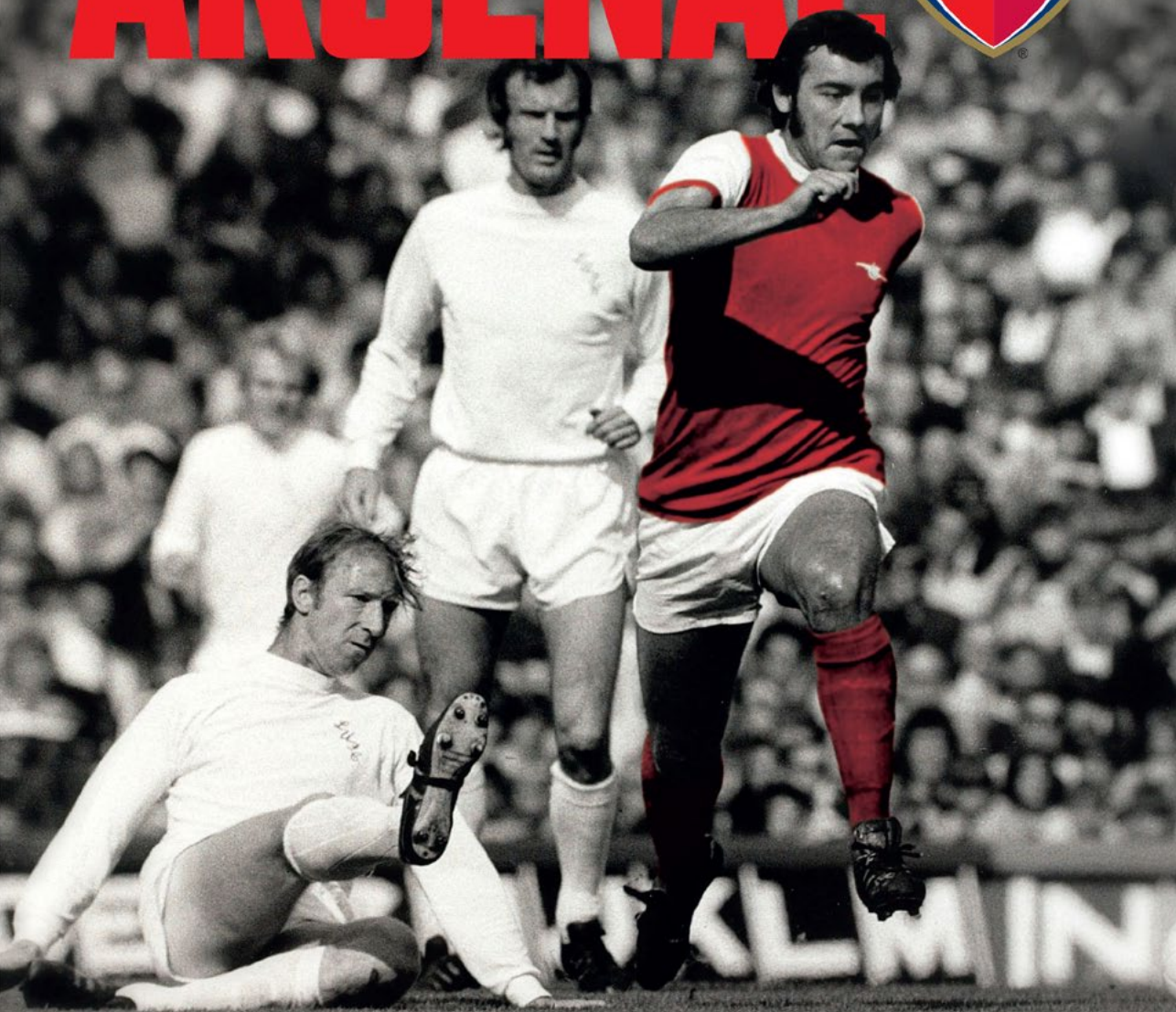


THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



LEEDS UNITED

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 ■ 4.30PM ■ £3.50



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CONTENTS

12



05 THE MANAGER
Mistakes costing us dear

08 THE CAPTAIN
Thanks to his Arsenal fam!

12 VOICE OF ARSENAL
News of the Benfica tie

20 MAN UNITED REPORT
A draw last up at home

22 ANALYSIS
200 up for Granit

24 MARTIN ODEGAARD
Welcome to Arsenal, Martin!

31 CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY
Emmanuel Petit makes the move

36 FOURTEEN TIMES
Our 14th ever game

42 KIERAN TIERNEY
Why he won't be going to space!

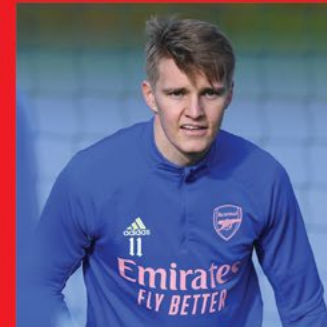
51 STRONG YOUNG GUNNERS
Young Gun Nathan Butler-Oyediji

64 ARSENAL WOMEN
A title setback

66 VISITORS
Leeds' first league game here

76 THE BREAKDOWN
Stats and fixtures

83 MY ARSENAL
Meeting the Arsenal family



24

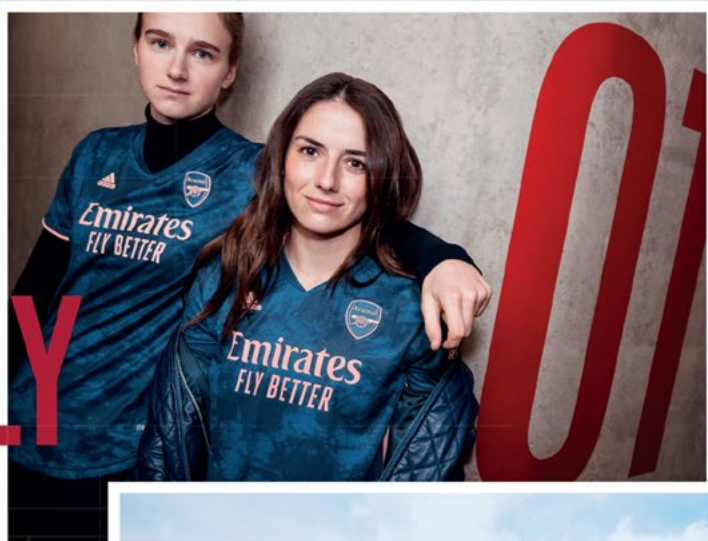
42



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COVER A classic encounter with Leeds, featuring Ray Kennedy and Jack Charlton, from September 1971



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MANAGER'S NOTES

MIKEL ARTETA

Despite the result, I thought it was a strong performance against Villa, but if you are not ruthless enough, you don't win games.

We've had to find that out the hard way in the last two games, because against Wolves as well in the first half we were outstanding, and should have been clear by half time. Maybe that was the best half we have played since I was here. For long periods we looked very close to what we want to be as a team.

But you have to transmit that into results. When you have those moments in the game, you have to go three or four-nil up and the game's over.

We got punished that day by the penalty and red card late in the first half, and against Villa we got punished for a mistake in the first two minutes.

Apart from that we dominated the game last weekend, we dominated in every department and we should have

won. But in the Premier League when you give a goal to the opponent – and we gave them another three opportunities – then it kills you.

We can take positives from the rest though. The way the team played, the energy and the quality that they showed, the number of chances and situations we created, how quickly we regained the ball, how we controlled long balls, second balls and how aggressive we were in our duels. All of that was really good. But in the end it wasn't enough to win the game.

If we aren't being ruthless, then at the very least you can't afford to give anything to the opponent. That's something we have to do better because it's cost us two games in a week. We should have won both of them, yet we ended with no points. ▶





Those two results against Wolves and Villa are obviously a big blow, especially when you consider our performances. We just gave the opponents the games.

Now we need to come back. We've done it this season and we have to do it again. We have had a week to prepare for this game against Leeds and all of our focus has been on today's match. We have been working on maintaining all the right things we are doing and to keep evolving the team the way we want it to grow.

You could see from the way we played against Villa that we aren't lacking anything physically at the moment, it's more about putting things right at the right moment during the games, and we have been working on that in our training sessions.

The way the players were chasing, the way they kept going – against both Wolves and Villa – that's all encouraging. It's more down to some things that, as a team, we have to be better at.

We showed a good reaction to going behind, and we need to keep working on creating chances, playing forward, and dominating the ball. But we have to put an

“WE NEED TO STOP CERTAIN THINGS THAT ARE COSTING US GAMES. TEAMS AT THE TOP DON'T MAKE THOSE MISTAKES”

end to mistakes, and in training there are certain things you can do, but against pace and against an opposition, it's something different. We have to do that though, that's where we have to improve.

We need to stop certain things that are costing us games.

Those teams at the top don't make those mistakes. The teams at the top cannot play four or five times in the first 22 games of the season with 10 men. It doesn't happen. There's not a team in the world that can sustain that. If you concede a goal early or make an error, the team has to react. The team reacted and we had more than enough to still come back and win the game. If you don't do one thing, you have to do the other. If you are not ruthless enough in the opponent's box then of course you are going to lose the game.

The execution in the penalty area needs to improve.

Mat Ryan came in for his debut and I think he did really



well. He looked confident; he was communicating all the time from his goalmouth. He made a couple of good saves as well when we needed him because they hit the target much more than we did when we had the chances. I think overall he did well and that's what we want from him.

We are at a point of the season when things can still change quickly. We face a lot of games in the next few weeks, and it's just down to us to make the most of it, take our opportunities and get back on a good run.

Thanks for all your continued support. The positivity and love we feel from the fans – even when we can't be together – means a lot.

But I also want to take this opportunity to remind people of the harm that abusive messages can cause.

I'm all for people to have their opinions, but not just to be insulting people, abusing people and using a screen on somebody's phone to tell them whatever you want, to a person that you don't even know.

That for me has to be eradicated, because it's causing a lot of damage. Nobody in football will stand for it. We all have a part to play in that – the fans, the media, the clubs – everybody. It's up to all of us to be really strong on it, and to try to drive it out and put a stop to it. ■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

I want to begin these notes by saying a huge thank you for all the support I've received over the past few weeks

Myself and my family have had some difficult times recently, but the love I have felt from all of you – my Arsenal family – has meant so much to me. I wanted to, and needed to, be with my mother while she had some health issues, which meant I had to miss some games due to the regulations when I got home as well.

I never like to miss games, but sometimes life is like this, and I also want to say a huge thanks to the doctors and nurses who have been helping my mother get through it.

I received so many messages from supporters, and of course I had huge support and love for me in the dressing room from the boys – it has meant a lot and I'm just happy that I'm finally back playing.

Now I want to repay all that love by helping my team on the pitch. I'm working really hard in training so that I can get back scoring and turn our results around again.

I think we were really unlucky in our last couple of games. The first half against Wolves we were flying and it was great to watch. We could have been two or three goals up. The forwards were all dangerous – Nico and Bukayo were doing well from their wide positions, and we finally got the goal we deserved.

But games can change very quickly, and that's what happened. We needed that second goal, and I suppose

we were punished for not getting that, but I thought the penalty and red card against us was very harsh.

Even at half-time though in the dressing room we were confident. We knew we were playing so well that even with ten men we could get the win.

The early goal in the second half made things difficult though and then another red card finishes you. But really we can be proud of that first half, and that's what we need to produce again.

Against Aston Villa last week the game was really difficult after the early goal. We know how important the first goal of any game is, even more so against a well-organised side like Villa. ▶



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**"LEEDS ARE REALLY DIFFERENT TO A
LOT OF THE OTHER TEAMS THAT I'VE
PLAYED WHO HAVE COME UP FROM
THE CHAMPIONSHIP"**

We kept fighting though, and tried everything to get the equaliser. It's so frustrating because we are looking much more solid as a team lately, but things are going against us again.

We have to turn it around today at home against Leeds United.

The game against them earlier this season was a tricky game for us I remember. Leeds always play without fear and they did that in the away game in November. They are really different to a lot of other teams that I've played who have come up from the Championship. It's good to see teams like this in the Premier League because they play good football, they like to press and they like to attack. They are coached well, I think Marcelo Bielsa is a very good coach who has shown that wherever he's been. At whatever club

he's at, you hear people talking about him and saying what a great coach he is, and to be honest you can see that when you play against them.

When I was at Dortmund we played this similar style of pressing football and we had fun using that system, and got good results.

The thing when you play a team like Leeds is to be prepared. If they take you by surprise with their aggression and their energy then you will be in trouble. We know what we will face today, and I will be reminding the new players who maybe haven't seen that as much what level we need to be at.

I've heard about the Leeds sides from the past that played in the Champions League. In fact I think my brother went there for a trial at around that time and told me about them, so I know it's a club with a lot of history too.

But it's about us today. We know what we can do and we know what's needed today to get the three points.

The table is still so close – if we can get on another good run we can quickly move up.

Thanks again for all your support. ■

VOICE OF ARSENAL

VOICE OF ARSENAL



Martin and Mat have become part of a very exclusive club

WELCOME TO THE ARSENAL

Two more players have made their Arsenal debuts since our last programme. On loan midfielder Martin Odegaard came on as a second-half sub in our last home game – the goalless draw with Manchester United.

The 22 year old is only the second Norwegian to ever play for our first team, following Pal Lydersen who made 16 appearances for the club between 1992 and 1993.

Then last weekend, another on loan player, Mat Ryan came in for the suspended Bernd Leno to make his debut for the club he supported as a boy, against Aston Villa. The goalkeeper became the 880th player to ever represent the Gunners first team, and only the second Australian. The first, John Kosmina, pre-dated the Premier League era. The forward made just four appearances for us in 1978, having signed from Adelaide City.

Odegaard and Ryan are the 10th and 11th players respectively to be handed their debut by Mikel Arteta, and they take the total number of debuts since the start of the century to 194. ■



BENFICA IN ROME

Earlier this week, Uefa confirmed that the first Leg of our Europa League last-32 tie against Benfica will be played as below.

Benfica v Arsenal

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Kick-off: 8pm (UK time)

To be played at Stadio Olimpico, Rome

Both matches in the tie are being held at neutral venues due to the current COVID-19 travel regulations.

Confirmed details of the second 'home' leg had yet to be confirmed when the matchday programme went to print.

It's worth noting that in the event of a draw over two legs in this tie, away goals will still count double. ■

Our last trip to the Stadio Olimpico came in 2009, when we beat Roma on penalties



Flo celebrates his hat-trick goal in the win over Brighton

PL2 GO WITH THE FLO

Folarin Balogun has been nominated for January's Premier League 2 Player of the Month award.

The 19 year old started the month by scoring a hat-trick in our 5-0 win over Brighton, before captaining our under-23s to a 1-1 draw with Tottenham in the north London derby.

The other contenders are...

Louie Barry (Aston Villa), Ethan Bristow (Reading), Kion Etete (Tottenham Hotspur), Rhys Hughes (Everton), Joe Hugill (Manchester United) and Jacob Wakeling (Leicester City).

The shortlist was chosen by the Premier League's Football Development Panel, after PL2 club coaches picked out the best performance by an opposing player in each of their league matches in the month. The panel will also select the winner. ■

THERE WILL BE A PROGRAMME!

Irrespective of where the 'home' fixture is played for the Europa League last-32 tie, we will be producing a matchday programme for the match – as we have done for all home games since the 1880s!

