THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ROCKY

LIVERPOOL

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021 ▪ 8PM ▪ £3.50

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DEAR ARSENAL FANS

We, as a family, are honoured to be contributing to the programme for this evening's Premier League match against Liverpool to celebrate our dad on what is the 20th anniversary of his death.

Arsenal was always Dad's club and he had such a special bond with the supporters – one that I don't think as his children we really knew the full extent of until after his death. Around this time of the year we are inundated with messages, pictures and memories – it's become very clear to us how much the Arsenal fans loved our dad and what he stood for.

What's so special is that much of that affection stems from his personality. He was at Arsenal during a very successful period, including the famous 1989 league victory that came at the expense of today's opponents. He also won another league title, a League Cup, his 14 England caps all came when playing in red and white and he was twice in the PFA Team of the Year during his time at Highbury. He was an important player for the club under the guidance of George Graham. But off the field is where he seemed to have won the hearts of the fanbase just by simple things such as always signing autographs, making time for people and treating everyone as equals – values him and our mother have always taught us.

Dad had to make it the hard way at Arsenal. He came from a working-class family in south London and as a teenager he had to travel on his own via public transport to get to training. He was given an opportunity at a young age and grabbed it with both hands – something many of his teammates from that era did – with some of them sharing their memories of him in this programme.

Tonight's programme also consists of features with other players that have been handed the Arsenal number seven shirt – it's a number that Dad wore with huge pride, knowing that he was following in the footsteps of other legends such as Liam Brady and Geordie Armstrong.

Arsenal vs Liverpool is usually one of the standout Premier League games. We have enjoyed some fantastic victories over them but in recent years they have certainly been on top since Jurgen Klopp arrived at Anfield. For Ryan it's a particularly unforgettable fixture because he was the mascot in the 2001 FA Cup final when Liverpool beat Arsenal 2-1 just a couple of months after Dad's death. Here's hoping we can avenge that today, almost 20 years later, with three points.

COYG!

Melissa, Ryan and Monique

THIS IS FAMILY

01

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MIKEL ARTETA

It's so great to be back at the Emirates after a couple of weeks without a game

The schedule this season has been so crazy that it feels strange not to have a game for this long, but we have used the time well, we've been training hard and we are ready for the final two months of the season.

The work hasn't stopped over the past two weeks. Far from it. Lots of players have been away playing internationals, but those who have been here have been working, and we've been analysing our recent performances and looked at what we can do better. Our focus has been on this Liverpool game since the end of our last game, away to West Ham.

That was a crazy day and I have to say that the first half an hour was really disappointing, we just weren't at the races.

We didn't win enough challenges, we didn't win enough duels, we were too stretched as a team, we didn't show enough urgency – and when that happens, you get punished.

Their first goal was great quality to be honest, but the other two we conceded were completely unacceptable.

Why was is a slow start against West Ham? I don't like to use excuses. If somebody is not fit to play Thursday to Sunday, he needs to say before the game 'I am not fit' because on minute one to ten, I've been there and you cannot put the blame on tiredness that early. After 60, 70 or 80 minutes, okay I understand because we are human beings. If that had happened at the end, then maybe we ▸

would have been closer to using tiredness as an excuse. But at the start of the game? No.

So we showed a face that we still have in those moments, but then after that, for the next 60 minutes, we probably played the best that I have seen us play considering the very tough conditions. That's a moment when any team could collapse and start to blame each other, have bad body language and then concede four, five or six.

We did completely the opposite. We reunited, we did exactly what we had to do and we got better and better. It's a shame because looking at the chances, we should have scored more and could have won the game.

But it's down to me – it's my responsibility to make sure we approach the game in the right way for the full 90 minutes. We have shown we can reach that level, now we have to stay there all the time.

That is where we are heading and we have to stop giving the opponents anything, because the last shot that West Ham had for example – when they hit the post – was from a throw in where we gave them the ball and they were through, it's too simple.

"I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE CULTURE OR THE SPIRIT IN THE TEAM BECAUSE WE'VE COME SO FAR ON THAT"

What keeps me awake is why we keep giving things to the opposition. It has happened too many times, and at this level you cannot do that because the opponents are so good and the margins are not that big.

For the rest of that performance though, I was incredibly proud of the team. The way we played, the courage that we showed, how much belief we had that we could go on and win the game – and I sensed that at half time, which is not easy and it shows me as well how far we have come together.

We can work on the rest and we are working on it.

Now I'm not worried about the culture or the spirit in the team because we've come so far on that and I've seen so many positive things to back up what I'm saying. I am not worried about that. I am worried with the levels that we can show within a game and I think

that's where we are still far from the top teams.

That's our challenge today. You know when you play Liverpool you simply cannot allow these mistakes. They are the champions, they have quality all over the pitch, and will hurt you enough without us making things easy for them. But also we should remember how we worked hard to beat them here last year, and also in the Community Shield and Carabao Cup earlier this season.

Finally I want to pass on my words of tribute to the great David Rocastle. We always remember Rocky at this time every year, and it doesn't get any easier to think of how his life was so tragically taken away when he was so young. He was just 33, but his legacy lives on forever – through his family and through the football club.

He is a part of our history, but he's also a part of our present and our future – because his name, and the values that he stood for – continue to live within the ethos of this club. And all of the young players that come through the system here are inspired not only by what he achieved, but also by how he behaved.

He remains a fantastic role model, we will always remember him, and we will always be grateful and proud to say that he's a real Arsenal man.■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

It seems like it's been a long time since our last game here at the Emirates, and now we are all fired up for the final two months of the season

The last game here was in the Europa League against Olympiacos, and although we lost on the night, that was all about just getting through to the next round.

That's what we did in the end, and we deserved it over the two games. Obviously we'd have liked to get the win at home as well, and I should have scored, but every game is difficult at this stage of the competition – any opposition can beat you and we saw some big results in the Europa League in that round.

We got through though, and now we've got a quarter-final to look forward to against Slavia Prague, who have already knocked out some big teams.

We worked hard over the two legs against Olympiacos and I don't know, maybe that's why we had a slow start against West Ham in the next match.

We could not get going at all at the start of the game, and in the Premier League you will always be punished when you play like that. It was so strange, because we had been controlling games well going into that match. We were confident and we spoke before about dominating the game again, starting well and not giving the opposition any time or chances.

You have to credit West Ham though, they came at us strongly and took advantage of our slow start. They are a very strong side who are having a good season.

But you know with our team that we are always going to show spirit and fight. Even at 3-0, we looked at each other and said this isn't us – we can do so much better. It's up to us.

Then we started to take over. Calum put in some good crosses all afternoon and Laca scored a great goal to get us back in the game. I can't believe they said that's an own goal! It should be Laca's, for sure.

It was a great goal and a great time to score, and we could even have got another before half-time.

It really lifted us though because in the changing room at half-time we were all really positive and saying to each other that we can come back, and maybe even win it. That's what we were thinking of. ▸

RICHARD HALL'S HOLIDAY IN RWANDA

ARSENAL FAN RICHARD WON AN 8-DAY HOLIDAY FOR 2 TO RWANDA AT THE 2019 'VISIT RWANDA CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE'.

SPOTTING ELEPHANTS IN AKAGERA NATONAL PARK

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MARA & RICHARD VISITING MOUNTAIN GORILLAS IN VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

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Calum put in another great cross for the second goal. I was waiting for it behind Dawson but it doesn't matter how it went in – we just wanted that goal!

Then the big man Laca scored a great header from Nico's cross. You saw in the reaction and celebration how pumped up we were.

"BUT YOU KNOW WITH OUR TEAM THAT WE ARE ALWAYS GOING TO SHOW SPIRIT AND FIGHT"

We still had time to win it, but afterwards you have to say we did well to come back from three goals down and get a point.

That was our last game, but it seems long ago because a lot of us have been away in the past few days playing for our country.

I had a big game for Gabon against DR Congo and was so pleased to be able to help us qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations.

We won 3-0 and I got an assist and scored, but really I'm so proud of how the whole team did. It was a great performance – we knew what we had to do going into the game and we really deserved it.

It means we can look forward to going to Cameroon for the finals next year.

But now all of us are just thinking about club football for the next couple of months.

We've got some really big games coming up – hopefully we will be playing every few days from now until the end of the season. So we have to be professional, be prepared, get our rest at the right times and be ready to go on matchday.

Today's game is obviously a huge one, against the defending champions.

Liverpool are a team of huge quality, even if they have had a difficult time lately. But that has mainly been at home, and I've seen them in a few games lately and they will always be dangerous with the players they have – especially up front.

They have proved that for years in the Premier League and we will have to be at our best again today to keep them quiet.

The gap is not too big to them though, we are four points behind, and this is a big opportunity for us to get even closer to them and the other teams above us. We are at home and we have to be really strong here now for the rest of the season.

Finally I want to finish these notes by talking about David Rocastle. Everybody at the club knows what a legend he is here and what he means to all of the fans. Whether you are a player who has come through the youth team like he did, or someone like me who arrived later – every player at Arsenal knows about his legacy.

I've heard Wrighty talking about his friendship and about what a great player he was too. For me I think legacy and remembering legends is a big part of what football should be and should mean to fans. So I'm really proud that Arsenal continues to remember Rocky like this. It's such a shame that the stadium isn't full today to sing his name, but I can tell you that all of us here will be remembering Rocky, 20 years after his passing. ■

TONY ADAMS

I first met Rocky in around 1980: he was 13 and I was 13, he came from Lewisham and I came from Dagenham. Every Monday and Thursday night we would kick lumps out of each other behind the Clock End where there was a sports hall that the Arsenal youth team trained in.

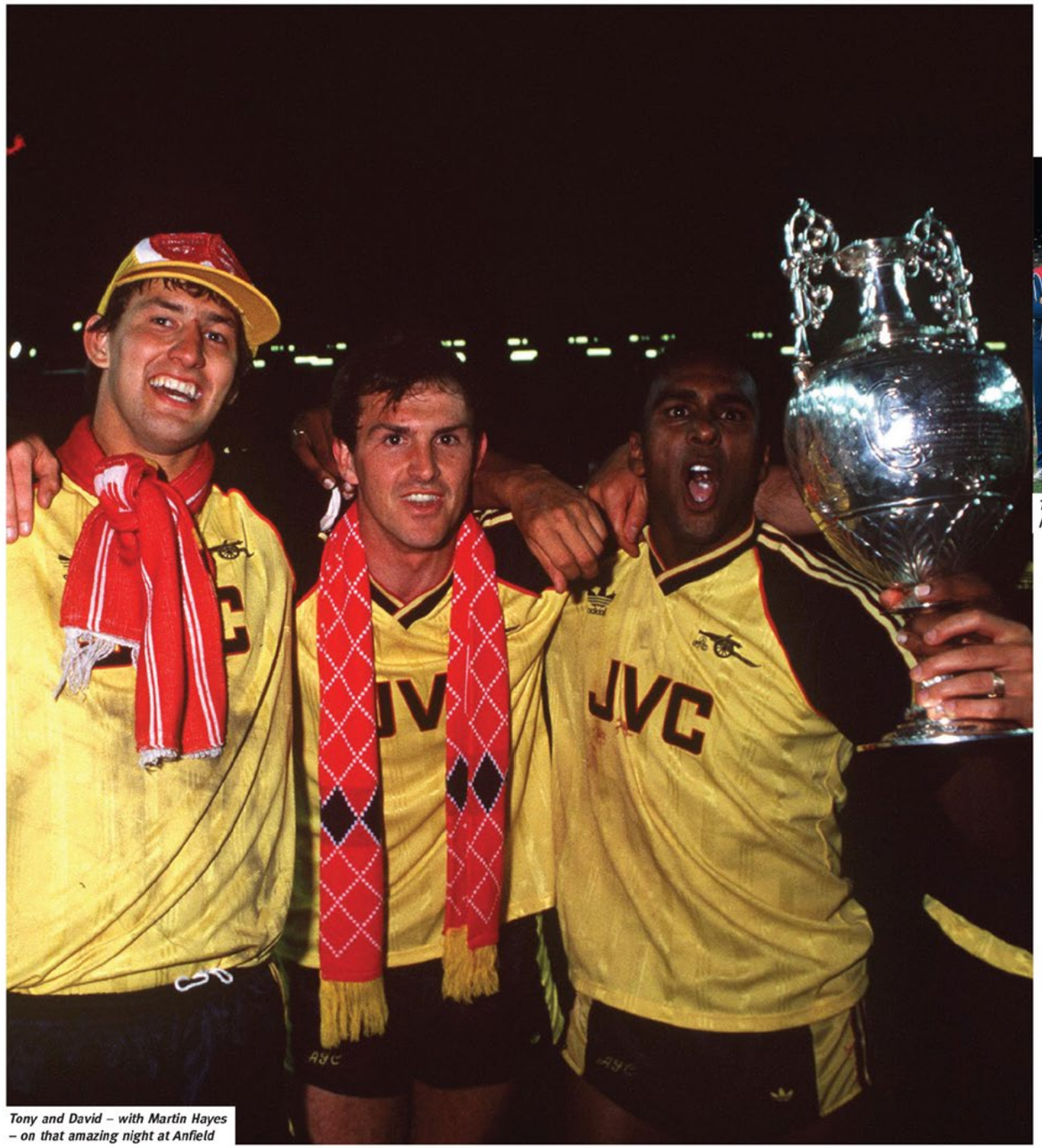
My development was a little bit quicker than Rocky's, I was a bit taller although he was tough as old boots Rock – rock by name, rock by nature. He was tough but sweet and a tremendous talent – technically he could tackle, pass, dribble and run quickly. He had it all – we were very blessed to have him, Michael Thomas, Paul Merson, Martin Keown and Niall Quinn all from the youth team.

He was fun in the dressing room, always a smile on his face. But he was tough on the pitch. I remember him having a bit of a fight with a player and I was kind of mediating. I was holding him back and whilst I was doing that, the opposition player hit him. He went ballistic, screaming at me 'let me go skipper, I want to get after him'. That was Rocky in a nutshell – super competitive on the field but an absolute gentleman off it.

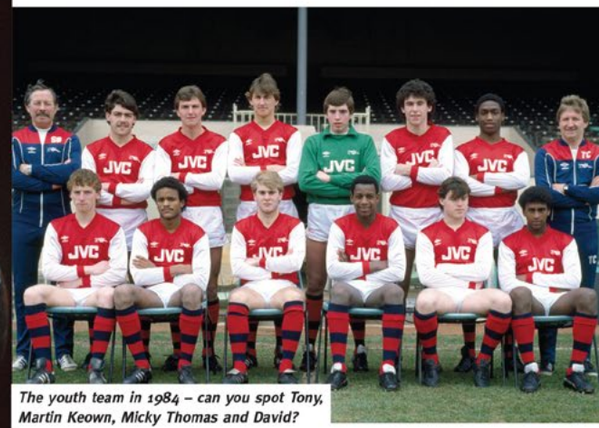
When he moved over to north London I was still living in Essex. After matches when we socialised he was never a big drinker like me – he didn't take it to an extreme level although he would occasionally have a cigar and a rum and black. He introduced me to some very interesting swear words and Lovers Rock (a style of Reggae music). I was a little naive boy from Dagenham – I didn't know the music scene in those days, Rocky taught me how to listen to Lovers Rock.

A big difference between me and Rocky was that he got really lucky to meet a good woman like his wife Janet when he was young and that was certainly the making of him off the pitch. I always joke that Rocky found Janet too early and that we could have had an even closer relationship – she got in the way and stopped me dragging him to town!

To be honest I was sick as a dog in those days off the pitch so I'm happy that I couldn't always convince him to go out.



Tony and David – with Martin Hayes – on that amazing night at Anfield



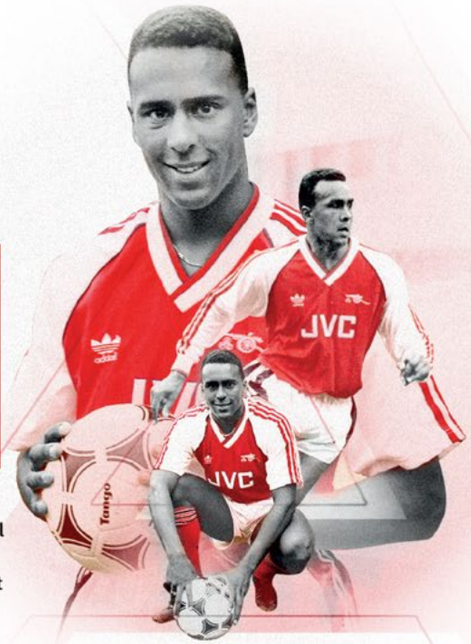
The youth team in 1984 – can you spot Tony, Martin Keown, Micky Thomas and David?

"I AM JUST SO GRATEFUL I GOT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM."

I didn't have to worry about him as captain – he was one of my leaders. You need people that support you and I think he was someone I could call upon – he was one of my disciples. We grew up together so there was a bond even before we got into the Arsenal team. When you grow up with someone and you've been through some of the things we did as youngsters, your relationship grows 10 times stronger – you're like brothers. I didn't have to worry about Rock.

