

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



VILLARREAL

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 • 8pm • £3.50
SEMI-FINAL, SECOND LEG





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COVER It's Arsenal v Villarreal with a place in the Europa League final at stake



MIKEL ARTETA

We really needed that result on up at Newcastle on Sunday afternoon, that's for sure.

Not only in terms of building confidence for tonight's game, but also to give us something that we have deserved, because that hasn't always been the case lately. We have not always been rewarded for the way we've played in recent games, so it was good to finally get those three points at Newcastle, because we dominated the game.

It's true that winning on Sunday was the best way to prepare for tonight's match, but the Premier League is important too, and the players that haven't played so much lately got a lot of minutes at the weekend. More than that, they showed that they can play a really high level at the moment.

What we saw on Sunday is the importance and value of

getting the first goal of the game, that's been missing for us lately. If you can do that it brings a lot of confidence to your play, and Mo's goal put us in control early on. I think the team controlled the game really well from that point and we had periods of a lot quality. The timing, the movement, the understanding and the chemistry between the players was really good.

You could see from the reaction of his team-mates after his goal that Mo is a really popular character in the dressing room. He works really hard every day, he behaves the right way and he only thinks about the team, and that's why he is so great to work with.

We scored a good second goal as well in the second half through Auba. That was Auba's first start after his ▶





illness and we wanted to see how he could cope on the pitch. Last Thursday he was only able to play 10 or 15 minutes in Spain. He had some difficult days just before the game but he felt better before Sunday's match. I spoke with him and he wanted to start. He managed to play more minutes than we expected him to, and of course to score a goal as well will really give him a big lift. It's a real positive.

So apart from David Luiz's injury, it was nearly the perfect afternoon for us. We kept the team fresh, gave players with the right attitude the chance to play this game, got the win and a clean sheet as well.

Some of the players who came into the side had some strong performances, but to be honest they've been preparing really well all the time. They deserved the chance and now we have lots to think about ahead of tonight's game.

I think they all played really well and Gabi Martinelli is one of those who put in a strong performance. Right now he is improving every week. He's taking his minutes in the right way and he's developing the way we all believe he can. On Sunday he had an assist, which was an important moment, and he had some good moments off the left – and also trying to play as a No. 9 as well.

Time will tell what position will be his best, but I would like to develop him in both positions because I think he's

“GABI MARTINELLI IS IMPROVING EVERY WEEK. HE'S DEVELOPING THE WAY WE ALL BELIEVE HE CAN”

got the potential to do both.

Ever since the final whistle on Sunday though we have been focussed on tonight's match.

Last week we stayed in Spain after the game as part of our preparation, because we wanted to give the players the right rest, and then mentally start to focus again. First on the Newcastle game, and now tonight's match.

We had to pick the right players to play and perform at Newcastle, and they responded. I think the message got across really clearly. Now we have some big selection decisions to make for this second leg game.

First we need to pick the right team to beat them, but



also during the game we have to be intelligent and make the correct decisions on the substitutions during the game, because you get five subs and that can be absolutely key in European matches. We'll go for it.

The first leg was two really different halves against Villarreal. We have learned from that. There are certain things when you play in Europe that you have to be aware of. For example, in the boxes you have to be really on it. You need maximum concentration in both boxes because one slip could cost you. We know that discipline is massive as well and we'll talk about that before the game today.

Enjoy the match, and let's get this club to another final tonight. ■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

After a few games without winning we really needed that one on Sunday.

When you go into a big game like the one we have tonight, it's always much better if you can do that after having a victory, so it was just what we wanted to help our preparations. It's good for the confidence of the team and since Sunday we have been training really well together, getting ready for this match.

I was pleased to score as well of course at St James' Park. I think it was a good goal too. Gabi did incredible work throughout the game, and he gave me the assist for my goal so all the credit goes to him. I was happy to score it, because I seem to score quite often against Newcastle and I wanted to keep that going.

When you have been out for a few weeks, you are always happy when you can come back to the pitch and feel able to help your team again.

That was the feeling I had. It was my first start for a while and it felt so good to be back out there, and scoring a goal made it even better. I was definitely happy with that one.

I felt fresh and strong out there but I have to say that the last five minutes I was dying a bit! But to tell the truth, I felt really good throughout the rest of the game, so I was really happy with how I came through it.

I must say as well that the doctors did incredible work with me over the past few weeks. Also everyone in the hospital who treated me were fantastic, so I want to say

thanks to them because they did a great job. I'm really thankful to everyone on that side.

On the game itself on Sunday, it was much easier for us after we scored so early on. That was the idea going into the match, we spoke about how we could make a fast start and we did a great job on that.

When you score early it builds you up and also knocks down the opponent at the same time and everything changes from then. We were able to play our game after that moment, have more confidence and take control. ▶



20/21

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"THE DOCTORS DID INCREDIBLE WORK WITH ME OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS"

So it was an important goal, but also a big one for Mo personally – his first in the Premier League! He really, really wanted that for a while now, but I knew it would come because he works so hard, and he's scored in Europe – some great goals too – so we all know he can do it.

He's an absolutely great guy too, we're all so happy for him – let's hope he gets some more now!

So two goals and three points was what we wanted, especially in a week with a huge game like this.

Last week in Spain we did not see the real Arsenal, in the first half especially. I don't know why, but we were slow to start the match, and against a side like Villarreal you will be punished. They put us in trouble early and we had to react.

We did do that though. We spoke a lot at half-time about how to turn it around because we knew there was

still a long time to go.

Then Nico scored that penalty in the second half and that could be really, really big for us. We have to start quicker in this game though. We cannot afford to give chances away like we did, because Villarreal are a very strong side, they are clever and they can make you pay.

It's a semi-final, there's no more chances – we have to play our game and get the win here at the Emirates.

We will need everyone to be ready for the game, all over the pitch we need people to step up and do their job. We saw on Sunday that everyone is ready to perform, and we've had some good training sessions this week too.

We know what's needed and we know what the reward is tonight. I'm sure if we all perform how we know we can, if we all play our game, then we can turn around the result from the first leg and make it through to the final.

Thanks for your support, and again, thanks for your messages on social media while I was ill, I really appreciate it. ■



VOICE OF ARSENAL

Bukayo celebrates scoring against Slavia Prague



Bukayo points towards a bright future for the Gunners



BUKAYO'S THE BEST

Bukayo Saka scooped the prestigious London Young Player of the Year at the recent London Football Awards.

It's fantastic recognition for Bukayo's superb season, which has seen the 19 year old play 41 games for the Gunners, scoring seven goals with nine assists and also make his England debut during the current campaign too.

The capital-based teams have featured some excellent performances from young players in 2020/21 and Bukayo pipped his team-mate Emile Smith Rowe, Chelsea's Mason Mount and Reece James and West Ham's Declan Rice to the award.

"I think if you ask most players they will say [they want] team trophies rather than individual trophies," said Bukayo on receiving the award.

"I think I would rather win the World Cup than win player of the tournament of the World Cup, or with the Champions League and stuff like this. I would definitely say that I aspire to win a lot of team trophies in my career.

"It (winning London Young Player of the Year) hasn't

sunk in. I think it is good that it hasn't sunk in as I don't want any of this to go to my head.

"It is really nice to have this award," continued Bukayo, "because you work hard all season and you give your all for the team, coach, club and fans.

"Then to be voted as the Young Player of the Year at the London Football Awards, it shows people are recognising the hard work you are putting in.

"That's why when I get awards like this I always take a picture with it, I am always happy, I frame them all and put them up in my front room so I can look at them. It makes me smile every time I see stuff like this."

All funds raised from the London Football Awards will benefit Willow, a charity run by Arsenal legend Bob Wilson and his wife Megs and close to Arsenal fans' hearts: "I am aware of the work Willow does and the special days that they give," said Bukayo.

"It is something I want to give to as well, because I think the charity is really nice and I know that the club support them a lot. It is nice that I can win this award, that is linked to Willow." ■

SOCIAL MEDIA BOYCOTT

Arsenal joined the FA, Premier League, EFL, FA Women's Super League, FA Women's Championship, PFA, LMA, PGMOL, Kick It Out, Women in Football and the FSA for a social media boycott from 3pm on Friday, April 30 to 11.59pm on Monday, May 3.

Many other sports joined the movement too.

Our participation built on our own Stop Online Abuse campaign and took place across the full fixture

programme in our men's and women's professional game as we switched off Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, our Weibo, WeChat and DouYin channels in China, Twitch, YouTube and LinkedIn accounts.

We know a boycott action in isolation will not eliminate the issue of online discriminatory abuse, but it continued the emphasis on asking social media companies to do more to eradicate online hate. We've heard first-hand how the abuse affects many of our own players, legends and many of the Arsenal family and we cannot underestimate the impact it has.

In February, English football outlined its requests of social media companies, urging filtering, blocking and swift takedowns of offensive posts, an improved verification process and re-registration prevention, plus active assistance for law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute originators of illegal content. While some progress has been made, this weekend's boycott will serve as a reminder of the requests.

While football takes a stand, together we urge the UK Government to ensure its Online Safety Bill will bring in strong legislation to make social media companies more accountable for what happens on their platforms, as discussed at the DCMS Online Abuse roundtable last week.

Our participation in the social media boycott adds to a number of actions we've taken to bring about change and fulfil our responsibility to protect our players and our diverse, global family and stamp out abuse. You can read more about these actions here. ■



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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MANAGER
Mikel Arteta

TONIGHT'S GAME

Away goals will count double in the event of a draw on aggregate. So a 1-0 win for Arsenal tonight would see us qualify for the Europa League final – but a 3-2 victory would see Villarreal qualify. Only a 2-1 home win tonight would result in extra time, consisting of two 15 minute periods. Away goals count double in extra time too but no further goals during this period would result in penalties.

Following their sending off in the first leg, Arsenal's Dani Ceballos and Villarreal's Etienne Capoue are both suspended tonight, but would be available for the final. The final takes place on Wednesday, May 26 in Gdansk, Poland. UEFA has confirmed that 9,500 fans will be able to attend the match, with the finalists each receiving an allocation of 2,000 tickets. ■



Emile Smith Rowe in action during a tight first leg

*Donations for appearing on the Noticeboard

NOTICEBOARD

LUCY MAYA PARKER – Born April 20, 2021. Mum and Dad love you lots and can't wait for you to watch The Arsenal for the first time

TOTALISER: £838*

ARSENAL REMEMBERS

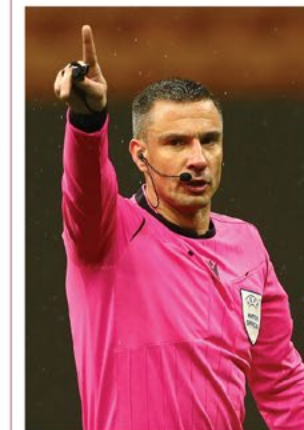
DAVID ELEY

Lifelong Arsenal fan, devoted husband to Kim, dad to Paris, Dalton, Dallas and friend to many. We will miss you more than words can say. You will be forever in our hearts. Once a Gooner, always a Gooner!

MYLES PATRICK ROCHE

Remembering his wonderful gentle soul and the love for his club Arsenal. With much love and sympathy from your family in London to Margaret, Ciaran and Riley ■

REF WATCH



Tonight's referee is Slavko Vincic, from Slovenia.

The 41 year old is an experienced official who has refereed Europa League, Champions League and World Cup qualifying fixtures this season.

Vincic has been on the FIFA list since 2010 and has been officiating Europa

League games since 2014/15, but despite taking charge of numerous games in Uefa competitions over the years, tonight will be his first match officiating either Arsenal or Villarreal. ■

FUTURE FLO

Folarin Balogun has committed his future to us by signing a new long-term contract with the club.

The 19-year-old striker has been at the club since he was nine and has continued his impressive development this season, making his first-team debut and scoring his first goals at senior level.

'Flo' to his team-mates, the academy graduate has scored twice from his six first-team appearances this season, with both goals coming in the Europa League group stage, away at Molde and Dundalk.

The New York-born striker, who has represented both the USA and England at youth level, has also continued to make an impact in our academy this season, scoring eight goals from his 18 appearances in the PL2 and EFL Trophy.