With the vast majority of programmes being posted out before games – in time for matchday – the process for this game will remain exactly the same.

If we are able to progress to later rounds in the competition, those games will also feature a programme, regardless of which country/continent they are played on! ■



Leah, Jordan and Lotte are off to represent the Three Lions

TRIO SELECTED FOR ENGLAND

England senior women's team coach Hege Riise named her first England squad earlier this week – and it featured three Arsenal players.

Midfielder Jordan Nobbs and defenders Leah Williamson and Lotte Wubbens-Moy were selected in the 20-woman squad for the match against Northern Ireland, which will be played at St George's Park on Tuesday, February 23.

The match will be England's first since the SheBelieves Cup in the United States last year and the group will meet up this Thursday (February 18)

Arsenal's three representatives are at different stages of their Three Lions careers. Jordan has been a regular in the team since making her debut against Italy in 2013 – when she scored – and the 28 year old now has 60

caps to her name. Leah has developed into a regular England performer at senior level in the last couple of years, making her debut against Russia in 2019 – the 23 year old now has 15 caps.

Former captain of England under-17s and regular England under-21 performer, Lotte is the youngest of the trio at 22 and has yet to make her senior debut for England. However, her performances for Arsenal on her return from America saw her called up for the last squad get together in September and she will be hoping to make the jump to become a full international in the near future. Lotte also qualifies to play for the Netherlands through her Dutch father.

Best of luck, we're proud of you. ■

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Bukayo assists – again

PROGRAMME ITK

Arsenal are **unbeaten** in our last **27 home league games against promoted sides** (W23 D4) since losing against both West Bromwich Albion and Newcastle in the 2010/11 campaign.

Since their goalless draw with Arsenal in November, none of Leeds' last 13 Premier League games have ended level (W7 L6). The Whites are also looking to secure **three consecutive Premier League away wins** for the first time since **August 2002**.

Leeds manager **Marcelo Bielsa** has won just **18%** of his Premier League games against non-English managers (2/11), compared to **73%** of his Premier League games against English managers (8/11). Of all managers to have taken charge of 10+ games against each, Bielsa has the **biggest difference in win rates** between the two.

Bukayo **Saka** has created **more chances** (26) and won more fouls (42) than any other Arsenal player in the Premier League this season, while only Alexandre Lacazette has scored (8) and been involved in (10) **more goals** for the Gunners than the teenager (5 goals, 2 assists).

Leeds striker **Patrick Bamford** has been involved in five goals in his last three Premier League games (2 goals, 3 assists). **Eight of his 12** Premier League **goals** this season have been **away from home** (67%), with **only Jamie Vardy** netting a higher ratio on the road (82%, min. 10 goals). ■

VOICE OF ARSENAL



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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Man in the middle today

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ARSENAL REMEMBERS

RAYMOND IVAN JESSUP
March 3, 1928 – January 11, 2021. A much-loved husband, father, grandad & great grandad. 'My Beloved Arsenal'. There's only one Denis Compton...

JOAN & GEORGE COBBOLD
Joan passed away on January 6, 2021 and was followed by her husband, George, five days later on January 11, 2021. They had been married for 60 years. They will both be greatly missed, our lives will never be the same after this unexpected and sudden loss.

BARRINGTON SINGH Dad, even though I never got to see a game with you in person, I hope you will watch over my shoulder in the future. Rest in peace dad. The perfect Gunner. Love David.

SIMON EDEN December 12, 1964 – December 22, 2020. A proud father of two sons, Charlie & Harry, both in the British Army, grandfather and, of course, a massive lifetime Arsenal fan! Will be forever missed by family & friends.

KEITH TUFFS A former steward, who passed away on January 14, 2021 after contracting Coronavirus. Keith worked in the West Executive Suite at Highbury for 11 years. We send our sincere condolences to Keith's family and friends ■

REF WATCH

Tonight's referee is Stuart Attwell from Warwickshire. Stuart has been a Premier League referee since 2008/09. His first Arsenal match in charge was a top-flight game against Bolton on September 11, 2010 in which the Gunners won 4-1 (Koscielny, Chamakh, Song, Vela) when he sent off Gary Cahill. He's officiated just one Gunners game this season, the 4-1 defeat at home to Manchester City in the EFL Cup just before Christmas, when he made three bookings. In all, Stuart has refereed 13 Premier League games this season, booking 57 players and showing just one red card (Brighton's Lewis Dunk against Crystal Palace). ■

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PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 21

5.30pm • Saturday, January 30 • Emirates Stadium

FIRST HALF

In truth, neither side imposed themselves to any great degree for much of the half, although Alexandre Lacazette tested David De Gea from outside the area, while Bernd Leno had to be alert to palm away a shot from Fred. But as we neared the break, Thomas Partey fired wide after a powerful surge forward, before Nicolas Pepe curled one just wide after a pacey counter-attack started by Emile Smith Rowe. The visitors had their best spell of the opening period just before the interval, with Aaron Wan-Bissaka heading wide, before Bruno Fernandes broke into the box and curled a shot inches beyond the far post.

SECOND HALF

The second half started with a big chance for us as the ball broke to Willian – on for Gabriel Martinelli – but he scuffed his shot. Seconds later the Brazilian teed up Pepe in the area, but Harry Maguire blocked the Ivorian’s goalbound effort as we dominated the early exchanges. At the other end, Edinson Cavani missed a golden chance for the visitors from close range. The closest we came was when Lacazette hit the bar with a free kick from the edge of the box, and seconds later Emile Smith Rowe stung the hands of De Gea. Martin Odegaard came on for his debut, but the biggest chance remaining in the game came for the visitors a minute from the end when Cavani put it wide from close range.

ARSENAL	MANCHESTER UNITED
17 TOTAL SHOTS	14
3 SHOTS ON TARGET	3
4 CORNERS	7
0 OFFSIDES	2
9 FOULS	16
43 POSSESSION %	57

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 2 BELLERIN
- 23 DAVID LUIZ
- 16 HOLDING
- 17 CEDRIC
- 34 XHAKA
- 18 PARTEY
- 35 MARTINELLI (46)
- 9 LACAZETTE (90)
- 19 PEPE
- 32 SMITH ROWE (83)

SUBSTITUTES

WILLIAN (46), ODEGAARD (83), NKETIAH (50), GABRIEL, WILLOCK, ELNENY, RUNARSSON, MAITLAND-NILES, CHAMBERS

MANCHESTER UNITED

- 1 DE GEA
- 29 WAN-BISSAKA
- 2 LINDELHOF
- 5 MAGUIRE
- 23 SHAW
- 39 MCTOMINAY (37)
- 17 FRED
- 10 RASHFORD (80)
- 18 FERNANDES
- 6 POGBA
- 7 CAVANI

SUBSTITUTES

MARTIAL (37), GREENWOOD (80), BAILLY, JAMES, HENDERSON, TELLES, MATIC, VAN DE BEEK, TUANZEBE



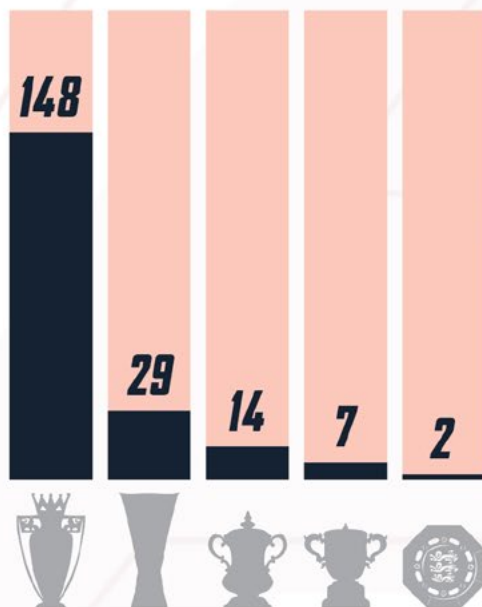
Emile Smith Rowe was full of running again



Martin Odegaard came on for his Gunners debut

GRANIT XHAKA 200 APPEARANCES

GRANIT'S ARSENAL RECORD BY COMPETITION



Granit's debut came on August 14, 2016 - a 4-3 home defeat to Liverpool

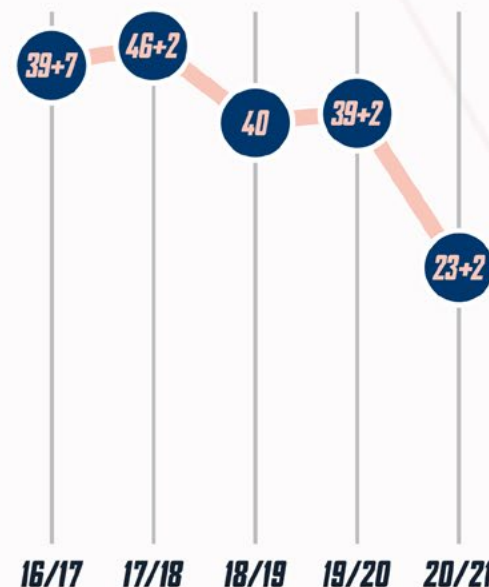
PLAYER TOTAL APPEARANCES FOR ARSENAL

Number of appearances	Number of players
1-49	529
50-99	124
100-199	113
200-299	62
300-399	31
400-499	12
500+	8

GRANIT'S APPEARANCES - STARTS & SUBS



GRANIT'S APPEARANCES - BY SEASON



He played a combined 201 games in his club career before joining Arsenal (61 for Basel and 140 for Borussia Mönchengladbach)



He has won two FA Cups and two Community Shields for Arsenal

OVERSEAS ARSENAL PLAYERS WITH 200+ APPS

Player	Dates	Starts	Sub	Total
Dennis Bergkamp	1995-06	345	78	423
Patrick Vieira	1996-05	396	10	406
Thierry Henry	1999-12	337	40	377
Laurent Koscielny	2010-19	342	11	353
Freddie Ljungberg	1998-07	285	43	328
Kolo Toure	2002-09	295	31	326
Cesc Fabregas	2003-11	266	37	303
Robert Pires	2000-06	238	46	284
Bacary Sagna	2007-14	272	12	284
Robin van Persie	2004-12	211	67	278
Gael Clichy	2003-11	230	34	264
Mesut Ozil	2013-20	237	17	254
Olivier Giroud	2012-18	169	84	253
Nacho Monreal	2013-19	223	28	251
Mathieu Flamini	2004-16	174	72	246
Tomas Rosicky	2006-16	158	88	246
Gilberto	2002-08	213	31	244
Lauren	2000-06	227	14	241
Hector Bellerin	2013-	209	18	227
Per Mertesacker	2011-17	215	6	221
Emmanuel Eboué	2005-11	159	55	214
Alex Song	2005-12	179	25	204
Jens Lehmann	2003-11	199	1	200
Granit Xhaka	2016-	187	13	200

MARTIN

When Martin Odegaard joined the club in January, it marked the culmination of a long-held admiration of the Norwegian schemer

Albeit this move is a loan deal until the end of the season, the transfer nevertheless is part of a long-standing interest in the talented midfielder, that dates back to when he was just 15, and already taking European football by storm.

Back then he eventually decided to join Real Madrid in a high-profile move from his hometown club of Stromgodset. The following year he became Real's youngest ever debutant at 16 years and 156 days, and was soon gaining more first-team experience out on loan. First in the Netherlands where he excelled with

Heerenveen in 2017/18, then at Vitesse the following season, after which he was named in the Eredivisie Team of the Year. He was back in Spain last term, starring for Real Sociedad where he scored seven times in 36 appearances, and won the La Liga Player of the Month award for September.

But the Premier League is the 22 year old's next challenge, and having made his debut in our last game at the Emirates in the goalless draw with Manchester United, our new number 11 is itching to show what he can do.

We spoke to him shortly after his arrival late last month... ▶

THEY SAID...

Jan Aage Fjortoft played in the Premier League in the 1990s, then managed Martin at international level, and has this to say about our new recruit...

"I know him very well, I was the manager of the Norwegian national team when we took him as a 15 year old. He was sitting in my living room with me and his father when he made his final choice about which club to sign for when he left Norway. That's when Real Madrid became his final choice, but he had four clubs on his list of where he could go at that time, and Arsenal was definitely one of the clubs on that list. So he's at a club that he wanted to play for now. He's a good football player, he knows how to adjust himself on the pitch and he can fit to the way that Arteta wants to play. I think it's a good move for him. He is still a young player, he had a good stay in Holland and a good stay at Real Sociedad, and it's all up to Martin Odegaard now wherever he will end up."

BORN Drammen, Norway,

December 17, 1998

NATIONALITY Norwegian

PREVIOUS CLUBS

Stromgodset, Real Madrid, Heerenveen (loan), Vitesse (loan), Real Sociedad (loan)

JOINED ARSENAL from Real Madrid (on loan) on January 27, 2021

ARSENAL DEBUT v Manchester United (h), January 30, 2021, Premier League (drew 0-0)

SQUAD NUMBER 11

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS 25 caps for Norway, one goal



Martin, welcome to Arsenal. How quickly did the move come about?

Thank you very much, it feels amazing to be here. There were some hectic days and me and my representatives had lots of conversations with the club and the manager as well. I'm just so excited and when I had the chance to come here, I felt like it was a really good chance to take. So I'm really happy to be here.

"I LIKE HIS IDEAS, THE WAY HE SEES FOOTBALL AND ALSO THE WAY HE IS. HE GAVE ME A GREAT FEELING"

Can you tell us about your conversations with Mikel Arteta and Edu and what they want from you?

They want me to come here and try to help the team, try to improve and to help in improving the team and the club, and of course myself as well. I think it's a good chance for me to improve and hopefully I can help the team to improve and to reach our goals here.

Is it true that you had a phone conversation with Mikel before the move, what did he say to you?

Yeah, I spoke to him before coming here, of course. That was very important for me and he seems like a top manager and I like his ideas, the way he sees football and also the way he is. He gave me a great feeling and that was important for me to come here. He was crucial. ▶



RAPID FIRE

First football memory

Joining my dad at his training and games. When I grew up, he was a footballer and I always went to his games. That's my first memory from football.

Hero

I don't know, I don't really have one hero. But when I grew up, obviously my dad being a footballer and me wanting to be a footballer, he was one of my heroes. I would say him. I know he will be happy then, so I will say him!

Best friend in football

It's difficult to say one, so I will say two. It's Mats Moller Daehli and Sander Berge from the national team. Sander plays for Sheffield United as well.

Best game I've played

The semi-final of the cup with Real Sociedad, last year, in the Copa del Rey.

Languages

I can speak Norwegian, English and Spanish.

Best goal I've scored

I think it was a free-kick with the national team's under-21s against Kosovo.

Best midfielder in the world

Kevin de Bruyne.

If I could score any famous goal

It might have been that Messi goal against Getafe when he ran all over the pitch and scored.

Away from football

I like to listen to music, to read, to watch movies and just relax and be with my family and friends.

What I want from this loan spell

What I want to achieve from my loan spell is to try to help the team as much as possible, to reach our goals this season and to improve a lot.



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ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB



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How important was it for you to be convinced by the project and the plans that the manager specifically has for you?

Of course it's important, I think every time you go to a new place, you want to make sure that it feels good and that there is a plan. But I think everything here just seems good. I like the club and I always liked the way that the club wants to play. Everything about the club and now how the manager wants to play, I think it's a club that really suits me well. So I think it's a good match.

