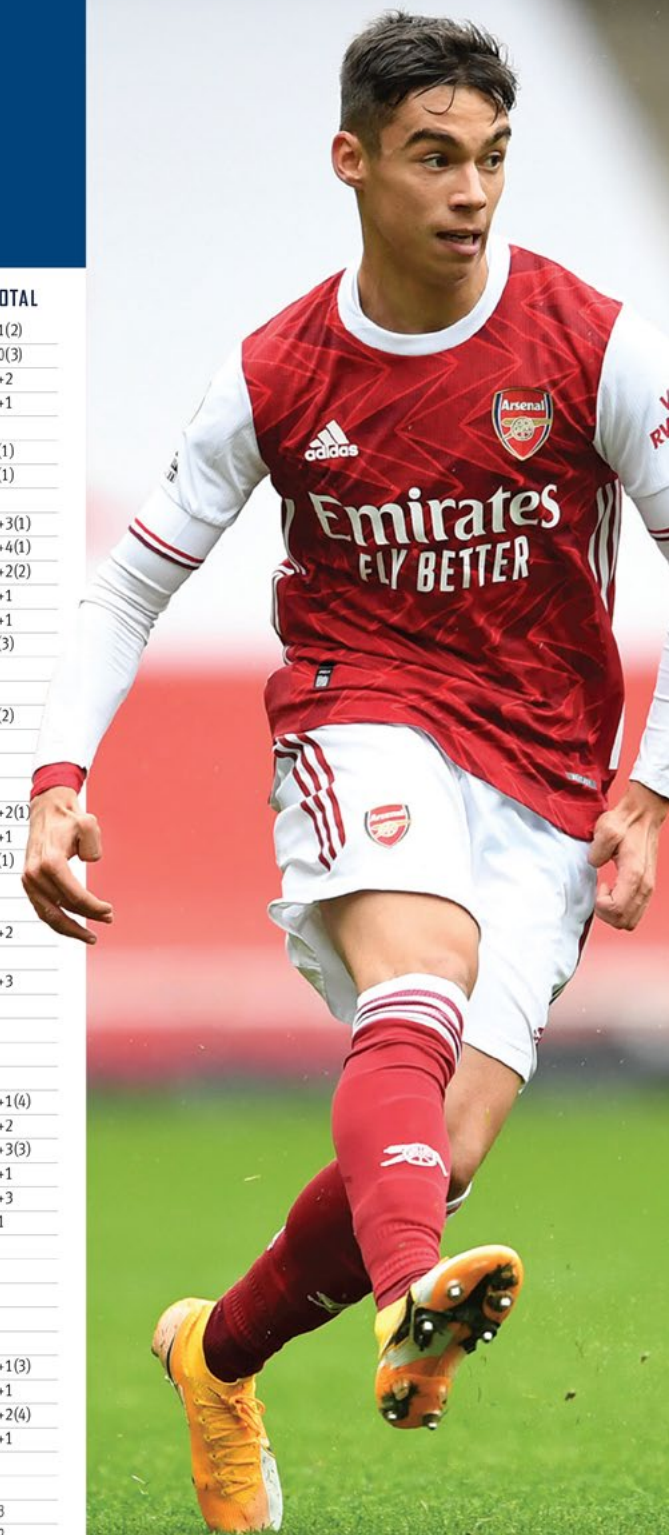
FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	7pm
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THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH APPEARANCES

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	U18	FAYC	PLIC	TOTAL
Ben Cottrell	8(2)	3	-	-	-	11(2)
Folarin Balogun	8(2)	2(1)	-	-	-	10(3)
Tim Akınola	6+1	2+1	-	-	-	8+2
Ryan Alebiosu	5+1	2	-	-	-	7+1
Karl Hein	5	-	-	-	-	5
James Olayinka	4(1)	2	-	-	-	6(1)
George Lewis	4	1(1)	-	-	-	5(1)
Jonathan Dinzei	4	1	-	-	-	5
Jordan McEnuff	3+3	2(1)	-	-	-	5+3(1)
Miguel Azeez	3+3	1+1(1)	-	-	-	4+4(1)
Catalin Cirjan	3+1(1)	1+1(1)	1	-	-	5+2(2)
Joel Lopez	3+1	2	-	-	-	5+1
Daniel Oyegoke	3+1	1	-	-	-	4+1
Nicolaj Moller	3(3)	1	-	-	-	4(3)
Tolaji Bola	3	1	-	-	-	4
William Saliba	3	1	-	-	-	4
Emile Smith Rowe	2(2)	1	-	-	-	3(2)
Harry Clarke	2	1	-	-	-	3
Brooke Norton-Cuffy	2	-	3	-	-	5
Daniel Ballard	2	-	-	-	-	2
Alex Kirk	1+1	+1	4(1)	-	-	5+2(1)
Salah-Eddine Oulad M'hand	1+1	1	-	-	-	2+1
Reiss Nelson	1(1)	-	-	-	-	1(1)
Matt Macey	1	1	-	-	-	2
Mark McGuinness	1	1	-	-	-	2
Levi Laing	1	+2	6	-	-	7+2
Hubert Graczyk	1	-	6	-	-	7
Zach Awe	1	-	4+3	-	-	5+3
James Hillson	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cedric Soares	1	-	-	-	-	1
Joe Willock	1	-	-	-	-	1
Joseph Olowu	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kido Taylor-Hart	+1	1	6(4)	-	-	7+1(4)
Zane Monlouis	+1	1	2+1	-	-	3+2
Khayon Edwards	+1	-	5+2(3)	-	-	5+3(3)
Mazeed Ogungbo	+1	-	4	-	-	4+1
Taylor Foran	+1	-	3+2	-	-	3+3
Joel Ideho	+1	-	-	-	-	+1
Calum Chambers	-	1	-	-	-	1
Arthur Okonkwo	-	1	-	-	-	1
Matt Smith	-	1	-	-	-	1
Omari Giraud-Hutchinson	-	-	7	-	-	7
Charlie Patino	-	-	7	-	-	7
Marcelo Flores	-	-	6+1(3)	-	-	6+1(3)
Mauro Bandeira	-	-	6+1	-	-	6+1
Luke Plange	-	-	4+2(4)	-	-	4+2(4)
James Sweet	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ovie Ejeheri	-	-	1	-	-	1
Billy Vigar	-	-	+3	-	-	+3
Jack Henry-Francis	-	-	+2	-	-	+2
Nathan Butler-Oyediji	-	-	+2	-	-	+2
Own goals	(1)	-	(2)	-	-	(3)



ARSENAL WOMEN

News and reports from England's most successful women's football team



2

MIEDEMA 11 / FOORD 71



2

PERCIVAL 59 / ZADORSKY 88

ARSENAL WON 5-4 ON PENALTIES

CONTINENTAL LEAGUE CUP
MEADOW PARK
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ARSENAL

Williams, Maier (Beattie 67), Williamson, Wubben-Moy, McCabe, Walti, Roord (Mace 81), Little (Evans 46), Van de Donk, Miedema (Mead 74), Foord **SUBS NOT USED:** Zinsberger, Garrad, Pearse, Gut



ABOVE Caitlin Foord puts the Gunners ahead for a second time

Miedema to find the bottom corner.

Danielle van de Donk then had a fine chance to double our advantage, heading Katie McCabe's delivery wide at the far post, before a heavy touch from Caitlin Foord let her down inside the penalty area.

We dominated the opening 45 minutes, but with the introduction of Alex Morgan at half-time, Tottenham forced their way into the game and equalised on the hour mark.

Ria Percival was played through on goal and controlled the ball on her chest, before finishing coolly past Williams.

We fought back and eventually restored our lead through Caitlin Foord, who finished Leah Williamson's inviting delivery at the far post, but there would be one last twist to the tale. With less than two minutes remaining, we found ourselves under pressure and failed to clear our lines, creating a goalmouth scramble that saw Shelina Zadorsky send the game to penalties.

McCabe, Lotte Wubben-Moy, Jennifer Beattie and Foord all scored from the spot for us, but Tottenham were also flawless, ensuring sudden death for the fifth round of penalties. Lia Walti remained unphased, though, and made no mistake in finding the bottom corner, before Morgan fired high and wide, gifting us the win. However the bonus point we earned was not enough to book progression from the group stage. ■

RIGHT

Vivianne Miedema opened the scoring against Tottenham



FIVE YEARS A GUNNER!

