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Opening extract from

# The Kingfisher Football Encyclopedia

Written by

**Clive Gifford**

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## CRISTIANO RONALDO

**Portugal, born 1985**
**Caps: 106 Goals: 43**

A winger who can play in central midfield or as a striker, Cristiano Ronaldo began playing football on the Portuguese island of Madeira before joining Sporting Clube de Portugal. After impressing Sir Alex Ferguson in a pre-season friendly, Ronaldo joined Manchester United in 2003, where he blossomed into one of the world's greatest attackers, bewildering defenders with tricks and pace, outstanding ball control and masterful free kicks. He helped Portugal to reach the final of Euro 2004, only to be beaten by Greece. His club performances helped to propel Manchester United to three successive Premier League titles as well as the Champions League crown in 2008, the same year that he won FIFA's World Footballer of the Year. Ronaldo left United in July 2009, joining Real Madrid for a world-record fee of £80 million. He wasted no time in making an impact, scoring a staggering 194 goals in his first 191 games for the famous Spanish club.

**FACTFILE** Cristiano Ronaldo was bought by Manchester United in 2003 for £12.4 million. Two years later he scored United's 1,000th English Premier League goal.



▲ *Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo races forwards with the ball at his feet. After Euro 2008, he was appointed captain of the national side.*

## ZINEDINE ZIDANE

**France, born 1972**
**Caps: 108 Goals: 31**

The son of Algerian immigrants, Zidane grew up in Marseille with posters of his idol, Enzo Francescoli of Uruguay, on his wall. His first club was Cannes, followed by Bordeaux, where he won France's Young Player of the Year award in 1992. In his international debut in 1994, he scored both of France's goals in a 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic. In 1995–96, Zidane played 57 matches – more than any other French player – and he appeared jaded as he underperformed at Euro 96. But a move to Juventus in the same year saw him regain his best form, as he helped the Serie A giants win two league titles. Zidane was a key part of the French side that captured a double of World Cup (1998) and European Championships (2000). As the best midfielder in the world, he won World Player of the Year titles in 1998, 2000 and 2003.

Zidane's last tournament, the 2006 World Cup, was memorable as he led France to the final, scoring three goals on the way and being voted FIFA's player of the tournament. He was sent off in the final, however, for a headbutt to the chest of Italy's Marco Materazzi.

## ENZO SCIFO

**Belgium, born 1966**
**Caps: 84 Goals: 18**

One of only a handful of players to have taken part in four World Cups, Vicenzo 'Enzo' Scifo (see page 87) was born to Italian parents and became a Belgian citizen at the age of 18. He was a footballing prodigy, scoring a staggering 432 goals in just four seasons as a junior. After joining Anderlecht in 1980, his silky midfield skills helped the club to three Belgian league titles in a row (1985–87), while with the national side he reached the semi-finals of the 1986 World Cup. Scifo's moves to Internazionale and then Bordeaux were both failures, but his career was reignited at Auxerre. He went on to enjoy spells in Italy, before rejoining Anderlecht towards the end of his career.

### WORLD-RECORD TRANSFERS

| PLAYER | FROM | TO | FEE | YEAR |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gareth Bale (Wales) | Tottenham | Real Madrid | £85.3m | 2013 |
| Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) | Manchester Utd | Real Madrid | £80m | 2009 |
| Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Sweden) | Internazionale | Barcelona | £56.9m | 2009 |
| Kaka (Brazil) | AC Milan | Real Madrid | £56.1m | 2009 |
| Edinson Cavani (Uruguay) | Napoli | Paris Saint-Germain | £55.6m | 2013 |
| Radamel Falcao (Colombia) | Atletico Madrid | Monaco | £51m | 2013 |
| Fernando Torres (Spain) | Liverpool | Chelsea | £50m | 2011 |
| Neymar (Brazil) | Santos | Barcelona | £48.6m | 2013 |
| Zinedine Zidane (France) | Juventus | Real Madrid | £45.62m | 2001 |
| Mesut Özil (Germany) | Real Madrid | Arsenal | £42.5m | 2013 |



