

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



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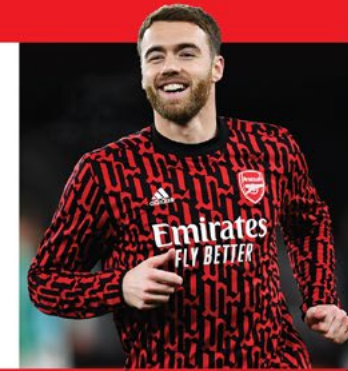


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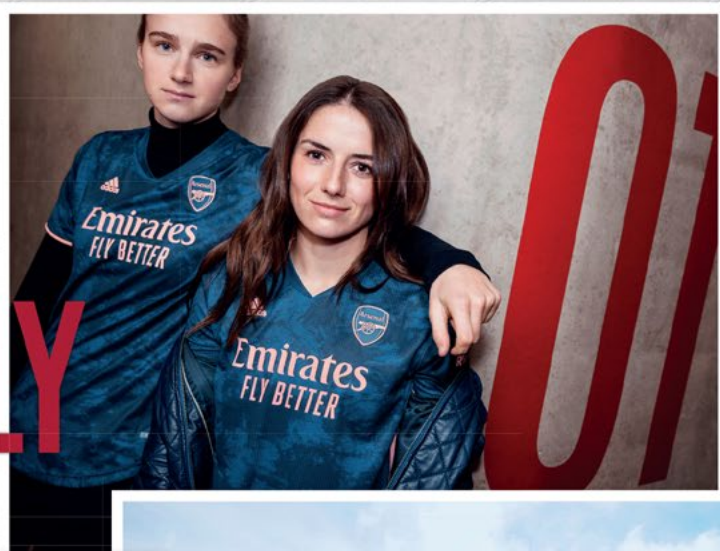
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COVER Today is our dedicated matchday for The Arsenal Foundation



THIS IS FAMILY



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MIKEL ARTETA

It was another really disappointing defeat on Sunday, especially as we completely dominated the game

We generated all the chances, they had zero shots on target but instead we lost the game. Obviously the red card changed the match completely, especially when you look at the way the game was going and the dominance that we had at that stage.

It was a game that we had to win, but as soon as you go to 10 men it makes it much more difficult. We gave the opponent a chance and in the end that cost us. They made us pay but it's our mistake.

In the Premier League, you have to win the game. It's not a question, it's not a doubt. You have to go and win the game. That's it, and we should have, because we should have defended the set-piece better and we still had some

really good moments with 10 men.

But as you could see, you cannot fault what the players are trying to do and how much they are willing. In fact it's probably a case of being too willing that caused Granit to do what he did what he did. We are all extremely disappointed with the defeat.

What I can say about my players though is that I can see them putting the energy in. I see it in training every day and I see it in the games.

When a team is struggling like we are at the moment, you don't normally see them play the way that they did on Sunday, and the way we did against Spurs either last week. We faced two teams at different ends of the table, we put in dominant performances in both games but at the end it's ▶





the same – we gave the opponent a chance and they scored. That’s what it’s about. It’s about scoring goals and winning football matches and we are not doing that.

For us it’s good to have another game so quickly against Southampton tonight. The players are hurting and they want to put it right. I want to thank those of you who came out on Sunday to support us because you were tremendous getting behind the team, knowing how difficult it has been for us in this competition in recent weeks.

It’s great to see you react like that when you see the team putting in effort and try to go about our game.

So it’s a quick turnaround for tonight’s game and that’s what we have to do. We don’t have any time to feel sorry for ourselves. With the players we have available, we have to turn up again and try to get those three points that we need.

We have three big games this week with Everton to follow on Saturday, and we will see how everybody is. We have Hector and Granit suspended for tonight, and we’ve also got a few knocks that we picked up in the last week, so I will wait until as late as I can before the game before seeing who is available.

“IT’S A QUICK TURNAROUND AND THAT’S WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. WE DON’T HAVE ANY TIME TO FEEL SORRY FOR OURSELVES”

We have shaken things up in terms of selection in some games already this season – sometimes it has worked and other times it hasn’t. What I will do is pick the team that gives us the best possibility to win the game, the best chance to perform and also players who I feel can make the best impact from the bench as well.

Some of our players have only been back training with us for a short time after injuries, so the time might not be right for them yet.

As I said, I need to pick the players who I feel give us the best chance of winning, but of course it’s true that when you lose games, you have to try and think of other solutions on the pitch too.

Finally I want to speak a bit about the work the club is doing around our dedicated matchday today, where all of our players are proud to be representing different participants of our Coaching for Life programmes in Jakarta



Mikel and Arsenal Women manager Joe Montemurro with one of the lorries that’s delivered over 500,000 meals

and the Za’atari Refugee Camp in Jordan.

This has been a difficult year for everybody around the world, and at times like this it’s even more important for the club to underline our commitments to the local and global communities, and to stand side-by-side with those who need our support and love.

We are all very proud of the work the club has done in the local area especially over the past few months. We have delivered more than 500,000 meals now in Islington since the start of the pandemic – and I was able to hear more about this from those involved in the project, when the delivery lorry came to the training ground last week.

I also want to congratulate our Arsenal in the Community Staff, who have been doing great work recently, including volunteering to drive NHS staff to vital appointments.

We really appreciate the support of our fans as well, and whatever you feel you can contribute, it really does make a difference. On behalf of the whole club, we thank you. ■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

There are times when what happens in games can really hurt you and your team mates – but you just know as a group you have to stick together

Things didn't go our way on Sunday again, and as players we have to take responsibility for that as a team.

That's the only way to turn around our form – to stay together, keep supporting each other, and keep pulling in the same direction.

It was a hard one to take on Sunday, because I thought we were looking dangerous for most of the game, and we created more chances than we have done

recently. It's a tough time for us at the moment though, and when things go against you, it's hard for everyone associated with the club

My own goal obviously made it difficult to come back into the game, because then Burnley could defend even deeper once they were ahead. For their goal I was back defending the corner as I normally do, and was trying to clear the cross – it felt so bad when I saw the ball had flown in. ▶



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It happens, and I know I need to stay positive, to get back my form and start helping my team mates as much as I can.

That's what all my focus is on now – we need to get going straight away, and that's why it's good to have another game so soon back here at home.

We face Southampton tonight and it will be good to see Theo Walcott back here at the Emirates. We never got to play together because he left just before I arrived, but he's a guy I watched a lot when he was at Arsenal because everyone was talking about his pace, and I'm a guy who likes to see players that run quick! He is a really, really talented player and I think he's part of the history of this club, so it's great to follow him in the number 14 shirt as well. So I didn't play in the same team as him, but I've met him a few times and occasionally see him in London and he's a really good guy too. I have a lot of respect for him.

But it's about us tonight. We have to turn our form around and do our talking on the pitch.

We've got Pepe back from suspension tonight and we're all pleased to see him back because he's been doing well in the Europa League while he's been out in the Premier League.

Myself and Laca are always with him at the training ground and we always support each other and try to help each other out. We often think and talk to each other

"HE'S A GUY (WALCOTT) I WATCHED A LOT WHEN HE WAS AT ARSENAL BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT HIS PACE"

about how we can do better and what we can improve. But I know Nico is a fantastic player. I think he just needs to find the right way to be consistent in these games. And that's it really, that's all he needs, but for sure with time he's going to show to everyone he's the type of player that we are waiting to see.

He needs confidence, he's a guy who needs that of course, but I think every player needs confidence to be honest. We are all human beings and of course you need confidence even if you are strong in your mind. Everyone needs confidence and we try to give our best to him, for him to feel comfortable in the team. I hope he can make a difference now his suspension is over.



Finally, I'm proud as club captain to be involved in the work that The Arsenal Foundation does every year, and to be part of our dedicated matchday this evening.

Since I joined I have found out a lot of the different projects that the club do in London and also the rest of the world, and I think it's just amazing. It shows the power of football when you see what impact the work can make in even the most difficult places.

Myself and the squad had a presentation at the training ground recently, where we found out more about the club's work locally and across the world – it's important for us to understand what difference we can make. It helped bring us closer to the work that's being done, and to get to know about the youngsters on the Coaching for Life programme. So that's why we are all proud of playing with one of the participants' names in our shirts and also keeping the tradition of donating a day's salary to the Arsenal Foundation again this year.

Also I have just heard that we unfortunately won't be able to have fans inside the stadium for this game, we hope that you will be back soon, as we really miss you all. It was great to see some of you here at the weekend, even if we couldn't give you the result we all wanted, and we are determined to put things right as quickly as possible. We really appreciate your support, wherever in the world you are watching us. ■



VOICE OF ARSENAL

IT'S OUR DEDICATED MATCHDAY!

Recently the men's first team were shown a presentation on the work The Arsenal Foundation do locally and globally through our partnership with Save the Children in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan and Jakarta, Indonesia. They also pledged to continue the tradition of donating a day's salary to continue this work, with a particular focus on our Coaching for Life programme in Za'atari Refugee Camp. Each player has been paired to play for a participant from Coaching for Life for today's game, with the name of the participants' printed on the side of their match shirts. Here we tell some of their stories...

GHAITH, 17

"When I came to the camp, there were no programmes like Arsenal's. The coaches teach us about how to deal with our emotions." Ghaith and his family fled Syria at the height of the brutal war in 2013. He witnessed things no child ever should, including his uncle being murdered. As a result, he suffers from depression. Since joining Coaching for Life he's experienced a better quality of life and made friends.



MAYA, 14

"I would like to send a message to world leaders to help us solve the issue of child marriage." Maya is from Syria and her family fled to Za'atari in 2013. She was extremely shy but after taking part in Coaching for Life, she built her confidence and made new friends. She now advocates for the rights of other children in the camp and is determined to end child marriage.



YASSER, 14

"I enjoy the spirit of playing football with my friends." Yasser lives with his mother, six brothers and two sisters aged nine to 18. His father works in Kuwait. He was born in Dar'a and due to the war in Syria, the family decided to seek shelter in Jordan in 2013. Yasser's mother wishes that he fulfils his dream of becoming a professional football player without this impacting his studies.



MARWA, 14

"I started playing football five months ago and don't wish to stop. I'm very thankful for the impact Arsenal and Save the Children have made on every girl in the programme." Marwa lived in Aleppo until her mother died of cancer. She has since lived with her aunt and grandmother in Za'atari camp. Through Coaching for Life Marwa has learned teamwork, communication and problem-solving.



HIBA, 17

"I keep saying that we will achieve great things and the world will know about us. Someday, we will deliver our message to the world." Hiba grew up in Da'ra, Syria with her mother, father and sister Rama. They had to move house three times because of the war before eventually fleeing to Za'atari Refugee Camp six years ago. Coaching for Life helps to build Hiba's courage and inner strength.



OCANG, 14

"Playing football makes me happy and helps me forget my problems." When Ocang's brother died last year in his arms, his world fell apart. Having lost his 'best friend', Ocang completely retreated from everyone and everything, and he didn't want to attend school. That was until he joined Coaching for Life. It gave him the skills needed to deal with his emotions and make new friends on the pitch.



IRINA, 15

"Boys would say, 'why would you play football? You can only run!' But when I play football, I feel great!" Life is hard for Irina and her family. Her father is on welfare and she shares a mattress with her two sisters. She is determined to be financially independent when she's older. Irina lost her mother to cancer when she was nine. Irina says Coaching for Life has helped her deal with her emotions.



AHMED, 15

"I love playing football, it's a beautiful feeling. I forget everything when I'm on the pitch." Ahmed has been living in Za'atari Refugee Camp with his grandfather for six years after fleeing his home in Syria when he was just nine. He plays football every day and met Per Mertesacker in 2018. His grandfather believes Coaching for Life has helped Ahmed to build his self-esteem and confidence.



RAMA, 14

"The war affected me mentally. My thoughts became confused. I couldn't think with ease, I was agitated." Rama grew up in Da'ra, Syria with her mother, father and sister Hiba. When their home was hit by an attack during the war, shrapnel from a blast hit Rama's arm. Her parents rushed her to hospital but couldn't afford the surgery she needed. The family fled to Za'atari camp six years ago.



DIAH, 14

"By playing football, I can forget all the troubles in my family." Diah is a teenager who is determined to prove that poverty will not stand in her way. Her father left the family when she was small and she has felt from a young age that she must work to provide for her mother and siblings. Diah believes it's vital that girls play football so as not to be "underestimated by men".



KARLINA, 16

"Football helps me channel my energy. I feel like I can take on the world!" Karlina lives with six of her siblings, in a slum in North Jakarta, Indonesia. Her father is too sick to work, so her mother struggles to make a living collecting bottles for recycling from rubbish dumps. Since joining Coaching for Life she has gained so much confidence and motivation, and now gets up at 5am for football practice.





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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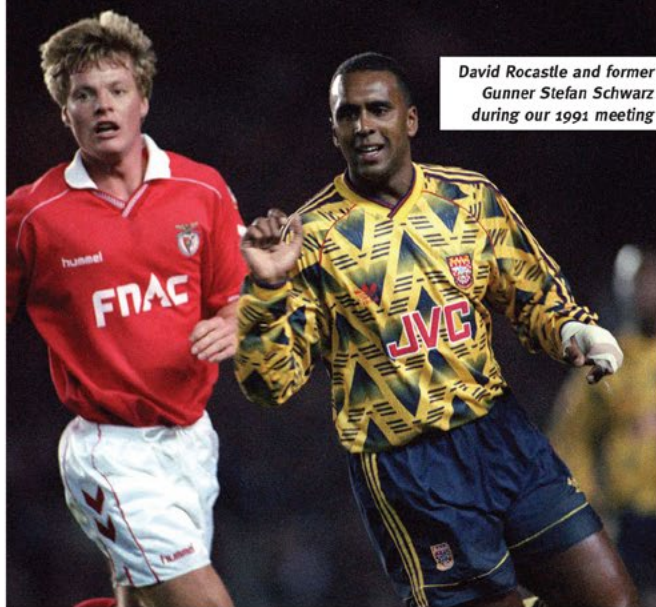
Vinai Venkatesham

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Edu

MANAGER

Mikel Arteta



David Rocastle and former Gunner Stefan Schwarz during our 1991 meeting

IT'S BENFICA NEXT IN EUROPE



The Gunners have been drawn against Benfica in the Europa League Round of 32.