On November 20, Danielle van de Donk celebrated a special milestone at the club – five years as an Arsenal player.

Danielle signed for us from Swedish side Gothenburg in 2015, having previously played in her homeland with PSV, VVV Venlo and Willem II and her influence at the club has been immense over the last five years.

Possessor of wonderful skills on the ball, but with an ultra-competitive edge (remind you of anyone else from Holland you can think of?), DVD has now played 125 times for the Gunners with a one-in-three score rate – 42 goals in all competitions. From our current squad, only Jordan Nobbs, Kim Little and Leah Williamson have played more times for the team than Dan.

She won the FA Cup in 2016, Conti Cup in 2018 and league title in 2018/19 whilst at the club, when she scored 11 goals and made six assists in 19 games and was undoubtedly one of the driving forces behind the title.

Dan has also been part of a remarkably successful Holland side whilst a Gunner, starring in their 2017 European Championships win and run to the 2019 World Cup final.

Thanks for your contribution so far Danielle – you truly are a Dutch of class! ■



2020/21 FIXTURES

SEPT 6	READING	6-1
SEPT 12	WEST HAM UNITED	9-1
SEPT 26	TOTTENHAM (FA CUP QF)	4-0
OCT 1	MAN CITY (FA CUP SEMI-FINAL)	1-2
OCT 4	BRISTOL CITY	3-1
OCT 7	CHELSEA (CC)	1-4
OCT 11	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	5-0
OCT 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	6-1
NOV 4	LONDON CITY LIONESSES (CC)	4-0
NOV 8	MANCHESTER UNITED	0-1
NOV 15	CHELSEA	1-1
NOV 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (CC)	2-2*
DEC 6	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H
DEC 13	MANCHESTER CITY	A
DEC 20	EVERTON	H
JAN 9/10	ASTON VILLA	A
JAN 16/17	READING	A
JAN 23/24	WEST HAM UNITED	H
FEB 6/7	MANCHESTER CITY	H
FEB 10/11/12	CHELSEA	A
MAR 6/7	BIRMINGHAM CITY	A
MAR 17/18	MANCHESTER UNITED	H
MAR 27/28	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	A
APR 3/4	BRISTOL CITY	A
APR 24/25	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H
MAY 1/2	EVERTON	A
MAY 8/9	ASTON VILLA	H

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT NOV 24)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MANCHESTER UNITED	7	5	2	0	17	7	10	17
ARSENAL	7	5	1	1	30	6	24	16
CHELSEA	6	4	2	0	19	3	16	14
EVERTON	7	4	2	1	17	8	9	14
MANCHESTER CITY	7	3	3	1	18	8	10	12
BIRMINGHAM CITY	7	3	0	4	9	10	-1	9
READING	7	2	3	2	8	11	-3	9
BRIGHTON & HA	7	2	2	3	5	12	-7	8
WEST HAM UNITED	7	1	1	5	7	20	-13	4
ASTON VILLA	5	1	0	4	3	12	-9	3
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	7	0	3	4	6	16	-10	3
BRISTOL CITY	6	0	1	5	4	30	-26	1

*Arsenal won on penalties

FOURTEEN TIMES

14 GOALS FOR ARSENAL

In August we lifted the FA Cup for a record-extending 14th time. But it's not just our rich, illustrious history in football's oldest knock-out competition that is synonymous with the number 14.

BELOW LEFT

Kolo Toure – last European goalscorer at Highbury

BELOW MIDDLE

Wally Hardinge was a double international

BELOW RIGHT

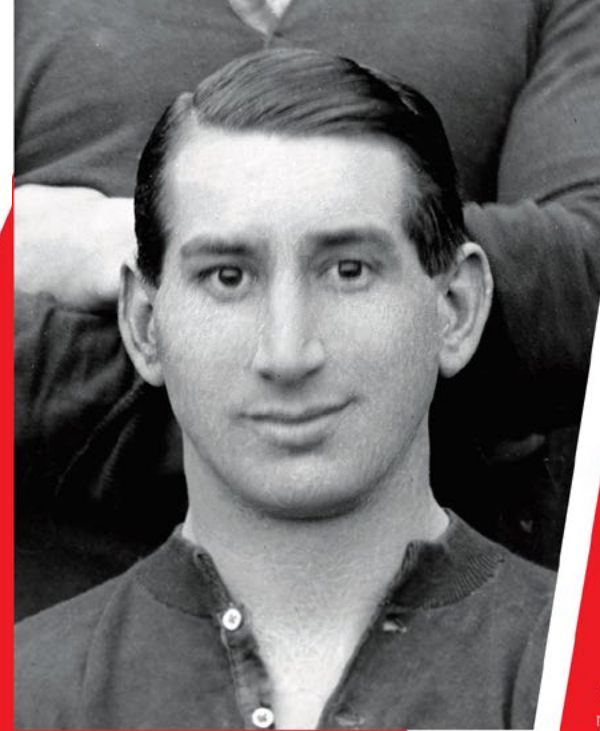
David O'Leary scored 14 goals from 722 games

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

England star Frank Bradshaw

OPPOSITE PAGE BELOW

Moroccan Marouane Chamakh



A total of 516 players have scored at least once for the Arsenal first team, of the 876 players to represent us in our history. Of those 516 scorers, these ten netted exactly 14 times.

FRANK BRADSHAW

An England international forward who later reverted to full back, Bradshaw scored his 14 goals from 132 league games for us, either side of World War One. He scored 10 in his debut season (1914/15) helping us to promotion to Division One, but was then mainly used at full back in the top flight.

MAROUANE CHAMAKH

A Bosman free signing from Bordeaux in August 2010, Moroccan striker Chamakh scored 11 times in his debut season, including one in the north London derby. He also netted after 37 seconds against Wolves (our fastest Premier League goal at the time) while his last two goals came in a 7-5 League Cup win at Reading. He made 67 appearances.

BILLY GARBUTT

Nearly half (six) of Garbutt's goals came in the FA Cup – in 1906 and 1907, when we reached the semi-finals for the first time. Indeed one of his last goals for us was the first goal Arsenal had ever scored in an FA Cup semi-final, a 3-1 defeat to Sheffield Wednesday at St Andrew's.

WALLY HARDINGE

An inside forward, Hardinge's 14 goals came from 54 league games between 1913 and 1921, either side of World War One. An England football international, he also played a Test match for England and later managed the Tottenham reserve team.

ARCHIE MCGEOCH

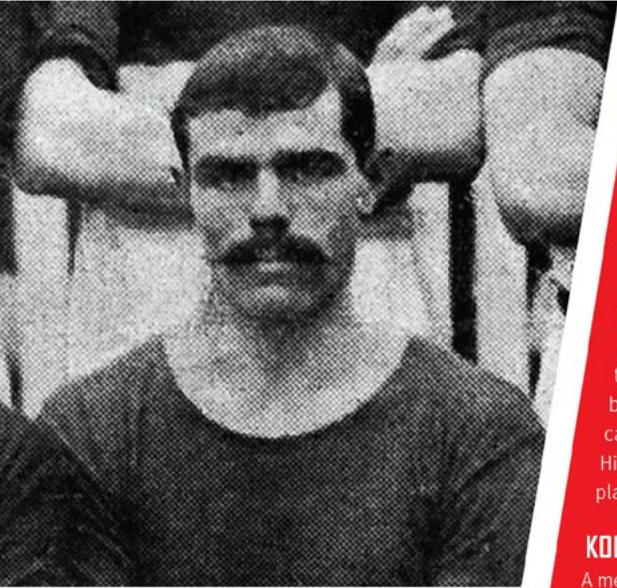
A Scottish centre forward who played 39 times for us in the late 19th Century. His tally of 14 goals included two hat-tricks and one brace. One goal came in the FA Cup (in a 9-0 win over St Albans) the others were all scored in Division Two.

ALEX MAIN

A Scottish inside forward, Main scored his 14 goals in 63 league games, between 1899 and 1903. He scored twice in our all-time record victory – a 12-0 win over Loughborough Town on March 12, 1900.



