

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



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MATTER



WATFORD

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020 • 4pm • £3



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26.7.20
ARSENAL V WATFORD

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COVER Our strikers strike a pose in our striking new home shirt

ARSENAL ARE HOME



ADIDAS.COM/ARSENAL



Mikel ARTETA

OUR HEAD COACH ON BUILDING MOMENTUM AHEAD OF THE CUP FINAL

I was obviously really disappointed with the result on Tuesday at Villa, but I have to say that I cannot fault the effort of our players. You could see how hard they were going for it whenever we lost the ball – we were aggressive in trying to win the ball back and that stopped Villa from playing – they couldn't string more than three or four passes together, so from that point we did well. What's clear is that it was a very different game to our previous two, against Liverpool and Manchester City. We dominated on Tuesday night, played the game in their half but we missed that spark to create more chances in the final third. We knew about Villa's ability from set pieces, so to concede from that was disappointing, and in the end it cost us the points.

But as well that's the beauty of football in my opinion. We beat the best two teams in Europe, then the next game we went to Villa and we lost. We have to also say congratulations to them and give them credit. They are fighting for their lives and that showed. For us, we need to add that consistency that you need to come away and find a way to win all the time. We are in that process at the moment, we haven't been able to do it so far and we need to improve on that.

We had a very demanding week last week – emotionally and physically – but we were desperate to win again at Villa to follow it up.

I was very proud of the team against Manchester City.

Obviously we missed our fans a lot on the day – we wanted to have a beautiful day with you all but I'm sure you enjoyed it from home. We were thinking about you on

the day.

I am really thankful to the players for the effort they put in, the performances they are putting in lately and the chemistry they are generating.

It feels incredible to take this club back to Wembley for another FA Cup final but first we have to make sure we finish the league the way we should.

We can take confidence from that win over City, and from our last game here at the Emirates against Liverpool. We needed to put everything on the line in that game to get the three points, and that's just what we did. We knew there were going to be little moments or big moments where we would have to defend very close to our area. We prepared for that and the boys were terrific. Sometimes we did it really well and sometimes we had moments of luck as well.

That's part of football though. It's a team sport but there are a lot of individual moments and battles that have to be played. Against Liverpool we forced mistakes and they made them. Obviously that makes the difference in a big game.

The level of spirit we showed is what I want to maintain in future.

We now know that our hopes of playing in Europe rest in the FA Cup final next weekend, but before that we want to give everything against Watford this afternoon. We were all down after the game on Tuesday because we wanted to finish as high as possible in



@AFCPROGRAMME



"We have a really big challenge in front of us but we won't run from it. We are facing it."

the league and get into the Europa League that way. We wanted the momentum too – so that's our extra motivation for this match. To get the Villa result behind us and build some more momentum going into the FA Cup final.

It hurts to finish outside the top six and we have to suffer that pain because it's not good enough for this football club. We know we have to put that right and that's what we are going to do. We have a really big challenge in front of us but we won't run from it, we are facing it and we are all really excited about what we have ahead of us. We need to transmit this enthusiasm and passion because there are going to be some ups and downs as well along the way unfortunately. You have to keep on track in the bad times too, to see the reality, go again and improve.

You, the fans, can all play a part in this process as well – a big, big part. We have got to stay together and believe in this process together. We need the fans to be right behind us, and we can't wait to welcome you back to Emirates Stadium as soon as it's safe to do so next season, so we can feel your love and feed off your positive energy again.

This has been a strange season for everyone – but on a personal note it's been a year I will never forget. To take over as head coach at Arsenal is a huge honour for me, and hopefully we can end my first season with silverware at Wembley.

Thanks for your support and see you next season! ■

Pierre-Emerick **AUBAMEYANG**

**EXPECTING A TOUGH TEST TODAY, AND LOOKING
AHEAD TO WEMBLEY**

We have had two unbelievable results since my last notes – and one we would all rather forget.

Let's start with the bad one first. We just didn't create enough opportunities against Aston Villa. There was possession and there was also the right attitude – but there was just something missing. It's tough to take after playing so well in the previous games but finding consistency has been a challenge for us all season. We know that. Credit to Villa who are fighting for their Premier League lives, they defended really well and want that place in this league so badly. Eddie was very unlucky not to get the equaliser – it's not often the ball bounces back off the inside off the post into the 'keepers arms. It was just one of those nights.

It followed an incredible performance at Wembley. I love our first goal. And not because I scored it! Just to be a part of it was amazing. I've watched the video a few times which shows all of the 18 touches we had, from 10 of the players. Like I said, I love that. Nico's brilliant cross just needed me to get the right contact to guide it past Ederson and I managed to find that. I'm glad it could provide the climax for the move. I was always confident running through on goal for the second. You have to be as a striker. It was a fantastic ball from Kieran and we're seeing what a brilliant player he is going to be for this club. Really that match was all about the whole team as

defenders – as everyone was super-disciplined, and had great concentration. The boss was proud of how we had executed just what he wanted us to do.

It was the same against Liverpool. After conceding, we showed huge character to get back into the game, firstly with Lacazette and also with Reiss and it was brilliant for him to get his first Premier League goal. In these lockdown games, Joe, Bukayo and now Reiss have scored their first league goals. That's a big positive for them and the club.

Liverpool won't be happy with their defending and people might say they weren't quite focused after winning the league but again, we earned something from pressing at the front – it's happening



*We know what the FA Cup represents
to this club. It's our competition.*

a lot for us, we create the panic. There was a great save from Emi towards the end too. It was one of those you only really realise he made the crucial touch when you see it later. It was phenomenal and kind of summed up how he's been for us since Bernd has been out. He deserves huge credit.

Today's game is going to be difficult. Watford will be putting their lives on the line, I'm sure of that. We didn't play well for much of the game when we played them earlier in the season, but they looked like a good team, with some excellent players – I'm surprised at their situation, but then this can happen in the Premier League, the standard is so high.

We will be absolutely determined to finish the league season on a high though, for us and for the integrity of the league.

We want to go into the cup final with a win under our belts. I can't wait for the final – my first in this famous competition. I know it's tough for supporters that they can't be there, but we understand how much it means to them, particularly when we play local rivals too. As players, we know what the FA Cup represents to this club. We could see the amazing banners of all our wins at the semi-final – it's our competition.

Lastly, we will look a little different in today's match as it's the first time we will wear our new home kit. I think it looks great, hope you all like it.

Thanks for all of your support this season, which has been so strange and really difficult for people in so many ways. Hopefully we can make it a season that ends with celebrations for this football club. Come on you Gunners! ■



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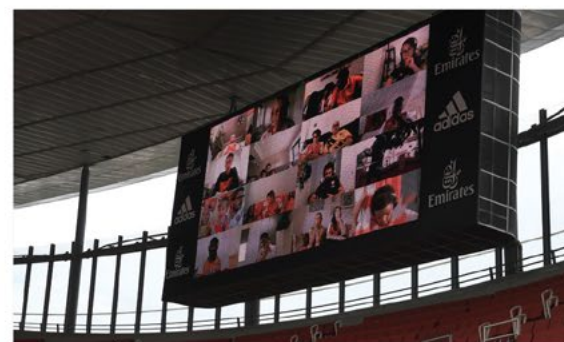


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Voice of ARSENAL



KEN FRIAR



On August 1, Arsenal Director Ken Friar OBE will celebrate 70 years as a full time employee of Arsenal Football Club. His long-term commitment is a truly remarkable achievement and

everyone at the club – and we're sure all supporters – would like to thank 'Mr Friar' for his magnificent service, made all the more amazing when you consider he joined as a part time 'box office runner' four years earlier, in 1946!

As box office manager, club secretary and managing director – a member of the board since 1983 – Mr Friar has guided the football club through periods of great success and his lasting legacy will always remain the leading role he took, with Danny Fiszman, in our relocation to Emirates Stadium from Highbury.

Look out for more news of some special '70 years' celebrations in the first programme of next season.

Thanks for everything Mr Friar – you, more than anyone, represent everything great about Arsenal Football Club. ■

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the directors, players and all of the staff, Arsenal Football Club would like to sincerely thank all supporters for their support during season 2019/20.

As we outlined in the programme against Norwich City, this has been a season like no other and we are eternally thankful for the continued backing of our fans during a period when so many people faced so many challenges. The team will be doing absolutely everything to finish the season at Wembley with a victory to celebrate, a victory that your support so richly deserves. ■

EMIRATES STADIUM HAS NOW REOPENED!

After being closed since mid-March, Emirates Stadium Tour has now reopened in line with guidance provided by the UK Government and Public Health England.

New safety measures ensure that the welfare of our guests is our top priority whilst still being able to go behind the scenes at Emirates Stadium. Standout areas of the tour route that are open include the home dressing room, pitch side and the press

conference room. Tours start and finish in the Armoury Store where you will also be able to shop safely for the latest 2020/21 season clothing ranges. Please note that only card payments are being accepted in-store.

To find out how we will be keeping everyone safe during their visit and for the most up-to-date information including opening hours and to pre-book, visit www.arsenal.com/tours. ■



OUR NEW HOME SHIRT

On Thursday, we announced our new home kit which will be worn by our men's, women's and academy teams.

The new home shirt will be worn for the first time in this afternoon's game against Watford as well as for the Heads Up FA Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday.

The new home kit for 2020/21 season is available to buy now exclusively at our flagship Armoury store, via Arsenal Direct and [adidas.co.uk](https://www.adidas.co.uk), as well as selected adidas stores, retailers and fashion stores.

To celebrate our 21st FA Cup final – a record for any club – we will be rewarding fans who have gone above and beyond to support our community in recent times with the new shirt.

The new shirt's dark shade of red is synonymous with Arsenal's famous heritage and the pattern is influenced by the club's Art Deco period in the 1930 and 40s. Paying homage to our geometric crest from 1936 – 1949, the chevron graphic on the home shirt is inspired by the "A" within the crest and also nods to the layout of the tiling on the floors of the famous marble halls in Highbury's East Stand. ■



SALIBA'S 4 – SAKA'S 7!

From the start of the 2020/21 season, Bukayo Saka will wear the iconic number 7 shirt, following in the footsteps of such legends as Liam Brady, David Rocastle and Robert Pires. Our new centre back, William Saliba will wear number 4 on his return from his season long loan at St. Etienne, evoking memories of great captains Frank McLintock, Patrick Vieira and Cesc Fabregas. Bukayo will continue to wear number 77 for this afternoon's match and the cup final. ■

GOING FOR 14!