Benfica qualified for the Europa League after finishing second in the Portuguese league last season (behind Porto) a position in which they currently sit at the moment (behind Sporting Lisbon).

They qualified for the round of 32 by finishing second in their group behind Rangers, ahead of Lech Poznan and Standard Liege.

A few familiar faces will be heading to Emirates, notably central defenders Jan Vertonghen and Nicolas Otamendi who we know from Tottenham and Manchester City in particular and the lavishly talented Adel Taarabt who played for Tottenham, QPR and Fulham in the capital.

Despite playing in numerous European competitions together down the years, Arsenal have only faced Benfica once competitively

— and it was a game fans won't want to remember. Following our 1990/91 league title win, we drew Benfica in the European Cup — our first time in that competition for 20 years and after a 1-1 draw in Portugal, we succumbed 3-1 at Highbury in the second leg to depart the 1991/92 competition.

We have played Benfica in a number of friendlies too, most recently in the 2017 Emirates Cup.

The matches are scheduled to take place as under:

BENFICA V ARSENAL
EUROPA LEAGUE R32 (1ST LEG)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18
KICK-OFF 8pm

ARSENAL V BENFICA
EUROPA LEAGUE R32 (2ND LEG)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
KICK-OFF 5.55pm

WE'RE WITH YOU, JEN

Many Arsenal supporters will have heard Jen Beattie speaking so bravely over the weekend about her breast cancer diagnosis.

The Arsenal Women central defender received her diagnosis in October and decided to speak to the BBC about her condition to raise awareness about breast cancer and the importance of identifying symptoms early. Speaking to Eilidh Barbour on the BBC, Jen said: "It kind of does seem like a massive blur. You automatically think the worst. I asked the question, 'Am I going to die?' that's what I asked them.

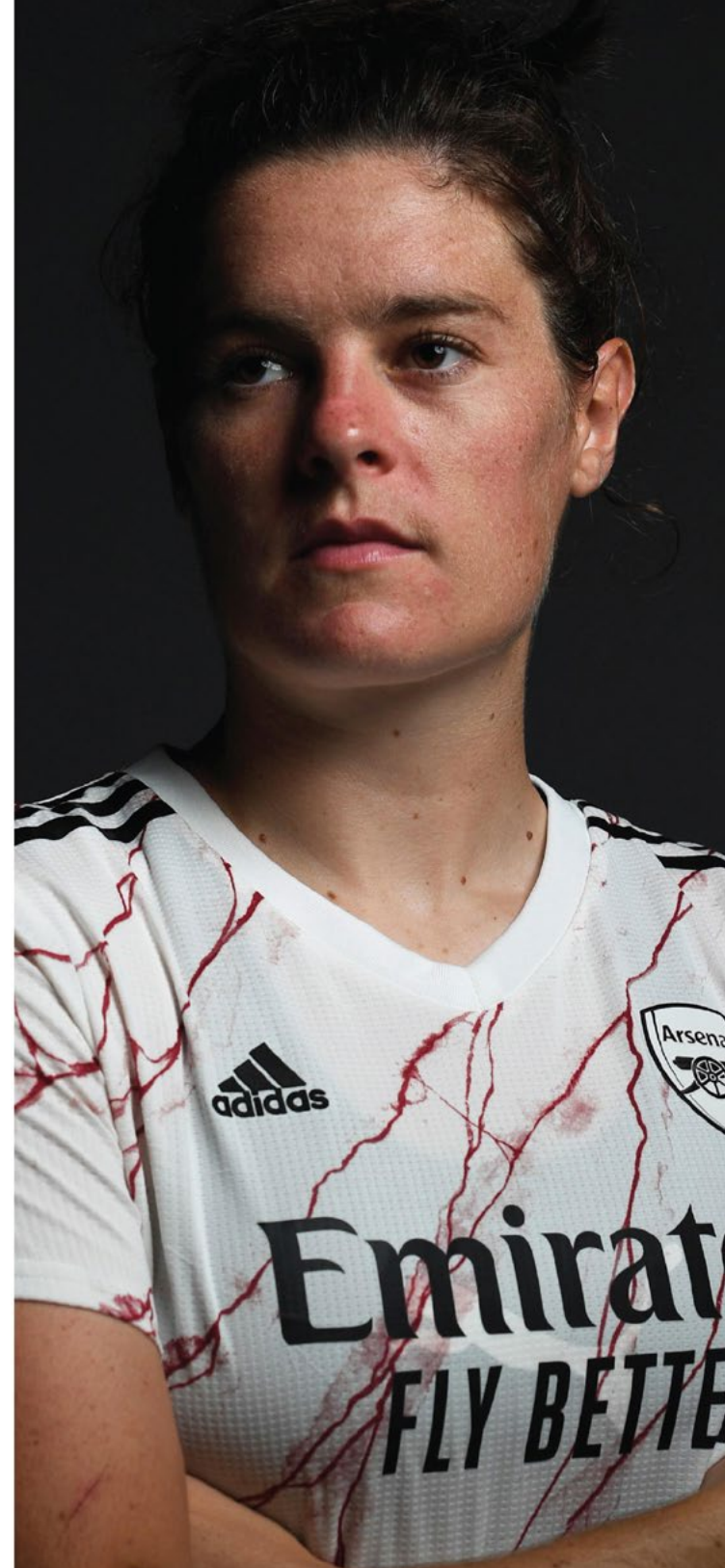
"I was grateful because they allowed my club doctor to be in appointments with me to ask all the right medical questions, because I didn't have a clue.

"The girls here were just unbelievable. I feel like it's moments like these or times like these where you realise why you play sport. It really is like being part of a family away from family.

"I don't know what I would have done without them. That's the staff and the players. They've all been unbelievable. The support I've had down here has got me through it, for sure."

And there was a heartwarming moment during the warm-up at Sunday's game between Arsenal and Manchester City at City's Academy Stadium, as both sides stepped out wearing 'BEATTIE 5' shirts in solidarity with the Scotland international.

Everyone at the club is with you Jen and proud of your bravery in speaking about your situation in order to help others. ■



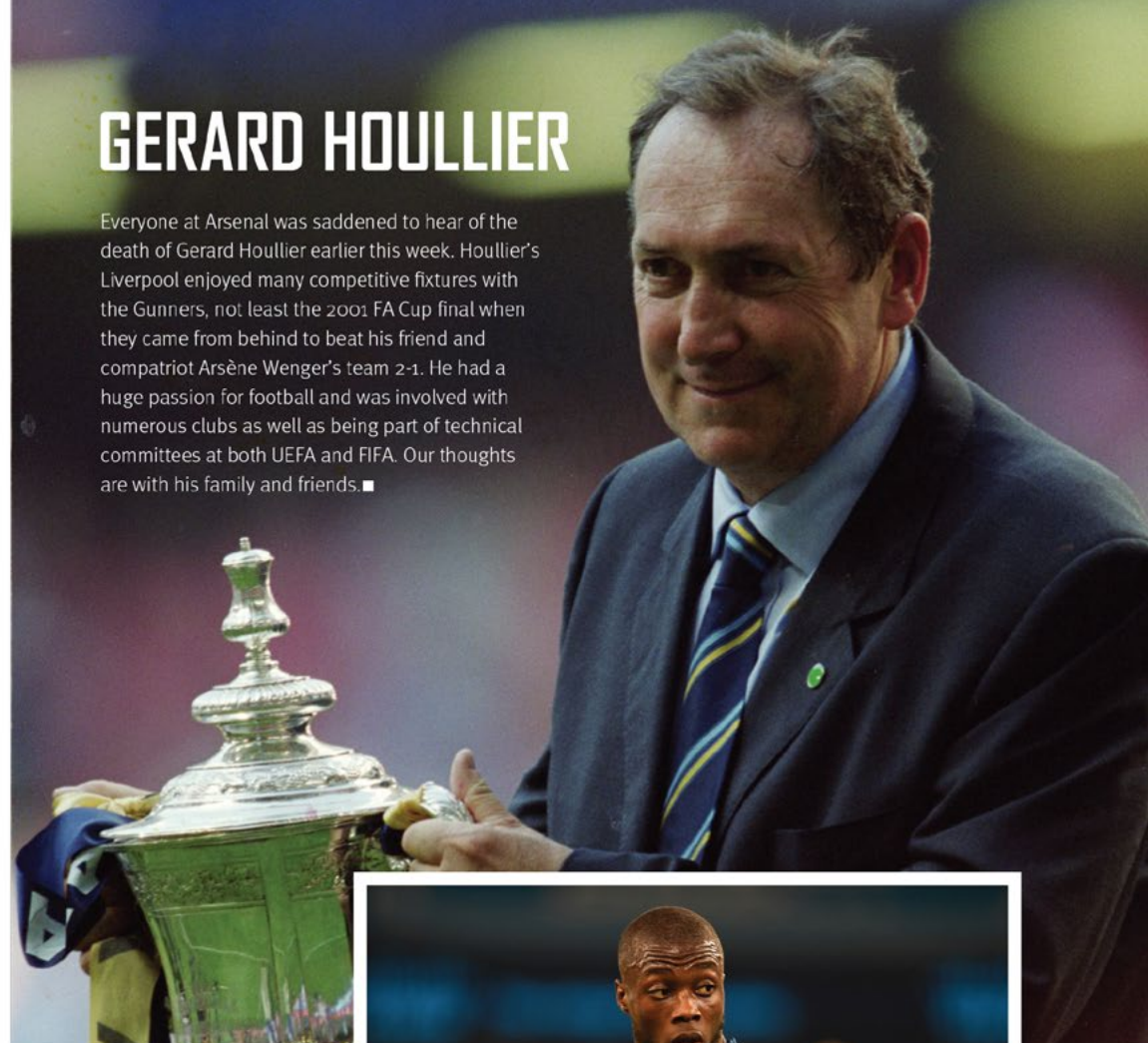


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GERARD HOULLIER

Everyone at Arsenal was saddened to hear of the death of Gerard Houllier earlier this week. Houllier's Liverpool enjoyed many competitive fixtures with the Gunners, not least the 2001 FA Cup final when they came from behind to beat his friend and compatriot Arsène Wenger's team 2-1. He had a huge passion for football and was involved with numerous clubs as well as being part of technical committees at both UEFA and FIFA. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. ■



GOOD LUCK, JAMES

Everyone at Arsenal would like to wish season ticket holder James O'Connell all the very best as he goes through chemotherapy. We hope James is coping okay at this very difficult time and would like to wish him a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's hope the lads can give him some results to lift his spirits over the next few weeks. ■

NICOLAS BACK - HECTOR AND GRANIT OUT

Nicolas Pepe is available for selection again this evening, after serving a three-match suspension following his sending off against Leeds. However, Granit Xhaka starts a three-match domestic suspension this evening, following his sending off on Sunday and Hector Bellerin's yellow card was his fifth of the season and he therefore serves a one-match suspension today. ■

ARSENAL MEMBERSHIP ARSENAL MEMBERSHIP ARSENAL MEMBERSHIP ARSENAL MEMBERSHIP ARSENAL MEMBERSHIP ARSENAL MEMBERSHIP

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

ALWAYS AHEAD OF THE GAME

Emirates BY HERO

LAVAZZA 120

Football PES 2021

WIN AMAZING PRIZES

ARSENAL MEMBERS CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY!

We're giving away daily prizes to Arsenal Members with a special countdown to Christmas Day.

Every day from December 14 to 25, members will have the chance to win amazing prizes including signed shirts, Arsenal merchandise, special gifts from our partners and much more! Simply answer a question from an Arsenal player to be in with a chance of winning. There are new prizes up for grabs every day so if you're a member, make sure to check back each day this Christmas for more chances to win.

Head to [Arsenal.com](https://www.arsenal.com) for more information

ARSENAL REMEMBERS

MARTYN PARRIS (PAZ) – Aged 36. Sadly passed away November 12, 2020 leaving two children, Leighton (14), Lily (10), sisters Maxine, Michelle & their families. A much-loved friend who will be sorely missed, Martyn had a passion for life and football especially Arsenal! Remembered for his infectious smile, laugh and zest for life. ■



PROGRAMME ITK

Congratulations to two Arsenal Academy graduates, Ben Cottrell and Miguel Azeez who both made their first-team debuts last week in our win over Dundalk in the Europa League.

The two midfielders both came on during the second half, 19-year-old Ben became 877th player to represent the first team in the club's history, and moments later Miguel (18) became player number 878.

As well as making their debut in the same game, the two also share something else in common – they both attended Haydon School in Pinner (with Ben in the year above). ■

REF WATCH

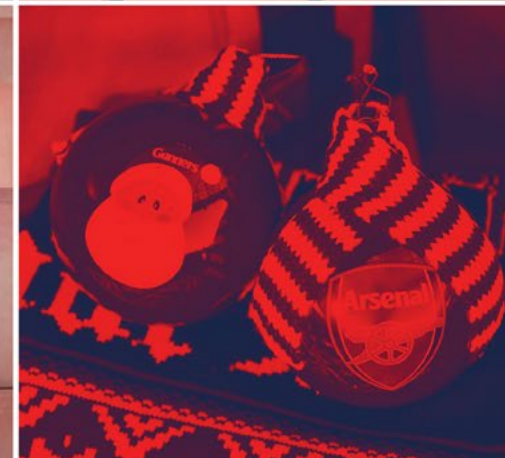
Today's referee is Paul Tierney from Lancashire. Paul has been a Premier League referee since 2014 and has refereed seven Premier League games so far this season, though this is the first to feature the Gunners.