FOURTEEN TIMES



DAVID O'LEARY

The man who made more appearances for the club than anyone else, finished his Gunners career with 14 goals from his 722 games. A Republic of Ireland international defender, O'Leary joined as an apprentice aged 15 and was a mainstay in the team between 1975 and 1993, winning two league titles. One of his 14 goals came on the day he broke the Arsenal appearance record in 1989.

STEPHEN STONLEY

A centre forward whose first goal for the club was also the last we ever scored at the Manor Ground – our home before we moved to Highbury in 1913. His other 13 goals came in the 1913/14 Division One season – our first at Highbury – top scoring for us as we finished third. He played 38 league games before joining Brentford.

KOLO TOURE

A member of the 2003/04 Invincibles, Toure began life as a utility player before becoming one of the best central defenders in Europe. His 14 goals came from 326 appearances across seven seasons, including our last ever European goal at Highbury – in the 1-0 win over Villarreal that booked our place in the 2006 Champions League final.

JACK WILSHERE

A product of the Arsenal youth system, Wilshere's 14 goals came from 157 games between 2008 and 2018. Although he was not as prolific for the first team as he was in the youth sides, the midfielder twice won the BBC Goal of the Season award – for his goals against Norwich in 2013/14 and West Brom the following season. ■



TOP

Alex Main scored twice in our record victory 120 years ago

ABOVE

Stephen Stonley scored our last goal at the Manor Ground

RIGHT

Jack Wilshere's 14 goals were full of quality



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Report it. Change it.



FORWARD



CEDRIC SOARES

Arsenal Football Club prides itself on always looking forward, so we're asking our players to gaze into the future to see what's on the horizon.



How much do you plan your week ahead? Do you know what you will be doing every day in training?

Normally we receive a schedule calendar, sometimes for one or two weeks ahead, sometimes for longer. So you know more or less the next few days for training, what time you need to be there, what days off you have, what time we need to report on matchdays of course. We don't know exactly what we will be doing in the training session, we are just told the times, but normally they just explain that quite quickly before the session. Basically each day can be different.

When we are not in lockdown, what do you like to do when you have a day off? Do you usually plan anything special?

We're in London so we have lots of options. Normally I like to go for dinner the night before or even on the day off. Maybe go shopping but usually I will spend the day here in London. If you have two or three days off then it's different, and then we normally try to plan a break somewhere maybe. We can do something a bit more special, travel somewhere and book a hotel. But a normal day off is normally spent with family or friends. ▶

ARSENAL

**IN A DREAM WORLD,
WHAT WOULD BE
YOUR NEXT...**

MEAL

Some typical Portuguese food



NEW CAR

I would go for a Ferrari

HOLIDAY DESTINATION

The Maldives. I've never been there and I want to see it

TROPHY YOU WIN

The Premier League



NEW TEAM-MATE

Cristiano



Are you somebody who likes to have a full schedule all the time and have a lot going on?

I would say that I like to have a mix. I know when I need to recover and stay at home more. My wife cooks a lot at home as well, but I would say usually on average we go out about twice a week for dinner. But yes I like to keep busy – I don't want to have a boring life! So when I can I will go for a coffee with a friend and I like to do things away from football too. It is important to rest too. But I know my body and I know when I need to do that.

"IN THE OLYMPICS YOU HAVE FOUR YEARS TO PLAN FOR SOMETHING, BUT THINGS CHANGE EVERY WEEK IN FOOTBALL"

How far ahead do you look at the fixture list?

I know what the next two or three games are maximum, but I don't like to look far away. You have to keep your focus. I'm not a person who looks too far ahead because you soon learn that in football you can't plan that far. Football is so good because you don't know what will happen, that's why I've learnt to just focus on the next game, the next game all the time. So as soon as one game finishes, you normally have one day – either to commiserate or celebrate! – then after that you start to focus on the next one. Football is so quick, one day you are up, the next day you can be losing. It's different to other sports like that. In the Olympics you have four years to plan for something, but things change every week in football.

Do you keep a regular routine?

Yes, before every game I do the same things. Two days before the game I'll be doing some sort of recovery after training. Food is very important through the week, and the times you rest. That's why you need to have a schedule so you can work towards the next game. Then on the day of the game you like to have things the same every time, so you can be relaxed to keep a consistent level.

What would you like to be doing in five years' time?

I'd like to be able to still be playing football, because that's what I love to do. I hope I'm still doing that here at Arsenal, because I feel we are going to be very successful – I can feel it. ▶



And have you thought about what you would like to do when you finish your playing career?

Sometimes I think about this, I like football a lot so I will try to do my coaching badges. I want to leave all the possibilities open at the moment, but I will study for my badges in case I want to do that. But I like football a lot, it's the world I grew up in, and it's the world I think I can give something back in and help grow, so yes, 100 per cent I'd like to stay in football. I haven't started the qualifications yet, my main focus is still on playing, but it's for the future.

Would you be interested in media work too?

It depends, I never say no to anything and I'm always open to different work. So I don't know, but whatever I do I want to feel good about and feel like I belong there. I'm the kind of person who likes a little bit of everything.

"100 PER CENT I'D LIKE TO STAY IN FOOTBALL"



I like to be informed and try new things, so maybe yes.

Is there anything you want to do when you finish playing that you can't do now?

I want to travel. Right now whenever we have a holiday, there is always a countdown until you need to go home because you know there is another game. They always seem so short because you are always thinking about football. As I said, I love football and I'm not complaining – when I am away I am always excited and looking forward to the next game. But what I mean is that after my career I will be able to travel and see places without that thought in my head, and can spend longer in the places we visit.

Where do you want to go travelling?

I have a few places in mind, I've never been to Asia so I want to explore there. Europe I know quite well, and I have seen some of America, but it's huge so I want to know it better. Also South America I don't know that well, I've only seen Colombia really. So everywhere around the world basically, and to do it without any stress.

What country do you think you will end up living in?

Home is Portugal and I love it. The lifestyle, family, friends – so I will have my house there. But I don't rule out living in the UK. It's a country I've learned a lot about, it's given me a lot and it's fantastic here. And I love London so I can see myself spending a lot of time here too.

Finally, you are told there's a spare seat on the next trip to the International Space Centre – do you go?

Yes I'd want to go and I'd take my wife with me. ■



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MY STORY



The work of The Arsenal Foundation and the partners and initiatives it supports have touched the lives of a great number of people in a variety of ways

The Arsenal Foundation's emergency Covid fund has helped The Felix Project, a London-based charity that redistributes good, edible surplus food to people struggling to afford to feed themselves and their families. Volunteer driver Colin Simm, 62, tells us how the money is helping

I'm from the Scottish Borders but now live in Holloway, within cheering distance of the ground. I retired two years ago after a career in Special Education and the plan was to visit all the places in London I never had time for. Obviously it hasn't worked out like that.

I was involved in charity funding work in my job and I started at The Felix Project because my niece volunteers in the Park Royal depot – she told me they were looking for volunteer drivers. I hate the idea of food being wasted so it seemed a like a natural thing to help with. That was in February. I do every Monday, plus another day later in the week if I can.

The Felix Project has rescued more than 6,000 tonnes of good, edible surplus food this year – that's enough for more than 14 million meals to help hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people across London. Last year Felix shifted enough food to make 6.4 million meals – this year we're on track to hit 20 million. The charity is having a huge impact in London, but it's only scratching the surface of an enormous crisis. We need to do more.

Without question demand has increased since the first Covid lockdown, in some cases by 400 per cent. A school in Hammersmith told us that families who never



Photos: Gary Hamill



ABOVE AND LEFT
Colin makes his rounds

needed support are now having to queue for Felix food. Rhythms of Life, a homeless charity giving out hot meals in Trafalgar Square, is serving twice as many people as before. A community centre near Grenfell Tower told us residents queue from 9am – even though they only start giving out food at 3pm. This is only the tip of the iceberg, and that's why Felix have approved a three-year plan to deliver 100 million meals a year by the end of 2024.