We will look to extend our record as the most successful team in the history of the FA Cup when we face Chelsea at Wembley Stadium at 5.30pm on Saturday afternoon.

In a repeat of the 2017 final, when we lifted the cup for a record 13th time, we will face our west London rivals – the third time we've met in the showpiece match. The previous occasion was in 2002, and we won that game too – 2-0 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

It is our 21st appearance in the final (also a record) and Mikel Arteta is bidding to become only the second man after George Graham to lift the trophy for us as both a player and manager.

Here are some the stats and facts around our appearance in this season's final – the first to be played behind closed doors.

MOST FA CUP WINS



MOST FA CUP FINALS



OVERALL FA CUP RECORD

P	W	D	L	GF	GA
479	269	102	108	879	494

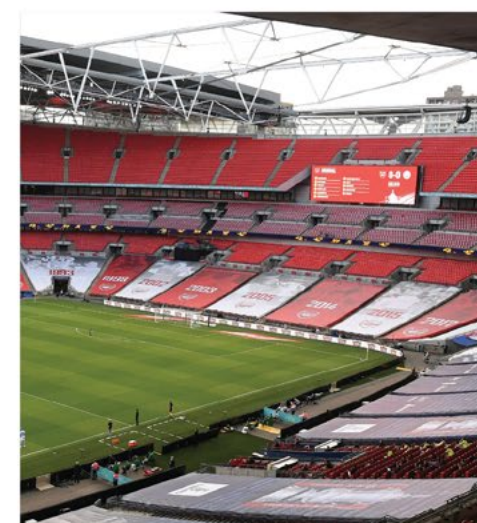
ARSENAL IN THE FA CUP FINAL

SEASON	DATE	OPPOSITION	SCORE	W/L	SCORERS	VENUE
1926/27	23/4/27	Cardiff City	0-1	L		Wembley Stadium
1929/30	26/4/30	Huddersfield Town	2-0	W	James, Lambert	Wembley Stadium
1931/32	23/4/32	Newcastle United	1-2	L	John	Wembley Stadium
1935/36	25/4/36	Sheffield United	1-0	W	Drake	Wembley Stadium
1949/50	29/4/50	Liverpool	2-0	W	Lewis 2	Wembley Stadium
1951/52	3/5/52	Newcastle	0-1	L		Wembley Stadium
1970/71	8/5/71	Liverpool	2-1	W	Kelly, George	Wembley Stadium
1971/72	6/5/72	Leeds United	0-1	L		Wembley Stadium
1977/78	6/5/78	Ipswich Town	0-1	L		Wembley Stadium
1978/79	12/5/79	Manchester United	3-2	W	Talbot, Stapleton, Sunderland	Wembley Stadium
1979/80	10/5/80	West Ham United	0-1	L		Wembley Stadium
1992/93	15/5/93	Sheffield Wednesday	1-1	D	Wright	Wembley Stadium
1992/93	20/5/93	Sheffield Wednesday	2-1	W	Wright, Linighan	Wembley Stadium
1997/98	16/5/98	Newcastle United	2-0	W	Overmars, Anelka	Wembley Stadium
2000/01	12/5/01	Liverpool	1-2	L	Ljungberg	Millennium Stadium
2001/02	4/5/02	Chelsea	2-0	W	Parlour, Ljungberg	Millennium Stadium
2002/03	17/5/03	Southampton	1-0	W	Pires	Millennium Stadium
2004/05	21/5/05	Manchester United	0-0*	W		Millennium Stadium
2013/14	17/5/14	Hull City	3-2	W	Cazorla, Koscielny, Ramsey	Wembley Stadium
2014/15	30/5/15	Aston Villa	4-0	W	Walcott, Alexis, Mertesacker, Giroud	Wembley Stadium
2016/17	27/5/17	Chelsea	2-1	W	Alexis, Ramsey	Wembley Stadium

* = won 5-4 on penalties

ARSENAL AT WEMBLEY STADIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A
FA CUP	24	14	2	8	35	23
LEAGUE CUP	7	2	0	5	8	14
COMMUNITY SHIELD	9	5	1	3	12	7
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	6	2	1	3	8	9
PREMIER LEAGUE	2	0	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	48	23	5	20	64	56





NEW 20/21 HOME KIT
ON SALE IN-STORE & ONLINE



Arsenal WOMEN

Everyone at the club would like to wish Danielle Carter and Emma Mitchell every success at their new club, Reading.

Both players recently reached the end of their contracts with the Gunners and both have made huge contributions, centre-forward Danielle playing 184 games and scoring 60 goals over the last 11 years and defender Emma grabbed eight goals in 119 games since she arrived from SGS Essen in 2013.

We look forward to welcoming them back in next season's Women's Super League. ■

EUROPEAN COUNTDOWN

Remember we are now less than a month away from the resumption of the UEFA Women's Champions League.

UEFA announced last month that all remaining games will be played as an eight-team straight knock-out tournament at the San Mames Stadium in Bilbao and the Anoeta Stadium in San Sebastian.

The quarter-finals will be played on August 21 and August 22, and the semi-finals on August 25 and 26. The final will take place in San Sebastian on August 30. All games will kick off at 8pm.

QUARTER-FINALS

August 21/22

Atletico Madrid vs Barcelona

Lyon vs Bayern Munich

Glasgow City vs Wolfsburg

Arsenal vs Paris Saint-Germain

SEMI-FINALS

August 25/26

Arsenal/Paris vs Lyon/Bayern

Glasgow/Wolfsburg vs Atletico/Barcelona

FINAL

August 30

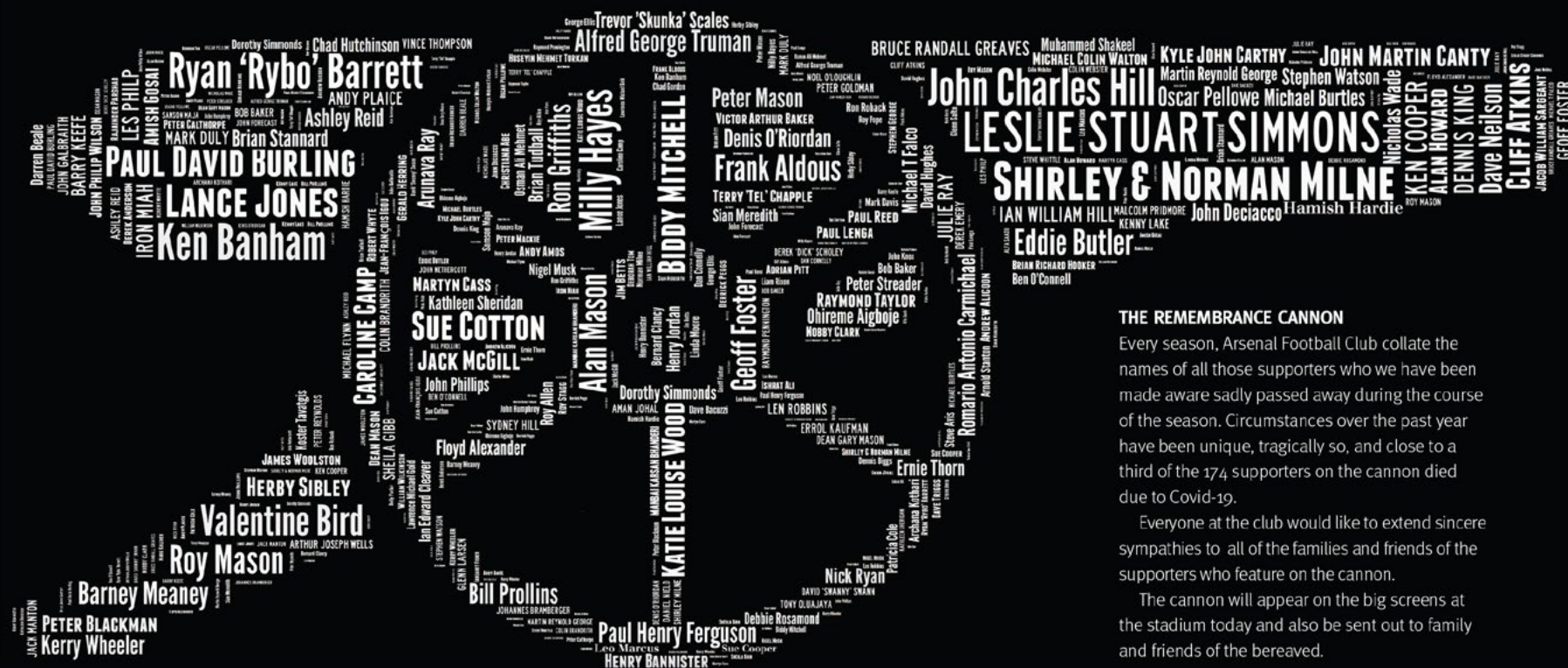
Anoeta Stadium, San Sebastian

SHE WORE...

Arsenal Women are also keen to get their hands on the new home kit – and some of the players already have! As you can see on the facing page the official photoshoot featured a number of the players.

Leah Williamson and Danielle van de Donk weren't the only stars sporting the shirts – here's an exclusive pic of prolific striker Vivianne Miedema – who loves the kit too!





ARSENAL REMEMBERS

PETER GOLDMAN – Our dad, papa, father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many, taken so cruelly too early. He lived, loved and laughed every day of his life. The modern date Peter Pan. We miss him beyond words.

SHEILA GIBB – A beautiful mum to Phil & Tom. You were full of love and gentle smiles and we miss you every day. You'll always be in our hearts. Love Team Gibb.

VICTOR ARTHUR BAKER – September 1, 1925 – July 3, 2020. A beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Forever in our hearts. Up the Gunners!

MUHAMMED SHAKEEL – aged 28. Died peacefully on the 13th day of Ramadan in May. An aspiring lawyer who was due to fully qualify in June. A fan of this great club, leaving behind his parents, brother Kafeel and sister Shabina. God Bless

LESLIE STUART SIMMONS – Lifelong fan who sadly passed on April 15, 2020. Enormously missed, devoted husband to Karina and father to Amy-Fleur & Natasha. A true gentleman who has left a legacy of kindness. Loved, respected and never forgotten

JIM GRAY – fulfilled his lifelong dream attending his first Arsenal game in 2014 with his son and

THE REMEMBRANCE CANNON

Every season, Arsenal Football Club collate the names of all those supporters who we have been made aware sadly passed away during the course of the season. Circumstances over the past year have been unique, tragically so, and close to a third of the 174 supporters on the cannon died due to Covid-19.

Everyone at the club would like to extend sincere sympathies to all of the families and friends of the supporters who feature on the cannon.