Last season Paul was the man in the middle for five Arsenal games. A 2-2 draw at Norwich, followed by a 3-0 defeat against Man City at Emirates Stadium and 1-1 draw away to Crystal Palace. In lockdown, he officiated our 2-1 win at Sheffield United and the home win by the same score against Liverpool. ■

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FOURTEEN TIMES

THE 14TH MATCH AT THE EMIRATES

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

BELOW LEFT

Alex Hleb and Cesc Fabregas celebrate the second goal

BOTTOM RIGHT

Robin van Persie makes it 4-2

ABOVE

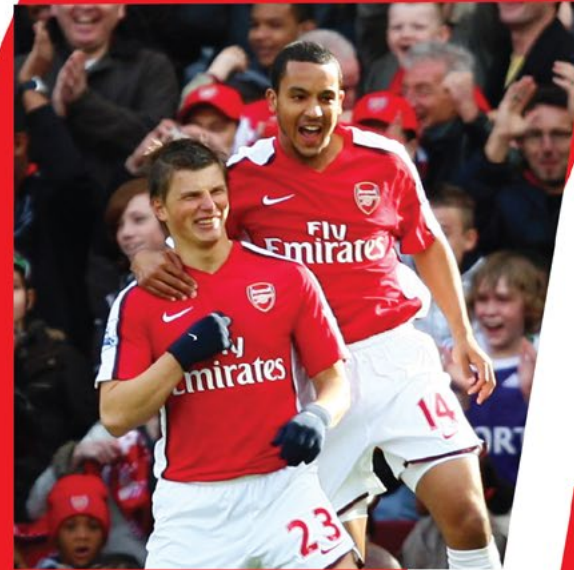
Gilberto opens the scoring

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

Andrey Arshavin celebrates his first Gunners goal with Theo Walcott

OPPOSITE PAGE MIDDLE

Mathieu Flamini is mobbed after completing the rout



MARCH 2009

14

IT HAPPENED ON THE 14TH...

ARSENAL 4-0 BLACKBURN ROVERS
MARCH 14, 2009, PREMIER LEAGUE

Andrey Arshavin opened his Arsenal account with a fantastic solo goal in a thumping Premier League win over Blackburn.

He was involved in the first goal, forcing Andre Ooijer into a mistake as he put through his own goal. The little Russian schemer had arrived in the winter transfer window and was creating chance after chance before he doubled the lead himself after an exquisite dummy. Substitute Emmanuel Eboue added two late goals, including one from the penalty spot, to lift us into the top four as the season entered the run in.

ARSENAL 6-2 BLACKBURN 2006, PREMIER LEAGUE

The team slowly stuttered into life at our new home upon moving to Emirates Stadium in 2006, drawing half of our first ten matches, but a 6-2 win over Blackburn in the 14th game really lit the blue touch paper.

By a strange quirk, each of our first eight Premier League games at the Emirates had ended either 1-1 or 3-0 to Arsenal (four of each), but momentum was slowly building and we were still unbeaten at our new home after 13 games in all competitions when Blackburn Rovers visited.

Rovers went ahead from the penalty spot after just three minutes, but Gilberto soon equalised – his fifth goal at the Emirates making him our leading scorer in the venue's early days.

Alexander Hleb gave us the lead with a wonderful goal on 23 minutes before Emmanuel Adebayor netted a penalty before half-time. Shabani Nonda pulled Blackburn back into it before a three-goal blast in the last five minutes sealed a thumping 6-2 win.

Robin van Persie – still the top scorer at the Emirates – scored twice before Mathieu Flamini added the sixth in the last minute.

The win was part of a 22-game undefeated start to life at the Emirates, but we didn't score six goals in a home league game again until three years later, in another 6-2 win over Blackburn.

Incidentally, the 14th game at Highbury was a 1-0 defeat to Huddersfield Town on February 14, 1914. ■



1	Lehmann	Friedel	1
31	Hoyte	Neill	2
20	Djourou	Todd	4
5	Toure	Ooijer	20
22	Clichy	Derbyshire	27
32	Walcott	Bentley	11
4	Fabregas	Tugay	5
19	Gilberto	Savage	8
16	Flamini	Emerton	7
11	van Persie	Pedersen	12
9	Baptista	Nonda	9

ARSENAL 6 2 BL'BURN



CALUM

If 2020 has been a truly forgettable year for many, in Calum Chambers' case it was almost a complete write-off.

uled out with an anterior cruciate ligament injury sustained at home to Chelsea in the final game of 2019, he then missed 43 matches – including the FA Cup final, Community Shield and the whole behind closed doors period at Emirates Stadium. But as the year draws to a close, Calum has been able to put the injury behind him, and can ahead to 2021 with fresh optimism. The former Saints defender made his first-team comeback two weeks ago here in the Europa League win over Rapid Vienna – the same game in which the fans themselves made their own long-awaited return to live action. He followed that substitute appearance with a strong showing against Dundalk in Dublin last week, where he played the full 90 minutes and nearly capped it with a goal late on, only to be denied by the linesman's flag. So as we come up against his former side today, there is a lot for the 25 year old to reflect upon over the past 12 months.

It's been a long and patient journey for you over the last year Calum, you must be relieved not to have to hear people asking you when you are going to be fit anymore?

Yeah, I heard that a lot over the past year! Especially more recently as I was getting minutes for the under-23s and getting so close to the first team, so in the last few weeks I've heard it a lot, but to be honest it's been good because at least I could see the end in sight. In fact I'd say it was the first few days and weeks that were the toughest for me because your life just changes all of a sudden. You get the injury then straight away you have

the operation and you can't walk properly for seven or eight weeks and it's a drastic change from what you are used to. But nearer the end of the process you are training every day and you are back to a bit of normality. When you get near the end you have the excitement of knowing you are nearly back and you can really see the progress. You see the pathway back to the team that seems a really long way off at the start. That makes it really slow, you have to be patient and that was the part I found most frustrating.

As you said, your whole routine changed, what did you do differently and who helped you to get back?

Well my family moved in with me and that was a massive help for me. Obviously the physios and team around me were amazing too. I also reached out to a few of the players and they also reached out to me – especially those who had also had the same injury. There's Rob and Hector of course who had done it pretty recently, but also a lot of the coaching staff and the boss have been through the same injury, so that was really helpful in letting me know what to expect. There were so many people at the club I could talk to, and knowing about their experiences certainly helped me.

You were out for pretty much a full year – a year in which a lot has happened at the club and in the world generally – how do you look back on that time now you are the other side of it?

I just blank it! This year will be forgotten in my



SEASON BY SEASON

2014/15	36 apps, 1 goal
2015/16	22 apps, 1 goal
2016/17	1 app, 1 goal
2017/18	24 apps, 0 goals
2018/19	0 apps, 0 goals
2019/20	18 apps, 1 goal
2020/21	2 apps, 0 goals
TOTAL	103 apps, 4 goals

“YOUR LIFE JUST CHANGES ALL OF A SUDDEN. YOU CAN’T WALK PROPERLY FOR SEVEN OR EIGHT WEEKS AND IT’S A DRASTIC CHANGE FROM WHAT YOU ARE USED TO”

memory! But no, it’s just crazy to think of what’s happened over the past 11 months or so. When you look back at everything – winning the FA Cup, the Community Shield, and the pandemic of course. I basically missed the whole era of no fans being allowed at the Emirates because my first game back we had 2,000 fans in. So I didn’t play a single game behind closed doors there, and I wasn’t even allowed to go to the games to watch them, so I had to watch everything at home. So that whole experience of having no fans is hopefully now behind us and I will be able to play with the fans being there. Because I was asking the players about what it was like playing in empty stadiums, and they told me they really missed the fans. I was watching the games on TV and I found that strange too. I chose the option of having it with the fan noise added, because that’s what I’m used to, so when I did go to the stadium with no fans in, it felt very, very strange. Everyone has really missed having fans involved and we can’t wait until the day we have a full stadium again.

You made your comeback for the Under-21s against Gillingham in the EFL Trophy. How were you feeling ahead of that game?

It was great, it was almost like it was a box I had to tick and get out of the way as part of my recovery. So to get 45 minutes in that game felt really good. As soon as I had got through that I was just thinking ‘right, when’s the next game?’ Then after that I wanted the next one and the next one so it kept me motivated. Then it was important to complete 90 minutes – another box ticked – and now it’s about little steps and keep progressing to where I was before.

What was that first game back like? Did you have any trepidation?

I got completely flattened after about 30 seconds! The ball was in the air, I went up for the header and got completely sandwiched by two players and flattened. That was a bit of a moment when I was laying on the floor, looking up at the sky and I thought ‘right, here we go. We’re back in it now.’ In those first few games it’s ▶



TOP

Rob Holding is one of the players who could relate to Calum’s injury situation and helped him with his recovery

ABOVE

Applauding the Arsenal fans at the end of his first game back

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TO DISCOVER
ALL THE BENEFITS



Official Coffee of Arsenal FC



BORN Petersfield, January 20, 1995
JOINED ARSENAL From Southampton on July 28, 2014
ARSENAL DEBUT v Manchester City (n) Community Shield, August 10, 2014 (won 3-0)
FIRST ARSENAL GOAL v Burnley (h) Premier League, November 1, 2014 (won 3-0)
PREVIOUS CLUBS Southampton, Middlesbrough (loan), Fulham (loan)
HONOURS Community Shield winner 2014, 3 England caps

hard not to think about getting injured again, but it's really important to try not to think about that. There are a few scenarios, maybe going into a tackle for example, where it might cross your mind, but the quicker you can get out of that, the more normal you feel. When I came on against Rapid Vienna that was the first time that I had felt so focussed and being back to normal being with the boys. And with having fans in there as well, that was a really nice moment for me, a good time to come back.

"BEFORE THE GAME, JUST AS WE WERE GOING OUT TO WARM UP, HE PULLED ME TO ONE SIDE AND TOOK ME OVER TO THE TACTICS BOARD"

It was only Mikel's second game in charge when you got injured, but you know him well from playing in the same team as him, do you think that's an advantage, that he knows you already?

I wouldn't say it's an advantage for me but it's true that he knows me as a player and as a person. He's already shown that he's a great manager and all the players believe strongly in his philosophy and what he wants to do. It's really nice to have him as a manager.

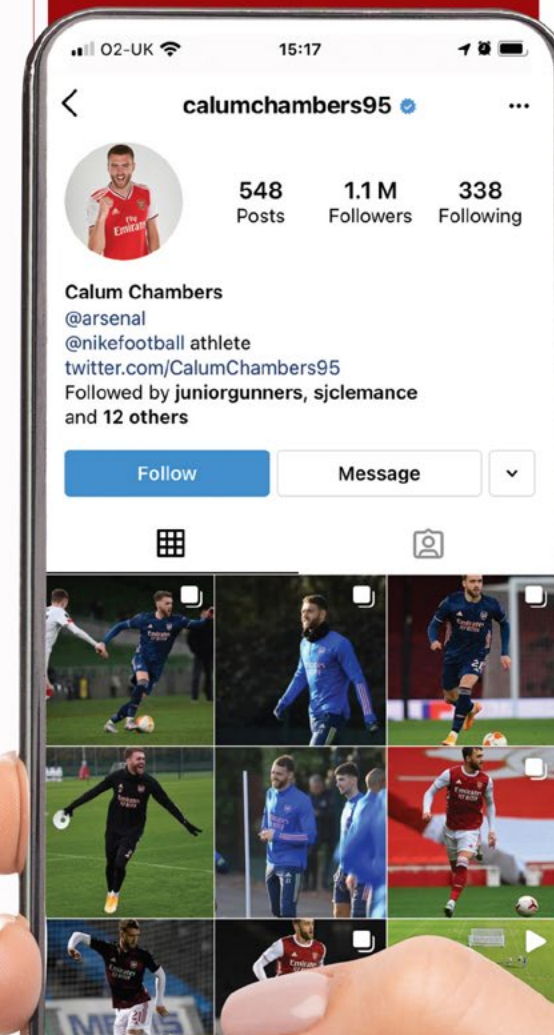
Were you one of those who thought Mikel would go into coaching back when he was your team-mate?

Yep for sure. I remember there was a game, I think against Bournemouth at home, and I got thrown in as a defensive midfielder. And before the game, just as we were going out to warm up, he pulled me to one side and took me over to the tactics board and was going through it all and giving me advice before the game. Just simple things you do as a midfielder but obviously I'd not played there before that point, so it was all very new to me. So he was telling me things that he knew and about experiences he'd had. So he ran through a few scenarios with me, about when and how I might receive the ball, what I can do with it in each case and it was just brilliant to go through it with him on the board. So you could tell then that he was always going to be a coach.

Finally, we take on your old team Southampton today, are there any players still there from your days at the club?

Yep, James Ward-Prowse is still there of course, and a few others too, and now of course Theo has gone back too. So there are a few people I'm in touch with there. Obviously it will always have a special place in my heart because I was there for more than ten years, so it's always nice to come up against them and it's just great that I'm back fit and ready in time if I'm selected. ■

FOLLOW ME
 Follow Calum on Instagram! @calumchambers95





2

FLORES 22, HOARE 85



4

NKETIAH 12, ELNENY 18,
WILLOCK 67, BALGUN 80

MATCH STATS	
5	TOTAL SHOTS 18
2	SHOTS ON TARGET 8
2	CORNERS 4
1	OFFSIDES 1
8	FOULS 13
47	POSSESSION % 53

DUNDALK

- 1 ROGERS
- 4 HOARE
- 44 BOYLE (45)
- 21 CLEARY
- 2 GANNON (53)
- 5 SHIELDS
- 6 FLORES
- 15 LEAHY
- 11 MCELENEY (77)
- 29 MCMILLAN (53)
- 7 DUFFY (77)

SUBSTITUTES

- GARTLAND (45), MOUNTNEY (53)
- SLOGGETT, MCCAREY, COLOVIC (77)
- DUMMIGAN, WYNNE (77), KELLY (53)
- CORCORAN

ARSENAL

- 13 RUNARSSON
- 17 CEDRIC
- 20 MUSTAFI
- 22 PABLO MARI
- 21 CHAMBERS
- 15 MAITLAND-NILES
- 19 PEPE
- 25 ELNENY (62)
- 32 SMITH ROWE (77)
- 28 WILLOCK (83)
- 30 NKETIAH (82)

SUBSTITUTES

- CEBALLOS (62), MACEY, SAKA, HOLDING
- BALGUN (62), COTTRELL (77), HEIN,
- AZEEZ (83)

EUROPA LEAGUE MATCHDAY 6

5.55pm • Thursday, December 10 • Aviva Stadium, Dublin

FIRST HALF

We began brightly, pressing high up on a less-than-ideal surface. Eddie Nketiah's energy set the tone and he got his reward when he closed down Andy Boyle and blocked his clearance before nonchalantly lifting the ball over Gary Rogers. The Dundalk goalkeeper had even less chance six minutes later when Mohamed Elneny took aim from left of centre, around 25 yards out. His fierce shot arched beyond Rogers and into the far top corner. Dundalk had barely registered an attack but Jordan Flores got forward to play a neat one-two and fire powerfully beyond Alex Runarsson. The home side rallied and we needed a last-ditch block from Calum Chambers, who was making his first start for almost a year.

