

CHAMPIONS WORLD SERIES 2004

07/31/2004 8pm SkyDome, Toronto, ON

\$10

CELTIC — VERSUS — AS ROMA



OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM



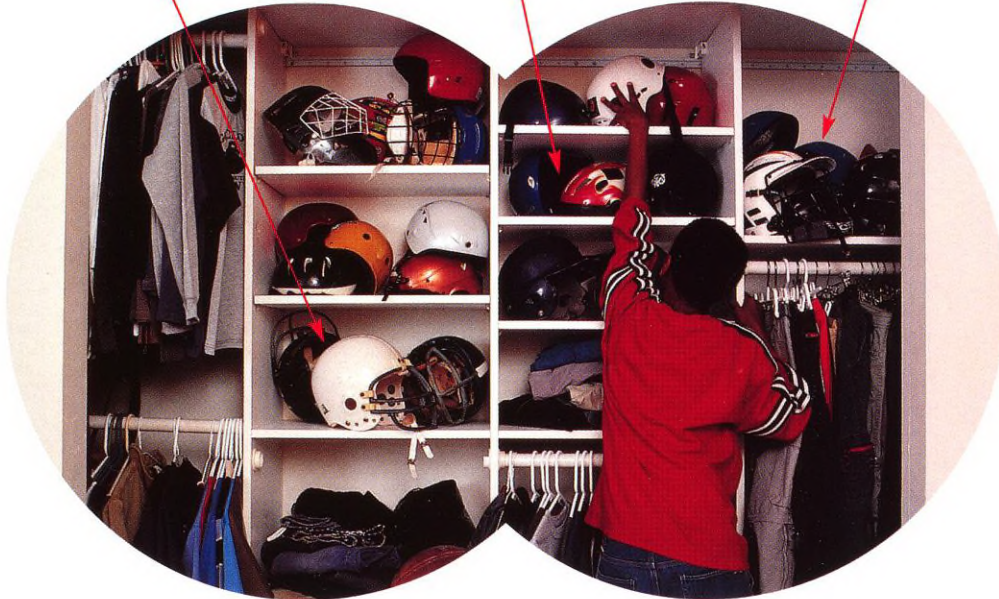
CHAMPIONSWORLD
S E R I E S



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Welcome



Hello and welcome to the 2004 ChampionsWorld Series.

We are pleased to have you join us for what promises to be another remarkable summer of soccer featuring many of the game's most entertaining stars and its most famous clubs. This year's lineup brings Manchester United, Chelsea, Celtic, AC Milan, AS Roma, Liverpool, FC Porto, Galatasaray and Bayern Munich to the United States for a unique 11-game series to be played across North America over the course of 11 days.

This year we are extremely pleased to be able to bring the excitement of international football to some new fans and new cities, with our games at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Rentschler Field in Hartford and in Toronto at SkyDome.

Once again we are privileged to have been able to assemble the greatest collection of soccer talent this side of the World Cup. Combined, a total of 55 players will have competed in the 2004 European Championship in Portugal before rejoining their teams for the ChampionsWorld Series.

I'd like to offer special thanks to the many thousands of fans who have traveled great distances to attend the matches. Not only the huge number of supporters from England, Germany, Italy, Scotland, Turkey, and Portugal who have made the journey to watch their favorite teams, but also the incredible number of American fans who have come to the games by every means possible to help bring the energy, atmosphere and excitement these great teams deserve.

Our goal at ChampionsWorld is to bring the very best teams in the soccer world to North America to showcase their incredible technical ability, passion and skill against other quality teams to create exciting games in stadia with unforgettable atmosphere. While this year's matches have begun, we are already hard at work to make sure that we will continue to meet and exceed our goals next summer and beyond.

Before the final kick of this year's ChampionsWorld Series, the games will have been seen on worldwide television broadcasts, and witnessed live by fans from every state in the United States and dozens of countries. We're honored that you chose to spend a part of your summer with us, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Best wishes,

Charlie Stillitano
CEO, ChampionsWorld LLC



ChampionsWorld Series US Tour Program 2004

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Published by
Haymarket Customer Publishing
38-42 Hampton Road
Teddington
Middlesex
TW11 0JE
England
www.haycustpub.co.uk
Tel ++ 44 208 267 5000

Printed at RR Donnellys, Illinois, USA
Repro by Colour Systems, London, UK

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CHAMPIONSWORLD
S E R I E S

This publication was produced
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ChampionsWorld Series

It's no exaggeration to say that this year's ChampionsWorld contenders are the cream of the European crop. A glut of League champions – among them the newly crowned European club champion – with a glittering array of many of the world's best players in their ranks, are set to make this year's competition one to remember...

Celtic v Chelsea

QWEST FIELD



Game number: 1 Date: 07.24.04 Kickoff: 1pm
City: Seattle, WA Capacity: 67,000

Can Celtic continue to reign supreme without the prolific Henrik Larsson, who left the Glasgow club at the end of last season? This match with Chelsea will show how well last season's Scottish champion copes without the Swedish striker's constant supply of goals – an even sterner test given that the Londoners' defense, marshaled by John Terry, is famously tough.

Manchester United v Bayern Munich

SOLDIER FIELD



Game number: 2 Date: 07.25.04 Kickoff: 3pm
City: Chicago, IL Capacity: 63,000

This will be a rematch of the classic 1999 Champions League final in Barcelona when United clinched a dramatic victory over the Germans with two injury-time goals. Two years later Bayern Munich gained its revenge by knocking United out of the Champions League on its way to lifting the trophy. Who will triumph in Chicago?

Celtic v Liverpool

RENTSCHLER FIELD



Game number: 3 Date: 07.26.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: East Hartford, CT Capacity: 40,000

While they might play in different leagues, these giants of Scottish and English football are certainly no strangers. They met in the quarter-final of the 2002/03 UEFA Cup, playing out a 1-1 draw in Glasgow, before Celtic upset Liverpool – and the odds – winning 2-0 at Anfield. At Rentschler Field Liverpool will be hoping to recapture some British pride.

Manchester United v Celtic

LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD



Game number: 4 Date: 07.28.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: Philadelphia, PA Capacity: 68,532

Manchester United have plenty to prove after last season's Premiership and Champions League disappointments. New signings Alan Smith and Liam Miller (once of Celtic), should give Sir Alex Ferguson's side renewed zest, but the Reds will be facing a Celtic side eager to wipe out the memory of losing 4-0 to United in last season's ChampionsWorld Series.

Chelsea v AS Roma

HEINZ FIELD



Game number: 5 Date: 07.29.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: Pittsburgh, PA Capacity: 64,450

The Premier League runner-up will know it faces a stern test against Italy's second-placed team. Roma may have failed to win last season's *Scudetto*, but it had the league's best defense (just 19 goals conceded in 34 games) and offense (scoring three more goals than champions Milan). Oh, and it has a useful player by the name of Francesco Totti.

2004 schedule

FC Porto v Liverpool

SKYDOME



Game number: 6 Date: 07.30.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: Toronto, ON, Canada Capacity: 53,506
Porto's joy at winning last season's Champions League was swiftly tempered by the exit of the man who made it all possible, Jose Mourinho, but it still has a squad boasting Benni McCarthy, Carlos Alberto and Vitor Baia. In this game at the SkyDome, Liverpool, beginning a new era of its own, will hope to capitalize on this changing of the guard.

Manchester United v AC Milan

GIANTS STADIUM



Game number: 7 Date: 07.31.04 Kickoff: 1pm
City: East Rutherford, NJ Capacity: 80,242
Manchester United should recognize the man at the heart of the Milan defense - Dutch international Jaap Stam who played for United from 1998 to 2001. Stam joined Milan - who added this year's *Scudetto* to the 2002/03 Champions League - this summer, just in time for the first competitive game between these two since the semi-finals of the European Cup in May 1969.

Celtic v AS Roma

SKYDOME



Game number: 8 Date: 07.31.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: Toronto, ON, Canada Capacity: 53,506
Given its dominance of Scottish football, Celtic increasingly relish the chance to test itself against top European sides and over the last two years it has been getting pretty good at it. In the 2002/03 season it beat Juventus in the Champions League, before reaching the UEFA Cup final; last season it knocked Barcelona out of the same competition.

FC Porto v Galatasaray

GIANTS STADIUM



Game number: 9 Date: 08.01.04 Kickoff: 2.45pm
City: East Rutherford, NJ Capacity: 80,242
Galatasaray are Turkey's most successful team (and their sole European trophy-winner), but the team travels to the USA after one of its worst seasons in recent history, finishing sixth in the table, 22 points behind champion Fenerbahce. The comeback starts here but Porto, buoyed by Champions League triumph, will be in no mood to do anyone any favors.

AC Milan v Chelsea

LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD



Game number: 10 Date: 08.02.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: Philadelphia, PA Capacity: 68,532
The squads for this game are a *Who's Who* of world football. Milan boasts the defensive brilliance of Alessandro Nesta and Paolo Maldini, the Brazilian flair of Cafu and Kaka and the goal machine that is Andriy Shevchenko. Thanks to Roman Abramovich, Chelsea can match that with Claude Makele, Frank Lampard, Damien Duff and Adrian Mutu. Enjoy!

AS Roma v Liverpool

GIANTS STADIUM



Game number: 11 Date: 08.03.04 Kickoff: 8pm
City: East Rutherford, NJ Capacity: 80,242
This is the fifth meeting between these two sides in the last three years so if familiarity really does breed contempt, they ought to hate one other! In the 2000/01 UEFA Cup fourth round, Liverpool won 2-1 over two legs. Then the following season they were drawn in the same Champions League group; Liverpool won 2-0 at Anfield, then held out for a 0-0 in the Stadio Olimpico.

ChampionsWorld guide

1 England

ChampionsWorld Teams:

Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool

All-time heroes: Sir Bobby Charlton (pictured), Bobby Moore



Modern-day icons: David Beckham, Michael Owen

European trophies won by English clubs: 23

Style: Until the early 1990s, English soccer was primarily renowned for its frenetic pace and aggressive style, but it lacked technical skill. That didn't, however, seem to hinder clubs such as Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa, who all won European Cups in the late-1970s and early-1980s (Liverpool actually managed the feat four times in eight years). But now, largely due to the influx of foreign stars lured by English soccer's financial clout, the English game is highly skilful. Add that to the fast action and never-say-die attitude and it's easy to see why the Premiership is now one of the most exciting leagues in the world. And although English teams have not enjoyed sustained European success, Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea are all established among the continent's top teams.



2 Scotland

ChampionsWorld Team: Celtic

All-time heroes: Kenny Dalglish (pictured), Denis Law

Modern-day icons: Darren Fletcher, James McFadden

European trophies won by Scottish clubs: 3

Style: Scottish soccer is fast, furious and entertaining, but suffers from a lack of competitiveness. Glasgow's two big clubs, Celtic and Rangers are well ahead of the rest, regularly finishing 30 points ahead of the team in third, one reason for their failure to turn their potential into European trophies. Nonetheless, a revitalized Celtic squad reached the UEFA Cup final in 2003 and both Glasgow teams have competed well in the Champions League. Outside these two, though, lack of money means that other clubs struggle to attract top players, but the Scottish game's partisan nature still makes it an enjoyable spectacle.



3 Portugal

ChampionsWorld Team: Porto

All-time heroes: Eusebio (pictured), Luis Figo

Modern-day icons: Deco, Cristiano Ronaldo

European trophies won by Portuguese clubs: 6

Style: These are good times for Portuguese soccer. For Euro 2004, all the country's major stadiums were rebuilt and Porto has reached – and won – two successive European finals. That was a desperately needed boost; Portuguese soccer is not lacking in skill but the glory days when Benfica ruled Europe had long gone, the league was predictable and the top Brazilian stars had gone elsewhere. Now there are reasons to be optimistic, but much of Portugal's best talent still heads abroad, leaving the domestic league behind the top European leagues.



to soccer in Europe

Under the illusion that the beautiful game is the same wherever it's played? Think again. Sure you'll always get speed, skill and passion in some measure, but a whistle-stop tour of Europe's ChampionsWorld nations shows six countries all with their own distinct way of doing things...

4 Germany

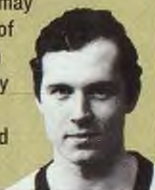
ChampionsWorld Team: Bayern Munich
All-time heroes: Franz Beckenbauer (pictured), Gerd Müller



Modern-day icons: Michael Ballack, Oliver Kahn

European trophies won by German clubs: 15

Style: Probably because the Germans pride themselves on technical ability, their local teams have never really captured the imagination of soccer fans outside the country. But while the *Bundesliga* may be slow compared to English soccer, and lacks the quality of Spain and Italy, a high level of skill and high-profile foreign imports mean German soccer rivals any in Europe. Germany has a competitive league, average crowds are among the highest in Europe, and there is a real fan culture associated with match days, with food, drink and organized chanting.



4

5 Italy

ChampionsWorld Teams: AS Roma, AC Milan

All-time heroes: Paolo Rossi, Dino Zoff (pictured)

Modern-day icons: Francesco Totti, Paolo Maldini

European trophies won by Italian clubs: 26

Style: A peculiarly Italian soccer culture means defending is seen as an art form, so soccer here can be a disappointing affair. Italians see a perfectly-timed tackle or a well-organized offside trap as heaven. But an impressive haul of European trophies shows it's been highly successful, and though Italy doesn't dominate Europe like it did in the 1990s, their biggest teams boast not only the best homegrown players, but also some of the world's top stars. For pure skill (defensive or otherwise) Italian soccer is the one to watch.



5

6 Turkey

ChampionsWorld Team: Galatasaray

All-time heroes: Hakan Sukur (pictured), Tugay

Modern-day icons: Nihat Kavechi, Recber Rustu

European trophies won by Turkish clubs: 1

Style: In the mid-1980s Turkish teams were regularly beaten at the early stages of European competition, but their qualification for Euro 96 sparked a dramatic improvement, peaking with Galatasaray's win over Arsenal in the 2000 UEFA Cup. The domestic league also improved, and top talent came to Turkey – including current Galatasaray manager Gheorgi Hagi, Romanian football's biggest star. The Turkish game is a passionate affair; many a European team has crumbled due to the intensity of the atmosphere both on and off the playing field.



6



AC Milan

FACT FILE

Founded: 1899
Sponsor: Meriva (Opel cars)
Website: www.acmilan.com
Honors: European Cup/Champions League 1963, 1969, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003 European Cup Winners' Cup 1968, 1973 European Super Cup 1989, 1990, 1995 World Club Cup 1969, 1989, 1990 Italian League 1901, 1906, 1907, 1951, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1962, 1968, 1979, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2004 Coppa Italia 1967, 1972, 1973, 1977, 2003

SAN SIRO



Widely referred to in Italy, and elsewhere, as the 'San Siro', Milan's stadium is officially the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza, named after a celebrated inside-forward who played for both Milan and Inter, and scored 33 goals in 55 internationals for Italy's national team. Any visitor to Milan's home field cannot fail to be impressed by its architectural splendor. Originally an uncovered rectangular bowl, the stadium was expanded for the 1990 World Cup with extra tiers of seating, huge cylindrical stairwells and a unique roof added to the original structure and fortified with giant red steel girders. One of the four steeply graded stands, the *Curva Sud*, houses the club's hard-core fans, or 'Ultras', who split themselves into factions: the *Fossa dei Lioni* (Lions' Den), *Commandos Tigre* (Tiger Commandos) and *Brigate Rossonere* (Red and Black Brigade). Naturally, Inter (which also uses the same stadium) is the common enemy but there is also a deep-seated loathing of Juventus, the only club to have won more *Serie A* titles than Milan.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Saturday July 31 Giants Stadium, East Rutherford
 ▼ Manchester United
 Monday August 2 Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia
 ▼ Chelsea

Topping a Champions League winning campaign is no easy task, but Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has the plaudits ringing in his ears yet again having orchestrated an imperious title-winning campaign by the all-conquering *Rossoneri*

Milan Associazione Calcio is one of the world's most famous soccer institutions. Billed across the globe as 'AC Milan' (to differentiate it from its local rivals 'Inter Milan'), the club is known in Italy just as Milan, not the Italian 'Milano'. Traditionally, Milan is one of the 'big three' of Italian soccer along with Inter and Turin's Juventus (although the two Rome clubs, Roma and Lazio, have both tried to break that stranglehold in recent years). Nicknamed the *Rossoneri*, or the Red and Blacks, after the two colors featuring on their striped shirts, the club was first founded as the 'Milan Cricket and Football Club' in 1899 by a group of English and Italian businessmen. That team

won its first Italian title just two years later, and added two more championships in its first decade, but then endured a 44-year wait for title number four.