I am just so grateful I got an opportunity to say goodbye to him. We were playing Aston Villa away – I was injured and in hindsight I'm so glad I was because it allowed me to go to the hospital and give him a big hug. He died a week or so after that. It was extremely difficult to say goodbye to what was basically a 20-year relationship. He was courageous to the end and I have loads of memories but the emotion of that one has stayed with me. We had so many highs, on and off the field especially at Anfield in 1989 and him coming to my wedding but that final one of saying goodbye, just me and him, will stay with me forever.■

REMEMBERING ROCKY



Wednesday marked the 20th anniversary of the passing of David Rocastle. It was a day that affected everyone associated with Arsenal Football Club as they remembered a magnificent footballer – and a wonderful man – who lost his battle with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma at the age of just 33.

Fans continue to mourn 'Rocky', who they held with that special affection reserved for a player who they have seen progress through the youth ranks to first team super stardom. But his passing was of course truly devastating for his friends and particularly his family. And in close liaison with his wife Janet and children Melissa, Ryan and Monique, the Arsenal family have come together to not simply mark the anniversary of his death, but to reflect and commit to continue to grow his legacy and educate a new generation of Arsenal fans, staff and players about the player he was and the qualities he embodied.

As part of the commitment, Arsenal in the Community will annually work with seven young people to be guided and mentored via a leadership programme in David Rocastle's name.

The seven local youngsters will take part in regular one to one mentoring sessions over a five-month period with the aim of providing the participants with personal development opportunities and positive experiences.

The group will be an inspiring line up of young people who are known to the Arsenal in the Community family and have a wide range of interests. Our staff will help the young people nurture their talents over this period by providing them with opportunities that are tailored to their needs.

The seven mentees, our very own 'Rocky 7', will also spend time as a group developing a community event for local young people which will celebrate Rocky's legacy.

David is an Arsenal legend on the pitch but meant so much more off it. His values of humility, class and hard work will form the basis of this programme and be key ingredients which will contribute to the success of the young people.

We are proud to announce this year's intake of mentees:■

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

As you will have read from the introductory page of this programme, the Rocastle family have been instrumental in the production of today's issue, speaking to David's former team-mates – who are all family friends – for their tributes, selecting some of their favourite imagery of David and helping the editorial team forge ideas for other features. The club has been producing matchday programmes since our very early years when we were based in Woolwich – not far from David's 'manor' of Brockley – and it's highly unusual to dedicate an entire matchday issue to a single theme. But Rocky was a unique character with a special place in our hearts and it's been a privilege for all those involved in the programme to be able to be a part of this extraordinary production.■

JESSY

Jessy has attended our weekly Football Plus sessions at Highgate Wood since the age of eight. Prior to joining the programme he also attended our half-term holiday courses, including a residential course

A valued member of our junior Community Team that plays in the Regents Park Youth League on Saturday mornings, where he has played in a number of positions.

Jessy is passionate about football and has recently chosen to study physical education as part of his GCSEs at school. He is also part of a sports coaching enrichment programme at school. Quiet by nature, Jessy is a very hard-working team player who always tries to further develop existing skills, as well as acquire new ones. He is keen to gain an insight into the day-to-day life at Arsenal Football Club, and learn more about football coaching.■

ANGIE

Angie, has been involved with our Girls Football Programme for six years. Initially starting with us when she was in secondary school, Angie is now studying football management at university and dreams to be a professional football manager in the future.

Angie is passionate about the role that football plays in supporting communities and is currently gaining experience as a youth football coach.

Through this programme, Angie hopes to gain more football coaching experience and gain a deeper insight into both the professional game and community sport.■

BRETT

Brett has been involved with Arsenal in the Community programmes for four years. A keen goalkeeper, he found his place straight away, going on to represent Arsenal in the Community groups at numerous events around the country, including at a Premier League event at the Manchester City training ground and visiting Old Trafford for the International Day of Disabled people.

Prior to lockdown Brett took the decision to pursue his interest in the medical field by enrolling as a match day volunteer with St John's Ambulance, getting a thank you and good luck from Arsenal's No. 1 Bernd Leno. Through his volunteering with St John's Ambulance, Brett has been one of the few people permitted at the Emirates this season, on hand for emergencies.

Through this programme, Brett hopes to gain a deeper understanding of medical practices within sport.■

DON'T MISS WRIGHTY AND BUKAYO

Today's programme features a Magnificent Sevens feature, looking at the very special talents that have worn the No. 7 shirt for the Gunners – not least David Rocastle of course. Awarded that special shirt at the start of the current season, Bukayo Saka has made a huge impression since – like Rocky – graduating from the youth team as a 17 year old. Ian Wright was keen to let Bukayo know all about Rocky and the Arsenal media team were on hand to film Wrighty telling Bukayo all about his former team-mate and lifelong friend. It's a fantastic watch, make sure you find it on our YouTube and social media channels.■

AND NOT FORGETTING...

Arsenal Independent Supporters Association (AISA) held a special Zoom event on Monday night to reminisce about Rocky – with some very special guests. Former team-mate and great friend Alan Smith was in attendance as were Bob Wilson, Brendon Batson and Tom Watt – as well as David's three children, Melissa, Ryan and Monique.

The Rocastle family were also heavily involved in Amy Lawrence's excellent tribute to Rocky in The Athletic, available online and it's also worth checking out FourFourTwos six-page special on Rocky too – just a couple of the many tributes in the national media over the course of the last week.■

NAILA

Naila is a participant on the Arsenal Gap programme, having joined us last year to pursue a career in football coaching. Naila has gained experience of coaching in local primary schools, estates and parks. Although Naila's experience so far has been disrupted due to COVID and the restrictions around grassroots football, she is determined to develop her community coaching career further.

Naila is passionate about working with young people who may have low self-confidence and particularly those who face barriers to taking part in sport. Having faced challenges herself when beginning her journey in football, Naila is interested in how we can encourage more girls from diverse communities to take part in sport.■

GLEN

Glen is 20 years old and has been known to Arsenal in the Community over many years and taken part in numerous programmes. His first involvement was as a participant on the Kicks programme at Elthorne Park before taking part in Premier League Enterprise and Works programmes. During his time on the programmes, Glen took part in a number of social action activities to support the local community.

Glen is now receiving support from Arsenal in the Community to prepare and search for employment opportunities. He is a huge Arsenal fan and enjoys playing football and watching Arsenal matches.■

TYLER

Tyler Joined our Football Plus Programme at the age of 16, recommended by a friend and former participant with the aim of helping to enhance his awareness in football and gain coaching experience. After four years on the programme, Tyler has played a key role in the group, representing the programme in many ways, not just on the field of play but also on a cultural exchange trip to Cologne and being part of a youth leaders group, which has been setup to ensure that the participants' voices are heard and help shape the project.

Tyler is passionate about sports and particularly sports choreography. He has had opportunities to take part in commercial campaigns and photo shoots previously and now hopes to gain more experience in this field.

Tyler also plays football and is challenging himself to reach the highest level he can whilst pursing personal development opportunities off the pitch.■

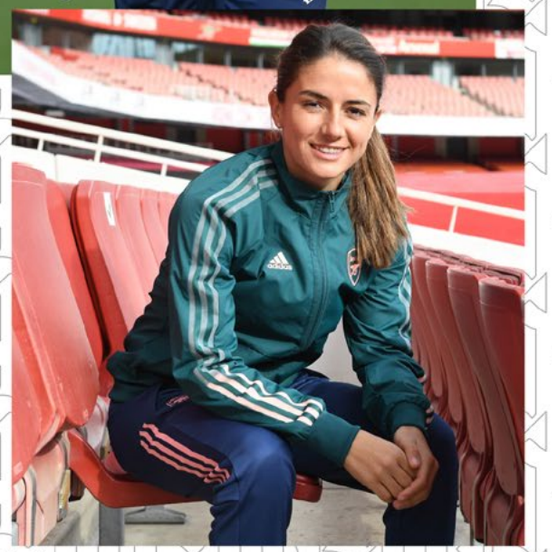
SIJOULA

Sijoula is 20 years old and has been a participant on our Kicks programme for the past six years, taking part in activity sessions in Camden.

Sijoula has also been a part of our Sunday League football team, where he won league and cup winners' medals. He also stands out as an individual, having been voted Player's Player of the Year by his teammates, as well as being voted Clubman of the Year by the manager.

Sijoula is currently attending college where he is studying accountancy and after completing his studies, hopes to move into a position in the accountancy profession. Through this programme Sijoula hopes to increase his knowledge of finances within football and gain practical work experience in this field.■

20/21
TRAINING RANGE
& ANTHEM JACKET



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VOICE OF ARSENAL

MIKEL'S HALF CENTURY

This is Mikel Arteta's 50th Premier League game in charge of the club. His first was a 1-1 draw with Bournemouth on Boxing Day 2019. His record for the 49 games so far reads: W49, W21, D12, L16, F72, A53, Pts75. He is the fourth different manager to reach a half century of Premier League games for us, following George Graham, Arsène Wenger and Unai Emery. It is the third time he's taken charge of a league match against Liverpool, with one win and one defeat from the previous two meetings.■

First time on duty at the Vitality Stadium

SEASON 2021/22

The Premier League recently confirmed that season 2021/22 will commence on the weekend of August 14, 2021. The final match round of the campaign will take place on May 22, 2022, when all games will kick off simultaneously.■

VOTE FOR SOPE

We would like to congratulate lifelong Gooner Sope Dirisu on his nomination for the prestigious EE Rising Star at this year's British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTAs).

Sope has quickly established himself as an internationally renowned actor, showcasing a range of disciplines across film, television and theatre. Dirisu can currently be seen on Netflix in Remi Weekes' horror/thriller, His House, which earned him 'Critic's Choice Super' and BIFA award nominations for 'Best Actor', and in the SKY series, Gangs of London.

"The history of the EE Rising Star Award is full of such exceptional and inspiration talents and I'm so grateful to both EE and BAFTA for considering me amongst them," commented Dirisu.

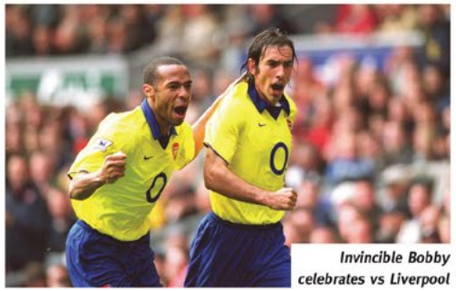
"I'm properly delighted for all my fellow nominees for being recognised in what can only be described as a difficult and challenging year for everyone across the world."

The EE Rising Star award celebrates new and up-and-coming talent within the film industry. It is also the only category at the BAFTAs that is voted for by the public!

Supporters can vote for Sope by visiting www.ee.co.uk/why-ee/ee-baftas/rising-star-nominees.■

HAPPY Passover

Arsenal Football Club would like to wish our many Jewish supporters 'Chag Sameach' as they celebrate the penultimate day of Passover. The festival will have been difficult for many due to coronavirus restrictions, but we hope the recent lifting of regulations allowed some families to celebrate together.■



Invincible Bobby celebrates vs Liverpool

ARSENAL ITK

Arsenal won this fixture 2-1 last season and we are looking to **beat Liverpool in consecutive** home league games for the first time since **April 2015.**

Liverpool have **won just two** of their **last 20** Premier League away games against Arsenal (D9 L9), winning 2-0 in August 2011 and 4-3 in August 2016.

Arsenal vs Liverpool has seen **more hat-tricks** scored than any other Premier League fixture **(6)**, with Thierry Henry and Andrey Arshavin scoring for Arsenal, and Robbie Fowler (x2), Peter Crouch and Roberto Firmino netting for Liverpool.

Alexandre Lacazette has scored in each of Arsenal's last two Premier League games against Liverpool – the last player to score in three **consecutive league games** against the Reds for the Gunners was **Robert Pires** between January 2003 and April 2004.■

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3
www.pegi.info

STOP ONLINE ABUSE CAMPAIGN

Last week, the club launched a #StopOnlineAbuse plan to ensure we are fulfilling our responsibility to protect our players and our diverse, global family and stamp out online abuse.

We cannot underestimate the impact abuse has on individuals and the recent spate of sickening incidents needs to be a wake up call. This includes clubs, governing bodies, fans, media and politicians; but requires the help and commitment of social media companies.

Our clearly defined action plan has six steps:

- **Celebrate, educate and punish**
- **Arsenal taskforce**
- **Facilitating player workshops**
- **Leveraging fan power**
- **Arsenal in the Community**
- **Collective responsibility**

We urge all Arsenal supporters to go to Arsenal.com and read through each of these six areas where we believe, with your help, we can make a real difference and help put an end to online abuse.■

THANK YOU JOE

Supporters will have read that Joe Montemurro will be leaving his position as Arsenal Women head coach at the end of the season.

Joe has done a fantastic job over the past three years, leading us to a first Women's Super League title in seven years in 2019, four cup finals and a Champions' League quarter, built a talented and competitive squad AND led the club through a global pandemic.

He has decided to take a professional break to recharge and dedicate more time to his family. Joe said: "My three and a half years at Arsenal have been a fantastic adventure, the highlight of my coaching career."

Read more from Joe in the Slavia Prague programme.■

NOTICEBOARD

RAY WEEKS is 50! We can't believe it! Happy Birthday for April 7. Love Mum, Dad, Liz, Paul, Imogen & Rufus

MAURICE LAMBE – Happy 50th Birthday Da! Love Eabha, Jonny & Seamus xxx

ALFIE HUMPHREY – Happy 1st Birthday! Gooner forever, continuing the Humphrey family tradition. We all love you very much. Mum, Dad & family xxx

TOTALISER: £638

ARSENAL REMEMBERS

ROBERT STEPHEN LAWRENCE – A much loved Gooner who will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Rest in Peace■

Experienced Martin is one of the few remaining refs who officiated at Highbury

REF WATCH

Today's referee is Martin Atkinson from West Yorkshire. A very experienced official, Martin has been a Premier League referee since season 2004/05. This season, he has reffed 23 Premier League games, handing out 55 yellow cards and two reds. Today's match will be his fifth this season involving Arsenal. He was the man in the middle in our 3-0 home loss to Aston Villa, followed swiftly by a 2-0 away defeat at Tottenham. However his two most recent games, at Brighton and West Brom ended in wins for the Gunners, 1-0 and 4-0 respectively.■

FIXTURE CHANGES

Our next two Premier League matches here at Emirates have been rescheduled as a result of TV selection.

Arsenal v Fulham
Sunday, April 18 (originally Saturday, April 17)
Kick off: 1.30pm
Live on Sky Sports

Arsenal v Everton
Friday, April 23 (originally Saturday, April 24)
Kick off: 8pm
Live on Sky Sports

The 'standard' TV selections have now been made up to and including April 26.■

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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'85 Rocky made his Arsenal debut in a 0-0 draw with Newcastle United on September 28, 1985

2 He scored twice as we won the unofficial World Club Championship match, 2-1 against Argentinian side Independiente in 1989

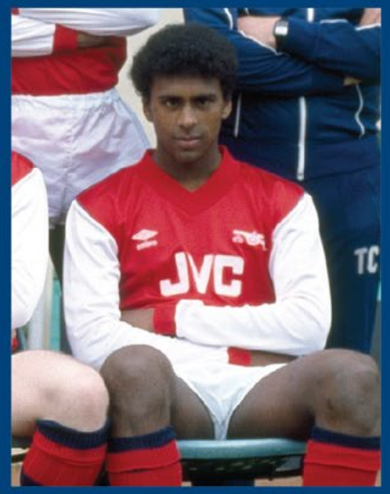
5-1 His last appearance was a 5-1 home win over Southampton in May 1992 – the final game in front of the old North Bank stand

DAVID ROCASTLE SPECIAL

ROCKY'S ARSENAL HONOURS

ARSENAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR	1986
BARCLAYS YOUNG EAGLE	1987, 1989
PFA TEAM OF THE YEAR	1987, 1989

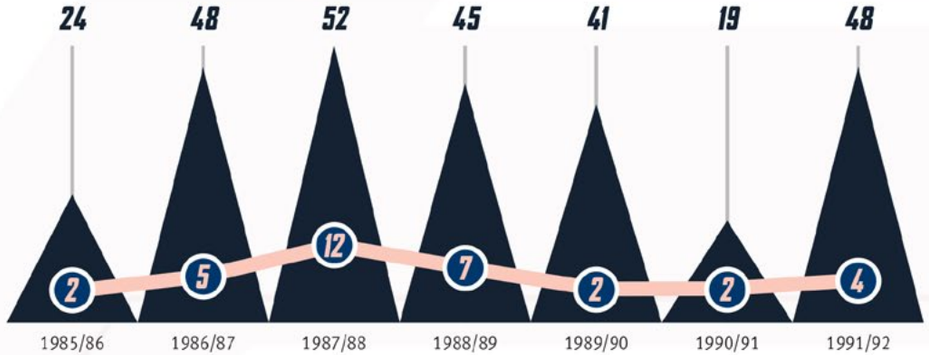
1986/87 1988/89 1990/91 1991



Rocky joined Arsenal as a schoolboy on May 29, 1982. He signed as an apprentice on August 4, 1983 before signing as a professional on December 31, 1984

ROCKY'S ARSENAL APPEARANCES & GOALS - SEASON BY SEASON

▲ = Appearances ● = Goals



ROCKY'S GAMES AND GOALS FOR ARSENAL

OTHER TEAMS PLAYED FOR

LEEDS UNITED 1992-1993

NORWICH CITY 1996-1997

MANCHESTER CITY 1993-1994

HULL CITY 1997-1998

CHELSEA 1994-1996

SABAH 1998-1999

Rocky won 14 caps for the England senior team, two caps for England B and made 14 appearances for England Under-21, scoring two goals

PAUL DAVIS

I remember becoming aware of a bunch of really good youngsters coming through the ranks. In the first-team we started to talk about them a lot – but most of the whispers were about a guy called Dave Rocastle.