SECOND HALF

Just past the hour Folarin Balogun got another chance to shine as a substitute – and he took it. First he held the ball up impressively and found Willock for a shimmy and a low shot that found its way underneath Rogers. Then Balogun rounded off a comfortable win with a calm finish into the bottom corner after good work from Nicolas Pepe. Sean Hoare's late header was no more than a footnote in a match that will also be remembered for introducing two more academy graduates to first-team football. Midfielders Ben Cottrell and Miguel Azeez both came on as second-half substitutes, an experience they will never forget



LEFT
An impressive debut display
from Miguel Azeez

THIS PAGE
How it feels to smash
one into the top
corner from 25 yards

MATCH ACTION

TOP

Razor-sharp Eddie Nketiah gives us the lead

MIDDLE LEFT

Emile Smith Rowe was a dynamic presence in midfield

MIDDLE RIGHT

Pablo Mari congratulates Joe Willock on the midfielder's third Europa League goal of the season

BOTTOM LEFT

Cool as you like, Folarin Balogun gets his second goal for the Gunners

BOTTOM RIGHT

A very special moment for Ben Cottrell



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CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY

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

MARTIN KEOWN COMPETITIVE ANYWHERE

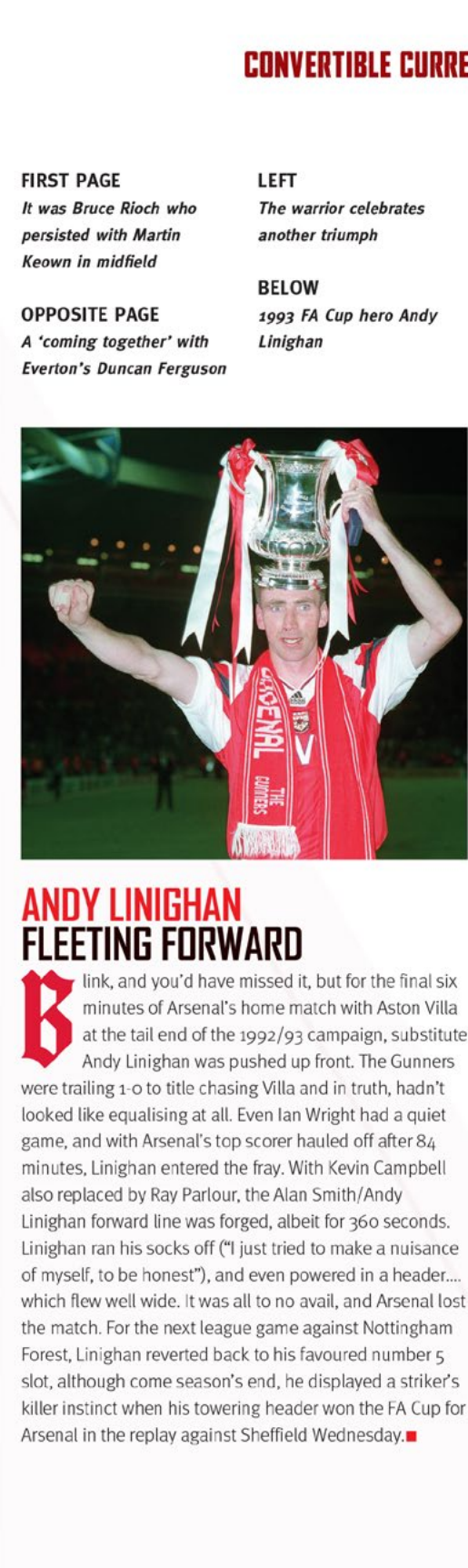
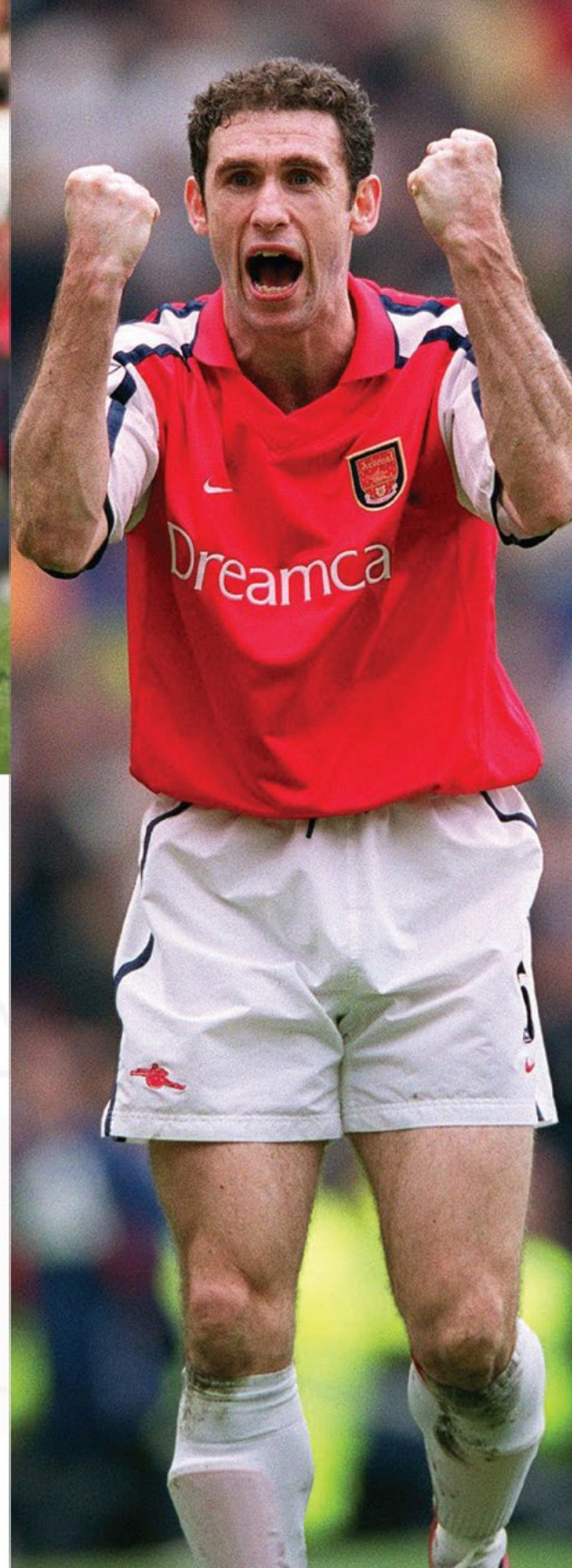
When Martin Keown, who'd departed Highbury in May 1986, rejoined Arsenal from Everton in February 1993 for £2 million, he was warned by George Graham that competition for places in the Gunners' back four would be tough. Graham already had a coterie of imposing title-winning central defenders at Highbury, including skipper Tony Adams, Steve Bould and Andy Linighan, but when the opportunity to re-sign Keown – the former Gunners youth academy graduate – presented itself, Graham didn't hesitate. At first, he appeared in the team sporadically. With Arsenal reaching Wembley in 1993 in both the Coca-Cola Cup and FA Cup, the cup-tied Keown played only in low key end of season league clashes, but showed his adaptability in the two seasons that followed by playing equally as effectively in both a back four and a back three as Arsenal reached two successive Cup Winners' Cup finals. Although he missed the 1994 final through injury, he appeared alongside Adams and Bould in 1995 in the Paris final, as Arsenal went down 2-1 to Real Zaragoza. Intriguingly, Keown

slotted into both the full back slot, and central midfield on a couple of occasions in the latter Graham years, and Graham argued: "Martin's reading of the game is such that I would trust him to play anywhere at the back or in the middle for this team. I know that he would do a sterling job."

Under new manager Bruce Rioch, who took over at Highbury in the 1995 close season, Keown was once again asked to slot into midfield, this time on a more regular basis. Rioch was very clear from the outset about what he wanted at Highbury. "I wanted to leave the era of the long ball behind us, and begin to get the defence to pass balls

**"MARTIN'S READING OF THE GAME IS SUCH THAT
I WOULD TRUST HIM TO PLAY ANYWHERE"**





FIRST PAGE

It was Bruce Rioch who persisted with Martin Keown in midfield

LEFT

The warrior celebrates another triumph

BELOW

1993 FA Cup hero Andy Linighan

OPPOSITE PAGE

A 'coming together' with Everton's Duncan Ferguson

through the midfield, rather than simply launching the ball forward," he reflected. The Gunners were certainly easier on the eye during the '95/96 campaign, if prone to stuttering on their travels in crunch games. Rioch had to settle for a largely functional midfield, however, with the likes of John Jensen, David Hillier and Steve Morrow present and correct. He planned to add "a more creative presence to the centre of the pitch," although he wasn't at the club long enough to make good on this. However,

"IN THE LONG-TERM IT WILL MAKE HIM A MORE EFFECTIVE DEFENDER"

Rioch began to experiment, and playing Keown in midfield was his biggest punt. He insisted: "Martin may not agree at the moment, but in the long-term it will make him a more effective defender." It was a point with which Keown later concurred, acknowledging how "Rioch helped improve my distribution of the ball no end." The sight of Keown in the centre of the park didn't always sit comfortably with Arsenal fans, or Keown himself, who had a sparky relationship with Rioch. Keown excelled when instructed to man mark an opponent and with his pace, he was able to cover a huge amount of ground rapidly. With full backs Lee

Dixon and Nigel Winterburn given more freedom to bomb forward on the flanks, Rioch encouraged 'ball playing' centre backs, and introduced a change in playing style to the club.

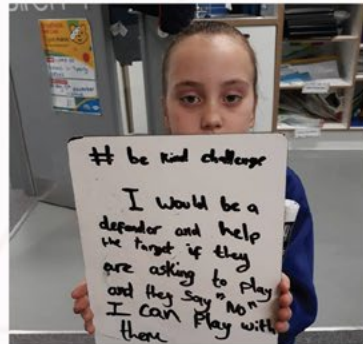
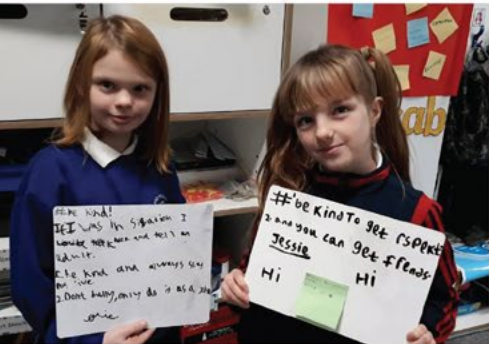
When Arsène Wenger replaced Rioch in N5 in September 1996, Keown was moved back into central defence. Due to a broken shoulder sustained in Le Tournoi – a pre-season competition – Keown missed a large chunk of the 'double' winning '97/98 campaign, but forced his way back into the side as the campaign progressed, and finally laid his hands on silverware. Throughout the next five seasons Keown, along with defensive partners Bould and Adams morphed from being tough tackling, 'stoppers' into tough tackling, 'ball playing' defenders who, when the occasion allowed, could bring the ball forward out of defence with new found confidence.

The liberated Keown latterly became a fans' favourite, even displaying a penchant for nutmegging his opponent on the right occasion. Despite the fact that football was becoming less of a physical game, with the aerial battles of yore lessening, Keown remained the arch competitor right up to his departure from Highbury in 2004 after the team went through the season unbeaten, his game unquestionably rounded by a brief sojourn in midfield. ■

ANDY LINIGHAN FLEETING FORWARD

Blink, and you'd have missed it, but for the final six minutes of Arsenal's home match with Aston Villa at the tail end of the 1992/93 campaign, substitute Andy Linighan was pushed up front. The Gunners were trailing 1-0 to title chasing Villa and in truth, hadn't looked like equalising at all. Even Ian Wright had a quiet game, and with Arsenal's top scorer hauled off after 84 minutes, Linighan entered the fray. With Kevin Campbell also replaced by Ray Parlour, the Alan Smith/Andy Linighan forward line was forged, albeit for 360 seconds. Linighan ran his socks off ("I just tried to make a nuisance of myself, to be honest"), and even powered in a header... which flew well wide. It was all to no avail, and Arsenal lost the match. For the next league game against Nottingham Forest, Linighan reverted back to his favoured number 5 slot, although come season's end, he displayed a striker's killer instinct when his towering header won the FA Cup for Arsenal in the replay against Sheffield Wednesday. ■

COMMUNITY



ABOVE, LEFT AND FACING PAGE
Spreading the anti-bullying message at school

ANTI BULLYING WORKSHOPS

The Arsenal in the Community Primary Stars team supported Anti-Bullying Week 2020 (16 to 20 November) by delivering a series of interactive workshops for pupils at local primary schools.

Primary Stars coaches facilitated a total of 11 interactive workshops across five different schools in Islington, Camden and Hackney.

More than 300 KS2 pupils from Sacred Heart, Fleet, Moreland, Blessed Sacrament and Princess May primary schools took part in the events, that focused on the theme of being 'United Against Bullying'.

"It was a very empowering programme which led to some very thoughtful discussions," said Year Six teacher from Blessed Sacrament Primary School, William Sommerville. "As a group, we collectively found ways in which we can prevent bullying from happening and solutions to resolve issues if it does. Blessed Sacrament Primary School count themselves very lucky to have taken part."

Pupils were asked to discuss what bullying means to them, to share their own experiences of the issue and to identify examples of bullying from a series of

realistic scenarios. They were also tasked with the 'Freeze Frame Challenge' drama and hot seating activity, which featured a performance and Q&A session by each group on these scenarios.

"Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed the anti-bullying workshop delivered by Arsenal. The sessions were fun, engaging and really got the children thinking about how they can actively combat bullying. The use of real-life scenarios was also particularly helpful as it helped children to contextualise their learning," said Louise Mensah, a Year Five teacher from Moreland Primary. ■

"I LEARNT THAT EVERYONE SUPPORTS ANTI-BULLYING AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE. IT WAS GREAT HAVING SOMEONE FROM THE ARSENAL COME IN AND SHOW US HOW TO IDENTIFY BULLYING AND WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO"
- NATI (YEAR 5P), SACRED HEART



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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

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WELL DONE @COPENHAGENP - GREAT TO SPEND SOME TIME THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE SKILLS AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY CREATE

PS4

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FIFA 21



FA
AG
ER
AG



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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG GUNNERS

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Nathan Tella

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Results and fixtures



YOUNG GUN

TIM AKINOLA

TALKING TO Aidan Small

BORN Lokoja, Nigeria,
08/05/2001

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT
5ft 9in, 75kg

BOOTS Adidas
predators

SIGNED FOR ARSENAL
August 2020

POSITION Central
midfield

SCHOOL Brooksby
College, near Melton
Mowbray



My journey to becoming an Arsenal player is a crazy one. Let me explain.