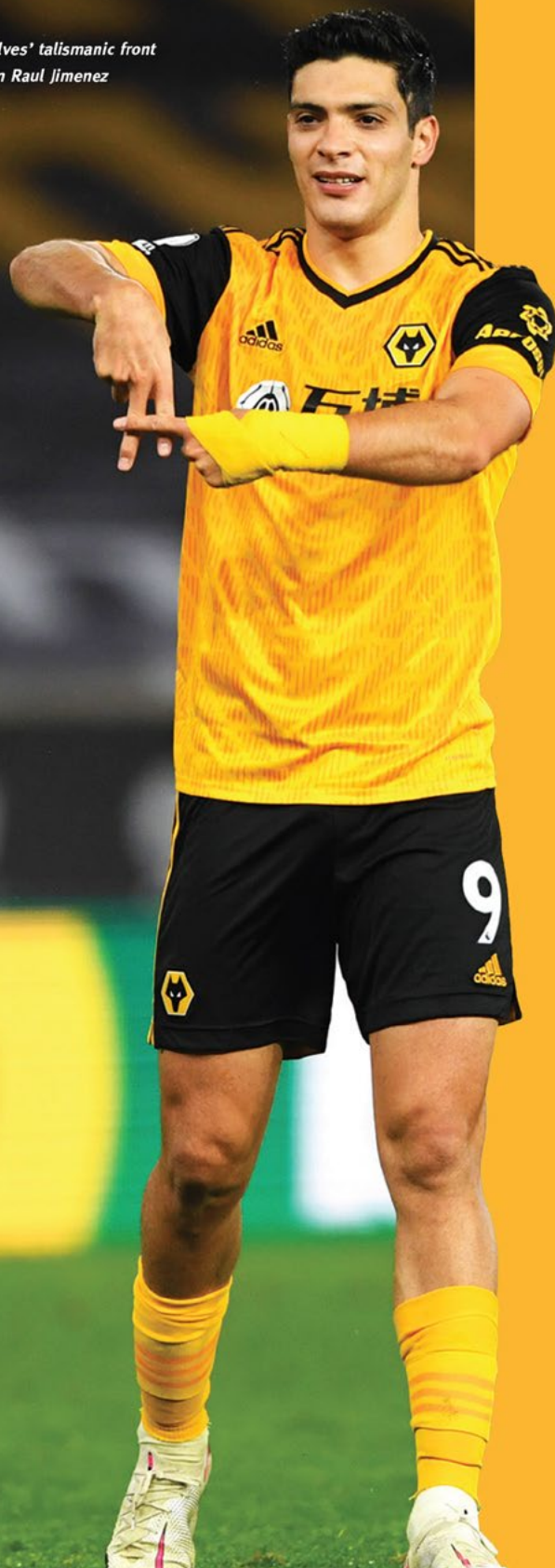
Felix food helps all kinds of people – whether they have lost their jobs or are on low incomes, people who are sick, key workers struggling to find food, older people who are isolated, the homeless, survivors of domestic abuse and refugees. Felix food provides more than a meal. It means comfort and companionship, it means peace of mind, it means good health. It means security.

The best moments for me are the obvious ones – when you see people genuinely grateful for food and the difference it makes to them.

The grant from the Arsenal Foundation enabled us to provide around 15,250 meals to vulnerable people in Camden, Hackney and Islington. As a Gooner myself, I think it's fantastic that Arsenal are involved with Felix, and us volunteers know how much it is appreciated on the ground.

For more info visit thefelixproject.org

Wolves' talismanic front man Raul Jimenez



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

FORMED
1877

NICKNAME
Wolves, The Wanderers

STADIUM
Molineux (32,050)

HONOURS
First Division/Premier League winners **1934/54, 1957/58, 1958/59**
Second Division/Championship winners **1931/32, 1976/77, 2008/09, 2017/18**
Third Division/League One winners **1923/24 (North), 2013/14**
Fourth Division/League Two winners **1987/88**
FA Cup winners **1893, 1908, 1949, 1960**
League Cup winners **1974, 1980**
UEFA Cup Runners Up **1972**
Football League Trophy **1988**
Texaco Cup winners **1971**
FA Community Shield winners **1949, 1954, 1959, 1960**

OWNERS
Fosun International

CHAIRMAN
Jeff Shi

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS
Twitter **705k**
Instagram **1.5M**
Facebook **1.96M**

VISITORS WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Compared to their jam-packed fixture schedule of last season, when their extended involvement in the UEFA Europa League eventually spread over more than 12 months, Wolverhampton Wanderers are enjoying a relatively sedate 2020/21 campaign. This is only their 11th fixture, whereas on their last visit to Arsenal, in November 2019, they had already run up double that number. Indeed, this is only their third outing this month, the first two having brought a 1-0 defeat at Leicester City and a 1-1 draw against Southampton last Monday night at Molineux.

That result six days ago meant that Wolves came into this weekend placed ninth in the Premier League table – one point and three places above Arsenal. Their ambition, as it has been in each of the three seasons they have enjoyed in the top flight since they won the Championship in 2017/18, is to qualify for Europe, perhaps even to make the top four. What appears crystal clear is that they will not be leaving the Premier League any time soon.

In each of the past two seasons since promotion Nuno Espirito Santo's well-drilled side have finished seventh. In 2018/19 that earned them a return to Europe after a 38-year absence with a place in the qualifying phase of the Europa League. Last season they would have been handed the same reward but for Arsenal's victory in the FA Cup, which meant that the Gunners qualified for the competition's group stage along with fifth-placed Leicester, while sixth-placed Spurs dropped into the second qualifying round, leaving Wolves out of Europe altogether.

Wolves may feel that they owe Arsenal one after that disappointing conclusion to what was another highly productive season – highlighted by the double they managed against Manchester City, winning 2-0 away and 3-2 at home. In fact, Nuno's men improved their overall points tally from 57 in 2018/19 to 59 last season – despite the distraction of a European campaign that began in the second qualifying round in late July 2019 and ended in the quarter-finals in August 2020 with a 1-0 defeat by eventual winners Sevilla.

Wolves' European adventure lasted all of 17 matches and included a round of 16 victory against Arsenal's round of 32 conquerors Olympiacos, a 1-1 away draw in March followed several Covid-delayed months later by a second-leg 1-0 win at Molineux. Knocked out early of both domestic cups last term, Wolves were eliminated on entry in this season's Carabao Cup, losing 1-0 in the second round at home to Stoke, which has enabled them to train their focus even more firmly on the Premier League. Their four away fixtures so far have brought mixed fortunes – two wins (2-0 at Sheffield United, 1-0 at Leeds) and two defeats (0-4 at West Ham, 0-1 at Leicester). With 1-1 draws at Emirates Stadium in each of the past two seasons, the question is which way, if any, that balance will tip for Wolves this evening.



MUTUAL ADMIRATION

Arsenal broke the British transfer record when they signed **BRYN JONES** from Wolves on August 4, 1938. The figure of £14,500 for the Welsh inside forward was so large, questions were asked in the House of Parliament about whether it was morally right for a football club to be splashing so much cash, not long after the depression and with war looming.

To be fair to the Gunners, Jones really was a stellar talent and had scored 52 goals in 163 appearances at Molineux and there was much excitement at Highbury about his arrival.

However, Jones – who had four brothers who all played professional football, Shoni, Ivor, Emlyn and Bert – failed to live up to the big billing, despite making the perfect start when he scored in three of his four matches, including his debut against Portsmouth.

Being bought to replace the legendary Alex James weighed heavy on his slim shoulders and his best years were also taken by the war. In all he played 76 games for Arsenal, scoring just seven goals before he retired on doctor's advice in 1950 to run a newsagent in Stoke Newington – it's hard to imagine a similar fate befalling a British transfer record now!

**16****THE PACK LEADER
CONOR COADY
DEFENDER****BORN** Liverpool, 25/2/93**PREVIOUSLY** Liverpool, Sheffield United (loan), Huddersfield

A 2010 European Under-17 champion with England, Conor came up through the Liverpool Academy but was unable to break through into the first team. An outstanding contributor to Wolves' 2017/18 Championship triumph, the Merseysider skippered the team from start to finish in every Premier League game since promotion – a run of 84 matches – until Covid-19 protocol forced him to miss last Monday's draw with Southampton. That remarkable consistency has earned him due reward with three full international caps for England.

**11****BETWEEN THE POSTS
RUI PATRÍCIO
GOALKEEPER****BORN** Marrazes, Portugal, 15/2/88**PREVIOUSLY** Sporting Lisbon

Rui Patrício ended a long stay at Sporting Lisbon, in which he accumulated 467 first-team appearances, when he moved to Wolves for a bargain £15m in June 2018, joining several of his compatriots, including manager Nuno, at Molineux. A star performer for Portugal in their Euro 2016 triumph, especially in the final against hosts France, the 32-year-old keeper also won the Nations League in 2019 and now boasts 92 international caps after exactly a decade of service for his country.