"My ambitions for next season are to make an impact in the first team, not just be one of the numbers, Said Flo. "I want to be somebody who eventually leads that group, so I'd say I have quite driven ambitions. We'll see if I can make them happen."

Mikel Arteta said: "We have been extremely impressed with Flo this season. He has continually shown his natural ability in many training sessions and we have been equally impressed with his early integration into the first-team squad on matchdays.

"He has given us glimpses with the performances and of course with his two goals already for the first team. The hard work starts here for Flo and we are all looking forward to supporting and working with him in the years to come." ■

Flo pictured with technical director Edu at Emirates Stadium after signing a long-term contract



A great memory from Stamford Bridge

CHELSEA GAME CONFIRMED

The details of our Premier League fixture at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea have now been confirmed. The match will be played as under:

Chelsea v Arsenal

Wednesday, May 12 (originally Saturday, May 15)

Kick off: 8.15pm

Live on Sky Sports

Our match against Crystal Palace will also be rearranged, for the following midweek. Date and time TBC. ■



YOUTH CUP WOE

Arsenal's under-18s lost to Liverpool in the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup last Friday at Anfield. The match finished 3-1 to the home side and the Gunners will have to wait until next season to hopefully add to their seven trophies.

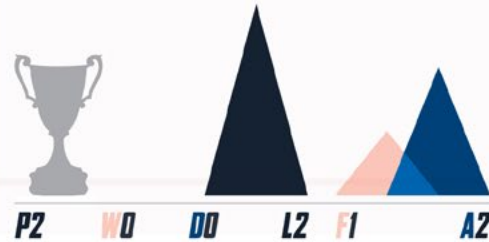
A full report will appear in the West Brom programme. ■

ARSENAL VS SPAIN

ARSENAL GOALSCORERS V SPANISH TEAMS

Thierry Henry	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	9
P-E Aubameyang	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	4
Alexandre Lacazette	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	4
Dennis Bergkamp	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	3
Robin van Persie	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	3
Emmanuel Adebayor	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Edu	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Eduardo	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Cesc Fabregas	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Kanu	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Robert Pires	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Theo Walcott	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	2
Andrey Arshavin	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Nicklas Bendtner	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Sol Campbell	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Lee Dixon	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Mohamed Elneny	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
John Hartson	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Marc Overmars	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Ray Parlour	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Nicolas Pepe	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1
Kolo Toure	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●	1

ARSENAL V SPAIN - BY COMPETITION



ARSENAL V SPANISH TEAMS - GAME BY GAME

Opponents	H/A/N	Comp.	Date	F-A
Valencia	N	ECWC	14/5/1980	0-0*
Real Zaragoza	N	ECWC	10/5/1995	1-2
Barcelona	A	UCL	29/9/1999	1-1
Barcelona	H	UCL	19/10/1999	2-4
Deportivo La Coruna	H	UC	2/3/2000	5-1
Deportivo La Coruna	A	UC	9/3/2000	1-2
Valencia	H	UCL	4/4/2001	2-1
Valencia	A	UCL	17/4/2001	0-1
Real Mallorca	A	UCL	11/9/2001	0-1
Real Mallorca	H	UCL	24/10/2001	3-1
Deportivo La Coruna	A	UCL	21/11/2002	0-2
Deportivo La Coruna	H	UCL	12/3/2003	0-2
Valencia	H	UCL	10/12/2002	0-0
Valencia	A	UCL	19/3/2003	1-2
Celta Vigo	A	UCL	24/2/2004	3-2
Celta Vigo	H	UCL	10/3/2004	2-0
Real Madrid	A	UCL	21/2/2006	1-0
Real Madrid	H	UCL	8/3/2006	0-0
Villarreal	H	UCL	19/4/2006	1-0
Villarreal	A	UCL	25/4/2006	0-0
Barcelona	N	UCL	17/5/2006	1-2
Sevilla	H	UCL	19/9/2007	3-0
Sevilla	A	UCL	27/11/2007	1-3
Villarreal	A	UCL	7/4/2009	1-1
Villarreal	H	UCL	15/4/2009	3-0
Barcelona	H	UCL	31/3/2010	2-2
Barcelona	A	UCL	6/4/2010	1-4
Barcelona	H	UCL	16/2/2011	2-1
Barcelona	A	UCL	8/3/2011	1-3
Barcelona	H	UCL	23/2/2016	0-2
Barcelona	A	UCL	16/3/2016	1-3
Atletico Madrid	H	UEL	26/4/2018	1-1
Atletico Madrid	A	UEL	3/05/2018	0-1
Valencia	H	UEL	2/05/2019	3-1
Valencia	A	UEL	9/05/2019	4-2
Villarreal	A	UEL	29/04/2021	1-2

* Lost on penalties ● = Won □ = Drawn ■ = Lost

OUR 14 SPANISH FIRST-TEAM PLAYERS

	CESC FABREGAS 303 APPS 57 GOALS		DANI CEBALLOS 75 APPS 2 GOALS
	NACHO MONREAL 251 APPS 10 GOALS		LUCAS PEREZ 21 APPS 7 GOALS
	HECTOR BELLERIN 236 APPS 9 GOALS		FRAN MERIDA 16 APPS 2 GOALS
	SANTI CAZORLA 180 APPS 29 GOALS		PABLO MARI 17 APPS 1 GOAL
	MANUEL ALMUNIA 175 APPS 0 GOALS		IGNASI MIQUEL 14 APPS 1 GOAL
	MIKEL ARTETA 150 APPS 16 GOALS		DENIS SUAREZ 6 APPS 0 GOALS
	JOSE ANTONIO REYES 110 APPS 23 GOALS		JULIO PLEGUEZUELO 1 APP 0 GOALS

WHERE WE HAVE PLAYED IN SPAIN



GUNNING FOR GLORY

Football Historian Jon Spurling looks at four of Arsenal's successful semi-finals in European competition

EUROPEAN FAIRS CUP SEMI-FINAL

APRIL 8, 1970



3

GEORGE 16, 85 SAMMELS 77



0

APRIL 15, 1970



1

MUHREN 17



0

Bertie Mee's rejuvenated Arsenal swept aside the emerging Ajax team at Highbury with a coruscating display of attacking football in a memorable first leg of the Fairs Cup semi-final.

Left back Bob McNab went close with two early efforts, before Charlie George rifled home on 17 minutes. "The ball flashed past me with virtually no back lift," admitted Ajax goalkeeper Gert Bals. Johan Cruyff threatened Arsenal on several occasions and Ajax looked potentially devastating on the counter attack, but Peter Storey, revelling in his designated role of keeping the Dutchman quiet, stuck to his task. Midfielder Jon Sammels bundled in a crucial late second, and when George Graham was bundled over, Charlie George blasted home the spot kick. Cruyff – mightily impressed with George's passing ability, insisted afterwards: "Charlie can become as good as Di Stefano."

Thanks largely to goalkeeper Bob Wilson and defender Peter Simpson, Ajax failed to build on Gerrit Muhren's 17th-minute goal in the return leg, and the Gunners' rearguard action ensured a 3-1 aggregate victory, securing a slot in the final against Belgian side Anderlecht. ■



One of the greatest. Johan Cruyff enters Highbury



EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP SEMI-FINAL

APRIL 9, 1980



1

BETTEGA 06 85



1

CABRINI 10

APRIL 23, 1980



0



1

VAESSEN 88



Frank Stapleton tussles with the legendary Dino Zoff at Highbury

It's in! A late equaliser gave the Gunners a chance of glory in Turin

Terry Neill's Arsenal side's chances of progressing into the Cup Winners Cup final appeared slim after a tight – and controversial first leg at Highbury.

Italian star Antonio Cabrini gave the visitors the lead – a rebound after Pat Jennings saved his spot kick, and then the silver haired Roberto Bettega removed central defender David O'Leary from the equation with a cynical lunge.

There was justice of a sort when Bettega scored an own goal late on, but as The Times' Clive White wrote prior to the return leg in the Stadio Comunale: "They (Juventus) are capable of murdering Arsenal 0-0, for this is all they need to go through after the 1-1 draw at Highbury. And 0-0 are the most popular figures in Italian football."

In over 25 years of European competition, no English side had won at the stadium, but Arsenal hearts were resolute. Against a dramatic backdrop of fire-crackers and Roman candles, Giovanni Trapattoni's men played extremely cautiously, refusing to take unnecessary risks and kill the tie. Arsenal's energetic forays forwards were blunted by a notoriously mean defence which formed the cornerstone of Italy's World Cup winning side two years later.

With 15 minutes remaining, Terry Neill threw caution to the wind and brought on 18 year old substitute striker Paul Vaessen. In the dying minutes, midfielder Graham Rix broke down the left, and delivered an inch perfect cross onto the head of Vaessen, who steered the ball past legendary Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff, to put Arsenal into the final, and stun Turin into total silence. ■



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

APRIL 19, 2006



1

TOURE 41



0

APRIL 25, 2006



0



0

On Highbury's last ever night of European football, Kolo Toure netted Arsenal's winner in a tense clash with Manuel Pellegrini's Villarreal and put the Gunners within touching distance of the Champions League final.

After a disruption as a squirrel invaded the pitch, the Ivorian side-footed home an Alex Hleb cross, but despite concerted pressure, and a couple of Thierry Henry half chances, Arsenal were unable to add to their goal tally.

Villarreal, boasting global talents Uruguayan Diego Forlan and Argentinian Juan Roman Riquelme, were always likely to pose Arsène Wenger's side problems in the compact El Madrigal, and so it proved.

With Pellegrini's men playing neat passing triangles, Guille Franco almost headed Villarreal into the lead, heading fractionally wide of Jens Lehmann's post on two occasions, and then Forlan somehow blasted wide when it looked far easier to score.

With seconds remaining Gael Clichy was harshly adjudged to have fouled Jose Mari, and the referee controversially awarded Villarreal a penalty. Lehmann came to Clichy's rescue, diving brilliantly to save Riquelme's spot-kick and book Arsenal's place in their first Champions League final in Paris. ■



Celebrations at Highbury... and in Spain where Lehmann was the hero

EUROPA LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

MAY 2, 2019



3

LACAZETTE 18, 25
AUBAMEYANG 90



1

DIAKHABY 11

MAY 9, 2019



2

GAMEIRO 11, 58



4

AUBAMEYANG 17, 69, 88
LACAZETTE 50



A deadly half-volley from Auba... on his way to claiming the matchball

The Gunners looked to be in for a testing night at the Emirates Stadium in the first leg of the Europa League semi-final when Mouctar Diakhaby put the visitors into the lead after 11 minutes with a header, but Unai Emery's side fought back magnificently as Alexandre Lacazette scored twice, and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang volleyed home late on to give Arsenal a 3-1 win on the night.

Valencia – with passionate home support roaring them on – were a fearsome proposition in the towering Mestalla, and after Kevin Gameiro swept home an early goal, Arsenal looked wobbly, with the home side squandering several fine chances in the first half.

Arsenal's jangling nerves were settled when Aubameyang thumped in a deadly half volley from just outside Valencia's penalty area, and Lacazette's sharp turn and finish put the tie beyond doubt. Although Valencia pulled another goal back, Aubameyang swept the ball home majestically from Ainsley Maitland-Niles's low cross, and with seconds remaining, completed his hat trick with a thunderous finish, to give Emery's team a 7-3 aggregate victory, and put them in the 2019 Europa League final in Baku. ■



FORWARD



EDDIE NKETIAH

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, Eddie? Are you an organised person generally?

Quite organised. I like to get into a good routine, and I've got a good family who help me arrange my life around football. They allow me to concentrate on my work, they take the pressure off me from that side, so I like to be organised. At the same time, I don't look too far ahead or try to predict what will be happening. You can't get too carried away, you need to stay in the present time and take things day by day.

How about on the pitch? Do you know what's coming up in the training sessions for example?

Yes definitely, I like to know what we will be working on each day, when the games are coming up, what sort of sessions we'll be having and which days are recovery days. It's important to know all this information so you can plan a little bit around it. I always look at the schedule for the next week at least, and plan around that.

What part of training do you look forward to most?

I like to be involved in the competitive stuff, the small games when there's a real intensity to it. But obviously the best day of any week is matchday when you are playing. Nothing beats that at all.