The cannon will appear on the big screens at the stadium today and also be sent out to family and friends of the bereaved.

fellow Gooner Tim and close friend Andrew, making the long trip from New Jersey, USA. He will be sorely missed by us all!

RAJINDER PARSHAD – An amazing husband to Reena and father to Shekher & Daniel. A Gunner who loved watching Arsenal with his sons by his side. We will miss you forever Dad.

ROBERT PHILIP SMITH – Died April 20 aged 53. Much loved husband to Jayne, devoted father to Daniel, adored by his mother and brother, Sonia & Michael

JOHN OLLERENSHAW – Arsenal FC were saddened to hear of the recent death of former player John Ollerenshaw, aged 95. An Arsenal player from 1946-50 he played for various representative teams before being signed by Hartlepool United. Our thoughts are with John's friends and family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOSH SYKES

Happy 30th birthday JOSH SYKES – with lots of love from Mum and your friends at Arsenal xxx

REF WATCH

Very unusually, you won't find details of the match officials in today's programme. The final selections of the season had not been made on Wednesday night, when we needed to send this programme to print in order to ensure it was posted to peoples' doors before the match.

ARLO-SENAL!

Welcome to the world Arlo Finley Crosby, born on June 30. Looking forward to visiting Emirates with his dad Mark and grandad John.

GOOD LUCK, LADS

On Saturday, August 1, Matt, Bruce, Shaun, Liam and Nick are cycling to all the London football stadiums of teams from the National League South right up to the Premier League – including Emirates Stadium. In all it will be a ride of around 130 miles visiting 21 stadiums.

The group are raising money for these five charities:

- Children with Cancer UK
- Fight For Sight – Sight Loss
- Shelter – Homelessness
- Mind – Mental Health
- RNLI – Lifeboats - Saving lives at sea

A map of their proposed route and more around each charity can be found on their JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/team/London-Football-Stadiums

Follow their progress on Twitter @StadiumsCycle and Instagram @london_football_stadiums_cycle

Any donations appreciated. Good luck!

PREMIER LEAGUE

MATCHDAY 36
8.15PM • WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
EMIRATES STADIUM



Lacazette 31
Nelson 44

Mane 20

ARSENAL

- 26 Martinez
- 17 Cedric (76)
- 16 Holding
- 23 David Luiz
- 3 Tierney
- 11 Torreira (58)
- 34 Xhaka
- 24 Nelson (58)
- 77 Saka (85)
- 9 Lacazette (58)
- 19 Pepe

SUBSTITUTES

Ceballos (58), Sokratis, Bellerin, Aubameyang (58), Mustafi, Kolasinac (85), Willock (58), Maitland-Niles (76), Macey

LIVERPOOL

- 13 Alisson
- 66 Alexander-Arnold
- 12 Gomez
- 4 Van Dijk
- 26 Robertson
- 3 Fabinho
- 5 Wijnaldum (83)
- 15 Oxlade-Chamberlain (61)
- 10 Mane
- 11 Salah
- 9 Firmino (61)

SUBSTITUTES

Adrian, Lovren, Keita (61), Shaqiri (83), Origi (83), Jones, Elliott, Williams, Minamino (61)

4 TACKLES

1 GOAL

1 ASSIST

100% DRIBBLE SUCCESS

opta

V BET | BREAKDOWN

Official partner of The Breakdown

FIRST HALF

Playing with the swagger of the champions, Liverpool pushed us back in our own half for long periods and it came as little surprise when they took the lead through Sadio Mane's close-range finish. But for all their dominance, the visitors could not extend their advantage and we made them pay the price when Alexandre Lacazette took advantage of a Virgil van Dijk error to score. We then benefitted from another Liverpool mistake when Allison played a pass straight to Lacazette, who found Reiss Nelson to slot home his first Premier League goal.

SECOND HALF

We would have expected a response from the Reds after the interval, and we got one with Emi Martinez soon called into action to make a close-range save from Mohamed Salah. Liverpool piled on the pressure, but for all their possession we were standing firm and making life difficult for Jurgen Klopp's team. Mane had the best chance for the visitors late on when he got goal side of Ainsley Maitland-Niles but poked his shot wide, while Joe Willock had a very late opportunity only to slice wide from close range.

	MATCH STATS	
3	TOTAL SHOTS	24
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	8
2	CORNERS	13
5	OFFSIDES	4
14	FOULS	10
31	POSSESSION %	69



Alexandre Lacazette rounds the Liverpool 'keeper...



...and drills home our equaliser



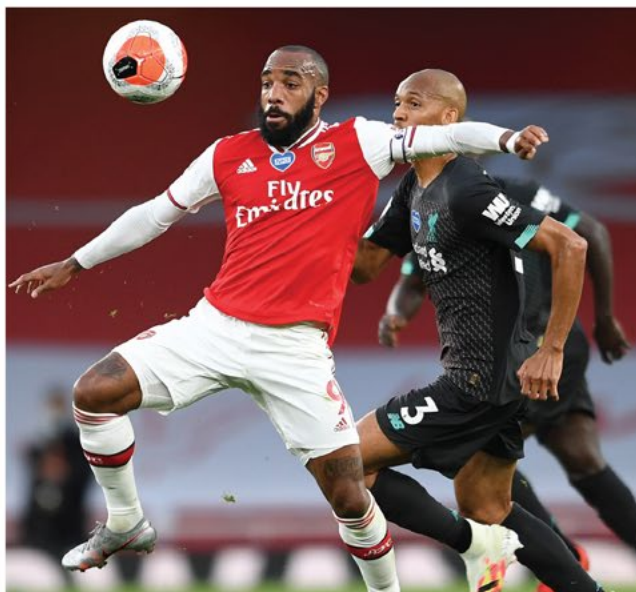
Reiss Nelson scores his first Premier League goal – to beat the champions



MATCH ACTION

Clockwise from top left: Bukayo Saka shields the ball from a former Gunner.

The captain made an important contribution from the bench. Nicolas Pepe is watched by Joe Gomez. Laca holds off Fabinho. It was a special night for Mikel Arteta's team. Joe Willock keeps his eye on the ball



Premier
League

In our game
There's always room for passion.
There's room for rivalry.
There's room for emotion.

But there is no room for racism.

If you see it, report it.



Download the Kick It Out app,
or tell a police officer or
steward in the stadium.

No room for racism

35 years in the COMMUNITY

ARSENAL STUDENTS EXCEL DURING A YEAR THEY WILL NEVER FORGET

With a unique and challenging end to a fantastic two years, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the class of 2018-2020. They have displayed a high level of professionalism when representing the club and maintained an excellent approach to academic delivery.

The A Level equivalent two-year course allows a practical coach education pathway alongside a variety of theoretical units ranging from Anatomy & Physiology to Sports Psychology.

Notable achievements from the group have seen five students reach a triple distinction star, the highest grade achievable, with all university applications successful with their first choice. Students' progression pathways include secondary school teaching, sports analysis, sports coaching, sports psychology and physiotherapy.

We wish all students the best of luck with their chosen progression pathways.

The course is available to 16 to 18 year olds and provides the equivalent of three A levels with the BTEC Level 3 course allowing students to develop coaching skills and offers real life work-experience opportunities within the sports industry. Combining education with the opportunity to gain coaching experience within the community department of a professional football club is invaluable.

For further information, visit www.arsenal.com/thearsenalstudent or email Martin Davis: mdavis@arsenal.co.uk



Academic delivery



Coach education



Club staff hold mock interviews with students



Group photo 2019/2020



Talent ID workshop at Hale End



A visit to London Colney

Football Needs Fans is a special lockdown poem created by Arsenal fans aged 16 to 95 to mark the return of the Premier League and to reunite families, fans and football. On Saturday, June 27, as part of Islington Word2020 Festival, older people from Saturday Socials and young women from B Creative, two projects run by Islington arts charity All Change, joined poet Paul Lyalls and Arsenal in the Community for a special online poetry workshop.

Saturday Socials is a partnership between All Change and Arsenal in the Community which takes place once a month at the Arsenal Hub. The Saturday Socials and B Creative projects are made possible with generous support from the Arsenal Foundation and Islington Giving. www.allchangearts.org

FOOTBALL NEEDS FANS

Football needs fans
Like feet need shoes
Football needs fans
Like detectives need clues

Football needs fans
Like goalies need hands
Football needs fans
Like music needs bands

Football needs fans
Like the moon needs the sun
Football needs fans
Like we need coffee with a bun

Football needs fans
Like a letter needs a stamp
Football needs fans
Like Henry needed Bergkamp

Football needs fans
Like teapots need a spout
Football needs fans
So we can hear them shout

by Islington-based Arsenal fans - Colleen, Jamie-Leigh, Eula, Sarah, Tony, Samir, Pauline, Rachel, Maria, Daphne, Rosie, Geoff & Dina with Paul the Poet

For information on our Saturday social programme, email Samir Singh: ssingh@arsenal.co.uk



The two groups collaborated by Zoom!

STANDARD EDITION

21

FIFA

WIN AS ONE



FIFA 21



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YOUNG GUN

YOUNG GUN
KARL HEIN

THE NEW INTAKE
EXCLUSIVE
NEWS OF OUR
FIRST-YEAR
SCHOLARS
2020/21



@AFCPROGRAMME

YOUNG GUN

TALKING TO: AIDAN SMALL

KARL HEIN

I first heard from Arsenal back in February 2018. Mart Poom, who was my coach in Estonia at the time, had managed to get me a trial for the club and I guess I must have played pretty well! Luckily Arsenal were happy with what they saw and were interested in me, so later that year they offered me a contract and I've been here ever since.

I actually received an offer from Manchester United around the same time too. When I first received offers from them and Arsenal I was honoured because they're both such massive clubs with an impressive history, so it was a hard decision to make, but right from the start I just loved Arsenal. Everything felt so right. When I was on trial, the impression that they gave me was so impressive because I loved the atmosphere at the training ground and the way all the people spoke to me and welcomed me. After that, I just had this gut feeling that Arsenal was the right place for me and my development.

Before I joined the club, I'd actually played a fair bit of senior football for Nomme United, who were in the third division at the time and they're now in the second. That gave me a lot of confidence ahead of my move to Arsenal because it gave me some extra belief that I could make the step up. I was training with the seniors, day in, day out and that definitely gave me a lot of confidence to join the academy.

Mart is another reason and he's been a massive part of my development as a player and my career so far. I first came into contact with Mart in 2014 when I chose to switch clubs and join the club where Mart was coaching. At the beginning it was just training, but then I got into the club and they accepted me and I went on to spend the next four years training with him as often as I could. I learnt so much from him, not only on the pitch, but off it too.

