

THE NEXT GENERATION

EXCLUSIVE!

CHRISTIAN PULISIC

Chelsea's flying attacker sees
gaps where they don't exist...

P.18

PLUS:

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

PHIL FODEN

THEO HERNÁNDEZ

EDUARDO CAMAVINGA

MUNDIAL

POWERED BY *FOOTBALL*

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THE NEXT GENERATION...



Every now and then, there's a moment in time.

A moment where we stand up and take notice.

A moment that brings a smile to our face, we feel it.

It doesn't happen often. But when it does, we love to see it.

It's why we watch. It's why we play.

Sometimes a player comes along that's impossible to ignore.

A player that sparks joy among the terraces and euphoria for those watching all around the world.

The kind of player that has us hitting the replay button and reaching for the nearest controller.

The kind of player that always leaves you wanting more.

A player that has just that little bit extra.

Those, who in their short careers, have already left an indelible mark and are destined for greatness.

The future is at their feet. And right now, it's in your hands.

Meet "**THE NEXT GENERATION**."

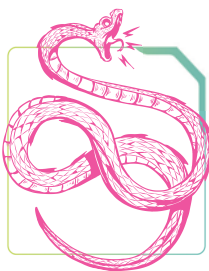


KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

LEFT WINGER, 22, PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

● A SERIAL TROPHY WINNER for club and country, Kylian Mbappé has shown that he is the man for every occasion. And he's just getting started... →



CHEMISTRY
STYLE:

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ



→ KYLIAN MBAPPÉ WAS SIX years old when he started to play football for AS Bondy, in a team coached by his dad. It's hard for fathers who are coaches to talk about their sons because they do not want to place extra pressure on them. Other people can say it, though. Other people can say that, from the beginning, his talent was big. Endless.

"He had technique and vision in the game that most children just don't have," Atmane Airouche, then president of AS Bondy, told *BBC Sport*, "He's got eyes in the back of his head. He knows how to anticipate where the ball will go. Here, he always played with older children because there was no point leaving him with kids his own age."

KEY
MOMENT:

12.05.18,
CHAMPION WITH
PARIS SAINT-
GERMAIN

THERE WAS AN INEVITABILITY ABOUT the recently crowned European Golden Boy winning both Ligue 1 and the Young Player of the Year Award in his first season at Paris Saint-Germain.

But it's how he did it. From minute one of his debut in a bright yellow away kit, he showed he was at that level. Teammates who had been around the block and played all over the world looked for him. They buzzed off his quickness of thought and speed of foot and how he belonged and wanted to improve with every second. Hell, at times, he struggled to

live with his own talent bursting out of him. An outside of the foot cross. Hunting down the defenders. Three consecutive dragbacks. The sniper's strike for his debut goal.

Since it was first seen 2500 years ago, Halley's Comet has been both fantasy and reality. Something that flies through the sky every 76 years and makes people watch it open-mouthed. This is how Kylian Mbappé plays football. He combines make-believe with regularity.

In that first season up and down France and across Europe, these displays were endless, and he went into the 2018 World Cup in Russia as the most hyped teenager since Pelé 60 years earlier. In an interview since then, he told *Time* how he was "living the life he always dreamed of."

You can imagine him, back from training at AS Bondy, closing the eyes at the front of his head and the ones in the back of his head that made him stand out amongst players six inches taller. Imagining that he would rise out of Bondy, dreaming that his name would permeate every corner of the universe, hoping that particles of his brilliance would settle on a World Cup. And they did, of course. When he smashed home France's fourth in the final, he became the first teenager since Pelé to score in a World Cup final. "The boy with the world at his feet," screamed the commentator. "Welcome to the club," tweeted Pelé.