ARSENAL

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

MEAL

Jollof rice



NEW CAR

A Lamborghini Urus



TROPHY YOU WIN

The World Cup

HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Miami



NEW TEAM-MATE

Lionel Messi



Do you look at the fixture list much and pull out interesting games?

I have a good idea of the next three or four games coming up, and I always look to see whether it's a three-game week, what times the games are going to be and stuff like that.

"I COULDN'T REALLY SEE MYSELF BEING A MANAGER, BUT DEFINITELY COACHING"

And how does that affect your schedule and routine off the pitch?

Not too much, I try to stick to the same bedtimes anyway, but if there's a day off then you might have more time to do things, and then nearer the games I will try to get a bit of extra sleep and make sure I'm well recovered and rested.

Typically what would your plans be for a day off?

Well out of lockdown I'd probably have friends over, play FIFA, chill out really. Listen to some music, whatever. I like to host more than go out these days – it's just easier! I like having people round to my place.

Looking ahead, do you have a plan for where you would like to be in a year or a few years' time?

Well next year obviously I know I want to be playing regular football. In terms of the future I have big aspirations. I want to be a big player and maximise my potential, and get the best out of myself. That's my main target right now.

You are still only 21, but have you had any thoughts at all about what you would like to do after your playing career?

I'm not 100 per cent sure, I'm more thinking about my playing career, but in terms of planning for my future, I think I will maybe manage a property portfolio when I finish. Or maybe I'd like to stay in football, but I don't think I've got it in me to be a manager. I think that would be too demanding, but maybe I'd like to go into coaching, or even punditry. There's a few areas to consider but I will do that nearer the time.

Have you had any coaching experience already?

Yes, we all did a bit of coaching in our first couple of years as a scholar in the academy. I enjoyed it, to be fair. I like



helping other players, communicating with them. I feel like I know what type of coaches I've enjoyed working with, so that's something I could potentially go into, a bit of coaching on a one-to-one basis, and building relationships.

What style of football would you like to coach?

Well as an attacker myself it would definitely be attacking football. I like to be on the front foot, play forward and positive football. I couldn't really see myself being a manager if I'm being honest, but definitely in coaching.

"I THINK I COULD BE QUITE GOOD IN THE MEDIA YOU KNOW!"

And punditry or media work as well maybe?

Yeah I think so, I think I could be quite good in the media you know! Obviously it depends on how my career goes, but basically I just love football, I love all the interactions with people in the game and I love talking about it, so why not?

What else would you like to do once you retire that you can't do as a player?

I would love to travel. As footballers we are so lucky to visit a lot of places, but you never get the time to really experience them, so I certainly want to explore more places in future.



Finally, if you were told there's a spare seat on the next trip to the moon, would you want to go?

Is it a return ticket?! Yeah, why not if it's just for a visit. I'd go, why not? As long as you don't leave me there I'd be up for it. ■



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2

TRIGUEROS MUNOZ 5,
ALBIOL 29



1

PEPE 73 PEN

EUROPA LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL, FIRST LEG

8pm • Thursday, April 29 • Estadio de la Ceramica

FIRST HALF

We went behind after only five minutes. After Samuel Chukwueze attacked makeshift left back Granit Xhaka in the box, the ball broke kindly for Manu Trigueros, who blasted the ball past Bernd Leno. It was a real hammerblow, and just as we were slowly starting to work our way back into the game, Villarreal doubled their advantage as Raul Albiol volleyed in from close range after a corner. We thought we had our way back into the tie when we were awarded a penalty when Nicolas Pepe was hauled down in the area – only for VAR to overturn it for a handball by the Ivorian in the build up.

SECOND HALF

We started the second half with more impetus, and immediately Pepe had a half chance blocked. But just as we were building momentum, Dani Ceballos was sent off for a second bookable offence and our task became even greater. Leno made a wonderful save from a powerful Moreno shot from 10 yards out, but as it began to look like the tie was getting away from us, Bukayo Saka was tripped in the box and Pepe kept his composure to slot home from the spot. Game – and tie – on. It soon took another twist as Etienne Capoue was sent off for a second bookable offence after a wild tackle on Saka. There was still time for a late chance for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang – on as a sub just minutes before – after a wonderful Thomas Partey throughball, but he slipped as he shot and saw his effort saved. ■

MATCH STATS	
8	TOTAL SHOTS 9
6	SHOTS ON TARGET 2
3	CORNERS 3
1	OFFSIDES 3
11	FOULS 14
50	POSSESSION % 50

VILLARREAL

- 13 RULLI
- 8 FOYTH (70)
- 3 ALBIOL
- 4 PAU TORRES
- 24 PEDRAZA (80)
- 25 CAPOUE
- 5 PAREJO
- 14 TRIGUEROS (81)
- 11 CHUKWUEZE
- 7 MORENO
- 17 ALCACER (46)

SUBSTITUTES

GASPAR (70), MORENO (80), COQUELIN (46), GOMEZ (81), MORI, BACCA, COSTA, ESTUPINAN, PIND, BAENA, NINO, ASENJO

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 21 CHAMBERS
- 16 HOLDING
- 22 MARI
- 34 XHAKA
- 18 PARTEY
- 8 CEBALLOS
- 7 SAKA (85)
- 11 ODEGAARD (63)
- 32 SMITH ROWE (90)
- 19 PEPE (90)

SUBSTITUTES

ELNENY (90), WILLIAN (90), AUBAMEYANG (85), MARTINELLI (63), BELLERIN, GABRIEL, DAVID LUIZ, CEDRIC, NELSON, NKETIAH, RYAN, OKONKWO



Nicolas Pepe strokes home what is hopefully a crucial goal for the Gunneders

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LAVAZZA
TORINO, ITALIA, 1895



Official Coffee of Arsenal FC

COMMUNITY



The BTEC group are back on their weekly coach education sessions

ARSENAL BTEC STUDENTS ARE BACK!

No doubt the pandemic has affected many of our participants in a variety of ways. One of the most impacted programmes during lockdown has been our Sports Coaching BTEC Level 3 Qualification.

Our 16-18 year old Arsenal students study a two-year full-time, A-level equivalent programme. The course has an emphasis on football coach education as the underlying practical element alongside academic theory units, such as anatomy and physiology, sports psychology, sports injuries, and talent ID.

March saw an excited return for our students to weekly coach education sessions. These sessions delivered by UEFA qualified coaches aim at exploring the fundamentals of football coaching, including session design, delivery, player age characteristics,

'THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE TRANSITION TO ONLINE DELIVERY FOR STUDENTS WAS A HESITANT ONE. WE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE ACCESS TO SPECIFIC TRAINING, RESOURCES AND STAFF FROM ACROSS THE CLUB THAT ENHANCED ONLINE DELIVERY AND ENGAGEMENT. I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW PROUD WE ARE OF OUR STUDENTS DURING THIS PERIOD. WITH 98% ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT, THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CREATED BY BOTH TUTORS & STUDENTS, BECAME A FUN AND CHALLENGING SAFE SPACE FOR MANY.' - **MARTIN DAVIS – COURSE TUTOR**



Waiting (2m apart!) to get back in the classroom at The Hub

'ONE OF MY PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT LOCKDOWN, WAS A WEEKLY QUIZ WE WERE ASKED TO HOST FROM OUR 2015-17 STUDENTS. A GROUP THAT REMAINED IN CONTACT SINCE LEAVING ARSENAL AND DESPITE WORK/UNIVERSITY COMMITMENTS WOULD ENJOY MEETING WEEKLY FOR A CATCH UP. THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT STUDYING WITHIN A CLUB SUCH AS ARSENAL, AND THIS EXAMPLE CAPTURES THAT UNIQUENESS.'

- ANTHONY DAVID – COURSE TUTOR

differentiation and reflection.

Students are staggering a return to classroom academic delivery throughout April and May. With an in-depth practical emphasis work experience plays an integral part of the qualification and with many of Arsenal in the Community's programmes having returned to activity, students will have access to some amazing experiences and opportunities in the coming months.

A huge thank you to all staff throughout the club for your support with the students during this period.

If you would like more information on our post-16 education provision, please contact: Martin Davis at mdavis@arsenal.co.uk



PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

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

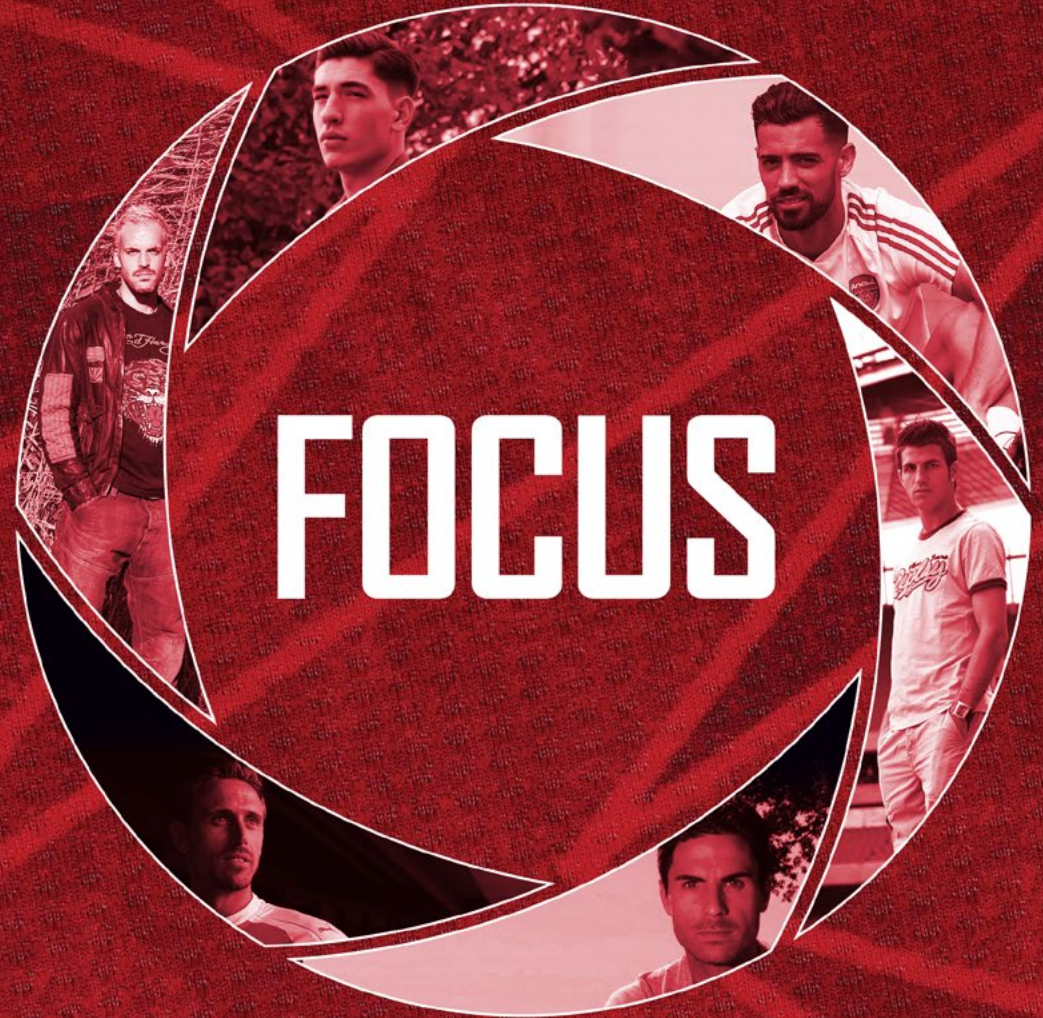
WELL DONE TO EVERYONE AT BLESSED SACRAMENT PRIMARY FOR BEING SCHOOL OF THE WEEK FOLLOWING OUR #BEAMBITIOUS ASSEMBLY AND CHALLENGE. SPECIAL GUEST @RACHELYANKEY11 ANNOUNCED THE WINNER ON FRIDAY'S #BEMINDFUL ASSEMBLY



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SPANISH GUNNERS





MANUEL ALMUNIA
NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Manuel remains the only Spaniard to play in goal for the Arsenal first team, and he made 175 appearances in all between 2004 and 2011, keeping 70 clean sheets.