When I told him that I was finally joining Arsenal he told me that I just needed to appreciate every moment and really enjoy it. He told me that there are loads of nice people at the

THE BASICS

BORN

Polva, Estonia, 13/04/2002

JOINED ARSENAL

June 2018

HEIGHT & WEIGHT

193cm, 85kg

POSITION

Goalkeeper

SCHOOL

Arsenal Academy

I just had this gut feeling that Arsenal was the right place for me



Karl at Wembley, last weekend – warming up with the first-team keepers

club who will look after me and that I could always speak to him. I still keep in touch with Mart now, he's like a mentor to me. But he isn't just giving me tips about things on the pitch, he's helping me with the mental side of the game too and that's been really helpful.

I settled in really well and I knew that if I worked hard and stayed focused, opportunities would come – but I never expected to train with the first team when I was still just 17 years old! It was unbelievable. I couldn't believe it when they first told me. That feeling of walking out at Colney and training alongside a keeper like Bernd at that age was something I'll never forget. The level of that training session was just crazy to me. The one big thing I noticed is that it's not only the strikers who are doing unbelievable finishes... literally every player in the team is of such high quality that they can react in a split second, strike the ball cleanly and find the corners. It's so hard to save them, but when you do, it's such a good feeling. Nothing beats that buzz you get.

I've trained with Emi and Bernd a fair amount now and I learn so much from them in every session. They're so important to Arsenal and they do everything to the highest standard. Their reactions, athleticism, professionalism and mentality is spot on and it's genuinely a joy to watch. I just want to keep learning from them. ■

KARL HEIN

THE LOWDOWN

EARLIEST MEMORY OF FOOTBALL
Playing football with my brother

WHO GOT ME IN TO FOOTBALL
My brother

FIRST FOOTBALLER I LOOKED UP TO
Cristiano Ronaldo

TEAM I SUPPORTED GROWING UP
Real Madrid

BEST PLAYER I'VE FACED
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang



BIGGEST INFLUENCE
Mart Poom (above)

BEST GOAL OF ALL TIME
Zlatan Ibrahimovic vs England 2012

WHO I COMBINE BEST WITH
My centre backs

BEST MOMENT OF MY CAREER SO FAR
Signing for Arsenal

BEST GAME YOU'VE EVER HAD
Estonia U21s vs Latvia U21 European qualifiers.

ANOTHER SPORT I'M GOOD AT
Disc golf

ABOUT ME

FAVOURITE FOOTBALLER OF ALL TIME
Iker Casillas

FAVOURITE FOLLOW ON INSTAGRAM
Ott Tänak

BEST FOOTBALLING ATTRIBUTE
Shot stopping

IF I WASN'T A FOOTBALLER I WOULD
Be an actor

IDEAL CHEAT MEAL
Pancakes

BEST THING ABOUT ARSENAL
Being part of one of the top clubs in the world

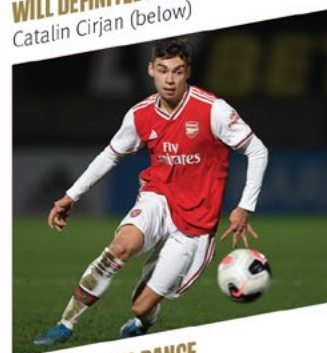
SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME IS
I sleepwalk!

THE FIRST-TEAM PLAYER I LOOK UP TO MOST IS...
Bernd Leno



AROUND THE ACADEMY

WILL DEFINITELY MAKE IT
Catalin Cirjan (below)



BEST PASSING RANGE
Matt Smith

MOST SKILLS
Miguel Azeez

WOULD BE BEST MANAGER
Tom Smith

STRONGEST
Daniel Ballard

CAPTAIN MATERIAL
Harry Clarke

FUNNIEST
Joel Lopez

BEST SINGER
Joel

RATE YOURSELF

**HANDLING
REFLEXES
DISTRIBUTION
POSITIONING**



Talented left winger
Omari Giraud-Hutchinson

ACADEMY NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST-YEAR SCHOLARS

Our new intake of first-year scholars for season 2020/21 is taking shape. The vast majority of the players have graduated from our Hale End facility, and will be based full-time at London Colney next season, making up the bulk of our under-18 side, coached by Ken Gillard. The following list is not complete and there may be one or two more additions before the start of the season, subject to regulations.

ZACHARIAH AWE

DEFENDER

Born: Greenwich, 09/01/2004

Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A tall and composed defender, Zach made his debut for our under-18s at just 15 years of age last term, coming on as a substitute in our league clash against Southampton. He then went on to make his first start for the U18s in January 2020 (still aged 15) and has been training regularly with Ken Gillard's under-18 side since. Highly effective in one on one situations, Zach is comfortable of playing at centre back or in defensive midfield.

MAURO BANDEIRA

MIDFIELDER

Born: Loures, Portugal, 18/11/2003

Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

An energetic midfielder with an eye for goal, Mauro marked his first start at under-18s level last term with a commanding performance, playing the full 90 minutes in a 3-2 win over Brighton. The youngster started as a box-to-box midfielder that day, but he's also proven himself to be effective in a deeper role and further forward. Portuguese Mauro will provide great energy to Gillard's side in 2020/21.

KHAYON EDWARDS

FORWARD

Born: Islington, 12/09/2003

Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A pacy forward who loves to get in behind, local lad Khayon started twice for our under-18s at just 16 years of age last term. The versatile youngster predominantly played as a centre forward for our under-16s, but he's also dangerous playing on the left or right wing. With an exceptional work rate and impressive attitude, Khayon is a valuable asset to our academy.

TAYLOR FORAN

DEFENDER

Born: Hillingdon, 14/10/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A tall defender with standout leadership qualities, Taylor was a mainstay at the heart of our under-16s defence last term, providing stability and confidence throughout. He even made his debut for our under-18s at just 16 years of age last season, coming on as a second half substitute in our 4-0 FA Youth Cup win over Cheltenham. Aggressive and comfortable on the ball, Taylor has plenty to offer our youth sides.

LUIGI GASPAR

MIDFIELDER

Born: Reino Unido, Brazil, 11/03/2004
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A tenacious and technical midfielder, Luigi joined the club at 15 and has already impressed with his outstanding attitude and work rate. He had played for Corinthians in Brazil from the age of seven and officially joined our academy in August 2019. Luigi is the son of our current Technical Director and 'Invincible' Edu, though unlike his father, Luigi is right footed, and a more defensive-minded midfielder.

OMARI GIRAUD-HUTCHINSON

FORWARD

Born: Caterham, 30/10/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A technical winger with an eye for a pass, Omari's fine form at youth level saw him regularly train with our under-18s last term. The youngster was even involved in our U18s' mid-season trip to Bali in December 2019. Omari typically operates as a left winger enjoying cutting inside, but he's comfortable using either foot. He can also play as a No 10.

JACK HENRY-FRANCIS

MIDFIELDER

Born: London, 23/09/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

An efficient and reliable midfielder, Jack will be aiming to make an instant impact in our under-18s side in 2020/21. With so much attacking talent around him at under-16 level, the youngster has embraced the discipline and dedication that's required to anchor a

midfield, providing a base for others to build upon. Efficient with his passing and quick to press the opposition, Jack has plenty to offer our under-18s.

HENRY JEFFCOTT

DEFENDER

Born: London, 15/11/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

An energetic and disciplined left back, Henry made his debut for our under-18s last term against West Ham, playing 74 minutes in a 1-1 draw. The young central defender, who can also fill in at left back, has been a consistent performer for our under-16s, and will provide energy and versatility to Ken Gillard's side.

JAMES LANNIN-SWEET

FORWARD

Born: London, 06/09/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A versatile player with an eye for goal, James can play anywhere across the front three, but his most promising performances for our under-16s have arrived as a No 10. An England under-17 international, he provides energy in abundance and is always pressing the opposition into mistakes. The right footer can be lethal around the edge of the penalty area.

REMY MITCHELL

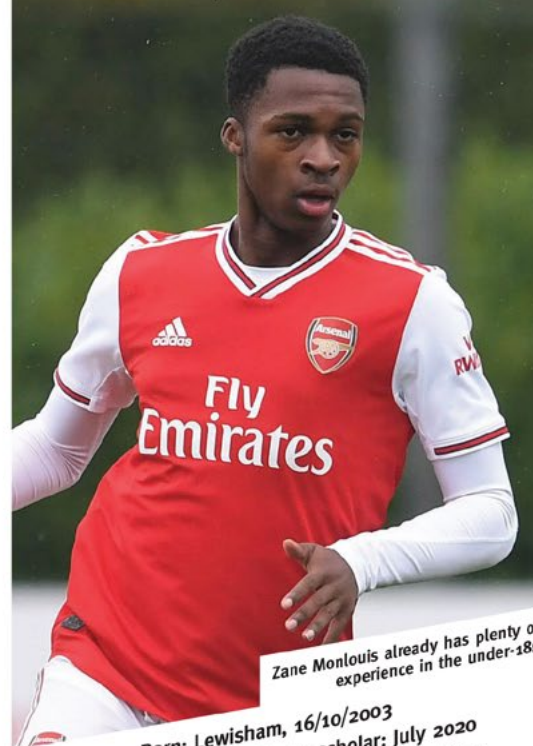
GOALKEEPER

Born: Hackney, 20/01/2004
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

An agile and modern goalkeeper, Remy is an exciting prospect who made his under-18s debut at just 15 years of age back in 2018. Last term he featured mainly for our U16s, but was named on the bench for a number of U18s fixtures, including in the FA Youth Cup. He was also named on the bench for our U23s clash with Everton at Emirates Stadium.

ZANE MONLOUIS

DEFENDER



Zane Monlouis already has plenty of experience in the under-18s

Born: Lewisham, 16/10/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A perceptive and powerful defender, Zane made 12 appearances for our under-18s side last season, despite being a schoolboy. The youngster even scored in back to back league fixtures against Leicester City and Brighton, capping off an exceptional breakthrough season. With a turn of pace and plenty of composure in possession, Zane will continue to be a key defensive figure for our U18s.

BROOKE NORTON-CUFFY

DEFENDER

Born: Hammersmith, 12/01/2004
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A physically strong and driven defender, Brooke will be a useful asset to our under-18s in the forthcoming season. Capable of playing as a full back or wing back on either side, the England youth international provides great versatility and energy down the flanks. Brooke's impressive attitude and application for the U16s last term saw him train with the U23s back in February.