By the early 1950s foreign imports were plentiful in Italian soccer and Milan scooped three of the best - Swedish attacking trio Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm. This trio, known by the acronym 'Grenoli', helped establish Milan as Italy's top team, but it was the advent of European competition that would bring out its best. Having lost the 1958 European Cup final to Real Madrid, Milan won the competition for the first time five years later, beating Portugal's Benfica 2-1 in the final, with Gianni Rivera, one of Italy's greatest midfielders, the star of the game.

Rivera spent 16 years at Milan, culminating in the 1978/79 *Serie A* title triumph, the tenth in the club's history, which meant its players could wear a gold star on their shirts. Hard times followed, though, including relegation to *Serie B* for the only time in the club's history, but Milan re-emerged as a major force in both Italy and Europe in the late 1980s, thanks to a major rebuilding initiative launched by wealthy media magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

The arrival of Dutchmen Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard propelled Milan to the 1988 *Serie A* title and to back-to-back European Cup wins in 1989 and 1990. In the early 1990s, Milan enjoyed a hat-trick of Italian titles and an unforgettable 4-0 win over Barcelona in the European Cup (now the Champions League) final of 1994. The team made it six European Cups in 2003 with a penalty shoot-out victory over

Juventus, and it arrives in America as the reigning Italian champion, after clinching its 17th *Scudetto** with two matches to spare on May 2, having dominated most of last season.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko, who scored the title-clinching goal, topped the *Serie A* hit-parade with 24 goals. Milan's second most dependable marksman was Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson who stood in during the latter part of the campaign for the injured Italian international Filippo Inzaghi, and bagged himself a dozen goals. Another 10 goals came from new acquisition Brazilian midfielder Kaká who joined a multi-talented midfield made up of Dutchman Clarence Seedorf, Italian workhorse Gennaro Gattuso and, at the base of the 'diamond', Andrea Pirlo.

Milan legend Paolo Maldini - a member of the team for almost 20 years, winning seven *Serie A* titles, four European Cups and countless other honors - was the main man on defense, and along with Alessandro Nesta he formed the backbone of a defense that conceded only 24 goals all season. The regular right back was Brazilian World Cup veteran Cafu, while ex-Lazio stalwart Giuseppe Pancaro was the first choice on the opposite flank. Another Brazilian, Dida, kept goal for all but two of the 34 games. And with a strong feeling that the current Milan team will stay more or less intact for the next couple of years, a new golden era appears to be well underway.

*The *Scudetto* is the tricolor badge worn by the reigning Italian champions on their shirts, and has a similar prestige to, say, that of the Green Jacket awarded to the winner of the Masters golf tournament at Augusta →



A league apart: Milan start the celebrations for a 17th *Scudetto* after victory over Brescia in May

Team profile

With Italy's top marksman leading the charge upfront, and a stalwart of the *Azzurri* defence keeping things watertight at the back, the *Rossoneri* is a team that fears no-one...

opta Serie A statistics provided by Opta



AC Milan faces the cameras ahead of its 2003/04 Champions League clash with Ajax in the San Siro. A 1-0 win set Milan on its way to the quarter-finals of the competition.

Nelson Dida Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	2,880
Goals conceded	20
Clean sheets	15
Saves made	89
Saves-to-shots ratio	82%
Catches	75
Dropped catches	6
Catch success rate	93%

Brazilian keeper Dida is in his second spell at the San Siro. Things failed to work out during an earlier spell with Milan and he headed back home to play for Corinthians (with whom he won the Brazilian title and the inaugural FIFA World Club Championship in 2000), but in 2002 he re-signed with Milan. After an impressive first season culminated in victory in the Champions League final, he extended his contract to run to 2007, and as Milan marched to the 2003/04 *Scudetto*, he started 32 of 34 *Serie A* games, more than any other player.

Andrea Pirlo Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on Pitch	2,697
Goals	6
Shots attempted	29
Shooting accuracy	41%
Goal assists	6
Total passes	2,479
Pass completion	84%
Tackles made	99
Tackles won	70%
Fouls	52
Yellow cards	3
Red cards	0

Formerly a bit player on Milan's local rival Internazionale, Pirlo joined the *Rossoneri* in 2001 and has improved by leaps and bounds over the past couple of seasons. A switch to a deeper-lying midfield role brought out the best in his passing and organizational skills, although he invariably ventures upfield when there are free-kicks to be taken. Also an excellent striker, the 25-year-old was part of Italy's Euro 2004 national team earlier this summer, having previously been the number one attraction in its under-21 team.

Alessandro Nesta Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	2,246
Goals	0
Goal assists	0
Total passes	1,216
Pass completion	88%
Tackles made	90
Tackles won	76%
Blocks	28
Clearances	162
Interceptions	29
Fouls	32
Yellow cards	6
Red cards	0

Rome-born Alessandro Nesta made his name with Lazio (the team he supported) but in 2002 moved to Milan to link up with his international defensive partner, Paolo Maldini. Nesta's debut for Italy's national team came in 1996 but his 1998 World Cup was derailed by injury, and France's extra-time win in the Euro 2000 final left him empty-handed. But his first season at Milan was more fruitful; his strength and pace proved pivotal in the 2003 Champions League, and he fired home from the spot as Milan beat Juventus 3-2 on penalties.

Andriy Shevchenko Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	2,686
Goals	24
Shots attempted	111
Shooting accuracy	49%
Conversion rate	22%
Minutes per goal	111.9
Goal assists	3
Total passes	619
Pass completion	74%
Fouls	41
Offside	33
Yellow cards	2
Red cards	0

Shevchenko was one of the few top European players not at the European Championships in Portugal this summer after Ukraine failed to qualify for the tournament. But the man who made his name with Dynamo Kyiv (he won five Ukrainian titles with that team) was much in evidence in the last *Serie A* season, adding another 24 goals to his ever-increasing tally for the *Rossoneri*. Those goals saw the 27-year-old crowned *Serie A's* leading marksman for the second time - he first won that award in 1999/00, his first season in Italy.

Carlo Ancelotti The coach

A 'Milanista' through and through, Ancelotti played for Milan with great distinction and success in the late 1980s and early 1990s, after first making his name with Roma. A combative, effervescent midfielder with a powerful right-foot shot, he won two European Cups with the club and played 26 times for Italy's national team. His coaching career began as the right-hand man to Arrigo Sacchi, coach of the national team during USA 94, before he came into his own at club level with Reggiana and Parma. His first major assignment was at Juventus, twice a *Serie A* runner-up. His reputation as a 'bridesmaid' vanished forever, though, after he led Milan to victory over Juve in the 2003 Champions League final. It was his first major honor as a coach, and he soon followed it up by winning the *Coppa Italia* and European Super Cup before leading the *Rossoneri* to that long-awaited *Serie A* title earlier this year.

AC Milan 2003/04 Serie A

Games played	34
Goals	65
Average goals per game	1.91
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	461
Shots on target	44%
Goals-to-shots ratio	14%
Passes attempted	17,837
Overall pass completion	84%
Total crosses	909
Cross completion	23%
Goals conceded	24
Average goals conceded per game	0.71
Tackles	986
Tackles won	75%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1,110
Fouls	588
Yellow cards	38
Red cards	4



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Manchester United



United celebrate victory in the FA Cup final in Cardiff in May 2004

Manchester United is back. A year after 271,488 witnessed the team's four ChampionsWorld Series games in Seattle, Los Angeles, New Jersey and Philadelphia, what is arguably the world's most popular (and certainly its most profitable) soccer club returns to take on Bayern Munich, Celtic and AC Milan. Last summer United was lavished with a positive reception from the US media and fans, and it repaid the top billing with straight victories over Celtic, Club America, Juventus and FC Barcelona – yet the past year hasn't been the most fruitful in the team's 126-year history.

The impressive form shown in the US last summer continued until Christmas as United led England's Premier League, but several factors ensured a relatively disappointing season. The key might be the absence of central defender Rio Ferdinand, the world's most expensive player when he transferred to Manchester from Leeds United for \$52m in 2002. Ferdinand's absentmindedness caused him to miss a routine drug test in September 2003 – the authorities were not impressed and imposed an eight-month playing ban that started in January. United's results dipped immediately and, coupled with future champion Arsenal's

A 68,000 capacity ground that is always full. A coach knighted for his devotion to – and rarely challenged – dominance of English soccer for more than a decade. Ladies and gentlemen, please be upstanding for Manchester United...



FACT FILE

Founded: 1878
Sponsor: Vodafone
Website: www.manutd.com
Honors: European Cup/UEFA Champions League 1968, 1999
 European Cup Winners' Cup 1991
 Inter-Continental Cup 1999 UEFA Super Cup 1991
 English League 1908, 1911, 1952, 1956, 1957, 1965, 1967, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003
 FA Cup 1909, 1948, 1963, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2004
 Football League Cup 1992
 FA Charity/Community Shield 15 times (four shared)

OLD TRAFFORD



Portuguese wonderkid Cristiano Ronaldo – a huge hit in 2003/04

Old Trafford – with 68,000 seats – is Britain's largest club soccer stadium. United's home since 1910, it has been comprehensively redeveloped since 1991, when the famous Stretford End – still the vibrant, vocal heartland of the team's support – was demolished. The stadium is always filled to capacity, and the constant demand for seats means seating will soon be expanded to 75,000.

As well as attracting fans from around the globe, United enjoys strong loyal local support, with three independent fanzines, huge banners and a great variety of songs. As well as United supporters, 3,000 visiting fans (9,000 for Cup games) are accommodated in the East Stand, which also houses the club's offices, the United Megastore, two tributes to the Munich air disaster and a statue of Sir Matt Busby. The triple-tier North Stand, complete with the world's largest-spanning cantilever roof, contains the club museum – another tourist trap. Old Trafford is such a wonder, it's understandable that it is often referred to as the 'Theatre of Dreams'.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Sunday July 25 Soldier Field, Chicago
 ▼ Bayern Munich
 Wednesday July 28 Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia
 ▼ Celtic
 Saturday July 31 Giants Stadium, East Rutherford
 ▼ AC Milan

unrelenting, unbeaten form, the team slipped to third place behind Arsenal and its wealthy London neighbor, Chelsea.

In European competition, United's form in the Champions League group stage was promising until it was eliminated after a heartbreaking last-minute goal by eventual winner FC Porto at United's home stadium, Old Trafford. Low spirits were compounded with a 4-1 defeat by Manchester rival City soon after that, but were lifted again by an FA Cup run which saw United win the competition a record 11th time, overcoming underdog Millwall 3-0 in the final.

There were other reasons for fans to feel positive. American goalkeeper Tim Howard enjoyed an outstanding first season, as did young Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo, whose wing trickery immediately found favor with the fans. Ronaldo wears the famous No.7 shirt, formerly worn by club legends David Beckham, Eric Cantona, Bryan Robson and United's all-time greatest player, Sir Bobby Charlton.

Charlton started his career as a star of the 'Busby Babes', a youthful collection of homegrown players managed by the legendary Matt Busby in the 1950s. Busby took over a club in ruin immediately after the Second World War. Until then, United was not considered a giant of English soccer, but Busby fashioned three great United teams in as many decades. The first won the FA Cup in 1948; the second was on the cusp of conquering Europe when eight of its players were killed in a plane crash in 1958. The tragedy led to an outpouring of public grief and garnered the team many new sympathetic supporters around the world.

Busby and Charlton survived to help the team recover – like a phoenix from the ashes – culminating when United was crowned European club champion at London's Wembley Stadium in 1968. That team, which included players like George Best, Pat Crerand and Denis Law (who unfortunately missed the European Cup final through injury), is remembered with affection, but as the players grew older decline set in, and the worst moment came when the team was relegated to a lower league in 1974.

United returned to form immediately, though, and was an attacking and entertaining Cup team in the 1970s and 1980s, but league success eluded it between 1967 and 1993, a time of dominance for arch-rival Liverpool. Yet, even while other clubs won more trophies, none attracted higher attendances.

Manager Alex Ferguson joined the club in 1986, but the benefits of his wisdom were not immediately noticed. Ferguson reorganized the club's youth system (a traditional source of talent) and by the early 1990s, Ferguson's policy had yielded results, with youth players Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and the Neville brothers – Gary and Phil – all established first-teamers. Ferguson's eye for emerging talent also saw largely unknown players like Peter Schmeichel, Denis Irwin, Gary Pallister, Lee Sharpe and Steve Bruce become stars. Supplemented by big-name signings Roy Keane, Paul Ince, Dwight Yorke, Andy Cole, the French genius Eric Cantona and more recent arrivals Ruud van Nistelrooy, Rio Ferdinand, Louis Saha and Ronaldo. The dominant English team for much of the last decade, United's vast fan base, commercial acumen – and great soccer – look set to keep it in the driving seat a fair while yet. →



Team profile

Manchester United struggled – by its high standard – in the English Premiership last year. So expect the eight-time winners in 11 seasons to come to the States blazing a trail in readiness for 2004/05...

opta Premiership statistics provided by Opta



United prepares to face FC Porto, UEFA Champions League second round, first leg, February 25, 2004. United exited the competition after a tense second leg in Manchester

Tim Howard Top keeper 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,880
Goals conceded	31
Clean sheets	12
Saves made	91
Saves-to-shots ratio	75%
Catches	56
Dropped catches	6
Catch success rate	90%

The crowd packed into Giants Stadium for United's match-up with AC Milan will be well aware of the talents of Tim Howard. The big goalkeeper from New Brunswick spent six seasons with New York/New Jersey Metrostars before clinching a \$4.2m move to Manchester, joining his fellow Americans Kasey Keller and Brad Friedel in the Premiership. It was a superb first season for Tim, who made the United keeper's jersey his own with a string of fine displays that showcased his organizational capabilities and excellent reflexes.

Gary Neville Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,690
Goals	2
Goal assists	3
Total passes	1,724
Pass completion	79%
Tackles made	63
Tackles won	86%
Blocks	19
Clearances	108
Interceptions	17
Fouls	22
Yellow cards	5
Red cards	0

As a child standing in Old Trafford's Stretford End, Gary Neville dreamed of one day playing for United. Unlike the majority of kids sharing that ambition, he had the ability to make it real, and by the age of 16 he'd signed for the Reds as a trainee. A year later he made his first-team debut in a UEFA Cup match against Torpedo Moscow, and less than two years later was a regular in United's defense. He's remained a permanent fixture at right full-back for United and England ever since, making almost 70 international appearances.