MIKEL ARTETA

SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Captain of the side for two seasons at the end of his playing career, the creative midfielder made 150 appearances between 2011 and 2016, winning the FA Cup twice



HECTOR BELLERIN

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Aged 20 in this picture, Hector made his Gunners debut two years earlier, in September 2013, as a substitute for compatriot Mikel Arteta. The right back has since racked up nearly 250 first-team outings



SANTI CAZORLA

AUGUST 3, 2012

Pictured upon his arrival from Malaga in August 2012, Santi went on to have a fantastic career with the Gunners, becoming a firm fans' favourite, scoring 29 times from 180 appearances.



CESC FABREGAS
AUGUST 10, 2006

Pictured on the eve of our first ever season at Emirates Stadium, Cesc was already a couple of years into a stellar Arsenal career, which began aged 16 in 2003. He holds the club appearance record for Spaniards, with 303 games and 57 goals over eight seasons.



NACHO MONREAL

MAY 15, 2016

A remarkably consistent left back, Nacho made 251 first-team appearances between 2013 and 2019, winning three FA Cups and three Community Shields in that time

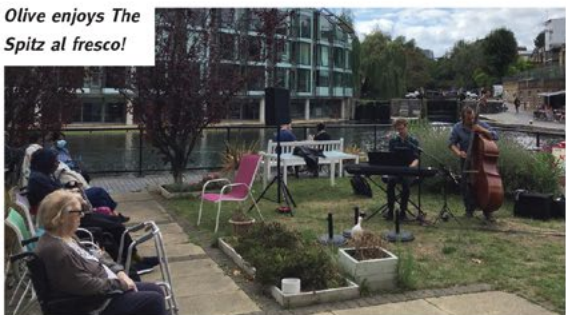


JOSE ANTONIO REYES
FEBRUARY 13, 2004

A much-loved presence on the pitch, Jose Antonio joined during the 2003/04 Invincibles season, and made an instant impression, scoring 23 goals from his 110 appearances in all. He tragically died, aged just 35, on June 1, 2019 in Spain.



Olive and Vanessa – together again



Olive enjoys The Spitz at fresco!

Vanessa: It has been very difficult not being able to see my mum face to face. She loves to see her family so every week during the first lockdown we went to the canal to clap for the NHS and the staff at Bridgeside Lodge on a Thursday evening. I would wave to mum and shout up at her window, but she couldn't hear very well so I got her a mobile phone.

I can now go in once a week and see her in the living room, which is brilliant. Mum has found it very hard too and she didn't understand why we couldn't see her. I feel we've lost a whole year and she isn't getting any younger. I do think her mental health has deteriorated, but I was happy to know she was safe and well looked after by all the staff.

Mum loves playing bingo, which they couldn't do, but she did have the music. She would tell me what songs they'd been singing and we talked about her favourites, although I had to Google one because she couldn't remember the name. It was one she liked when she first met my dad – Some Enchanted Evening from South Pacific. My mum has greatly benefited from having The Spitz at the care home and they are so lovely to her. Music is information for the elderly because it brings back memories of the good times when they were young.

For info or to make a donation visit www.spitz.org.uk

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 has helped fund The Spitz, a charity that uses the power of live music to increase wellbeing while reducing isolation and loneliness. Bridgeside Lodge care home resident Olive and her daughter Vanessa tell us how it has helped

Olive: I think I shocked The Spitz musicians on my last birthday in January – I was 94, but they thought I was in my seventies. The secret for me was happiness and the Northumberland air!

I moved to London in the late 1940s and worked as a midwife. I met my husband Eddie at a Saturday evening dance at Hornsey Town Hall in Crouch End. This was during the Big Band scene, and we did lots of dancing!

Eddie moved to Australia so I followed him and we got married in Sydney, had four children and lived in New South Wales for nearly 14 years.

Then in 1964 we moved back to London – to Highbury. Eddie was born around the corner from Arsenal Stadium and was an ardent Arsenal supporter.

These lockdowns have been hard for everyone, and especially people who have been unable to see family.

My newest great-grandchild Roman arrived on New Year's Eve and was born healthy, which is all you can ask for. I have always loved the music we get here from The Spitz, and it was wonderful that they were able to bring us some happiness last summer.

I spent the first lockdown in my room so it was great to get out and enjoy some fresh air, too.

DANI CEBALLOS, HECTOR BELLERIN AND PABLO MARI FEBRUARY 10, 2020

The three Spaniards currently in our first-team squad take a break during training last season. Pablo Mari made his Gunners debut a month later in the FA Cup, becoming the 14th Spaniard to represent the club. Dani Ceballos had been the 13th, and is now closing in on 50 Premier League games for us.



The legendary Raul Albiol scored in the first leg



VILLARREAL

By: Mike Hammond

FORMED

March 10, 1923

NICKNAME

El Submarino Amarillo
(The Yellow Submarine)

STADIUM

Estadio de la Ceramica (23,500)

HONOURS

La Liga
Runners-up: **2007/08**

Segunda Division
Runners-up: **2012/13**

Tercera Division
Winners: **1970**

UEFA Intertoto Cup
Winners: **2003, 2004**

UEFA Champions League
Semi-Finals: **2005/06**

Europa League
Semi-Finals: **2003/04, 2010/11, 2015/16, 2020/21**

PRESIDENT

Fernando Roig

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

Twitter **518k**
Instagram **859k**
Facebook **958k**

Following last week's 2-1 win against Arsenal at the Estadio de la Ceramica, Villarreal have played more matches (86), registered more wins (46) and scored more goals (151) in the UEFA Europa League than any other club, but they have never won the competition. Indeed, they have yet to reach a major European final, so tonight's encounter is equally important to the Spanish club as it is to their hosts. Indeed, they too, like the Gunners, will almost certainly need to lift the trophy in Gdansk later this month to earn a place in next season's UEFA Champions League.

Adding to tonight's intrigue, of course, is the return to Emirates Stadium of former Arsenal boss Unai Emery, who is by far the most successful coach in the 12-season history of the Europa League, having led Sevilla to their hat-trick of trophy successes from 2013/14-2015/16 and also taken the Gunners to the final against Chelsea in Baku two years ago. Unai will tonight take charge of his 92nd Europa League match – 32 more than anyone else – as he pursues his quest to lead Villarreal to the first major honour in the club's history.

Villarreal have yet to claim a La Liga title or Copa del Rey win. This is their fourth semi-final appearance in the UEFA Cup/Europa League, with defeats in all of the previous three, most recently against another Premier League club, Liverpool, in 2015/16, when they followed up a 1-0 home win with a 3-0 defeat at Anfield. The club's greatest ever achievement was reaching the last four of the Champions League, under Manuel Pellegrini, in 2005/06, only for Arsenal to bar their route to the final with a 1-0 aggregate success, Kolo Toure's only goal of the first leg at Highbury proving sufficient thanks to Jens Lehmann's dramatic late penalty save in the return.

Villarreal have finished sufficiently high in La Liga over the past couple of decades to make European participation a regular annual adventure, though they had a rare season off in 2019/20 having finished a lowly 14th in the previous campaign. Last season they ended up fifth – their sixth top-six placing out of seven since they returned to the Spanish top flight in 2013 following a single season in the Segunda Division. This term, their first campaign under Unai Emery, they have been on the fringes of the European places once again, but their best has undoubtedly been saved for Europe.

They cruised through their Europa League group, finishing first ahead of Maccabi Tel-Aviv, Sivasspor and Qarabag despite playing only five of their six matches, the last of them, at home to Qarabag, cancelled because of Covid-19. Two teams that played Champions League football in the autumn, Salzburg and Dynamo Kiev, were then both beaten with ease in the first two knockout rounds before Villarreal made it seven successive Europa League wins by overcoming Tottenham's conquerors Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 away and 2-1 at home in the quarter-finals to book this last-four date. It became eight in a row last Thursday against Arsenal.



MUTUAL ADMIRATION

SANTI CAZORLA played 180 games for Arsenal, scoring 29 times, many of them of the highest of quality including a crucial free-kick to get the Gunners back in the game in the 2014 FA Cup Final. At Villarreal his contribution has been remarkable – over three spells. Young Santi played three seasons (2003-2006), scoring seven times in 75 games, before returning from a spell at Recreativo to play four stellar seasons (2007-2011), scoring 28 goals in 173 games. Then, after a trip to Malaga and six years in north London, Santi had two final seasons – when many said he would never play again due to a horrific Achilles injury – at the Estadio de la Ceramica and they proved the most prolific campaigns of his career, scoring 22 times in 86 games to seal legendary status.

Santi is still playing at 35, in the Qatari league for Al Sadd under former Spain team-mate Xavi – where he has scored 10 goals in 15 games this season!

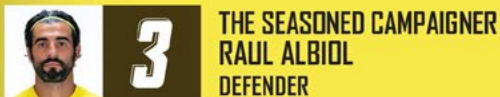


13 THE KEEPER GERONIMO RULLI GOALKEEPER

BORN La Plata, Argentina, 20/5/92

PREVIOUSLY Estudiantes, Deportivo Maldonado, Real Sociedad (loan), Manchester City, Real Sociedad, Montpellier (loan)

While Sergio Asenjo has been Villarreal's regular goalkeeper in La Liga this term, this Argentinian international has been Unai Emery's custodian of choice in the Europa League, starting 11 of the club's 12 continental outings, including the first leg of this tie. The 28 year old made 170 appearances for Real Sociedad, though part of his spell with the San Sebastian club was as a loan signing from Manchester City – though he never made an appearance for the club.



3 THE SEASONED CAMPAIGNER RAUL ALBIOL DEFENDER

BORN Vilamarxant, Spain, 4/9/85

PREVIOUSLY Valencia, Getafe (loan), Real Madrid, Napoli

A vastly experienced defender who helped Spain win the World Cup in 2010 and the Euros of 2008 and 2012, earning 56 international caps, the 35 year old is still going strong in the twilight of his career. Indeed, the former Valencia, Real Madrid and Napoli player made his 100th European club competition appearance in the first leg of this season's Europa League round of 16 tie against Dynamo Kiev and, as in last week's win against Arsenal, marked it with a goal.



4 THE LOCAL LAD PAU TORRES DEFENDER

BORN Villarreal, Spain, 16/1/97

PREVIOUSLY Malaga (loan)

A Villarreal native, Pau Torres is an elegant and physically imposing left-footed central defender who has established himself as a regular member of the Spanish national squad, having scored a minute into his international debut, against Malta in November 2019. Having previously represented Villarreal at B team level, he has been a first-team regular over the past two campaigns – though was rested for all but one of the club's Europa League group games in the autumn.



14 THE STALWART MANU TRIGUEROS MIDFIELDER

BORN Talavera de la Reina, Spain, 17/10/91

PREVIOUSLY Murcia

An ever-present in this season's Europa League, with starts in all seven knockout phase encounters, the 29 year old midfielder is set to make his 50th appearance in the competition overall this evening. His 49th was eventful as he scored the early goal that gave Villarreal the lead and was later adjudged to have impeded Bukayo Saka for Arsenal's penalty. He has been a Villarreal player for the past decade and is still seeking his first major honour.



5 THE SCHEMER DANI PAREJO MIDFIELDER

BORN Coslada, Spain, 16/4/89

PREVIOUSLY Real Madrid, QPR (loan), Getafe, Valencia

After nine years as a loyal servant to Valencia, Dani Parejo left last summer for local rivals Villarreal, causing an outcry among Valencia fans. The 32 year old attacking midfielder had captained Los Che to Copa del Rey glory in May 2019, the same month in which his team were well beaten by Arsenal in the Europa League semi-finals. Capped four times by Spain, he started his career with Real Madrid, who sent him out on loan to QPR in 2008/09.



7 THE DANGERMAN GERARD MORENO ATTACKER

BORN Santa Perpetua, Spain, 7/4/92

PREVIOUSLY Villarreal, Mallorca (loan), Espanyol

Spanish international Gerard (ten caps, five goals) is thriving in his second spell at Villarreal, having spent three progressive seasons in his native Catalonia at Espanyol from 2015-18. A scorer of 20 goals for Villarreal last term, the gifted left-footer has already surpassed that tally this season, reaching that number in La Liga alone as well as scoring six times in the Europa League knockout phase, with two apiece against Salzburg, Dynamo Kiev and Dinamo Zagreb.