CHARLIE PATINO

MIDFIELDER

Born: Watford, 17/10/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A very promising midfielder with quick feet and an exceptional passing range, Charlie made 10 league appearances for our under-18s last term, providing assists against Fulham and Leicester. The England youth international is relatively small in stature, but his technical ability and vision allows him to dictate play in the middle of the park. Charlie even trained with the first team on two occasions last term, an amazing experience for the then 16-year-old. He joined us from Luton Town's academy at 11 years of age, and has been highly regarded ever since.

Charlie Patino has already trained with the first team



CHARLES SAGOE JUNIOR

FORWARD

Born: Kingston-Upon-Thames, 24/07/2004
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

A direct, technical winger, Charles brought plenty of excitement and trickery to our under-16s last term and will be desperate to make the step up in 2020/21. Charles typically starts out on the left wing and will come inside to combine with his teammates and create goalscoring chances – but he's also dangerous on the right. His coaches have all spoken highly of his attitude and willingness to improve.

WILLIAM VIGAR

FORWARD

Born: Worthing, 22/10/2003
Joined Arsenal as a scholar: July 2020

An athletic forward with an exceptional work rate, Billy is a proven goalscorer at schoolboy level and will be hoping to make the step up in the forthcoming season. He's a calm and composed finisher inside the area, but he's also effective at playing with his back to goal and winning aerial duels. Billy will certainly be a nuisance to defenders at under-18 level with his high pressing and dangerous runs.

EMIRATES FA CUP

SEMI FINAL
7.45PM • SATURDAY, JULY 18
WEMBLEY STADIUM



Aubameyang 19
Aubameyang 71

ARSENAL

- 26** Martinez
- 2** Bellerin
- 20** Mustafi (88)
- 23** David Luiz
- 3** Tierney
- 8** Ceballos (88)
- 34** Xhaka
- 15** Maitland-Niles
- 9** Lacazette (78)
- 14** Aubameyang
- 19** Pepe (72)

SUBSTITUTES

Kolasinac (88), Sokratis, Torreira (78), Nelson, Holding (88), Willock (72), Smith, Saka, Macey

MANCHESTER CITY

- 31** Ederson
- 2** Walker
- 50** Eric Garcia
- 14** Laporte
- 22** Mendy
- 8** Gundogan (66)
- 21** Silva (88)
- 17** De Bruyne
- 26** Mahrez (66)
- 9** Gabriel Jesus
- 7** Sterling

SUBSTITUTES

Carson, Stones, Zinchenko, B Silva, Rodri (66), Fernandinho (88), Cancelo, Otamendi, Foden (66)



FIRST HALF

Manchester City dominated the first 15 minutes and we needed a string of vital blocks and clearances to keep Pep Guardiola's side at bay – with Granit Xhaka, David Luiz and Kieran Tierney to the fore. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang missed a great chance when he was put through by David Luiz, but made amends a few minutes later with a brilliantly-executed half-volley to steer Nicolas Pepe's cross past Ederson and in off the post. It was the conclusion of a move that comprised 18 passes and involved 10 of our players.

SECOND HALF

City posed more questions in the second half with Kevin De Bruyne more effective after moving from the centre of midfield to the right. But Aubameyang was ruthless again with his only clear chance of the second half, racing onto a fine through-ball from the outstanding Tierney to finish confidently. Raheem Sterling and David Silva missed chances for City while Emi Martinez made a great save to deny Riyad Mahrez. The Gunners were not to be denied yet another FA Cup final – a record 21st appearance.

	MATCH STATS	
4	TOTAL SHOTS	16
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
2	CORNERS	12
3	OFFSIDES	0
4	FOULS	11
29	POSSESSION %	71



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang meets Nicolas Pepe's perfect cross to put us ahead



Ainsley Maitland-Niles had a magnificent game at wing-back



And that's two! Auba expertly slots home the second



MATCH ACTION

Clockwise from top left: The skipper left City with that sinking feeling. Alexandre Lacazette twists away from Raheem Sterling. Granit Xhaka produced a typically composed performance in midfield. Laca brushes past Kevin de Bruyne. Joe Willock came on and provided his usual late energy. Auba is taking us to the FA Cup final!



reached number one in the charts – TV pundit Jimmy Hill challenged the Arsenal squad to conjure up a song which would rival the Liverpool anthem: “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” A competition launched on ITV failed to find a suitable song, so Hill – always keen on a spot of self-promotion – penned the lyrics to ‘Good Old Arsenal,’ to the tune of ‘Rule Britannia.’ It reached 16 in the charts. Hill explained: “I’m no songwriter, but I always thought the song would prove popular because it was catchy, and obviously ‘Rule Britannia’ is very easily remembered. Hill also mentioned ‘Good old Frankie’ (McLintock) and ‘Good old Charlie’ (George) in the song, which in his opinion “made it a bit more personal to the fans, although Frank McIntock always reminded me that no one ever called him ‘Frankie.’ He was definitely a ‘Frank.’”

Following the Cockney knees-up style ‘Roll Out The Red Carpet’ sung by the squad in 1978 before a forgettable afternoon at Wembley against Ipswich, Ulsterman Terry Neill’s ‘London Irish’ got to Wembley again the following year to face Manchester United, it was hardly surprising that

Ray Kennedy and John Radford belt out ‘Good Old Arsenal’



their choice of FA Cup final anthem – ‘Super Arsenal’ was based upon the tune of popular Irish ballad ‘The Wild Rover.’ Frank Stapleton, David O’Leary and Liam Brady were Republic of Ireland internationals, and skipper Pat Rice, Sammy Nelson and Pat Jennings represented Northern Ireland. The lyrics were cleverly written. The first two lines: “When spring turns to summer the first week in May, you know you will find us down old Wembley Way,” refers to our second appearance at Wembley in as many seasons. The song then moves through a description of the team. Jennings’ presence in goal is sung about: “With the big man behind you, you’re safe at the back,” as is Nelson’s and Rice’s willingness to bomb forward: “And Sammy and Pat moving into attack.” Star man, Liam Brady is eulogised thus: “When you ask them to vote for their man of the year, our own ‘Chippy’ Brady’s the name that you’ll hear.” If one listens clearly to the song, Pat Rice’s dulcet tones can clearly be heard, but not so Willie Young, who recalled: “I mouthed the lyrics, but I decided that as this was pretty much an Irish affair, I say nothing. Best for everyone, really!”

Arsène Wenger’s Arsenal reached Wembley in 1998 to face Newcastle United, and to celebrate their resurgence in English football and attacking style of play, their FA Cup final song was based upon Donna Summer’s disco hit Hot Stuff. It was an inventive piece of marketing, because the song had returned to prominence thanks to Gaz’s mates

dancing to it in the Full Monty (which referred to Arsenal’s famous back four), released the year before. Hot Stuff encapsulated what a successful Cup Final ditty (Hot Stuff got to Number 9 in the charts) should be all about. It was based upon a popular existing tune and a catchy, tub thumping chorus, which poked fun at Arsenal’s reputation for

Pat Rice’s dulcet tones can clearly be heard, but not so Willie Young, who recalled: ‘I mouthed the lyrics.’

playing dull football: “Keep telling us we’re boring, we’ll just keep on scoring now...The Arsenal...Come on The Arsenal.” The song is also multi layered, as it refers to the different contributions made by all the players within the squad, including Christopher Wreh and Alex Manninger, who stepped in and played a key role in the FA Cup run. The video of the song reveals many of the players mouthing away unconvincingly, with Ian Wright the only one belting out the lyrics with genuine gusto.

By May 2014 and 2015, a clutch of Arsenal players decided to sing “She Wore A Yellow Ribbon” on video, but FA Cup final songs have petered out. Fortunately, given the Gunners’ victory in both finals, their remarkable level of success in the knock out competition remained as potent as ever. ■

The players and management in 1932 rather awkwardly introduce themselves



‘Roll Out the Red Carpet’ wasn’t a classic – fitting of the performance in the 1978 final



At home with CEDRIC SOARES

PLAYERS TELL US ABOUT HOW THEIR FAMILY LIFE
INFLUENCED THEIR FOOTBALL CAREERS

TELL US ABOUT THE FAMILY YOU GREW UP WITH?

It was my mother, my father and my older brother. My grandparents didn't live with us, but they helped a lot with things like taking me to training when my parents were busy with work. So basically my family were always there for me, supporting me all the time, with travelling, supporting me at every game – basically every weekend it was just football. One day with my brother, the next with me, so it was always busy. My brother played at youth level for a long time before he stopped.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

I was born in Germany, then moved to Portugal when I was two. I still have family in Germany as well so I've been back to visit, and my parents have shown me around. But I am Portuguese, my parents are both Portuguese, though I studied German as well. I went to a German school in Portugal for nine years because my parents and brother speak German. We grew up 20 minutes from Lisbon. I studied in Lisbon, and the football club was close to the school.

TELL US ABOUT THE HOUSE YOU GREW UP IN...



Cedric has played 33 times for Portugal



Cozido a Portuguesa –
delicious, but not too often!

It was a big house, with a garden to play football. It wasn't in Lisbon, it was on the outskirts, so we had some land and space to play football, and also for the dogs. We had three dogs, and I have dogs now, I've always had dogs. My parents still live in the same place now, they have lived in the same place ever since they moved from Germany. I go back to visit them very often, whenever we get a couple of days off, I try to go back. My grandmother is also there. My grandfather died a couple of years ago, but I have my other grandparents in the north as well, a bit further away.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL GROWING UP?

I really like traditional Portuguese food, I especially like Cozido a Portuguesa – it's like a lot of meats and chorizo. It's very traditional, but you wouldn't want it all the time, maybe every couple of weeks, because it's very heavy, but it's good.

DID YOU GO ON HOLIDAY OFTEN AS A FAMILY?

Yes, when we could. We used to go away most summers, I remember one holiday when we went to the south, to the Algarve, and that was very nice. We used to get a small house together near the beach.



Cedric smashes home a goal on his debut

WHAT WOULD YOU DO AS A FAMILY WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

We used to go for meals together, for any special occasions or whenever we were together. But when I look back, I realise there was not so much time. We were always busy with football, or tournaments at the weekend. My brother and I would travel a lot for football, we were both part of the Sporting Lisbon youth team. So weekends were always football. Sometimes my parents would travel to Spain to watch us play as well, they followed us everywhere.

DID YOU PLAY ANY OTHER SPORTS?