Roy Keane Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,197
Goals	3
Shots attempted	17
Shooting accuracy	47%
Goal assists	3
Total passes	1,767
Pass completion	87%
Tackles made	117
Tackles won	73%
Fouls	38
Yellow cards	2
Red cards	0

Critics look at Roy Keane's age – 34 next month – and assume that his ability and influence on Manchester United's midfield are on the wane. However, his efforts last season proved that, not only are doubters premature in writing him off, but that the recently restored Irish international remains the team's heartbeat. Last season he led the Reds to FA Cup success and his own 12th winner's medal with the club, showing many of the traits that have made him one of United's greats: drive, influence and no shortage of soccer ability.

Ruud van Nistelrooy Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,755
Goals	20
Shots attempted	82
Shooting accuracy	55%
Conversion rate	24%
Minutes per goal	137.75
Goal assists	2
Total passes	713
Pass completion	77%
Fouls	33
Offside	62
Yellow cards	4
Red cards	0

The United goal machine went through a lean spell last season, but still managed 30 goals in 44 matches. His goals took his running total since moving from PSV Eindhoven (for \$34.5 million in July 2001), to 110 in 145 matches. Amazingly, none of his goals were scored outside the penalty area but that only goes to prove that inside the box there are few better strikers. No wonder the Dutch international is regarded as one of the top marksmen in Europe – a theory he proved true with four goals in four matches during last season's US Tour.

Sir Alex Ferguson The coach

In charge since 1986, Sir Alex Ferguson is the most successful coach in United's history. Glasgow-born, he was a professional striker for Scottish team Rangers, among others, but it was in management that he really excelled. After spells with tiny East Stirling and St Mirren, he made unfashionable Aberdeen king of Scottish soccer. He also managed Scotland's national team in the 1986 World Cup finals. After arriving at Old Trafford, he rebuilt the club's youth system, and tasted success in 1990 with his first trophy, the FA Cup. United was crowned champion of England for the first time in 26 years in 1993 – and lifted the title in eight of the next 11 years. Ferguson's greatest managerial triumph was leading United to league, FA Cup and European Cup triple-crown success in May 1999. He is renowned for his unrelenting drive and commitment, and for his eye for new talent. Ferguson planned to retire in 2002 – a decision he thankfully reversed.



Manchester United 2003/04 Premiership

Games played	38
Goals	64
Average goals per game	1.68
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	422
Shots on target	45%
Goals-to-shots ratio	15%
Passes attempted	18,460
Overall pass completion	80%
Total crosses	1019
Cross completion	24%
Goals conceded	35
Average goals conceded per game	0.92
Tackles	1,080
Tackles won	72%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1,254
Fouls	469
Yellow cards	41
Red cards	3



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Bayern Munich

Although undoubtedly Germany's most successful soccer club of the modern era, Bayern Munich took a long time to make its mark. Formed as Bayern München FC (meaning Bavaria Munich) in 1900, it wasn't until the 1960s when Bayern shook off its tag as just another moderately successful provincial team. When the *Bundesliga* (German league) was formed in 1963, the soccer authorities decided to have just one team from each major city and Bayern was not selected to represent Munich – that honor went to local rival TSV 1860.

Bayern's rise in the intervening decades has been so dramatic that such a decision would now be unthinkable. Over the past 40 years, Bayern has established itself among the top teams in Europe, sweeping all before it in Germany, and picking up a regular haul of European trophies as well.

Bayern was promoted to the new *Bundesliga* in 1966 and the following year won its first European trophy, the 1967 Cup Winners' Cup. With a team including some of West Germany's top players at the time – goalkeeper Sepp Maier, defender Franz Beckenbauer and striker Gerd Müller – Bayern won a first *Bundesliga* title in 1969 and began a period of dominance in the domestic game. As well as winning three consecutive titles between 1972 and 1974, Bayern also supplied six players from the West Germany team that won the 1974 World Cup, beating Holland 2-1 in Munich's *Olympiastadion*.

At the same time, Bayern also established itself as a European giant, becoming only the third club to win three consecutive European Cups, following in the footsteps of Real Madrid of Spain in the 1950s and Ajax of Holland in the early 1970s.

The mid-1980s saw Bayern win five out of six titles between 1985 and 1990, but the loss of big-name stars to more financially attractive leagues in Italy, England and Spain meant that the early 1990s were a relatively disappointing period.

However, at the end of the decade, the club's luck turned in spectacular fashion – between 1999 and 2001, Bayern won three *Bundesliga* titles on the spin, two of them in an incredible manner. In the 1999/2000 season, a thrilling title race saw Bayern neck-and-neck with Bayer Leverkusen going into the final round of games. Leverkusen, which just needed a point to secure the first title in the club's history, lost 2-0 to Munich's third team Unterhaching, to throw



It wasn't one of the more memorable seasons for Germany's premier club – second place and an early exit from European competition. That's an indication of the powder keg pressure of expectation at the Olympiastadion...

away the title in heartbreaking fashion and spark celebrations at a grateful *Olympiastadion*. The following year, a 94th-minute equalizer from Patrik Andersson gave Bayern the point required to take the championship from Schalke, whose fans had assumed Bayern's game had already finished and were celebrating 'winning' the title on the pitch at their home stadium!

Whether it's a case of keeping steady under pressure, or simply good luck, such is the manner of Bayern's victories that the team remains the number one target for the ire of rival fans. The Germans even have an expression – *Bayern-Dusel* (meaning Bayern luck) – for the feeling that Bayern is always going to score a fortunate goal, or get a refereeing decision in its favor just when it needs it most.

That said, last season the *Dusel* appeared to have run out, and Bayern arrives in the US desperate to make up for what has been a poor season by its own high standards. Though the team finished second in the league, the margin of defeat (six points) and the manner in which it conceded the title – losing 3-1 at home to Werder Bremen, which was then crowned champion – was a huge disappointment. Bayern also suffered the ignominy of an early exit from this season's UEFA Champions League, losing to Real Madrid in the knockout stages, largely thanks to an error from its normally dependable goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

But it's not just on the pitch where things haven't been going right. In 2002, Bayern signed two of German soccer's hottest talents – Michael Ballack and Sebastian Diesler – from rivals Leverkusen and Hertha Berlin. However, both have proved to be less than spectacular signings. After leading Leverkusen to the Champions League final in 2002 Ballack has struggled to reproduce his best form but is still the linchpin of midfield for both club and country. Diesler, meanwhile, was admitted to hospital last year suffering from depression, though has since thankfully recovered.

While Bayern arrives in the US in poor form, it would be foolish to write the team off. It still has Kahn, Germany's finest goalkeeper, who once claimed he would write a book on Munich's nightlife when he retired from soccer. It also has a club record signing (at \$25m), Dutch striker Roy Makaay, who scored 23 goals in his first league season.

And besides, the club really has to be due another slice of that famous *Bayern-Dusel* soon. →



They called him *Der Kaiser* (below) such was Franz Beckenbauer's regal presence



FACT FILE

Founded: 1900

Sponsor: T-Com

Website: www.fcbayern.de

Honors: European Cup/UEFA Champions League 1974, 1975, 1976, 2001

European Cup Winners' Cup 1967

UEFA Cup 1996

World Club Championship 1976, 2001

German Championship 1932, 1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003

German Cup 1957, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1998, 2000, 2003

OLYMPIASTADION



Bayern's *Olympiastadion*, shared with TSV 1860 Munich, is one of Europe's finest soccer arenas. From a distance, the large open bowl with a spectacular glass roof looks like a giant marquee. Built in 1972 for the Munich Olympics, it has hosted many major soccer events, including the 1974 World Cup final and 1988 European Championship final. Bayern moved in in 1972 after leaving its Grunwalde Strasse home, which it also shared with TSV. Although Bayern's average attendance is more than 50,000, it often struggles to create a decent atmosphere in the 69,000-capacity arena. It attracts fans from all over the country, and further afield – Bayern has supporters' clubs in Ireland and Venezuela – but diehards complain of a staid atmosphere where 'terrace tourists' buy scarves from the club shop, but don't join in the songs. The long-term future of the *Olympiastadion* is also in doubt. A futuristic 66,000-capacity *Allianz Arena* is being built in the north-east of the city for the 2006 World Cup, which both Munich clubs will share.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Sunday July 25 Soldier Field, Chicago

▼ Manchester United

Team profile

New boss Felix Magath will be expected to work his magic quickly at Bayern, the team for whom second is nowhere. Luckily, he has some superb resources at his disposal and power to add...

opta Bundesliga statistics provided by Opta



Bayern line up for the Champions League clash with Olympique Lyonnais at the Olympiastadion, November 5 2003. Bayern lost 2-1

Oliver Kahn Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Bundesliga	
Minutes on pitch	2,942
Goals conceded	39
Clean sheets	10
Saves made	95
Saves-to-shots ratio	71%
Catches	44
Dropped catches	2
Catch success rate	96%

At 35 the senior figure in the Munich team, and while critics question his continued presence, he remains first choice for club and country. A strong believer in positive thought – he visualizes moments of success in order to help prepare – he's proved his worth down the years with astonishing reflexes, agility and strength of will. Just two catches dropped from 46 last season tells its own story. One of the game's most intense characters, the image of a crestfallen Kahn after gifting Brazil a second goal in the 2002 World Cup final lives on in the memory.

Michael Ballack Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Bundesliga	
Minutes on pitch	2,470
Goals	7
Shots attempted	77
Shooting accuracy	45%
Goal assists	9
Total passes	1,295
Pass completion	84%
Tackles made	66
Tackles won	71%
Fouls	72
Yellow cards	8
Red cards	2

Footballer of the Year in Germany the past two years, Ballack can fill a number of central positions and his finishing is consummate. He announced his arrival on the European scene with a string of impressive displays and six goals during Bayer Leverkusen's run to the 2002 Champions League final. A move to Bayern followed, and while he's not been quite the force some might have hoped, he remains a talisman. Ballack's goal against South Korea won Germany a place in the 2002 World Cup final – a game he missed through suspension.

Willy Sagnol Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Bundesliga	
Minutes on pitch	1,470
Goals	1
Goal assists	5
Total passes	806
Pass completion	82%
Tackles made	49
Tackles won	82%
Blocks	9
Clearances	40
Interceptions	14
Fouls	21
Yellow cards	4
Red cards	0

An extremely talented right-back capable of lending his weight to the attack (he's an expert crosser of the ball) the 27-year-old crossed the border from French club St Etienne – his hometown side – in July 2000. He enjoyed a stunning first season, winning both the *Bundesliga* – Bayern's 17th title – and the UEFA Champions League. Lilian Thuram's form for the French national side has made it hard for him to hold down a regular spot there, but when called on he has proved a reliable performer, with more than 20 caps to his name.

Roy Makaay Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Bundesliga	
Minutes on pitch	2,778
Goals	23
Shots attempted	84
Shooting accuracy	56%
Conversion rate	27%
Minutes per goal	120.8
Goal assists	4
Total passes	501
Pass completion	76%
Fouls	15
Offside	42
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

They call him 'The Phantom' – not because he's a comic superhero – more due to his uncanny ability to arrive unnoticed in the penalty box. The 29-year-old Dutch marksman was a huge hit in Spain with Deportivo La Coruña, his 22 goals firing the team to a first *La Liga* triumph in 1999/2000. Makaay picked up the Golden Shoe as Europe's leading frontman with 29 goals in 2002/03, form that clinched a move to Munich for \$25 million. He continued his rich vein of form, with 23 strikes in 32 games and six from eight in the Champions League.

Felix Magath The coach

Originally lined up to take the reins at Bayern in the summer of 2005, Bayern's poor *Bundesliga* form and early elimination from the Champions League convinced chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge to make the Stuttgart coach an immediate target. Magath, a versatile midfielder who won 43 caps in a successful international career with West Germany between 1977 and 1986, became one of Germany's hottest properties after his exploits as coach at Stuttgart, where he assembled an exciting young team that finished runner-up to Bayern Munich in 2003, and impressed in the Champions League. Magath is a tactically astute coach who has switched Stuttgart's tactics with great effect. In 2003, his previously attack-minded side set a *Bundesliga* record of eight games from the start of the season without conceding. It remains to be seen whether he can turn around Bayern's fortunes.



Bayern Munich 2003/2004 Bundesliga

Games played	34
Goals	70
Average goals per game	2.06
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	440
Shots on target	48%
Goals-to-shots ratio	16%
Passes attempted	13,704
Overall pass completion	82%
Total crosses	898
Cross completion	27%
Goals conceded	39
Average goals conceded per game	1.15
Tackles	786
Tackles won	74%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1,151
Fouls	589
Yellow cards	63
Red cards	5



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FC Porto

FACT FILE

Founded: 1893
Sponsor: PT Inovação, Revigres
Website: www.fcporto.pt
Honors: European Cup/UEFA Champions League 1987, 2004 UEFA Cup 2003
 Intercontinental Cup 1988 UEFA Super Cup 1987
 Portuguese League 1935, 1939, 1940, 1956, 1959, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004
 Portuguese Cup 1922, 1925, 1932, 1937, 1956, 1958, 1968, 1977, 1984, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003 Portuguese Super Cup 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2003

ESTÁDIO DO DRAGÃO



FC Porto's 76,000 capacity *Estádio das Antas* was demolished last year to make way for the *Estádio do Dragão* (Dragon Stadium) next to the original site. The *Dragão's* capacity of 52,000 is unusual in this league where crowds rarely hit such heights, but it has already hosted the prestigious opening ceremony and first game of Euro 2004. FC Porto's home is in the affluent eastern suburbs of Oporto, and while the city's two other clubs, Boavista and Salgueiros, draw support from working-class districts, Porto has a wider appeal among the middle classes, and increasingly across the rest of Portugal. Local rivalry was cranked up in 2001 thanks to Boavista's title success, but Porto fans save a special welcome for visits by the Lisbon giants, Benfica and Sporting Lisbon. Porto's residents are proud of their working city, and rather envious that fun-loving Lisbon gets the international acclaim, stoked by a feeling that its clubs receive the lion's share of coverage, despite a recent lack of success.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Friday July 30 SkyDome, Toronto
 ✓ Liverpool
 Sunday August 1 Giants Stadium, East Rutherford
 ✓ Galatasaray

As newly-crowned European champion, FC Porto's stock is at an all-time high. A 3-0 win over Monaco in the Champions League final in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, capped a remarkable rise in the club's fortunes, adding Europe's top club prize to the UEFA Cup it won 12 months earlier. Porto's rise has also signaled a revival in Portuguese soccer, which, despite producing some of Europe's best players and teams in the 1960s, has had only sporadic success in the years that followed. Since the original national league championship title was established in 1935, it has only ever been won by a team outside Portugal's big three clubs (Sporting, Benfica and FC Porto) on two occasions. Historically Portugal's third-biggest side, Porto has won fewer *Superliga* championships than its main rival – with 19 titles to Benfica's 28 (the so-called second-biggest club, Sporting, has 18 *Superliga* titles to its name) – but has firmly established itself as Portugal's best side over the last 20 years.

Founded in 1893 by José Maria Nicolau, *Futebol Clube do Porto* was formed as a team "dedicated to the practice of the eccentric English game of football". It wasn't until 1906, however, that FC Porto began to play competitive matches, the first being against its city rival, Boavista.

Porto won both the inaugural championship in 1922 and the first national league in 1935, and enjoyed a fair amount of early success. However, in the 1940s, the right-wing regime of Portuguese dictator Antonio de Oliveira Salazar favored Lisbon's teams, and Porto endured a spell in the wilderness. First the great Sporting side of the 1950s, then the legendary Eusebio's all-conquering Benfica of the 1960s and 1970s dominated and Porto did not win a single championship between 1956 and 1978.