Before I moved to this country as an eight-year old, I was born and raised in Nigeria and had never kicked a football before in my life. Funnily enough, I actually have a few family members who support Arsenal, but growing up, it was all about education, education, education. My parents just wanted the best for me, and it was the same for my brother and sister too. They've both been to university now, so I guess it's paid off for them!

Anyway, when I eventually moved over to England, I made a few friends and naturally, because they played football, I started playing too. Like anyone else, I was dreadful when I first started, but the difference between me and most academy players, is that I started so late. Some of my Arsenal teammates joined the club when they were basically toddlers, meanwhile, I was playing (badly) for fun at parks and trying to get to grips with the basics of the game. It was only two years later that people started to notice I was a bit of a natural on the

pitch and that's when I first joined my local team.

This is when things started to get complicated for me. In my first season, I was scouted by a few midlands clubs and I was asked to go on trial, but I never went. The reason? Someone at the club – who didn't want me to leave – told my dad it was really expensive to play for those teams. My dad didn't understand the football system and so we believed him and we didn't respond to the scouts.

I ended up staying there for another three years or so and it was only when I joined another club that we realised how the football system works and what had happened. I just had to take it on the chin.

I was still only playing for fun at this stage, so when I was 16, I started my first year of college and by the time I was 17, I'd been scouted by Lincoln City. Now that I look back, I find it crazy because I don't know any other players who are scouted at such a late age these days. It's like something out of the 1990s!

Lincoln didn't have any scholarships left, so they gave me a schoolboy scholarship, and that meant I wasn't

being paid and I still had to attend college. My timetable was ridiculous. I'd work for six hours and then leave 10 minutes early just so I could run and get to training on time. I was living alone at the time in a really small room and I found that very hard. I just tried to remind myself that I'm in an academy and I need to keep working hard, but after a year of playing every game in their academy I felt like I was being taken for granted because they knew I was willing to fight, regardless of the situation.

"I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER PLAYERS WHO ARE SCOUTED AT SUCH A LATE AGE (17). IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE 1990S!"

Everyone thought I was going to get a pro contract, but it kept being delayed more and more. Then Huddersfield came in for me and because I was a college student at the time, I could have gone on a free, but because I didn't have an agent, it was so complicated to understand and, like I said before, I felt like I was taken advantage of a bit.

Thankfully, I knew a player at Huddersfield, so I told him my situation and then their head of recruitment contacted me directly to ask about my situation. I told him the deal, had a trial and then a few days later I was given my first pro deal. That was an amazing feeling after so many years of hard work, and weirdly it was also when Lincoln wanted to offer me something too! I just felt like I wasn't always being cared for as a person more than anything else, and that's really important to me.

My time at Huddersfield Town was a really valuable learning experience, though. It developed me as a professional and I'm grateful for my time there, but once again, things didn't quite go to plan. I haven't had it easy! After a year, I was told they weren't going to extend my contract. What they asked me to do next was a real test of character. They gave me two options; I could either go home there and then, or stay and train with the younger players.

I opted for the latter and in a weird way, it's probably what got me here. When lockdown hit, the club hosted Zoom sessions and every single day I would attend. I ▶



RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	██████████	89
SHOOTING	██████████	70
DRIBBLING	██████████	82
PASSING	██████████	81
DEFENDING	██████████	85

TIM AKINOLA LOWDOWN

Who got me into playing football My friends and my brother.

First footballer I looked up to Ronaldo when I was young. Zidane and Vieira after!

Favourite football shirt I've owned England 2010 World Cup shirt.

Team supported as a child Manchester United.

Best goal ever scored At college. A half volley with my weaker foot from outside the box that hit the bar and went in to win us the game.

Best player I've faced Morgan Rogers. Now at Man City, but I played against him when he was at West Brom. I've never seen a player single-handedly destroy a whole team by himself!



The dangerous Morgan Rogers



Best moment of my career so far Signing for Arsenal. It made me realise that with talent and faith, there's always light at the end of the tunnel.

One stadium I'd like to score in Wembley.

One type of goal I'd like to score Bicycle kick from just outside the 18-yard box.

A player to score a one-on-one to save my life Robert Lewandowski.

Other sports I'm good at Badminton and athletics.

My ambitions this season away from the pitch To reach out to those struggling to find a club and looking to give up. Things can change quickly.

The important non-playing attributes for young footballers Determination, attitude and

being able to resist temptation.

Favourite footballers of all-time Zinedine Zidane, Kevin De Bruyne, Patrick Vieira and Yaya Toure.

Favourite pre-match song AScomps – they're YouTubers who make football videos and I love the background music on each football video.

One thing I need on an away day My bible.

One thing I want to do in my career Lift the World Cup.

If I wasn't a footballer I'd be a sports scientist or go into acting.

First-team player I look up to Thomas Partey.

Something not many people know about me I can dwell on my mistakes too much. Even the smallest things can make me feel like I've scored an own goal.



3

LONGMAN 67 OSEW 73
PIGGOTT 90



0

Papa John's Trophy
Tuesday, December 8
Plough Lane

ARSENAL U21 Hein, Saliba, Sokratis, Lopez, Alebiosu, Cottrell (Norton-Cuffy 78), Akinola, Azeez (Ideho 78), Cirjan, Martinelli (Taylor-Hart 45)

SUBS NOT USED: Graczyk, Dinzei, Ogunbo, Norton-Cuffy, Lewis

Gabriel Martinelli made his return from injury last week as our under-21s were beaten 3-0 by Wimbledon in the second round of the Papa John's Trophy.

The 19 year old played 45 minutes and looked lively in the final third, but was unable to prevent Steve Bould's side from dropping out of the competition. William Saliba and Sokratis also started.

We had the better of the first half with some promising play from Martinelli and a free-kick from Miguel Azeez that sailed just over the bar.

The latter then delivered a dangerous cross from the left for our best chance of the evening, but Martinelli's header was saved and he couldn't reach the follow up.

Ryan Alebiosu fired just wide of the post from the edge of the area shortly after, but we were made to pay for our missed chances following the break.

After playing out from the back, Tim Akinola was dispossessed on the edge of the 18 yard box and substitute Ryan Longman, who had only been on the pitch for a minute, duly converted.

Paul Osew then fired into the far corner after being played through by Longman, before Akinola was dismissed for a second yellow card offence, kicking the ball away from a free-kick.

Things went from bad to worse as Saliba was also shown a second yellow card, before Joe Pigott made it three deep into stoppage time, knocking us out of the competition. ■



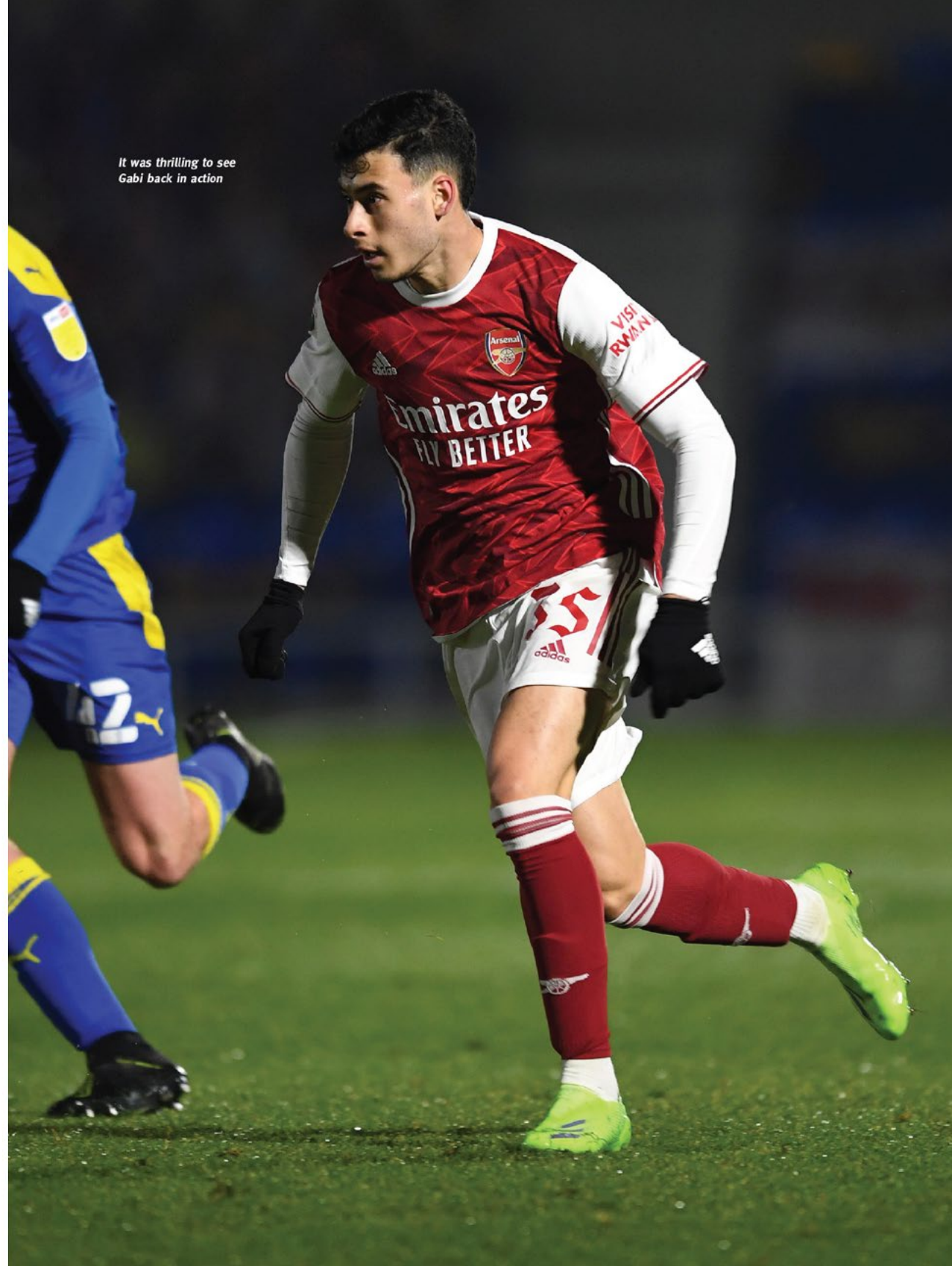
16 year old Brooke Norton-Cuffy featured at Plough Lane



Gabriel Martinelli in the thick of it



Kido Taylor-Hart pushes forward



It was thrilling to see Gabi back in action



ABOVE
Nathan in action for Arsenal
in 2015

LEFT
Now getting first-team minutes
for the Saints

ACADEMY ALUMNI

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

NATHAN TELLA

It's been more than three years since Nathan Tella left north London for pastures new – and now he's picking up Premier League minutes with tonight's opposition Southampton.

A pacey and skilful winger, Tella joined us at just eight years of age and progressed through our youth ranks at an impressive rate, often playing alongside the likes of Emile Smith Rowe, Reiss Nelson and Donyell Malin in attack.

Tella made his debut for our under-18s at just 15 years of age and went on to feature regularly over the next two seasons, proving his worth on both wings. Back in 2016/17, he made his return from injury in spectacular fashion, scoring and assisting in a dramatic 4-2 win over Tottenham Hotspur, but at the end of the season, he made a trip down south to join the Saints when his contract expired.

He made a splash in his first year with the under-23s, scoring five and assisting twice in 15 Premier League 2 appearances, before scoring once and assisting twice the following season.

The youngster suffered a frustrating 2019/20 campaign after picking up a long-term injury, but he was rewarded for his hard work before the season came to a close, when he was handed his Premier League debut in Southampton's first game back following the restart.

He's since made a further three Premier League appearances against Tottenham, Burnley and Chelsea.

With Southampton's record of utilising young players and their faith in academy graduates, Tella seems to be in safe hands! ■

ACADEMY NEWS

LOAN WATCH: SIX OF THE BEST

Six of our academy stars were in action for their loan clubs over the weekend of December 5/6.

Trae Coyle came off the bench and scored for Gillingham against Swindon. The on-loan attacker's strike was his side's second in a 2-0 win after Vadaine Oliver opened the scoring in the first half.

Tyrece John-Jules made his first start after recovering from injury for Doncaster against Northampton Town on Saturday.

After scoring from the bench against Hull in midweek, our 19 year old forward made it two in two by netting at Sixfields Stadium, before Joe Wright added a second to make it 2-0. The win moved Doncaster up to eighth place in League One.

Harry Clarke played the full game as Oldham beat Cambridge 2-1 at Abbey Stadium. Conor McAleny and Alfie McCalmont grabbed the goals for the Lancastrians.

Mark McGuinness played the full match as Ipswich Town beat Plymouth 2-1 in League One. Our 19 year old defender saw his side concede after just 14 minutes at Home Park as Luke Jephcott put the ball into David Cornell's net. Ipswich completed a rapid-fire turnaround in the second half, though, with two goals in two minutes from Jon Nolan and Kayden Jackson.

Matt Smith started his 14th game in a row for Swindon Town as they lost 2-0 to Gillingham. Smith was unable to prevent his side from slipping to 20th in League One.