I like tennis, which I played as a hobby, more to relax or chill, not competitive. The only thing I did competitively was football. My brother was very good too. He played as a centre back, and he was a very good player, and he still is when we play five-a-side together. He's very competitive – we grew up playing football together in the garden every day before and after training. It was very competitive. It was nice, we are similar ages so we've always been close.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU

STARTED PLAYING FOOTBALL FOR A CLUB?

I was seven. Normally you need to be eight to join a club, so before that I was playing just tournaments, then afterwards I could join the team. My father played football in Germany in the lower leagues. I think he played one year as a pro, but mainly he was playing as an amateur. So we got into football at a young age, playing on the beach and stuff, and me and my brother loved it. We would play all day every day in the street with our friends until it got dark. We'd stay at home with my grandmother until our mother came home from work, and we would play football in the street. It was different then, nowadays people don't really play out in the street until it's dark, but we did then. I started off like that, then I joined Sporting and ended up staying.

DID YOUR PARENTS EVER TELL YOU OFF FOR PLAYING TOO MUCH FOOTBALL, AND TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDIES?

My parents made a big effort to send us to a private school, they had to work hard to pay for the school, and they always said to

My brother and I would travel a lot for football. We were both part of the Sporting Lisbon youth team



Lisbon at night – when Cedric was still out on the streets, playing football with his brother



“I was born in Germany, then moved to Portugal when I was two”

us that we needed to have a good education otherwise we could not play football. They said we could not do one without the other. To be honest, me and my brother were very good in school, we didn't have many problems, and we ended up enjoying football as well. But my parents made a big effort for me not to miss school. Even in my first year turning professional, I was like 'come on, do I still need to do this?'

WAS THERE EVER A DIFFICULT TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE IT AS A PRO?

I always wanted to be a footballer. Something that makes a big difference when you are young is how focussed you are on your dream. You have to understand

that you cannot go to all the parties, that you cannot always be with your friends. This is the hardest part. My family had a very important part in that. They told me "if you want to do that part of it, then you can not do this." Sometimes that was difficult to hear because I wanted to stay out late, or join my friends, but I couldn't because I had training the next day. When you are young it's tough, but now I thank my family for helping with that. There were a few moments when obviously you want to do other things, when you are full of energy! But to be fair I was always very focussed and I think this was one of my strengths as a youth player, and maybe that's what made me different to my colleagues at that time. I was always focussed on my dream, and in the end I did it.

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PREMIER LEAGUE

MATCHDAY 35

4.30PM • SUNDAY, JULY 12

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR STADIUM



Son 19
Alderweireld 81

Lacazette 16

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

- 1 Lloris
- 24 Aurier
- 6 Sanchez
- 4 Alderweireld
- 33 Davies
- 17 Sissoko
- 18 Lo Celso (84)
- 8 Winks
- 27 Lucas Moura (82)
- 7 Son (90)
- 10 Kane

SUBSTITUTES

Bergwijn (82), Skipp (84), Lamela (90), Sessegnon, Vertonghen, Gazzaniga, Ndombele, Skipp, Carvalho, Fernandes

ARSENAL

- 26 Martinez
- 2 Bellerin (84)
- 3 Tierney (84)
- 20 Mustafi
- 23 David Luiz
- 31 Kolasinac (84)
- 28 Ceballos
- 34 Xhaka
- 9 Lacazette
- 19 Pepe (70)
- 14 Aubameyang

SUBSTITUTES

Saka (70), Willock (84), Cedric (84), Nelson (84), Sokratis, Torreira, Maitland-Niles, Holding, Macey



Alexandre Lacazette celebrates his stunner with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

FIRST HALF

Our first ever trip to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was played without the passion and noise of a usual north London derby, but both teams looked to be positive in the opening exchanges, but it was Arsenal who had the edge, and we duly took the lead when Alexandre Lacazette fired home a rocket into the top corner from outside the box. Our lead was short-lived however, just moments later a mistake from Sead Kolasinac let in Son Heung-Min to level up.

SECOND HALF

We dominated the second half, and had a great chance to retake the lead when Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang thundered a shot against the frame of the goal, with the keeper well beaten. The captain then came close again with an arcing volley that had Hugo Lloris at full stretch to turn behind. For all our possession though we could not find the breakthrough, and were punished late on when Toby Alderweireld headed home from a corner in a crowded penalty area. We made the short trip home empty-handed, suffering a first defeat in six games.

	MATCH STATS	
15	TOTAL SHOTS	13
9	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
6	CORNERS	5
2	OFFSIDES	0
16	FOULS	11
37	POSSESSION	63



Kieran Tierney marches forward



David Luiz outjumps Harry Kane

@AFCPROGRAMME

It's Time To Step Up Your Cyber Protection

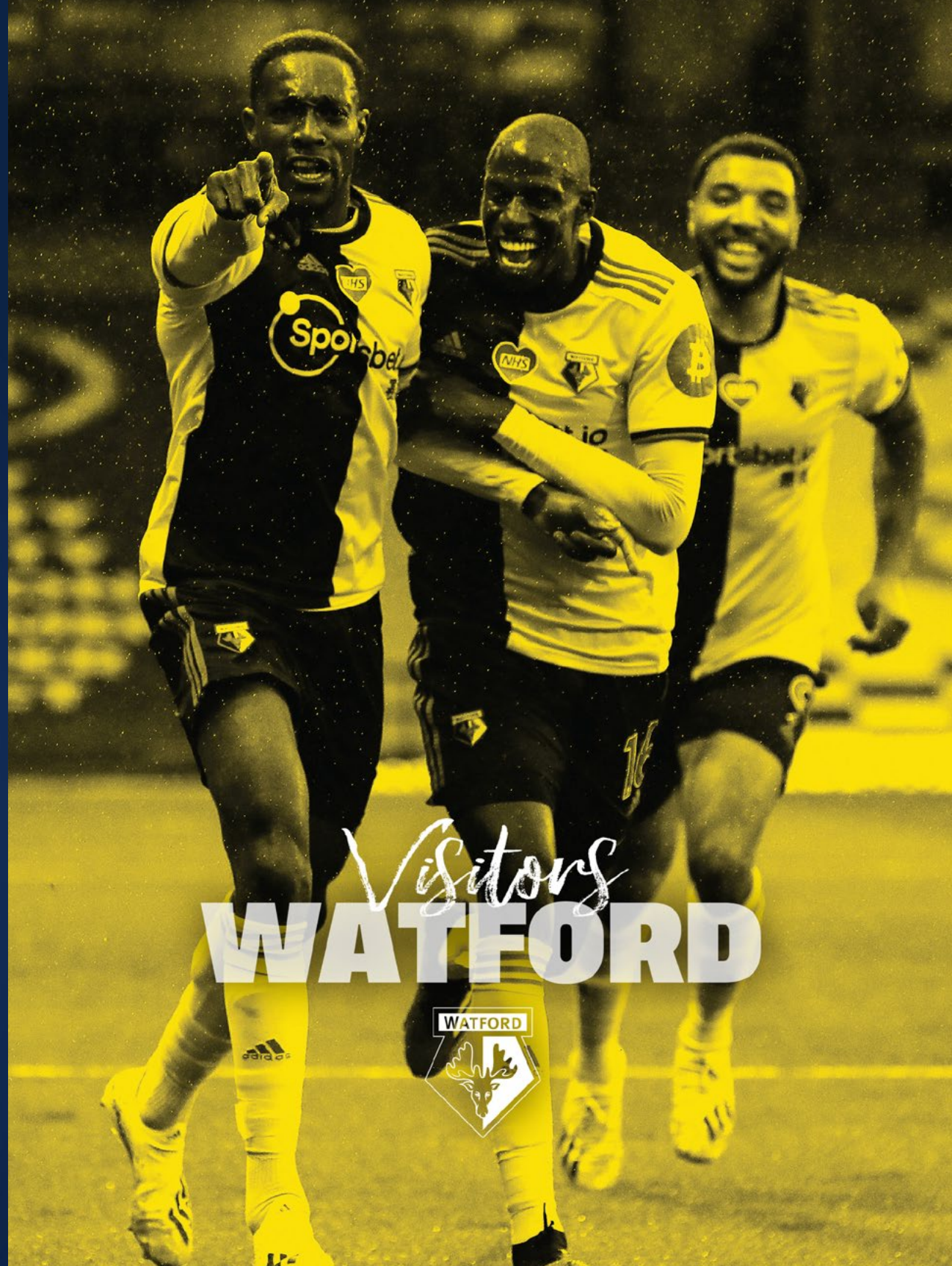
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Visitors
WATFORD



Words: Mike Hammond

Watford, who sprang a big surprise by sacking manager Nigel Pearson last Sunday, go into their final fixture of the Premier League season under caretaker boss Hayden Mullins with their future still on the line. Following Tuesday night's defeat by Manchester City, the Hornets know that they must come out on top of a three-way relegation battle with Aston Villa and Bournemouth to ensure their top-flight survival. And after Villa's win over Arsenal on Tuesday, the Hornets have to achieve a better result than Villa on what could be a dramatic final day.

This season is Watford's fifth in a row in the Premier League – the Hertfordshire's side's longest run among the elite since the 1980s, when they spent six successive campaigns in the old First Division – and they are ending it with yet another different manager. Promoted as Championship runners-up under Slavisa Jokanovic in 2014/15, they finished 13th, 17th, 14th and 11th in the past four seasons – all of them under different foreign managers, respectively Quique Sanchez Flores, Walter Mazzarri, Marco Silva and Javi Gracia.

Gracia's reign, which incorporated a run to last season's FA Cup final, ended last September when the Hornets picked up just one point from their opening four league games. He was replaced by his returning compatriot Quique Sanchez Flores, but the Spaniard's second stint lasted less than three months as he failed to lift the club off the foot of the Premier League. By the time of his dismissal Watford had just eight points from 14 games and a solitary win – 2-0 at Norwich.

The club then appointed their first English manager since Sean Dyche was replaced by Gianfranco Zola in 2012, handing the reins to ex-Leicester City boss Nigel Pearson. His approach paid early



Ismaila Sarr stuns Liverpool and ensures Arsenal maintain their invincibility!

dividends when Watford, who were seven points adrift on Pearson's arrival, won their first three home games under the new manager – 2-0 against Man United, 3-0 against Aston Villa and 2-1 against Wolves – and straddled the New Year with a run of six matches undefeated.

However, the Hornets were unable to sustain that form, and after losing to Tranmere in the FA Cup, they registered just one win in ten league games – albeit a famous one as they ended champions-elect Liverpool's unbeaten run with a remarkable 3-0 win at Vicarage Road in late February. Vital back-to-back 2-1 home wins against Norwich and Newcastle followed, but a 3-1 defeat at West Ham put them back in trouble, leading to the shock dismissal of Pearson. And the 4-0 defeat to City could mean that caretaker duo Hayden Mullins and Graham Stack's ultimately preside over relegation.