A revival in the 1980s, under chairman Pinto da Costa, coach José Maria Pedroto, and striker Fernando Gomes, saw Porto once again challenge the capital's duopoly, and in 1984 reached its first European final, the Cup-Winners' Cup. Though the match ended in a 2-1 win to Juventus, it heralded a new era for the club. Just three years later, Porto reached the 1987 European Cup final in Vienna, where trailing Bayern Munich 1-0 late in the game, Rabah Madjer scored a memorable back-heeled equalizer, before creating a winner for the Brazilian, Juary. The 2-1 triumph was Portugal's first European Cup success since Benfica in 1962, and put Porto firmly on the European soccer map. Though Benfica reached the final the following year, it lost on penalties to PSV Eindhoven, and the Dragons' journey to the top of Portuguese soccer was complete.

Benfica's slow decline cleared the way for a period of domestic domination by Porto in the 1990s, when the club won a record five consecutive titles between 1995 and 1999. A relatively barren spell of three years without a league title, which saw city rival Boavista win its first and (so far) only championship, was ended in 2003 under new manager José Mourinho. Porto's 2003 campaign was made complete by winning the UEFA Cup, beating Celtic 3-2 in a hotly contested final. Porto again strolled to the 2004 domestic

An unforgettable season for FC Porto fans – culminating in unexpected Champions League glory – was tempered as the players were still celebrating their victory by news that the best manager the club ever had was leaving. Proof that soccer never stands still...



Farewell kiss: José Mourinho with his Champions League winners' medal



title, and beat Manchester United, Deportivo La Coruña and Monaco on the way to winning the 2004 Champions League.

After years of decline since the days when Benfica ruled Europe, there is, at last, reason for Portuguese soccer to be optimistic again. Stadiums to rival any in Europe have been constructed for the recently-completed Euro 2004 international championships, and Porto has established itself among the Champions League 'big boys'. But 2004's success will be hard to match. With the victory celebrations barely minutes old, Mourinho ripped off his medal and told his post-match interviewer his "work was completed". Lured away by Roman Abramovich's cash-rich Chelsea, the Porto team that Mourinho built looks likely to be disbanded. Influential playmaker Deco and defender Paulo Ferreira are already targets for moves to west London, and while the reported \$21.9m and \$23.7m

transfer fees should ensure Porto's domestic dominance continues for a good few years, rebuilding a team capable of retaining its European crown will be much harder.

Though it remains to be seen how many follow Mourinho out of Portugal to greener pastures, Porto has a talented blend of home-grown stars including veteran defender Jorge Costa and solid goalkeeper Vitor Baía, mixed with a few Brazilian-born players, notably striker Carlos Alberto, as well as Russian midfielder star Dmitri Alenitchev. Porto's patient and swift counter-attacking game under Mourinho served it well, although the team's robust style rubbed a few people the wrong way. A few top sides – Deportivo, Celtic and Manchester United among them – will be looking forward to rematches in the future. European Champion it may be, but for Porto, the hard yards have just begun. →

Team profile

Like all champions, FC Porto's spine is as rigid as steel. From goalkeeper and centre-half, to the goalscoring midfielder and some explosive striking power, Portugal's best performers appear to have the lot...

opta Champions League statistics provided by Opta



FC Porto lines up before the European Supercup clash with ChampionsWorld stablemates AC Milan, August 29 2003. Milan won the game 1-0



Vítor Baía Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Minutes on pitch	1,194
Goals conceded	12
Clean sheets	5
Saves made	35
Saves-to-shots ratio	74%
Catches	13
Dropped catches	2
Catch success rate	87%

They say you should never go back, but Porto's veteran goalkeeper has disproved that maxim. His second spell at the club has brought both Champions League and UEFA Cup glory – he had already won the latter in 1996/97. Although hopes of breaking the 100-cap international barrier for Portugal now seem slim since the former captain is no longer first choice, he led his nation in the 1996 and 2000 European Championships. Baía, who also played for Spanish team Barcelona, has now passed 350 league appearances for the Dragons.

Dmitri Alenitchev Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Minutes on pitch	586
Goals	2
Shots attempted	5
Shooting accuracy	60%
Goal assists	3
Total passes	286
Pass completion	86%
Tackles made	25
Tackles won	72%
Fouls	14
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

Alenitchev joined Porto in 2000 following a spell in Italy. Named Russian Footballer of the Year in 1997 his silky skills and inventive passing won him a move from Spartak Moscow to AS Roma a year later. However, he failed to settle there, or at his next club Perugia, and made the move to Porto. Injuries have prevented him from cementing a permanent place but his contribution remains a telling one. He scored in both the UEFA Cup final victory over Celtic in 2003 and the Champions League final victory over Monaco last May.

Ricardo Carvalho Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Minutes on pitch	1,194
Goals	1
Goal assists	0
Total passes	449
Pass completion	84%
Tackles made	59
Tackles won	63%
Blocks	8
Clearances	90
Interceptions	115
Fouls	16
Yellow cards	2
Red cards	0

Now 27, Carvalho is in the form of his life – with his defensive performances against Manchester United and Lyon of France in the Champions League establishing him as one of the best central defenders in Europe. A calm and classy performer, strong on the ground and in the air, his rise was a fairly measured one after loan stints with lesser teams, but he looks well placed now. A courageous player who battles to the end, he made his national debut against Albania in 2003 and put in a good performance in Euro 2004.

Benni McCarthy Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Minutes on pitch	646
Goals	5
Shots attempted	27
Shooting accuracy	59%
Conversion rate	19%
Minutes per goal	129
Goal assists	1
Total passes	157
Pass completion	76%
Fouls	12
Offsides	24
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

The South African front man – who scored his country's first goal in the World Cup finals in 2002 – has enjoyed a prolific run of form since moving to Porto from the Spanish outfit Celta Vigo in July 2003. In 2001/02 he spent an equally profitable loan spell at *Estádio do Dragão* while with Dutch side Ajax, bagging 12 goals in 11 games. At just 26, his best years are still ahead of him. Strong in the air and skilful, he was a key figure in Porto's Champions League campaign – scoring five goals along the way.

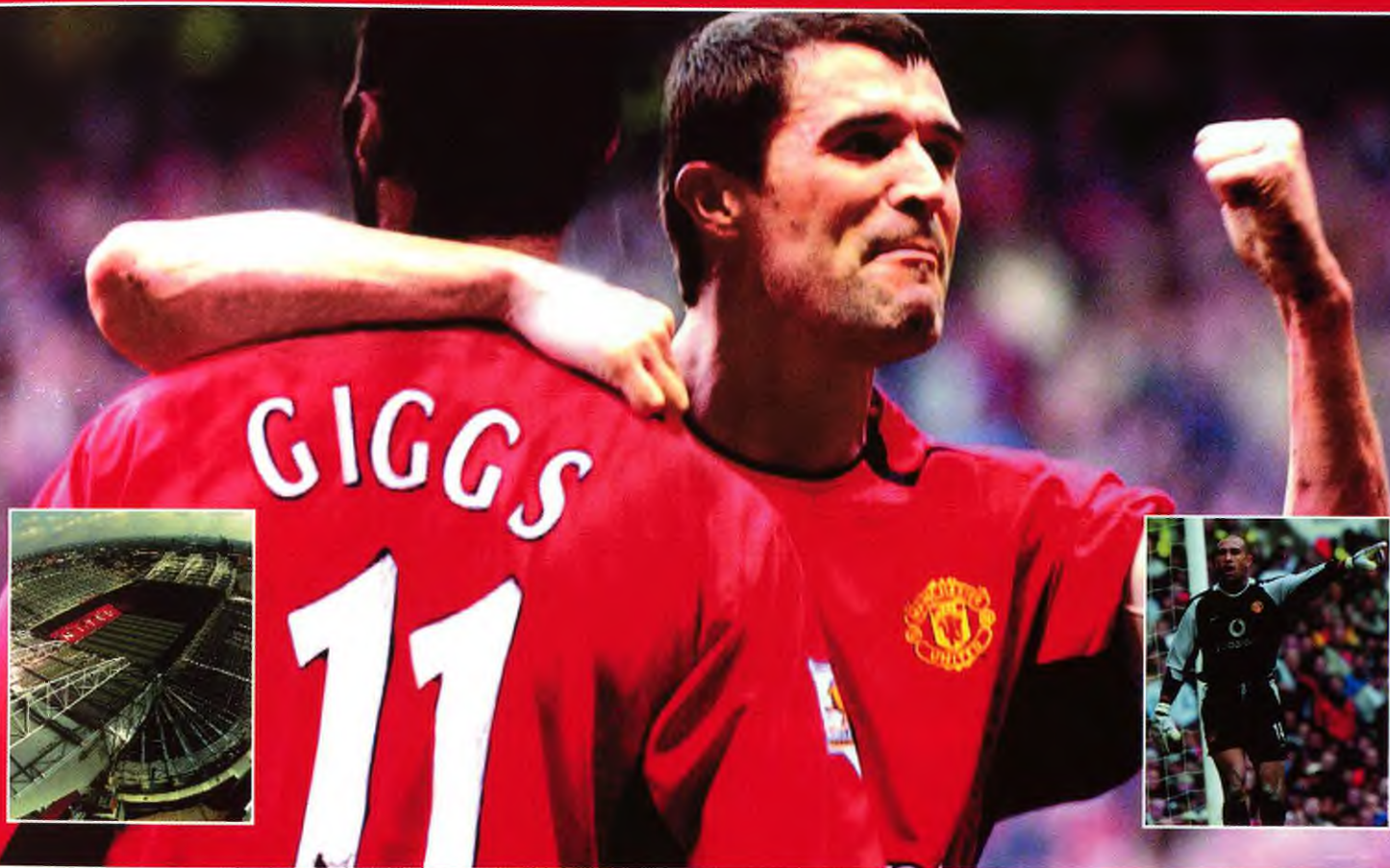
Luigi Del Neri The coach

Fearing the inevitable, Porto moved swiftly to replace José Mourinho, and just two days after he told the world that his work at Porto was done, the team announced that 53-year-old Luigi Del Neri had signed a three-year contract. Del Neri arrives from Italy's miracle club, Chievo Verona, a village team that he guided from nowhere to UEFA Cup qualification in its first Serie A season. For him this couldn't be a bigger step up, but he will be surrounded by familiar faces, such as former assistant Francesco Conti and fitness coach Ugo Mranza. "It's always better to go to a great team where you can win than a place where you lose," he says. "It's a huge, very exciting job. I couldn't let this opportunity pass." On the face of it, replacing the club's most successful boss is a near-impossible task. But at Chievo, where the team's success led to the departure of several key players, Del Neri always steadied the ship. Maybe he's just the man to help Porto chart a stable course...

FC Porto 2003/04 UEFA Champions League

Games played	13
Goals	20
Average goals per game	1.54
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	135
Shots on target	47%
Goals to shots	15%
Passes attempted	5,682
Overall pass completion	77%
Total crosses	234
Cross completion	21%
Goals conceded	12
Average goals conceded per game	0.92
Tackles	650
Tackles won	61%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1848
Fouls	264
Yellow cards	31
Red cards	0

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Simply the best – 2003

Last summer's inaugural ChampionsWorld series provided some great match-ups, featuring seven of the world's top soccer teams. Will Manchester United, whose goal count was an impressive 14-3, be quite as good this time out? Here's our look at some memorable moments from the games

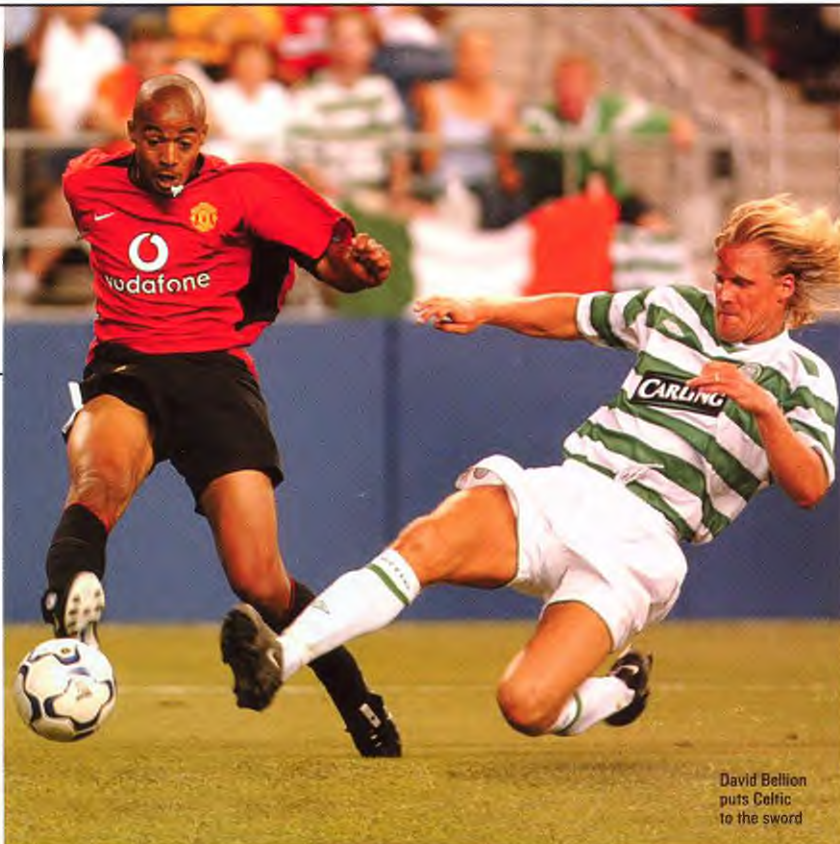
Manchester United 4 Celtic 0 07/22/03

Venue: **Seahawks Stadium (Qwest Field)**

Attendance: **66,772**

Goals: **Van Nistelrooy 7, Giggs 28, Solskjaer 39, Bellion 72**

Battle of Britain? No contest, as Manchester United beat Glasgow giants Celtic in style. Ruud van Nistelrooy opened the scoring after seven minutes, firing past Magnus Hedman. Ryan Giggs then took advantage of poor defending to hit the ball home just before the half-hour mark and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer added a third before the break. Alan Thompson's penalty miss compounded the Scots' first-half misery, before debutant David Bellion's cool finish completed the rout.



David Bellion puts Celtic to the sword

Chris Sutton forges forward for Celtic



Celtic 1 Boca Juniors 0 07/25/03

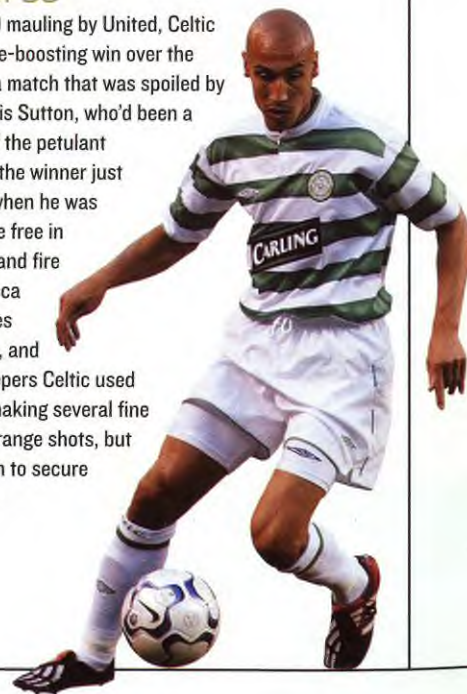
Venue: **Cleveland Browns Stadium**

Attendance: **20,842**

Goal: **Sutton 59**

Following the 4-0 mauling by United, Celtic recorded a morale-boosting win over the Argentineans in a match that was spoiled by fouls. Striker Chris Sutton, who'd been a victim of much of the petulant behavior, scored the winner just before the hour when he was allowed to wriggle free in the penalty area and fire the ball home. Boca had many chances to level the score, and the three goalkeepers Celtic used were kept busy making several fine saves from long-range shots, but the Bhoys held on to secure a narrow victory.