Dave then started training with us in the first team and it became clear that he was an even more outstanding talent than what was spoken of him. His love for the game always shone through with his training and dedication. His competitiveness was incredible along with his skill level. I felt from an early age that he was going to do very well. If you have love for something you can go far and when you combine that with natural ability – Dave was on another level.

I was from Dulwich and at the time there was no one else in the changing room from south London – they were all from other parts of the country. All of a sudden there was Rocky and Micky who were south London boys and I thought wow, these guys grew up close to where I did. Back then when you knew someone came from your area, you felt connected to them and they were black guys as well, so I knew about some of the struggles they'd have endured.

I'd say it was a mixture of an older brother/uncle type of relationship. I was five years older than Dave so I like to think he saw me as a bit of a role model. I wanted to be able to support all of our players, but in particular the young black lads that were coming through from the same part of town as me. It made me feel good that I was someone Dave thought he could look up to, but to be honest he could look after himself. He's a London boy, so trust me, he could look after himself on and off the pitch, but people just loved him in terms of his personality and his enthusiasm.

I must say the connection was always strong with that team we had under George Graham. We were able to mix the older group of guys who weren't from our part of town with some of the younger guys and also the black and white players formed good relationships. I think Rocky was particularly good at making sure team spirit was positive and he could get on with absolutely everyone.

Enjoying a goal for Paul in a win over Norwich on October 6, 1990

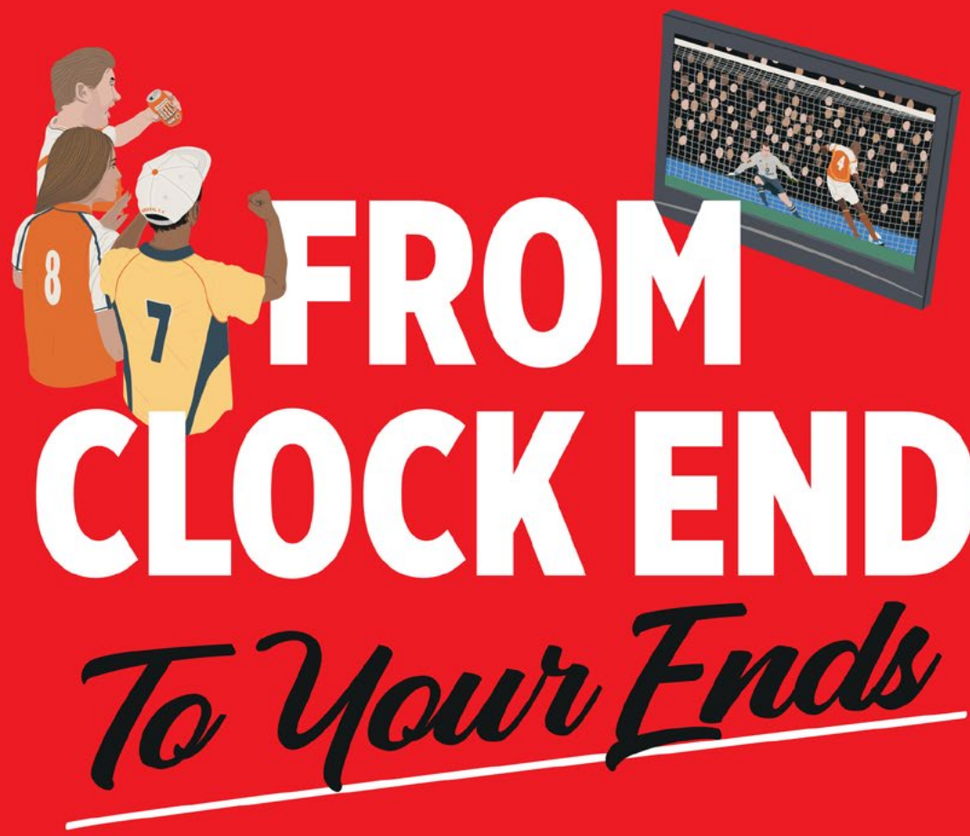
Celebrating the league championship in 1991: Kevin Campbell, Paul, David and Lee Dixon

A south London hat-trick

Rocky left a huge impression on all Arsenal fans and especially the black community. I look at the fanbase of Arsenal now and it's one of the most diverse in the Premier League and I put a lot of that down to Rocky, Micky Thomas and later Kevin Campbell. I feel very proud of what myself and them boys did in terms of coming through at a massive club like Arsenal and making it to the first team. The odds would have been against them back then but they did it and did it with class.

I feel privileged that I got to know Dave, his wife and his kids. We were so close that I even got to know people like his wife's mum. We did a lot of social events together but also things like christenings and weddings.

The fans loved him, always singing his name first. The day he passed we played Tottenham and I remember a few of us were worried about the minute's silence. To the Spurs fans' credit you couldn't hear a pin drop during that minute and I think that showed just how loved and respected Rocky was amongst the whole footballing world.■



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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG GUNNERS

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Kido Taylor-Hart

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When Rocky was a Young Gun

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Results, fixtures and appearance details

YOUNG GUN

KIDO TAYLOR-HART

TALKING TO Aidan Small

BORN
Haringey, September 30, 2002

POSITION
Midfielder/winger

SIGNED FOR ARSENAL
At Under-8 level

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT
6ft 1in and 75kg

BOOTS
Adidas predators

SCHOOL
Fortismere School, Muswell Hill, London

Growing up, I had an interesting relationship with football. Unlike most in my age group here at Arsenal, I started playing quite late and to be honest, I never really used to watch games in the way that others did. You see, my dad didn't really pay much attention to football and because of that, I didn't really have a team to support growing up. For me, football was just a way to have fun with my friends and express myself a bit, I guess. But that all started to change when my friend's dad was watching me play out in the street and thought I had something about me. He told my dad right away, and although my dad doesn't know too much about football, he took his word. He was the first person to really believe in me as a footballer, I think.

Street football has definitely played a really important role in my development as a player. It's all about close control and technical skills and those are the kind of traits that will follow you throughout your whole career. It's probably why we have so many technical players in the England youth system right now. I had a wall directly opposite my house as a kid and that was perfect for kickabouts with my mates. I also had a Power League just around the corner too. As a kid, I loved playing there because everyone used it as a space to just freestyle and kind of go with the flow. You're not really thinking too much, you just have to adapt, and over time, those skills and movements become more and more natural.

Now, when I was playing at school and with my mates, I could tell that I was a good player. I could skip past defenders with ease and do things others couldn't, but when I arrived at Arsenal, I was probably the worst person there. I remember feeling like the only thing I could offer was my pace. Everyone else was just so good!

"I'VE BEEN WORKING ON ADDING A CLINICAL SIDE TO MY GAME – AND IT'S PAYING OFF"

As I've already explained, it's not like I didn't like football growing up, I just didn't watch it and love it in the same way that others did. In terms of my technical and physical ability, I was a very raw player and needed coaching.

Genuinely, it wasn't until I was 14 that I started to really gain an understanding of tactics and how to approach certain things in game. Because I wasn't exposed to football in the way many others were, it took me a little longer, but I've given it a lot of attention over the years and I've changed as a player for the better.

Last year was my first up at London Colney and overall I'd say I did alright, but it was quite a frustrating and testing period for me. Just before I came to Colney I was out of form and knew that I could do more, so when I arrived here and started finding my form again, I was buzzing, but then I broke one of my toes against Reading and that killed my rhythm. Then we were hit by coronavirus just as I was getting back to fitness! That was tough for me mentally because I just wanted to put a run of games together.

When I'm out of form, I always feel like I'm forcing things. I'm trying too hard and I feel like I'm trying to be too smart. I know it's the wrong thing to do because when I'm in form, I always feel like I'm flowing and playing with instinct. When I'm at my best, I don't think, I just do. It goes without saying that it comes with good practice and good habits, though!

I feel like that's why I've really kicked on this season. Throughout my career, my end product has never been my standout attribute. I've always been able to get into the box, but then I'd let myself down because my first thought was to pass. I used to get a lot of assists, but I've never been a goalscorer and that's something I realised I had to change.

The moment that made me realise that was when I was away with England Under-16s and I wasn't called back after a tournament. They told me I didn't take a single shot in the whole tournament and that I need to become more deadly in the final third. Since then, I've been working on adding that clinical side to my game – and I think it's paying off!

Serge Gnabry is a player I really look up to in that regard. He was always a very talented player here at Arsenal, but he never put up crazy numbers and over time he's become more direct, aggressive and sharp with his runs and shot selection. I want to add that to my game too.

As for today's game, I'm proud that as a member of our academy, we'll be remembering a true Arsenal legend, David Rocastle. As a player, he was before my time, but his legacy around the club and especially the academy lives on. He's got the Indoor Sports Hall named after him and I think little details like those are important because kids at Hale End will remember his name for generations. Homegrown players and the academy system has given this club so much talent and so many memories over the years. ■

RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	90
SHOOTING	82
DRIBBLING	94
STRENGTH	75
PASSING	80
DEFENDING	70

KIDO TAYLOR-HART LOWDOWN

Earliest memory of football
Kicking the ball against the wall outside my mum's house

Got me into playing football
My friend's dad

First footballer looked up to
Zinedine Zidane

Favourite football shirt owned
The first one I got which was the Grenada international team shirt

Favourite boots The first Hypervenoms

Team supported as a child
I didn't really support anyone

Best goal of all-time
Zidane's volley in the World Cup

Best player I've faced
Tino Anjorin from Chelsea

Best goal I've scored
From the halfway line against Ipswich Under-14s

Best performance I've had
Against Liverpool U-16s away

Best skill I've done in a game
I flicked it over someone's head and then got an assist

Best moment of my career so far
My international debut

One stadium I'd like to score in
Emirates Stadium

One type of goal I'd like to score
A header because I've never scored one!

A player to score a one-on-one to save my life Erling Haaland

If I could completely change position I'd play wing back

Best training ground tip I've been given Play with freedom

Another sport I'm good at
Basketball

Favourite training drill
Matches at the end

Ambitions this season away from the pitch I want to start a football programme for the younger kids in Haringey at some point

The important non-playing attributes Dedication and hard work

Biggest lesson learnt off the pitch
Attitude gets you far

favourite footballer of all-time
Zinedine Zidane

Favourite follow on Instagram
Dwayne Johnson

Zinedine Zidane

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Challenge it.
Report it. Change it.

1

GILSENAN 46

4

EDWARDS 9, TAYLOR-HART 33, AZEEZ 43, NORTON-CUFFY 90

FA Youth Cup
Fourth Round
Saturday, March 20
Ewood Park
ARSENAL U18 Ejeheri, Norton-Cuffy, Kirk, Monlouis, Ogungbo, Azeez, Bandeira, Cirjan (Henry-Francis 75), Taylor-Hart, Edwards, Hutchinson (Ideho 80)
SUBS NOT USED: Graczyk, Awe, Foran, Jeffcott, Sagoe Jnr

Our under-18s booked their place in the last 16 of the FA Youth Cup as they ran out 4-1 winners over Blackburn Rovers.

It was Rovers who knocked us out at the quarter-final stage last season, but this time around Ken Gillard's side claimed revenge, delivering an attacking performance of the highest quality.

Khayon Edwards opened the scoring with just nine minutes on the clock, racing behind Blackburn's defence and latching on to Brooke Norton-Cuffy's through ball. The keeper looked set to claim his searching pass, but failed to take control of the situation and Edwards was on hand to finish into an open goal.

Kido Taylor-Hart then went on to double our advantage, cutting inside from the left on a dangerous counter-attack and fizzing the ball into the top corner.

It was a stunning strike from the 18-year-old winger, but the best of the bunch arrived on the stroke of half-time, as Miguel Azeez picked up the ball 30 yards from goal and found the top-right corner in style.

Rovers pulled one back just one minute after the restart with Zak Gilsenan converting from close range, but we restored our three-goal advantage late on when Brooke Norton-Cuffy raced forward on the break to convert Mazeed Ogungbo's rebound.

We will travel to West Ham United in the last 16 of the competition, a date has yet to be confirmed for the game.■

Omari Hutchinson in FA Youth Cup action

Celebrations after Taylor-Hart made it 2-0

Kido Taylor-Hart enjoys his strike

Hutchinson in possession

DAVID ROCASTLE

... "Player of the Year"

by KEVIN CONNOLLY

What a pleasant surprise . . . and what a joy it caused! Our Supporters Club's 1986 'Player of the Year' David Rocastle says he couldn't have even dreamed about winning such an award, while he was recovering from a cartilage operation in the summer. Now our skilful tenacious midfielder's powerful displays have deservedly established him as the fans' favourite — after just 45 first team appearances.

David topped a close poll. Kenny Sansom, Paul Davis and Tony Adams were challenging, till the final votes were cast after our 3-0 win over Manchester City . . . when David emerged a clean winner.

"David is a very popular winner. He's quickly made a great impression with the fans," says Supporters Club secretary Barry Baker.

Rocastle admits he found it 'hard to catch on' when Baker phoned to tell him the news.

"It was a shock at first" he revealed: "I couldn't believe it. I never expected it — but it's a great feeling!".

David has not only proved his ability; he's proved his courage as well. He recovered from that operation, won back his place in the Gunners team and now he's being tipped as a future England star.

"It was a bonus for me to get back into the side — and be part of a team that's been doing so well" he says modestly.

But the Highbury fans have taken David to their hearts; and David gratefully acknowledges their support: "The crowd have been marvellous to me, ever since I made my debut against Newcastle last September" he says: "They've stuck by me even when things were not going the way I'd hoped. They've helped give me the confidence not to be afraid to try something different. If I make a mistake, they don't get on to me. They know I'll try and make up for it next time.

Why is it that David has struck up such a quick rapport with the Arsenal fans? Rocastle doesn't like boasting about his own qualities. But he tries to find an answer: "I think that know that I always give 100%, that I've come up through our junior ranks and that I'm Arsenal through and through" he says: "I also reckon it's easier for a young player to be accepted than, say, a big money buy. The fans don't expect so much to start with, and if you have a run, they really get behind you — like they've got behind me."

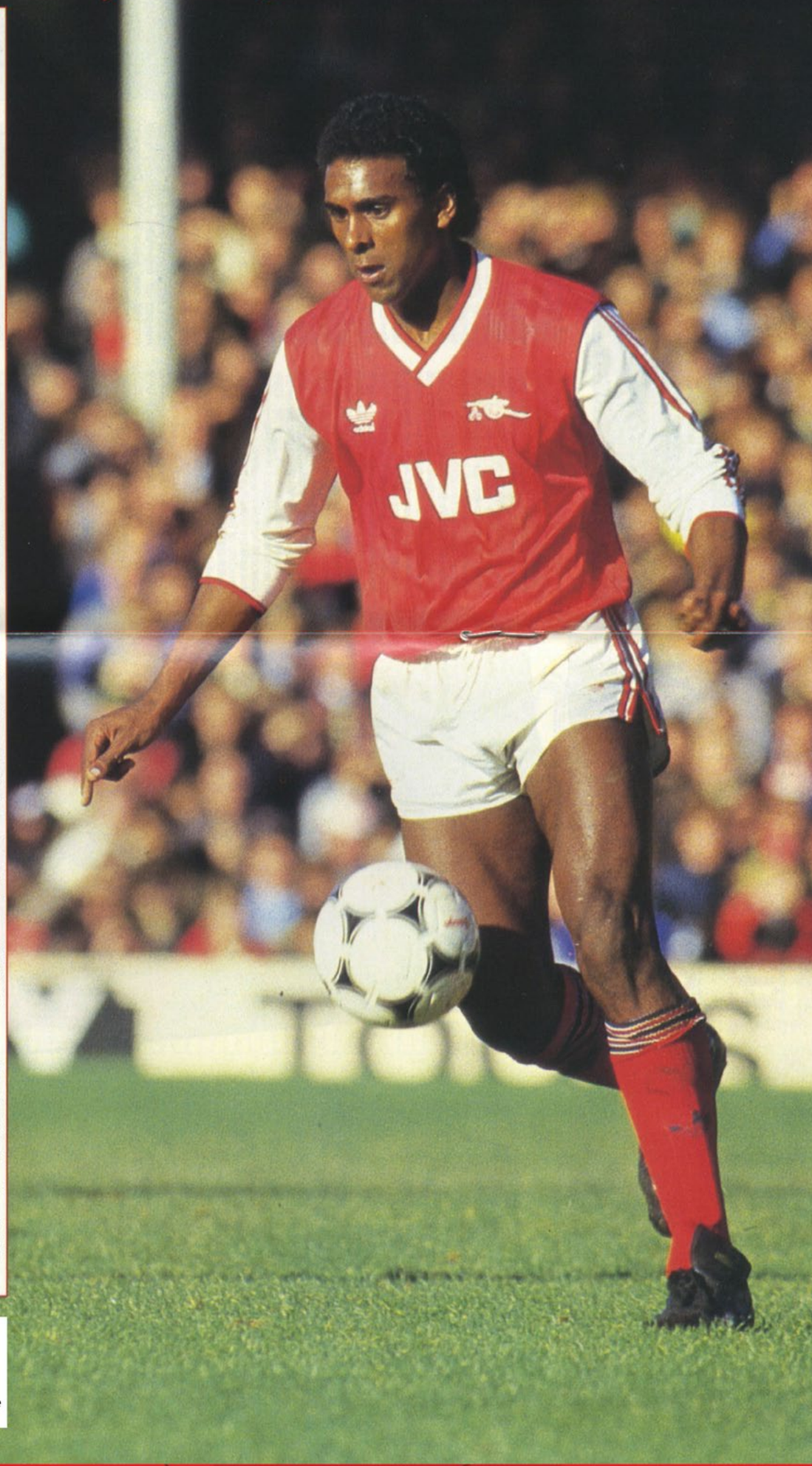
Rocastle also acknowledges the help he's received from his first team colleagues. "They've all encouraged me and geed me up" he says. Skipper Kenny Sansom — a former South London schoolboy star like David — has given him plenty of good advice. So have the players around him.