You've also got a Real Madrid team-mate here of course, Dani Ceballos. Did you have a chance to speak to Dani about the move before?

Yes, he text me beforehand and he had only good things to say about the club, the manager and everything. That was also important for me and he was happy for me to come here, so that was a good thing for me, to know someone here and to hear from someone inside the club as well. It's good.

"CESC FABREGAS, FOR ME, WAS ONE OF MY IDOLS WHEN I GREW UP"

How much does playing in the Premier League interest you? Is that something that you've been fascinated by for a while?

Yeah, in Norway I think the Premier League is really big. Since I was a little kid there, we always watched all the games, me and my friends. I think it's the biggest league, especially in Norway, so for me it's always been a dream to play in the Premier League and as I said, I always liked the way Arsenal played and everything about the club. So yes, it's a dream come true in many ways.

You mentioned that you always liked the way Arsenal played. Are there any Arsenal players in particular that really stood out for you or you've admired down the years?

Yeah, there was a lot. But I think Cesc Fabregas, for me, was one of my idols when I grew up. So especially him.

What was it about the way that Cesc played that you particularly liked?

I think everything. The way he controls the game, the way he dictated the game, his ability to give

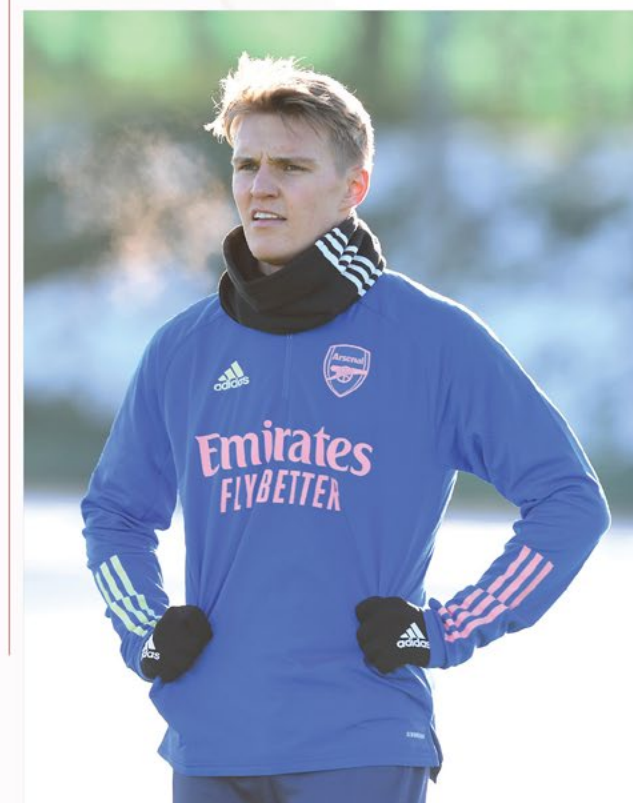
assists and also score goals. Everything about his game. I tried to learn as much as possible when I grew up watching him. He was the top player.

Can you tell us about the time you came to the club briefly as a 15 year old?

Yeah I was here. I visited the club and trained a little bit. I had a chat with the club and I had a really good feeling when I was here. I was thinking a lot about it. In the end it wasn't my decision at that time, but I had a really good time and I remember it well. When I was here the first time, I had a good feeling and every time I heard about the club, I had a good feeling. Now I'm here, so I think it's maybe meant to be.

Finally, can you tell us what your aims are between now and the end of the Premier League season?

Just to try to help the team as much as possible. I think that's the most important thing, to get into the team and try to help, to improve and try to reach for our goals for this year. It's a good team and a strong squad so I just hope I can help us achieve good results. It's so sad that there are no fans in the stadiums, but I just want to let all the Arsenal fans know that I will be giving everything for this club during my time here. ■





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



CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY

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

EMMANUEL PETIT FLOURISHING FURTHER FORWARD

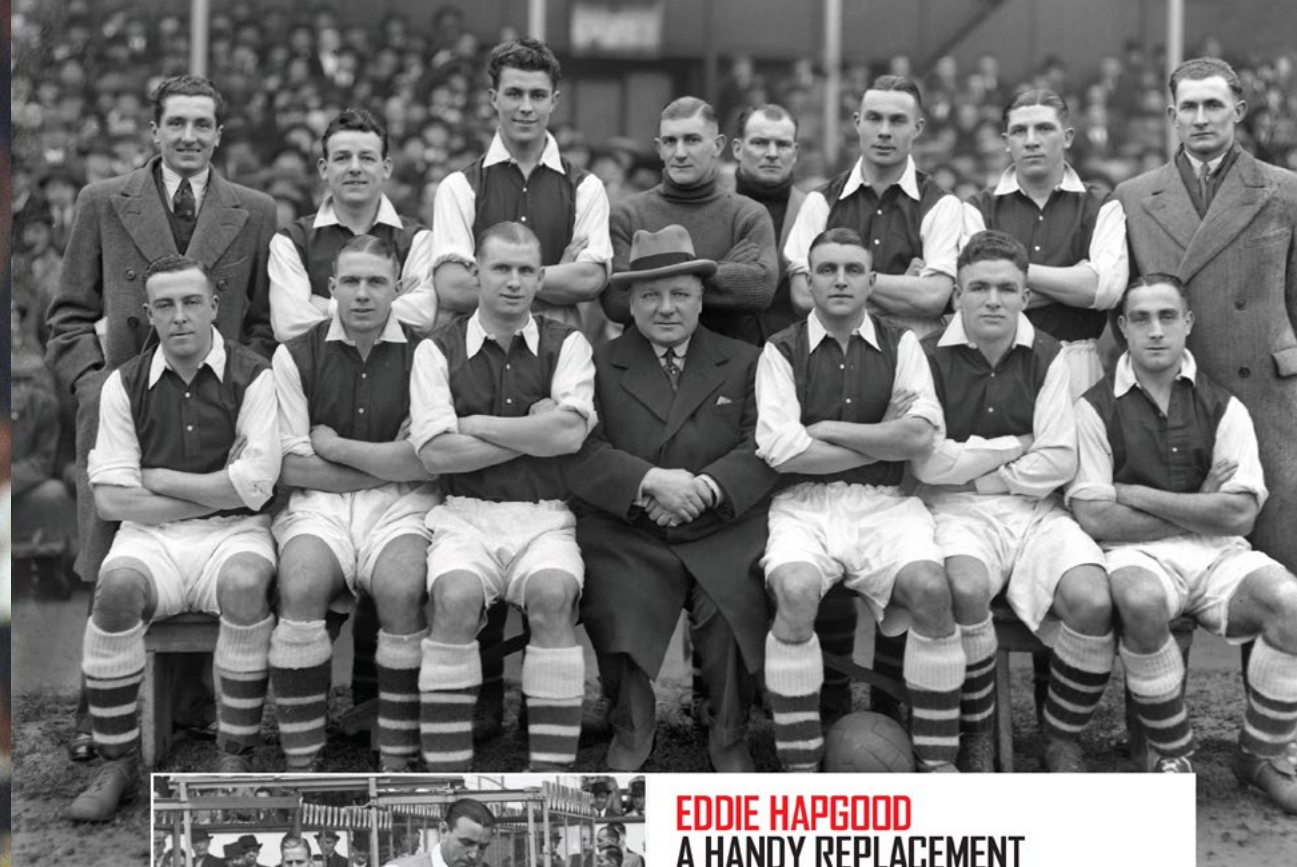
Even official news outlets got the wrong end of the stick. When Arsenal shelled out £2 million for Monaco's Emmanuel Petit in June 1997, some sources reported that the Gunners had signed a new central defender as cover for Steve Bould and skipper Tony Adams. In fact, Petit had spent much of the '96/97 campaign playing the left back slot in France – and after joining Barcelona in the summer of 2000 he would return to defensive duties – but after a meeting with former Monaco manager Arsène Wenger, he was left in no doubt that when he signed for Arsenal, he would be playing on the left of central midfield, alongside the Gunners' new sensation Patrick Vieira. "I'd coached Manu for a number of seasons," Wenger recalled, "and I knew that he had all the attributes needed to succeed in that role. He was a big, strong boy, which was necessary to survive in the centre of the pitch in that era, he could time his tackles really well, and his passing was always of a high quality. I felt that he could adapt quickly to the demands of the Premier League."

Petit had endured a turbulent few years, and the passing of his brother Olivier, who died as a result of a blood clot caused by heading a football, almost

prompted him to quit the sport, but fortunately Petit's family convinced him to honour the memory of his brother by forging his own successful career. Petit did so – captaining Monaco to the French League title, and, along with Dutch winger Marc Overmars, joining the 'European invasion' at Highbury in the summer of 1997. It would nonetheless be an exaggeration to suggest that Petit was an instant hit in an Arsenal shirt. "There were some who said that I was being played out of position during those early months," Petit admitted, "that I was a little sluggish in midfield, and that I'd function better at centre back."

When the Gunners hit a mid-winter slump, Petit's best moments often came when he dropped back to assist Arsenal's legendary back four, and added some muscle and height if Wenger's men came under pressure during





matches. Critics also suggested that, at crucial moments, the pony-tailed Petit lost concentration and was too much of an individual to bring stability to the Arsenal unit.

"SHORT PASSES, LONG PASSES.... YOU NAME IT, HE FOUND HIS TARGET"

But like Overmars and Vieira, Petit hit peak form as spring beckoned. Operating from his deep lying, left sided position, the Frenchman found his range. "Manu started spraying passes around which were perfect," explained Patrick Vieira. "Short passes, long passes....you name it, he found his target." Petit also possessed an incredible engine which enabled him to scuffle for the ball in the centre of the park, emerge with it, and find one of the Arsenal forwards.

With Gunners' defenders given licence to roam by Wenger, Petit was more than happy to sweep up at the back, and when appropriate, tackle abrasively. By

season's end, Vieira and Petit were the most dynamic central midfield duo in the country. "We got to the stage in late '97/98 where we knew what each other would do before it actually happened," Petit later explained.

It took him slightly longer to find the net for Arsenal, and he weighed in during a 5-0 hammering of Wimbledon in April. But it was his thunderous left foot winner against Derby County in May – during a tight 1-0 victory in N5 – which helped bring the title within touching distance. Petit recovered from an ankle injury to play in the FA Cup final, and his pinpoint pass to Marc Overmars set up the Dutchman for the opening goal against Newcastle. By season's end, Petit's influence with the team had grown, and it was no surprise that, in the 1998 World Cup final, Petit ran forwards, latched onto Patrick Vieira's slide rule pass, and slotted home France's third goal in their 3-0 win over Brazil. It had been a remarkable transformation for Petit – once an uncompromising left back cum centre back – now a polished and dashing midfielder. ■



EDDIE HAPGOOD A HANDY REPLACEMENT

When title-chasing Gunners goalkeeper Frank Moss dislocated his shoulder after 30 minutes at Goodison Park in March 1935, he left the field in agony, and was strapped up in the dressing room by trainer Tom Whittaker. In the era before subs, defender Eddie Hapgood stepped in. It wasn't the first time the England star had replaced Moss in goal; Hapgood had already taken the role when Moss dislocated two fingers at Bramall Lane against Sheffield United in December 1933. In his autobiography, *Football Ambassador*, Hapgood noted: "The old boss (Chapman) insisted that I was a good enough deputy if a man was hurt, and into goal I had to go." Hapgood did a sterling job at Goodison, and with the help of Arsenal's nine outfield players, repelled Everton's attacks. The injury marked the beginning of the end of Moss's goalkeeping career, but Hapgood's competence between the sticks led him to comment in *Football Ambassador*: "I have heard it said that 'when England travel abroad, they take two first choice goalkeepers...the first choice and Eddie Hapgood'." With the ten man Gunners under pressure from the home side's attacking, and looking set to crumble, salvation lay in the unlikely guise of the crooked Frank Moss (continued in the next programme...). ■

FIRST PAGE

Emmanuel Petit at home in the midfield battle

OPPOSITE PAGE

Celebrating a crucial goal against Derby with his midfield partner Patrick Vieira

TOP

Arsenal line up for season 1934/35, with 'keeper Frank Moss (back row, fourth from left) and Eddie Hapgood, (front row, third from right)

ABOVE

Eddie at Highbury in 1938

JUNIOR GUNNERS



ALWAYS AHEAD OF THE GAME

ON PARADE



Noah's a massive Arsenal fan, his favourite players are Aubameyang and Partey



I want to be a Gooner when i grow up



Harry's Arsenal mad, here he is with Keiran Tierney



'Come on you Gunners'



Arthur wants to be an Arsenal goalkeeper when he grows up

If you'd like to feature in JGs on Parade this season send your photos to JuniorGunners@Arsenal.co.uk or [@JuniorGunners](https://twitter.com/JuniorGunners)

HALF-TERM GIVEAWAY

ALWAYS AHEAD OF THE GAME

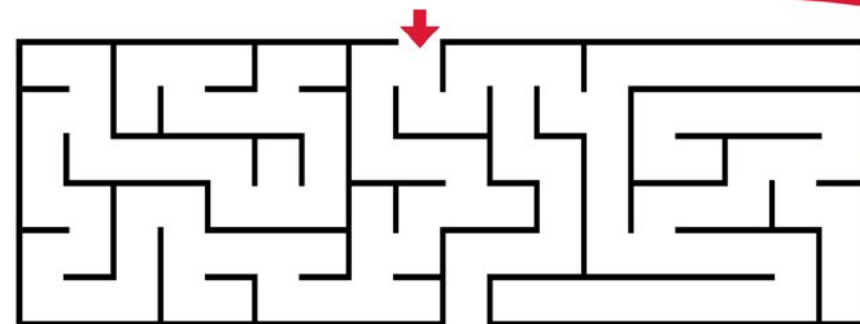
COMPETITION!

Join us every day this half term for your chance to win amazing Arsenal prizes including signed shirts, toys, games and more.

Head to arsenal.com/juniorgunners or download the JG app to find out more



BEAT THE MAZE



TODAY'S VIRTUAL MASCOT



Name: Luca
Age: 7

Hi, I'm Luca and I'm excited to be Arsenal's virtual mascot for today's game. We need to have all guns blazing and give it 110% to win.

Find out how you could be our next virtual mascot at arsenal.com/juniorgunners or download the JG app

WTOW WELCOME, ROMAN!

Here's Roman, aged two, cheering on the Gunners for the game.