Swede satisfaction:
Henrik Larsson



ChampionsWorld Series

Barcelona 2 Juventus 2
(Barça win 6-5 on penalties)
07/27/03

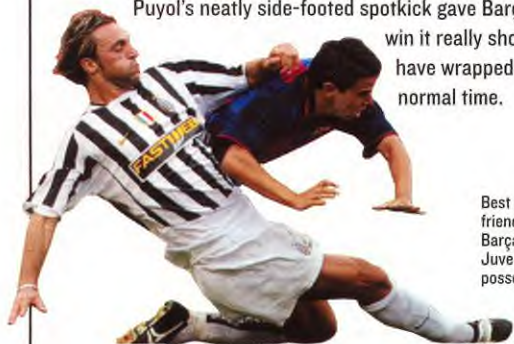
Venue: Gillette Stadium

Attendance: 30,192

Goals: Saviola 28 pen, 41 (Barcelona);
Di Vaio 86, Miccoli 87 (Juventus)

Barcelona threw away a two-goal lead in the last four minutes, yet still emerged on top after a dramatic penalty shootout. Javier Saviola had put Barcelona 2-0 up with a penalty and a close-range header, before goals by Marco Di Vaio and Fabrizio Miccoli within 60 seconds of each other squared the game. When Barça hit the post with their first penalty, it looked as if they might have thrown away the tie. However, two penalty misses by Juve meant that Carlos

Puyol's neatly side-footed spotkick gave Barça the win it really should have wrapped up in normal time.



Best of friends? Barça and Juve tussle for possession



Manchester United 3 Club America 1
07/27/03

Venue: LA Memorial Coliseum

Attendance: 57,365

Goals: Van Nistelrooy 47, Forlan 49, 79 (United); Patino 87 (Club America)

United continued in good form, coming out on top in this clash against a Club America team backed by a large Hispanic contingent in Los Angeles. After a goalless first half, United took the lead shortly after the break when Ruud van Nistelrooy hit a blistering shot from just outside the penalty area. Two goals from Diego Forlan, a close-range header and a toe-poke from a long upfield punt put United firmly in charge before a late goal from Patino gave the home crowd something to cheer, lobbing the ball over the advancing goalkeeper Ricardo from inside the box.



Taking America by storm: United march on with another win





Barcelona 2 AC Milan 0
07/30/03

Venue: RFK Stadium
Attendance: 45,864
Goals: Quaresma II,
Ronaldinho 51

Barcelona claimed its second Italian scalp of the tour, defeating European champion AC Milan in an exciting game of many chances. Ricardo Quaresma put Barça ahead after just 11 minutes, with a shot from the edge of the penalty box after a clever back-heeled pass from Ronaldinho. Milan missed several chances, hit the bar and had the ball cleared off the line before Ronaldinho made it 2-0 early in the second half, when his shot took a wicked deflection, giving the goalkeeper no chance.



Hair raising: Ronaldinho was in fine form for Barça



Manchester United 4 Juventus 1
07/31/03

Venue: Giants Stadium
Attendance: 79,005
Goals: Giggs 24, Scholes 57, van Nistelrooy 60, Solskjaer 79 (United); Nedved 70 (Juventus)

Another big win for United was sealed by two goals in three second-half minutes. Ryan Giggs put United 1-0 ahead with a perfectly executed 25th-minute free-kick. Paul Scholes added the second just before the hour, after good play from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Ruud van Nistelrooy scored an excellent goal, chesting the ball down and smashing it high into the net in one swift move, before Pavel Nedved pulled a goal back with a powerful drive from just outside the penalty box. Solskjaer sealed an emphatic win 11 minutes from time.



Living the high life: Antonio Conte (left) and Juan Veron

Manchester United 3 Barcelona 1
08/03/03

Venue: Lincoln Financial Field

Attendance: 68,396

Goals: Forlan 25, 37, van Nistelrooy 85
(United); Kluivert 10 (Barcelona)

United fell behind to Patrick Kluivert's header after only 10 minutes, but two goals from Diego Forlan turned the game around before the half-time interval. The Uruguayan striker's first came from a diving header close to the penalty spot, the second was a tap-in from the edge of the six-yard box after Nicky Butt's cross from the right. Five minutes from time, Ruud van Nistelrooy made the game safe, capitalizing on some untidy Barcelona defending to round the keeper and shoot the ball into an empty net. The win completed a 100 per cent series record for the men from Manchester.



Roy Keane greets Ronaldinho before the game



ITALIAN SUPER CUP FINAL

AC Milan 1 Juventus 1
(Juventus win on penalties)
08/03/03

Venue: Giants Stadium

Attendance: 54,128

Pirlo 104 (pen); Trezeguet 105

Juventus gained revenge for its European Cup final defeat by winning the Italian Super Cup, held at the Giants Stadium in New Jersey. Goalless after 90 minutes, the game sprung into life when Milan took the lead in the 104th minute of 'silver goal' extra time, Andrea Pirlo converting a penalty after Massimo Ambrosini had been fouled. But Juve equalized immediately. Nicola Legrottaglie forced Christian Abbiati into a save, but the ball fell to David Trezeguet who scored from close range. In the penalty shootout, Christian Brocchi's kick was saved by Juve goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, and Ciro Ferrara fired home the winner.



AC Milan frontman Andriy Shevchenko



Liverpool

FACT FILE

Founded: 1892
Sponsor: Carlsberg
Website: www.liverpoolfc.tv
Honors: European Cup 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984
 UEFA Cup 1973, 1976, 2001
 UEFA Super Cup 1977, 2001
 English League 1901, 1906, 1922, 1923, 1947, 1964, 1966, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990
 FA Cup 1965, 1974, 1986, 1989, 1992, 2001
 League Cup 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1995, 2001, 2003
 FA Charity/Community Shield 14 times (four shared)

ANFIELD



Not many clubs have spent their entire history at one ground; Liverpool was actually formed in March 1892 in order to play at Anfield, a ground that, after a schism in local club Everton's ranks, had suddenly found itself without a team. A hastily convened Liverpool side's first game at Anfield – a 7-1 demolition of Rotherham United on September 1 that year – was watched by just a handful of people. Sixty years later a record 61,905 people crammed into Anfield for a fourth-round FA Cup tie against Wolverhampton Wanderers, but today the capacity of the extensively redeveloped ground is a more modest 45,362. In the early 1960s Anfield's famous stands were at the vanguard of the new phenomenon of chanting; despite its modern-day, all-seating set-up (as opposed to in the past when many fans stood throughout the game), the sight of the fans in full flow remains an awesome spectacle, especially when the Liverpool anthem *You'll Never Walk Alone* is belted out by one and all, red scarves held proudly aloft.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Monday July 26 Rentschler Field, East Hartford
 ▼ Celtic
Friday July 30 SkyDome, Toronto
 ▼ FC Porto
Tuesday August 3 Giants Stadium, East Rutherford
 ▼ AS Roma

Backs to the future: Liverpool hopes things will improve during 2004/05



After a glorious 2001 – in which it picked up five Cups – things have stalled at Liverpool. It's now been 14 years since the last Championship celebrations on Merseyside – the trophy the fans all crave. Is Rafael Benitez the man to break the spell?

Liverpool's record speaks for itself: 18 League Championships, six FA Cups and seven League Cups make it the most successful team in the history of English soccer. The team's performance on a broader stage is equally impressive, with four European Cup triumphs and three UEFA Cup wins to its name.

But it could all have been different had the club not taken a gamble in appointing a headstrong young manager called Bill Shankly in 1959. The Scot turned the team around, establishing the Anfield 'boot room' that would provide the coaching backbone for subsequent successes, and hauling the team up into the top flight which Liverpool would dominate for much of the next three decades. And it was a member of that boot room, Bob Paisley, who stepped in to provide a seamless succession when Shankly announced his retirement in July 1974. By bringing in the Scottish triumvirate of Kenny Dalglish, Alan Hansen and Graeme Souness, Paisley built a team that would surpass even Shankly's great deeds, with back-to-back European Cup wins in 1977 and 1978.

Not surprisingly, given the achievements of those Liverpool teams (which established the club's reputation for a patient, accurate, incisive passing game) the weight of expectation in and around the team's Anfield home is considerable. In recent years successive Liverpool squads have, by their own admission, failed to deliver – though a return to the good old days looked to be on the cards when Gerard Houllier engineered an almost clean sweep of the silverware in 2001. Victory in the League Cup final in February that year brought Liverpool its first trophy in six years, and four more – including the FA Cup and UEFA Cup – followed in short order. However, one trophy continued to elude Houllier: the Premier League, and in May 2004 the Frenchman paid the price for failing to launch a sustained bid for the most prized domestic trophy of all. Last season's fourth place was not only two places down on two seasons ago, but 30 points off top spot (and 15 points off third-placed Manchester United), and with the team so far off the Premiership pacesetters, a change of management was inevitable.

Needless to say, new boss Rafael Benitez will be under pressure to perform from day one – his new charges' ChampionsWorld encounter with Celtic is his first game – and his first job will be to persuade two of England's most highly-prized assets to help him in his cause: Michael Owen and Steven Gerrard. Both England internationals came up through the Liverpool ranks, and since establishing themselves on the team – Owen in 1997, Gerrard in 1999 – they've become instrumental in the team's efforts, despite both being plagued by injuries. Owen has played more than 300 games for the Reds, with a strike rate of more than a goal every other game, while Gerrard is closing in on 250 games. Moreover, the rangy midfielder was last season in arguably his best form to date, form which led fellow ChampionsWorld Series team Chelsea to confirm an interest in purchasing the 24-year-old.

With John Arne Riise and Steve Finnan foraging down the flanks and Harry Kewell's left foot a potential killer, Liverpool is set up to attack. Sadly last season, it didn't always work out that way. Nonetheless, fourth place was enough to offer a chance of Champions League soccer next season – albeit via a qualifying round.

Few here are under any illusions about adding to the European Cup tally just yet. While the team has a record number of league titles, it has yet to claim a Premiership crown, and closing the gap on the top three must be top of the list of priorities. But with a new man at the helm, and Djibril Cisse joining fresh from topping last season's French goalscoring charts with Auxerre, the class of 2004/05 might soon give the fans a bit more to smile about. →

Team profile

New coach Rafael Benitez has the kind of resources many would die for – England's best striker and a midfield genius to name two. All he needs to do now is bring home that elusive Premiership title

opta Premiership statistics provided by Opta



Liverpool line up for action against Olimpija Ljubljana of Slovenia, UEFA Cup, first round, first leg, September 24 2003. They drew this game 1-1

Jerzy Dudek Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,687
Goals conceded	28
Clean sheets	12
Saves made	85
Saves-to-shots ratio	75%
Catches	48
Dropped catches	4
Catch success rate	92%

Liverpool's Polish international has experienced fluctuating fortunes during his three years at Anfield but has enjoyed more ups than downs. In his first season he was a revelation, keeping 26 clean sheets in a campaign that saw Liverpool finish as the runner-up to Arsenal in the Premiership. His form dipped somewhat in 2002/03 but he came back strongly with a 'Man of the Match' display in the League Cup final win over Manchester United. However, he has strong competition for the keeper's jersey at Liverpool in the shape of England's Chris Kirkland.

Steven Gerrard Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	3,008
Goals	4
Shots attempted	66
Shooting accuracy	41%
Goal assists	7
Total passes	1,955
Pass completion	77%
Tackles made	125
Tackles won	71%
Fouls	43
Yellow cards	2
Red cards	0

A hugely committed performer, and a tenacious tackler with an eye for the killer pass, Gerrard has sweated blood and tears for his hometown team ever since breaking into its ranks when he was just 18, after spending his teenage years playing for the club's youth academy. As team captain, his performances have established him as the complete player for club and country and proved the highlight of a poor season. He has indisputably been the heartbeat of the team, which is why Chelsea have been so keen to buy him.

Sami Hyypia Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	3,420
Goals	4
Goal assists	0
Total passes	1,526
Pass completion	78%
Tackles made	106
Tackles won	67%
Blocks	28
Clearances	391
Interceptions	24
Fouls	36
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

The tall Finn has been the mainstay of the defense since signing in May 1999. Such has been his consistency – his aerial dominance, timing and distribution to the fore – that the \$5.5m fee paid to Dutch team Willem II looks like a good deal. As stand-in captain, he led Liverpool to most of its triple cup success in 2000/01 and was made permanent captain in April 2002. Last season he handed the armband to Steven Gerrard, but as an ever-present player he is thought to be the man around whom Rafael Benitez constructs his new defense.

Michael Owen Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,487
Goals	16
Shots attempted	71
Shooting accuracy	61%
Conversion rate	23%
Minutes per goal	155.4
Goal assists	3
Total passes	522
Pass completion	82%
Fouls	14
Offside	32
Yellow cards	0
Red cards	0

Small – just 5ft 8in – but lightning quick, Owen has proven to be the most predatory English-born finisher in the Premiership since making the number 10 jersey his own in 1997/98. He scored on his league debut in May 1996 while still aged just 17, and has now surpassed 150 goals in all competitions for Liverpool. Give Owen a yard and he is capable of punishing the finest defenses in the world, as nations like Argentina, Brazil and Germany have learned at their cost at the World Cup.

Rafael Benitez The coach

"It's a dream," enthused Rafael Benitez on becoming Liverpool coach. Given that he'd left Spanish champion and UEFA cup winner Valencia – the team he also guided to the Champions League final in 2002 – for a team that has not won the English league in 14 years – that speaks volumes about the club he's joined, and the crossroads at which he finds it. But if anyone's up to the challenge, it's the 44-year-old Spaniard. Youth and B-team coach at Real Madrid from 1989 to 1995, since 1997, when he joined Extremadura after a time at Real Valladolid and Osasuna, each of the teams he coached won the title in his first season there. "I didn't come here to learn English, I want to win," he said. Tactical acumen and a keen understanding of the emotions of soccer – he was in tears when he rejected Valencia's contract – could win him a lot of friends in Liverpool. "When I see the club, I see the history" he added. Now he just has to make it...



Liverpool 2003/04 Premiership

Games played	38
Goals	55
Average goals per game	1.45
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	509
Shots on target	43%
Goals to shots	10%
Passes attempted	15,559
Overall pass completion	77%
Total crosses	1051
Cross completion	24%
Goals conceded	37
Average goals conceded per game	0.97
Tackles	1,049
Tackles won	72%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1,665
Fouls	473
Yellow cards	50
Red cards	0

Stellan
13 x

IMPOSSIBLE IS JUST A BIG WORD THROWN
AROUND BY SMALL MEN WHO FIND IT EASIER
TO LIVE IN THE WORLD THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN
THAN TO EXPLORE THE POWER THEY HAVE
TO CHANGE IT. IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A FACT.
IT'S AN OPINION. IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A
DECLARATION. IT'S A DARE. IMPOSSIBLE IS
POTENTIAL. IMPOSSIBLE IS TEMPORARY.

IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING.