17 THE SHARPSHOOTER PACO ALCACER ATTACKER

BORN Torrent, Spain, 30/8/93

PREVIOUSLY Valencia, Getafe (0), Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund

A serial goalscorer for every club he has played for, Paco returned to Spain in January 2020 after 18 months in Germany with Borussia Dortmund, becoming Villarreal's record signing. The strapping former Valencia and Barcelona striker is renowned for finding the net at important times and has scored six Europa League goals this season. Though used intermittently by Spain, his 12 goals in 19 internationals means he continues to be a valuable asset for his country.



19 THE EX-GUNNER FRANCIS COQUELIN MIDFIELDER

BORN Laval, France, 13/5/91

PREVIOUSLY Arsenal, Lorient (0), Freiburg (0), Charlton (0), Valencia

Scouted as a teenager by Arsenal, Francis became a Gunner in 2008 and was to spend the best part of the next decade affiliated to the Club – albeit seldom as a regular starter for Arsène Wenger's side, his spell including loan moves to three clubs, including Charlton in 2014/15. In all the defensive midfielder made 160 appearances for Arsenal, though didn't manage to score for the Gunners. In January 2018 he left for Valencia, moving on to Villarreal last August.



THE BOSS UNAI EMERY HEAD COACH

BORN November 3, 1971 in Hondarribia, Spain

PREVIOUSLY Lorca Deportiva, Almería, Valencia, Spartak Moscow, Sevilla, Paris Saint-Germain, Arsenal

Unai returned to top-level management in July last year, when he replaced Javier Calleja as Villarreal's head coach on a three-year deal. That came eight months after his departure from Arsenal, after 78 matches which peaked with a run to the final of the 2018/19 UEFA Europa League. He joined the Gunners after two years with PSG that yielded seven domestic trophies. Before that he had masterminded a historic hat-trick of successes for Sevilla in the Europa League, having assumed control following four-years at Valencia and a brief stint in Russia at Spartak Moscow.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

VILLARREAL home kit sponsors

1989-90 – CERAMICAS

VILLARREAL

1990-91 – CARICIAS

1991-93 – CAJA RURAL

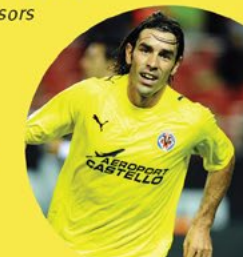
1996-97 – MEDITERRANEO

1997-04 – TERRA MITKA

2004-2010 – AEROPORT

CASTELLO

2010-21 – PAMESA CERAMICA



Robert Pires
in 2009

REALLY?!?

Our last Europa League guests, **Olympiacos**, were formed on March 10, 1925. Villarreal were formed on March 10, 1923

For a club sponsored by 'Pamesa Ceramica' and who play in the **Estadio de la Ceramica**, it's no surprise that Villarreal's economy is based on the ceramic industry – four of Spain's 500 largest businesses are in Villarreal all of which manufacture ceramic tiles. They have provided one of the most eye-catching souvenirs to the club each time we have played them – a ceramic yellow submarine.



Super sub

Unai Emery and **Mikel Arteta** grew up only 15 miles from each other on the Bay of Biscay. Emery in Hondarribia. Arteta in San Sebastian. As well as English and Spanish, the two managers could also happily converse in Basque.

Francis Coquelin and **Alexandre Lacazette** were team-mates as France beat Spain 2-1 to win the U19 Euro Championships in 2010 – Laca scoring in the final along with then-Gunner Gilles Sunu, with Antoine Griezmann also starring for the French. Spain's scorer was Leeds' Rodrigo, with Liverpool's Thiago in midfield alongside Southampton's Oriol Romeu.

SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

LEFT
Manu Trigueros was thrilled to get a rare goal in the first leg

BELOW
Dani Parejo tackles Bukayo Saka

BOTTOM
Old boy Francis Coquelin in action last Thursday



Unai Emery is renowned for chopping and changing his formation and starting XI, and he may make significant changes from the approach he used in Villarreal's 2-1 victory in Spain last week. He will be without central midfielder Etienne Capoue, who is definitely suspended and possibly injured too after his rash tackle 10 minutes from time. That means former Gunner Francis Coquelin will probably start in the holding role.

Coquelin was introduced at half-time last week, with Villarreal 2-0 up. He replaced centre-forward Paco Alcacer, with Villarreal moving from an attacking-looking 4-2-2-2 system to more of a cautious 4-3-3 which became 4-5-1 without the ball. As ever with Emery, all those formations are possible for the return leg, but it would be a slight

surprise if he persisted with Alcacer, a proper penalty box striker, when Villarreal are likely to play on the counter-attack.

That, therefore, would mean Villarreal playing roughly the same as in the second half, with Gerard Moreno leading the line. He's enjoying the best campaign of his career, and has been particularly prolific since the turn of the year. Happy enough starting from the right flank, he's been more effective upfront where his movement into the channels is exceptional.

The right-sided role will be played by Samuel Chukwueze, whose trickery contributed to the opening goal, and Arsenal need to avoid makeshift left-back Granit Xhaka being exposed to his speed and dribbling ability. That opener was scored by Manu Trigueros, who started from the left but found himself in a right-sided position to slam home – which was, in truth, somewhat out of keeping with his general style, as it was only his second goal of the campaign, and he's more about knitting play together between the lines.

Dani Parejo is Villarreal's midfield orchestrator, a typical Spanish midfielder capable of playing deep and controlling the game, before pushing forward to provide quality in the final third. He starts in a double pivot when Emery uses two central midfielders, but the addition of a third would give him more license to push forward into attack. Coquelin has a good relationship with Parejo having played alongside him at Valencia – in fact, that was Valencia's midfield partnership when Arsenal won 4-2 at the Mestalla in this round two years ago. Moi Gomez, a steady operator who has started the majority of league games this season, would likely be the third midfielder.

Defensively, the partnership of Raul Albiol and Pau Torres works excellently. Albiol, who scored the second last week from a set-piece, is now 35 and still commanding in the air, but less keen on moving out of his position to close down opponents. Torres, 24 and coveted by several big clubs, is much more aggressive in his defending. Right-back Juan Foyth, on loan from Spurs, is confusingly a natural centre-back who wears No 8, and didn't look entirely happy against the pace of Nicolas Pepe, while Alfonso Pedraza is a steady left-back more likely to overlap and cross. ■

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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG GUNNERS

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YOUNG GUN

ZANE
MONLOUIS

TALKING TO Aidan Small

BORN	SIGNED FOR ARSENAL	SCHOOL	POSITION
October 16, 2003, Lewisham	2011	Conisborough College, Lewisham	Centre back
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT			
6'3", 80lbs			

When I think about my love for football and where it all started, my mind goes straight back to the school playground. At that age, it's all about having fun and just hanging out with your mates, and I think it's so important to treat football like that when you're young. They're simple memories, but I love them.

Football has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up, one of my brothers and my dad supported Arsenal, then my other brother supported Chelsea, so I had a choice to make quite early on!

As a kid, I played most of my football just down at the local park and in school. It wasn't anything serious or something I was really focusing on, but when I joined Dulwich Hamlet at seven, I started to realise I had something about me on the pitch and I was a little better than my school mates. That's when I decided that this is something I want to really work on.

Any chance or opportunity to train and work on my skills, I'd take it, and eventually one day I was asked to attend Arsenal's pre-academy, but I was quite lucky. I had a family friend who knew someone at Arsenal, and he

passed on his recommendation that the academy should take a look at me. I guess they liked what they saw, and I've been here ever since!

Growing up around Gooners, I had a rough idea of what it meant to get that opportunity, but only now when I look back can I realise just how fortunate I was. When

**"I FEEL LIKE IT'S BEEN A REAL
BREAKTHROUGH YEAR FOR ME"**

you're that young it's hard to process everything and it's easy to think that loads of kids get that same opportunity! It was a big thing for me, and my family showed so much love and support.

It's crazy to think that I basically spent my entire childhood at Hale End. I've got so many amazing memories from my time there, but one of my favourites was watching Emile, Reiss and all those lads just play. I remember watching them in a game and being blown away by how skilful, sharp and quick they were, and it really stuck with me because it reminded me of the heights I need to reach if I want to make it to the first team.



I've seen them grow up and get more and more opportunities each season, so it's reminded me to remain focused and keep working hard. To be able to train with them sometimes is an absolute privilege.

Above all else, though, I had a lot of fun during my time at Hale End. Being able to express yourself on the pitch is an amazing feeling, especially when you're surrounded by your mates.

As for this season, I feel like it's been a real breakthrough year for me. My 17th birthday was back in October and I went on to make my debut for the U-23s a month later, so that was an amazing experience. That was my goal at the start of the season, so to achieve it before 2021 was great. I've played five more games since then, starting in four, and I've been really pleased with my performances. There's plenty of room for improvement, but the fact I'm being given these opportunities shows that my hard work is paying off.

If I had to describe my style of play, I'd say that I'm a modern-day centre-half who is comfortable on the ball and effective in possession. I feel like I can always turn the game forwards from the back, and I'm always confident in

1v1 situations, which is the most important thing as a defender. I've played a few games at right back this season too, and that's been good for my development because you need to test yourself and it helps you to become a more complete player.

I feel like my exposure to under-23s football has been really beneficial too. I've gained a lot of experience very quickly because the ball speed and communication is so much faster, so when I then go back to the under-18s, I feel like I should be one of the standout players and someone that should lead on the pitch. It's given me extra confidence in myself and I feel like I've shown that in the FA Youth Cup.

Learning from Steve Bould has been great too. He's given me a lot of little tips and tricks on how to be a better defender. They're all very subtle things that don't get mentioned a lot, but when you add a few of them together, it makes all the difference, especially in those split-second moments. He's played at the very highest level and he was part of one of the most famous back fours in history, so I just want to keep learning from him and become a leader for the under-23s next season. ■



ZANE MONLOUIS

LOWDOWN

What's your earliest memory of football? Playing in reception

Who got you into playing football? Family

Who was the first footballer you looked up to? Ronaldinho

What's your favourite football shirt you've owned? A Brazil shirt

Which team did you support as a child? Arsenal

What's the best goal you've ever scored? Outside the box long shot versus Watford

The best piece of skill I've ever done in a game is... a nutmeg

The best moment of my career so far is... signing my pro deal

RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	81
SHOOTING	47
DRIBBLING	72
STRENGTH	80
PASSING	77
DEFENDING	86

The one stadium I'd like to score in is... Allianz Arena

One type of goal I'd like to score is... a bicycle kick

You need a player to score a one on one to save your life, who would you choose?
Brazilian Ronaldo

If you could completely change position, where would you play?
Centre midfield

What's the best training ground tip you've ever been given?
Be the best on and off the pitch

Another sport I'm good at is...
Table Tennis

What are your ambitions for this season away from the pitch?
Get my drivers' license

What do you think are the important non-playing attributes for young footballers?
Having the right mentality/mindset

What is the biggest lesson you've learnt off the pitch from being at Arsenal? No matter the circumstances, keep working

ME

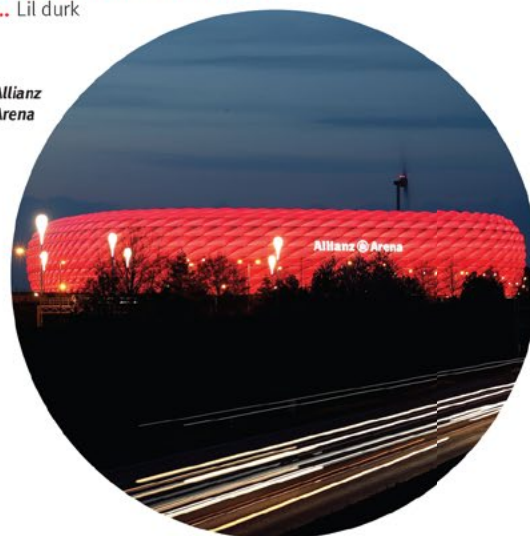
If I could be any footballer - past or present - I would be
Ronaldinho

My favourite person to follow on Instagram is... Three sixty tv

My most played Spotify artist is...
Future

My favourite musician right now is... Lil durk

Allianz Arena



My favourite pre-match song is...
Supastars – Migos

My best football attribute is...
Pace

The one thing I need on an away day is... Earphones

The one thing I want to do in my career is... Win the World Cup

The first-team player I look up to most is... David Luiz

The player who shaped my game most is... Virgil van Dijk

The best thing about being at Arsenal is... Great facilities

AROUND THE ACADEMY

Who will definitely make it?
Brooke Norton-Cuffy

Who's got the most skills in their locker? Kido Taylor-Hart

Best passing range? Miguel Azeez

Best touch? Omari Hutchinson

Most two-footed? Kido

Who would be the best manager?
Taylor Foran

Who's the most committed?
Brooke

Who's the strongest?
Mazeed Ogungbo

Who is captain material? Taylor

Who's the funniest?
Nathan Butler-Oyediji, without a doubt!