**37****THE SPEEDSTER
ADAMA TRAORÉ
WINGER****BORN** L'Hospitalet, Spain, 25/1/96**PREVIOUSLY** Barcelona, Aston Villa, Middlesbrough

A former Barcelona B team star born in Catalonia to Malian parents, Adama joined Aston Villa as a teenager in 2015 before moving on to Middlesbrough. He returned to the Premier League with Wolves in 2018 and was one of the division's most dangerous attacking players last season, his muscular bursts of speed unsettling many a defender. This term, despite graduating to international honours with Spain, he has mainly been used as an impact sub – though he started against Southampton last Monday.

**8****THE SHARPSHOOTER
RUBEN NEVES
MIDFIELDER****BORN** Mozelos, Portugal, 13/3/97**PREVIOUSLY** Porto

Ruben Neves became Porto's youngest scorer and Champions League participant before accompanying coach Nuno to Wolves in 2017. The young midfielder took the Championship by storm before transporting his talents to the Premier League following the club's promotion and is now an established Portugal international with 18 caps. While renowned for his powerful and accurate long-range shooting, the 23 year old has not scored for Wolves since finding the net in the Europa League against Espanyol in February.

**32****ALL-PURPOSE MIDFIELDER
LEANDER DENDONCKER
MIDFIELDER****BORN** Passendale, Belgium, 15/4/95**PREVIOUSLY** Anderlecht

A do-it-all midfielder who was inspirational in helping Anderlecht to the 2016/17 Belgian league title, Leander left the Brussels club to spend the 2018/19 season on loan at Wolves before duly penning a permanent deal. The physically imposing 25 year old offers the team attacking thrust as well as defensive security and has won 12 Belgium caps, the latest in the recent 4-2 home win against Denmark that secured a place in next year's UEFA Nations League finals.

**9****THE SPEARHEAD
RAUL JIMENEZ
ATTACKER****BORN** Tepeji, Mexico, 5/5/91**PREVIOUSLY** America, Atletico Madrid, Benfica

A model central striker with a powerful presence and a keen eye for goal, Raul has enjoyed two brilliant, goal-laden seasons in the Premier League, having joined Wolves for a club-record £30m fee in April 2019 after an initial loan move from Benfica, with whom he won two Portuguese league titles. Now 29, the experienced Mexico international (86 caps, 27 goals, nine major tournaments including two World Cups) signed a new four-year contract extension with Wolves last month.

**22****THE NEW BOY
NELSON SEMEDO
DEFENDER****BORN** Lisbon, Portugal, 14/11/93**PREVIOUSLY** Sintrense, Benfica, Fatima (loan), Barcelona

The latest addition to the growing Portuguese clan at Molineux, Nelson joined from Barcelona on a three-year contract in September, effectively replacing Tottenham-bound Matt Doherty as Wolves' first-choice right wing back. Sturdy and adventurous, he had three seasons in La Liga with Barcelona, accumulating 124 appearances in all competitions and winning two Spanish league titles to go with the two he had won in his homeland with Benfica.

**15****THE TALL GUY
WILLY BOLY
DEFENDER****BORN** Melun, France, 3/2/91**PREVIOUSLY** Auxerre, Braga, Porto

A giant defender who is normally stationed on the right side of the Wolves back three, Willy missed a sizeable chunk of last season through injury but has otherwise been a mainstay since arriving from Porto at the start of the 2017/18 Championship-winning campaign. Aerially dominant and a powerful presence in both areas at corners, the French-born 29 year old belatedly became an international footballer earlier this month when he made his debut for Ivory Coast.

**THE BOSS
NUNO ESPÍRITO SANTO****BORN** January 25, 1974 in Sao Tome & Principe**PREVIOUSLY** Rio Ave (2012-14), Valencia (2014-15), Porto (2016-17)

A former goalkeeper who was in Portugal's Euro 2008 squad but never won a senior cap, Nuno was mostly a back-up during his playing career but as a manager he has made it to centre stage, making his mark at Valencia, former club Porto and, since May 2017, Wolves. The affable 46 year old first made his reputation by taking Rio Ave to two cup finals and into Europe before furthering it in Spain at Mestalla. He led Wolves into the Premier League in his first season, into Europe in his second, and to the Europa League quarter-finals in his third.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

Wolverhampton Wanderers kit sponsors

1986-88 – STAW DISTRIBUTION

1988-90 – MANDERS PAINT & INK

1990-2002 – GOODYEAR

2002-04 – DORITOS

2004-09 – CHAUCCER

2009-13 – SPORTINGBET

2013-15 – WHATHOUSE

2015-16 – SILVERBUG

2016-18 – THE MONEY SHOP

2018-19 – W88

2019-21 – MANBETX

REALLY?!

Adama Traore first came to Arsenal's

attention in 2014 – and they

wish he hadn't. He scored

twice in a 4-2 UEFA Youth

League Quarter Final for

Barcelona against the

Gunners (for whom

Serge Gnabry and

Chuba Akpom

scored). At right

back that evening

– back in his

home city of

Barcelona – was

Hector Bellerin,

playing in front of

right winger **Ainsley****Maitland-Niles**.Season **2003/04** was all

about 'Invincibles' for

Arsenal, but for Wolves it was a

season to forget. Finishing bottom of

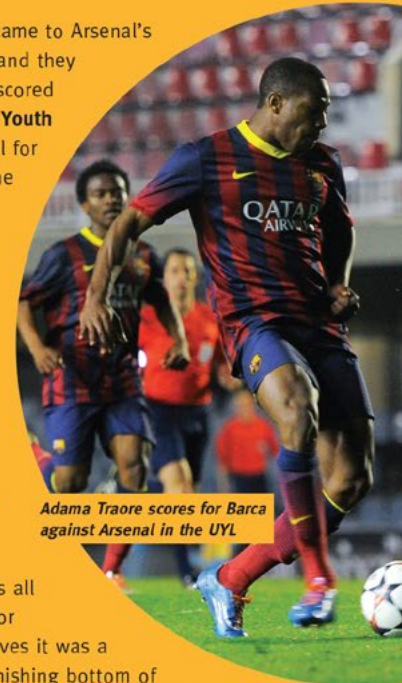
the Premier League, they lost 3-0 at Highbury

in the league and 3-1 at Molineux, though the

first meeting of the season came in the League

Cup – a **5-1 thrashing** by the Gunners at Highbury.

Wolves central defender **Max Kilman** qualifies to play for **Russia** (father) and **Ukraine** (mother) but has already represented England – at **futsal**.



Adama Traore scores for Barca against Arsenal in the UFL



FIRST IMPRESSION

Reproducing the oldest action picture in our archives featuring today's opponents.

It's January 13, 1926 and after a 1-1 draw at Molineux four days earlier in the FA Cup, Arsenal and Wolves are ready to do battle in the Highbury replay in front of 42,823 fans.

Gunners skipper Charlie Buchan – legend of the game and architect of the WM formation with Herbert Chapman – tosses up with referee Mr Kingscott and the Wolves captain Jack Mitton in a game that was decided by a single Alf Baker goal.

The players wore black armbands as a mark of respect for John Lewis, founder of Blackburn Rovers and the Lancashire FA, who had died that day.

The Gunners went on to reach the quarter finals of the cup, losing to Swansea, before finally reaching Wembley for the first time the following season – only to lose to another Welsh outfit, Cardiff City.

Wolves on the other hand – despite being a Division Two team that season – were a more established power in the game and already had two FA Cups to their name, in 1892 and 1908.

SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

Since Wolverhampton Wanderers' promotion at the start of 2018/19, Nuno Espirito Santo had remained resolutely committed to a three-man defence – until Monday night. For the home fixture against Southampton, Nuno responded to the absence of captain Conor Coady by naming a four-man defence for the first time.

There was also further intrigue with the use of left-footed Max Kilman to the right of the centre-back duo, and right-footed Willy Boly to the left, although Nuno's tactical experiment clearly didn't go as planned, and they reverted to their more natural sides at half-time.