He's 22 now. Geographically, he's still not far from where he grew up in Bondy, but he's travelled a million miles as a footballer. He's been Ligue 1 top scorer for three consecutive seasons, won Player of the Season twice, and continued to score goals that make you shake your head with disbelief. There'll be more. Over the coming years, Kylian will do thousands of things that you see on television, read in newspapers, or watch on live feeds that will seem like they were conceived in another galaxy. He'll continue to show that his talent is big. Endless. ●

TEAMMATES WHO HAD BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK AND PLAYED ALL OVER THE WORLD LOOKED FOR HIM. THEY BUZZED OFF HIS QUICKNESS OF THOUGHT AND SPEED OF FOOT AND HOW HE BELONGED AND WANTED TO IMPROVE WITH EVERY SECOND

THE ITEM:



90 PACE

You know the goal? The one against his former club in 2019? Where he lays it off and then burns up the pitch to finish off the move? He was clocked at 23.61mph an hour in that game, which is faster than Usain Bolt averaged when he set his 9.58 100 metre world record in 2009. Bolt, however, reached an astonishing top speed of 27.8mph in that race, so Kylian has a way to go yet!

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW KYLIAN?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30

1.

WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION FOR KYLIAN'S FAMOUS CROSSED ARMS CELEBRATION?

- A: HE GETS REALLY COLD HANDS
- B: IT'S HOW HIS BROTHER CELEBRATES WHEN HE BEATS HIM ON FIFA
- C: IT'S A TRIBUTE TO HIS FORMER YOUTH COACH

2.

AGAINST WHICH TEAM DID KYLIAN SCORE HIS FIRST GOAL FOR FRANCE?

- A: THE NETHERLANDS
- B: ENGLAND
- C: BRAZIL

3.

WHOSE YOUNGEST GOALSCORER CLUB RECORD DID KYLIAN BREAK AT MONACO IN 2016?