Who's the most confident?
Marcelo Flores



2

FLORES 21, OGUNGBO 49



1

SOONSUP-BELL 16

U-18 Premier League South
Tuesday, April 20
London Colney

ARSENAL U18 Ejeheri, Awe (Jeffcott 59), Kirk, Monlouis, Ogungbo, Henry-Francis, Azeez, Hutchinson, Flores (Gaspar 82), Taylor-Hart (Ideho 64), Edwards **SUBS NOT USED:** Mitchell, Foran,



Kido Taylor-Hart carries the ball

Marcelo Flores celebrates his stunning equaliser



[Arsenal.com/membership](https://www.arsenal.com/membership) Arsenal



1

RUSS 83 PEN



1

RICHARDS 55

U-18 Premier League South
Saturday, April 24
Leicester City FC Academy

ARSENAL U18 Mitchell, Walters, Foran, Awe, Jeffcott, Gaspar (Robinson 46), Ibrahim, Butler-Oydeji, Sagoe Jr (Quesada-Thorn 71), Ideho (Green 79), Richards **SUBS NOT USED:** Kovacevic



Marcelo Flores scores the opening goal against Chelsea

Miguel Azeez in action against the west Londoners



We continued to push on and created a number of promising opportunities, but with a long ball over the top of our defence, Will Russ raced through on goal and forced a foul from the onrushing Remy Mitchell.

Russ stepped up and made no mistake in finding the bottom corner, leaving us to settle for a share of the spoils in the east Midlands. ■

Our under-18s came from a goal behind to secure a crucial 2-1 win over Chelsea.

It was a less-than-ideal start for Ken Gillard's side who, after securing their FA Youth Cup quarter-final place last week, began on the back foot against a high-flying Blues side.

Jude Soonsup-Bell climbed highest to meet Charlie Webster's corner, and head past Ovie Ejeheri into the Arsenal net.

We nearly hit back straight away, when Zach Awe was brought down on the edge of the box. Omari Hutchinson rolled the free-kick to Kido Taylor-Hart but he couldn't keep his shot down from 10 yards.

But we would soon find our equaliser – and in spectacular fashion, too. Hutchinson laid a loose ball into Marcelo Flores' path on the halfway line and, after exchanging passes with Khayon Edwards, our No 10 arrowed an unstoppable strike into the top corner.

Chelsea had an opportunity to restore their lead on the stroke of half-time when Silko Thomas broke at pace down the left-hand side, but Ejeheri was equal to Jayden Wareham's 20-yard effort.

Instead, we took the advantage. Just four minutes after the restart, Jack Henry-Francis threaded a perfectly-weighted ball through to Mazeed Ogungbo, who slotted home at the near post.

Chelsea could have levelled moments later when Webster lofted in another set-piece, but Ejeheri was alert to keep out Jimi Tauriainen's header, before Henry-Francis cleared Wareham's follow-up off the line to seal three hard-earned points for our young Gunners. ■

Amani Richards scored his first goal at under-18 level last week as we were held to a 1-1 draw by Leicester City.

With the games coming thick and fast for our under-18s and under-23s, Ken Gillard was forced into a number of key changes, with only Zach Awe remaining from our 2-1 victory over Chelsea the previous Tuesday.

Three schoolboys were named in our starting XI in Richards, Reuell Walters and Bradley Ibrahim, while Kristopher Elian Quesada-Thorn and Kaleel Green made their debuts.

Ken to impress, we started well at the Leicester City Training Ground and came close to an opener early on when Joel Ideho and Richards combined, before the latter was denied by Chituru Odunze.

Ethan Fitzhugh tried his luck for the hosts moments later, wriggling away from his marker and taking aim from 25 yards, only for Remy Mitchell to palm away the danger effectively.

Richards had been lively all afternoon and came close once more on the stroke of half-time, skipping past two players inside the area before being denied from close range.

But following the restart, he got the reward for his hard work and persistence. With a sweeping counter-attack, Richards flicked the ball out wide for Ibrahim to run on to, before darting into the penalty area and latching onto an inch-perfect delivery for his first goal at this level. This was only his second appearance for Ken Gillard's side.



SUENGCHITTHAWON 60



COYLE 27

1

Under-23 Premier League 2
Monday, April 26
Leicester City Training Ground

1

ARSENAL U23 Smith, Oyegoke (Bola 70), Dinzeyi, Kirk (Monlouis 46), Lopez, Azeez, Akinola, Taylor-Hart, Lewis (Hutchinson 67), Moller, Coyle **SUBS NOT USED:** Hillson, Flores

Our under-23s moved five points clear of the Premier League 2 relegation zone last week as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Leicester City. Daniel Oyegoke returned from injury and started at right back, while Omari Hutchinson came off the bench to make his debut. Marcelo Flores also received his first call-up at this level.

The Foxes started strongly and with less than 15 minutes on the clock they were gifted a golden opportunity to open the scoring. Thanawat Suengchitthawon picked up an under-hit back-pass to race through on goal and round the keeper, but our defenders tracked his run and managed to make a vital block to put it behind for a corner.

We maintained our focus, though, and following some fine hold-up play from Nikolaj Moller to control a goal kick and play Trae Coyle in behind, our No 11 charged forward and made no mistake in finding the bottom corner.

Shortly after there was some fine combination play between Miguel Azeez and Kido Taylor-Hart, before George Lewis fired over from the edge of the area.

Following the restart, we continued to push forward in search of a second, but despite our best efforts, it was the hosts who struck next.

Suengchitthawon found himself through on goal and saw his initial effort saved by Tom Smith, but the rebound fell kindly, and he was on hand to finish at the second time of asking.



Zane Monlouis has broken into the under-23s at a young age



Trae Coyle grabbed the Gunners' goal

Steve Bould's side knew that all three points would guarantee safety, but with Leicester sitting just one place below us, the remaining half-hour played out as a cagey affair with both sides avoiding turnovers and any late mistakes. ■

ACADEMY

NEWS

ACADEMY LOAN WATCH

Five of our academy stars were in action for their loan clubs over the weekend of April 24/25. Read on to find out how they fared...

Harry Clarke played the full match as Oldham lost 2-1 against Grimsby at Boundary Park. Keith Curle's side has already secured safety in League Two but will have been frustrated not to pick up points against bottom of the table Grimsby.

Mark McGuinness played the entire game and kept a clean sheet as Ipswich drew 0-0 with AFC Wimbledon on Saturday. Our young defender put in a solid performance at the back, guiding his side to 11th in the league after 43 games.

Daniel Ballard played the full match as Blackpool lost 1-0 to Shrewsbury in League One. Our 21-year-old defender was starting his sixth game in a row for his loan side but couldn't prevent them from slipping to back-to-back defeats in the league.

Joseph Olowu played 90 minutes as Wealdstone lost 2-0 to Aldershot at the Recreation Ground this weekend. Goals from Harry Panayiotou and Chike Kandi settled this one.

Tyrece John-Jules played 62 minutes as Doncaster lost 1-0 to Fleetwood at home. Our 20-year-old striker has featured in every game since his return from injury against Shrewsbury earlier this month but couldn't prevent his side from slipping to defeat on Saturday. ■

ONE TO WATCH: BRADLEY IBRAHIM

In just two starts for our under-18s this season, Bradley Ibrahim has shown plenty of promise at the heart of our midfield.

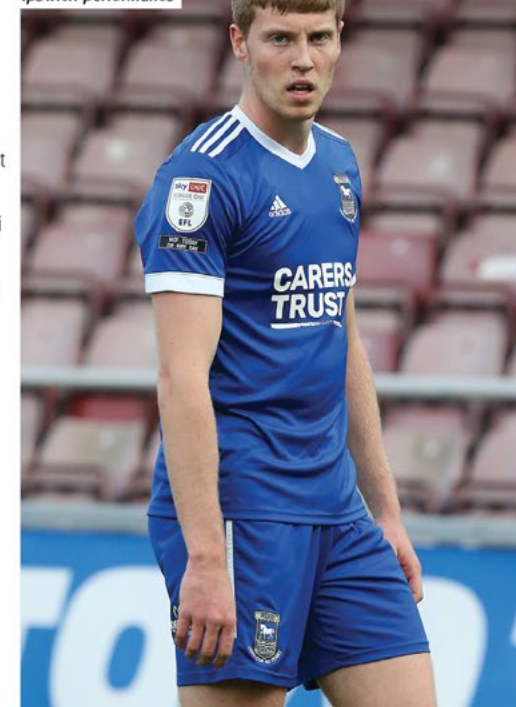
The 16-year-old made his debut for Ken Gillard's side in late March, playing 90 minutes in a 4-3 win over Reading, and just last week he provided an assist in our 1-1 draw with Leicester City.

A lively midfielder who likes to regain possession with timely interceptions and challenges, Ibrahim also enjoys pushing forward and supporting his teammates in the final third.

This was demonstrated perfectly against the Foxes, as he combined with Charles Sagoe Jr and Amani Richards, before breaking free down the right wing and crossing for the latter to finish from close range.

Ibrahim has put in a number of outstanding displays for our under-16s this season - and will now be hoping for more opportunities as we approach the end of the campaign and prepare for 2021/21. ■

Mark McGuinness - involved in a solid Ipswich performance



WILLOCK STARS FOR MAGPIES – AGAIN!

Joe Willock was on target again for Newcastle United last week as his 95th-minute strike earned the Magpies a point against Liverpool at Anfield.

Our 21-year-old Hale End graduate replaced Ciaran Clark after the hour mark with his side trailing 1-0 and pounced on Dwight Gayle's header to fire past Alisson and secure a share of the spoils.

Willock has been in fine form since joining Newcastle

United on deadline day in the January transfer window.

The dynamic young midfielder opened his Newcastle account on his debut, scoring the winner in a 3-2 win over Southampton and started their next six league fixtures. He returned to the bench against our north London rivals, but came on in the 79th minute to fire home a late equaliser. This was followed by another late winner against West Ham just one week later. ■



LEFT
Chuks during his only first-team appearance for Arsenal

BELOW
Celebrating a goal for Charlton this season



ACADEMY

ALUMNI

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

CHUKS ANEKE

Chuks Aneke formed a potent forward line with Benik Afobe in the Arsenal Academy, scoring 12 goals in 27 Reserve League games for the team between 2009 and 2011. The striker had been a scholar since 2009, but had joined the club aged seven in 2001 and will always be able to say he played first team football for his boyhood club, when he came on as a late substitute for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain in a 3-1 win

over Shrewsbury Town at Emirates Stadium in the League Cup on September 20, 2011.

Opportunities were limited with the Gunners and after loan spells at Stevenage, Preston North End and Crewe Alexandra – the latter for a two-season spell when he scored 24 goals in 82 games and made 14 assists – he left Arsenal permanently for Zulte Waregem in the Belgian top division, where he stayed for two seasons, playing 41 times scoring four times.