Coady should be back this weekend, though, and therefore

Nuno's tactical decision is likely to be his usual one, about whether to use 3-4-3 or 3-5-2. This season, he's often managed to switch between the formations smoothly. Pedro Neto – one of nine Portuguese players who has appeared for Wolves this season – has proved capable of playing either as a third forward in the 3-4-3, or a fifth midfielder in the 3-5-2. Nuno has spoken about the value of him 'dropping a line' and filling in as an extra midfielder.

Therefore, it won't be entirely obvious which formation Wolves are playing here, even after the starting lineup is released. Either way, however, Nuno's side are likely to play on the counter-attack, with Neto playing an important role.

His link play with Daniel Podence, who usually plays to the left, and centre-forward Raul Jimenez has often been tremendous this season – their combination play on the break for the second goal in a 2-0 victory over Crystal Palace was particularly impressive. Jimenez continues to lead the line very effectively, and is at his best when runners – particularly Podence – sprint in behind him. Podence particularly likes cutting in from the left and bending the ball to the far corner.

In deeper positions Wolves are familiar from previous campaigns, although in recent weeks the usual partnership of Ruben Neves and Joao Moutinho has been broken up to allow Leandro Dendoncker, who previously had been used as a third midfielder alongside the two Portuguese players, to play in a partnership with Neves. He's given license to push forward into goalscoring positions with late runs, while Neves sits deep and sprays passes out wide, before sporadically providing a threat with long-range shots.

On the right, Nelson Semedo was recruited from Barcelona to replace Tottenham-bound Matt Doherty, while the left flank is proving Nuno's biggest question mark. An injury to Jonny means Brazilian newcomer Marcel, young Frenchman Rayan Ait Nouri and utility defender Roman Saiss have all been used at left-wing-back.

Nuno likes to keep a settled side when possible, although he has a couple of useful reserves. The ultra-speedy Adama Traore has reverted to being a supersub, often used up front late on when Wolves are sitting back and playing on the counter-attack, although he can also be used at right-wing-back. Young Portuguese striker Fabio Silva has also only been witnessed from the bench after his £35m move from Porto. ■

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS

8

DRAWS

3

WWFC WINS

1

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE **75**

ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS

58

DRAWS

28

WWFC WINS

30

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE **50**

16

• Cesc Fabregas became the youngest goalscorer in Arsenal history when he scored in a 5-1 Carling Cup win over Wolves on December 2, 2003. He was just 16 years and 212 days old.

37

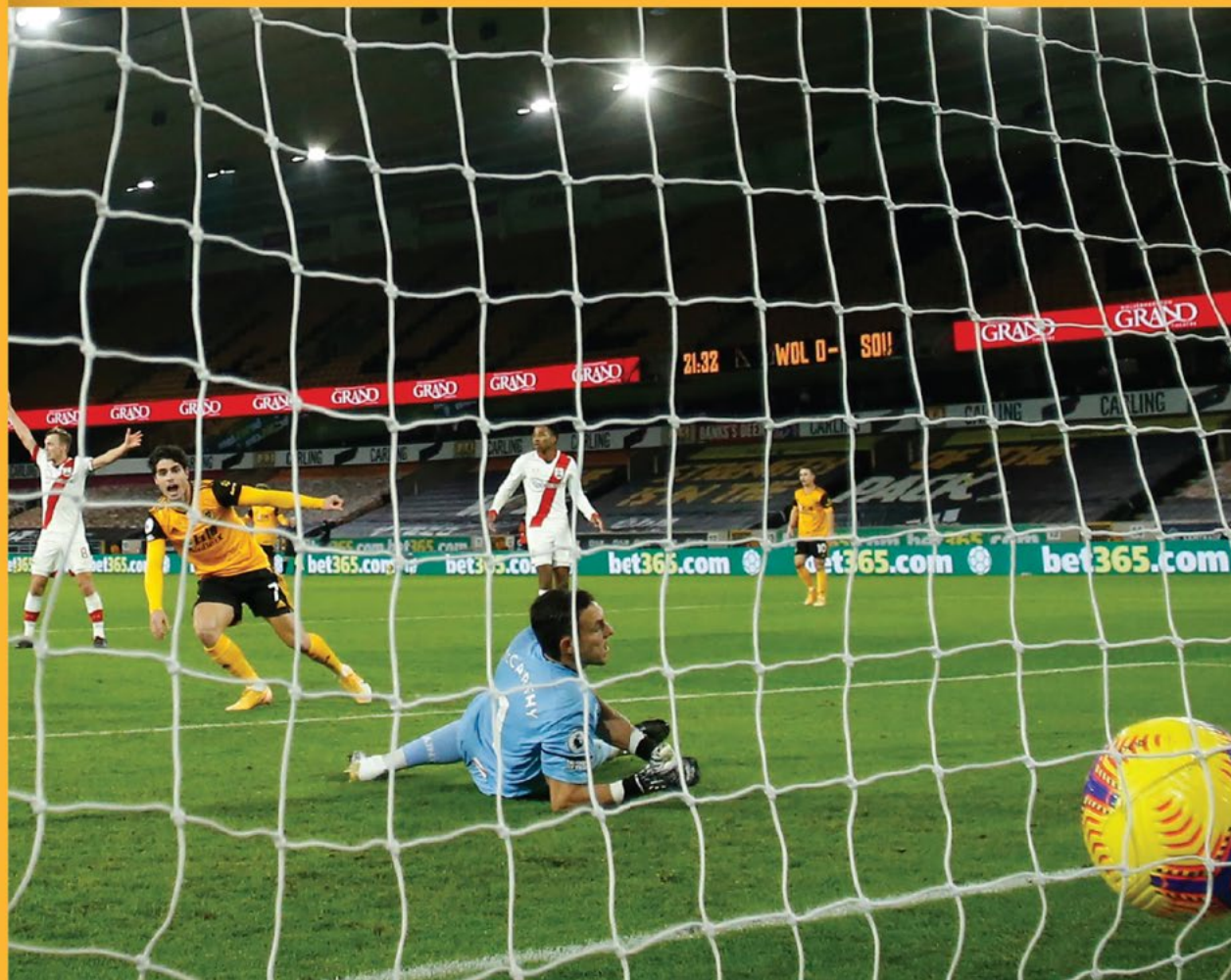
• Marouane Chamakh scored after just 37 seconds when we met Wolves on November 10, 2010. It was our fastest ever Premier League goal at the time. Chamakh also scored in the last minute to complete a 2-0 win.

TOP

Rayan Ait-Nouri in action against Southampton last weekend

RIGHT

Pedro Neto scores in the 1-1 draw with the Saints





0



3

SAKA 25 OG
WATKINS 72, 75

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 8

7.15pm • Sunday, November 8, 2020 • Emirates Stadium

FIRST HALF

It looked as though we had fallen behind in just the opening minute, when John McGinn lashed home into the top corner from inside the area. However the goal was ruled out by a subsequent VAR check – Ross Barkley was obstructing Bernd Leno’s view in an offside position. We did not make the most of the reprieve though. Willian came closest for us when he blazed over after good work from Thomas Partey and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. It was the visitors who broke the deadlock though. Matt Targett swept the ball across the face of goal where Bukayo Saka turned it into his own net. We could have equalised almost instantly, but Alexandre Lacazette headed over from Kieran Tierney’s excellent cross.

SECOND HALF

Partey was taken off at half-time, and Nicolas Pepe and Eddie Nketiah were soon thrown into the fray, with the former coming close with a fine curling effort. Villa continued to look strong though, and were good value for their second goal when it finally came. Douglas Luiz found Barkley at the far post, and his volleyed cross was turned in by Ollie Watkins. The Villa striker then made it three moments later to compound a miserable night for us at Emirates Stadium. ■

MATCH STATS	
13	TOTAL SHOTS 15
2	SHOTS ON TARGET 6
3	CORNERS 8
1	OFFSIDES 1
11	FOULS 13
59	POSSESSION % 41

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 2 BELLERIN
- 16 HOLDING
- 6 GABRIEL
- 3 TIERNEY
- 7 SAKA
- 25 ELNENY
- 18 PARTEY (46)
- 12 WILLIAN (65)
- 9 LACAZETTE (65)
- 14 AUBAMEYANG

SUBSTITUTES

CEBALLOS (46), PEPE (65), NKETIAH (65), MAITLAND-NILES, DAVID LUIZ, XHAKA, RUNARSSON

ASTON VILLA

- 26 MARTINEZ
- 2 CASH
- 4 KONSA
- 5 MINGS
- 18 TARGETT
- 6 DOUGLAS LUIZ
- 7 MCGINN
- 17 TREZEGUET (88)
- 20 BARKLEY
- 10 GREALISH
- 11 WATKINS

SUBSTITUTES

EL GHAZI (88), TAYLOR, STEER, HOURIHANE, NAKAMBA, EL MOHAMADY, DAVIS



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in the heat of the battle

THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD



BERND LENO
LEEDS UNITED 0-0 ARSENAL
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020
PREMIER LEAGUE

LENO LIGHTS UP LEEDS

Bernd Leno delivered a performance of top quality in our 0-0 draw against Leeds United last week.