"Viv Anderson and I form a partnership on the right — and Viv is always talking to me, using his experience to help me through the game" says David: "Likewise with Steve Williams and Paul Davis in midfield. They give me a boost when I need it — and they tell me straightaway if I ever get sloppy!"

David has already won a place in England's u-21 squad. He's played against Sweden and a highly talented Yugoslav side — who packed the midfield and set David and his team mates problems they don't often meet in English football. Rocastle wants to broaden his experience against that calibre of opposition. Establishing himself in the England u-21s is one of his aims this season.

But Arsenal remains his top priority — and he's set his own targets with us too.

"Firstly, I want to keep my place in the side" he says: "Then I want to be part of an Arsenal team that wins a major prize. The way we've been playing this season, we could make that happen."



ROCKY – THE ORIGINAL YOUNG GUN!
David Rocastle was a teenage sensation at Arsenal. So much so that he was voted Player of the Year for 1986, when he was still only 19. Here we have reproduced the interview with David from our matchday programme against QPR on December 6, 1986, when the level-headed youngster discussed the special accolade

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH STATS

UNDER-23 FIXTURES

Fri Sept 11	**Southampton**	**H**	**1-2**
Fri Sept 18	Brighton & HA	A	2-2
Sat Sept 26	**Tottenham Hotspur**	**H**	**0-1**
Sun Oct 4	Chelsea	A	0-3
Fri Oct 16	**Manchester United**	**H**	**3-3**
Sat Oct 24	Manchester City	A	1-4
Fri Oct 30	**Liverpool**	**H**	**0-1**
Fri Nov 6	Blackburn Rovers	A	6-0
Fri Nov 20	**Everton**	**H**	**1-0**
Fri Nov 27	**Derby County**	**H**	**3-1**
Fri Dec 18	**Leicester City**	**H**	**2-1**
Fri Jan 22	**Brighton & HA**	**H**	**5-0**
Fri Jan 29	Tottenham Hotspur	A	1-1
Fri Feb 5	**Chelsea**	**H**	**2-2**
Fri Feb 12	Manchester United	A	0-3
Fri Feb 19	**Manchester City**	**H**	**0-2**
Sat Feb 27	Liverpool	A	0-4
Fri Mar 5	Southampton	A	2-2
Fri Mar 12	**Blackburn Rovers**	**H**	**0-3**
Sun Mar 21	Everton	A	1-1
Mon Apr 12	Derby County	A	7pm
Mon Apr 26	Leicester City	A	7pm
Fri Apr 30	**West Ham United**	**H**	**7pm**
Fri May 7	West Ham United	A	7pm

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	19	12	5	2	62	26	36	41
Blackburn Rovers	19	10	6	3	43	30	13	36
Tottenham Hotspur	19	9	5	5	35	28	7	32
Derby County	19	9	3	7	33	36	-3	30
Chelsea	18	8	5	5	35	27	8	29
Manchester United	19	8	4	7	45	46	-1	28
Liverpool	18	8	3	7	36	37	-1	27
Everton	19	7	5	7	31	24	7	26
Brighton & HA	20	5	8	7	27	37	-10	23
Arsenal	**20**	**5**	**6**	**9**	**30**	**36**	**-6**	**21**
Leicester City	19	5	2	12	30	46	-16	17
Southampton	19	4	4	11	27	43	-16	16
West Ham United	18	3	4	11	22	40	-18	13

UNDER-18 FIXTURES

* = won on penalties

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

EFL TROPHY FIXTURES

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

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Fulham	18	12	2	4	52	23	29	38
Crystal Palace	18	12	2	4	40	28	12	38
Brighton & Hove Albion	19	11	3	5	50	28	22	36
Aston Villa	16	9	5	2	30	20	10	32
Tottenham Hotspur	17	8	6	3	41	24	17	30
Chelsea	19	9	3	7	47	36	11	30
Arsenal	**17**	**8**	**2**	**7**	**33**	**34**	**-1**	**26**
Norwich City	17	7	1	9	41	40	1	22
West Bromwich Albion	19	6	3	10	36	46	-10	21
West Ham United	17	4	4	9	22	40	-18	16
Reading	16	3	4	9	32	48	-16	13
Leicester City	17	2	4	11	24	53	-29	10

FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	2-1
Sat Mar 20	Blackburn Rovers	A	4-1
TBA	West Ham United	A	5R

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH APPEARANCES

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

Catalin Cirjan

Junior Gunners

ON PARADE

Deeshika's cheering on the Arsenal!

Freddie and Millie enjoying the Arsenal tour and having their picture taken with the FA Cup

Louie refusing to take his Arsenal pyjamas off while home schooling!

Logan loves his new kit!

If you'd like to feature in JGs on Parade this season send your photos to JuniorGunners@Arsenal.co.uk or @JuniorGunners

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Answer one easy question on Arsenal defender, Calum Chambers and you could be our next lucky winner!

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TODAY'S VIRTUAL MASCOT

Name: Edward
"Hey, I'm Edward, today's virtual mascot. I'm super excited to be the mascot for today's game. Let's do this guys, good luck! Come on you Gunners!"

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

WTOW WELCOME, OISIN!

Everyone say hello to Oisin. He's just ten weeks old but here he is celebrating a win on his first north London derby!

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

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

Here's the day when Ryan Rocastle, was our mascot! He led the team out for the 2001 FA Cup final at the Millennium Stadium against Liverpool!

ALAN SMITH

One of the most memorable moments of my career involved Rocky, but it was actually away from the pitch. Penny (my wife) and I went down for the Arsenal end of season dinner at the Hilton in Park Lane at the end of the 1986/87 season. I was joining the club at the start of the next season and we were sat there with other couples. Rocky came over to introduce himself, welcomed me, said how delighted they were to have me at the club and said if there's anything he can do for me please ask. Pen and I spoke afterwards in the car, almost gobsmacked at that particular interaction. Rocky spoke as if he was the 30 year old club captain and senior man, yet he was 20 years old! He was so mature, so charming and so polite. That was our first experience and we hit it off right from that point.

He was just one of those people I naturally got on with and I grew very close with his family. We would quite often meet for a meal and we became very comfortable around one another. I remember Penny used to speak to Janet whilst she was working at BT – they would be chatting away for hours which shows you how good mates they were.

He was a funny lad Rocky, he had a big booming voice when he wanted to, he could fill the dressing room with his big smile and big personality – you couldn't dislike Rocky. He was serious when he needed to be but could also take the mick, especially with who they called the 'brothers' like Micky Thomas and Gus Caesar.

I would always like to see what Rocky was wearing and what car he was driving – he was such a classy guy. He had a beautiful Mercedes Coupe at one point which I ended up copying and getting one myself a few years later.

On the pitch Dave was so good at putting in an early ball, just fizzing a low one in that corridor between the keeper and defenders. When I realised how accomplished he was at it, it became ideal because I could make my movement just before the defender. He would do quite a few step overs which I had to get used to a bit – just

The great friends celebrate winning the 1990/91 league championship in the Highbury dressing room

On England duty. Arsenal's Rocastle, Seaman, Smith and Wright – gang up on Tottenham's Lineker!

"HE WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE I NATURALLY GOT ON WITH. I GREW CLOSE WITH HIS FAMILY"

watching him bamboozle defenders – but the gaffer knew Rocky had a special ability to go past players and encouraged him to be creative in the final third. Having said that Rocky was intelligent enough to know when to go past a player and when to deliver. In those early years we had Brian Marwood on the left and Rocky on the right – that was some service for a centre forward!

The fact that Penny and Janet were so close was something that was important to me as it meant our relationship remained. The nature of being a footballer meant things changed so quickly with your teammates – one day you're best friends and suddenly one gets a transfer and you don't hear from them. Having Penny and Janet close meant we could easily retain our friendship as women are usually much better at keeping in touch than men! I remember visiting him up in Leeds and him coming back down when he could. When he was at Chelsea I would go to watch him play and go meet him in the players' lounge beforehand.

Even when he was in Malaysia we would speak regularly on the phone about what it was like out there. The legacy of Rocky lives on with his wonderful kids.■

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MAGNIFICENT SEVENS

There's something special about the Arsenal No. 7 shirt

Some of the club's greatest, and most popular players have strutted their stuff in the iconic jersey. Dating right back to when Herbert Chapman's Gunners first trialled the use of shirt numbers in the late 1920s, our number seven has invariably possessed the skill, talent and magic to light up any game.

Here we profile six of the very best Magnificent Sevens, including of course David Rocastle, the focus of today's matchday programme. Between the six they boast more than 1,800 first-team appearances, nearly 300 goals and a combined 14 major honours for the Gunners.

And with another homegrown, England international as the current incumbent, we hope Bukayo Saka will only add to that tally in the coming years...■

GEORGE ARMSTRONG

1962-1977 | **621** APPS | **68** GOALS

Opta Stats didn't exist in the early 1970s, and not all of Arsenal's goals from that era are now available to watch on YouTube. But from the footage which has survived, and newspaper reports of the matches, it's clear that workaholic winger George Armstrong had a hand in a huge proportion of Gunners goals.

Although Alf Ramsey's 'wingless wonders' won the 1966 World Cup, and many in the game were suspicious of wingers, all great sides in the early '70s had one. Leeds had Eddie Gray, Derby Alan Hinton, and Arsenal had the indefatigable 'Geordie' Armstrong. Born in County Durham, Armstrong joined Arsenal in 1961 as an inside forward and was swiftly converted into a winger, making his league bow against Blackpool in February 1962. Still a teenager, he struck up an excellent understanding with high scoring centre forward Joe Baker in the middle part of the decade.

Armstrong was adept at performing on either flank, but he dovetailed perfectly with Bob McNab over on the left, occasionally dropping back to allow McNab the opportunity to push forward, and never afraid to tackle back when the occasion demanded. Armstrong may not have been blessed with express pace, but he possessed an uncanny ability to drift past defenders.

By the early '70s, he was in his prime, and up front, the Radford/Kennedy partnership profited from Armstrong's ability to deliver laser guided corners, and pin-point accurate crosses. Skipper Frank McLintock said that the Arsenal number 7 "could land the ball on a matchstick." This was never better illustrated than in the crucial showdown at White Hart Lane in May 1971, when he crossed for Ray Kennedy to head home the decisive goal which won the title for Arsenal in a 1-0 victory.

Despite never being a prolific scorer, he'd weighed in with a vital brace of strikes in the Highbury clash with the Gunners' north London rivals back in August 1970, in Arsenal's 2-0 win. Although the Gunners were unable to add any further silverware in the immediate years after winning the 'double', Armstrong remained a key member of the team, with World Cup winner Alan Ball, who joined Arsenal in the 1971/72 campaign, expressing astonishment that 'Geordie' was never awarded a full cap by England.

Fortunately, Arsenal fans were richly blessed to have watched the popular and respected winger – who held the Gunners appearance record with 621 until David O'Leary surpassed it in 1989 – in his pomp for 16 years at Highbury.■

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LIAM BRADY

1973-80 **307** APPS **59** GOALS

What was his finest moment in red and white? Inspiring the Gunners to a 5-0 win at Tottenham – our greatest post-war result in N17 – with THAT curling goal, or the 1979 FA Cup final, when he dragged Arsenal over the finishing line in a pulsating last five minutes to beat Manchester United 3-2?

Whenever it was, this outrageously talented Dubliner stood head and shoulders above all those around him, a hero for a generation, a player who could walk – or glide – into any team in the world. The sweetest, most exquisite, left foot and sublime mastery of a football delighted and enchanted an otherwise grey Highbury in the 1970s.

Inevitably, he left for Juventus in 1980, shortly after an outstanding display in Turin as the Gunners became the first team to beat the Old Lady on their own pitch. There he won the titles his talent deserved. He won the Serie A title in both 1981 and 1982 with Juventus, before also starring for Sampdoria and Inter Milan. He returned to London to finish his playing days at West Ham but his time at Arsenal wasn't over. In 1996 he came home, rejoining the club as the head of our academy, imparting his knowledge to future generations of Gunners.

It began a golden era for our youth department, and after various academy league titles, and three FA Youth Cup successes, he retired in May 2014 – leaving a permanent legacy at the club.

A great regret is that he never got to showcase his talents at a major international tournament. He played 72 times for the Republic of Ireland, scoring nine times, and later served as assistant manager for the national team (having previously taken charge of Celtic and Brighton) but he was suspended for Euro 88 and was not selected for the 1990 World Cup after retiring during the qualifiers.■

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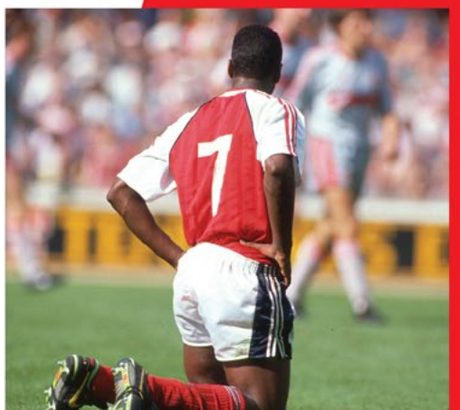
DAVID ROCASTLE

1985-92 **277** APPS **34** GOALS



"The crowd loved him because he had that combination of spirit, determination, and brilliant ability on the ball."

The words of former team-mate Martin Keown.

He may have been one of a clutch of youth team stars propelled into the first team in the 1980s, but the crowd had a special place for Rocastle. Affectionately known as Rocky, the skilful attacking midfielder made his debut in September 1985, and it soon became evident that this was the most exciting talent seen at Highbury since the days of Liam Brady. Powerful yet graceful, Rocky was an all-action player with superb technique, his footwork would bewitch opposition defenders, and he also scored some stunning goals. He thrived on a battle as much as he loved dancing effortlessly around hapless opponents on another mazy run, combining English grit with Brazilian skill. Just watch his goal at Old Trafford in a 1-1 draw in 1991, bursting past Paul Ince and Bryan Robson before chipping Peter Schmeichel from 35 yards.

He was named Arsenal Player of the Year by supporters in his debut campaign, and won the Barclays Young Eagle Award in 1987 and 1989 – he was named in the PFA Team of the Year in those seasons too.

A Littlewoods Cup winner in 1987, he was ever-present in the 1988/89 league title success, and filled the No.7 jersey with distinction again when winning the league in 1991, though that season was disrupted by injury.

He played 39 times in the league the following campaign, but was surprisingly sold to Leeds that summer. An England international with 14 caps, he later played for Manchester City and Chelsea, but injuries were taking their toll and his career never scaled the heights of his Arsenal days.

His death in 2001, aged just 33, shook the football world. He simply had no enemies – even Spurs fans liked him. Can you imagine his worth in today's Premier League?■

ROBERT PIRES

2000-06 **284** APPS **84** GOALS

One of the most elegant, graceful players ever to light up the Premier League, Pires was a major creative influence in the successful Arsenal team of the early 2000s.