Chuks – a powerful 6'3" who has played across the midfield and in forward positions during his career – then headed to MK Dons in League One for a very productive three seasons, playing 94 times, scoring 33 times and assisting 16 goals as he proved to be one of the most potent attackers at that level. He headed back 'home' to London for the start of last season and Charlton Athletic in the Championship and the 27 year-old has played 59 times for the Addicks, scoring 15 goals as they push for a League One play-off place in their last three games of the season. ■

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	0-3
Fri Feb 19	Manchester City	H	0-2
Sat Feb 27	Liverpool	A	0-4
Fri Mar 5	Southampton	A	2-2
Fri Mar 12	Blackburn Rovers	H	0-3
Sun Mar 21	Everton	A	1-1
Mon Apr 12	Derby County	A	3-2
Mon Apr 26	Leicester City	A	1-1
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	22	15	5	2	69	28	41	50
Tottenham Hotspur	22	11	5	6	43	34	9	38
Blackburn Rovers	22	10	7	5	46	36	10	37
Chelsea	22	10	6	6	45	34	9	36
Derby County	22	10	3	9	38	42	-4	33
Manchester United	22	9	4	9	51	54	-3	31
Liverpool	22	9	4	9	44	48	-4	31
Everton	22	8	6	8	35	28	7	30
Brighton & Hove Albion	24	7	9	8	36	42	-6	30
Arsenal	22	6	7	9	34	39	-5	25
Leicester City	22	6	3	13	39	51	-12	21
West Ham United	22	5	5	12	28	45	-17	20
Southampton	22	4	4	14	29	56	-27	16

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
Tue Feb 16	West Ham United	H	1-0
Sat Feb 20	Brighton & HA	A	2-3
Sat Feb 27	West Bromwich Albion	H	0-3
Tue Mar 9	Aston Villa	A	0-0
Sat Mar 13	Norwich City	A	1-4
Sat Mar 27	Reading	H	4-3
Tue Apr 6	Southampton	A	2-2
Sat Apr 10	Fulham	A	1-3
Tue Apr 20	Chelsea	H	2-1
Sat Apr 24	Leicester City	A	1-1
Sat May 1	Chelsea	A	11am
Sat May 8	Aston Villa	H	11am
TBA	Reading	A	TBA

EFL TROPHY FIXTURES

Tue Sept 8	Ipswich Town	A	2-1
Tue Oct 13	Crawley Town	A	2-1
Tue Nov 10	Gillingham	A	1-1*
Tue Dec 8	AFC Wimbledon	A	0-3

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Crystal Palace	22	16	2	4	55	30	25	50
Fulham	21	15	2	4	64	25	39	47
Brighton & Hove Albion	23	14	3	6	62	35	27	45
Aston Villa	21	10	5	6	39	40	-1	35
Tottenham Hotspur	20	9	7	4	45	28	17	34
Chelsea	21	10	3	8	55	38	17	33
Arsenal	21	9	4	8	39	41	-2	31
Norwich City	20	9	2	9	52	44	8	29
West Bromwich Albion	22	8	3	11	47	54	-7	27
West Ham United	22	5	6	11	31	54	-23	21
Reading	21	4	4	13	43	69	-26	16
Leicester City	20	2	5	13	29	62	-33	11
Southampton	22	2	4	16	27	68	-41	10

FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	2-1
Sat Mar 20	Blackburn Rovers	A	4-1
Fri Apr 16	West Ham United	A	3-1
Fri Apr 30	Liverpool	A	QF

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH APPEARANCES

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	U18	FAYC	PLIC	TOTAL
Tim Akinola	17+3	3+1	-	-	-	120+4
Folarin Balogun	16(7)	2(1)	-	-	-	18(8)
Ben Cottrell	16(4)	4	-	-	-	20(4)
Ryan Aebiosu	15+1	3	-	-	-	18+1
Nicolaj Moller	16(6)	1	-	-	-	17(6)
Joel Lopez	13+1	3	-	-	-	15+1
Jonathan Dinzevi	11+4	1	-	-	-	13+4
Miguel Azeez	10+4(1)	2+1(1)	1	2(1)	-	15+5(3)
Catalin Cirjan	9+2(1)	3+1(1)	4	1	-	17+3(2)
Karl Hein	9	1	-	-	-	10
Kido Taylor-Hart	8+4(3)	1+1	10(6)	3(2)	-	22+5(11)
Arthur Okonkwo	6+1	1	-	-	-	7+1
Alex Kirk	7+1	+1	9(1)	3	-	19+2(1)
Reiss Nelson	6(2)	-	-	-	-	6(2)
William Saliba	6	2	-	-	-	8
Daniel Oyegoke	6+3	1	3	-	-	10+3
George Lewis	5+3	1(1)	-	-	-	6+3(1)
Zane Monlouis	4+2	1	9+1(1)	3	-	17+3(1)
Tolaji Bola	4+2	1	-	-	-	5+2
James Olayinka	4(1)	2	-	-	-	6(1)
Charlie Patino	4(1)	-	9	1(1)	-	14(2)
Jordan McEnuff	3+3	2(1)	-	-	-	5+3(1)
Brooke Norton-Cuffy	3+1	+1	14	3	-	20+2
Emile Smith Rowe	3(3)	1	-	-	-	4(3)
Calum Chambers	3(1)	1	-	-	-	4(1)
Joseph Olowu	3	-	-	-	-	3
Trae Coyle	3+2(1)	-	-	-	-	3+2(1)
Harry Clarke	2	1	-	-	-	3
Matt Macey	2	1	-	-	-	3
Daniel Ballard	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pablo Mari	2	-	-	-	-	2
Salah-Eddine Oulad M'hand	1+1	1	-	-	-	2+1
Joel Ideho	1+1	+1	8+2(2)	+2	-	9+6(2)
Mark McGuinness	1	1	-	-	-	2
Sokratis Papastathopoulos	1	1	-	-	-	2
Levi Laing	1	+2	6+1	-	-	7+3
Hubert Graczyk	1	-	10+1	-	-	11+1
Zach Awe	1	-	12+3	-	-	13+3
James Hillson	1	-	-	-	-	1
Eddie Nketiah	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cedric Soares	1	-	-	-	-	1
Tom Smith	2	-	-	-	-	2
Joe Willock	1	-	-	-	-	1
Mazeed Ogungbo	+3	-	12+1(2)	3(1)	-	15+4(3)
Khayon Edwards	+1	-	10+7(5)	2(2)	-	12+8(7)
Taylor Foran	+1	-	10+2	-	-	10+3
Gabriel Martinelli	-	1	-	-	-	1
Matt Smith	-	1	-	-	-	1
Omari Hutchinson	+1	-	18+1(5)	3(2)	-	21+2(7)
Mauro Bandeira	-	-	13+2	1	-	14+2
Jack Henry-Francis	-	-	10+3	1+1	-	11+4
Marcelo Flores	-	-	9+3(4)	2	-	11+3(4)
Nathan Butler-Oyediji	-	-	8+2	1	-	9+2
Ovie Ejeheri	-	-	8	3	-	11
Luke Plange	-	-	6+3(4)	-	-	6+3(4)
James Sweet	-	-	5+2(2)	1	-	6+2(2)
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	6+2	-	-	6+2
Billy Vigar	-	-	1+4	-	-	1+4
Charles Sagoe Jr	-	-	2+1	-	-	1+1
Remy Mitchell	-	-	2	-	-	2
Luigi Gaspar	-	-	1+3	-	-	1+3
Jason Sraha	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Amani Richards	-	-	1+1(1)	-	-	1+1(1)
Reuell Walters	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Josh Robinson	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Bradley Ibrahim	-	-	1	-	-	1
Kristopher Quesada-Thorn	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Kaleel Green	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Own goals	(2)	-	(2)	-	-	(4)

Ryan Aebiosu



ARSENAL WOMEN

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



2

Women's Super League
Wednesday, April 28
Meadow Park

MIEDEMA 33, LITTLE 78



0

ARSENAL Williams, Maritz, Williamson, Wubben-Moy, McCabe, Walti, Little, Nobbs (Roord 72), Mead (Van de Donk 86), Miedema, Foord
SUBS NOT USED Zinsberger, Goldie, Maier, Catley, Gut

We moved one step closer to Champions League qualification with a valuable 2-0 victory over West Ham.

Joe Montemurro opted to play Vivianne Miedema in the No 10 role – and his decision certainly paid off, as she delivered an outstanding performance from start to finish to secure our eighth consecutive win.

We ran out 9-1 winners the last time we faced the Hammers in the Women's Super League, and once again, we created a number a number of clear-cut chances early on, only this time our finishing let us down.

First, Caitlin Foord forced Makenzie Arnold into a save from a diving header, before Jordan Nobbs fired wide from six yards out and saw her next effort disallowed for offside.

We grew increasingly frustrated as we passed the half-hour mark but, with a moment of magic from Miedema, we opened the scoring. Noelle Maritz started the move



from a throw-in and Miedema cut inside on to her left foot, firing home with power and precision from 25 yards.

No other WSL player has scored more London derby goals than the Netherlands international (12).

The second half proved to be a tightly-contested affair with West Ham keen to keep the scoreline down – but late on we managed to break through their defence one last time, with Kim Little showing exceptional footwork to skip past two defenders and fire into the bottom corner.

Lydia Williams then went on to produce an exceptional save deep into stoppage time, ensuring we haven't conceded a goal in over 720 minutes across all competitions. ■



ABOVE

Kim Little expertly squeezes home our second goal

TOP RIGHT

West Ham are more than aware of the threat posed by Caitlin Foord

RIGHT

Celebrations for Vivianne Miedema's brilliant opener



Women's Super League
Sunday, May 2
Meadow Park



1

FINNIGAN 74



2

MCCABE 22, LITTLE 90 PEN

ARSENAL Zinsberger, Maritz, Williamson, Walti, McCabe, Little, Nobbs (Roord 81), Mead (Catley 81), Van de Donk, Miedema, Foord
SUBS NOT USED Williams, Goldie, Wubben-Moy, Maier, Catley, Gut

We all-but secured Women's Champions League football for the 2021/22 season on Sunday, with Kim Little converting a stoppage-time penalty to beat Everton 2-1.

We've now won each of our last nine fixtures and can head into the final game of the season knowing that Manchester United will need to overturn a goal difference of 26 to pip us to third place.

As for the line up, Caitlin Foord kept her place as our centre forward with Vivianne Miedema operating as a No 10, while Lia Walti replaced Lotte Wubben-Moy at the heart of our defence.

We placed the Toffees under pressure straight from kick-off and following a number of searching balls behind their defence, Katie McCabe raced in behind to chip the onrushing Alexandra MacIver for her fourth league goal of the season.

It was a deserved lead for our first-half efforts, and following the restart, Beth Mead came close to doubling our advantage after firing into the side netting from a promising position.

We continued to dominate possession, but with a sweeping counter-attack Everton were able to break free down the wing and cross for Megan Finnigan, who equalised against the run of play.

As we entered stoppage time it looked like our hopes of Women's Champions League football would become more complex – but with one last attack, McCabe charged into the penalty area and forced a foul, leaving the referee with no other choice than to point to the spot.

Our captain stepped up and with the final kick of the game, fired a stunning effort into the top right corner. ■

LEFT

Yes Kim! Celebrating a late, late penalty winner

2020/21 FIXTURES

SEPT 6	READING	6-1
SEPT 12	WEST HAM UNITED	9-1
SEPT 26	TOTTENHAM (FA CUP 1F)	4-0
OCT 1	MAN CITY (FA CUP SEMI-FINAL)	1-2
OCT 4	BRISTOL CITY	3-1
OCT 7	CHELSEA (CC)	1-4
OCT 11	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	5-0
OCT 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	6-1
NOV 4	LONDON CITY LIONESSES (CC)	4-0
NOV 8	MANCHESTER UNITED	0-1
NOV 15	CHELSEA	1-1
NOV 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (CC)	2-2*
DEC 6	BIRMINGHAM CITY	3-0
DEC 13	MANCHESTER CITY	1-2
DEC 20	EVERTON	4-0
JAN 17	READING	1-1
FEB 7	MANCHESTER CITY	1-2
FEB 10	CHELSEA	0-3
FEB 28	ASTON VILLA	4-0
MAR 7	BIRMINGHAM CITY	4-0
MAR 19	MANCHESTER UNITED	2-0
MAR 27	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	3-0
APR 4	BRISTOL CITY	4-0
APR 18	GILLINGHAM (FAC4)	10-0
APR 25	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	2-0
TBA	WEST HAM UNITED	2-0
MAY 2	EVERTON	2-1
MAY 9	ASTON VILLA	H
MAY 16	CRYSTAL PALACE (FACS)	H

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT MAY 3)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
MANCHESTER CITY	21	16	4	1	64	13	51	52
CHELSEA	20	16	3	1	62	10	52	51
ARSENAL	21	15	2	4	63	15	48	47
MAN UNITED	21	14	2	5	42	20	22	44
EVERTON	21	9	5	7	39	28	11	32
READING	21	5	9	7	25	36	-11	24
BRIGHTON	21	7	3	11	18	40	-22	24
TOTTENHAM	20	4	5	11	17	39	-22	17
WEST HAM UNITED	21	3	6	12	21	38	-17	15
BIRMINGHAM CITY	21	3	6	13	15	43	-28	15
ASTON VILLA	21	3	5	13	15	47	-32	14
BRISTOL CITY	21	2	6	13	17	69	-52	12

*Arsenal won on penalties



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THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD

SAKA STARS IN DEFEAT

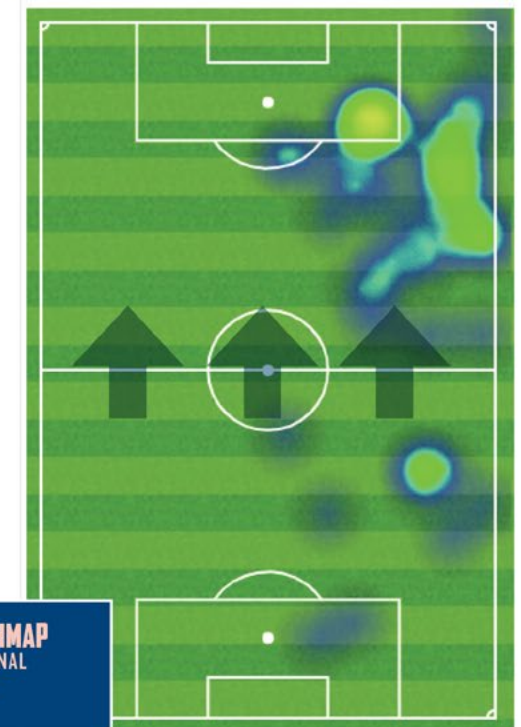
Our 2-1 defeat to Villarreal last week has placed our hopes of Champions League qualification in jeopardy – but the performance of Bukayo Saka offered plenty of hope for tonight's return leg.