Finally **James Olayinka** played the full match as Southend drew 0-0 with Stevenage. The result leaves Olayinka's side bottom of League Two, having picked up just six points from 15 games this season. ■



Trae was on the mark for Gillingham



James is playing regularly for a struggling Southend



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	7pm
Fri Jan 8	West Ham United	A	7pm
Sun Jan 17	Southampton	A	2.30pm
Fri Jan 22	Brighton & HA	H	7pm
Fri Jan 29	Tottenham Hotspur	A	12pm
Fri Feb 5	Chelsea	H	7pm
Fri Feb 12	Manchester United	A	7pm
Fri Feb 19	Manchester City	H	7pm
Fri Feb 26	Liverpool	A	7pm
Fri Mar 12	Blackburn Rovers	H	7pm
Sun Mar 21	Everton	A	1pm
Mon Apr 12	Derby County	A	7pm
Mon Apr 26	Leicester City	A	7pm
Fri Apr 30	West Ham United	H	7pm

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	9	5	2	2	27	17	10	17
Chelsea	9	5	1	3	16	13	3	16
Liverpool	9	5	1	3	17	16	1	16
Derby County	9	5	1	3	19	19	0	16
Blackburn Rovers	9	4	3	2	14	14	0	14
Manchester United	9	4	2	3	22	20	2	14
Tottenham Hotspur	9	4	2	3	14	15	-1	14
Brighton & Hove Albion	10	4	2	4	14	18	-4	14
Leicester City	9	4	0	5	15	17	-2	12
Everton	9	3	2	4	12	8	4	11
Arsenal	10	3	2	5	17	17	0	11
Southampton	10	2	2	6	13	19	-6	8
West Ham United	9	1	2	6	11	18	-7	5

UNDER-18 FIXTURES

* = won on penalties

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

EFL TROPHY FIXTURES

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

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Aston Villa	9	7	1	1	19	12	7	22
Tottenham Hotspur	10	6	3	1	29	10	19	21
Brighton & Hove Albion	10	5	3	2	25	13	12	18
Crystal Palace	9	6	0	3	14	14	0	18
Fulham	7	5	1	1	14	6	8	16
Arsenal	9	5	1	3	19	17	2	16
Chelsea	8	4	2	2	25	14	11	14
Norwich City	10	3	1	6	20	25	-5	10
West Ham United	8	3	1	4	14	19	-5	10
Reading	9	2	2	5	21	25	-4	8
Southampton	9	1	2	6	16	25	-9	5
West Bromwich Albion	8	1	2	5	13	22	-9	5
Leicester City	10	0	1	9	12	39	-27	1

FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	7pm
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CONGRATULATIONS, NIKOLAJ!

Nikolaj Moller has been nominated for November's Premier League 2 Player of the Month award.

Signed from Malmo in October, the 18 year old has made an incredible start to life in north London, and last month he was in superb form for our under-23s.

Moller kickstarted November with a goal and an assist in our 6-0 win over Blackburn, before scoring another in a 3-1 home win over Derby County. ■



THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH APPEARANCES

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



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Challenge it.
Report it. Change it.



ARSENAL WOMEN

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



MEWIS 30, WEIR 90

2

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
MAN CITY FOOTBALL ACADEMY STADIUM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13



MIEDEMA 3

1

ARSENAL
 Williams, Maier (Catley 66), Williamson, Beattie, McCabe, Gut, Little, Roord, Mead (Van de Donk 80), Miedema, Foord (Nobbs 80) **SUBS NOT USED**
 Zinsberger, Stenson, Evans

We suffered late heartbreak on Sunday as we slipped to a 2-1 defeat against Manchester City on the road.

We started strongly with Vivianne Miedema opening the scoring, but we failed to maintain our dominance with goals from Sam Mewis and Caroline Weir proving vital on an emotional day in the north west.

Just 24 hours after Jen Beattie had told the story behind her battle with breast cancer, the centre back started alongside Leah Williamson in our defence.

After suffering a 2-1 defeat in our last meeting with City, we knew we needed a fast start to build confidence and that's exactly what happened.

Pressing from the front and playing with purpose, Vivianne Miedema pounced on a loose pass on the edge of the area, and curled her right-footed effort into the bottom corner.

The Netherlands international has now scored 16 goals across all competitions this season.

We continued to dominate play and looked the stronger of the two sides, but following a positive five-minute spell from the hosts, Sam Mewis climbed high inside the area to head home from a corner.

The remainder of the first half and the following 25 minutes of the second proved to be a tightly-contested affair, with chances arriving few and far between.

But as we approached the closing stages, it was City who took charge of the game and we soon found ourselves defending in numbers on the edge of our penalty area.

We dealt with delivery after delivery and looked set for a share of the spoils, but with a single lapse in concentration, Weir picked up the ball 20 yards from goal and fired into the bottom corner with almost the last kick of the game. ■

Viv gives us the perfect start against City



CONGRATUALIONS KATIE

Despite the heartbreaking defeat, it was still a special afternoon for Katie McCabe on Sunday, who made her 100th appearance for Arsenal.

The Republic of Ireland captain, who joined the Gunners from Shelbourne Ladies in December 2015, has scored 18 goals for us and joins Beth Mead, Jen Beattie, Danielle van de Donk, Leah Williamson, Kim Little and Jordan Nobbs in the '100 Club'.

Congratulations Katie! ■

RIGHT *Katie's in the 100 Club*

FAR RIGHT *City's Ellen White wearing a Jen Beattie shirt in the warm up to show support for her former team-mate*



2020/21 FIXTURES

SEPT 6	READING	6-1
SEPT 12	WEST HAM UNITED	9-1
SEPT 26	TOTTENHAM (FA CUP DF)	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	H
JAN 9/10	ASTON VILLA	A
JAN 16/17	READING	A
JAN 23/24	WEST HAM UNITED	H
FEB 6/7	MANCHESTER CITY	H
FEB 10/11/12	CHELSEA	A
MAR 6/7	BIRMINGHAM CITY	A
MAR 17/18	MANCHESTER UNITED	H
MAR 27/28	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	A
APR 3/4	BRISTOL CITY	A
APR 24/25	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H
MAY 1/2	EVERTON	A
MAY 8/9	ASTON VILLA	H

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT DEC 13)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MANCHESTER UNITED	9	7	2	0	21	8	13	23
CHELSEA	8	6	2	0	23	5	18	20
ARSENAL	9	6	1	2	34	8	26	19
MANCHESTER CITY	9	5	3	1	23	9	14	18
EVERTON	8	4	2	2	17	11	6	14
READING	9	2	4	3	10	14	-4	10
BIRMINGHAM CITY	8	3	0	5	9	13	-4	9
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	9	2	3	4	12	18	-6	9
BRIGHTON & HA	9	2	2	5	6	16	-10	8
WEST HAM UNITED	9	2	1	6	13	23	-10	7
ASTON VILLA	8	2	0	6	8	17	-9	6
BRISTOL CITY	9	0	2	7	5	39	-34	2

*Arsenal won on penalties

FORWARD



MO ELNENY

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 far forward do you plan your week?

I've always been the person to take each day as it comes, but I have big dreams and I think every month or every year it's good to set targets too. But in my head, I just try to take each day as it comes and improve myself in any way possible, because that's the best way to build something for the future.

What does training look like this week?

We haven't been in the best form, so it's been tough. We've been watching the games back and taking a look at all the things we were doing right when we were winning, and all the things we're doing wrong when we're losing. We know that it's a difficult time for us, but we have to stick together and work hard on the training ground to find the solutions on the pitch. We're a big club and we need to have high standards.

How far forward do you look at the fixture list?

I know it's a boring thing to say, but every game is so important, it really is – especially when we find ourselves in the form that we're currently in. We need to bounce back with a few good results, and we need

to do it fast. Of course, there are big games that mean more to the fans, and I completely understand that, because that's why we love football, but I always try to relax before a game because that's when I play my best.

If you had to work in one of the following after your playing career, which would you choose: coaching, media or something away from football?

I would love to be a coach. I've always said that when I finish my career in football, I want to stay in the game and do everything I can to become a top coach. I've had the honour of working with some incredible coaches throughout my career and I feel like I've discovered lots of little things from them. I've worked with Arsène Wenger and last year in Turkey I picked up so much experience tactically.

Have you started any qualifications yet?

Well, I wanted to start this year actually, but when I came back to Arsenal, I was thinking that I should just focus 100 per cent on my football and only after, when everything is good, I will start my license. ▶

ARSENAL

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

MEAL

Indian



NEW CAR

Ferrari, why not?

TROPHY YOU WIN

Premier League or Africa Cup of Nations

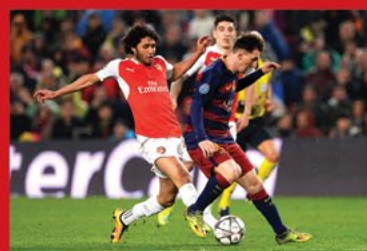
HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Maldives



NEW TEAM-MATE

Lionel Messi



What do you still want to achieve in your career?

There are two things I really want to win with Arsenal, and that's the Premier League and the Champions League. It's a dream for me and I really feel like Arsenal can do this. It's not something that's impossible or we have no chance... we're a big club, we have a big history, we have a big spirit and we have a strong mentality. We just need to keep working hard. With my national team, my dream is to win the Africa Cup of Nations. I've dreamed about that since I was a kid and to this day, I wake up thinking about it.

What club would you never sign for?

Because I'm a professional player, I could never say never, but when I came to Arsenal, it didn't take long for me to realise that there was a right answer here – and you know exactly which club I mean! I couldn't do that because I think after all my time here, I'm an Arsenal fan and I know we don't like them. I have a great connection with the fans here and I know what it would mean to them if I did that. I could never make the fans unhappy because I love them and don't want to ever lose that connection with Arsenal.

"MY SON HAS JUST STARTED PLAYING. I'M LOOKING AT CLUBS FOR HIM BECAUSE HE'S SEVEN AND WANTS TO BE A FOOTBALLER."

What other profession would you love to try after you leave football?

Honestly, I can't see myself not being involved in football. I've played football since I was six years old and every single day since then has been about football, football, football. Maybe one day I'll find something else, but for now, it's the only job I've ever been focused on.

What are you looking forward to doing once you retire that you can't do now?

To be honest with you, I've always been that guy who likes staying at home. I'm very relaxed and I'm not one of those people who really needs to go all around the world to see all the different countries and feel different experiences. For me, when I finish football, I just want to focus on being a coach because I love football so much and it's such a great career. I don't want anything to get in the way of me becoming a coach!

What city will you live in once you stop playing?

I've always loved Egypt, but ever since I've been in England, I've loved it here and I can really see myself living ▶

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MY STORY



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



The Arsenal Foundation helps to fund and support Haven House, a hospice that provides care for life-limited children and their families. Chris Thomas, 38 and from Barkingside, is a lifelong Arsenal fan whose family discovered Haven House after a hospital visit changed their lives forever

Annabelle receiving physio at Haven House

relied on, so Haven House brought physio, music therapy and yoga to us at home through virtual sessions.

Haven House is the equivalent of a group hug from people within your community who understand the dangers and stresses inflicted on your family. The care and structure they offer helps build our family armour to go and face the world again. We feel safe there and the hospice at home service is incredible too. That a Haven House nurse can come to our house and give us respite when Annabelle is poorly and we can't leave the house is invaluable.

The good news is that before Covid we heard about a new drug for SMA called Spinraza. Annabelle was the first girl in the UK to receive the drug, on a programme at Great Ormond Street. It has gifted us a positive future and we're at the cutting edge of medical science – she is the first SMA child to regain her swallow, she doesn't require breathing support and we're working towards assisted walking.

We've gone from having a time limit on Annabelle's life to a blank canvas. It's a gift we want to build from to offer her all the opportunities we had as children. We want her to be part of a society that looks at all people as equal regardless of ability, creed or colour.

Above all we want to show her the world so she can decide where she wants to explore and the life she wants to create for herself. The only non-negotiable is that she supports Arsenal!

Our daughter Annabelle suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which was diagnosed on December 23, 2016. She was nine months old and we were told she had 18 months to live.

SMA affects her muscles by not allowing the electrical signals to be fully sent through the nervous system, which affects her movement, breathing, swallowing – everything. We were told a cold could kill her.

We heard about Haven House through our community nurse. When we heard the word 'hospice' we immediately thought it was a place for palliative care, a place to die, but we now realise it is so much more than that. It's a place to celebrate living.

Haven House provided us with respite support in the first few years when we were exhausted. This has moved into physiotherapy, which is essential to prevent muscle atrophy, music therapy/lessons, yoga and counselling.

Covid is our worst nightmare, though. Anything that affects the respiratory system is especially dangerous for SMA sufferers as their respiratory muscles are weaker. We're used to sanitising and mask wearing when it's flu season, but this was a whole new level. Being locked down stole from us the freedoms we

For more info visit havenhouse.org.uk ■



Former Gunner Theo Walcott



SOUTHAMPTON

BY Mike Hammond

FORMED

1885

NICKNAME

The Saints

STADIUM

St Mary's Stadium (32,384)

HONOURS

First Division/Premier League runner-up: **1983/84**
Second Division/Championship winners **1965/66, 1977/78, 2011/12**
Third Division/League One winners **1959/60**

FA Cup Winners **1976**
FA Cup runners-up **1900, 1902, 2003**
League Cup runners-up **1979, 2017**

CHAIRMAN

Gao Jisheng

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

Twitter **1.2m**
Instagram **930k**
Facebook **3.1m**

When Southampton last visited Emirates Stadium, a little over a year ago, they looked to be on the rocks. With just one point from their previous seven games, among them a record-breaking 9-0 home defeat against Leicester, there looked to be only one direction in which the team and their manager, Ralph Hasenhuttl, were heading. But not only did the Saints keep faith with their Austrian boss, they also recovered sufficiently to finish halfway up the final Premier League table. And now, in 2020/21, with largely unchanged personnel, they have become one of the best teams in the land and sit fourth in the Premier League after Sunday's comfortable 3-0 win over Sheffield United.

The transformation of the team's fortunes over the last 12 months is remarkable and it could be argued that the catalyst for Southampton's turnaround was in this fixture on November 23 last year when the Saints drew 2-2 and were denied victory only by a very late Alexandre Lacazette equaliser. They went on to win four of their next six games and by the time they got their revenge on Leicester, with a 2-1 win at the King Power Stadium in January, they were effectively out of trouble.

Southampton continued to prosper after the return from lockdown. Indeed, the only defeat they suffered during those last nine games in the summer came in the second of them, 2-0 at home to Arsenal. They drew three of the others, winning the rest, including 1-0 at home to Man City, to climb up to 11th – their highest final placing for three years. With a total of 52 points, they were 18 clear of the bottom three, their form over the final two thirds of the season the third best in the league.

That momentum has been successfully carried forward into the new campaign, despite the loss of their opening two fixtures, the second of them 5-2 at home to Tottenham. Furthermore, there was a moment of supreme satisfaction for the club when they went top of the Premier League table – albeit for one night only – after winning 2-0 at home to Newcastle on a Friday evening in early November. It was the first time Southampton had led the standings of England's top division since a 19-year-old Matt Le Tissier helped them win their first three games of the 1988/89 season.