## LUIS FIGO

**Portugal, born 1972**
**Caps: 127 Goals: 32**

A darting wide midfielder, Luis Figo won the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1997 and back-to-back Spanish league titles in 1998 and 1999 with Spanish giants Barcelona. He moved for a world-record fee to Barcelona's fiercest rivals, Real Madrid, winning two league titles and the Champions League in 2002. Figo played at three European Championships, reaching the semi-finals in 2000 and the final four years later. In 2005, he came out of international retirement to help Portugal qualify for the 2006 World Cup, where they reached the semi-final.



▲ *Hagi pushes forwards at the 1994 World Cup.*

## GHEORGHE HAGI

**Romania, born 1965**
**Caps: 125 Goals: 34**

Moody, unpredictable and outstandingly skilful, Hagi played for Steaua Bucharest from 1987, either in midfield or in a free role in attack. His superb ball skills and vision helped his club to three league titles in a row, as well as to the 1989 European Cup final. Hagi then played for Real Madrid, Brescia, Barcelona and Galatasaray, with whom he won the 2000 UEFA Cup. A linchpin of the Romanian team, Hagi scored a sublime goal from 35 metres out against Colombia at the 1994 World Cup, but he was sent off in his final international match, at Euro 2000.



▲ *Boniek scored all three goals in this 3-0 victory for Poland over Belgium at the 1982 World Cup.*

## ZBIGNIEW BONIEK

**Poland, born 1956**
**Caps: 80 Goals: 24**

A hard-running attacking midfielder, Boniek won two league titles with Widzew Lodz and starred when the Polish side knocked Juventus out of the 1980 UEFA Cup. He joined the Italian club two years later and formed a deadly midfield partnership with Michel Platini. At Juventus, he won Italian league and cup titles, the European Cup-Winners' Cup and the 1985 European Cup (scoring the two winning goals). A member of three World Cup squads, Boniek scored four goals in 1982 as Poland came third. After joining Roma in 1985, he operated deeper and deeper in midfield and he played as a sweeper in the 1986 World Cup.

## SOCRATES

**Brazil, born 1954**
**Caps: 60 Goals: 22**

Named after the Ancient Greek scholar, Brazil's Socrates played as an amateur for Botafogo while studying to become a doctor. He turned professional with Corinthians in 1977. The tall, elegant midfielder became a firm favourite with the fans, scoring spectacular goals and threading superb passes around the pitch. He captained two hugely talented Brazilian World Cup sides in 1982 and 1986, but neither team did its talent justice.

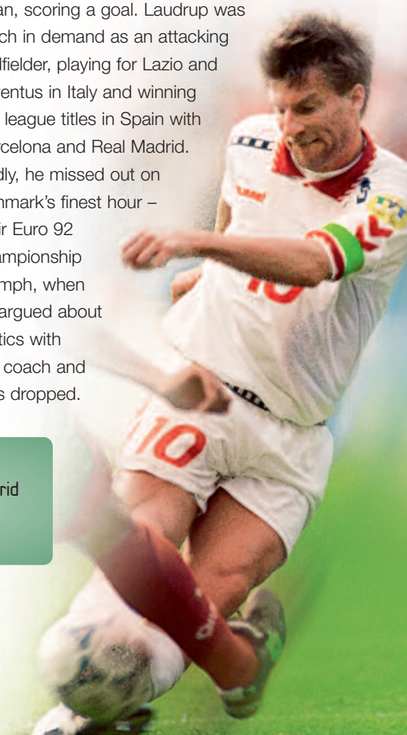
**FACTFILE**
In November 2004, at the age of 50, Socrates played for English non-league side Garforth Town in the Northern Counties League.