Would you like to welcome someone to our world? Send a photo to JuniorGunners@Arsenal.co.uk and let us know all about them



WTOW membership is for our youngest fans aged 0-3 years. As a WTOW member your little one gets access to fun competitions, special events and loads of other benefits including Gunners' Membership pack! Find out more at Arsenal.com/Membership

FOURTEEN TIMES

OUR 14TH EVER GAME

Last 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

Gilberto heads home the Gunners' fifth in the rout of Middlesbrough

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

Thierry Henry celebrates opening the scoring against Boro – he was to add two more to secure a club record

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM

Gavin Crawford was an early stalwart of Woolwich Arsenal, our first player to record a century of appearances



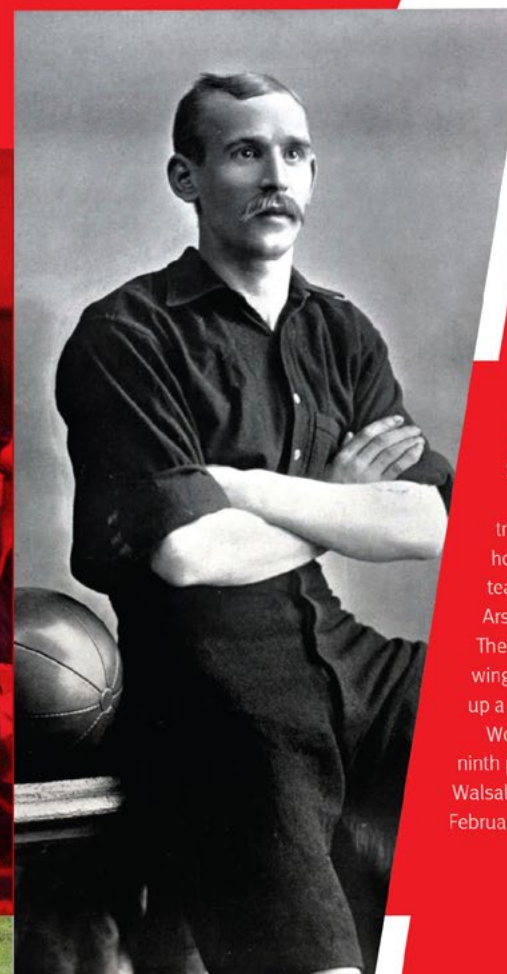
JAN 2006

14

IT HAPPENED ON THE 14TH...

ARSENAL 7-0 MIDDLESBROUGH
JANUARY 14, 2006
PREMIER LEAGUE

Thierry Henry equalled Cliff Bastin's record of 150 league goals for the club with a hat-trick in this January thumping of Middlesbrough. He opened the scoring after 20 minutes before Philippe Senderos doubled the lead two minutes later with a powerful header. Henry got his second on the half hour before Robert Pires made it four on the stroke of half-time. Gilberto headed home the fifth before Henry claimed the matchball – and Arsenal's league scoring record – before Alexander Hleb rounded off our joint-highest Premier League win, after Boro had been reduced to 10 men.



The club's first official match was as Royal Arsenal, in the FA Cup first qualifying round, on October 5, 1889. From foundation in 1886 until then, the club had played friendly matches and minor competitions (with great success) and finally entered into the FA Cup for the 1889/90 season. It was another four seasons until the Gunners were elected to the Football League, by which time they had played 11 FA Cup games in all, winning six, drawing one and losing four. So the third league game of 1893/94 was actually our 14th official match as a football club (by now known as Woolwich Arsenal) and was our first ever league win. After kicking off in Division Two with a 2-2 draw against Newcastle on September 2, 1893, we then lost 3-2 to Notts County away, before returning home (to the Manor Field, Plumstead) to host Walsall Town Swifts on September 11, 1893.

We stormed to a 3-0 lead by half-time, and eventually triumphed 4-0 in front of 4,000 spectators. The hero of the hour was Joe Heath, playing just his second game for the team, who scored a hat-trick. Joe would have two spells with Arsenal, but played just 12 games in all, scoring seven goals. The other goal was scored by Gavin Crawford, a Scottish winger who would go on to become the first player to rack up a century of appearances for the club.

Woolwich Arsenal eventually finished the debut season in ninth place (out of 15 in Division Two) just one place above Walsall Town Swifts, who we also beat in the return fixture in February 1894. ■



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 global charity St Vincent de Paul provide food parcels for north Londoners who have been isolating or struggling during the pandemic. Our local group's president, Beccy Mackinney, tells us about their work

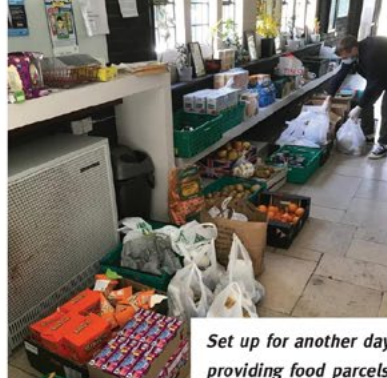
I'm a former teacher and I've been involved in charities in some form or another most of my life. St Vincent de Paul is a charity that works within local communities across the world to turn concern for others into action. Our activities include befriending those in need – whether through economic hardship or just sheer loneliness – and providing practical support such as food and domestic appliances.

I've been involved since I was a teenager in Birmingham, and when I moved to north London 30 years ago I joined our local group at Saint Joan of Arc RC Church on Highbury Park.

I recently took on the role of president of our local group. We meet every two weeks (on Zoom at the moment) but we're active on a daily basis. At the moment a lot of our efforts are focused on providing food parcels to those who need them – whether they're shielding or newly unemployed and struggling for money.

But in truth we will help our local community – irrespective of race, religion or age – in whatever way we can. Recently we have been trying to find laptops and tablets for kids being home-schooled and have nothing to work on.

Our food support programme has changed and developed over the course of the pandemic. When the first lockdown started many local support networks closed down and we saw an immediate need to support those who had



Set up for another day providing food parcels



Beccy (centre) has truly helped to 'turn concern for others into action'

nothing. We set up our food bank and in a matter of weeks we were delivering more than 80 food parcels a week.

We saw the programme as a stopgap, and we were able to step away a bit as council-run services and other charities started back up again. We're now providing food parcels to about 30 of our most vulnerable families and individuals. Sadly, we're now seeing a new cohort come forward – people who have struggled through furlough or survived on their savings but who now have nothing.

The Arsenal Foundation's support could not have been more timely. As demand increased the Foundation stepped in with a considerable donation of supplies, which we rapidly distributed to the local community.

It's great when football clubs understand the importance of their local communities – so much of their support comes from the immediate vicinity and many clubs have roots going back more than 100 years.

I cannot get over the number of people who stepped forward to help us: spouses, friends, friends of friends and a host of university students. We managed to have a service up and running within about ten days of the lockdown happening and that was down to a collective effort. I was proud to be part of that.

If you either need help or wish to volunteer or donate call the St Vincent de Paul hotline on 07516 690197

PS4

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COMMUNITY



ABOVE AND BEYOND

Although the pandemic has thrown up many challenges and caused much disruption to so much of society, there has been many instances of people going above and beyond, putting themselves forward, and doing whatever they can to help others. Definitely included in this group are members of our sessional coaching staff who were willing to get back to work as soon as the original lockdown was lifted, and by doing this, ensured that we were able to get back to delivering activity sessions for our participants, right in the heart of the communities that we serve.

In line with everybody else, we had to quickly learn to adapt to a new way of working which ranged from registering participants, implementing new Health and Safety protocols, through to the way that activities could be delivered. The sessional staff were key to the implementation of these measures, and it was with their help and support, that this new way of working was successfully implemented.

As well as helping to implement the new measures, the positive relationships that the sessional coaching staff have with the project participants proved to be vital, as it has been widely acknowledged that the major negative impact of the pandemic has been the lack of social

interaction, and by being willing to return as soon as was possible, our sessional coaching staff provided the social interaction as well as some normality and structure that many of our participants had been missing since lockdowns were introduced.

As the majority of our sessional coaching staff have come through our programmes as former participants, they fully understand the important role that our work plays in the lives of individuals and communities. This understanding, along with the dedication and positive attitude shown, all helped with a successful return to delivery, and will also help ensure that following this current lockdown, we'll be able to hit the ground running. So a big thank you to our sessional staff, your dedication, positive attitude and quality of work are all appreciated, you helped us make things work, and we couldn't have done it without you.

The positive relationships that the sessional coaching staff have with the project participants proved to be vital. ■

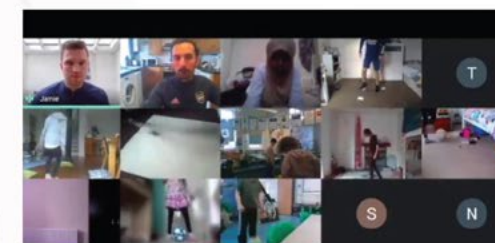


PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Arsenal in the Community's Twitter account @AFCCommunity highlight some of this month's community work...

BRILLIANT PE LESSONS TODAY WITH ARSENAL COACHES! JUST SOME FUN AGILITY, CONTROL AND DRIBBLING GAMES TO FINISH OUR SCHOOL DAY!

@AFCCOMMUNITY #ACTIVEATHOME

PICTURES

Our sessional coaching staff were immediately ready to get back onto the pitches and into the classrooms

FORWARD



KIERAN TIERNEY

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 good are you at planning your week, do you have a schedule you stick to?

I just go day by day but to be honest usually I just do the same thing every day. I go to training every day, come back home and then I never really do much in the evening. I tend to just play on the PlayStation. I do look at our training schedule every week though, I like knowing what time training is every day and I like to know all the details: When we are meeting, when we are departing, when we are going to the hotel and stuff like that. So in that respect I'm fairly organised, but in other respects I'm maybe not so. Everything for me revolves around football, my training schedule and the matches.

How far in advance do you look at the fixture list?

Probably just for the month coming up. I always know what the next few games are. I try not to look too far further ahead than the next three or four games, but I look at who we are playing, whether it's home or away and what time kick off is, stuff like that. I like the evening kick-offs, I think 5.30pm is probably the best. It gives you a good amount of time to get ready in the day, and also it's not too late by the time you finish and get home afterwards as well. ▶

ARSENAL

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

MEAL

I'd go for a chicken curry



NEW CAR

Probably an all black Range Rover

TROPHY YOU WIN

Any of them!

HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Tenerife



NEW TEAM-MATE

I can't say this, I might get into trouble with my old club!



Have you had any thoughts about what you might want to do after your playing days?

I have thought about it, but it's hard to say with it being so far away. It's not crossed my mind to do any coaching badges or anything like that yet. Some of the older players talk about it, and doing the qualifications, it's probably something you think more about when you get over 30, but before that it's all about your playing career.

"I'LL BE BACK IN SCOTLAND, NO DOUBT GOING BACK TO MY OLD LIFE OF SUPPORTING CELTIC HOME AND AWAY AGAIN!"

If you don't go into coaching, what do you think you might want to do?

Well when I finish playing I'll be back in Scotland, no doubt going back to my old life of supporting Celtic home and away again! I'll be back there doing something anyway. I'll definitely live in Scotland when I finish playing, 100 per cent, I miss it every day.

What's the first thing you want to do when you retire that you can't do now?

That's actually hard to say. I don't drink or anything so I'm not exactly about to go wild for two weeks! I don't know, but I do miss being home, I do miss being with my family and friends, so I'll probably spend more time with them. ▶



No room for racism anywhere

Is there anywhere in the world you particularly want to visit when you retire?

No, not really. Nothing that I'm thinking of at the moment, I'll just like to go on holiday somewhere with my mates, somewhere like Tenerife maybe.

Is there anything you want to achieve away from football, or anything you are working on at the moment?

No, genuinely nothing, it's all about football for me. I have never really achieved anything in my life outside of football, so I put all my efforts and all my time into that. I was lucky enough to make it in this sport, so now I just pile everything into it. Maybe when I'm older I will have something else to be interested in, but just now I'm 23, I'm a million miles away from that and everything is about football for me.

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

Would I want to go? Only if the manager gave me a couple of days off from training for it! I don't think saying that I want to go to the moon will go down as a good excuse for missing training so I better give it a miss! ■



Arsenal and the rest of the Premier League will not tolerate racism, anywhere, and we are taking action to combat all forms of discrimination. But we can all do more.

Challenge it, report it, change it, and together we can make a positive impact. Visit premierleague.com/noroomforracism to find out more. #NoRoomForRacism

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Report it. Change it.**



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WATKINS 2



1

0

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 23

12.30pm • Saturday, February 6 • Villa Park

FIRST HALF

We made the worst possible start. Indeed there were barely 90 seconds on the clock when Ollie Watkins scored a goal that was both avoidable and unlucky from our perspective. Gabriel intercepted a forward pass and found Cedric, but the return pass fell short and Bertrand Traore nipped in to play the ball across the box to Watkins. Debutant Mat Ryan had his shot covered but the ball flicked off Rob Holding and rolled in. Ryan was solid overall, saving from Traore, Watkins and John McGinn as Villa threatened on the counter-attack. But the rest of the game was essentially about our efforts to find an equaliser. Before the break our approach play was good but we barely tested former Gunner Emi Martinez. The exception was a free-kick from Granit Xhaka that was clawed away from the top corner.

SECOND HALF

We went up a gear in the second half – with Nicolas Pepe prominent again. He slid a right-foot shot just wide after fine work from Emile Smith Rowe, and Smith Rowe himself showed neat footwork to create himself a chance, only for Tyrone Mings to block. Martinez saved from Hector Bellerin and on came Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Martin Odegaard and then Willian as Mikel Arteta played his attacking cards. We could have equalised when Odegaard had a great chance 12 yards out, but his powerful shot sailed over. ■

MATCH STATS		
12	TOTAL SHOTS	14
8	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
3	CORNERS	7
1	OFFSIDES	0
12	FOULS	12
34	POSSESSION %	66

ASTON VILLA

26	MARTINEZ
2	CASH
4	KONSA
5	MINGS
18	TARGETT
7	MCGINN
19	NAKAMBA
15	TRAORE (66)
20	BARKLEY (78)
10	GREALISH
11	WATKINS

SUBSTITUTES

TREZEGUET (66), RAMSEY (78), DOUGLAS LUIZ, EL GHAZI, ENGELS, SANSON, EL MOHAMADY, DAVIS, HEATON

ARSENAL

33	RYAN
2	BELLERIN
16	HOLDING
6	GABRIEL
17	CEDRIC (65)
18	PARTEY (74)
34	XHAKA
19	PEPE
7	SAKA
32	SMITH ROWE
9	LACAZETTE (59)

SUBSTITUTES

AUBAMEYANG (59), ODEGAARD (65), WILLIAN (74), CEBALLOS, CHAMBERS, MARL, ELNENY, RUNARSSON, MARTINELLI



Mat Ryan made an impressive debut

YOUNG GUN

NATHAN BUTLER-OYEDEJI

TALKING TO Aidan Small

BORN

London, January 4, 2003

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

5' 7" and 67kg

SCHOOL

Walthamstow
Academy

SIGNED FOR ARSENAL

Aged seven

POSITION

Winger, centre-forward



My earliest memory of football as a kid is as exactly as you'd expect. The moment I finished school, I'd head out with all my mates to our local park and we'd practice hour after hour after hour. It didn't matter who was there... whether we knew them, whether they were older, whatever... as long as they played football, we'd join in and play together!

I grew up in Walthamstow, so street football was a big part of my childhood too. I remember playing against the older boys from my area and obviously they were so much more physical than me, so you had to learn how to handle those tackles and knocks pretty quickly. To this day, I still think it played a big part in my development as a player. I played against older kids all the time and I really think it helped me to become stronger and more resilient on the pitch.

But I can't talk about my development as a player without bringing up my family. Most of my family are Arsenal fans, but my dad is a proper Gooner and he's the reason I love football so much. Growing up, I remember going out in the garden with him and working on all the basics. We'd work on my first touch, passing, dribbling, and

all the basic individual skills you need as a kid. It's a simple memory, but I love it.