Marcelo Biesla’s side have become famous for their free-flowing attacking football and placed us under late pressure at Elland Road, but thanks to a number of stunning saves (and a little help from the woodwork), we took a share of the spoils back to north London.

Our No 1 registered a total of four saves on the day – all of which were of the highest order.

First, he denied Patrick Bamford at close range, palming his first-time effort away from danger, before dropping to the ground at impressive speed to stop another low drive from the target man.

This was followed by an exceptional save to deny Stuart Dallas a stunner from 25 yards, and safe hands following a powerful effort from Rodrigo at a testing angle.

Take a look at this chalkboard (right) to see where those saves were made (as well as one punched clearance from a corner). Leno also claimed one cross and completed seven accurate long passes.

The Germany international has made a total of 25 saves (sixth in the Premier League this season), in addition to registering a save percentage of 71.4.

It’s no surprise he’s our No 1 with performances like this – this was his 23rd clean sheet in Arsenal colours since joining in 2018. ■

RIGHT

One of Bernd Leno’s four saves last weekend



Green = 1st sub
Gold = 2nd sub
Blue = 3rd sub
Burgundy = 4th sub
Pink = 5th sub

Win
Draw
Loss
+ = Won on pens

Premier League
UEFA Europa League
Carabao Cup
Emirates FA Cup
Community Shield

Bold fixture = Scorer
Bold player = Goal scored
Goal
Penalty

* = Own Goal
CAPS = Captain
Yellow card
Red card
= Played at Wembley Stadium

	DATE	OPPOSITION	F-A	POS /RND	ATT/KD	STARTING XI	SUBSTITUTES	REFEREE	
SEPTEMBER	Sat 29	Liverpool	1-1	CS	BCD #	Martinez Bellerin Holding David Luiz Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	Saka Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	Cedric(59) Nelson(82) Willock(82) Kolasinac(83) Saliba Smith Rowe John-Jules Olayinka Leno	A. Mariner
	Sat 12	Fulham	3-0	1	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(75) Ceballos(78) Nketiah(87) Saka Willock Kolasinac Macey	C. Kavanagh
	Sat 19	West Ham United	2-1	2	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Ceballos Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(64) Nketiah(77) David Luiz(89) M-Niles Elneny Willock Macey	M. Oliver
OCTOBER	Wed 23	Leicester City	2-0	CC3	BCD	Leno M-Niles Holding DAVID LUIZ Kolasinac Saka Elneny Willock	Pepe Nelson Nketiah	William(72) Ceballos(78) Bellerin(87) Saliba Lacazette Xhaka Runarsson	P. Bankes
	Mon 28	Liverpool	1-3	5	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding David Luiz Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60) Pepe(68) Nketiah(74) Gabriel Saka Kolasinac Runarsson	C. Pawson
	Thur 1	Liverpool	0-0	CC4	BCD	Leno Cedric Holding Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Willock XHAKA	Ceballos Pepe Nketiah	Elneny(68) Lacazette(82) M-Niles(86) Tierney David Luiz Nelson Runarsson	K. Friend
	Sun 4	Sheffield United	2-1	4	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Ceballos	William Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(58) Xhaka(81) M-Niles(87) Willock Holding Lacazette Runarsson	L. Mason
NOVEMBER	Sat 17	Manchester City	0-1	5	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos Xhaka	Pepe William AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(69) Nketiah(83) Partey(83) Elneny M-Niles Runarsson	C. Kavanagh
	Thur 22	Rapid Vienna	2-1	MD1	3,000	Leno Cedric David Luiz Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Elneny Partey	Pepe LACAZETTE Nketiah	Aubameyang(61) Bellerin(61) Tierney(84) Willock(84) Nelson(90) Mustafi M-Niles Xhaka Runarsson Macey	P. Kralovec
	Sun 25	Leicester City	0-1	10	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos Partey	Xhaka Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Mustafi(49) Pepe(65) Nketiah(81) Elneny M-Niles Willock Runarsson	C. Pawson
	Thur 29	Dundalk	3-0	MD2	BCD	Runarsson Cedric XHAKA Mustafi Kolasinac M-Niles Elneny Willock	Nelson Pepe Nketiah	Ceballos(61) William(62) Tierney(74) Balogun(74) Gabriel Saka Partey Aubameyang Bellerin Lacazette Leno Hein	F. Glova
DECEMBER	Sun 1	Manchester United	1-0	8	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Partey	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Nketiah(76) M-Niles(86) Mustafi(87) Xhaka Pepe Ceballos Runarsson	M. Dean
	Thur 5	Molde	4-1	MD3	BCD	Leno M-Niles David Luiz Mustafi Kolasinac Willock Ceballos XHAKA	William Pepe Nketiah	Cedric(64) Saka(64) Elneny(80) Tierney(80) Lacazette Gabriel Bellerin Aubameyang Partey Holding Runarsson Macey	H. Meler
	Sun 8	Aston Villa	0-3	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Partey	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(46) Pepe(65) Nketiah(65) M-Niles David Luiz Xhaka Runarsson	M. Atkinson
	Sun 22	Leeds United	0-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Willock	Pepe William AUBAMEYANG	Nelson(46) Saka(57) M-Niles(90) Lacazette Mustafi Nketiah Runarsson	A. Taylor
JANUARY	Thur 26	Molde	3-0	MD4	600	Runarsson Cedric David Luiz Mustafi M-Niles Xhaka Willock Nelson	Pepe Nketiah LACAZETTE	Holding(46) Ceballos(62) Tierney(75) Smith Rowe(75) Balogun(82) Cottrell Azeez Bellerin Macey Hein	I. Peljto
	Sun 29	Wolverhampton Wanderers			7.15pm				
	Thur 3	Rapid Vienna		MD5	8pm				
	Sun 6	Tottenham Hotspur			4.30pm				
	Thur 10	Dundalk		MD6	5.55pm				
	Sun 13	Burnley			7.15pm				
	Wed 16	Southampton			6pm				
	Sat 19	Everton			5.30pm				
	Tue 22	Manchester City		QF	8pm				
	Sat 26	Chelsea			5.30pm				
FEBRUARY	Tue 29	Brighton & HA			6pm				
	Sat 2	West Bromwich Albion							
	T/W 5/6	Carabao Cup SF		SF					
	Sat 9	FA Cup R3		3					
	T/W 12/13	Crystal Palace							
	Sat 16	Newcastle United		4					
	Sat 23	FA Cup R4		4					
	T/W 26/27	Southampton							
	Sat 30	Manchester United							
	T/W 2/3	Wolverhampton Wanderers							
MARCH	Sat 6	Aston Villa							
	T/W 9/10	FA Cup R5		5					
	Sat 13	Leeds United							
	Thur 18	UEL R32 L1		R32					
	S/S 20/21	Manchester City							
APRIL	Thur 25	UEL R32 L2		R32					
	S/S 27/28	Leicester City/CC Final							
	Sat 6	Burnley							
	Thur 10	UEL R16 L1		R16					
	S/S 13/14	Tottenham Hotspur							
MAY	Thur 17	UEL R16 L2		R16					
	S/S 20/21	West Ham United		FAC 6					
	Sat 3	Liverpool							
	Thur 8	UEL QF L1		QF					
	S/S 10/11	Sheffield United							
MAY	Thur 15	UEL QF L2		QF					
	S/S 17/18	Fulham		FACSF					
	Sat 24	Everton							
	Thur 29	UEL SF L1		SF					
	S/S 1/2	Newcastle United							
MAY	Thur 6	UEL SF L2		SF					
	S/S 8/9	West Bromwich Albion							
	T/W 11/12	Chelsea							
Sat 15	Crystal Palace/FA Cup Final								
Sun 23	Brighton & HA								
Wed 26	UEFA Europa League Final								