## MICHAEL LAUDRUP

**Denmark, born 1964**
**Caps: 104 Goals: 37**

The peak of Michael Laudrup's international career came in the quarter-finals of the 1998 World Cup, where Denmark lost narrowly to Brazil 3-2 – despite his younger brother, Brian, scoring a goal. Laudrup was much in demand as an attacking midfielder, playing for Lazio and Juventus in Italy and winning five league titles in Spain with Barcelona and Real Madrid. Sadly, he missed out on Denmark's finest hour – their Euro 92 championship triumph, when he argued about tactics with the coach and was dropped.

**FACTFILE** Michael Laudrup is the only player to have appeared for Real Madrid in a 5-0 win over Barcelona and also for Barcelona when they have beaten Real 5-0.



▶ *Michael Laudrup challenges for the ball during Denmark's Euro 96 match with Portugal.*

## SNAPSHOT

# BRAZIL 2014

Brazil is a footballing powerhouse. More than 500 Brazilians play for teams in the top leagues of Europe whilst the country has won the World Cup five times – more than any other nation. So, it was a surprise that the last time it hosted a World Cup tournament was all the way back in 1950. In 2003, FIFA announced that the World Cup would be held in South America for the first time since Argentina hosted and won the 1978 tournament. Interest and potential bids were expected from Argentina, Brazil and Colombia. In the end, only Brazil stayed in the race and was announced as official host by FIFA in 2007. Twelve stadiums, either new or refurbished, will host the 32 teams – culminating in the final to be held at the atmospheric Estádio Jornalista Mário Filho, better known as the Maracanã. One of the world's great football stadia, the Maracanã was built to hold the 1950 World Cup Final and is the place where two Brazilian greats, Pelé and Romario, scored their 1,000th goals. Brazilian fans hope it will see further national triumphs in 2014 – and in 2016 as well, when it will be used to host Olympic and Paralympic games events.

*Brazilian fans watch the first official international match (a friendly) at the newly refurbished Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro – a lively 2-2 draw between Brazil and England.*

# THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Championships started life in 1958 as the UEFA European Nations Cup, but struggled to find enough nations to compete. Today, however, the competition is the largest international football competition behind the World Cup. Like that tournament, it is held every four years.

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Henri Delaunay, secretary of the French FA and the first general secretary of UEFA, had suggested a European tournament back in 1927. Regionalized European competitions such as the Balkan Cup and the Home Internationals for the four countries that comprise the UK took place, but a complete European-wide competition did not begin until 1958, with the final held in France in 1960. The early tournaments saw teams play a series of qualifying rounds, with the four winners progressing to play a mini tournament consisting of semi-finals and a final. The standout match in the first competition was the semi-final between France and Yugoslavia. France were ahead 4-2 when Yugoslavia scored in the 75th, 78th and 79th minutes to win 5-4. The Yugoslavs lost to the Soviet Union in the final and would also lose to Italy in the 1968 final. Strong teams from Eastern Europe dominated the early competitions – the Soviet Union reached the semi-final or final of each tournament between 1960 and 1972, while Hungary, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia also performed well. The Czechs had a sparkling 1976 competition. In just four days, they beat the two 1974 World Cup finalists, West Germany and Holland, to win the title.

**FACTFILE** Midfielder Michel Platini holds the record for the most goals scored in a European Championships. He scored nine of France's 14 goals in the 1984 competition.

## HOSTS AND WINNERS

| YEAR | HOST | FINAL |
|---|---|---|
| 1960 | France | USSR 2-1 Yugoslavia |
| 1964 | Spain | Spain 2-1 USSR |
| 1968 | Italy | Italy 2-0 Yugoslavia (after replay) |
| 1972 | Belgium | West Germany 3-0 USSR |
| 1976 | Yugoslavia | Czechoslovakia 2-2 W. Germany (5-3 pen) |
| 1980 | Italy | West Germany 2-1 Belgium |
| 1984 | France | France 2-0 Spai |
| 1988 | West Germany | Holland 2-0 USSR |
| 1992 | Sweden | Denmark 2-0 Germany |
| 1996 | England | Germany 2-1 Czech Republic |
| 2000 | Belgium / Holland | France 2-1 Italy |
| 2004 | Portugal | Greece 1-0 Portugal |
| 2008 | Austria / Switz. | Spain 1-0 Germany |
| 2012 | Poland / Ukraine | Spain 4-0 Italy |