It wasn't long after that when I was playing with all my mates down at the park, I started to realise I was better than most my age. My mates would tell me how good I was, but when you're that young, it's hard to make sense of it all! Anyway, soon after, I joined in on a training session in my local area and there was a local scout watching who

"I'VE GOT SO MANY INCREDIBLE MEMORIES FROM HALE END. WINNING THE LIAM BRADY CUP AND A HAT-TRICK AGAINST SPURS."

invited me to trial with Leyton Orient. That's when I realised things were getting serious, but I never expected what happened next. After just two weeks of training with Leyton Orient, I was spotted by Arsenal and invited to train with them at six. I remember my parents telling me in the car after training and I was so excited! I officially joined one year later and I've been here ever since. To be honest, Arsenal is all I've ever known.

Even before I joined, I actually lived about two miles

run. I didn't even know that academies existed! I remember going to Hale End for my first day and I came away thinking there's no way they're going to sign me. Incredibly, they did, but over the next three years, I never really played and I really didn't think I was that good. Compared to my school friends I was great, but when I joined, Arsenal already had players like Yunus Musah and Miguel Azeez and they were just a joke. They were miles clear of me.

But as an only child, my parents have always spoken to me as a young adult, and I feel like over the years, it's made me really mature for my age. That allowed me to process and understand those difficult situations because I could talk it through with my parents. We joke about it now because they know that I was thinking it too, but my parents were thinking 'Oh no, it's not looking good, is it?'

At one stage, I was honestly better at athletics than I was football. I started in Year Four doing cross country and came first in Hertfordshire every year for the next five years. I also completed a pentathlon in Year 10 for my school and I was invited to represent England, but that was the same year I picked up a nine-month injury at under-15 level. Things were certainly looking tough for me

in football at that time, but I've never stopped working hard and I'm so proud to be where I am today.

I think over the last 18 months in particular, I've improved a lot as a player – both on and off the pitch. Training with the under-23s from pre-season until now has played a massive part in that. Everything they do is so much more intense, so when I've come back to under-18s football, I feel more confident and I'm able to implement certain things to my game. I made a few mistakes for goals last season and I'm sure at some stage I will make another, but I really believe I've cleaned up my all-round game.

Another thing I've been working on is becoming more vocal on the pitch. Growing up at Arsenal, I was always very quiet and polite, but as a defender, you can really help your teammates by leading and giving instructions from the back. You have to be vocal as a defender and so many people were saying it to me, but as a kid, it just wasn't in my natural character. Playing with the under-23s has given me so much more confidence to do that and I really feel like it's added another layer to my game. Now, I just need to keep working hard. Who knows what the future holds. ■



NATHAN BUTLER-DYEJEJI

LOWDOWN

Earliest memory of football Playing street football

Got me into football My dad

First footballer I looked up to Thierry Henry

Best friends in football Kido Taylor-Hart and Jason Sraha

Team you supported as a child Arsenal

Best goal I've scored Against Tottenham at u16 level

Best player I've faced Naci Unuvar of Ajax

Best piece of skill I've done in a game Ran through two players, nutmeg and then a goal

Best moment of career so far Getting my scholarship at Arsenal

One stadium I'd like to score in The Emirates!

A player to score a one-on-one to save my life Folarin Balogun

RATE YOURSELF

SPEED		90
SHOOTING		80
DRIBBLING		89
STRENGTH		85
PASSING		80
DEFENDING		60

If I could change position I'd play centre midfield

Best training ground tip I've had Always believe in your football ability and be consistent

Another sport I'm good at Rounders!

Favourite training drill Possession/finishing

Ambitions this season away from the pitch
To stay healthy

Important non-playing attributes for young footballers Staying motivated, humility and respect

Biggest lesson learnt off the pitch Always be the best you can be as you don't know who's watching

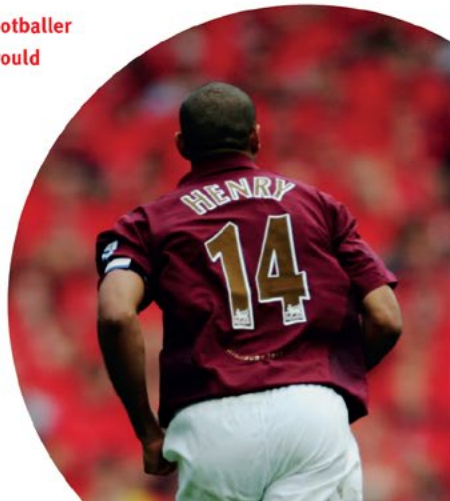
ME

Favourite footballer of all-time Thierry Henry (below)

If I could be any footballer past or present I would be Ronaldinho

Most played Spotify artist NBA YoungBoy

Favourite musician NoCap



favourite pre-match song Roddy Rich – Ballin

Best footballing attribute Fast dribbling

One thing I need on an away day My earphones

One thing I want to do in my football career
Score goals and make them

If I wasn't a footballer I'd be a chef

First-team player I look up to most Bukayo Saka

Best thing about being at Arsenal The facilities

AROUND THE ACADEMY

Will definitely make it Trae Coyle

Most skills in their locker Kido Taylor-Hart

Best passing range Miguel Azeez

Best touch Charlie Patino

Most double-footed Kido

Best future manager Ovie Ejeheri

Strongest Mazeed Ogungbo

Captain material Alex Kirk

Funniest Ovie

Most confident Miguel

Better than they think they are Zane Monlouis

Best singer Jason Sraha





3

RAJ-SAKYI 2, OMILABU 30, 77



2

SWEET 14, TAYLOR-HART 42

U-18 Premier League South
Saturday, January 30
Crystal Palace Academy

ARSENAL U18 Mitchell, Norton-Cuffy, Kirk, Monlouis, Ogungbo, Bandiera (Edwards 68), Henry-Francis, Sweet, Taylor-Hart, Butler-Oyediji (Ideho 88), Hutchinson
SUBS NOT USED: Kovacevic, Awe, Jeffcott

Our under-18s suffered their first defeat of 2021 as they were beaten 3-2 by Crystal Palace.

Ken Gillard's side came into this fixture unbeaten in their last six outings, but they were ultimately made to pay for some sloppy defending.

With Ovie Ejeheri out injured, Remy Mitchell was handed an opportunity to impress between the sticks, while Alex Kovacevic became the first schoolboy to be named in our matchday squad this season.

A dangerous side in transition, Crystal Palace made a fast start and opened the scoring after just two minutes, with Jesuran Rak-Sakyi dribbling past two defenders and firing into the top corner.

It didn't take us long to respond, though, as James Sweet equalised in the 10th minute, latching onto Mauro Bandeira's cutback to fire past the keeper for his second league goal of the season.

But on the half-hour mark, the hosts restored their lead through David Omilabu, who provided the finishing touch to a well-worked attacking move.

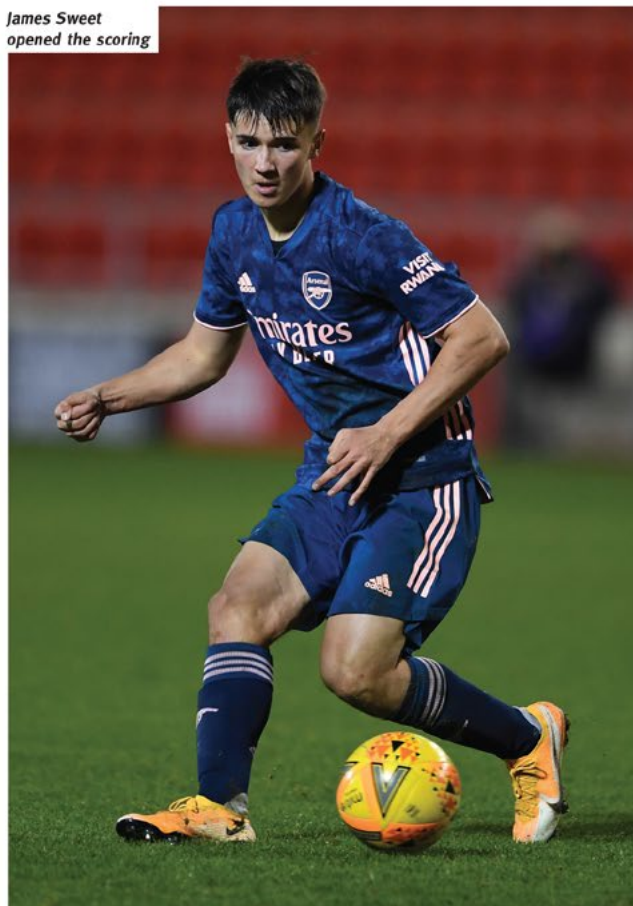
However, the first-half action wasn't done there. With a dangerous whipped delivery from Bandeira, the ball fell kindly on the edge of the area to Kido Taylor-Hart, who fired into the bottom corner on the volley.

We continued to push on in search of a winner and came close with a number of promising moves, but in the end, it was the hosts who left with all three points, as Omilabu allowed the ball to roll across his body inside the six-yard box, before finishing past Mitchell. ■



Kido Taylor-Hart scored our second

James Sweet opened the scoring



1

ETETE 33



1

COTTRELL 17

Premier League 2
Friday, January 29
Tottenham Hotspur Training Centre

ARSENAL U23 Hein, Alebiosu, Dinzei, Olowu, Lopez (Ogungbo 74), Akinola, Patino (Taylor-Hart 54), Cirjan (Oyegoke 54), Cottrell, Moller, Balogun
SUBS NOT USED: Hillson, Lewis

Our under-23s extended their unbeaten run to six Premier League 2 games with a 1-1 draw against Tottenham Hotspur.

Jonathan Dinzei started at the heart of our defence against his former club, who currently top the table, while 17-year-old midfielder Charlie Patino was handed his under-23s debut.

Heading into this fixture on the back of five consecutive victories, Steve Bould's side were full of confidence and raced into an early lead with a quickly



Ben Cottrell gets the better of Spurs' Elliot Thorpe

Tim Akinola gets to grips with Dilan Markanday





Folarin Balogun surges through on goal

taken free-kick.

The ball dropped to Ben Cottrell inside the penalty area and he made no mistake in finding the bottom corner. The 19-year-old has now scored four goals in just 13 PL2 appearances, in the same season as making his first-team debut.

But the hosts wrestled back control on the half-hour mark, and after Kion Etete headed wide from a promising position, he levelled the score with his next chance, finishing on the stretch to poke the ball past Karl Hein.

Their dominance continued following the break too, as Dane Scarlett won a penalty after drawing a foul from Tim Akinola – but his powerful strike sailed well over the bar.

We would go on to create one last chance to seal all three points, but Folarin Balogun was denied by Joshua Oluwayemi after racing through on goal. ■

Ryan Alebiosu and Nile John do battle



Brooke Norton-Cuffy has been rewarded for a fine season so far



ACADEMY

NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS, BROOKE!

Brooke Norton-Cuffy has signed his first professional contract.

The 17-year-old right back has enjoyed an incredible 2020/21 season so far, making his debut for our under-18s back in October, before making his under-23s debut at just 16 years of age against Liverpool.

Brooke is a powerful and technical right back and has won four of his five Premier League 2 outings to date.

We congratulate Brooke on his first professional contract and look forward to supporting him with his continued development. ■



SMITH JOINS ADDICKS

Matt Smith has been recalled from his loan with Swindon Town and has joined fellow League One side Charlton Athletic on loan for the remainder of the 2020/21 season.

The 20-year-old midfielder, who has been at the club since under-9 level, had been on loan with Swindon since August and moves to south London to continue his development.

Matt was a regular in the under-23s last season and frequently trained with the first-team squad. His fine performances were rewarded with his selection into the first-team matchday squad on six occasions after the season's restart, including being an unused substitute in the Emirates FA Cup final victory over Chelsea.

We wish Matt the best of luck during his time with Charlton Athletic. ■



ZECH HEADS NORTH

Zech Medley has been recalled from his loan with Gillingham and has moved to Scottish Premiership side Kilmarnock on loan for the remainder of the 2020/21 season.

The 20-year-old defender, who joined us as a scholar from Chelsea in November 2016, had been on loan with the League One side since August and has moved to Kilmarnock to continue his development.

A regular in our under-23s in recent seasons, Zech also broke into the first-team squad during this time. His fine form at the start of the 2018/19 season earned him his senior debut in November 2018.

The youngster impressed against Vorskla Poltava and it was followed by another Europa League outing against Qarabag at Emirates Stadium. During the 2018/19 season, Zech also came on as a late substitute in the FA Cup third-round victory at Blackpool.

Everyone at the club wishes Zech all the best with Kilmarnock. ■

FA YOUTH CUP UPDATE

The Football Association have announced that the 2020/21 FA Youth Cup has been temporarily suspended.

The decision was discussed with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, and comes into immediate effect until further notice. The statement from the FA reads:

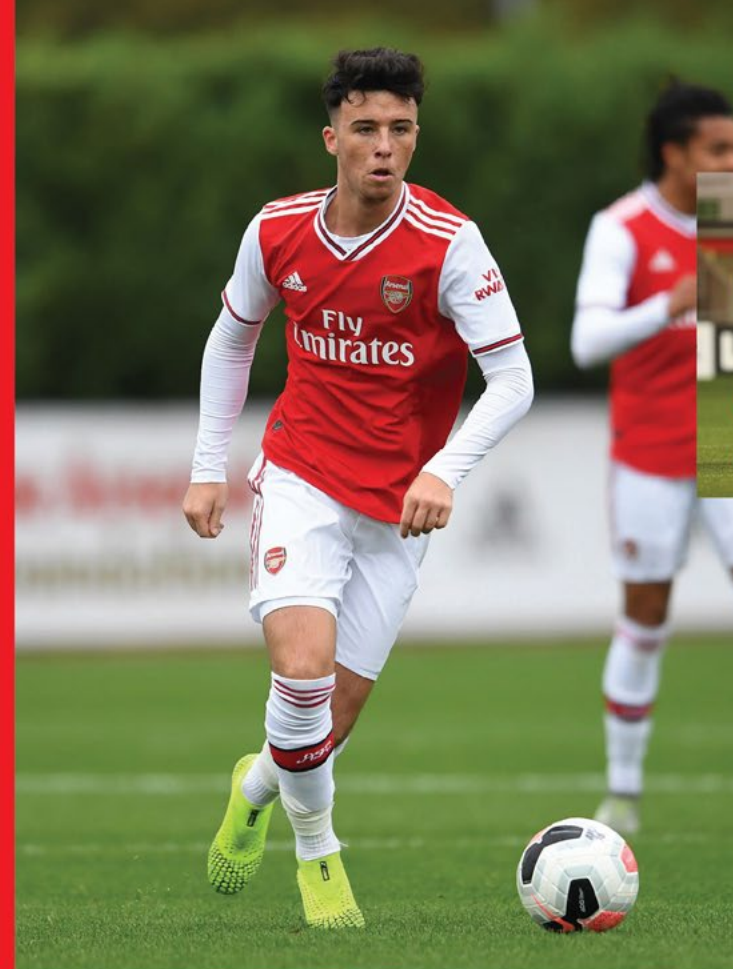
'The health and wellbeing of players and staff are of paramount importance and The FA intends to resume the national competition once the UK Government's current national COVID-19 lockdown concludes and it is deemed safer for clubs to travel.

'The FA Youth Participation & Development Committee, which is responsible for management of the competition, will continue to review the situation and The FA will provide further updates at the earliest opportunity.