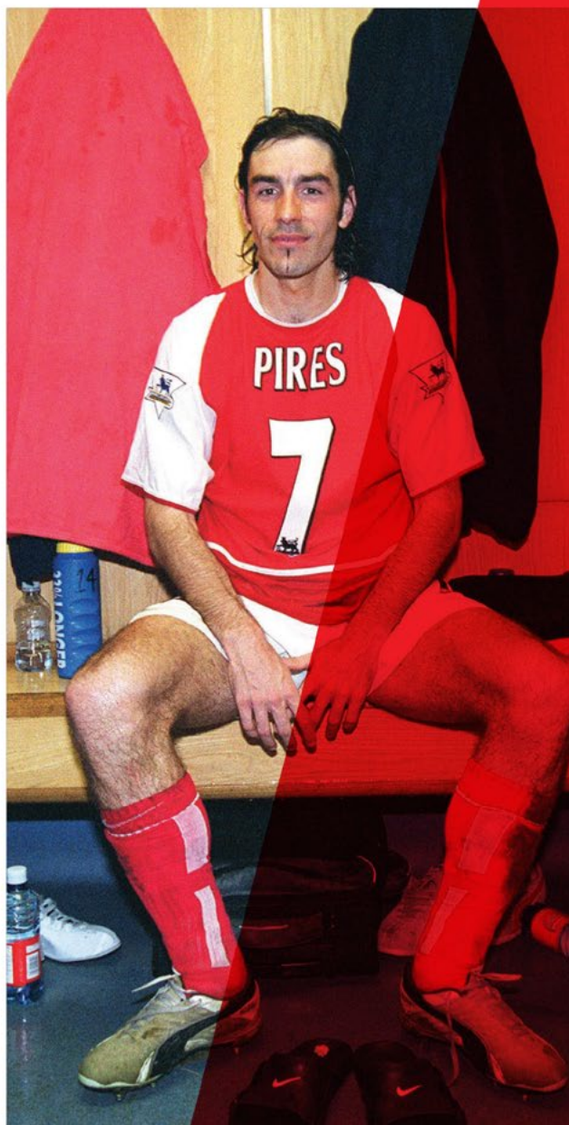
Often playing on the left wing, but effective in any attacking position, the Frenchman was an excellent finisher, as well as creating countless chances for the likes of Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp during his six seasons at the club. Arriving from French side Marseille in 2000, Pires took a while to get used to the physical nature of English football, but then took the Premier League by storm. He was sensational during 2001/02, only to have his season cut down early by a cruciate knee injury in March 2002. He had already done enough to win the Football Writers' Association Player of the Year award, and his teammates literally bowed before him when he picked up the Premier League trophy in May.

He scored the only goal in the 2003 FA Cup final win over Southampton and the following season was an integral part of the Invincibles side with 14 goals and seven assists. He left the club after the 2006 Champions League final, after being withdrawn early so that Manuel Almunia could replace the dismissed Jens Lehmann.

Pires scored 84 goals in 284 appearances for the Gunners, and particularly enjoyed playing in the north London derby – the No. 7 scored eight times against Tottenham in all.

A long-time France international with 79 caps, he was part of the 1998 World Cup and 2000 Euros winning-squads, as well as lifting the Confederations Cup in 2001 and 2003.

He later played for Villarreal, Aston Villa and finished his playing days in India.■



TOMAS ROSICKY

2006-2016 **246** APPS **28** GOALS

Nicknamed 'Little Mozart' while playing for Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga, the Czech playmaker quickly made an impression after signing for Arsenal in 2006, thumping home a glorious goal against Hamburg in a Champions League group stage match. Although a succession of injuries meant he only made more than 20 Premier League outings in one of his 10 seasons at Arsenal (his first), the presence of Rosicky on the Emirates pitch meant that supporters would often be treated to the sight of this creative player pulling the strings in midfield, laying on chances for team mates, and perhaps scoring a beautifully crafted goal.

In many ways, Rosicky was a football purist: "I experienced some of the fabulous moments that football creates, and also some cruel ones. I never played for money and fame. I have always been a boy who loved the game. It brought me fulfilment and a lot of joy."

Rosicky netted a raft of great goals. In a 2006/07 third round FA Cup clash with Liverpool at Anfield, he bamboozled the home side's defence all afternoon, lofting home Arsenal's opener, before grabbing another after dancing through the opposition's backline. On several occasions, Rosicky reserved his best form for north London derbies. Despite having been two goals down to Tottenham at the Emirates in February 2012, Rosicky's display, and fine goal after latching onto Bacary Sagna's low cross, helped Arsenal fight back to win 5-2.

Almost two years later, he ran half the length of the pitch to score in an FA Cup third round clash which Arsenal won en route to winning the competition in 2014. The Czech scored no finer goal for the Gunners than in early March that year, drilling home Arsenal's exquisite winner in a league clash at White Hart Lane from outside the box.

He finally won silverware for Arsenal after coming on in the 106th minute in the 2014 FA Cup Final against Hull City, before injuries once again scuppered his chances of winning back his first team place permanently.

After announcing his departure from the club in May 2016, he received a guard of honour after Arsenal's 4–0 final day victory against Aston Villa, with several members of the squad wearing 'Rosicky 7' jerseys.■

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BUKAYO SAKA

2017- | **77** APPS | **10** GOALS

The latest Gunner to wear our famous No. 7 shirt... Bukayo Saka is one of the most exciting young talents in world football right now. With blistering pace, outrageous trickery and maturity beyond his years, Bukayo has seamlessly stepped up to the challenge of first-team football, becoming a vital player for Arsenal at just 19 years of age – but let's take it back to the start.

Born in the London Borough of Ealing, Bukayo joined our Hale End Academy aged eight and has long been marked as one for the future, often playing above his age group – and not once did he look out of place.

As each challenge became bigger and tougher, so too did Bukayo, and by August 2017 he made his debut for our under-18s at just 15 years of age. By 16 he made his debut for our under-23s, assisting against Manchester City no less, and just three months later he made his first-team debut against Vorskla Poltava in the Europa League.

His first goal arrived in our opening Europa League fixture the following season, and he went on to provide a further three goals and 11 assists in 38 appearances that term. Success on the pitch didn't come at the cost of his schoolwork either, as Bukayo left Greenford High School with four A*s and three As at GCSE level.

So often with talented young players, the pressure of expectation and the occasion will limit opportunities – but in the case of Bukayo, it's quite the opposite. As each season has passed, Bukayo has come back even stronger and more determined than ever before, taking on greater responsibility in the final third.

His ability to play in a number of positions certainly can't go unnoticed either. Whether he's stretching play on the left wing, bombing on from full back or cutting inside from the right, Bukayo is never afraid to express himself on the pitch – a quality that's no doubt appreciated by all Gooners.■

MICHAEL THOMAS

Me and Rocky met before we became team-mates at Arsenal when we were both playing for South London Schools at around 11/12 years old. I only knew him on the field at that point. When we joined the Arsenal youth team I was coming from Stockwell and Dave was coming from Brockley, he got the train to Waterloo and I was on the Victoria Line – most mornings we'd meet at Arsenal station and walk to the stadium from there.

When we got to around 16/17 we were spending a lot more time off the field together. We went to a lot of parties – he seemed to know the scene a bit better than me! I would sometimes stay at Dave's family home and we would go out as I was from the same area.

Dave started training with the first team a bit earlier than me and I will never forget when he made his debut. We used to train at Highbury on a Friday and the youth team would go into the gym after the first team. By that point Dave was already training with the main squad and he was by the stairs waiting to tell me that he was making his debut tomorrow against Newcastle. He was absolutely glowing and he couldn't wait to tell me! Unfortunately we weren't there to see it as the youth team had a South East Counties game but I remember Dave's reaction to that bit of news so clearly. He was beaming with pride about playing for The Arsenal.

Me and Dave came through the ranks together, playing in district teams, it was a special journey with so many incredible moments that we could share with each other. Dave was humble, he had everything, he was so talented but he had time for everyone and that is what I loved about him. He was special like that – he didn't see himself as bigger than any other person, in his eyes he was just a young kid from Brockley who had time for everyone else. He had such hunger and love for the club and playing for Arsenal – putting on the shirt – that was his team!

I would go to him for advice as he was in the first team a bit before me and he really was an old head on young shoulders. He lost his dad when he was five but he was just so well adjusted that you could ask him anything and he would try and help you out. He would treat everyone fairly.

When Dave left Arsenal that was a sad day for me. I was on pre-season tour with Liverpool in Paris and Graeme Souness came over and said to me 'that's a bit of a shock about your mate isn't it'? I was thinking what's he on about before he told me that Arsenal had sold David Rocastle to Leeds. I knew Dave would be absolutely gutted because he loved Arsenal and his best mate Wrighty had just arrived there, I had left at Christmas. That was hard because I knew Dave would never ever want to leave Arsenal – that hurt him a lot and that hurt me.

But his move to Leeds and then Manchester meant we got to see more of each other. We would always talk on the phone but when I was at Liverpool and he was at Leeds we had some incredible times. I'd drive down a lot and spend time with him and the family and they were great memories. Much of it was just reminiscing about old times at Arsenal – something we did right up until his very last moments.■

Micky and Dave's journey went all the way to the league title in 1989

All smiles at training

ARSENAL WOMEN

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

0

3

FOORD 26, MIEDEMA 35, MCCABE 61

Women's Super League
Saturday, March 27
Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

ARSENAL Zinsberger, Maritz (Patten 75), Wubben-Moy, Walti, McCabe (Maier 71), Little, Roord, Van de Donk, Nobbs, Miedema, Foord (Gut 71) SUBS NOT USED Williams, Williamson, Goldie

We cruised to victory in the north London derby last Saturday with a 3-0 victory at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Katie McCabe delivered a player of the match performance, scoring one and assisting another, while Vivianne Miedema hit a stunning contender for goal of the season.

We started strongly and after Jordan Nobbs fired wide early on, Caitlin Foord gave us the lead in style.

The Australia international played a quick one-two with Noelle Maritz down the right wing, before arriving inside the area and finding the bottom corner.

Miedema then went on to double our advantage on the stroke of half-time – and in some style too. McCabe floated an inch-perfect corner delivery into the penalty area and Miedema found the top corner with a stunning volley on her left foot.

McCabe wreaked havoc on Tottenham's defence all afternoon, and shortly after the hour mark she grabbed her reward, racing in behind and coolly finishing into the bottom corner.

The hosts would go on to create a golden opportunity late on, but Manuela Zinsberger was on hand to deny Tottenham, not once, not twice, but three times in succession.

That outstanding triple save also created a little bit of history, as we secured four consecutive WSL victories without conceding.■

GOLDIE MOMENT

All of the squad were thrilled to be part of keeping north London red last Saturday – but it was a particularly special afternoon for 16 year old Teyah Goldie. It was the St Albans youngster's first involvement with the first-team squad and she took her place alongside established international stars Leah Williamson, Lydia Williams, Leonie Maier and Malin Gut – it must have been a dream come true for the young defender!

Teyah, who doesn't turn 17 until June, has been a member of the Arsenal Academy for a number of years and is also part of the England Under-18 squad having captained England under-15s.

Congratulations Teyah!■

MAGIC MCCABE

The north London derby witnessed a wonderstrike from Vivianne Miedema – but also yet another superb performance from Katie McCabe, including the Gunners' third goal.

After originally coming on trial in 2015, Katie's career has gone from strength to strength in the last six years, with this season arguably her best of all. She has played 21 games for Joe Montemurro's team – only Miedema has played more – and now has three goals and a remarkable 11 assists to her name, including the cross for Viv's goal on Saturday and the corner converted by Lotte Wubben-Moy against Manchester United in our previous match. Katie is only one assist away from equalling Arsenal's WSL record of 12, held by Beth Mead from the 2018/19 season.

The 25 year old has now played 108 times for the Gunners in total, scoring 20 goals. Keep it up, Katie!■

FACING PAGE TOP

Caitlin Foord opens the scoring in the NLD

FACING PAGE BELOW

Vivianne Miedema scores a special goal to double our lead

2020/21 FIXTURES

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

*Arsenal won on penalties

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT MAR 31)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
CHELSEA	18	15	2	1	54	8	46	47
MANCHESTER CITY	18	14	3	1	55	11	44	45
MANCHESTER UNITED	18	12	2	4	37	18	19	38
ARSENAL	17	11	2	4	53	14	39	35
EVERTON	18	8	4	6	35	25	10	28
BRIGHTON	18	6	3	9	15	35	-20	21
READING	18	4	8	6	21	28	-7	20
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	18	4	5	9	16	32	-16	17
BIRMINGHAM CITY	17	3	4	10	13	31	-18	13
BRISTOL CITY	18	2	5	11	15	62	-47	11
ASTON VILLA	16	3	1	12	11	41	-30	10
WEST HAM UNITED	16	2	3	11	16	36	-20	9

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LAVAZZA TORINO, ITALIA, 1895 | Arsenal

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MY STORY

The Arsenal Foundation

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

The Arsenal Foundation's emergency Covid fund has helped the Museum Of Homelessness, a community-driven social justice museum created and run by people with direct experience of homelessness. David Tovey, 46, tells us how the charity has helped him

Back in 2013 I took a near-fatal overdose in Highbury Fields. I couldn't see any other way out. I was in debt, addicted to alcohol and about to lose my flat. Luckily I was resuscitated that day, but that didn't stop me from becoming homeless. After five months things changed one night in Isledon Gardens. I went into the locked park to take my own life when a man appeared and was like, "What are you doing?"

It threw me. I broke down and told him everything – and not only did he save my life, he gave me my life back. That moment became the inspiration for a lot of my art, which later played a massive role in me coming off the streets. It led me to meet other artists with similar experiences and discover a museum about homelessness was being set up by people affected by it.

I've collaborated with the museum since 2016 and we've come a long way in that time. We've put on exhibitions and events all over the country; we've operated in the halls of Tate Modern and on the streets. We believe art can change lives. It saved my life and that's why I've dedicated myself to changing society through art. We have a homelessness crisis but if you just shout about it people stop listening. If you give them something beautiful, make them cry, they will listen.

When the pandemic hit we knew it was a massive risk to homeless people so we set up a taskforce. Islington Council lent us a community centre and we stacked our museum shelving with food and emergency supplies, but even after the lockdown we realised isolation was still having a devastating impact on mental health, so with the help of funding from The Arsenal Foundation we set up a StreetMuseum every Thursday on Highbury Corner. This was an outdoor, Covid-secure space where people could gather as safely as possible for food, art and company.

We have worked with thousands of people during the pandemic. In lockdown one alone we distributed 8,956 hot meals and care packs, and the winter was very tough. We had a spike in homeless suicides in 2020 and given my own experience, and the fact the StreetMuseum was so near to where I tried to take my own life, it meant so much to me to be able to help people.

My proudest moment was having my family come to our show at Tate Modern. It was the first time I knew my dad was proud of me, proud that I had gone through so much and picked myself back up. He didn't think the arts could make a difference, but that day changed his mind. Little did I know that just over a year later I would be carrying his coffin. I can never thank the museum enough for giving me that chance to make my dad proud.

For more info visit museumofhomelessness.org.

A special day at Tate Modern

Art can change lives

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 29

3pm • Sunday, March 21 • London Stadium

WEST HAM UNITED 3

LINGARD 15, BOWEN 17, SOUCEK 32

Arsenal 3

SOUCEK 38 OG, DAWSON 61 OG, LACAZETTE 82

FIRST HALF

Having made a desperately-slow start to the game, we were punished when the Hammers took the lead as Jesse Lingard arrowed a shot into the top corner. It should have acted as a wake-up call, but instead, less than two minutes later, the hosts doubled their advantage as a quickly-taken free kick caught us off guard and Jarrod Bowen beat Bernd Leno. The Hammers extended their advantage when Tomas Soucek deflected in Michail Antonio's header. Finally we woke up and responded when Alexandre Lacazette's swivel and shot inside the box deflected off Soucek into the roof of the net. Bukayo Saka had a golden chance to make it 3-2 soon afterwards but his shot was too close to Lukasz Fabianski.

SECOND HALF

Just after the hour mark our dominance had its reward when, Calum Chambers' whipped in cross was deflected into his own goal by Craig Dawson. The comeback was on, and the influential Martin Odegaard soon saw a shot blocked in the area while down at the other end Chambers had to clear one off the line as Lingard looked set to claim his second. We finally levelled with nine minutes remaining. Nicolas Pepe dug out a fine cross to the back post for Lacazette to head in from close range. Pepe had two half chances during a thrilling finale to the match, but in the end we shared the spoils in a dramatic derby.■

MATCH STATS

15	TOTAL SHOTS	16
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	7
3	CORNERS	5
1	OFFSIDES	0
18	FOULS	8
37	POSSESSION %	63

WEST HAM UNITED

1 FABIANKSI
5 COUFAL ■
15 DAWSON
23 DIOP
3 CRESSWELL ■
28 SOUCEK
41 RICE
20 BOWEN (74)
11 LINGARD
9 BENRAHMA (79)
30 ANTONIO ■

SUBSTITUTES
NOBLE (74), FREDERICKS (79), BALBUENA, ODUBEKO, LANZINI, ALVES, MARTIN, JOHNSON, TROTT

ARSENAL

1 LENO
3 TIERNEY
23 DAVID LUIZ
22 MARI
21 CHAMBERS
34 XHAKA (74)
18 PARTEY
7 SAKA (74)
11 ODEGAARD
9 LACAZETTE ■
14 AUBAMEYANG (81)

SUBSTITUTES
SMITH ROWE (74), PEPE (74), MARTINELLI (81), GABRIEL, CEBALLOS, HOLDING, CEDRIC, ELNENY, RYAN

THIS PAGE
Craig Dawson turns into his own net under pressure from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

FACING PAGE
Alexandre Lacazette celebrates his equaliser

Diogo Jota

LIVERPOOL

By: Mike Hammond

FORMED
June 3, 1892

NICKNAME
The Reds

STADIUM
Anfield **(53,394)**

HONOURS
First Division/Premier League winners **1900/01, 1905/06, 1921/22, 1922/23, 1946/47, 1963/64, 1065/66, 1972/73, 1975/76, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1979/80, 1981/82, 1982/83, 1983/84, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1989/90, 2019/20**
Second Division/Championship winners **1893/94, 1895/96, 1904/05, 1961/62**
FA Cup **1965, 1974, 1986, 1989, 1992, 2001, 2006**
League Cup **1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1995, 2001, 2003, 2012**
Charity Shield **1964*, 1965*, 1966, 1974, 1976, 1977*, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1986*, 1988, 1989, 1990*, 2001, 2006** *shared
European Cup/UEFA Champions League **1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005, 2019**
Uefa Cup **1973, 1976, 2001**
European Super Cup **1977, 2001, 2005, 2019**
FIFA Club World Cup **2019**

OWNER
Fenway Sports Group

CHAIRMAN
Tom Werner

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS
Twitter **16.8M**
Instagram **30.3M**
Facebook **38.9M**

The reigning champions of England appear to have it all to do to finish in the top four of the Premier League this season. A remarkable collapse in Liverpool's form at Anfield since the turn of the year has seen them slide first out of title contention, then out of the Champions League places, and although they have continued to fare well on their travels, they come to Emirates Stadium placed seventh in the table with 46 points – and just 13 wins – from their 29 matches.