Still only 19 years of age, our No. 7 grabbed the game by the scruff of its neck, and won the penalty that allowed Nicolas Pepe to convert a potentially crucial away goal. Saka didn't just turn it on in that single moment, though. He was electric down the right wing all night long.

With a pass completion rate of 91.3 per cent – second only to Martin Odegaard – Saka delivered a total of three crosses into the penalty area and registered one key pass. His defensive work was impressive too, registering one tackle, one clearance and one interception, in addition to challenging for 10 duels.

Naturally a left winger in our academy, Saka has shown outstanding versatility to adapt his game to the opposite side, adding yet another string to his bow. With a wand of a left foot, Saka is capable of cutting inside from the right and curling into the top corner or picking out a teammate at the far post. Calum Chambers also benefited from Saka's darting runs and intelligent combination play, as he delivered more crosses (four) than any other player on the pitch, all of which were from open play.

Just take a look at Saka's heatmap to see how he consistently cut inside and made forays into Villarreal's penalty area. ■



BUKAYO SAKA TOUCHMAP
VILLARREAL 2-1 ARSENAL
EUROPA LEAGUE
APRIL 29, 2021

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Bernd Leno	31	9	2	2	-	44
Granit Xhaka	28+1(1)	10	1+1	1	1	41+2(1)
Bukayo Saka	27+1(5)	7+1(2)	+2	2	1	37+4(7)
Rob Holding	24+2	3+1	1	2	1	31+3
Hector Bellerin	24(1)	5+1	1	+1	1	31+2(1)
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	23+3(10)	4+3(3)	1(1)	-	1(1)	29+6(15)
Kieran Tierney	23(1)	3+5	1	-	1	28+5(1)
Alexandre Lacazette	22+6(13)	5+2(3)	+2	1+1(1)	-	28+11(17)
Gabriel	18+1(2)	6(1)	1	2	-	27+1(3)
David Luiz	17+3(1)	7(1)	1	1	1	27+3(2)
Dani Ceballos	16+8	6+6	-	2+1	-	24+15
Willian	15+9	3+5	2	+1	-	20+15
Mohamed Elneny	15+6(1)	5+7(2)	2	2+1	1	25+14(3)
Thomas Partey	15+5	5+2	+1	-	-	20+8
Emile Smith Rowe	14+2	6+4(1)	+1(1)	+1	-	20+8(2)
Nicolas Pepe	13+13(5)	9+3(6)	2	2+1	-	26+17(11)
Pablo Mari	9	4(1)	1	-	-	14(1)
Cedric Soares	8+2	7+2	2	2	+1	19+5
Martin Odegaard	7+4(1)	4+1(1)	-	-	-	11+5(2)
Gabriel Martinelli	6+5(1)	+4	1	1	-	8+9(1)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	5+6	5	+1	2+1	1	13+8
Calum Chambers	5+1	3+3	-	-	-	8+4
Eddie Nketiah	4+13(2)	6+1(3)	1	2(1)	1	14+14(6)
Mat Ryan	3	-	-	-	-	3
Joe Willock	2+5	4+1(3)	1	3	+1	10+7(3)
Sead Kolasinac	1	4	-	3	+1	8+1
Shkodran Mustafi	+3	5	-	1	-	6+3
Reiss Nelson	+2	3+1(1)	1	1	+1	5+4(1)
Alex Runarsson	+1	4	-	1	-	5+1
Folarin Balogun	-	+5(2)	-	+1	-	+6(2)
Miguel Azeez	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Ben Cottrell	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Own goals	(2)	(2)	-	(1)	-	(5)

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Manchester City	34	25	5	4	47	80
2. Manchester Utd	33	19	10	4	29	67
3. Leicester City	34	19	6	9	22	63
4. Chelsea	34	17	10	7	22	61
5. West Ham United	34	17	7	10	11	58
6. Tottenham H	34	16	8	10	22	56
7. Liverpool	33	15	9	9	16	54
8. Everton	33	15	7	11	3	52
9. Arsenal	34	14	7	13	9	49
10. Aston Villa	33	14	6	13	10	48
11. Leeds United	34	14	5	15	-2	47
12. Wolves	34	11	9	14	-13	42
13. Crystal Palace	33	10	8	15	-22	38
14. Brighton & HA	34	8	13	13	-4	37
15. Southampton	33	10	7	16	-18	37
16. Burnley	34	9	9	16	-16	36
17. Newcastle United	34	9	9	16	-20	36
18. Fulham	34	5	12	17	-20	27
19. West Brom	34	5	11	18	-34	26
20. Sheffield United	34	5	2	27	-42	17

As at Tuesday, May 4



EVERTON REPORT



0



1

LENO 76 OG

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 33

8pm • Friday, April 23 • Emirates Stadium

FIRST HALF

The visitors had the early sights of goal. The first came when Lucas Digne curled in a cross that Dominic Calvert-Lewin headed wide at the near post, before the former's deflected strike nearly caught out Bernd Leno, who reacted well to make a smart stop. Bukayo Saka then had a snapshot saved after good build-up play, but despite dominating possession we struggled to make clear-cut chances. Leno made a full-length diving save to deny Richarlison on the half-hour mark, while Gylfi Sigurdsson hit the top of the crossbar from a free kick before the interval.

SECOND HALF

After the restart, a brilliant block from Rob Holding denied Sigurdsson, but then we thought we had won a penalty when Dani Ceballos was tripped in the box by Richarlison, but VAR deemed that Nicolas Pepe was millimetres offside in the build-up. Calum Chambers then shot high and wide when a free kick from the left bounced invitingly in front of him. Ceballos then tested Jordan Pickford with a shot from just outside the area, as we looked to press home our advantage. But with less than 15 minutes remaining, Richarlison got past Granit Xhaka in the box and hit a low cross that hit Leno and went through his legs and in. That proved to be the decisive blow, and settled an underwhelming match. ■

	MATCH STATS	
14	TOTAL SHOTS	8
3	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
7	CORNERS	3
2	OFFSIDES	1
13	FOULS	10
59	POSSESSION %	41

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 21 CHAMBERS (83)
- 16 HOLDING
- 22 MARI
- 34 XHAKA
- 18 PARTEY
- 8 CEBALLOS
- 7 SAKA
- 30 NKETIAH (74)
- 32 SMITH ROWE
- 19 PEPE (74)

SUBSTITUTES

MARTINELLI (74), ODEGAARD (74), WILLIAN (83), NELSON, GABRIEL, ELNENY, CEDRIC, BELLERIN, RYAN

EVERTON

- 1 PICKFORD
- 23 COLEMAN
- 22 GODFREY
- 4 HOLGATE
- 12 DIGNE
- 6 ALLAN
- 21 ANDRE GOMES (65)
- 10 SIGURDSSON
- 9 CALVERT-LEWIN
- 19 RODRIGUEZ (86)
- 7 RICHARLISON (90)

SUBSTITUTES

DELPH (65), DAVIES (86), MINA (90), OLSEN, NKOUNKOU, BROADHEAD, IWOB, BERNARD, KING



Emile Smith Rowe glides away from James Rodriguez



ARSENAL

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

P	S	SO	
00	🇩🇪	1	BERND LENO (GK)
00	🇪🇸	2	HECTOR BELLERIN
00	🇩🇪	3	KIERAN TIERNEY
00	🇧🇷	6	GABRIEL
00	🇩🇪	7	BUKAYO SAKA
00	🇪🇸	8	DANI CEBALLOS
00	🇫🇷	9	ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE
00	🇩🇪	11	MARTIN ODEGAARD
00	🇧🇷	12	WILLIAN
00	🇩🇪	13	ALEX RUNARSSON (GK)
00	🇨🇮	14	PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG
00	🇩🇪	16	ROB HOLDING
00	🇵🇹	17	CEDRIC SOARES
00	🇪🇸	18	THOMAS PARTEY
00	🇮🇹	19	NICOLAS PEPE
00	🇩🇪	21	CALUM CHAMBERS
00	🇪🇸	22	PABLO MARI
00	🇧🇷	23	DAVID LUIZ
00	🇩🇪	24	REISS NELSON
00	🇪🇸	25	MOHAMED ELNENY
00	🇩🇪	30	EDDIE NKETIAH
00	🇩🇪	32	EMILE SMITH ROWE
00	🇩🇪	33	MAT RYAN (GK)
00	🇨🇭	34	GRANT XHAKA
00	🇧🇷	35	GABRIEL MARTINELLI
00	🇩🇪	38	EDUARDO BALOGUN
00	🇩🇪	41	BEN COTTRELL
00	🇩🇪	66	MIGUEL AZEEZ



VILLARREAL

HEAD COACH UNAI EMERY
YELLOW SHIRTS, SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SO	
00	🇪🇸	1	SERGIO ASENJO (GK)
00	🇪🇸	2	MARIO GASPAR
00	🇪🇸	3	RAUL ALBIOL
00	🇪🇸	4	PAU TORRES
00	🇪🇸	5	DANIEL PAREJO
00	🇪🇸	6	RAMIRO FUNES MORI
00	🇪🇸	7	GERARD MORENO
00	🇪🇸	8	JUAN FOYTH
00	🇪🇸	9	CARLOS BACCA
00	🇮🇹	11	SAMU CHUKWUEZE
00	🇪🇸	12	DANIEL RABA
00	🇪🇸	13	GERONIMO RULLI (GK)
00	🇪🇸	14	MANU TRIGUEROS
00	🇪🇸	15	PERVIS ESTUPINAN
00	🇪🇸	17	PAGO ALCACER
00	🇪🇸	18	ALBERTO MORENO
00	🇫🇷	19	FRANCIS COQUELIN
00	🇪🇸	20	RUBEN PENA
00	🇪🇸	21	JAUME COSTA
00	🇪🇸	23	MOI GOMEZ
00	🇪🇸	24	ALFONSO PEDRAZA
00	🇫🇷	25	ETIENNE CAPOUE
00	🇪🇸	30	YEREMI PINO
00	🇪🇸	31	IKER (GK)
00	🇪🇸	32	ALEX BAENA
00	🇪🇸	34	FERNANDO NINO

MATCH OFFICIALS

Unless stated, tonight's officials are from Slovenia

REFEREE

Slavko Vincic

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Tomaz Klancnik

Andraz Kovacic

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Matej Jug

VAR

Bastian Dankert
(Germany)

ASSISTANT VAR

Pawel Gil (Poland)

TONIGHT'S OTHER FIXTURE

Roma (2) v
Manchester United (6)



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