The concession of a two-goal lead and a late winner to Manchester United in a 3-2 home defeat on November 29 was a hammer blow to Saints' growing ambition, but they bounced back with a 2-1 win at Brighton, and it is Southampton's away form that has particularly impressed over the past year. Their last 17 Premier League games on the road have yielded 10 wins, four draws and just three defeats. This season the record is W3 D2 L1, with no defeats in the last five, which include a last-gasp 3-3 draw at Chelsea and a 4-3 win at Aston Villa in which they were 4-0 up after an hour's play. Entertainment has accompanied Southampton on their travels this season, and the expectation must be for more of the same this evening.

VISITORS SOUTHAMPTON



MUTUAL ADMIRATION

Steve Williams was one of the outstanding midfielders in the country when the 26 year old joined Don Howe's Arsenal on December 31, 1984. He had shone for the Saints during their halcyon days of the early '80s, playing 349 games, scoring 27 goals and captaining the team as they finished second in the top flight in the 1983/84 season. He joined the Gunners in a difficult period for the club and ultimately, George Graham wanted to bring through younger midfielders but his combination of silk and steel is still remembered fondly by many supporters. In all he played 121 games for Arsenal and scored five goals before leaving for Luton Town in the summer of 1988.



8 THE SKIPPER JAMES WARD-PROWSE MIDFIELDER

BORN Portsmouth, 1/11/94

PREVIOUSLY None

A Premier League debutant at 17, James is now at the peak of his powers and the driving force of this up-and-coming Southampton side. Awarded the captaincy in the summer, he also signed a new contract extension through to June 2025. An ingenious set-piece taker who scored two brilliant free-kicks at Villa Park last month, the 26 year old one-club man is fast approaching 300 senior appearances for the Saints. A long-time England Under-21 stalwart, he now has four caps for the senior side.



32 THE EX-GUNNER THEO WALCOTT ATTACKER

BORN Stanmore, 16/3/89

PREVIOUSLY Southampton, Arsenal, Everton

Theo returned to his first club when he joined Southampton on a season-long loan from Everton in October – nearly 15 years after he left the south coast club to become an Arsenal player. During his time as a Gunner the pacy, versatile forward made 397 appearances and scored 108 goals as well as winning 47 caps for England. A prodigious talent in his youth, he was selected for the 2006 World Cup at just 17. He left Emirates Stadium for Goodison Park in January 2018.



9 THE PREDATOR DANNY INGS ATTACKER

BORN Winchester, 23/7/92

PREVIOUSLY Bournemouth, Dorchester (loan), Burnley, Liverpool

After a promising 2018/19 campaign on a season-long loan from Liverpool, Danny joined Southampton in a permanent deal and has proved an enormous hit back in the region where he was born and bred, scoring 22 Premier League goals last term, including one at Emirates Stadium, and another five this season before he picked up a knee injury at Villa Park that sidelined him for over a month. The England international returned to strike the winning penalty at Brighton last week.



1 THE SHOT STOPPER ALEX MCCARTHY GOALKEEPER

BORN Guildford, 3/12/89

PREVIOUSLY Reading, Woking (I), Cambridge (I), Yeovil (I), Brentford (I), Leeds (I), Ipswich (I), QPR, Crystal Palace

Alex returned to the Saints first XI, replacing Angus Gunn, following the infamous 9-0 defeat by Leicester and has been the first choice between the posts ever since. Now 31, the much-travelled 'keeper is enjoying arguably the most consistent spell of his career, having also played in the Premier League for Reading, QPR and Crystal Palace. He became a senior England international in November 2018 but has not added to that solitary cap.



4 THE WARRIOR JANNIK VESTERGAARD DEFENDER

BORN Hvidovre, Denmark, 3/8/92

PREVIOUSLY Hoffenheim, Werd. Bremen, Bor. Monchengladbach

A giant, physically imposing central defender, Jannik was signed by Southampton in July 2018 from Borussia Monchengladbach. After a hesitant start and a couple of extended absences through injury, he has this season become not only a mainstay in the Saints central defence but also a scorer of important goals – a last-minute equaliser at Chelsea preceding further vital strikes at Aston Villa and Brighton. A Denmark international with 20 caps, he was a non-playing member of his country's 2018 World Cup squad.



35 THE LYNCHPIN JAN BEDNAREK DEFENDER

BORN Slupca, Poland, 12/4/96

PREVIOUSLY Lech Poznan, Gornik Leczna (loan)

Jan joined the Saints from Lech Poznan – where his brother Filip is the current goalkeeper – in July 2017. It was not until the arrival of Ralph Hasenhuttl as manager that he became a key component in the team's central defence, but over the past two years he has barely missed a game. He has also held down a regular place for Poland of late and will be looking forward both to next year's Euros and to playing against England in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.



6 THE ANCHORMAN ORIOL ROMEU MIDFIELDER

BORN Ulldecona, Spain, 24/9/91

PREVIOUSLY Barcelona, Chelsea, Valencia (I), Stuttgart (I)

A former Spain youth and U21 international who started out at Barcelona, making one senior appearance, defensive midfielder Oriol joined Chelsea in 2011 but barely played for the Blues – spending time on loan at Valencia and Stuttgart – before moving to Southampton in 2014. The 29 year old has been a regular under Ralph Hasenhuttl and last month signed a new contract extension through to 2023 – just a few days before making his 200th appearance for the club.



12 THE TRICKY WINGER MOUSSA DJENEBO WINGER

BORN Bamako, Mali, 15/6/98

PREVIOUSLY Standard Liege

Mali international Moussa joined Southampton for £14m in 2019 after becoming a star turn at Standard Liege, with whom he won the Belgian Cup in his debut season and struck 11 goals, including three in Europe, in his second. After kicking off his Premier League career with goals in his first two away games, he endured an injury-blighted 2019/20 campaign, but the skilful dribbler has been a prominent contributor to the Saints' strong start this term.



THE BOSS RALPH HASENHUTTL MANAGER

BORN August 9, 1967 in Graz, Austria

PREVIOUSLY Unterhaching (2007-10), Aalen (2011-13), Ingolstadt (2013-16), Leipzig (2016-18)

Ralph became the first Austrian to manage a Premier League club when appointed as Mark Hughes' replacement in December 2018 and has proved a popular choice among Saints fans. A former international striker, he quickly established a reputation as a progressive coach in Germany, paying his dues at Unterhaching, Aalen and Ingolstadt, with whom he won promotion to the Bundesliga, before guiding RB Leipzig to a runners-up spot in their debut top-flight campaign. He departed a year later, and had been out of the game for six months when the Saints came calling.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

Southampton's kit sponsors

1980-83 – RANK XEROX
1983-84 – AIR FLORIDA
1984-93 – DRAPER TOOLS
1993-95 – DIMPLEX
1995-99 – SANDERSON
1999-2006 – FRIENDS PROVIDENT
2006-10 – FLYBE
2011-14 – aap3
2014-16 – VEHO
2016-19 – VIRGIN MEDIA
2019-20 – LD SPORTS
2020-21 – SPORTSBET.IO



Steve Moran
in 1981

REALLY?!

Theo Walcott joined Arsenal in January 2006, and despite the fact he was chosen for England's World Cup squad at the end of that season, he didn't make his Arsenal debut until the first home game of the following season – the first game at Emirates Stadium. He came close to playing at Highbury though, he was an unused substitute in the home Champions League games against **Real Madrid**, **Juventus** and **Villarreal** in the Gunners memorable run to the Champions League final.



Theo signs on
15 years ago

Ralph Hasenhuttl is the second Austrian manager in the Emirates dug outs in three games, after **Dietmar Kuhbauer** saw his Rapid Vienna lose here last week. Indeed, in the early 1990s, Hasenhuttl played a number of derby games for **Austria Vienna** against **Rapid**, for whom Kuhbauer was playing in midfield.



FIRST IMPRESSION

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

After losing their previous FA Cup semi finals in 1906 and 1907 (to Newcastle United and Sheffield Wednesday respectively), the Gunners finally reached Wembley with a 2-1 victory over Southampton on March 26, 1927 in front of 52,133 at Stamford Bridge.

The picture shows the ball hitting the back of the net after a Joe Hulme shot, though Hulme is not in the picture. The Arsenal player following in is Jimmy Brain, looming over the stricken Saints 'keeper Thomas Allen with the other Gunners players in view being Billy Blyth on the left and Sid Hoar on the right.

Captain Charles Buchan also scored for Arsenal in a 2-1 win with Bill Rawlings scoring for Southampton.

Arsenal went on to lose the final, 1-0 to Cardiff City, though it wasn't long before their first triumph – and first major trophy – when they beat Huddersfield Town 2-0 in the 1930 cup final.

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS

23

DRAWS

10

SFC WINS

9

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 55

ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS

51

DRAWS

27

SFC WINS

21

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 52

2-0

The first fixture between Arsenal and Southampton in the Premier League came on December 5, 1992 at The Dell and ended in a 2-0 win for Saints, courtesy of goals from Iain Dowie and Neil Maddison. Dowie opened the scoring on four minutes in the return fixture on March 20, 1993, – but the Gunners roared back to win a thriller 4-3 with Andy Linighan, Paul Merson and Jimmy Carter (2) scoring. Micky Adams and Matt Le Tissier scoring Saints' other goals.

49

Arsenal's first game in the famous 49 game unbeaten run was a 6-1 win over Southampton on May 7, 2003 with hat-tricks from Robert Pires and Jermaine Pennant. Joe Tessem scored for Southampton

TOP

Stuart Armstrong grabs Saints' second against Sheffield United

RIGHT

The team celebrate with their fans after a fine win against the Blades on Sunday



SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

Southampton have enjoyed an excellent start to the 2020/21 campaign, and briefly topped the Premier League table in November. Despite currently sitting in the Champions League places, a title charge will surely be beyond the Saints, but Ralph Hasenhuttl has created a well-drilled, purposeful side capable of taking the game to the opposition.

Hasenhuttl's starting XI is amongst the most predictable in the Premier League, and Southampton often take to the field with no fewer than nine players wearing 1-11 shirt numbers, which should please traditionalists. They also generally use a 4-4-2 formation, albeit with the wide players moving inside to form something more like a 4-2-2-2.

Goalkeeper Alex McCarthy could also be considered something of a throwback; a fine shot-stopper who isn't so

comfortable with his feet, as his mistake for Eddie Nketiah's opener at St Mary's in a 2-0 victory back in June demonstrated.

Centre backs Jannik Vestergaard and Jan Bednarek are both comfortable playing in a high defensive line and a threat from set-pieces – they've scored four league goals between this season – while the two full backs scamper forward down the flanks effectively. Ryan Bertrand must now be considered something of a veteran at 31, while Kyle Walker-Peters has excelled down the right this season.

The full backs are afforded freedom to push forward because of Oriol Romeu's solid positioning in front of the defence. He's a calm distributor but is more notable for strong tackles, and is already in danger of a one-match ban for accumulation of bookings – although he's never been dismissed in the Premier League.

Romeu has a fine partnership with James Ward-Prowse, who is given more license to push forward as a box-to-box midfielder. Ward-Prowse's main quality, though, is his wicked set-piece delivery, which is largely why the Saints' centre backs have been so prolific. Ward-Prowse has also scored three free-kicks this season, including two in a 4-3 win at Aston Villa.

Out wide, Hasenhuttl has options. Theo Walcott may return to the flank having often been used upfront in Danny Ings' absence. Stuart Armstrong is clever at drifting inside into pockets of space between the lines, Moussa Djenebo offers great speed but inconsistent end product, while Nathan Redmond is somewhere in-between the two styles.

Up front, the return of Ings – who hit 22 league goals last season – is crucial for Southampton, both in terms of goalscoring and as someone whose movement acts as the trigger for the Saints' pressing in advanced positions. He's developed a good relationship with Che Adams, who struggled for goals last season but offers good link play, speed in behind, and is now finding the next – Sunday's against Sheffield United was his fourth in the league.

Only 15 players have started Premier League matches for Southampton this season, demonstrating Hasenhuttl's faith in his starting XI. Centre back Jack Stephens and young midfielder Will Smallbone are the two not mentioned previously. The other notable name is Shane Long – with no starts and eight appearances from the bench, he's the Premier League's most regularly-used substitute this season. ■

1

Mikel's first game in charge was a 1-1 draw against Bournemouth on December 26, 2019

28

He won trophies in his 28th and 29th games in charge

20

He is the club's 20th full-time manager

ARTETA'S 50TH MATCH

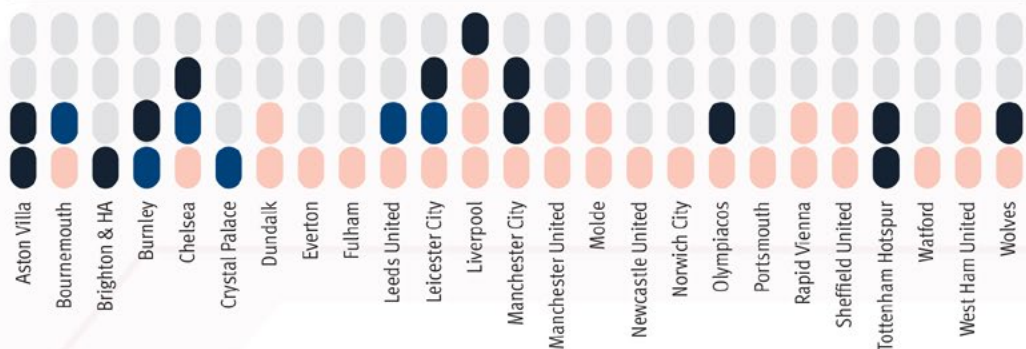


MIKEL ARTETA'S OVERALL ARSENAL RECORD



* games on penalties counted as wins or losses

ARTETA'S ARSENAL RECORD - BY OPPONENT

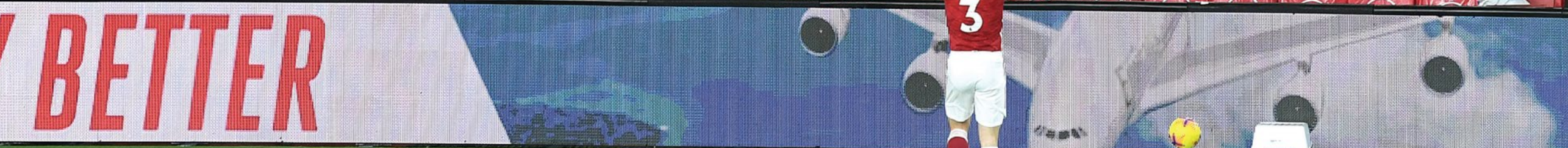


GOALSCORERS UNDER ARTETA (+3 OWN GOALS)



ALL-TIME PERMANENT ARSENAL MANAGERS

Manager	P	W	D	L	F	A
Thomas Mitchell	33	18	4	11	80	57
William Elcoat	26	14	2	10	55	37
Harry Bradshaw	185	95	36	54	324	171
Phil Kelso	152	63	31	58	225	229
George Morrell	291	103	73	115	358	408
Leslie Knighton	268	92	62	114	330	380
Herbert Chapman	403	201	97	105	864	598
George Allison	279	129	74	76	534	327
Tom Whittaker	429	202	106	121	798	568
Jack Crayston	77	33	16	28	142	142
George Swindin	179	70	43	66	320	320
Billy Wright	182	70	43	69	336	330
Bertie Mee	540	241	148	151	740	545
Terry Neill	416	187	116	113	601	446
Don Howe	117	54	32	31	187	142
George Graham	460	225	132	103	711	403
Bruce Rioch	47	22	15	10	67	37
Arsène Wenger	1,235	716	266	253	2,298	1,227
Unai Emery	78	43	15	20	152	100



Kieran Tierney applauds the 2,000 supporters present prior to the game on Sunday – it was the first time fans had been allowed into Emirates Stadium for a Premier League match since March 7, 2020.