'For the avoidance of doubt, all matches in The FA Youth Cup are now suspended with immediate effect until further notice.'

We are due to play Blackburn Rovers in the fourth round of this season's competition, having seen off Rotherham in the previous round. ■

Zech in Kilmarnock colours



LEFT
In action in his Arsenal colours last season

ABOVE
Now enjoying life at Leeds

ACADEMY

ALUMNI

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

SAM GREENWOOD

Sam arrived at the Arsenal Academy from Sunderland as a first year scholar in the summer of 2018 and over the next two years impressed with his touch and vision, often playing in a number 10

role – his dead ball prowess also caught the eye.

He made 39 appearances for the under-18s over the next two seasons, scoring 15 goals and making six assists and he graduated to the under-23 squad, playing seven times and scoring once.

Last summer he joined newly-promoted Leeds United on a three-year contract and the 19 year old certainly hit the ground running. He scored five goals in his first four Premier League 2 games, including a hat-trick against Sunderland. Having now started nine PL2 matches, he has an excellent record of six goals and six assists and the England U18 international's form earned him a place in their EFL Trophy squad, playing in a defeat at Blackpool in November. His good start to the season resulted in a first-team debut when Leeds travelled to Crawley Town in the FA Cup third round. Marcelo Bielsa's team succumbed to a shock 3-0 defeat against the League Two team but Sam will always remember his 32 minutes' action as a substitute. ■

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	3-1
Fri Dec 18	Leicester City	H	2-1
Fri Jan 22	Brighton & HA	H	5-0
Fri Jan 29	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1-1
Fri Feb 5	Chelsea	H	2-2
Fri Feb 12	Manchester United	A	7pm
Fri Feb 19	Manchester City	H	7pm
Sat Feb 27	Liverpool	A	3pm
Sun Mar 7	Southampton	A	2.30pm
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
Fri May 7	West Ham United	A	7pm

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	13	7	4	2	37	21	16	25
Tottenham Hotspur	15	7	4	4	29	25	4	25
Blackburn Rovers	14	7	4	3	29	26	3	25
Chelsea	12	7	2	3	27	18	9	23
Everton	15	6	4	5	25	18	7	22
Manchester United	14	6	3	5	39	39	0	21
Derby County	14	6	2	6	26	33	-7	20
Arsenal	14	5	4	5	27	21	6	19
Brighton & HA	15	5	4	6	24	32	-8	19
Liverpool	13	5	2	6	25	29	-4	17
Leicester City	15	5	0	10	26	35	-9	15
Southampton	13	3	3	7	20	25	-5	12
West Ham United	13	2	2	9	17	29	-12	8

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 5	Leicester City	H	2-1
Sat Jan 23	Tottenham Hotspur	H	4-1
Sat Jan 30	Crystal Palace	A	2-3
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
TBA	Chelsea	H	TBA
TBA	Aston Villa	A	TBA
TBA	Southampton	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	0-3

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Crystal Palace	13	10	0	3	25	18	7	30
Fulham	13	8	2	3	31	20	11	26
Aston Villa	11	8	2	1	24	13	11	26
Tottenham Hotspur	13	7	4	2	32	15	17	25
Chelsea	11	6	2	3	33	18	15	20
Arsenal	11	6	1	4	25	21	4	19
Brighton & Hove Albion	13	5	3	5	30	23	7	18
Norwich City	13	5	1	7	31	29	2	16
West Bromwich Albion	14	4	3	7	29	34	-5	15
West Ham United	12	3	2	7	17	33	-16	11
Reading	12	2	2	8	23	39	-16	8
Southampton	10	1	2	7	17	28	-11	5
Leicester City	12	1	2	9	19	45	-26	5

FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	2-1
TBA	Blackburn Rovers	A	TBA

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH APPEARANCES

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	UI8	FAYC	PLIC	TOTAL
Folarin Balogun	13(6)	2(1)	-	-	-	15(7)
Ben Cottrell	13(4)	4	-	-	-	17(4)
Tim Akinola	12+1	3+1	-	-	-	15+2
Ryan Alebiosu	10+1	3	-	-	-	13+1
Nicolaj Moller	9(5)	1	-	-	-	10(5)
Catalin Cirjan	7+1(1)	2+1(1)	1	-	-	10+2(2)
Joel Lopez	7+1	3	-	-	-	10+1
Jonathan Dinzei	7+1	1	-	-	-	8+1
Karl Hein	7	1	-	-	-	8
Miguel Azeez	6+4(1)	2+1(1)	-	-	-	8+5(2)
William Saliba	6	2	-	-	-	8
George Lewis	4+1	1(1)	-	-	-	5+1(1)
James Olayinka	4(1)	2	-	-	-	6(1)
Jordan McEnuff	3+3	2(1)	-	-	-	5+3(1)
Daniel Oyegoke	3+2	1	-	-	-	4+2
Brooke Norton-Cuffy	3+1	+1	7	1	-	11+2
Emile Smith Rowe	3(3)	1	-	-	-	4(3)
Calum Chambers	3(1)	1	-	-	-	4(1)
Tolaji Bola	3	1	-	-	-	4
Arthur Okonkwo	3	1	-	-	-	4
Joseph Olowu	3	-	-	-	-	3
Alex Kirk	2+1	+1	8(1)	1	-	11+2(1)
Reiss Nelson	2(2)	-	-	-	-	2(2)
Charlie Patino	2(1)	-	9	1(1)	-	12(2)
Harry Clarke	2	1	-	-	-	3
Matt Macey	2	1	-	-	-	3
Daniel Ballard	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pablo Mari	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kido Taylor-Hart	1+4(1)	1+1	9(6)	1	-	12+5(7)
Salah-Eddine Oulad M'hand	1+1	1	-	-	-	2+1
Joel Ideho	1+1	+1	1+1	-	-	2+3
Mark McGuinness	1	1	-	-	-	2
Sokratis Papastathopoulos	1	1	-	-	-	2
Levi Laing	1	+2	6+1	-	-	7+3
Zach Awe	1	-	6+3	-	-	7+3
Hubert Graczyk	1	-	6+1	-	-	7+1
James Hillson	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cedric Soares	1	-	-	-	-	1
Joe Willock	1	-	-	-	-	1
Mazeed Ogungbo	+2	-	6(1)	1(1)	-	7+2(2)
Zane Monlouis	+1	1	6+1(1)	1	-	8+2(1)
Khayon Edwards	+1	-	5+4(3)	-	-	5+5(3)
Taylor Foran	+1	-	3+2	-	-	3+3
Gabriel Martinelli	-	1	-	-	-	1
Matt Smith	-	1	-	-	-	1
Omari Hutchinson	-	-	11(2)	1	-	12(2)
Mauro Bandeira	-	-	9+1	-	-	9+1
Marcelo Flores	-	-	7+2(3)	1	-	8+2(3)
Luke Plange	-	-	6+3(4)	-	-	6+3(4)
James Sweet	-	-	4+1(2)	1	-	5+1(2)
Ovie Ejeheri	-	-	4	1	-	5
Nathan Butler-Oyediji	-	-	3+2	1	-	4+2
Jack Henry-Francis	-	-	2+3	-	-	2+3
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Remy Mitchell	-	-	1	-	-	1
Billy Vigar	-	-	+3	-	-	+3
Jason Sraha	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Own goals	(1)	-	(2)	-	-	(3)

James Sweet



ARSENAL WOMEN

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



FOORD 57



WHITE 24, HEMP 79

1

**WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
MEADOW PARK**

ARSENAL

Zinsberger, Evans, Wubben-Moy, Williamson, McCabe (Maritz 77), Walti, Roord, Van de Donk, Miedema, Mead, Foord **SUBS NOT USED** Williams, Stenson, Maier, Gut, Patten

2

We suffered our third league defeat of the season last Sunday as we were beaten 2-1 by Manchester City at Meadow Park.

Jordan Nobbs, Kim Little and Jen Beattie missed out through injury, while Leah Williamson started with the captain's armband for the first time in her career.

We dominated possession throughout the first half, but failed to create chances, and following a defensive error, Ellen White fired the visitors into the lead with a smart finish.

We stepped things up in the second 45, though, as we played with more aggression and purpose in the final third, until Jill Roord teed up Caitlin Foord on the counter for an impressive equaliser.

The Australia international has now scored seven Women's Super League goals this season.

But despite our dominance in possession, City remained a threat in transition, and with just over 10 minutes remaining, Lauren Hemp climbed high inside the area to head Chloe Kelly's cross beyond Manuela Zinsberger. ■



RED LETTER DAY FOR LEAH

Skipper for the day Leah Williamson pinpointed individual errors as the reason for the defeat against City last weekend: "I see it as a game where we were good in the first half and had a good spell in the second half, but ultimately our errors were probably the reason why we didn't win," said Leah. "I had one with the first goal, stuff like that, so just little differences and they've come out more dominant than us today. It's not like it wasn't a good performance, but those are the differences and that's what makes top teams great and leaves the others behind."

However despite the result, Leah couldn't hide her pride in wearing the captain's armband: "It's something I think any fan... I'm even getting emotional... any fan of the club would be so proud to do," said Leah, "let alone being a player. I'm very aware that I live out the dream of every Arsenal fan every single day, so it's very proud for me and for my family." ■



LEFT TOP Action from Meadow Park in a hard-fought fixture

BELOW LEFT Celebrations after Caitlin Foord's equaliser

THIS PAGE Captain Leah last Sunday

2020/21 FIXTURES

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

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT FEB 9)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHELSEA	13	10	2	1	39	8	31	32
MANCHESTER UNITED	14	10	2	2	32	13	19	32
MANCHESTER CITY	13	9	3	1	43	11	32	30
ARSENAL	12	7	2	3	40	11	29	23
EVERTON	12	5	3	4	22	18	4	18
READING	14	4	6	4	18	23	-5	18
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	12	3	3	6	13	23	-10	12
BRIGHTON & HA	14	3	3	8	10	30	-20	12
BIRMINGHAM CITY	11	3	2	6	10	16	-6	11
ASTON VILLA	12	3	1	8	11	30	-19	10
WEST HAM UNITED	12	2	2	8	14	29	-15	8
BRISTOL CITY	13	1	3	9	10	50	-40	6

*Arsenal won on penalties



Patrick Bamford celebrates on Monday night



LEEDS UNITED

FORMED

1919

NICKNAME

The Whites, The Peacocks

STADIUM

Elland Road (37,792)

HONOURS

First Division/Premier League winners **1968/69,**

1973/74, 1991/92

Second Division/Championship winners **1923/24,**

1963/64, 1989/90, 2019/20

FA Cup Winners **1972**

League Cup Winners **1968**

Charity Shield **1969, 1992**

European Inter-Cities Fairs Cup Winners **1968, 1971**

OWNER

Aser Group Holding (63%)

49ers Enterprises (37%)

CHAIRMAN

Andrea Radrizzani

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

Twitter **683k**

Instagram **630k**

Facebook **826k**



Leeds United come to Emirates Stadium having leapfrogged Arsenal into tenth place in the Premier League table on Monday night with a convincing 2-0 home win against Crystal Palace. That victory raised their points total to 32, a more than respectable tally after 22 matches for a newly-promoted club – especially considering the predicament that the other two newly arrived sides from the Championship, Fulham and West Bromwich Albion, currently find themselves in.



Leeds returned to the English top flight last year as winners of the Championship, finishing ten points clear of runners-up West Brom after winning 28 of their 46 matches and losing just nine. Their promotion ended 16 years away from the Premier League and was achieved under their high-profile Argentinian coach Marcelo Bielsa, who 12 months earlier, at the end of his debut season in charge, had taken the club to the play-offs, where they were defeated in a dramatic semi-final by Derby County.



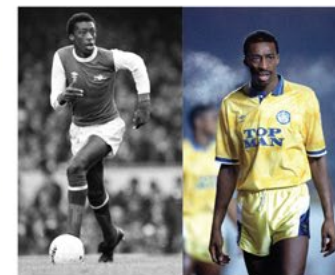
The West Yorkshire club may have been absent from England's elite for a long time, but they remain one of the country's biggest and best-supported clubs. Their golden era was back in the late 1960s/early 1970s under Don Revie, but they were also champions of England in 1991/92 – the last season before the Premier League started – and qualified for Europe five years in a row from 1997/98 to 2001/02, reaching the Champions League semi-finals in 2000/01. The club then suffered a dramatic decline, departing the top flight in 2004 then dropping into the third tier three years later. After three seasons in League One, they returned to the Championship and finally won promotion to the Premier League last year at the tenth time of asking.



Leeds drew 0-0 with Arsenal at Elland Road back in November, but that remains their only scoreless draw in this Premier League campaign. Bielsa's side have been cast in many quarters as the league's great entertainers with their open, expansive playing style, and there are usually not only goals at both ends but also winners and losers when Leeds play, just one of their other Premier League fixtures having finished all square – 1-1 at home to current league leaders Manchester City in early October.



That means they have yet to share the points on their travels, their 11 away games so far having yielded six wins and five defeats, with victories in the two most recent – 2-1 at Newcastle on January 26 and 3-1 at Leicester five days later. They have also won at Sheffield United (1-0), Aston Villa (3-0), Everton (1-0) and West Brom (5-0), though, conversely, there have been heavy defeats at Crystal Palace (4-1), Manchester United (6-2) and Tottenham (3-0). You never quite know what you are going to get from Leeds – they even lost 3-0 at Crawley last month in the third round of the FA Cup – but the chances are they will make for interesting viewing one way or another.



MUTUAL ADMIRATION

CHRIS WHYTE really was a local boy made good when he made his Arsenal debut against Man City on October 17, 1981, aged 20. The former Highbury Grove schoolboy formed a very promising central defensive partnership with David O'Leary in his first season and the future looked very bright for the Islington-lad. But after a couple of seasons in the team – and with Tony Adams' emergence – he fell out of favour and, despite a brief return in season 1985/86 when he filled in as an emergency striker, Whyte made the unusual move of crossing the Atlantic to play indoor 'soccer' for New York Express in the Major Indoor Soccer League in the summer of 1986. He had played 113 games for the Gunners, scoring eight goals.

Returning to England to play for West Brom in the summer of 1988, his excellent performances persuaded Howard Wilkinson to pay £450,000 to take him to Leeds in 1990. The England U21 centre-half played the best football of his career at Elland Road for three seasons and was crucial in the club winning the old First Division title in 1990/91. In all, he played 147 games for Leeds, scoring six goals before the then 32 year old joined Birmingham City in 1993.



BORN Lorient, France, 2/3/00

PREVIOUSLY Lorient

Illan joined Leeds on loan from Brittany club Lorient in August 2019 and made his debut here at Emirates Stadium in a 1-0 FA Cup third-round defeat last January. Initially the understudy to Kiko Casilla, he ended last season as the team's first choice when the Spaniard was forced to serve a long suspension and, having signed permanently, has kept his place this term. Tall, fresh-faced and agile, he could be called up by France for next month's European Under-21 Championship group stage.



BORN Hull, 30/8/91

PREVIOUSLY Hull, Carlisle (I), Huddersfield (I), Chesterfield

A Leeds player since the summer of 2014, when he joined from Chesterfield, Liam was appointed captain in his debut campaign and has retained the armband ever since, skipping the club to victory in last season's Championship. He made his 200th league outing for Leeds on Monday night and his 16th in 2020/21, a campaign that has also brought him success on the international front with Scotland as they won through the autumn play-offs to qualify for Euro 2020.