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Tottenham	9	6	2	1	12	20
2. Liverpool	9	6	2	1	5	20
3. Chelsea	9	5	3	1	12	18
4. Leicester City	9	6	0	3	6	18
5. Southampton	9	5	2	2	4	17
6. Everton	9	5	1	3	3	16
7. Aston Villa	8	5	0	3	8	15
8. West Ham United	9	4	2	3	5	14
9. Wolves	9	4	2	3	-1	14
10. Manchester Utd	8	4	1	3	-1	13
11. Crystal Palace	9	4	1	4	-1	13
12. Arsenal	9	4	1	4	-1	13
13. Manchester City	8	3	3	2	-1	12
14. Leeds	9	3	2	4	-3	11
15. Newcastle United	9	3	2	4	-5	11
16. Brighton & HA	9	2	3	4	-2	9
17. Burnley	8	1	2	5	-8	5
18. Fulham	9	1	1	7	-9	4
19. West Brom	9	0	3	6	-12	3
20. Sheffield United	9	0	1	8	-11	1

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	9(2)	+1(1)	-	-	1(1)	10+1(4)
Bernd Leno	9	2	-	2	-	13
Hector Bellerin	9	+1	-	+1	1	10+2
Gabriel	8(1)	1	-	1	-	10(1)
Willian	8	1+1	-	+1	-	9+2
Kieran Tierney	8	+4	-	-	1	9+4
Alexandre Lacazette	6+1(3)	2	-	+1	-	8+2(3)
Bukayo Saka	6+1(1)	1+1	-	2	1	10+2(1)
Granit Xhaka	6+1	3	-	1	1	11+1
Rob Holding	6	+1	-	2	1	9+1
Dani Ceballos	5+3	1+2	-	1+1	-	7+6
David Luiz	5+1	3(1)	-	1	1	10+1(1)
Mohamed Elneny	5	2+1	-	1+1	1	9+2
Thomas Partey	3+1	1	-	-	-	4+1
Nicolas Pepe	2+6(1)	4(3)	-	2	-	8+6(4)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	2+3	3	-	1+1	1	7+4
Eddie Nketiah	1+7(1)	4(1)	-	2(1)	1	8+7(3)
Joe Willock	1	3+1(2)	-	2	+1	6+2(2)
Sead Kolasinac	1	3	-	2	+1	6+1
Shkodran Mustafi	+2	3	-	-	-	3+2
Reiss Nelson	+1	2+1(1)	-	1	+1	3+3(1)
Cedric Soares	-	3+1	-	1	+1	4+2
Alex Runarsson	-	2	-	-	-	2
Folarin Balogun	-	+2(1)	-	-	-	+2(1)
Emile Smith Rowe	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Own goals	(2)	-	-	-	-	(2)



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MY ARSENAL

Name Marcin Lis
Live in Bolszewo, Poland

Why are you an Arsenal fan?

In 1998 I bought a kit with Bergkamp on the back, who was my hero, because it was an Arsenal kit, I thought this would be my favourite team. I now love learning about the history and everything else about the club and have now supported Arsenal for 22 years.

First Arsenal game you attended?

It was at Birmingham City on February 23, 2008 (drew 2-2). The first home game was against Juventus in the 2008 Emirates Cup.

Favourite Arsenal game?

I've got two. Birmingham City away on January 1, 2011 when we won 3-0 and Manchester City at Wembley in the 2014 Community Shield when we also won 3-0.

Favourite place to eat before a game?

I like to have a takeaway on Avenell Road. Sitting on the sidewalk opposite the front door of Highbury.

Favourite place to hang out before kick-off?

The Drayton Park pub.

What do you wear to games?

Arsenal kit, jacket, scarf, hat, socks, from home to the airport, then by bus to London and back to the airport and home. Always red and white with the Arsenal badge.

Whose name and number do you have on the back of your shirt?

I had Bergkamp and Henry but they are now framed on the wall, the rest of my kits I've got without any names.

Favourite ever Arsenal shirt?

Season 2008/09 home and away shirts are my favourite. I've got three of each.



Marcin is a fanatical fan from Poland

All-time favourite player?

Dennis Bergkamp. He was magic on the pitch. Unfortunately, I didn't get chance to see him live, but I hope I'll see him one day somewhere near the stadium. That's my dream.

Who is your Arsenal cult hero?

Theo Walcott. He scored two goals when I watched Arsenal live for the first time.

Best goal you've seen live?

Lukas Podolski scored from free kick against Southampton on September 15, 2012. I was sitting just behind that goal.

Best debut performance you've ever seen?

Jack Wilshere against Blackburn away on September 13, 2008.

Have you ever met any Arsenal players?

No, that's another one of my dreams. When we are back at the stadium, I hope to win someday the lucky number on the back of my matchday programme so I can meet one.

If you could watch Arsenal play any club side in history, who would it be and why?

Lech Poznan 2010/11, the last Polish team who played well in European cups.

And if you could play in any team in history?

The last season at Highbury in 2005/06, at right back. ■



ARSENAL

MANAGER MIKEL ARTETA
RED SHIRTS WITH WHITE SLEEVES,
WHITE SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SO
00		1 BERND LENO (GK) (9)
00		2 HECTOR BELLERIN (9)
00		3 KIERAN TIERNEY (8)
00		4 WILLIAM SALIBA
00		5 SOKRATIS PAPASTATHOPOULOS
00		6 GABRIEL (8/1)
00		7 BUKAYO SAKA (6+1/1)
00		8 DANI CEBALLOS (5+3)
00		9 ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE (6+1/3)
00		10 MESUT OZIL
00		12 WILLIAN (8)
00		13 ALEX RUNARSSON (GK)
00		14 PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (9/2)
00		15 AINSLEY MAITLAND-NILES (2+3)
00		16 ROB HOLDING (6)
00		17 CEDRIC SOARES
00		18 THOMAS PARTEY (3+1)
00		19 NICOLAS PEPE (2+6/1)
00		20 SHKODRAN MUSTAFI (0+2)
00		21 CALUM CHAMBERS
00		22 PABLO MARI
00		23 DAVID LUIZ (4+1)
00		24 REISS NELSON (+1)
00		25 MOHAMED ELNENY (5)
00		28 JOE WILLOCK (1)
00		30 EDDIE NKETIAH (1+7/1)
00		31 SEAD KOLASINAC (1)
00		32 EMILE SMITH ROWE
00		33 MATT MACEY (GK)
00		34 GRANIT XHAKA (6+1)
00		35 GABRIEL MARTINELLI
00		38 FOLARIN BALOGUN

(Numbers in brackets = Premier League appearances/goals 2020/21)



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

MANAGER NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO
GOLD SHIRTS WITH BLACK TRIM,
BLACK SHORTS, GOLD SOCKS

P	S	SO
00		2 KI-JANA HOEVER (+2)
00		3 RAYAN AIT-NOURI (3/1)
00		5 MARCAL (2+3)
00		7 PEDRO NETO (8+1/2)
00		8 RUBEN NEVES (7+2)
00		9 RAUL JIMENEZ (9/4)
00		10 DANIEL PODENCE (8/1)
00		11 RUI PATRICIO (GK) (9)
00		15 WILLY BOLY (9)
00		16 CONDR COADY (8)
00		17 FABIO SILVA (+4)
00		19 JONNY
00		20 VITINHA (+3)
00		21 JOHN RUDDY (GK)
00		22 NELSON SEMEDO (7)
00		27 ROMAIN SAISS (6/1)
00		28 JOAO MOUTINHO (5+3)
00		32 LEANDER DENDONCKER (7+1)
00		37 ADAMA TRAORE (4+5)
00		49 MAX KILMAN (6)
00		59 OSKAR BUUR (+1)

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Michael Oliver

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Stuart Burt

Simon Bennett

FOURTH OFFICIAL

David Coote

VAR OFFICIAL

Andre Marriner

ADDITIONAL VAR OFFICIAL

Sian Massey-Ellis

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Southampton v
Manchester United
(2pm)

Chelsea v Tottenham
Hotspur (4.30pm)



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