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AS Roma

FACT FILE

Founded: 1927
Sponsor: Mazda
Website: www.asroma.it
Honors: Fairs' (now UEFA) Cup 1961
 Italian League 1942, 1983, 2001
 Coppa Italia 1964, 1969, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1986, 1991

STADIO OLIMPICO



The 80,000-capacity *Stadio Olimpico* has been home to both Roma and their local rival Lazio since 1953. Constructed in 1952 ahead of the Rome Olympics in 1960, the stadium was completely rebuilt before the 1990 World Cup finals, when it hosted the final between West Germany and Argentina. A large covered bowl complete with running track, the stadium is situated on the left bank of the River Tiber to the north of the city. Though they share the stadium, Roma and Lazio fans take to different ends of the stadium for home matches. Roma's hard-core fans, or 'Ultras', traditionally occupy the *Curva Sud* (south curve) while Lazio fans assemble at the *Curva Nord* (north curve) for their home games. Italian fans are generally noisy and the volatile atmosphere at the game is usually enhanced by firecrackers and flares. Visiting fans, particularly for big games, are usually treated to an impressive choreographed display of flags, colored banners and scroll messages of support, as well as humorous mocking of Roma's opponents.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Thursday July 29 Heinz Field, Pittsburgh
 ✓ **Chelsea**
 Saturday July 31 SkyDome, Toronto
 ✓ **Celtic**
 Tuesday August 3 Giants Stadium, East Rutherford
 ✓ **Liverpool**

"Roma is not to be discussed, it is loved." So goes the popular phrase in Italy to describe 2003/04's Serie A runner-up. Repeating that success in the forthcoming season would be even more impressive, given the club's financial hardships...

Associazione Sportiva Roma was formed in July 1927 from the merger of four sides – Alba, Fortitudo, Roman and Pro-Roma. Although Rome already had three teams in the top division of the Italian league, none of them had made much of an impression on the top teams of the time – Torino and Juventus in Turin and Internazionale and AC Milan from Milan – so it was proposed that the clubs should form one team capable of challenging the dominant northerners.

Though one of Rome's top clubs, Lazio, refused even to discuss the idea, the four teams that did attend that meeting agreed to form a new team, which they called Roma. The choice of a red and yellow strip worn by one of the original teams, Roman, earned the new side the nickname *Giallorossi* (the yellow and reds). Roma, initially based in the working-class district of Testaccio in the city's southern suburbs, made its home at the *Motovelodromo Appio* stadium. The team played its first competitive match on July 28 1927, beating the Hungarian team, Ujpest, 2-1, and entered its first League competition in the 1929/30 season.

The team had soon established a following in Testaccio, but in 1940 it was encouraged to move by Italy's Fascist leader Benito Mussolini. The club duly relocated to Rome's showpiece stadium, the *Stadio Partito Nazionale Fascista* in the north of the city (built as the National Stadium in 1911, Mussolini had renamed it the *Stadio PNF* in 1927), sharing it with Lazio. After further name changes, in 1953 that stadium was demolished and both Roma and Lazio moved to the newly finished *Stadio Olimpico*. But even now, 60 years since leaving Testaccio, Roma still considers the district its heartland, and draws loyal support from that neighborhood.

Despite the merger, the new stadium, and Rome's position as the political and cultural capital of Italy, Roma has never enjoyed the same success on the field as its northern rivals. While Juventus, Inter, Bologna and Torino carved up the league championships between them in the 1930s and 1940s, Roma won just one *Scudetto*, in 1941/42. But the Second World War allowed Romans little time to celebrate, and it would be another 41 years before Roma became champion again.

In 1951 came the low point in Roma's history, as the club was relegated from the top division for the first and (so far) only time in its history. The news was announced on stage by the Italian actor Renato Rascel to his theatre audience, with the phrase: "Ladies and gentlemen, from this moment Roma is in the Second Division. But Roma is not to be discussed, it is loved!" Now part of Roma's history, Rascel's words still appear on scarves and flags around the ground today.

The start of European competition gave Roma an opportunity to dominate its domestic rivals, and it paved the way for many future Italian victories in Europe with a Fairs' (now UEFA) Cup win in 1961 thanks to a 4-2 aggregate win over England's Birmingham City. But Roma did not mount a serious challenge in the League until 1983, when a team featuring Brazilian star Falcao and Italians Bruno Conti and Roberto Pruzzo won the

Batistuta (below) celebrates AS Roma's 2001 Serie A success



Serie A title. With that win came European Cup qualification, and in 1984 Roma reached the final, where it faced the English champion, Liverpool, in the *Olimpico*. Expectations were high, but Roma failed to make home advantage count and lost to Liverpool on penalties. That defeat signaled a decline in Roma's fortunes, and as Juventus and AC Milan shared the League's spoils between them, Roma once again returned to the position of mid-table also-ran.

The inspired signing of Gabriel Batistuta from Fiorentina in 2000 did propel Roma back toward the top of *Serie A*, as Rome briefly wrested Italian soccer's power base away from the north. Lazio won the League in 2000, and the following year Roma took the *Serie A* crown, only the third *Scudetto* in its history. The success was attributed largely to the goals of Batistuta, a Roma favorite who, at the end of the title-winning game,

famously left the field in his underpants, so keen were the pitch-invading *Giallorossi* to grab a souvenir of the occasion. Since then, Roma have come close on two occasions, missing out on the 2001/02 championship to Juventus on the last day of the season, and finishing as runner-up in 2003/04.

However, a lot of work will need to be done to continue this period of success. Roma is suffering financial difficulty, and last season senior players, including top Italian striker Francesco Totti, subsidized the youth team's wages out of their own pockets, despite being owed several month's wages themselves. Roma has already lost three key members involved in last season's campaign – Walter Samuel, Francisco Lima and Jonathan Zebina – and the loss of Italy's most successful manager, Fabio Capello, to Juventus was another blow. However, his successor at the *Olimpico*, Cesare Prandelli, will be hoping that the *Giallorossi* can build on the form of last season and who knows, may even upset the odds and go one better... →

Team profile

The meanest defense and the most potent strikeforce in Italian top-flight football... and it still wasn't enough to win AS Roma the title. That just shows how tough life is in *Serie A*



Serie A statistics provided by Opta



Roma lines up to face Vardar Skopje of Macedonia in the UEFA Cup first round, first-leg clash at Stadio Olimpico on September 24, 2003. Roma romped home 4-0

Ivan Pelizzoli Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	2,790
Goals conceded	14
Clean sheets	20
Saves made	77
Saves-to-shots ratio	85%
Catches	40
Dropped catches	2
Catch success rate	95%

At just 23, the 6ft 4in keeper looks to have a great future. He started out on the Italian national team's youth squad; then, as a professional, joined Atalanta, spending most of 1999/00 on loan to Triestina in *Serie C* before establishing himself the following season with some impressively agile displays. After joining the *Giallorossi* in 2001/02, last year he was part of the League's meanest defense (just 16 goals conceded and an impressive 20 shutouts) and helped secure second place in the League and Champions League qualification.

Francesco Totti Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	2,770
Goals	20
Shots attempted	125
Shooting accuracy	54%
Goal assists	7
Total passes	1,308
Pass completion	73%
Tackles made	48
Tackles won	69%
Fouls	55
Yellow cards	5
Red cards	0

A key figure for both club and country, Totti makes Roma tick, providing the link between the midfield and strikers, and his deft touch and incisive vision made him one of the game's most watchable talents. He made his first-team debut at 16, was a Roma regular before he turned 20, and is now the team's captain. In 2001 his 13 domestic goals were vital to Roma's first *Serie A* success since 1983 (and led to Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni fashioning his team around him), and he scored 20 times as Roma finished second in *Serie A* in 2003/04.

Christian Chivu Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	1,925
Goals	2
Goal assists	0
Total passes	1,008
Pass completion	84%
Tackles made	47
Tackles won	83%
Blocks	22
Clearances	115
Interceptions	17
Fouls	51
Yellow cards	3
Red cards	0

A shoulder injury caused the Romanian international his share of problems during the second half of 2003/04 after a great start, but the centre-back remained one of the most reliable performers in *Serie A*, narrowly missing out on a place on the Team of the Season. Chivu joined Fabio Capello's team last August from Dutch giant Ajax in a deal worth \$21 million, and his form since then has been so good that he was rumored to be a spring transfer target for both Manchester United and Roma's domestic rivals, Inter. To date he has 11 caps for his country.

Antonio Cassano Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Serie A	
Minutes on pitch	2,695
Goals	14
Shots attempted	58
Shooting accuracy	57%
Conversion rate	24%
Minutes per goal	192.5
Goal assists	10
Total passes	1,080
Pass completion	66%
Fouls	48
Offside	32
Yellow cards	2
Red cards	0

A player with an enormous future, this talented 22-year-old finally began to turn potential into results in 2003/04, forming an almost telepathic relationship with Francesco Totti. Cassano scored 14 of the club's 67 goals (which made Roma's strikeforce the most potent in the division), and his goals and on-the-ball wizardry earned him a first international call-up last November against Poland. He was also selected for the Italian squad for Euro 2004, replacing pin-up Alessandro del Piero in Italy's goalless first game with Denmark.

Cesare Prandelli The coach

"It seems like I am living a dream. I didn't even have time to think things over... now I am here in Rome." That was how Cesare Prandelli reacted to his arrival at the *Stadio Olimpico* in May this year, just two days after Fabio Capello, the man who led Roma to the 2001 *Scudetto*, had left for Juventus. It's probably just as well he didn't have long to consider the role - Roma's financial situation and the loss of key players means any rebuilding will have to be done on a budget. But Prandelli, one of a new generation of talented coaches, has just the right experience, arriving from Parma, another team still paying for the financial excesses of the mid-1990s. And the 46-year-old former Atalanta and Juventus player has already indicated where his priorities lie: "We will work hard to build an important team full of youngsters. I have already spoken to Totti; he likes this project and wants to be part of it. Roma without him is unthinkable."



AS Roma 2003/04 Serie A

Games played	34
Goals	68
Average goals per game	2.00
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	420
Shots on target	46%
Goals-to-shots ratio	16%
Passes attempted	15,604
Overall pass completion	80%
Total crosses	795
Cross completion	26%
Goals conceded	19
Average goals conceded per game	0.56
Tackles	893
Tackles won	76%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1,239
Fouls	797
Yellow cards	60
Red cards	3



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Celtic



Winners' circle: the title celebrations start, but it's all over for star man Larsson

Celtic won the race to be the first British soccer team to lift the European Cup, and the club's recent efforts on the European stage – not to mention at home, where the trophy tally continues to rise – show it's comfortable in the most illustrious company



FACT FILE

Founded: 1888
Sponsor: Carling
Website: www.celticfc.net
Honors: European Cup 1967
 League Championship 39 times, from 1893 to 2004
 Scottish Cup 31 times, from 1892 to 2001
 League Cup 1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1983, 1998, 2000, 2001

CELTIC PARK



It's known as 'Paradise' (as well as Parkhead, the part of Glasgow where the ground is situated), but Celtic Park, home to the Hoops since day one, is generally anything but paradise for visiting teams. There are rarely many gaps among its 60,000 seats, and the passion of the fans is evident from the first to the last minute of every game. Not surprisingly, the record attendance at Parkhead was for the game that gets Celtic fans fired up more than any other: an 'Old Firm' match against Glasgow rival Rangers. That particular Old Firm game was back in 1938, when 92,000 crammed in to bay for the Gers' blood. While the modern-day maximum capacity is 30,000 less than that, the noise is still phenomenal (to the point where Parkhead was named 'most atmospheric' sports venue in the UK in a British sports poll in 2003) and that's despite the elimination of 'The Jungle', a notoriously intense stand that disappeared as part of a massive reconstruction of the stadium in 1994/95. The replacement stands are the largest in Britain.

SERIES SCHEDULE

- Saturday July 24 Qwest Field, Seattle
- ▼ Chelsea
- Monday July 26 Rentschler Field, East Hartford
- ▼ Liverpool
- Wednesday July 28 Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia
- ▼ Manchester United
- Saturday July 31 SkyDome, Toronto
- ▼ AS Roma

A year ago Celtic arrived for the ChampionsWorld series flying high after coming within touching distance of lifting the UEFA Cup – and 2003/04 proved to be another season of memorable European moments. The highlight was unquestionably the 1-0 aggregate win over Barcelona in the UEFA Cup – after all, few would have bet on a goalless draw at Barça's Nou Camp. But a stunning performance between the sticks by Celtic's 19-year-old keeper David Marshall helped Martin O'Neill's side eke out the 0-0 tie it needed to guarantee safe passage into the quarter-finals (although at that stage, sadly, the challenge was ended by Villarreal).

UEFA Cup soccer was, though, little more than a consolation for Celtic last season, after it failed to qualify for the knockout stage of the Champions League. Late goals in Munich against Bayern, and subsequently in Lyon in France, were Celtic's undoing and derailed the campaign just when the Parkhead faithful were dreaming of revisiting past glories: in May 1967 (and against all the odds) Celtic had become the first British club to lift Europe's premier trophy, beating the mighty Internazionale 2-1 in Lisbon.

The efforts of Billy McNeill and the rest of the 'Lisbon Lions' against Inter remain the stuff of legend. The Celtic starting 11 were all Scots born within a 30-mile radius of Celtic Park. Its opposition was a member of European football's aristocracy, who'd won the trophy just three years earlier and was expected to do the same again. Led by the master of the *catennacio* sweeper system, Helenio Herrera, Inter looked to be on the way, having taken the lead after seven minutes. But with McNeill at the helm, Celtic went on the attack and levelled with a Tommy Gemmell strike. Five minutes from time Stevie Chalmers deflected a Bobby Murdoch shot home, and Celtic were the kings of Europe.

The club wasn't about to rest on its laurels though. One European Cup final in its 80 year history (the club was formed in 1888) became two in 83, Celtic beating Leeds in the semi-final in 1970. Sadly, the team was denied a famous double by Feyenoord.

Since then the Parkhead team's trophy-winning exploits have been limited to the domestic game – but are unlimited in every other respect. The year Celtic triumphed in Lisbon it also won every trophy for which it competed, with the league title (its 22nd), the third of a historic nine in a row as coach Jock Stein



entered Celtic folklore. In Stein's 12 full seasons in charge the club missed out on the title just twice and, just for good measure, won the Scottish Cup eight times and the League Cup six.

Like every other top European team, the current crop of Celtic stars is drawn from far and wide, and the biggest Parkhead hero of recent days is a Swede. Henrik Larsson (left) arrived in the summer of 1997 from Feyenoord, and over the following seven seasons scored 173 goals in 221 league games to help Celtic regain top billing in the Scottish Premier League (the league title tally is now up to 39) and end Rangers' dominance of the division. Sadly for Celtic fans, Larsson has now decided a fresh challenge is in order, so the race is on to find someone to step into his free-scoring boots. But if anyone can solve the problem it's Martin O'Neill. The Hoops' much-loved coach may be the subject of constant speculation that he's about to be lured elsewhere but he insists he's going nowhere. There is, after all, a bit of unfinished European business at Celtic Park... →

Team profile

With Martin O'Neill pulling the strings at Parkhead, the current crop of Celtic stars has gelled into a team setting new standards in the Scottish Premier League... and beyond

opta Champions League statistics provided by Opta



Celtic prepares to do battle against Bayern Munich in the Olympiastadion in the 2003/04 Champions League; sadly two late Bayern goals denied Martin O'Neill's side a famous victory

Magnus Hedman Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Minutes on pitch	556
Goals conceded	7
Clean sheets	2
Saves made	18
Saves-to-shots ratio	72%
Catches	6
Dropped catches	1
Catch success rate	86%

The Swedish No.1 arrived at Celtic Park in August 2002, hotfoot from an impressive World Cup with Sweden, \$2.7m securing his transfer from Coventry City. He struggled to oust Rab Douglas as first-choice keeper in his first season, but was Martin O'Neill's choice for Celtic's 2003/04 Champions League campaign. The emergence of David Marshall forced him back down the pecking order, however, and he spent the last part of the season on loan with Italian Ancona in a bid to ensure his place in Sweden's Euro 2004 squad.