## CHANGING FORMATS

From 1968, qualifying took place in groups rather than rounds of knockout matches; the format of the competition has continued to change since. By the 1980 tournament in Italy, eight teams were taking part in the finals. Belgium were the story of that competition, winning a very tough group containing England, Italy and Spain before losing narrowly to West Germany in the final. The 1980s saw two highly gifted and entertaining sides, France and Holland, win the European Championships. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, however, many top sides failed to reach the finals, which dented the competition's prestige. England, Holland and Italy all failed to make the 1984 tournament; France failed to qualify for the 1988 Championships; and neither Italy nor Spain were present in 1992. With the countries of Eastern Europe dividing into smaller states in the early 1990s, the numbers of competing sides boomed and UEFA expanded the format so that 16 teams contested the finals of Euro 96.



▶ *Slavisa Jokanovic (left) of Yugoslavia tangles with Spain's Alfonso during a truly epic encounter at Euro 2000. Alfonso scored in injury time to secure Spain a 4-3 victory after they had been 3-2 down with just moments to play.*

## EURO 1992

The 1992 tournament saw perhaps the biggest surprise win in the competition's history. Denmark had failed to qualify, most of its players were on holiday and the team's manager was decorating his kitchen when news emerged of Yugoslavia's disqualification and Denmark's invitation to join. In a dramatic semi-final against Holland, a heroic penalty save by Peter Schmeichel saw them through to the final, where they beat Germany to win the most unlikely of European Championship crowns.

## EURO 96 AND 2000

Euro 96 got off to a strong start, with England's Paul Gascoigne scoring the goal of the tournament against Scotland, the Czech Republic stunning Italy with a 2-1 win and Croatia effectively knocking the holders, Denmark, out of the competition. In the final, Germany defeated the Czech Republic with a golden goal, the first to decide a major football competition.

Euro 2000 was co-hosted (for the first time) by Holland and Belgium. The Dutch side scored the highest number of goals in a finals match, thrashing Yugoslavia 6-1. The Spanish impressed, but fell to the eventual winners, France, in the semi-final.

## EURO 2004

Euro 2004 began with 50 nations in qualifying. The first round at the finals threw up a series of surprises as Spain and Italy were knocked out; the same fate befell Germany, who drew with minnows Latvia in their group. In Group A, Russia beat Greece thanks to a Dmitri Kirichenko goal scored after just 67 seconds – the fastest in the history of the European Championships. The Czech Republic and France topped their groups unbeaten, but both were knocked out by a hard-working, well-organized, defensively orientated Greek team. The Greeks also beat Portugal twice (in the first and last games of the competition) to win the trophy.

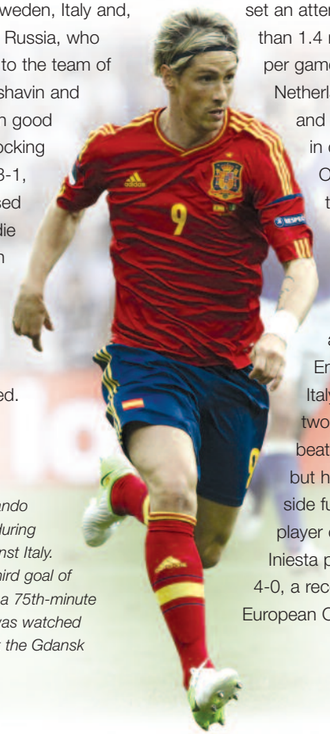


▲ *Denmark's players line up before their Euro 92 match against Sweden, which they lost 1-0. The under-prepared Danes rallied superbly, however, qualifying from their group and winning the title.*

**FACTFILE** Spanish leader General Franco, a critic of communism, refused the Soviet team entry into Spain to play their qualifying game for the 1960 competition. The Soviets were awarded a win.