Having finally fulfilled their Premier League dream last season, winning it in champagne style with 99 points – 18 more than second-placed Manchester City – and dropping just two points at home, Jurgen Klopp's side have gone badly off the rails this term. The damage has been done at Anfield, where, after going 68 league games undefeated – a record run lasting almost four years – they have, incredibly, lost all of their last six matches there. Burnley, the only team to deny them victory at Anfield last term, started the trend with a 1-0 win on January 21. Since then, Brighton (1-0), Manchester City (4-1), Everton (2-0), Chelsea (1-0) and Fulham (1-0) have all won there.

It is perhaps a blessing for Liverpool that the match against Fulham on March 7 was their last fixture at Anfield for five weeks. They return there to face Aston Villa next weekend and will be desperate not to extend their new club record run to seven defeats in a row. Before then, however, they are in action on Tuesday in Spain, where they take on Real Madrid in the quarter-final first leg of the Champions League. If Liverpool are to lift a trophy this season, it will have to be the 'one with the big ears', which they won for the sixth time two years ago, defeating Spurs 2-0 in the final – also in Madrid, at the home of Real's rivals Atletico.

It was Arsenal who denied the Merseysiders silverware back in late August with a penalty shoot-out win in the Community Shield after a 1-1 draw at Wembley, and the Gunners also knocked Liverpool out of the Carabao Cup with another shoot-out success at Anfield in October. Klopp's men were turfed out of the FA Cup in the fourth round, losing 3-2 to Manchester United at Old Trafford, but at least they have maintained some stability in Europe, topping their Champions League group before beating RB Leipzig 2-0 twice in neutral Budapest in the round of 16.

Liverpool's recent away form has been in stark contrast to their Anfield aberrations. They have won four of their last five Premier League fixtures on the road, the first two in London (3-1 against both Tottenham and West Ham), with a 3-1 defeat at Leicester interrupting the sequence before they got back on the victory trail at Sheffield United (2-0) and, last time out, at Wolves, where ex-Molineux favourite Diogo Jota scored the only goal of the game. A raft of injuries, especially in central defence, has plagued the Merseysiders in 2020/21, and they will be hoping for a clean bill of health from the international break as they go again in search of a top-four place against Arsenal this evening.

MUTUAL ADMIRATION

Ray Kennedy was still a teenager when he helped propel Bertie Mee's team to the double in 1971. After a handful of games the previous season – including a substitute appearance in the triumphant Fairs Cup final – the powerful left footer from Northumberland grabbed his chance early in the double winning campaign due to an injury to Charlie George and went on to score 19 league goals and two in the FA Cup, providing a superb contribution. Over five seasons for the Gunners, he scored 71 goals in 213 games before Liverpool paid a club record £200,000 for his services on July 12, 1974.

On Merseyside, Kennedy used his excellent vision and passing skills to drop back into midfield, where he was a regular during the second half of the decade as Liverpool swept all before them. In all he claimed a remarkable five league titles, three European Cups, a Uefa Cup and a League Cup on Merseyside before leaving for Swansea City in January 1982.

In later life Kennedy has suffered from Parkinson's Disease and Arsenal and Liverpool hosted a Testimonial for him in April 1991.

5 THE ALL-PURPOSE MIDFIELDER
GEORGINIO WIJNALDUM
MIDFIELDER

BORN Rotterdam, Netherlands, 11/11/90
PREVIOUSLY Feyenoord, PSV Eindhoven, Newcastle
The captain of the Netherlands is now in his fifth season as a Liverpool player, having joined the Merseysiders after an impressive first season in England with Newcastle in 2015/16. The 30 year old box-to-box midfielder has been a mainstay of Jurgen Klopp's side, barely missing a match of importance since he joined and featuring in every Premier League game this term, all but two from the start. He scored in the 3-1 win at West Ham in late January.

26 THE FLYING SCOTSMAN
ANDREW ROBERTSON
DEFENDER

BORN Glasgow, 11/3/94
PREVIOUSLY Queen's Park, Dundee United, Hull
A key contributor to Liverpool's recent triumphs at home and abroad with his pacy sorties down the left flank and inch-perfect crosses, Andrew – or Andy – is an attacking left back par excellence who joined the Merseysiders from Hull City in 2017 after experiencing relegation, promotion and relegation again in successive seasons for the Humbersiders. He was appointed as captain of Scotland in September 2018 and skippered his country to the Euro 2020 finals last autumn via the play-offs.

15 THE EX-GUNNER
ALEX OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN
MIDFIELDER

BORN Portsmouth, 15/8/93
PREVIOUSLY Southampton, Arsenal
Alex left Arsenal for Liverpool in August 2017 in a £35m deal having spent six seasons at Emirates Stadium accumulating 198 first-team appearances and scoring 20 goals. A versatile midfielder with a strong shot, he was absent for over a year after sustaining serious knee ligament damage in April 2018, and although he remains on the fringes at Anfield, the 35-cap England international made 30 appearances, scoring four goals, in last season's Premier League title-winning campaign.

6 THE SCHEMER
THIAGO
MIDFIELDER

BORN San Pietro Vernotico, Italy, 11/4/91
PREVIOUSLY Barcelona, Bayern Munich
Liverpool appeared to have landed a major coup when they added Thiago to their Premier League title-winning squad last summer – especially after his outstanding performance for Bayern Munich against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final. However, the Spain international midfielder, who has won 19 major club trophies and does not turn 30 until next weekend, has yet to fully assert himself in the red shirt of Liverpool, his first half of the season having been curtailed by illness and injury.

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ALISSON
DEFENDER

BORN Novo Hamburgo, Brazil, 2/10/92
PREVIOUSLY Internacional, Roma
Alisson briefly became the world's most expensive keeper in 2018 with his £66.8m transfer from Roma, and Brazil's World Cup goalkeeper has proved to be money well spent, resolving Liverpool's problem position between the posts with several world-class performances – albeit with a few high-profile errors thrown in. Injuries have also occasionally set him back, but his contributions to the club's Champions League and Premier League triumphs have already assured him recognition as a Liverpool goalkeeping great.

10 THE AFRICAN ACE
SADIO MANE
ATTACKER

BORN Sedhiou, Senegal, 10/4/92
PREVIOUSLY Metz, Salzburg, Southampton
A potent, athletic striker with an eye for goal, Sadio joined Liverpool in 2016 from Southampton for £34m and has proved fabulous value for money. He has maintained a steady output of vital goals throughout his five seasons at Anfield, peaking with 26 in 2018/19, and is fast closing in on a century for the club. He succeeded team-mate Mo Salah as the CAF African Footballer of the Year in 2019 after two successive runners-up placings behind the Egyptian.

20 THE SPEARHEAD
DIOGO JOTA
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BORN Porto, Portugal, 4/12/96
PREVIOUSLY Pacos de Ferreira, Atletico Madrid, Porto (l), Wolves
A pacy Portugal international striker, Diogo has been selected ahead of Roberto Firmino in the Merseysiders' last two league games and scored the winner last time out at Wolves, the club that sold him for a reported £41m fee last September. Although the 24 year old got off to a fine start at Anfield, scoring his first Liverpool goal in their 3-1 home win against Arsenal, he was out for three months after sustaining a foot injury in early December.

11 THE PHAROAH
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BORN Gharbia, Egypt, 15/6/92
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A phenomenal first season at Anfield in 2017/18 – following a then club-record transfer from Roma – earned the Egypt international both the PFA and FWA player of the year awards. The club trophies have come since then, with decisive contributions to both the 2018/19 Champions League win and last term's Premier League triumph, and he has scored 25 goals already this season. Electric pace and a lethal left foot make him one of English football's leading attractions.

THE BOSS
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BORN June 16, 1967 in Stuttgart, Germany
PREVIOUSLY Mainz (2001-08), Borussia Dortmund (2008-15)
Jurgen has strengthened his reputation as one of Europe's most accomplished coaches since he arrived at Anfield in October 2015, leading Liverpool to Champions League and Premier League triumphs in successive seasons. The 53-year-old German oversaw three cup final defeats for the Merseysiders before finally bringing silverware to Anfield. His previous major honour with ex-club Borussia Dortmund had come in 2011/12 when he won the German league and cup double, retaining the league title in the process. He left Dortmund in May 2015 after seven years – as the longest-serving coach in the club's history.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

All of Liverpool's kit sponsors
1979-82 – HITACHI
1982-88 – CROWN PAINTS
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Sammy Lee in 1984

REALLY?!

If you want to know your Arsenal history, **James Milner** wouldn't be a bad man to ask. Not only did he have the pleasure of **playing at Highbury**, for Newcastle on August 15, 2005 (pictured below – Arsenal won 2-0), but he also **played against the Invincibles**, for Leeds at Elland Rd on November 1, 2003 (a 4-1 win for the Gunners).

Naby Keita is the sixth player from **Guinea** to play in the Premier League – and the very first was a Gunner. **Kaba Diawara** became the first when he played for Arsenal against Chelsea on January 31, 1999. **Titi Camara** became the second when he joined Liverpool the following season, and scored a winner at Highbury against Arsenal in his first season. The other three were: Mo Camara (Derby County), Kamil Zayatte (Hull City) and Ibrahima Cisse (Fulham).

Andy Robertson's father Brian grew up on the Wyndford estate in the Maryhill area of Glasgow, where he was a **childhood friend** of later to be Scotland, Celtic and Arsenal star **Charlie Nicholas**.

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ROCKY AND DIGGER

A snapshot from a golden age for both clubs

A sunny August afternoon saw Liverpool exact a modicum of revenge over Arsenal, as they won the Charity Shield on August 12, 1989 to launch a new season in English football.

After stunning Liverpool two months previously on that famous night at Anfield, George Graham's men were beaten by a first-half strike from Peter Beardsley.

Two of the stars of any Arsenal/Liverpool show at the time were undoubtedly David Rocastle and John Barnes – both lavishly talented attacking spearheads for their club.

Barnes – four years Rocky's senior – always was one of the younger man's heroes. Not only for his remarkable talent, but also the way he had been forced to deal with the racism that came from being England's highest profile black player of the era.■

IAN WRIGHT

David,

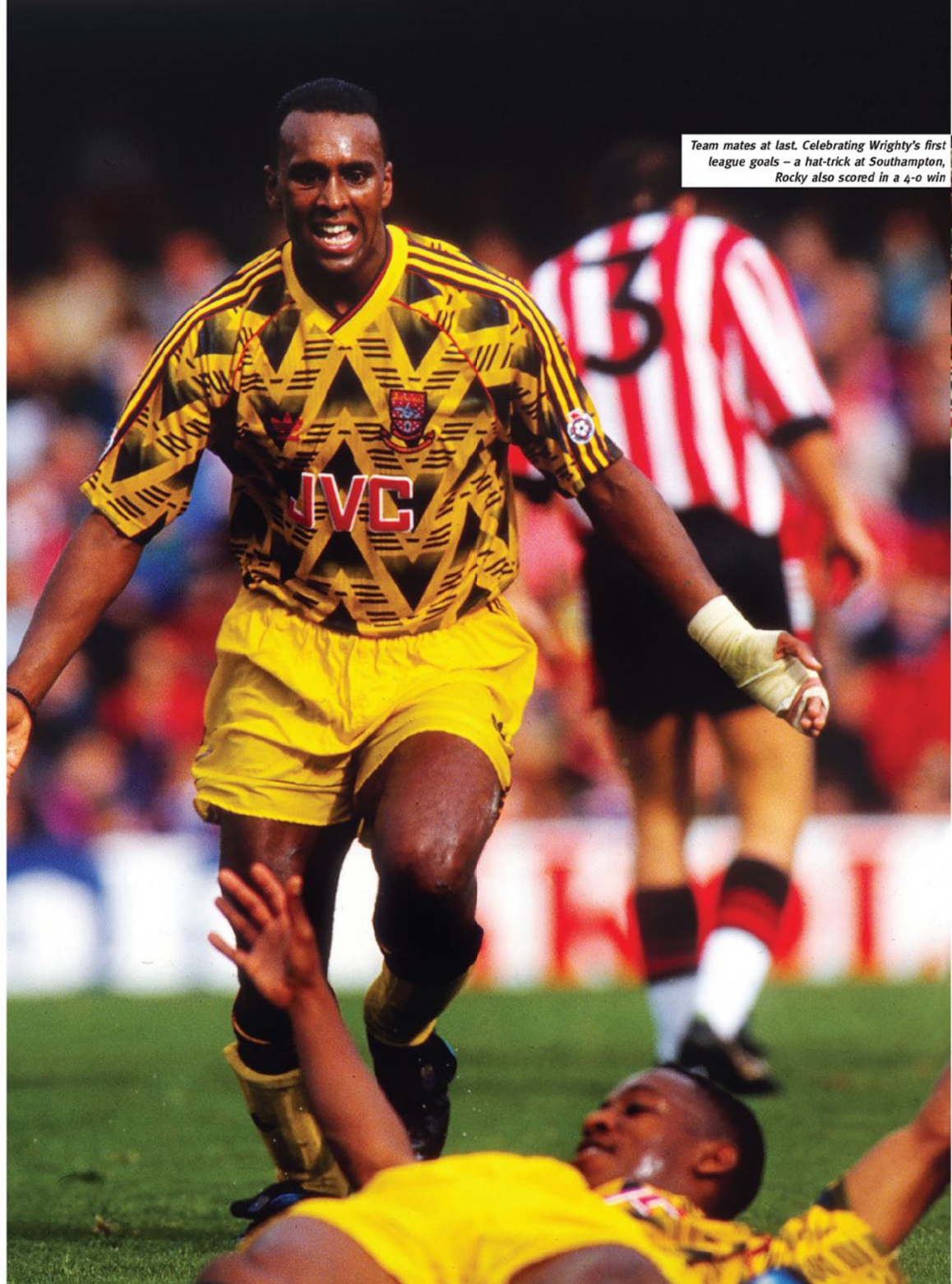
Twenty years bro. In a way, I've been dreading the build up to it. You're always on my mind but I try to not think of that specific day. You know what I mean?

Everyone knows how close we were. Both Brockley boys, you were up in Turnham, I was just down the road. We would see each other in school despite you being younger. Football meant everything to you man. Do you remember when you dragged a bunch of us to this football tournament literally minutes before it was due to start. We beat everyone! A bunch of us and our mate who played rugby. Everyone had parents and supporters, we just had each other. It was always just us.

At 15, you were already operating at a totally different level. You always carried yourself with a level of professionalism we couldn't understand. I remember those times when you would leave Brockley to go all the way to Stoke Newington, just to get picked up by Paul Davis so you could go training. On your way, you would stop by the estate and tell me "I don't care how you do it, you have to get into the game". I can see the frustration in your face detailing these training sessions with reserves and seeing players you thought were not on my level.

I remember the club said you weren't allowed to play on the estate or park anymore. You did anyway because everyone knew the main rule was to not touch or tackle you. That was the law! We were playing with DAVID ROCASTLE bro! You were our hero. You had made it in our eyes.

You saw something in me I couldn't even see in myself. It got to a point where I stopped turning up to those sessions because I knew you would be there, hounding me with the same message. If I'm being honest, I was embarrassed. As I've gotten older, I've become someone that young players and parents speak to and ask for advice. It's not something I take lightly. I think about what you would have said to them, what you said to me, the things you told me to improve. As much as the game has changed, it's still the same.



Team mates at last. Celebrating Wrighty's first league goals – a hat-trick at Southampton, Rocky also scored in a 4-0 win

Celebrating together, away to West Ham, in 1992

We weren't just friends, we were brothers. You would come to watch me play for Palace religiously. And then Arsenal happened. Think about how many times we acted out being in the same team one day. Wright to Rocastle. Rocastle back to Wright. Two Brockley boys.