Neil Lennon Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Time played	541
Goals	0
Shots attempted	3
Shooting accuracy	0
Goal assists	0
Total passes	281
Pass completion	83%
Tackles made	44
Tackles won	64%
Fouls	8
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

The departed Henrik Larsson might have bagged the headlines with his goals, but for many Celtic fans, Neil Lennon remains the team's inspiration. The Northern Ireland man is a pivotal figure and enjoyed his best season yet at Celtic Park - as proved by his lion's share of the 50,000 votes cast in the club's Player of the Year poll. His tenacious tackling, tireless running and ability to control the pace of matches make the \$11m he cost Celtic from Leicester City in December 2000 seem one of Martin O'Neill's most canny business deals.

Dianbobo Balde Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Time played	556
Goals	0
Goal assists	0
Total passes	134
Pass completion	74%
Tackles made	32
Tackles won	63%
Blocks	7
Clearances	74
Interceptions	73
Fouls	10
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

Guinea international Bobo Balde has steadily improved since arriving at Celtic Park on a free transfer from French outfit Toulouse, in summer 2001. He did have some problems with his temperament and made occasional errors in his first season, but has since developed into one of British soccer's most solid central defenders. As you'd expect of a powerful man who stands 6ft 3in tall, he dominates in the air, and is getting better all the time. A huge fans' favorite, he was voted Celtic's Player of the Year in 2002/03.

Chris Sutton Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Time played	541
Goals	3
Shots attempted	9
Shooting accuracy	33%
Conversion rate	33%
Minutes per goal	180
Goal assists	0
Total passes	242
Pass completion	69%
Fouls	17
Offsides	1
Yellow cards	2
Red cards	0

The 2003/04 season was Sutton's best yet for Celtic. Not only did the former Blackburn and Chelsea striker excel on attack (28 goals in 44 matches for the Scottish Double-winners), he also impressed in midfield and defense. The former English international was Martin O'Neill's first signing at Celtic, arriving in 2000 for \$11m following a grim season at Chelsea, and his combative nature and high work-rate have made him a hit with fans and players - his fellow professionals last season named him Scotland's PFA Player of the Year.

Martin O'Neill The coach

Such has been his success since taking over at Celtic Park in summer 2000 that Martin O'Neill is widely regarded as one of Europe's top coaches. One of the most sought-after talents in the game, his style has been likened to that of legendary coach Brian Clough, under whom he played - and, like Clough, he clearly has the Midas touch.

Despite inheriting a team beset with problems, O'Neill immediately put his excellent motivational skills to use turning Celtic from a team in disarray into domestic Treble winners in his first season. And the silverware didn't stop there. His side retained its Scottish Premier League title in 2002 and a year later he led the club to the UEFA Cup final, where it was narrowly beaten by FC Porto.

Consolation was just around the corner, however; Celtic won the League and Cup Double last season, resulting in O'Neill justifiably being named Scottish Football Writers' Manager of the Year.

Celtic 2003/2004 Champions League

Games played	6
Goals	8
Average goals per game	1.33
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	53
Shots on target	45%
Goals-to-shots ratio	15%
Passes attempted	2282
Overall pass completion	72%
Total crosses	126
Cross completion	37%
Goals conceded	7
Average goals conceded per game	1.17
Tackles	324
Tackles won	62%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	916
Fouls	114
Yellow cards	11
Red cards	0

A message from UNICEF

In countries around the world, sports and play are improving health – both mind and body. They are teaching important life lessons about respect, leadership and cooperation. They are promoting equality for all and bridging divides among people.

The power of sports can be seen in the images of children playing soccer in streets and fields in communities across the world. Children love to play and soccer is their universal language.

UNICEF thanks ChampionsWorld and the teams in the 2004 ChampionsWorld Series for their dedication to help make a difference in children's lives.

Manchester United was the first soccer club to approach UNICEF with the aim of developing an active partnership focused on children's education and protection. Over the past five years, "United for UNICEF" has been instrumental in showing how the power of football can be used to transform children's lives and effect real change in people's perception of the problems faced by so many of the world's most disadvantaged communities.

A.C. Milan is another exemplary team supporting UNICEF. Through their advocacy and fundraising, A.C. Milan has directly supported health and immunization programs for children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We are proud to see so many other soccer clubs and organizations becoming involved with the vital work undertaken by UNICEF and very much look forward to continuing our work with the world of sports to ensure the positive influence of soccer is felt throughout the world.

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director of UNICEF

To Learn more about UNICEF'S work, or to make a donation, visit us at www.unicef.org



Galatasaray



The groundbreaking 2000 UEFA Cup victory established Galatasaray as a serious European contender, but the last few seasons have been lean by the Turks' own standards. Now, though, the club has a Galatasaray legend at the helm...

Soccer came to Turkey in the late 19th century, but the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, fearful of Western influences, banned his subjects from playing the game. It flourished nonetheless, particularly in areas where Istanbul's Greek, Jewish and Christian populations resided. *Galatasaray Spor Kulübü* was formed in 1905 by pupils from the Galatasaray Lycee, and soon afterwards students returned from a tour of Switzerland with their own version of a local soccer song, *Jim Bom Bom*. The chant was translated to the Turkish, earning the club not only its popular nickname, *Cim Bom Bom* (its official nickname is 'the Lions') but also a club song, still chanted by Gala fans.

After the establishment of the new Turkish Republic in 1923, the game took off. The founder of the modern state, Kemal Atatürk, was a fan of Galatasaray's city rivals Fenerbahçe, and soon after he came to power, a national soccer association and local leagues were established. A play-off competition between the Istanbul sides and the regional champions has existed since 1937, but a national league was only created in 1959. Galatasaray won its first title in 1961/62, and a second followed a year later, but it was seven years before the next successful period, with the club winning three championships in a row between 1970 and 1973. (Their star at this time was Metin Oktay, who scored more than 600 goals for the club; when he died in a car crash 20 years later, he became an icon for the fans.) But European competition was still proving tough (no great surprise given the late development of the Turkish league), with Galatasaray's quarter-final defeat by Legia Warsaw in the 1969/70 European Cup as good as it got.

The club was also about to enter the doldrums domestically. Between 1973 and 1987, it didn't pick up a single title, as Fenerbahçe, Beşiktaş and Trabzonspor dominated. But with the newly formed Champions League offering untold wealth for its participants, Galatasaray's next championship win, in 1992/93, provided a springboard for success. In 1993 Gala drew Manchester United in the qualifying round. When United took an early 2-0 lead at home things looked bad for Gala, but they fought back to draw 3-3, and in a tempestuous return, held their nerve for a 0-0 tie to knock one of the favorites out of the competition. That game also established the reputation of the Gala fans. Banners welcoming English fans to 'Hell', and Turkish police fighting United stars in the players' tunnel established Istanbul – and particularly Galatasaray – as a tough place for visiting teams.

With stars such as Hakan Sükür, Gica Popescu and Gheorghe Hagi, plus a regular Champions League spot, Galatasaray really took off. The tactical guile of Fatih Terim, and the partnership of Hagi and Sükür helped Gala dominate the league – and make an impression in Europe. Wins over AC Milan, Borussia Dortmund, Real Mallorca and Leeds saw Gala to its first European final, against Arsenal in 2000, which it won on penalties. The star names were soon on their way, however, and though both Terim and Sükür have returned following spells in Italy, Galatasaray is still hoping to revisit those heady days. With Brazilian midfielder Flavio Conceição arriving from Real Madrid, and Sükür back to play under his old striking partner Hagi – now the team's coach – Gala fans are hoping it will not be long before the good times return. →

Star quality: Gica Popescu was part of Fatih Terim's Romanian revolution



FACT FILE

Founded: 1905

Sponsor: Aria

Website: www.galatasaray.org.tr

Honors: League Championship 1962, 1963, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1987, 1988, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002

Domestic Cup 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1985, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2000

UEFA Cup 2000

UEFA Super Cup 2000

ATATÜRK OLYMPIC STADIUM



The Atatürk Olympic Stadium is Galatasaray's temporary home while the Ali Sami Yen stadium (named after Gala's founding member) is demolished to make way for a new ground. The original Ali Sami Yen, home to the club since the 1940s, which was surrounded by residential blocks and a motorway flyover, held 30,000 fans; the new stadium, scheduled to open in 2005, will hold 41,000. The Olympic Stadium, in the western suburb of İkitelli, was completed in 2002 at a cost of \$140m, and while its 80,000 capacity is too much for most league games, for clashes with the team's rival, Fenerbahçe, it is close to full. The rivalry between these two teams is one of soccer's most deep-rooted: Fenerbahçe has a predominantly working-class support, while prosperous Gala owns a private island in the Bosphorus river with a swimming pool, hotel and restaurant. Soccer in Istanbul is almost a religion, played with an unrivalled intensity and passion; it's hoped the new Ali Sami Yen stadium will retain some of the old stadium's electric atmosphere.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Sunday August | Giants Stadium, East Rutherford

✓ FC Porto

Team profile

Whatever else Gheorghe Hagi might feel his Galatasaray side is lacking, his troops are certainly not short on experience, with a raft of World Cup veterans in the ranks...

Opta Champions League statistics provided by Opta



Time for one final photocall at the Amsterdam ArenA in Holland before Galatasaray took on - and beat - Liverpool in the Sony Amsterdam tournament on August 3, 2003

Faryd Mondragón Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Minutes on pitch	572
Goals conceded	8
Clean sheets	2
Saves made	24
Saves-to-shots ratio	75%
Catches	2
Dropped catches	2
Catch success rate	50%

The 33-year-old Colombian international, who won the Turkish title with Gala in 2002, has been its regular custodian for three years, having arrived from French club FC Metz in the summer of 2001, replacing fellow South American Claudio Taffarel. While Taffarel helped Brazil win the 1994 World Cup, Mondragón remained on the bench for Colombia, but he did play three World Cup matches at France 98, and was superb in keeping the score down against England (though David Beckham did beat him with a trademark free-kick).

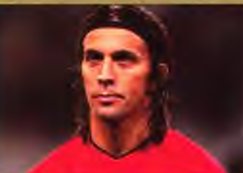
Ergün Penbe Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Time played	541
Goals	0
Shots attempted	4
Shooting accuracy	0%
Goal assists	0
Total passes	289
Pass completion	80%
Tackles made	32
Tackles won	56%
Fouls	12
Yellow cards	0
Red cards	0

A feisty midfielder who can also operate as a full-back, the industrious Ergün has just completed a decade of service at Galatasaray (after moving from Gençlerbirliği) during which he's won five league titles, three Turkish Cups and the UEFA Cup and European Super Cup. He played for Turkey at Euro 2000 and the 2002 World Cup, last representing his country in the first leg of the Euro 2004 play-off in Latvia last November - his 44th international game. Now 32, his experience should prove invaluable to Gheorghe Hagi's team.

Bülent Korkmaz Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Time played	488
Goals	0
Goal assists	0
Total passes	180
Pass completion	77%
Tackles made	25
Tackles won	56%
Blocks	5
Clearances	35
Interceptions	46
Fouls	10
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

A veteran of Turkish, European and international soccer, this 35-year-old central defender has spent his whole career with Gala, having signed up as a schoolboy in 1982. As well as collecting a host of domestic honors, he has represented the Red and Yellows 50 times in the Champions League and is just one cap short of becoming the first Turkish player to make 100 international appearances. His first international was against the Republic of Ireland in 1990; at the 2002 World Cup he started all but one of Turkey's seven games.

Hakan Sükür Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Champions League	
Time played	571
Goals	5
Shots attempted	14
Shooting accuracy	36%
Conversion rate	36%
Minutes per goal	114
Goal assists	0
Total passes	150
Pass completion	71%
Fouls	6
Offsides	13
Yellow cards	1
Red cards	0

A serial scorer for both Galatasaray and the Turkish national team over the past decade, this tall centre-forward is now in his third stint with the Istanbul club, having struggled during brief foreign assignments at Torino, Inter, Parma and Blackburn Rovers. He is Turkey's record scorer by some distance with 45 goals in 95 internationals (the next highest is just 21) but had a poor 2002 World Cup, only finding his form in the third-place play-off game when he scored the fastest ever World Cup finals goal - in just 10.8 seconds.

Gheorghe Hagi The coach

One of the most charismatic players in world soccer over the last 20 years, Gheorghe Hagi, after a short stint in charge of the Turkish team Bursaspor, replaced his old boss Fatih Terim in March this year following some poor league results and Gala's elimination from the UEFA Cup. The Romanian - nicknamed the 'Maradona of the Carpathians', both for his silky skills and his volatile temperament - rose to prominence when his Steaua Bucharest team beat Barcelona to win the 1986 European Cup. After seasons with Real Madrid, Brescia and Barça, he joined Galatasaray for the last four years of his playing career, winning four league titles and the 2000 UEFA Cup, Turkey's first major European trophy. "Any team can fall on hard times," said the 39-year-old. "We have to unite. Trophies are won only when people come together as one." After this year's sixth-placed league finish, Hagi needs his team to find that unity as soon as possible.

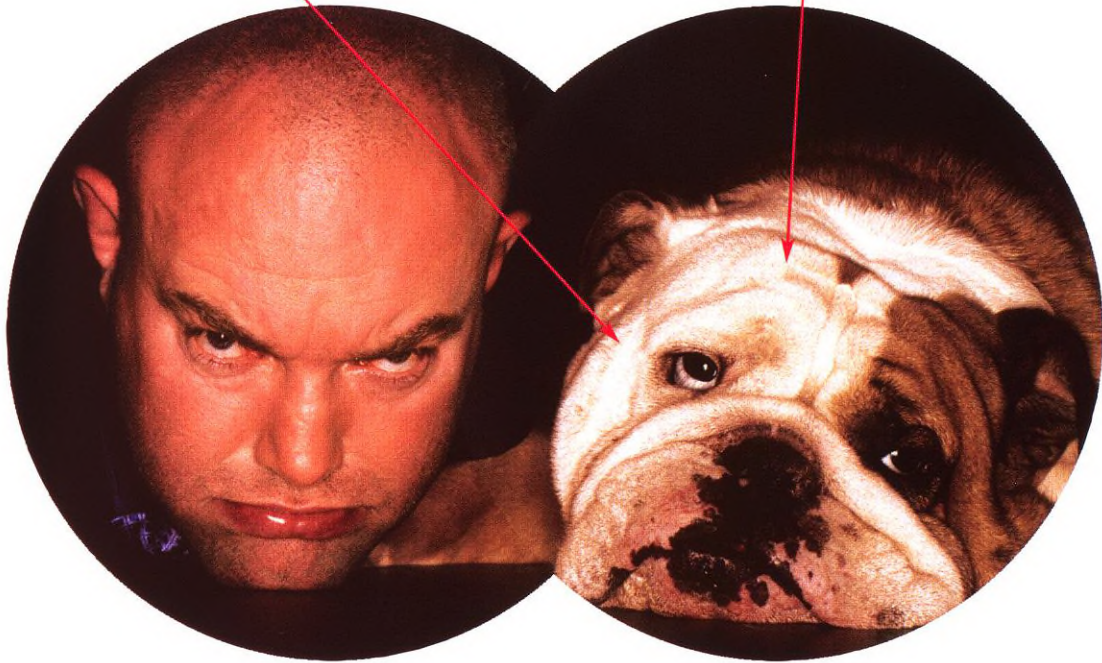


Galatasaray 2003/04 Champions League

Games played	6
Goals	6
Average goals per game	1.00
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	53
Shots on target	34%
Goals-to-shots ratio	11%
Passes attempted	2,687
Overall pass completion	76%
Total crosses	119
Cross completion	21%
Goals conceded	8
Average goals conceded per game	1.33
Tackles	264
Tackles won	56%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	818
Fouls	130
Yellow cards	14
Red cards	2

canine cookies for a family member: \$11

weekend obedience school for a family member: \$210



family resemblance: priceless





Chelsea

FACT FILE

Founded: 1905
Sponsor: Fly Emirates
Website: www.chelseafc.com
Honors: European Cup Winners' Cup 1971, 1998
 European Super Cup Winners 1999 English League
 1955 FA Cup 1970, 1997, 2000 League Cup 1965,
 1998