BORN Lambeth, 25/8/91

PREVIOUSLY Arsenal, Yeovil, Bristol City

Luke began his career here at Arsenal and was a Premier Academy League/FA Youth Cup double winner in 2008/09, but he made no first-team appearances before being loaned out to Yeovil. He joined Leeds from Bristol City in 2016 and has been an integral part of the side over the past five seasons, playing predominantly on the right side of defence. The official EFL Championship player of the year for 2019/20, he has been an ever-present in this Premier League campaign.



BORN Grantham, 5/9/93

PREVIOUSLY Nottingham Forest, Chelsea, MK Dons (I), Derby (I), Middlesbrough (I), Crystal Palace (I), Norwich (I), Burnley (I), Middlesbrough

A former England Under-21 international, Patrick was a Chelsea player for several seasons but never appeared in a senior game for the club, though he did play Premier League football for four other sides before adding Leeds to that list this term. A tall, skilful and versatile leader of the forward line, the left-footer joined Leeds from Boro in 2018 and has already scored 12 league goals in 2020/21, including against Crystal Palace on Monday and a hat-trick at Aston Villa.



BORN Tarnow, Poland, 13/6/90

PREVIOUSLY Cracovia, Wolfsburg B, PEC Zwolle, Wolfsburg B, Kaiserslautern, Twente, Utrecht (loan)

A much-travelled Poland international midfielder, Mateusz joined Leeds in 2017 from Dutch club FC Twente but it was not until he had returned from a half-season loan back in the Netherlands with Utrecht that he established himself at Elland Road, his industry and shooting power making him an indispensable figure in Marcelo Bielsa's side. Capped 30 times by Poland, the 30 year old is set to make his major tournament debut this summer at Euro 2020.



BORN Stoke-on-Trent, 20/11/96

PREVIOUSLY New York City, Manchester City, Middlesbrough (I)

Jack's career has taken an unusual route to the Premier League. Having emigrated to the USA at 14, the left-footed midfielder's first senior club were MLS side New York City, where he spent two progressive seasons before returning to England to join affiliate club Manchester City and subsequently being farmed out to Leeds, where he is enjoying a third successive season on loan as a first-team regular. He scored his sixth league goal of the season against Palace on Monday.



BORN Cookstown, Northern Ireland, 19/4/91

PREVIOUSLY Crusaders, Brentford, Northampton (loan)

Nominally a wide midfielder, 52-cap Northern Ireland international Stuart has also operated as a full back and in central midfield for Leeds, the club he joined from Brentford for a reported £1.3m fee in August 2015. A key player in last season's Championship-winning side, missing just one game, he has been an ever-present starter in this, his debut Premier League campaign, with four goals already to his credit, the latest in the 3-1 win at Leicester.



BORN Porto Alegre, Brazil, 14/12/96

PREVIOUSLY Vitoria Guimaraes, Sporting Lisbon, Rennes

An exciting addition to the Leeds ranks following their promotion, Raphinha has been a star turn in Marcelo Bielsa's side since he made his first Premier League start against Arsenal in November, scoring the winner next time out at Everton and adding three further league goals since Christmas. The skilful 24 year old Brazilian left-footer won the Portuguese Cup with Sporting in 2019 before leaving to join Rennes, with whom he finished third in Ligue 1 last season.



BORN July 21, 1955 in Rosario, Argentina

PREVIOUSLY Newell's Old Boys (1990-92), Atlas (1993-95), Club America (1995-96), Velez Sarsfield (1997-98), Espanyol (1998), Argentina (1998-2004), Chile (2007-11), Athletic Bilbao (2011-13), Marseille (2014-15), Lille (2017)

Eccentric, idiosyncratic and influential, Marcelo became Leeds boss in June 2018 and has become an iconic figure at the club, securing long-awaited promotion last summer. Early successes in his native Argentina with Newell's Old Boys and Velez Sarsfield preceded international appointments with Argentina (including a 1-0 defeat by England at the 2002 World Cup), then Chile. He returned to club football in Spain with Athletic Bilbao, leading them to the 2013 Europa League final, before brief spells in France at Marseille and Lille.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

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2006-07 – BET24

2007-08 – RED KITE

2008-11 – NETFLIGHTS

2011-15 – ENTERPRISE INSURANCE

2016-20 – 32RED

2020-21 – SBOTOP



David Batty
in 1985

REALLY?!

Leeds United are the 'youngest' club in the Premier League, having been formed in 1919 – Crystal Palace (1905) are the next most youthful. Leeds were however formed out of the ashes of **Leeds City** who were formed in 1904 and disbanded in 1919. Aston Villa are the oldest club in the PL, formed in 1874.

When **Luke Ayling** played against Liverpool in September, he became the fifth member of Arsenal's 2007 Academy intake to play in the Premier League. Luke follows Craig Eastmond (Arsenal), Henri Lansbury (Arsenal, Aston Villa), Jay Emmanuel-Thomas (Arsenal) and Kyle Bartley (Swansea, West Brom) who also played for Leeds in their '16/17 Championship season.

Marcelo Bielsa was manager of Lille for just seven months in 2017 – but in that time, he signed **Nicolas Pepe** from Angers for £9m and the Gunners forward scored 13 goals in his first season. Gabriel was also a Lille player during Bielsa's spell, but the young Brazilian was on loan at Troyes during his brief tenure.



FIRST IMPRESSION

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

Despite regularly taking on Leeds United in the glorious 30s, the first picture in our archives of the two teams comes from September 27, 1958 and features Arsenal's star striker, David Herd, bearing down on the Leeds goal at Elland Road. Herd scored in the match – one of 15 that season – but the home team won the game 2-1 with, Chris Crowe scoring a penalty and Jack Overfield getting the other for Bill Lambton's team.

Leeds' keeper Roy Wood can be seen on the edge of the picture, but the Leeds defender is certainly a familiar face, 23 year-old Jack Charlton – who went on to win the World Cup with England of course and played for Leeds for over 20 years.

Still two years from adopting an all white kit, Charlton is wearing Leeds' then colours of blue shirts with gold trim, white shorts and blue and gold hooped socks.

George Swindin's Arsenal finished a creditable third with Leeds 15th in Lambton's only season in charge. Wolves retained the First Division title.■

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS

12

DRAWS

5

LUFC WINS

8

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 48

ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS

47

DRAWS

33

LUFC WINS

41

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 39

22

Leeds United have had 22 different managers this millennium

48

Leeds' record transfer paid was £18m to West Ham for Rio Ferdinand in 2000 with the record fee received £30m, for the same player, from Man United two years later

9

Leeds conceded more goals to Arsenal in their Invincibles season than any other club after 4-1 and 5-0 defeats. Eddie Gray's team also lost 4-1 to the Gunners in the FA Cup that season

BELOW

Jack Harrison fires Leeds ahead against Crystal Palace last Monday

BOTTOM

Luke Ayling challenges Palace's Eberechi Eze. The former Gunner has been consistently excellent at Elland Road



SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

Leeds United's long-awaited return to the Premier League has been everything we expected from a Marcelo Bielsa side. Coming into this weekend, only the top four have scored more goals than Leeds, but only 19th-placed West Bromwich Albion have conceded more. Bielsa wants all-out-attack, and despite being famed for his intense scouting of opponents, doesn't make major concessions in his approach for anyone.

The defining feature of Bielsa's approach, which is almost completely different from every other manager in the Premier League, is his use of man-marking without possession. This means that one centre back acts as the spare defender, and almost everyone else simply follows

their direct opponent around the pitch. At times this can prove very effective, although if opponents play a quick one-two and carry the ball forward, space can open up very easily. It often means one of the opposition centre backs has freedom to bring the ball up the pitch, as Patrick Bamford, while getting through plenty of work, isn't able to close down two opponents on his own.

Bamford carries Leeds' greatest goalscoring threat, and even when not scoring his link play and all-round game is impressive, bringing others into play calmly. That's a crucial part of his game, because Leeds get tremendous numbers forward into attack. The wingers can both score – Jack Harrison tends to stay left for long switches of play, and can strike fiercely across the 'keeper, while right-sided Raphinha tends to cut inside and shoot from more central positions. Meanwhile, Rodrigo is generally deployed as a free-running central midfielder, which is quite a change from his role with Valencia, where he was very much an attacker. He's likely to play alongside Mateusz Klich, a good all-round midfielder capable of covering ground and providing goals and assists. Leeds' chief playmaker is Calvin Phillips, who sits deep and sprays diagonal balls expertly in front of the defence.

In defensive positions, Bielsa can call upon some very versatile options. Stuart Dallas' recent performance in a 3-1 win over Leicester was remarkable – he started the game by constantly running in behind the opposition defence from central midfield, opening the scoring in that fashion. He then switched to become a bonus centre back after Leicester changed formation, allowing Leeds to continue having a spare man in defence. He can play at full back, too.

Luke Ayling has been similarly impressive in his adaptability, often playing centre back but more at home as a right back. Ezgjan Alioski is deployed as left back, although his No 10 shirt indicates he considers himself somewhat more of an attacking player. In the middle, Liam Cooper generally plays alongside Pascal Struijk, another who can also play as a central midfielder.

In goal, Illan Meslier is very typically Bielsa – he's young and developing, is comfortable sweeping and using his feet, but at times has struggled with high balls. Leeds' record at defending set-pieces this season is very poor, and those situations may prove crucial for Arsenal today. ■

NEVES 45 PEN
MOUTINHO 49

PEPE 32

2

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 22

6pm • Tuesday, February 2 • Molineux

1

FIRST HALF

We could have had the game won inside the first 10 minutes. Bukayo Saka raced onto Thomas Partey's pass and fired against the post with just 36 seconds on the clock. Saka then found the net with a brilliant finish from Alex Lacazette's cut-back, but the goal was ruled out for offside. Undeterred, we continued to dominate and it was Nicolas Pepe who broke the deadlock, in stunning fashion. He advanced into the area and showed tenacity and quick feet to get past Nelson Semedo and Conor Coady, then crowned it with a curling shot into the corner. Wolves were holding on – but the match turned on its head with the final action of the first half. William Jose was played in and David Luiz clipped his trailing leg with his thigh. It was the feintest of touches and looked accidental, but out came the red card. Ruben Neves found the top corner from the spot and, somehow, we went in level.

SECOND HALF

A world-class strike from Joao Moutinho from 25 yards left us chasing the game shortly after the restart. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang – making a welcome return to the squad – came on for Pepe and we made inroads with 10 men. But another red card on 72 minutes effectively ended our resistance. This time it was Bernd Leno, who misjudged the flight of the ball after charging out of his area and inadvertently struck it with his arm. ■

MATCH STATS	
11 TOTAL SHOTS	9
7 SHOTS ON TARGET	3
9 CORNERS	6
1 OFFSIDES	3
11 FOULS	8
55 POSSESSION %	45

WOLVES

11	RUI PATRICIO
22	SAMEDO
16	COADY
15	BOLY
49	KILMAN
8	NEVES (74)
28	JOAO MOUTINHO
37	TRAORE
10	PODENCE (62)
7	NETO
12	DA SILVA (90)

SUBSTITUTES

VITINHA (62), DENDONCKER (74), FABIO SILVA (90), HOEVER, GIBBS-WHITE, RUDDY, RICHARDS, OTASOWIE.

ARSENAL

1	LENO
2	BELLERIN
16	HOLDING
23	DAVID LUIZ
17	CEDRIC
18	PARTY (74)
34	XHAKA
7	SAKA
32	SMITH ROWE
19	PEPE (61)
9	LACAZETTE (46)

SUBSTITUTES

GABRIEL (46), AUBAMEYANG (61), RUNARSSON (74), DOEGARD, CEBALLOS, WILLIAN, CHAMBERS, ELNENY, MARTINELLI



Nicolas Pepe was a menace in possession all evening

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Bukayo Saka was in devastating form in the first half at Molineux



THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD



A GAME OF TWO HALVES

Following a run of seven Premier League games without defeat, we were frustratingly beaten 2-1 by Wolves in a topsy-turvy battle at Molineux last week. But the scoreline doesn't tell the full story.

Until a series of unfortunate events played out on the stroke of half time, it could easily be argued that it was our finest performance of the season so far.

Right from the off, we played with pace and purpose during our build-up play, zipping the ball around Wolves' two-man midfield with ease, and consistently finding space behind their fullbacks.

With just 34 seconds on the clock, Bukayo Saka raced beyond Max Kilman and rattled the post with a fine effort, before losing his marker again and finding the bottom corner with a stunning half-volley, only for it to be ruled offside.

Nico Pepe was equally devastating on the left flank and on 32 minutes he nutmegged two players before rifling into the top corner with his weaker right foot. That's more like it.

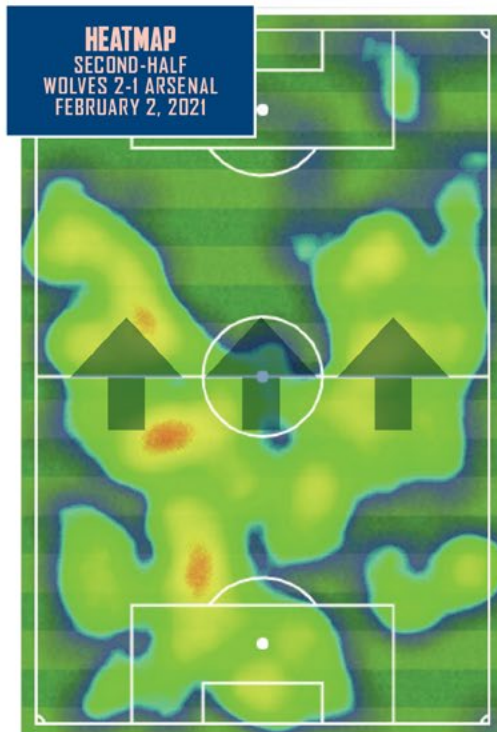
Aggressive. Intelligent. Purposeful. Our first-half performance was outstanding and the data certainly backs that up too. Just take a look at our heat map from the opening 45 minutes to see our dominance in midfield, advanced positioning and threat in wide areas.

But with one incident before the break, the tide turned and we found ourselves down to 10 men. Unsurprisingly, this forced us to retreat and we consequently lost our threat in attack, as we looked to maintain shape and pack the midfield (as shown in our heat map from the second half).