0

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 12

7.15pm • Sunday, December 13 • Emirates Stadium



1

AUBAMEYANG 06 72

MATCH STATS	
18	TOTAL SHOTS 10
6	SHOTS ON TARGET 2
13	CORNERS 4
3	OFFSIDES 3
5	FOULS 11
65	POSSESSION % 35

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 2 BELLERIN (73)
- 16 HOLDING
- 6 GABRIEL
- 3 TIERNEY
- 34 XHAKA
- 25 ELNENY
- 7 SAKA
- 9 LACAZETTE (60)
- 14 AUBAMEYANG
- 12 WILLIAN (82)

SUBSTITUTES

MAITLAND-NILES (73), CEBALLOS (60), SMITH ROWE, NKETIAH (82), WILLOCK, RUNARSSON, MUSTAFI

BURNLEY

- 1 POPE
- 2 LOWTON
- 3 TAYLOR
- 5 TARKOWSKI
- 6 MEE
- 18 WESTWOOD
- 8 BROWNHILL
- 11 MCNEIL
- 9 WOOD (69)
- 19 RODRIGUEZ (59)
- 12 BRADY

SUBSTITUTES

BARNES (59), PIETERS, VYRDA (68), LONG, PEACOCK-FARRELL, DUNNE, BENSON

FIRST HALF

The opening 45 minutes was a cagey affair, but we might have had a penalty when Aubameyang's shot was deflected behind by Ben Mee's hand. Rob Holding flashed a header over from Bukayo Saka's diagonal pass, and Nick Pope made an instinctive save to deny Alex Lacazette after he connected well with Kieran Tierney's cut-back. Chris Wood squandered a free header from Burnley's most notable attack, but we were largely in control of the game in the opening half.

SECOND HALF

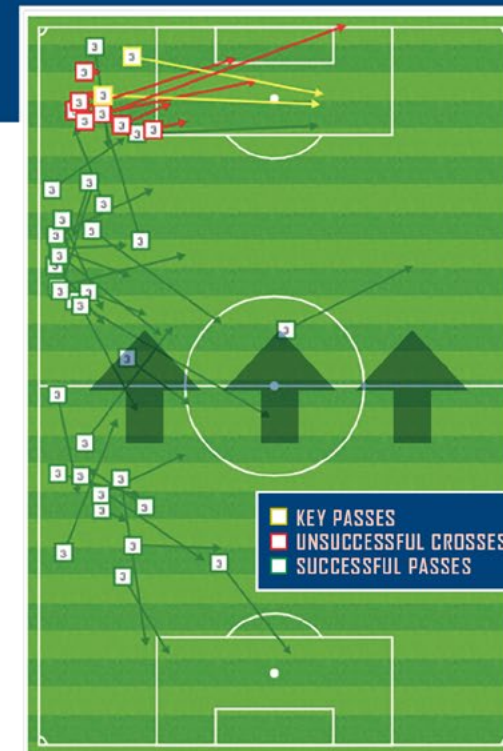
We upped the tempo after the break. Tierney was a regular threat on the left and, after starting an attack, he got into the box to collect Aubameyang's cut-back and test Pope with a low shot. Aubameyang headed a chance wide and Pope made another fine reaction save to deny Saka after he met Willian's cross-shot. We were well on top by now, but after an altercation between Granit Xhaka and Ashley Westwood on 58 minutes, the Swiss was shown a red card after a VAR check. We were now up against it and with just under 20 minutes left to play our woes were compounded when Westwood's corner flicked off Aubameyang's head and flew past Bernd Leno. We worked tirelessly with 10 men but couldn't find an equaliser on a thoroughly miserable night for the Gunners.

Bukayo Saka is stopped in his tracks by James Tarkowski



THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD

KIERAN TIERNEY DISTRIBUTION
ARSENAL 2, SOUTHAMPTON 2
NOVEMBER 23, 2019
PREMIER LEAGUE



THE LETHAL LEFT

We haven't lost a home league game against Southampton since 1987 – but the Saints are flying high at the minute and we'll need to be at our spirited best to secure all three points this evening.

Under the guidance of Ralph Hasenhuttl, Southampton have become one of the Premier League's fittest and most tenacious sides, pressing from the first minute to the last at an incredible intensity.

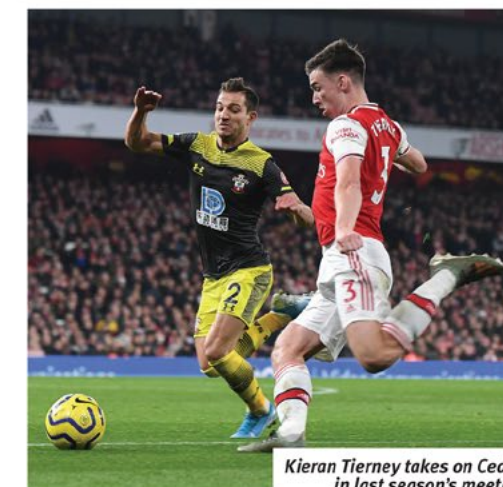
They've come on in leaps and bounds as a team since our last meeting at Emirates Stadium, a dramatic 2-2 draw – just one month after their 9-0 defeat to Leicester City – but even then, you could see the foundations of Hasenhuttl's philosophy at work. Compact at the back and willing to defend in numbers, yet aggressive and eager to regain possession, the Saints caused us all sorts of trouble on the counter-attack, and looked to place us under pressure with every touch of the ball.

If we choose to take risks during our build-up play tonight, we'll need to be decisive and confident in our actions – especially with Che Adams and Danny Ings leading the charge.

So, how can we trouble the Saints? During our last meeting at the Emirates, our finest attacking moments arrived down the left flank, thanks to Kieran Tierney's lung-busting runs and dangerous deliveries. The Scotland international found his way behind Southampton's defence time and time again, and his looping cross created Lacazette's opener.

Take a look at his pass map (right) to see the areas that he was taking up and attacking.

Kyle Walker-Peters has enjoyed a successful season with Southampton so far, providing energy and pace down the right, but as an attack-minded player, he can certainly be exploited.



Kieran Tierney takes on Cedric in last season's meeting

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Tottenham	12	7	4	1	14	25
2. Liverpool	12	7	4	1	9	25
3. Leicester City	12	8	0	4	9	24
4. Southampton	12	7	2	3	7	23
5. Chelsea	12	6	4	2	13	22
6. West Ham United	12	6	2	4	5	20
7. Everton	12	6	2	4	3	20
8. Manchester United	11	6	2	3	2	20
9. Manchester City	11	5	4	2	6	19
10. Aston Villa	10	6	0	4	8	18
11. Crystal Palace	12	5	2	5	1	17
12. Newcastle United	11	5	2	4	-2	17
13. Wolves	12	5	2	5	-5	17
14. Leeds United	12	4	2	6	-5	14
15. Arsenal	12	4	1	7	-5	13
16. Brighton & HA	12	2	4	6	-6	10
17. Burnley	11	2	3	6	-12	9
18. Fulham	12	2	2	8	-10	8
19. West Brom	12	1	3	8	-16	6
20. Sheffield Utd	12	0	1	11	-16	1

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

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



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MY ARSENAL

Name Mitchell Franco
Age 28
Live in Cobram, Victoria, Australia
Occupation Production worker
Type of Membership Red Membership/Arsenal Australia membership



Mitchell 10,000 miles from his other home

Why are you an Arsenal fan? I started supporting Arsenal aged eight. I fell in love with the style of football we played and all of the players.

First Arsenal game? Arsenal 2 Chelsea 0 (Lacazette, Koscielny) in the 2019/20 season.

Favourite Arsenal game? My first north London derby at home, although it ended in a 2-2 draw the buzz before and after kick off was brilliant!

Favourite place to eat before a game? Piebury Corner! Best pies in London. Hopefully Paul and Nicky can get back up and going after all of this.

How do you feel when you approach the ground? The feeling is almost indescribable. I often caught myself just looking around thinking how crazy it was that I was there watching The Arsenal live in the flesh.

What's the craziest thing you've done that involves Arsenal? It had always been my dream since I was young to go and watch Arsenal play week in week out. In 2019 I made my life-long dream come true. I packed up my bags having never left Australia before and moved to London to follow The Arsenal up and down the country home and away. Unfortunately my trip was cut short by COVID-19, but it was easily the best one and half years of my life!

What's your favourite away ground? Probably Stamford Bridge, not so much because of the stadium but our away end that night Martinelli ran the length of the pitch was amazing – you literally could not hear yourself think!

Best place in the stadium to watch a game from? Definitely Block 3! Shout out to everyone in that block!

Furthest you've travelled to watch Arsenal play? It's over 10,000 miles from Cobram to London so I'd have to say that far!

Favourite piece of Arsenal memorabilia? I'd have to say my Anfield 89 away kit with number 7 on the back that is signed by the skipper Tony Adams.

Do you collect any Arsenal-related memorabilia? I'm an avid collector of Arsenal kits – almost too many to count.

Whose name and number do you have on your shirt? Currently have Saka 7 on my home kit. Had lots of Wright! Wright! Wright!

Favourite ever shirt? Either the 1994-96 or 2005/06 away kits.

Your all-time favourite player? Thierry Henry, Because he's one of those players that makes you fall in love with football. There are not enough words to describe just how good he was. I might be biased but he's the best player to ever play in the Premier League.

Best goal you've seen live? Despite the result, Auba's bicycle against Olympiacos. Happened right in front of me!

Have you ever met any Arsenal players? I met just about the whole squad at the pre-season tour in Sydney 2017. Granit Xhaka spoke to a group of us for about 10 minutes which was amazing. Such a top guy! ■



ARSENAL

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

P	S	SO
00		1 BERND LENO (GK) (12)
00		2 HECTOR BELLERIN (12)
00		3 KIERAN TIERNEY (11)
00		4 WILLIAM SALIBA
00		5 SOKRATIS PAPASTATHOPOULOS
00		6 GABRIEL (11/2)
00		7 BUKAYO SAKA (9+1/1)
00		8 DANI CEBALLOS (6+5)
00		9 ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE (8-2/3)
00		10 MESUT OZIL
00		12 WILLIAN (11)
00		13 ALEX RUNARSSON (GK)
00		14 PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (12/2)
00		15 AINSLEY MAITLAND-NILES (2+4)
00		16 ROB HOLDING (8+1)
00		17 CEDRIC SOARES
00		18 THOMAS PARTEY (4+1)
00		19 NICOLAS PEPE (2+6/1)
00		20 SHKODRAN MUSTAFI (0+2)
00		21 CALUM CHAMBERS
00		22 PABLO MARI
00		23 DAVID LUIZ (5+1)
00		24 REISS NELSON (+2)
00		25 MOHAMED ELNENY (6)
00		28 JOE WILLOCK (2)
00		30 EDDIE NKETIAH (1+9/1)
00		31 SEAD KOLASINAC (1)
00		32 EMILE SMITH ROWE
00		33 MATT MACEY (GK)
00		34 GRANIT KHAKA (9+1)
00		35 GABRIEL MARTINELLI
00		38 FOLARIN BALOGUN
00		41 BEN COTTRELL
00		66 MIGUEL AZEEZ

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



SOUTHAMPTON

MANAGER RALPH HASENHUTTL
BLUE SHIRTS, SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SO
00		1 ALEX MCCARTHY (GK) (12)
00		2 KYLE WALKER-PETERS (12)
00		3 RYAN BERTRAND (11)
00		4 JANNIK VESTERGAARD (10+1/3)
00		5 JACK STEPHENS (3+1)
00		6 DRIDL ROMEU (12/1)
00		7 SHANE LONG (0+8)
00		8 JAMES WARD-Prowse (12/4)
00		9 DANNY INGS (8+1/6)
00		10 CHE ADAMS (12/4)
00		11 NATHAN REDMOND (3+4/1)
00		12 MOUSSA DJENEPD (7+1/1)
00		14 MICHAEL OBAFEMI (0+1)
00		17 STUART ARMSTRONG (10/2)
00		18 YAN VALERY
00		20 WILL SMALLBONE (1+1)
00		22 MOHAMMED SALISU
00		23 NATHAN TELLA (0+3)
00		27 IBRAHIMA DIALLO (0+6)
00		29 JAKE VOKINS
00		32 THEO WALCOTT (7/1)
00		35 JAN BEDNAREK (12/1)
00		40 DAN N'LUNDULU (0+3)
00		41 HARRY LEWIS (GK)
00		44 FRASER FORSTER (GK)

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Paul Tierney

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Dan Cook

Sian Massey-Ellis

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Andre Marriner

VAR OFFICIAL

Craig Pawson

ADDITIONAL VAR

OFFICIAL

Stephen Child

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Leeds United v
Newcastle United
(6pm)

Leicester City v
Everton (6pm)

Liverpool v Tottenham
Hotspur (8pm)

Fulham v Brighton &
Hove Albion (8pm)

West Ham United v
Crystal Palace (8pm)

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