## EURO 2008

Held jointly in Austria and Switzerland, the tournament was packed with flowing football, particularly from the eventual winners, Spain, who beat Russia twice, along with Greece, Sweden, Italy and, in the final, Germany. Russia, who supplied two players to the team of the tournament in Arshavin and Zhirkov, had looked in good form beforehand, knocking the Netherlands out 3-1, whilst Turkey impressed with their never-say-die spirit but were beaten 3-2 by Germany in a thrilling semi-final. A total of 1.14 million spectators watched the 31 matches played.



▶ *Spanish striker Fernando Torres is on the attack during the Euro 2012 final against Italy. Torres scored Spain's third goal of four after coming on as a 75th-minute substitute. The match was watched by 63,170 spectators at the Gdansk Arena in Poland.*



▲ *Czech Republic striker Milan Baros was the top scorer at Euro 2004, with five goals.*

## EURO 2012

The third tournament to be jointly held, this time in Poland and Ukraine, Euro 2012 set an attendance record with more than 1.4 million spectators (46,481 per game). Shocks included the Netherlands failing to win a game and Russia losing out to Greece in qualifying for the quarter-finals. Only Germany qualified from the groups with a perfect three wins out of three games. Two of the other group winners, the Czech Republic and England, both went out at the quarter-final stage, England losing on penalties to Italy. The Italians, propelled by two goals from Mario Balotelli, beat Germany to reach the final, but had no answer to a Spanish side fully intent on attack. With player of the tournament Andrés Iniesta pulling the strings, Spain won 4-0, a record margin of victory in a European Championship final.

# A PRO'S LIFE

Viewed from the outside, a professional footballer's life appears glamorous, exciting and rewarding. But behind the appearances in top matches, on television shows and at celebrity events, lies much hard work and sometimes frustration and disappointment.

## MAKING THE FIRST TEAM

Signing as a youngster for a big club is every aspiring footballer's dream, but, in truth, a young player in this position is only halfway towards his or her goal. Competition for one of the 11 starting places is intense. Many young players do not make the grade and have to move elsewhere – often down a division or two – to play first-team football. 'If you're good enough, you're old enough' is a motto used by some coaches who have thrust exceptionally talented youngsters into first-team action for their club or country. Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o first played for his country the day before his 16th birthday. In 2012, a product of Samuel Eto'o's soccer school in Cameroon, Fabrice Olinga became the Spanish La Liga's youngest ever goalscorer at 16 years and 98 days. Four days later he found himself playing in a UEFA Champions League match for Malaga, and within two months was playing and scoring for his national team, Cameroon. Most young players have to wait far longer for their first-team debut.

## LOANED OUT

Increasingly, in many leagues, young players are loaned out to other clubs to gain experience. In the 2012–13 season, Chelsea had a staggering 22 players out on loan with other clubs, including Romelu Lukaku, Michael Essien and Lucas Piazón. Loan spells can be relatively short and to a lower-division club in the same country, such as David Beckham's six-week loan spell at Preston North End when he was a Manchester United youngster. They can also be for longer periods and to a club in a different country, as with Andriy Shevchenko, who returned on loan to his former club, AC Milan, from Chelsea. Many players who are frustrated by a lack of opportunities seek a loan or permanent move elsewhere to play first-team football. This is not just limited to young, inexperienced footballers. In 2013, American MLS side DC United obtained experienced Panama midfielder Marcos Sánchez on loan. Others agree to a loan move to put them in the shop window for a future permanent transfer, either to the club that has taken them on loan or to another in that league.