WATFORD FACTS

Formed
1881 (as Watford Rovers)

Nickname
The Hornets

Stadium
Vicarage Road

Owners
Gino Pozzo

Honorary Life President
Elton John CBE

Record appearances
Luther Blissett (503)

Record goalscorer
Luther Blissett (186)

Twitter followers
711k



AUBA AND AUBA AGAIN

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has scored each of our last three goals against Watford, netting both in the 2-2 draw this season and the winner at Vicarage Road last term. He also scored against them in our 3-0 win in March 2018.

ALL DWIGHT

Elton John's cousin, Roy Dwight, scored for Nottingham Forest in their 2-1 FA Cup final win over Luton in 1959. Sadly, he also suffered a broken leg in the match which led to the prolific striker never playing league football again.

PLAYED FOR BOTH

Hector Bellerin enjoyed a loan spell at Watford in 2013/14, while Manuel Almunia, Terry Mancini, Kevin Richardson and Brian Talbot also played for both sides.



The Keeper



26 Ben FOSTER
GOALKEEPER

Born Leamington Spa, 3/4/83
Previously Stoke, Bristol City (1), Wrexham (1), Man United, Watford (1), Birmingham, West Brom
Ben returned two summers ago to Watford, where he spent a couple of seasons on loan from Manchester United in the mid-2000s, after ending a seven-year spell at West Brom. Despite the Hornets' lowly league position he has been one of the Premier League's stand-out goalkeepers this term. First capped by England in 2007, he missed out on selection for the 2010 World Cup and subsequently withdrew his services before returning to the fold and appearing at the 2014 World Cup.

The Engine



16 Abdoulaye DOUCOURE
MIDFIELDER

Born Meulan-en-Yvelines, France, 1/1/93
Previously Rennes, Granada (loan)
A former French youth and U21 international midfielder who made his name with Rennes, Abdoulaye was signed by Watford in January 2016 but spent the second half of that season on loan at Spanish sister club Granada. Voted the Hornets player of the season in 2017/18, he has become a virtually immovable presence in the side. Born in France of Malian parentage, the 27 year old is a physically imposing, all-action midfielder who packs a ferocious shot from distance.

The Skipper



9 Troy DEENEY
ATTACKER

Born Birmingham, 26/9/88
Previously Walsall, Halesowen (1)
A Watford player since 2010, Troy was named club captain in 2014 by then manager Giuseppe Sannino and he ended that season by skipping the Hornets to promotion. He has since proved his worth at Premier League level, both as a goalscorer and the club's talisman, earning himself the nickname 'Mr Watford'. The outspoken 31 year old Brummie was badly missed through injury for the first half of this troubled campaign and has been hampered by a knee problem of late.

The Lynchpin



27 Christian KABASELE
DEFENDER

Born Lubumbashi, DR Congo, 24/2/91
Previously Eupen, Mechelen (1), Ludogorets Razgrad, Eupen, Genk
An unused member of Belgium's Euro 2016 squad, Christian secured his place with two fine seasons for Genk. He also earned himself a move that summer to Watford, where he has gradually established himself as a central defensive mainstay, making his 100th appearance for the club earlier this month. The tall 29 year old's career history includes a season at Ludogorets Razgrad during which he won the 2011/12 Bulgarian league and cup double.



Watford had a stunning record at Highbury – John Barnes celebrates scoring in a 3-1 victory there in 1987



The Boss



Hayden
MULLINS

INTERIM HEAD COACH

Born Reading, March 27, 1979

Previously Watford Under-23s (2016-), Watford interim (2019)

Following the dismissal of Nigel Pearson, Hayden has been placed in temporary charge of Watford, with goalkeeping coach Graham Stack – part of Arsenal's Invincibles squad – as his assistant. It is the second time this season that the man in charge of Watford's U23s side has been handed interim head coach duties. He was in the hot seat for a 2-0 defeat at Leicester and a 0-0 home draw with Crystal Palace last December prior to Pearson's arrival. A former midfielder who started his career with Palace and played in the Premier League for both West Ham and Portsmouth, Hayden hung up his boots in 2015 and joined Watford's coaching staff.



STACK ATTACK

Caretaker boss Hayden Mullins' assistant is Graham Stack, who came through the youth system at the Gunners to be Jens Lehmann's understudy goalkeeper during the invincible season.

HIGHBURY HIGHS

Of all the teams to play Arsenal at Highbury more than twice, only Watford had a winning record (W4, D1, L3).

BACK TO BACK

During the 1985/86 season, Arsenal played Division One matches against Watford on successive days (31 March and April 1), losing both.

WORTH THE WAIT

Watford got their first win over Arsenal at the fourth attempt in 1982 – 76 years after their first meeting.



The Sweet Left Foot



19 *Will*
HUGHES

MIDFIELDER

Born Weybridge, 17/4/95

Previously Derby County

A former England Under-21 regular, Will ended a lengthy association with Derby when he left the Championship side for Premier League Watford in the summer of 2017. The skilful blond-haired left-footer was sidelined for much of his debut season because of injury but has been regularly selected when fit and, at 25, still harbours hopes of senior international recognition. He secured the Hornets' first point of the season with a goal away to Newcastle last August but has not scored since.

The Warrior



4 *Craig*
DAWSON

DEFENDER

Born Rochdale, 6/5/90

Previously Rochdale, West Brom,

Rochdale (I), Bolton (I)

Craig ended a nine-year spell at West Brom last summer when he left to join Watford on a four-year contract. A versatile defender, whose natural habitat is in the centre of a back four but who can also operate at right-back, his chief assets are his never-say-die spirit and ability in the air. A member of Team GB at the 2012 Olympics, he scored his first Watford goal last month with a spectacular last-minute equaliser against Leicester.

Visitors
WATFORD

The Ex-Gunner



10 *Danny*
WELBECK

ATTACKER

Born Manchester, 26/11/90

Previously Man United, Preston (I), Sunderland (I), Arsenal

Danny joined Watford last summer after five stop-start years at Arsenal, during which he scored 32 goals in 126 appearances and won the FA Cup in 2017. His first season at Vicarage Road has also been one of injury-induced frustration, though he returned with a bang earlier this month, scoring a spectacular overhead-kick winner against Norwich. The 29 year old has notched 16 goals for England, most of them during his early years with Manchester United.

The Speedster



23 *Thiouba*
SARR

WINGER

Born Saint-Louis, Senegal, 25/2/98

Previously Metz, Rennes

Arsenal fans got an early glimpse of Ismaila's footballing gifts when he starred, and scored, for Rennes last year in a Europa League tie. Coveted by a number of top European clubs at the time, the jet-heeled young Senegal international, who impressed for his country at the 2018 World Cup, opted to join Watford for a club-record fee and has proved an exciting addition to the Premier League, notably with two goals and an assist in the momentous 3-0 win against Liverpool.



Scouting REPORT

by Michael Cox

When Hayden Mullins, assisted by former Arsenal goalkeeper Graham Stack, took charge of a two-game spell between the departure of Quique Sanchez Flores and the appointment of Pearson back in December, they weren't afraid to change things. Whereas Sanchez Flores had deployed a five-man defence in the weeks before his departure, Mullins moved to a four-man defence, the system Pearson stuck with throughout his tenure.

The reverse fixture, back in mid-September when Unai Emery was still in charge, feels an eternity ago. It was notable for Watford causing Arsenal problems when pressing at goal kicks, and while they became more conservative with their

"Danny Welbeck has often played from the left"

closing down, Arsenal must be wary of playing themselves into trouble – although last weekend's opening goal in the FA Cup semi-final victory over Manchester City demonstrates the benefit of that approach.

Watford's main goalscoring threat is Troy Deeney, who is often heavily involved against Arsenal. His aerial dominance and hold-up play can cause opponents major problems, and he's best when supported with quick runners going in behind.

Gerard Deulofeu, who was excellent against Arsenal in the reverse fixture, remains out because of injury, so the speed comes from right-sided Ismaila Sarr, who was Watford's outstanding

player in their 3-0 victory over champions Liverpool, by far their best performance of the season. Deulofeu's absence means Danny Welbeck, a familiar face to Arsenal fans, has often played from the left, moving inside to become a second striker alongside Deeney.

Perhaps Pearson's most successful tactical decision was deploying Abdoulaye Doucoure in a more attacking role at the top of midfield in a 4-2-3-1 – his ability to carry the ball through the centre of the pitch has often been very useful against Arsenal. Etienne Capoue is Watford's most complete holding midfielder, and his absence for the trip to West Ham caused problems, with Doucoure playing deep alongside Will Hughes and Tom Cleverley at the head of the midfield. Nathaniel Chalobah is the other option, and more comfortable playing just in front of the defence.

Craig Dawson and Christian Kabasele are the first-choice centre-back pairing, with Kiko Femenia and Adam Masina overlapping from full back, although the latter struggled against West Ham, with Pearson reformatting his side to move Femenia to left back and bringing in Adrian Mariappa on the right.

Veteran goalkeeper Ben Foster has probably enjoyed the best couple of seasons of his career, although last season at Vicarage Road he was caught in possession by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang for Arsenal's winner. Arsenal have scored a couple of similar goals in recent weeks, and pressuring Foster when the ball is at his feet might prove a useful approach here. ■



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PREMIER LEAGUE

MATCHDAY 37
8.15PM • TUESDAY, JULY 21
VILLA PARK



Trezeguet 27

ASTON VILLA

- 29** Reina
- 27** El Mohamady (25)
- 15** Konsa
- 40** Mings
- 18** Targett
- 7** McGinn (90)
- 6** Douglas Luiz
- 14** Hourihane (73)
- 17** Trezeguet
- 20** Samatta (72)
- 10** Grealish

SUBSTITUTES

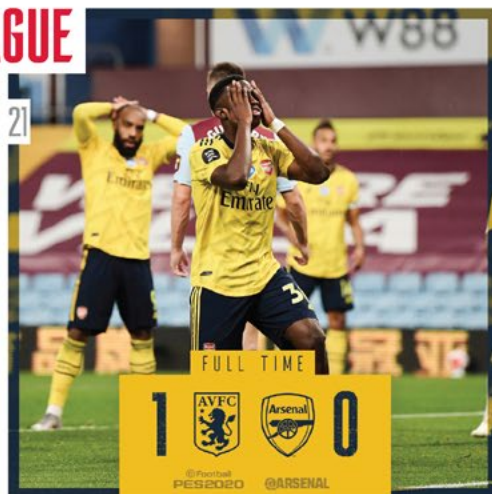
Guilbert (25), Davis (72), Nakamba (73), Lansbury, El Ghazi, Jota, Nyland, Hause, Vassilev

ARSENAL

- 26** Martinez
- 17** Cedric (79)
- 16** Holding
- 23** David Luiz (60)
- 31** Kolasinac
- 77** Saka (60)
- 8** Ceballos
- 11** Torreira (46)
- 9** Lacazette
- 14** Aubameyang
- 30** Nketiah

SUBSTITUTES

Xhaka (46), Pepe (60), Tierney (60), Willock (79), Bellerin, Sokratis, Maitland-Niles, Smith, Macey



FIRST HALF

Coming off the back of the FA Cup semi-final win at Wembley, the game got off to a low-key start, with the hosts understandably in determined mood with their Premier League survival still in the balance. We had enjoyed the lion's share of possession in the opening exchanges, but it was Villa who took the lead. We failed to clear a corner and the ball fell to Trezeguet in the area, who smashed home a powerful shot, beating the sprawled Emi Martinez.