That night before our first game as teammates, we must have spoken for over five hours. Even in that moment where I was still doubting myself, you were reassuring me as always and telling me how you would make everyone work to get me my goals so I could settle in.

I'll never forget that moment when you told me you had been sold to Leeds. Everything froze. I didn't know how to feel and I still don't like thinking about it. There was no Arsenal without you. I took it personally. I joined because of you. I went into those offices demanding answers.

We had come too far. I couldn't stop thinking of that moment against Leicester when I scored my first goal and saw you, Paul Davis, Michael Thomas and Kevin Campbell coming towards me.

I still think about our holidays together with our families. The pictures serve as reminders of those precious moments. I'm Uncle Ian now bro and just know that I've got them. Without fail, the first call I get on Father's day is from Mel. You would be so proud of Ryan, Monique, Mel and Janet. They've worked so closely with the club to make sure your legacy lives on.

We've had a crazy year (long story) but I can't wait to hear our fans sing your name home and away.

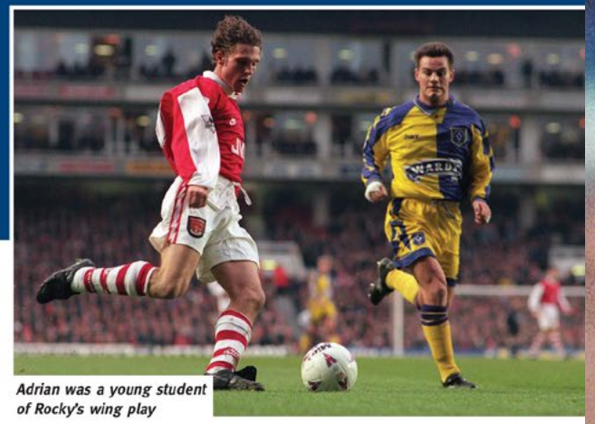
Love you always my brother,
Ian

THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD

ADRIAN ON ROCKY

Our analyst Adrian Clarke was a youth player at the club by the time David Rocastle had progressed to the first team, but he trained alongside him on occasions.

Adrian, a young emerging winger himself, also watched Rocky in competitive action regularly at Highbury, and says he was always one of the players he was a big fan of. Here he gives us a bit more insight into his style of play.



Adrian was a young student of Rocky's wing play

Arrowing in another fierce drive

I was lucky enough to spend five years marveling at David Rocastle's magical wing play from Highbury's West Stand Lower before joining Arsenal as an apprentice in 1991 – and he was every bit as brilliant as people tell you when they reminisce. His talent on the ball was special but first and foremost Rocky was a fiercely competitive 'Arsenal Man'.

Wingers can sometimes be a little soft, but Rocky was physically and mentally tough. And because he'd fight and scrap for the badge with the kind of unflinching determination that supporters yearn for in the modern game, everybody loved him.

Like many of his teammates brought up at Arsenal during that era, there was a winners' spirit burning inside Rocastle.

In one-on-ones Rocky was dynamite.

He'd torment full backs with his shuffle (throwing one leg over the ball, dropping a shoulder and then driving past them on the outside) and he'd even throw in a double shuffle on occasion just to rub it in.

In my view he had the full winger's package.

Elegant on the ball, full of tricks and turns; quick and powerful (like, really powerful), great at pressing and tracking back; and of course most importantly his end product was also first class.

Time and again I'd watch him get the wrong side of a full back before whipping a quality cross along the face of goal. Every now and then he'd arrow a fierce drive of his own into the bottom corner too.

When Highbury united as one to sing 'Oh Rocky, Rocky; Rocky, Rocky, Rocky, Rocky Rocastle' you just couldn't not sing along with it.

Between 1991 and 1992 I was privileged to get the odd opportunity to train alongside David Rocastle at London Colney, and at close quarters he was even more impressive.

Very professional and an absolute machine once he got into his full stride, it was a relief to me that I wasn't a left back charged with the task of stopping him.

Rocky lit up English football for Arsenal in the late 80s and early 90s, and his rounded skill set would have made him a superstar in the modern game too.

Wingers as good as David Rocastle don't come around too often.■

As a fierce competitor, Rocky relished the north London derby

THE BREAKDOWN FIRST-TEAM

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FIXTURES, RESULTS & LINE-UPS

Green = 1st sub
Gold = 2nd sub
Blue = 3rd sub
Burgundy = 4th sub
Pink = 5th sub

● = Win
● = Draw
● = Loss
+ = Won on pens

= Premier League
= UEFA Europa League
= Carabao Cup
= Emirates FA Cup
= Community Shield

Bold fixture = Scorer
Bold player = Goal scored
• = Goal
• = Penalty

* = Own Goal
CAPS = Captain
▮ = Yellow card
▯ = Red card
= Played at Wembley Stadium

	DATE	OPPOSITION	F-A	POS /RND	ATT/KO	STARTING XI											SUBSTITUTES									REFEREE
SEPTEMBER	Sat 29	Liverpool	1-1+ ●	CS	BCD #	Martinez	Bellerin	Holding	David Luiz	Tierney	M-Niles	Elneny	Xhaka	Saka	Nketiah	AUBAMEYANG •	Cedric(59)	Nelson(82)	Willock(82)	Kolasinac(83)	Saliba	Smith Rowe	John-Jules	Olayinka	Leno	A. Mariner
	Sat 12	Fulham	3-0 ●	1	BCD	Leno	Bellerin ▮	Holding	**Gabriel** •	Tierney	M-Niles	Elneny	Xhaka	Willian	**Lacazette** •	**AUBAMEYANG** • ▮	Pepe(75)	Ceballos(78)	Nketiah(87)	Saka	Willock	Kolasinac	Macey			C. Kavanagh
	Sat 19	**West Ham United**	**2-1** ●	**2**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Gabriel	Kolasinac	Saka	Ceballos	Xhaka	Willian	**Lacazette** •	AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(64)	**Nketiah** •(77)	David Luiz(89)	M-Niles	Elneny	Willock	Macey			M. Oliver
	Wed 23	Leicester City	2-0* ●	CC3	BCD	Leno	M-Niles	Holding	DAVID LUIZ	Kolasinac	Saka	Elneny ▮	Willock	Pepe	Nelson	**Nketiah** •	Willian(72)	Ceballos(78)	Bellerin(87)	Saliba	Lacazette	Xhaka	Runarsson			P. Bankes
	Mon 28	Liverpool	1-3 ●	5	BCD	Leno	Bellerin ▮	Holding	David Luiz	Tierney	M-Niles	Elneny	Xhaka	Willian	**Lacazette** •	AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60) ▮	Pepe(68)	Nketiah(74)	Gabriel	Saka	Kolasinac	Runarsson			C. Pawson
OCTOBER	Thur 1	Liverpool	0-0+ ●	CC4	BCD	Leno	Cedric ▮	Holding	Gabriel	Kolasinac	Saka	Willock	XHAKA ▮	Ceballos	Pepe	Nketiah	Elneny(68)	Lacazette(82)	M-Niles(86)	Tierney	David Luiz	Nelson	Runarsson			K. Friend
	Sun 4	**Sheffield United**	**2-1** ●	**4**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	David Luiz	Gabriel	Tierney	**Saka** •	Elneny	Ceballos	Willian	Nketiah	AUBAMEYANG	**Pepe**•(58)	Xhaka(81)	M-Niles(87)	Willock	Holding	Lacazette	Runarsson			L. Mason
	Sat 17	Manchester City	0-1 ●	5	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	David Luiz	Gabriel	Tierney	Saka	Ceballos	Xhaka	Pepe	Willian	AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(69)	Nketiah(83)	Partey(83)	Elneny	M-Niles	Runarsson				C. Kavanagh
	Thur 22	Rapid Vienna	2-1 ●	MD1	3,000	Leno ▮	Cedric	**David Luiz** •	Gabriel	Kolasinac	**Saka**	Elneny	Partey ▮	Pepe	LACAZETTE ▮	Nketiah ▮	Aubameyang(61)•	Bellerin(61)	Tierney(84)	Willock(84)	Nelson(90)	Mustafi	M-Niles	Xhaka	Runarsson	Macey	P. Kralovec
	Sun 25	**Leicester City**	**0-1** ●	**10**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin ▮	David Luiz	Gabriel	Tierney	Saka	Ceballos	Partey	Xhaka ▮	Lacazette ▮	AUBAMEYANG	Mustafi(49)	Pepe(65)	Nketiah(81)	Elneny	M-Niles	Willock	Runarsson			C. Pawson
	Thur 29	**Dundalk**	**3-0** ●	**MD2**	**BCD**	Runarsson	Cedric	XHAKA	Mustafi	Kolasinac	M-Niles	Elneny	**Willock** •	Nelson	Pepe •	**Nketiah** •	Ceballos(61)	Willian(62)	Tierney(74)	Balogun(74)	Gabriel	Saka	Partey	Aubameyang	Bellerin	Lacazette	Leno	Hein	F. Glova
NOVEMBER	Sun 1	Manchester United	1-0 ●	8	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	Holding ▮	Gabriel ▮	Tierney	Saka	Elneny	Partey	Willian	Lacazette	**AUBAMEYANG**• ▮	Nketiah(76)	M-Niles(86)	Mustafi(87)	Xhaka	Pepe	Ceballos	Runarsson			M. Dean
	Thur 5	**Molde**	**4-1**●**	**MD3**	**BCD**	Leno	M-Niles	David Luiz ▮	Mustafi	Kolasinac	**Willock** •	Ceballos	XHAKA	Willian	**Pepe** •	Nketiah	Cedric(64)	Saka(64) ▮	Elneny(80)	Tierney(80)	Lacazette	Gabriel	Bellerin	Aubameyang	Partey	Holding	Runarsson	Macey	H. Meier
	Sun 8	**Aston Villa**	**0-3** ●	**11**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Gabriel	Tierney	Saka	Elneny	Partey	Willian	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(46)	Pepe(65)	Nketiah(65)	M-Niles	David Luiz	Xhaka	Runarsson			M. Atkinson
	Sun 22	Leeds United	0-0 ●	11	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Gabriel	Tierney	Xhaka	Ceballos	Willock	Pepe ▮	Willian	AUBAMEYANG	Nelson(46)	Saka(57)	M-Niles(90)	Lacazette	Mustafi	Nketiah	Runarsson			A. Taylor
	Thur 26	Molde	3-0 ●	MD4	600	Runarsson	Cedric	David Luiz	Mustafi	M-Niles	Xhaka	Willock	**Nelson** •	**Pepe** •	Nketiah	LACAZETTE	Holding(46)	Ceballos(62)	Tierney(75)	Smith Rowe(75)	**Balogun**•(82)	Cottrell	Azeez	Bellerin	Macey	Hein	I. Peljto
	Sun 29	**Wolves**	**1-2** ●	**14**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin ▮	David Luiz	**Gabriel** •	Tierney ▮	Xhaka	Ceballos	Willock	Willian	Saka	AUBAMEYANG	Holding(46) ▮	Nelson(65)	Lacazette(80)	Cedric	Nketiah	Elneny	Runarsson			M. Oliver
DECEMBER	**Thur 3**	**Rapid Vienna**	**4-1** ●	**MD5**	**2,000**	Runarsson	Cedric	**Mari** •	Mustafi ▮	Kolasinac	M-Niles	Elneny ▮	Nelson	Saka	**Nketiah** •	**LACAZETTE** •	**Smith Rowe**•(63)	Ceballos(63)	Willian(63)	Chambers(70)	Balogun(81)	Tierney	Saka	Holding	Willock	Azeez	Macey	Leno	R. Petrescu
	Sun 6	Tottenham Hotspur	0-2 ●	15	2,000	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Gabriel	Tierney	Xhaka ▮	Partey	Saka	Willian	Lacazette ▮	AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(45)	Nketiah(75)	Mustafi	Elneny	Willock	M-Niles	Runarsson			M. Atkinson
	Thur 10	Dundalk	4-2 ●	MD6	BCD	Runarsson	Cedric ▮	Mari	Chambers	Mustafi	M-Niles	Elneny •	**Willock** ▮ •	Smith Rowe	Pepe	**Nketiah** •	Ceballos(62)	**Balogun**(62) •	Cottrell(77)	Azeez(83)	Holding	Saka	Hein	Macey		I. Bebek
	Sun 13	**Burnley**	**0-1** ●	**15**	**2,000**	Leno	Bellerin ▮	Holding	Gabriel	Tierney	Xhaka ▮	Elneny ▮	Saka	Willian	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60)	M-Niles(74)	Nketiah(77)	Willock	Smith Rowe	Mustafi	Runarsson			G. Scott
	Wed 16	**Southampton**	**1-1** ●	**15**	**BCD**	Leno	M-Niles	Holding	Gabriel ▮	Tierney	Ceballos ▮	Elneny	Saka	Pepe	Nketiah	**AUBAMEYANG** •	David Luiz(65)	Willock(67)	Cedric(85)	Willian	Lacazette	Mustafi	Runarsson			P. Tierney
	Sat 19	Everton	1-2 ●	15	2,000	Leno	M-Niles	HOLDING	David Luiz	Tierney ▮	Ceballos	Elneny ▮	Saka	**Pepe** •	Willian	Nketiah	Willock ▮ (64)	Martinelli(71)	Lacazette(76)	Cedric	Bellerin	Smith Rowe	Kolasinac	Mustafi	Runarsson		A. Marriner
	Tue 22	**Manchester City**	**1-4** ●	**QF**	**BCD**	Runarsson	Cedric	Mustafi ▮	Gabriel	Kolasinac	Ceballos	Elneny ▮	M-Niles	Willock	Martinelli	**LACAZETTE** •	Pepe(49)	Smith Rowe(66)	Balogun(77)	Mari	Tierney	Nketiah	Leno			S. Attwell
	Sat 26	**Chelsea**	**3-1** ●	**14**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Mari ▮	Tierney ▮	**Xhaka** •	Elneny	**Saka** •	Smith Rowe	Martinelli	**LACAZETTE** •	Willock(65)	Pepe(71)	Mustafi(90)	Ceballos	Aubameyang	Cedric	Nketiah	M-Niles	Runarsson		M. Oliver
	Tue 29	Brighton & HA	1-0 ●	13	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Mari	Tierney	Xhaka	Elneny	Saka	Smith Rowe	Martinelli	AUBAMEYANG	**Lacazette**•(63)	Ceballos(81)	M-Niles(89)	Willock	Cedric	Mustafi	Pepe	Nketiah	Runarsson		M. Atkinson
JANUARY	Sat 2	West Brom	4-0 ●	11	BCD	Leno	Bellerin ▮	Holding	Mari	**Tierney** •	Xhaka	Ceballos ▮	**Saka** •	Smith Rowe	**Lacazette**	AUBAMEYANG	M-Niles(54)	Willian(71)	Willock(77)	Pepe	David Luiz	Elneny	Martinelli	Nketiah	Runarsson		M. Atkinson
	Sat9	**Newcastle United**	**2-0** ●	**R3**	**BCD**	Leno	Cedric ▮	David Luiz	Mari	Tierney	Willock	Elneny	Nelson	Willian	Pepe	**AUBAMEYANG** •	**Smith Rowe**•(56) ▮	Xhaka(66)	Saka(66)	Lacazette(105)	Balogun(120)	Chambers	Nketiah	Runarsson			C. Kavanagh
	Thur 14	**Crystal Palace**	**0-0** ●	**11**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	David Luiz ▮	M-Niles	Xhaka	Ceballos	Saka	Smith Rowe	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(65)	Partey(69)	Nketiah(81)	Willock	Cedric	Gabriel	Willian	Chambers	Runarsson		A. Marriner
	Mon 18	**Newcastle United**	**3-0** ●	**10**	**BCD**	Leno	Cedric	Holding	David Luiz	Tierney	Xhaka	Partey	**Saka** •	Smith Rowe	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG ••	Elneny(67)	Willian(79)	Martinelli(81)	Willock	Bellerin	Gabriel	Nketiah	Pepe	Runarsson		D.Coote
	Sat 23	Southampton	0-1 ●	R4	BCD	Leno	BELLERIN	Holding	Gabriel	Cedric	Xhaka	Elneny	Willian	Pepe	Martinelli	Nketiah	Partey(57)	Saka(58)	Lacazette(72)	Willock	M-Niles	Chambers	David Luiz	Ryan	Runarsson		P. Bankes
	Tue 26	Southampton	3-1 ●	8	BCD	Leno	BELLERIN ▮	Holding	David Luiz	Cedric	Xhaka	Partey	**Saka** •	Smith Rowe	**Pepe** • ▮	**Lacazette** •	Willian(72)	Elneny(78)	Willock(90)	Gabriel	M-Niles	Chambers	Nketiah	Martinelli	Ryan		K.Friend
	Sat 30	**Manchester United**	**0-0** ●	**9**	**BCD**	Leno	BELLERIN	Holding	David Luiz	Cedric ▮	Xhaka	Partey	Martinelli	Smith Rowe	Pepe	Lacazette	Willian(46)	Odegaard(83)	Nketiah(90)	Gabriel	M-Niles	Chambers	Elneny	Willock	Runarsson		M. Oliver
FEBRUARY	Tue 2	Wolves	1-2 ●	10	BCD	Leno ▮	BELLERIN	Holding	David Luiz ▮	Cedric	Xhaka ▮	Partey ▮	Saka	Smith Rowe	Pepe •	Lacazette	Gabriel(46)	Aubameyang(61)	Runarsson(74)	Ceballos	Odegaard	Chambers	Elneny	Martinelli	Willian		C. Pawson
	Sat 6	Aston Villa	0-1 ●	10	BCD	Ryan	BELLERIN	Holding	Gabriel	Cedric	Xhaka ▮	Partey ▮	Saka	Smith Rowe	Pepe	Lacazette	Aubameyang(59)	Odegaard(65)	Willian(74)	Ceballos	Chambers	Martinelli	Elneny	Mari	Runarsson		C. Kavanagh
	Sun 14	**Leeds United**	**4-2** ●	**9**	**BCD**	Leno	**Bellerin** •	David Luiz	Gabriel	Cedric	Xhaka	Ceballos	Saka	Smith Rowe	Odegaard	**AUBAMEYANG** •••	Willian(62)	Elneny(78)	Holding(89)	Pepe	Chambers	Lacazette	Mari	Martinelli	Ryan		S. Attwell
	Thur 18	Benfica	1-1 ●	R32	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	David Luiz	Gabriel	Cedric	Xhaka	Ceballos	**Saka** •	Smith Rowe	Odegaard	AUBAMEYANG	Tierney(64)	Pepe(77)	Martinelli(77)	Willian(89)	Elneny(89)	Chambers	Lacazette	Mari	Nketiah	Ryan	Runarsson	C. Cakir
	Sun 21	**Manchester City**	**0-1** ●	**10**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin ▮	Holding	Mari	Tierney	Xhaka ▮	Elneny	Saka	Odegaard	Pepe	AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(73)	Smith Rowe(73)	David Luiz(82)	Ceballos(86)	Gabriel	Willian	Martinelli	Cedric	Ryan		J. Moss
	Thur 25	**Benfica**	**3-2** ●	**R32**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	David Luiz	Gabriel	**Tierney**•	Xhaka	Ceballos	Saka	Smith Rowe	Odegaard	**AUBAMEYANG** ••	Willian(63)	Partey(63)	Lacazette(78)	Chambers(86)	Elneny(89)	Cedric	Pepe	Mari	Nketiah	Martinelli	Ryan	Hein	B. Kuipers
	Sun 28	Leicester City	3-1 ●	10	BCD	Leno	Cedric	**David Luiz** •	Mari	Tierney ▮	Xhaka	Elneny	**Pepe** •	Smith Rowe	Willian	**LACAZETTE** •	Odegaard(42)	Partey(66)	Aubameyang(83)	Bellerin	Saka	Ceballos	Holding	Martinelli	Ryan		P. Tierney
MARCH	Sat 6	Burnley	1-1 ●	10	BCD	Leno	Chambers	David Luiz	Mari	Tierney	Xhaka	Partey	Saka ▮	Odegaard	Willian	**AUBAMEYANG** •	Lacazette(63)	Pepe(69)	Ceballos(80)	Bellerin	Gabriel	Holding	Elneny	Martinelli	Ryan		A. Marriner
	Thur 11	Olympiacos	3-1 ●	R16	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	David Luiz	**Gabriel** • ▮	Tierney	Xhaka	Partey	Saka	Odegaard •	Willian	AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(55)	Smith Rowe(82)	Pepe(82)	**Elneny**•(82)	Lacazette(88)	Holding	Cedric	Martinelli	Mari	Chambers	Hein	Ryan	D. Siebert
	Sun 14	**Tottenham Hotspur**	**2-1** ●	**10**	**BCD**	Leno	Cedric	David Luiz	Gabriel	Tierney	Xhaka ▮	Partey	Saka	**Odegaard** •	Smith Rowe	**LACAZETTE** •	Pepe(46)	Willian(77)	Elneny(88)	Bellerin	Ceballos	Holding	Aubameyang	Chambers	Ryan		M. Oliver
	Thur 18	**Olympiacos**	**0-1** ●	**R16**	**BCD**	Leno	Bellerin	David Luiz	Gabriel	Tierney ▮	Xhaka ▮	Elneny	Ceballos	Smith Rowe	Pepe	AUBAMEYANG	Partey(57)	Odegaard(57)	Martinelli(81)	Chambers(82)	Holding	Lacazette	Cedric	Mari	Nelson	Nketiah	Ryan	Okonkwo	C. Grande
	Sun 21	West Ham United	3-3** ●	9	BCD	Leno	Chambers	David Luiz	Mari	Tierney	Xhaka	Partey	Saka	Odegaard	**Lacazette** • ▮	AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(74)	Smith Rowe(74)	Martinelli(81)	Gabriel	Ceballos	Holding	Cedric	Elneny	Ryan		J. Moss
APRIL	**Sat 3**	**Liverpool**			**8pm**																						
	Thur 8	**Slavia Prague**		**QF**	**8pm**																						
	Sun 11	Sheffield United			7pm																						
	Thur 15	Slavia Prague		QF	8pm																						
	Sun 18	**Fulham**			**1.30pm**																						
	Fri 23	**Everton**			**8pm**																						
	Thur 29	UEL SF L1		SF																							
MAY	S/S 1/2	Newcastle United																									
	Thur 6	**UEL SF L2**		**SF**																							
	S/S 8/9	**West Bromwich Albion**																									
	T/W 11/12	Chelsea																									
	Sat 15	Crystal Palace																									
	Sun 23	**Brighton & HA**																									
	Wed 26	UEFA Europa League Final																									