◀ *English striker Andy Carroll has twice gone on loan, firstly with Preston North End then a season-long loan with West Ham United in 2012, for whom he signed permanently in 2013.*

## TRAINING, INJURIES AND RECOVERY

A typical week for a footballer involves training, resting, going to club functions and travelling to one or more games. Training usually involves a mixture of fitness, strength and flexibility exercises to boost a player's stamina, pace and sharpness. Players also practise skills and tactics – improving their heading or working on free kicks, for example. In Europe, footballers have for years eaten a healthy, scientifically managed diet. Britain, in contrast, was slow to catch on. Even in the 1970s and 1980s, a pre-match meal was often as heavy as steak, egg and chips.

Injuries occur fairly often in football. An English FA study of the 1997–98 and 1998–99 seasons recorded over 6,000 injuries, mostly to knee and ankle joints or leg muscles. In the 2011–12 season, Manchester United suffered 39 significant injuries where a player was out for two weeks or more. In April 2013, more than 70 players were out injured in the 18-team Bundesliga, and around 50 in Italy's Serie A league.

Injured players are treated by a club's doctor and physiotherapist. They are sent to the best consultants and surgeons to ensure as quick a recovery as possible. This can take weeks or months and usually involves long days in the gym, gentle training and intensive sessions with the physio. Injured players are painfully aware that their place in the team has been filled. A young footballer may have seized the chance well, making it harder for the injured player to return.

A career in football can be short, with players retiring by their early thirties (although goalkeepers can play on into their late thirties). Serious injuries are what professional footballers fear most. Every year, an average of 50 English league players are forced to retire because of injury.

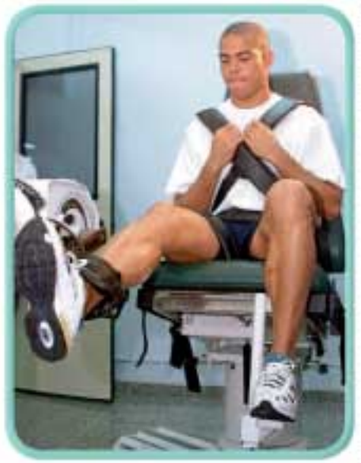
**FACTFILE** Spanish goalkeeper Santiago Canizares missed the 2002 World Cup after dropping a bottle of aftershave on his foot.



▲ *Romelu Lukaku trains with Chelsea. He was loaned to West Bromwich Albion for the 2012–13 season and then Everton for 2013–14.*



▲ *Whilst playing for Malaga in 2012, Fabrice Olinga became La Liga's youngest goalscorer at the tender age of 16 years and 98 days.*



▲ *Ronaldo works in the gym to strengthen his injured knee. Recovery from an operation or a serious injury can be a difficult time, as players miss key games and face a long period of training.*



**FACTFILE** In 2004, QPR manager Ian Holloway took his team to train with ballet dancers. The aim was to improve the players' flexibility and balance, helping them to avoid injuries.

◀ *Top players are constantly in the public eye. Here, David Beckham signs autographs at an open training session. To attend, each fan donated £4 to charity.*

## REWARDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Football's top players are paid handsomely and treated as celebrities in a similar way to music and movie stars. Some use their celebrity to publicize good causes, to help coach and inspire young people or to visit hospitals, schools and charities. Just like showbusiness stars, footballers have to deal with the media. A club may ask players to give interviews for website features or to co-operate with newspapers and television companies to promote an upcoming game or new kit, for example. What can be harder for young footballers to handle is the way in which the press can invade their private lives. Photographers and reporters may besiege a player's home and follow their family and friends. Footballers are seen as important role models for young people and any wrongdoing, such as being fined for speeding, snubbing autograph hunters or partying, attracts much negative television and newspaper attention.

**FACTFILE** Blackburn Olympic spent a week at a health spa before the 1883 FA Cup final. The players' daily diet included a glass of port and two raw eggs for breakfast, a leg of mutton for lunch and 12 oysters for dinner.

▼ *Lionel Messi holds the FIFA Ballon d'Or trophy, awarded to the world's best footballer each year. The sumptuous skills and goalscoring exploits of the mesmeric Argentinean has seen him win the award four years in a row (2009–12).*