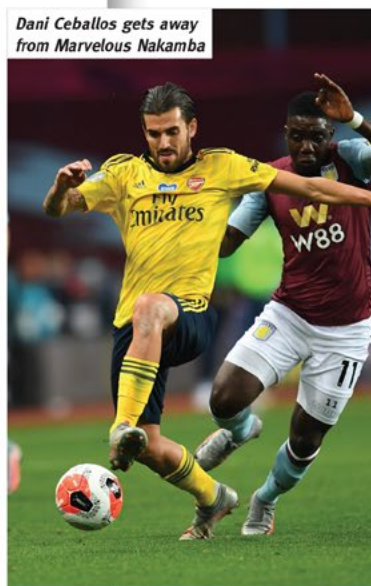
SECOND HALF

Granit Xhaka was sent on for the second half and Bukayo Saka soon flashed a half chance over the bar, before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang saw a shot blocked from close range as we stepped things up. But it was the hosts who had the biggest opportunity to add to the scoreline when Jack Grealish released Keinan Davis in the area, but he rolled his shot wide of the far post. Moments later Eddie Nketiah met Nicolas Pepe's corner and glanced a header on to the post and back into the arms of Pepe Reina. But we ended up frustrated on a night to forget.

	ASTON VILLA	ARSENAL
MATCH STATS		
TOTAL SHOTS	8	7
SHOTS ON TARGET	3	0
CORNERS	8	9
OFFSIDES	1	1
FOULS	13	19
POSSESSION %	31	69



David Luiz wrestles with Mbwana Samatta



Dani Ceballos gets away from Marvelous Nakamba

THE BREAKDOWN

FINAL ACADEMY APPEARANCES 2019/20

PL2, EFL TROPHY, UNDER-18S & FA YOUTH CUP APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	U18	FAVC	PLIC	TOTAL
Trae Coyle	15(2)	1+1	-	-	3(1)	19+1(3)
Folarin Balogun	13+2(10)	1	-	-	2+1(3)	16+3(13)
Nathan Tormey	13+2(4)	3	-	-	3(1)	19+2(5)
Zak Swanson	13+1	2	-	-	2	17+1
Robbie Burton	13(3)	2+1	-	-	3(1)	18+1(4)
Harry Clarke	12+3	2	-	-	3	17+3
Matt Smith	12(1)	2	-	-	4	18(1)
Tolaji Bola	12	2	-	-	3	17
Karl Hein	11	-	2	-	4	17
Tyreece John-Jules	10+2(5)	1(1)	-	-	2(2)	13+2(8)
Jordan McEneff	8+6	1+1	-	-	1+1	10+8
Dinos Mavropanos	8	2	-	-	1	11
Zech Medley	7+2(1)	2	-	-	3+1(2)	12+3(3)
Ben Cottrell	6+4(1)	1+1	8(4)	4	1+2	20+7(5)
Emile Smith Rowe	6(1)	1	-	-	1(1)	8(2)
Joseph Olowu	5+4(1)	2	-	-	1+1	8+5(1)
James Olayinka	5+1(1)	2(1)	-	-	2+1(2)	9+2(4)
Matt Macey	5	3	-	-	-	8
Tobi Omole	4+3	1+1	-	-	1+1	6+5
Rob Holding	4+1	-	-	-	-	4+1
Mark McGuinness	2+1	1	-	-	1	4+1
James Hillson	2	-	2	-	-	4
Hector Bellerin	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pablo Mari	2	-	-	-	-	2
Sam Greenwood	1+4(1)	1+1	12+1(3)	4(2)	1	19+6(6)
Mazeed Ogungbo	1+1	+1	18(1)	4(1)	-	23+2(2)
Miguel Azeez	1+1	+1	14+1(1)	2(1)	1	18+3(2)
Reiss Nelson	1+1	-	-	-	-	1+1
Joel Lopez	1	-	12	2	-	15
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bukayo Saka	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kieran Tierney	1	-	-	-	-	1
Matthew Dennis	+1	-	11+4(1)	1+2(1)	-	12+7(2)
Ryan Alebiosu	+1	-	13+1	3	+1	16+3
Nathan Butler-Oyedeji	-	+1	12+3(3)	2	-	14+4(3)
Hubert Graczyk	-	-	15	4	-	19
Daniel Oyegoke	-	-	14(2)	4	1+1	19+1(2)
Catalin Cirjan	-	-	13+5(5)	1+3	-	14+8(5)
Alex Kirk	-	-	13	4	-	17
Alfie Matthews	-	-	12+6(6)	2+1	-	14+7(6)
Charlie Patino	-	-	9+3	3+1	-	12+4
Kido Taylor-Hart	-	-	8+3(1)	1	-	9+3(1)
Zane Monlouis	-	-	8+2(2)	2	-	10+2(2)
Luke Plange	-	-	5+8(3)	+3	-	5+11(3)
Jason Sraha	-	-	2+4	-	-	2+4
Khayon Edwards	-	-	2+1	-	-	2+1
Levi Laing	-	-	1+4	-	-	1+4
Marcelo Flores	-	-	1+3	+2	-	1+5
Zach Awe	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Mauro Bandeira	-	-	1+1	1	-	2+1
Malcolm Ebiowei	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Taylor Foran	-	-	-	+1	-	+1
Daniel Ballard	-	-	-	-	+1	+1
Own goals	(1)	-	(2)	(1)	-	(4)

+ = substitute appearances

Trae Coyle



61

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE (as at Tuesday, July 21, 2020)

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Liverpool	36	30	3	3	48	93
2. Manchester City	37	25	3	9	62	78
3. Chelsea	36	19	6	11	15	63
4. Leicester City	37	18	8	11	28	62
5. Manchester Utd	36	17	11	8	28	62
6. Wolves	37	15	14	8	13	59
7. Tottenham H	37	16	10	11	14	58
8. Sheffield United	37	14	12	11	2	54
9. Burnley	37	15	9	13	-6	54
10. Arsenal	37	13	14	10	7	53
11. Everton	37	13	10	14	-10	49
12. Southampton	37	14	7	16	-11	49
13. Newcastle Utd	37	11	11	15	-18	44
14. Crystal Palace	37	11	9	17	-19	42
15. Brighton	37	8	14	15	-16	38
16. West Ham Utd	36	10	7	19	-13	37
17. Aston Villa	37	9	7	21	-26	34
18. Watford	37	8	10	19	-27	34
19. Bournemouth	37	8	7	22	-27	31
20. Norwich City	37	5	6	26	-44	21

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	19/20	CAREER
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	34+1(20)	4+2(3)	1(2)	-	39+3(25)	94+13(66)
David Luiz	31+1(2)	5	4	-	40+1(2)	40+1(2)
Bernd Leno	30	2	-	-	32	67+1
Granit Xhaka	29+1(1)	4	4+1	-	37+2(1)	162+11(12)
Nicolas Pepe	21+9(5)	2+4(2)	4(1)	-	27+13(8)	27+13(8)
Alexandre Lacazette	21+8(10)	4+1(2)	3	-	28+9(12)	97+28(48)
Bukayo Saka	19+7(1)	6(2)	3+1(1)	1+1	29+9(4)	30+12(4)
Sead Kolasinac	19+6	1	2+1	1	23+7	83+19(5)
Matteo Guendouzi	19+5	2+4	3	+1	24+10	57+25(1)
Sokratis Papastathopoulos	19(2)	4+1	3+1(1)	-	26+2(3)	65+3(6)
Mesut Ozil	18(1)	1+1	1	2	22+1(1)	237+17(44)
Lucas Torreira	17+11(1)	3+3	1+1	2(1)	23+15(2)	55+33(4)
Dani Ceballos	16+6	3+3(1)	1+3(1)	+2	20+14(2)	20+14(2)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	14+5	4+2	2+2	1(1)	21+9(1)	69+29(3)
Hector Bellerin	13+2(1)	3	2	1+1	19+3(1)	187+16(8)
Shkodran Mustafi	13+2	7(1)	3	2	25+2(1)	136+6(9)
Calum Chambers	13+1(1)	2+1	-	1	16+2(1)	73+28(4)
Kieran Tierney	11+3	4	2	1+1	18+4	18+4
Joe Willock	7+21(1)	7+1(2)	3+2	2(2)	19+24(5)	29+30(8)
Reiss Nelson	7+9(1)	2	2(1)	1(1)	12+9(3)	20+17(3)
Eddie Nketiah	7+4(2)	-	2+1(2)	-	9+5(4)	12+21(7)
Emiliano Martinez	7+1	6	5	2	20+1	33+3
Gabriel Martinelli	6+8(3)	5+2(3)	2+1	2(4)	15+11(10)	15+11(10)
Rob Holding	5+2	3	1+3	2(1)	11+5(1)	65+11(2)
Cedric Soares	3+2(1)	-	-	-	3+2(1)	3+2(1)
Nacho Monreal	3	-	-	-	3	223+28(10)
Pablo Mari	2	-	1	-	3	3
Henrikh Mkhitaryan	1+2	-	-	-	1+2	43+16(9)
Emile Smith Rowe	1+1	3	-	1	5+1	10+2(3)
Konstantinos Mavropanos	-	1	-	-	1	7+1
Mohamed Elneny	-	-	-	-	-	64+25(2)
Matt Macey	-	-	-	-	-	2
Zech Medley	-	-	-	-	-	+3
Ben Sheaf	-	-	-	-	-	+2



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