A frustrating result after such a dominant first-half performance, but it's another promising sign of Mikel Arteta's philosophy at work. ■



HEATMAP
FIRST-HALF
WOLVES 2-1 ARSENAL
FEBRUARY 2, 2021



HEATMAP
SECOND-HALF
WOLVES 2-1 ARSENAL
FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Green = 1st sub
Gold = 2nd sub
Blue = 3rd sub
Orange = 4th sub
Pink = 5th sub● = Win
● = Draw
● = Loss
+ = Won on pens■ = Premier League
■ = UEFA Europa League
■ = Carabao Cup
■ = Emirates FA Cup
■ = Community ShieldBold 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. Manniner							
	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	Willlock 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 Willlock Macey	M. Oliver							
	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. Banks							
OCTOBER	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 Willlock 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							
	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							
NOVEMBER	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	E. Glova							
	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							
DECEMBER	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. Meier							
	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							
	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							
JANUARY	Sun 29	Wolves	1-2	14	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Willock	William Saka AUBAMEYANG	Holding(46) Nelson(65) Lacazette(80) Cedric	Nketiah Elneny Runarsson	M. Oliver							
	Thur 3	Rapid Vienna	4-1	MD5	2,000	Runarsson Cedric Mari Mustafi Kolasinac M-Niles Elneny Nelson	Saka Nketiah LACAZETTE	Smith Rowe(63) Ceballos(63) William(63) Chambers(70) Balogun(81)	Tierney Saka Holding Willock Azeez Macey Leno	R. Petrescu							
	Sun 6	Tottenham Hotspur	0-2	15	2,000	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Partey Saka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(45) Nketiah(75) Mustafi Elneny	Willlock M-Niles Runarsson	M. Atkinson							
	Thur 10	Dundalk	4-2	MD6	BCD	Runarsson Cedric Mari Chambers Mustafi M-Niles Elneny Willock	Smith Rowe Pepe Nketiah	Ceballos(62) Balogun(62) Cottrell(77) Azeez(83)	Holding Saka Hein Macey	I. Bebek							
FEBRUARY	Sun 13	Burnley	0-1	15	2,000	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60) M-Niles(74) Nketiah(77) Willock	Smith Rowe Mustafi Runarsson	G. Scott							
	Wed 16	Southampton	1-1	15	BCD	Leno M-Niles Holding Gabriel Tierney Ceballos Elneny Saka	Pepe Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	David Luiz(65) Willock(67) Cedric(85) William	Lacazette Mustafi Runarsson	P. Tierney							
	Sat 19	Everton	1-2	15	2,000	Leno M-Niles HOLDING David Luiz Tierney Ceballos Elneny Saka	Pepe William Nketiah	Willock(64) Martinelli(71) Lacazette(76) Cedric	Bellerin Smith Rowe Kolasinac Mustafi Runarsson	A. Manniner							
	Tue 22	Manchester City	1-4	QF	BCD	Runarsson Cedric Mustafi Gabriel Kolasinac Ceballos Elneny M-Niles	Willock Martinelli LACAZETTE	Pepe(49) Smith Rowe(66) Balogun(77) Mari	Tierney Nketiah Leno	S. Attwell							
MARCH	Sat 26	Chelsea	3-1	14	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	Smith Rowe Martinelli LACAZETTE	Willock(65) Pepe(71) Mustafi(90) Ceballos	Aubameyang Cedric Nketiah M-Niles Runarsson	M. Oliver							
	Tue 29	Brighton & HA	1-0	13	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	Smith Rowe Martinelli AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(63) Ceballos(81) M-Niles(89) Willock	Cedric Mustafi Pepe Nketiah Runarsson	M. Atkinson							
	Sat 2	West Brom	4-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	M-Niles(54) William(71) Willock(77) Pepe	David Luiz Elneny Martinelli Nketiah Runarsson	M. Atkinson							
	Sat 9	Newcastle United	2-0	R3	BCD	Leno Cedric David Luiz Mari Tierney Willock Elneny Nelson	William Pepe AUBAMEYANG	Smith Rowe(56) Xhaka(66) Saka(66) Lacazette(105)	Balogun(120) Chambers Nketiah Runarsson	C. Kavanagh							
APRIL	Thur 14	Crystal Palace	0-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding David Luiz M-Niles Xhaka Ceballos Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(65) Partey(69) Nketiah(81) Willock	Cedric Gabriel William Chambers Runarsson	A. Manniner							
	Mon 18	Newcastle United	3-0	10	BCD	Leno Cedric Holding David Luiz Tierney Xhaka Partey Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Elneny(67) William(79) Martinelli(81) Willock	Bellerin Gabriel Nketiah Pepe Runarsson	D. Coote							
	Sat 23	Southampton	0-1	R4	BCD	Leno BELLERIN Holding Gabriel Cedric Xhaka Elneny William	Pepe Martinelli Nketiah	Partey(57) Saka(58) Lacazette(72) Willock	M-Niles Chambers David Luiz Ryan Runarsson	P. Banks							
	Tue 26	Southampton	3-1	8	BCD	Leno BELLERIN Holding David Luiz Cedric Xhaka Partey Saka	Smith Rowe Pepe Lacazette	William(72) Elneny(78) Willock(90) Gabriel	M-Niles Chambers Nketiah Martinelli Ryan	K. Friend							
MAY	Sat 30	Manchester United	0-0	9	BCD	Leno BELLERIN Holding David Luiz Cedric Xhaka Partey Martinelli	Smith Rowe Pepe Lacazette	William(46) Odegaard(83) Nketiah(90) Gabriel	M-Niles Chambers Elneny Willock Runarsson	M. Oliver							
	Tue 2	Wolves	1-2	10	BCD	Leno BELLERIN Holding David Luiz Cedric Xhaka Partey Saka	Smith Rowe Pepe Lacazette	Gabriel(46) Aubameyang(61) Runarsson(74)	Ceballos Odegaard Chambers Elneny Martinelli William	C. Pawson							
	Sat 6	Aston Villa	0-1	10	BCD	Ryan BELLERIN Holding Gabriel Cedric Xhaka Partey Saka	Smith Rowe Pepe Lacazette	Aubameyang(59) Odegaard(65) William(74)	Ceballos Chambers Martinelli Elneny Mari Runarsson	C. Kavanagh							
	Sun 14	Leeds United			4.30pm												
JUNE	Thur 18	Benfica			8pm												
	Sun 21	Manchester City			4.30pm												
	Thur 25	Benfica			5.55pm												
	Sun 28	Leicester City			12pm												
JULY	Sat 6	Burnley															
	Thur 10	UEL R16 L1			R16												
	S/S 13/14	Tottenham Hotspur															
	Thur 17	UEL R16 L2			R16												
AUGUST	S/S 20/21	West Ham United															
	Sat 3	Liverpool															
	Thur 8	UEL QFL1			QF												
	S/S 10/11	Sheffield United															
SEPTEMBER	Thur 15	UEL QFL2			QF												
	S/S 17/18	Fulham															
	Sat 24	Everton															
	Thur 29	UEL SFL1			SF												
OCTOBER	S/S 1/2	Newcastle United															
	Thur 6	UEL SFL2			SF												
	S/S 8/9	West Bromwich Albion															
	T/W 11/12	Chelsea															
NOVEMBER	Sat 15	Crystal Palace															
	Sun 23	Brighton & HA															
DECEMBER	Wed 26	UEFA Europa League Final															

THE BREAKDOWN FIRST-TEAM

FIXTURES, RESULTS & LINE-UPS

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Bernd Leno	22	2	2	2	-	28
Hector Bellerin	20	+1	1	+1	1	22+2
Bukayo Saka	19+1(4)	1+1	+2	2	1	23+4(4)
Rob Holding	19+1	+1	1	2	1	23+2
Granit Xhaka	18+1(1)	3	1+1	1	1	24+2(1)
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	17+2(5)	+1(1)	1(1)	-	1(1)	19+3(8)
Kieran Tierney	17(1)	+4	1	-	1	19+4(1)
Alexandre Lacazette	16+4(8)	3(1)	+2	1+1(1)	-	20+7(10)
Gabriel	13+1(2)	1	1	2	-	17+1(2)
William	12+5	1+2	2	+1	-	15+8
Mohamed Elneny	11+2	4+1(1)	2	2+1	1	20+4(1)
David Luiz	11+2	3(1)	1	1	1	17+2(1)
Dani Ceballos	10+6	1+4	-	2+1	-	13+11
Thomas Partey	9+2	1	+1	-	-	10+3
Emile Smith Rowe	9	+3(1)	+1(1)	+1	-	9+5(2)
Nicolas Pepe	8+8(4)	6(3)	2	2+1	-	18+9(7)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	5+6	5	+1	2+1	1	13+8
Cedric Soares	5+1	5+1	2	2	+1	14+3
Eddie Nketiah	3+11(1)	6(3)	1	2(1)	1	13+11(5)
Gabriel Martinelli	3+2	-	1	1	-	5+2
Pablo Mari	3	2(1)	1	-	-	6(1)
Joe Willock	2+5	4+1(3)	1	3	+1	10+7(3)
Sead Kolasinac	1	4	-	3	+1	8+1
Mat Ryan	1	-	-	-	-	1
Shkodran Mustafi	+3	5	-	1	-	6+3
Reiss Nelson	+2	3+1(1)	1	1	+1	5+4(1)
Martin Odegaard	+2	-	-	-	-	+2
Alex Runarsson	+1	4	-	1	-	5+1
Calum Chambers	-	1+1	-	-	-	1+1
Folarin Balogun	-	+4(2)	-	+1	-	+5(2)
Miguel Azeez	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Ben Cottrell	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Own goals	-	(2)	-	(1)	-	(3)

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Manchester City	22	15	5	2	29	50
2. Manchester United	23	13	6	4	19	45
3. Leicester City	23	13	4	6	14	43
4. Liverpool	23	11	7	5	15	40
5. Chelsea	23	11	6	6	14	39
6. West Ham United	23	11	6	6	6	39
7. Everton	21	11	4	6	6	37
8. Tottenham Hotspur	22	10	6	6	14	36
9. Aston Villa	21	11	2	8	12	35
10. Leeds United	22	10	2	10	0	32
11. Arsenal	23	9	4	10	4	31
12. Southampton	22	8	5	9	-8	29
13. Crystal Palace	23	8	5	10	-12	29
14. Wolves	23	7	6	10	-8	27
15. Brighton & HA	23	5	10	8	-5	25
16. Newcastle United	23	7	4	12	-13	25
17. Burnley	22	6	5	11	-15	23
18. Fulham	22	2	9	11	-14	15
19. West Brom	23	2	6	15	-36	12
20. Sheffield United	23	3	2	18	-22	11

As at Thursday, February 11

146 LIVE GAMES THIS SEASON





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MY ARSENAL

Name Ellen Deasy
Age 25
Live in Croydon
Occupation Accountant
Type of Membership Silver

Why are you an Arsenal fan? My dad and all of his family are Arsenal fans – I was given no choice!

First game? Arsenal vs Charlton, August 26, 2000, I was five years old. We won 5-2 (Vieira 2, Henry 2, Silvinho). Great start!

Favourite game? The 2014 FA Cup semi-final against Wigan at Wembley. The penalties were so nerve-racking but the feeling as Santi's winning penalty went in was amazing!

Favourite place to eat before a game? The Little Wonder cafe opposite The Armoury. A great view of the Emirates over lunch!

Best place in the stadium to watch a game from? Front row is my favourite to get as close to the action as possible, and for high fives from Gunnersaurus!

Furthest you've travelled to watch Arsenal play? Almost 3,000 miles to Baku in the 2019 Europa League final against Chelsea, 16 hours door-to-door! Great experience but not such a great score.

Favourite away ground and why? I saw us against Barcelona at the Nou Camp in a pre-season friendly in August 2019. Seeing a packed Nou Camp watching Arsenal in the sunset was amazing! I also love the family feel of Craven Cottage.

Favourite piece of memorabilia? A pennant from the last game at Highbury. I was in the front row for the game and the whole day was something I'll always remember.



Ellen on flag duty at the Emirates

Do you collect any memorabilia? No, but my Dad collects Arsenal programmes dating back to 1935 and my boyfriend has every Arsenal handbook dating back to 1947, so they make up for it!

What do you wear to games? I usually switch it up between current shirts and my vintage JVC one, paired with a maroon and white Highbury scarf.

Whose name and number do you have on your shirt? I have Holding 16 on the back of this year's third kit. He's my favourite player.

All-time favourite player and why? Freddie Ljungberg. The player I remember the most from my earliest Arsenal games, and he was always so great to watch. I loved his red hair song!

Best goal you've seen live? Jack Wilshere's against Norwich in October 2013. I was sat right behind the goal. Everyone was stunned!

Ever met any players? I met all of the players from around the Invincibles era at Junior Gunners parties. Meeting players like Thierry Henry and Freddie Ljungberg was incredible. In recent years I met Aaron Ramsey at an Arsenal members day. Before Arsene Wenger's last game, I saw Robert Pires and Santi Cazorla driving up to the ground outside The Armoury!

Which current player would you most like to go for dinner with? Rob Holding, my favourite player. Pretty good on the guitar too! ■



ARSENAL

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

P	S	SQ	
00		1	BERND LENO (GK) (22)
00		2	HECTOR BELLERIN (20)
00		3	KIERAN TIERNEY (17/1)
00		6	GABRIEL (13+1/2)
00		7	BUKAYO SAKA (19+1/5)
00		8	DANI CEBALLOS (10+5)
00		9	ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE (16+4/8)
00		11	MARTIN ODEGAARD (0+2)
00		12	WILLIAN (12+5)
00		13	ALEX RUNARSSON (GK) (0+1)
00		14	PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (17+2/5)
00		16	ROB HOLDING (19+1)
00		17	CEDRIC SOARES (5+1)
00		18	THOMAS PARTEY (9+2)
00		19	NICOLAS PEPE (8+8/4)
00		21	CALUM CHAMBERS
00		22	PABLO MARI (3)
00		23	DAVID LUIZ (11+2)
00		24	REISS NELSON (0+2)
00		25	MOHAMED ELNENY (10+2)
00		30	EDDIE NKETIAH (3+11/1)
00		32	EMILE SMITH ROWE (9)
00		33	MAT RYAN (GK) (1)
00		34	GRANIT XHAKA (18+1/1)
00		35	GABRIEL MARTINELLI (3+2)
00		38	FOLARIN BALOGUN
00		41	BEN COTTRELL
00		66	MIGUEL AZEEZ



LEEDS UNITED

MANAGER MARCELO BIELSA
DARK BLUE AND GREEN STRIPED SHIRTS,
DARK BLUE SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SQ	
00		1	ILLAN MESLIER (GK) (21)
00		2	LUKE AYLING (22)
00		4	ADAM FORSHAW
00		5	ROBIN KOCH (11)
00		6	LIAM COOPER (16/1)
00		7	IAN POVEDA (0+10)
00		9	PATRICK BAMFORD (22/12)
00		10	EZGJAN ALIOSKI (17+3/2)
00		11	TYLER ROBERTS (2+9)
00		13	KIKO CASILLA (GK) (1)
00		15	STUART DALLAS (22/4)
00		17	HELDER COSTA (8+5/2)
00		18	RAPHINHA (14+3/4)
00		19	PABLO HERNANDEZ (2+8)
00		20	RODRIGO MORENO (12+6/3)
00		21	PASCAL STRUIJK (11+2)
00		22	JACK HARRISON (21/6)
00		23	KALVIN PHILLIPS (18)
00		24	LEIF DAVIS (0+2)
00		28	GAETANO BERARDI
00		35	CHARLIE CRESSWELL
00		36	ROBBIE GOTTS
00		42	SAM GREENWOOD
00		43	MATEUSZ KLICH (20+2/3)
00		44	MATEUSZ BOGUSZ
00		46	JAMIE SHACKLETON (1+9)
00		47	JACK JENKINS
00		49	OLLY CASEY

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Stuart Attwell

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Dan Cook

Simon Long

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Simon Hooper

VAR

Andre Marriner

ASSISTANT VAR

Sian Massey-Ellis

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Southampton v
Wolverhampton
Wanderers (12pm)

West Bromwich Albion
v Manchester United
(2pm)

Everton v Fulham
(7pm)



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