STAMFORD BRIDGE



Unusually in English soccer history it was Chelsea's ground that spawned the club, rather than the other way around. After Fulham FC turned down an offer in 1905 to play at Stamford Bridge stadium, Chelsea was formed to play there, rather than leave the space to be used as a coal yard. It's still there today, but changed out of all recognition. Former chairman Ken Bates, who bought the debt-ridden club for just £1 in 1982, oversaw a total revamp of the 12.5 acre site. This included the demolition, in 1994, of the infamous 'Shed' (home to Chelsea's more vociferous supporters) to be replaced by the South Stand, the construction of a new West Stand and extensive work on the North Stand. These days Stamford Bridge is abutted by Chelsea Village, a leisure and entertainment complex with restaurants, two hotels and a nightclub, making the entire site unrecognizable from a decade ago. With a capacity of 42,449 it's London's biggest soccer stadium; it's also the fifth-largest in the Premiership - and, when the mood is right, one of the noisiest.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Saturday July 24 Qwest Field, Seattle
 ▼ Celtic
 Thursday July 29 Heinz Field, Pittsburgh
 ▼ AS Roma
 Monday August 2 Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia
 ▼ AC Milan

It's a scenario Dynasty scriptwriters would have struggled to improve. Just weeks before the start of the 2003/04 season, Russian tycoon Roman Abramovich (the 22nd richest man in the world, according to England newspaper *The Sunday Times*) appeared from nowhere to buy Chelsea for a reported \$233 million. Founding member of the League, the London team's credentials were sound, if not exactly encrusted in the 24-carat gold of a Manchester United or AC Milan. But within seven weeks the Siberian oil magnate had shipped in 10 new players for a staggering \$204 million as he assembled a brand new 'Chelski'.

For coach Claudio Ranieri, in the job since September 2000, the pressure was on. The Italian, who knew only the best would be good enough for a boss who lists a customized Boeing jet among his personal belongings, jokingly dubbed himself a 'dead man walking', and was soon the subject of a whispering campaign in the media despite the fact that, on the pitch, the team was largely getting it right. Outstanding seasons from Frank Lampard in midfield and defender John Terry saw the team finish as runner-up to Arsenal's 'Invincibles' and reach the semi-finals of Europe's elite club competition, the UEFA Champions League, for the first time.

However, second-best was not enough to keep the beleaguered Ranieri - whose idiosyncratic and often bizarre substitutions won him the nickname of 'Tinkerman' - in a job. And in the first week of June, Ranieri, who had started his press conference on the eve of Chelsea's Champions League semi-final second leg against Monaco with the words, "Hello my sharks, welcome to the funeral", was finally put out of his misery.

The new incumbent in the Stamford Bridge hot seat is the rising star of European soccer, José Mourinho, who clinched the Champions League with fellow ChampionsWorld team FC Porto just days before agreeing to make the switch to Chelsea on a four-year deal. At his first press conference the intense (and intensely ambitious) Portuguese 41-year-old said: "If you give me four years, I promise I will win the title." He might not get that long, though; while Abramovich insisted his decision to buy the club had not been about making money but "really about having fun," he swiftly added the rider: "That means success and trophies."

Mourinho's first season in charge will also be Chelsea's centenary year, and a second top-flight title would be quite some way to mark the team's 100th birthday. It's 50 years since Ted Drake's side, led by the goalscoring prowess of John Bentley, won the old First Division championship. And Drake's ability to get his players to deliver results would have fitted in ideally with the Russian's viewpoint. Unimpressed by what he saw on his arrival in 1952, Drake immediately had the club's badge depicting a senior citizen (Chelsea were known as the 'Pensioners' due to the proximity of the nearby hospital for old and invalid soldiers) replaced with the rather more aggressive figure of a rampant lion. And although style was often sacrificed for results - Chelsea's 52 points remains the lowest league-winning tally since the Second World War - that nonetheless remains the club's finest hour.

Mourinho has already said that grinding out results is more important than providing a spectacle. "If Mr Abramovich likes 5-4, I'm sure he hates 4-5. So, if you have to choose between 4-5 and 1-0, you have to go for 1-0."

One thing's for sure, though. If Mourinho can get the top players at his disposal to take on board his insatiable work ethic, the Blues will be pushing even harder for the title next term. Then the Kings Road, noted for its dandy, trendsetting outlook during the 1960s, will be swinging once more. →

On the up: Chelsea makes the Champions League semis... and keeps Roman smiling

When Chelsea won through to the semi-finals of the Champions League, no one could doubt that it had arrived as one of Europe's elite. And with the continent's top young coach taking up the reins at Stamford Bridge, the club is on track to fulfil even more of Roman Abramovich's dreams...



Team profile

The Chelsea class of 2003/04 had plenty of new faces, but it was a few 'old stagers' who made the biggest impression as the Stamford Bridge side proved it was a team to be reckoned with...

opta Premier
statistics
provided by Opta



The Blues' starting XI lines up ahead of the 2004 Champions League semi-final second leg against Monaco in May; the tie finished 5-3 in favour of the French side

Carlo Cudicini Top goalkeeper 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,340
Goals conceded	20
Clean sheets	14
Saves made	53
Saves-to-shots ratio	73%
Catches	45
Dropped catches	7
Catch success rate	87%

The \$291,000 that Chelsea paid Castel di Sangro in the summer of 2000 for the then 26-year-old Milanese-born keeper now looks like one of the club's biggest bargains in recent years. After a season on loan at Stamford Bridge, this lithe and agile performer has now established himself as first choice, and proven to be one of the Premiership's top custodians, winning the divisional Golden Gloves award in 2003. There has even been talk in some quarters of a call-up to the England national team, as he now qualifies through his residency in the country.

Frank Lampard Top midfielder 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	3,379
Goals	10
Shots attempted	84
Shooting accuracy	50%
Goal assists	5
Total passes	2,135
Pass completion	78%
Tackles made	143
Tackles won	77%
Fouls	42
Yellow cards	3
Red cards	0

A \$20 million signing from West Ham in 2001, Lampard's all-action displays in central midfield proved crucial in Chelsea's 2003/04 Premiership campaign and the club's march to the Champions League semi-final. A combination of flair and hard work saw him finish runner-up for the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award, win a place in the Team of the Year and establish himself as a regular member of the England team. His finishing - 10 strikes in the League last year - is explosive.

John Terry Top defender 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	2,965
Goals	2
Goal assists	2
Total passes	1,398
Pass completion	84%
Tackles made	98
Tackles won	79%
Blocks	35
Clearances	313
Interceptions	37
Fouls	43
Yellow cards	5
Red cards	0

John Terry - whose fitness worries for England's national team were rarely off that country's sports pages in the run-up to the Euro 2004 competition - made his Premiership debut in the 1998/99 season aged just 17. His steady growth as a player saw him win the club's Player of the Season award in 2001/02, and he has become the lynchpin of the Blues' defence. Excellent ball distribution and astute reading of the game - as well as his forays forward - make him a key figure for both his club and country for the foreseeable future.

J F Hasselbaink Top striker 03/04



2003/04 Premiership	
Minutes on pitch	1,993
Goals	12
Shots attempted	66
Shooting accuracy	41%
Conversion rate	18%
Minutes per goal	166.1
Goal assists	5
Total passes	595
Pass completion	74%
Fouls	45
Offside	26
Yellow cards	6
Red cards	0

A club record signing from Atletico Madrid in July 2000, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink has offered a good dividend on Chelsea's \$27.5 million outlay, averaging nearly a goal every other game - as he has more or less throughout his career. In two years with Leeds, whom he joined from Portuguese side Boavista in June 1997, the 32-year-old Dutchman, who has explosive pace and great finishing ability from anywhere, was equally prolific. He won the Premiership Golden Boot in 2000/01 and his partnership with Eidur Gudjohnsen is one of the division's most potent.

José Mourinho The coach



Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich demands winners - so he couldn't have picked a better candidate to be his new head coach than the one-time physical education teacher, who got his footballing break as a translator for former England boss Bobby Robson at Dutch giant PSV Eindhoven. Having taken Portugal's premier side FC Porto to UEFA Cup and then Champions League glory in the last two seasons, Mourinho arrives on a contract that could see him become the highest-paid manager in world football. He talks the talk - and so far, he's walked the walk. The abiding memory of unfancied Porto's Champions League success was of Mourinho, having accepted his winners' medal, swiftly taking it off and heading off the pitch as the celebrations got into full swing. Job done, he was already focused on the next challenge. The English Premiership will certainly provide him with one of the European domestic game's sternest tests.

Chelsea 2003/04 Premiership

Games played	38
Goals	67
Average goals per game	1.76
Shots (excluding blocked shots)	483
Shots on target	42%
Goals-to-shots ratio	13%
Passes attempted	16,673
Overall pass completion	80%
Total crosses	975
Cross completion	25%
Goals conceded	30
Average goals conceded per game	0.79
Tackles	1,071
Tackles won	74%
Blocks, clearances and interceptions	1,663
Fouls	510
Yellow cards	45
Red cards	3

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American idols

Europe's leagues aren't awash with US players yet, but these guys are paving the way...

Tim Howard MANCHESTER UNITED (English Premier League)

Arriving at Old Trafford from the New York/New Jersey MetroStars as an unknown a year ago, Tim Howard couldn't have looked more at home in the Premiership. A spectacular shot-stopper, cool under pressure, he broke into the US national side in 2002 (though not in time to make that year's World Cup squad), and now has nine caps to his name.

Brad Friedel BLACKBURN ROVERS (English Premier League)

The 6ft 3in American moved to Ewood Park in Blackburn, England, in November 2000 having failed to establish himself at Liverpool where he had arrived from Columbus Crew in 1997. A veteran of the US national side (he has 80 caps to date, making him the second-most capped American goalkeeper), Friedel was in commanding form as the US marched to the quarter-finals of the 2002 World Cup, saving two penalty shots along the way.

Kasey Keller TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (English Premier League)

Kasey Keller was at the forefront of US players heading for Europe, joining London club Millwall in 1992. He made the step up to the Premiership with Leicester City, but left the club just one game short of 100 league appearances, joining Rayo Vallecano in Spain's *Primera Liga*. After returning to the Premiership with Tottenham Hotspur, in time for the start of the 2001/02 season, his quick hands and quicker thinking soon saw Neil Sullivan ousted as the first-choice keeper at White Hart Lane. He has played 61 times for his country.

Carlos Bocanegra FULHAM (English Premier League)

The strapping 6ft defender enjoyed three outstanding seasons in the MLS (Rookie of the Year in his debut season; MLS Defender of the Year the next two years) and became a lynchpin of the national team, chipping in with four goals in 2003. Fulham boss Chris Coleman snapped him up on a free transfer in January 2004, and his speed and reading of the game helped the Cottagers to ninth place in the League.

Greg Vanney SC BASTIA (French First Division)

This 29-year-old defender from Chandler, Arizona joined French First Division club Bastia on loan in February 2002, before making the move permanent a year later. A regular for the international team, he's played at least one game for the US every year since his debut against Guatemala in 1996. He was part of the Los Angeles Galaxy team who won the 2001 Lamar Hunt US Open.

Clint Mathis HANNOVER 96 (German Bundesliga)

With 11 goals in his 38 international starts, the 27-year-old Clint Mathis already looks assured of a place in American soccer history. Having finished the 2003 season as the MetroStars' leading scorer, he found himself the target of several European outfits, and having opted to throw his lot in with Hannover 96 (who got its man on a free transfer) in January 2004, he made an instant impression with four goals in his first five games.

Claudio Reyna MANCHESTER CITY (English Premier League)

Claudio Reyna's pedigree is impressive. Apart from 80 caps, and the fact that he skippered the US at the 2002 World Cup, the creative midfielder is now with his fourth top-flight European side. His first port of call was Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen; next came a spell on loan to VfB Wolfsburg, then a move to Rangers (where he won the Scottish Premier League), before signing for Manchester City in August 2003.

John O'Brien AJAX (Dutch Eredivisie)

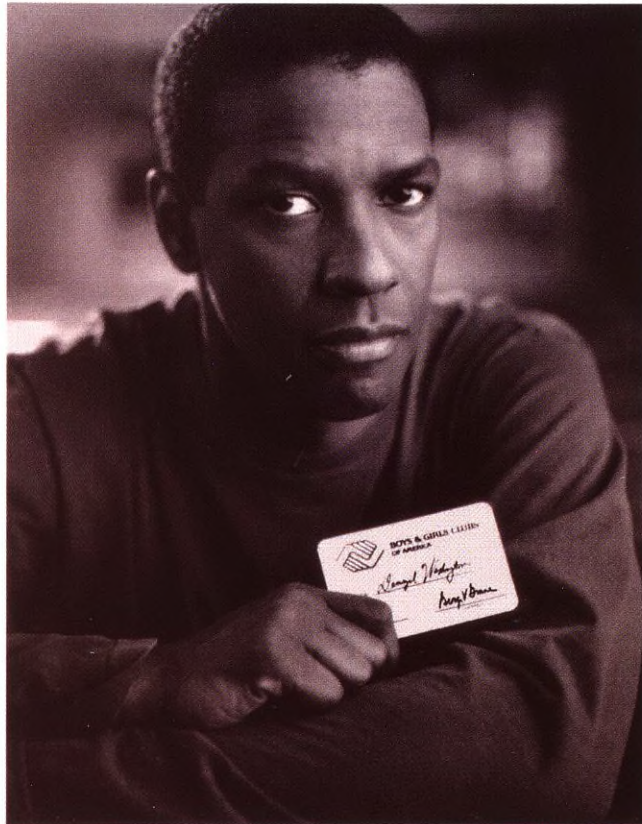
In 2003 midfielder John O'Brien, at Ajax since 1994, became the first American to play in a Champions League quarter-final - having, in 2001/02, won both the *Eredivisie* and Amstel Cup. After a trial for the Dutch giant at age 14, O'Brien was back two years later to join its youth training program. He signed a three-year contract in 1998, then spent a season on loan at Utrecht before making his Ajax debut in September 1999 in the UEFA Cup.

Brian McBride FULHAM (English Premier League)

After a spell on loan in England with First Division Preston and then Everton in the Premiership - Brian McBride finally cut his ties with Columbus Crew when he joined Fulham in January 2004. The only US player to score in two World Cups, the 6ft 11in forward boasts almost a goal every three games, with the pick of the bunch a spectacular diving header against Portugal at the 2002 finals.

Tony Sanneh NURNBERG (German Bundesliga)

Midfield star Sanneh moved to Germany four years ago, originally signing for Hertha Berlin then moving to current team Nurnberg two seasons later. The Minnesota-born former D.C. United man has played 26 times for the national team, and was one of only three players who was ever-present during USA's five games in the 2002 World Cup in Japan/South Korea.



Denzel Washington

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