Benfica away game played in Rome, home game played in Athens

FIXTURES, RESULTS & LINE-UPS

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Bernd Leno	28	6	2	2	-	38
Bukayo Saka	24+1(5)	4+1(1)	+2	2	1	31+4(6)
Granit Xhaka	24+1(1)	7	1+1	1	1	34+2(1)
Hector Bellerin	22(1)	4+1	1	+1	1	28+2(1)
Kieran Tierney	22(1)	3+5	1	-	1	27+5(1)
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	21+3(9)	4+1(3)	1(1)	-	1(1)	27+4(14)
Rob Holding	20+2	+1	1	2	1	24+3
Alexandre Lacazette	19+6(11)	3+2(1)	+2	1+1(1)	-	23+11(13)
David Luiz	16+3(1)	7(1)	1	1	1	26+3(2)
Gabriel	15+1(2)	5(1)	1	2	-	23+1(3)
Willian	14+7	2+4	2	+1	-	18+12
Mohamed Elneny	13+4	5+4(2)	2	2+1	1	23+9(2)
Thomas Partey	12+3	2+2	+1	-	-	14+6
Emile Smith Rowe	12+2	3+4(1)	+1(1)	+1	-	15+8(2)
Dani Ceballos	11+8	4+5	-	2+1	-	17+14
Nicolas Pepe	10+11(5)	7+2(3)	2	2+1	-	21+14(8)
Cedric Soares	8+1	6+1	2	2	+1	18+3
Pablo Mari	7	2(1)	1	-	-	10(1)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	5+6	5	+1	2+1	1	13+8
Martin Odegaard	5+3(1)	3+1(1)	-	-	-	8+4(2)
Eddie Nketiah	3+11(1)	6(3)	1	2(1)	1	13+11(5)
Gabriel Martinelli	3+3	+2	1	1	-	5+5
Joe Willock	2+5	4+1(3)	1	3	+1	10+7(3)
Calum Chambers	2	1+3	-	-	-	3+3
Sead Kolasinac	1	4	-	3	+1	8+1
Mat Ryan	1	-	-	-	-	1
Shkodran Mustafi	+3	5	-	1	-	6+3
Reiss Nelson	+2	3+1(1)	1	1	+1	5+4(1)
Alex Runarsson	+1	4	-	1	-	5+1
Folarin Balogun	-	+4(2)	-	+1	-	+5(2)
Miguel Azeez	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Ben Cottrell	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Own goals	(2)	(2)	-	(1)	-	(5)

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Manchester City	30	22	5	3	43	71
2. Manchester Utd	29	16	9	4	24	57
3. Leicester City	29	17	5	7	21	56
4. Chelsea	29	14	9	6	19	51
5. West Ham Utd	29	14	7	8	10	49
6. Tottenham H.	29	14	6	9	19	48
7. Liverpool	29	13	7	9	12	46
8. Everton	28	14	4	10	3	46
9. Arsenal	**29**	**12**	**6**	**11**	**8**	**42**
10. Aston Villa	28	12	5	11	9	41
11. Leeds United	29	12	3	14	-2	39
12. Crystal Palace	29	10	7	12	-16	37
13. Wolves	29	9	8	12	-10	35
14. Southampton	29	9	6	14	-15	33
15. Burnley	29	8	9	12	-15	33
16. Brighton & HA	29	7	11	11	-4	32
17. Newcastle Utd	29	7	7	15	-20	28
18. Fulham	30	5	11	14	-15	26
19. West Brom	29	3	9	17	-37	18
20. Sheffield Utd	29	4	2	23	-34	14

As at Friday, April 2

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BEN WINSTON

When Arsenal played Valencia at Highbuy on April 4, 2001, just four days after David Rocastle's death, the matchday programme featured numerous eulogies to one of Arsenal's favourite sons.

Teenage supporter Ben Winston – a volunteer with the Arsenal Community Department – submitted his own, heartfelt tribute, which we printed with those of former team-mates and friends.

David Rocastle was the reason I got into football. I am a season ticket holder who is currently coaching football with Arsenal in the north of Israel, to kids who would not normally have the opportunity to play. Football is therefore a big part of my life. However football was a sport I didn't even like until I saw Rocky play at the age of seven. He was such a great player that I was mesmerised by him and after seeing him, started supporting the club. Four years ago, I started a tribute football team called Rocastle Rovers, a team that is still going strong.

Everyone knows that David was a fantastic player and loyal servant to the club. However David was also one of the nicest men I have ever met. I was very fortunate that in 1991 he allowed me to come and interview him for my school magazine. Rarely have I met such a kind, lovely and generous man. I was overcome by his warmth and personality. He is a one off, a legend, a genuine hero. I will never forget him.

Ben Winston, 2001

Two decades later, Ben has swapped north London for Los Angeles, and a highly successful career as a TV producer and director. Winning Emmys for his work on The Late Late Show with James Corden – he was also executive producer of the awards show last month. He has worked with some of the world's most celebrated music artists including One Direction, Shawn Mendes and Bruno Mars. Ben remains a huge Arsenal fan, who still feels the impact of his favourite player's death all those years ago. The matchday programme asked Ben to once again reflect on Rocky's influence as we commemorate the 20-year anniversary of his death.

DAVID ROCASTLE 1967 2001

Twenty years since his passing, it's a testament to how much David Rocastle meant to us all that we will still sing his name, still have his picture adorning our walls, still reminisce about the great times we had watching him. The meeting room in my office will always be named in his honour.

I've often thought about why David's legacy looms so large all these years on. Which other player's name from our 80s line up, is regularly sung by an entire stadium, often by fans too young to have even seen him play? It's worth remembering, although David means so much to us, it is only the over 30s amongst us that would have had the privilege to see him in an Arsenal shirt. Yet he remains a beloved icon and legend of our club to every supporter.

But here was a player we all would have wanted to be. If we had been born great enough to step on that hallowed turf, we would have all liked to have been like Rocky. He loved our club, played with his heart on his sleeve. He worked as we would have worked. Yet with a class and dignity to match. And his ability was second to none. Rocky had a silky, majestic quality on the ball, that had rarely been witnessed at Avenell Road before.

To top it all, his talent on the pitch was matched by his kindness off it.

I often think back to being that little boy walking in to the treatment room at Highbury to interview him for my school magazine. It's kind of crazy that it ever happened.

Struggling on the treatment table, out of the team with the knee injury that kept him on the sidelines for so long, he made time for this nine year-old kid to interview him for North West London Jewish Day School's magazine. I always remember him making me promise I wasn't working for The Sun undercover. As a young nervous kid, I thought he was serious. As an adult, I now appreciate the kindness of making me feel at ease whilst inside my head was exploding. He was my idol. A superhero in a red shirt. And there he was, answering my questions with patience and kindness, as I probably asked what his favourite colour was, or what would he have been if not a footballer.

David Rocastle was more than a player. He represented what was great about our football club. What some of us fell in love with. As time moves on, we will continue to see so much change around us. New stadium. New players. New manager. New owners. New crest. New competitions. But he will always remain as he was. He is our constant. Beloved and respected. An icon never forgotten.

Ben Winston 2021

LEFT TOP
Ben, 20 years on, now lives and works in Los Angeles

LEFT BELOW
The pages of eulogies in the programme 20 years ago, including Ben's

THIS PAGE
David and George Graham after an epic League Cup semi-final win over Tottenham

ARSENAL

MANAGER MIKEL ARTETA

RED SHIRTS WITH WHITE SLEEVES, WHITE SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SQ		
○	○	1	BERND	**LENO (GK)** (28)
○	○	2	HECTOR	**BELLERIN** (22/1)
○	○	3	KIERAN	**TIERNEY** (22/1)
○	○	6		**GABRIEL** (15+1/2)
○	○	7	BUKAYO	**SAKA** (24+1/5)
○	○	8	DANI	**CEBALLOS** (11+8)
○	○	9	ALEXANDRE	**LACAZETTE** (19+6/11)
○	○	11	MARTIN	**ODEGAARD** (5+3/1)
○	○	12		**WILLIAN** (14+7)
○	○	13	ALEX	**RUNARSSON (GK)** (0+1)
○	○	14	PIERRE-EMERICK	**AUBAMEYANG** (21+3/9)
○	○	16	ROB	**HOLDING** (20+2)
○	○	17		**CEDRIC** SOARES (8+1)
○	○	18		**THOMAS** PARTEY (12+3)
○	○	19	NICOLAS	**PEPE** (10+11/5)
○	○	21	CALUM	**CHAMBERS** (2)
○	○	22	PABLO	**MARI** (7)
○	○	23		**DAVID LUIZ** (16+3/1)
○	○	24	REISS	**NELSON** (0+2)
○	○	25	MOHAMED	**ELNENY** (12+4)
○	○	30	EDDIE	**NKETIAH** (3+11/1)
○	○	32	EMILE	**SMITH ROWE** (12+2)
○	○	33	MAT	**RYAN (GK)** (1)
○	○	34	GRANIT	**XHAKA** (24+1/1)
○	○	35	GABRIEL	**MARTINELLI** (3+3)
○	○	38	FOLARIN	**BALOGUN**
○	○	41	BEN	**COTTRELL**
○	○	66	MIGUEL	**AZEEZ**
○	○	∞	DAVID	**ROCASTLE**

LIVERPOOL

MANAGER JURGEN KLOPP

LIGHT BLUE SHIRTS, SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SQ		
○	○	1		**ALISSON (GK)** (24)
○	○	3		**FABINHO** (19+2)
○	○	4	VIRGIL	**VAN DIJK** (5/1)
○	○	5	GEORGINIO	**WIJNALDUM** (27+2/2)
○	○	6		**THIAGO** ALCANTARA (12+3)
○	○	7	JAMES	**MILNER** (8+12)
○	○	8	NABY	**KEITA** (7+3)
○	○	9	ROBERTO	**FIRMINO** (25+2/6)
○	○	10	SADIO	**MANE** (24+2/7)
○	○	11	MOHAMED	**SALAH** (26+2/17)
○	○	12	JOE	**GOMEZ** (6+1)
○	○	13		**ADRIAN (GK)** (3)
○	○	14	JORDAN	**HENDERSON** (20+1/1)
○	○	15	ALEX	**OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN** (2+7)
○	○	17	CURTIS	**JONES** (12+8/1)
○	○	19	OZAN	**KABAK** (5)
○	○	20	DIOGO	**JOTA** (7+5/6)
○	○	21	KOSTAS	**TSIMIKAS** (0+1)
○	○	23	XHERDAN	**SHAQIRI** (5+7)
○	○	26	ANDREW	**ROBERTSON** (29/1)
○	○	27	DIVOCK	**ORIGI** (2+7)
○	○	28	BEN	**DAVIES**
○	○	32	JOEL	**MATIP** (9+1/1)
○	○	46	RHYS	**WILLIAMS** (2+1)
○	○	47	NATHANIEL	**PHILLIPS** (8+2)
○	○	58	BEN	**WOODBURN**
○	○	62	CAOIMHIN	**KELLEHER (GK)** (2)
○	○	66	TRENT	**ALEXANDER-ARNOLD** (25+2/1)
○	○	76	NECO	**WILLIAMS** (3+2)

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

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE
Martin Atkinson

ASSISTANT REFEREES
Constantine Hatzidakis
Sian Massey-Ellis

FOURTH OFFICIAL
Andre Marriner

VAR
Jonathan Moss

ASSISTANT VAR
Andy Halliday

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Chelsea v West Bromwich Albion (12.30pm)

Leeds United v Sheffield United (3pm)

Leicester City v Manchester City (5.30pm)

Helping young people fulfil their potential through education and sport

The Arsenal Foundation