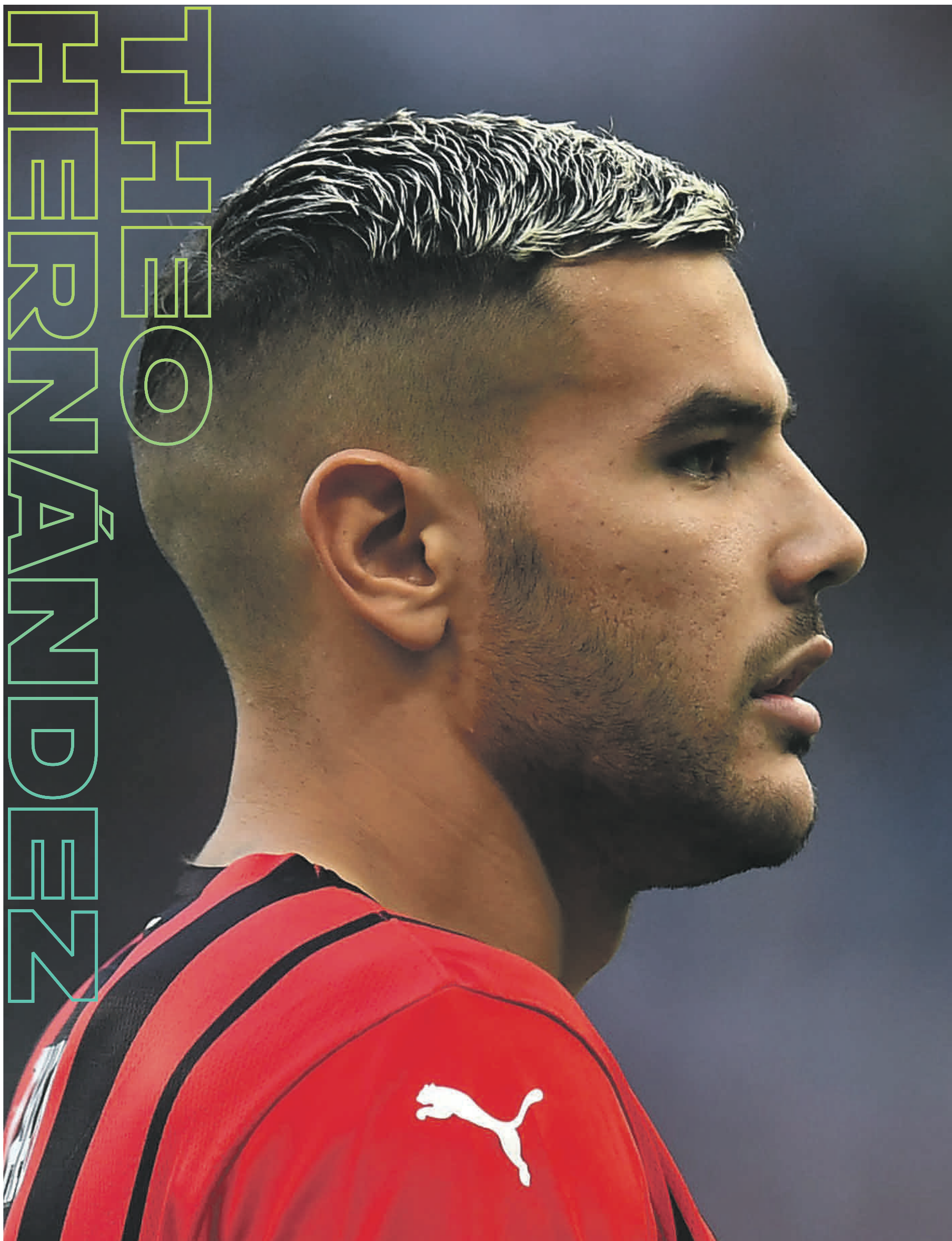
- A: THIERRY HENRY
- B: LILIAN THURAM
- C: FABIEN BARTHEZ

4.

TRUE OR FALSE?

KYLIAN'S MOTHER PLAYED FIRST DIVISION HANDBALL IN THE 1990S.

THEO HERNÁNDEZ

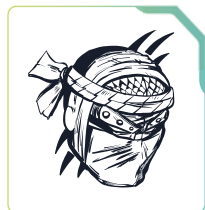
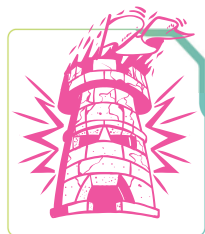


THEO HERNÁNDEZ

LEFT BACK, 24, AC MILAN

● THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL who dominates the left flank at San Siro is a footballer completely redefining his position... →



CHEMISTRY
STYLE:

THEO HERNÁNDEZ

→IT'S DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE what you'd do if you were playing football, received the ball, thought you had some time and space and then realised that Theo Hernández was watching you. You could try to outpace him, but that would be useless. He's faster. You might think about trying to beat him physically. That would also be useless. He's stronger. A piece of skill? Useless. As soon as he's seen you, you've already lost. The ball will be gone and heading back towards your goal at speed. Woosh. You had the ball, and now Theo Hernández has it. You're not getting it back.

Theo Hernández is at the forefront of a group of young, innovative fullbacks who completely redefine the role. From an attacking perspective, a defensive perspective, and a mental perspective, a formidable group of young footballers looked at the rulebook and wrote a new one. Signed it at the bottom and said, "This is us now". A group intent on dictating football matches from a position that, in the past, was disregarded as a place to really make a difference. They are the future, and you know who they are.

After spending a childhood at Atlético Madrid alongside his older brother and best friend Lucas, Theo always looked destined for great things, and a loan to Alavés kick-started a process that saw him move to Real Madrid in 2017. The move to Milan, two years later, was when he really started to become the player you see now. The left flank that would be his, and only his.

KEY
MOMENT:

06.07.19,
SIGNED FOR
AC MILAN

THEO MADE HIS DEBUT in the Derby della Madonnina, his first goal sealed a win against Genoa, and he ended up in the Serie A Team of The Season for the 19/20 campaign. There were 33 appearances, six goals and five assists in the league that debut season, followed up with seven goals and six assists the following season. It was an emphatic start that made eyebrows raise and a brilliant second season that made heads wobble. He looked like something new.

Football is always evolving, on the pitch and off it. Whether it's new cameras that allow us to get a full 360-degree view of the perfect slide tackle, goalkeepers needing good feet to play the ball out short, or new statistics that change how you analyse a game—it's a sport changing all the time. It's why we watch it, read about it, and play it. Constantly. And, the fullback position is one of the things that, over the last few years, has definitely changed.

These new fullbacks have changed the stereotypes and taken the position by the scruff of its neck. Just a defender? Not anymore.

Theo Hernández plays football like he's been fitted with a high-powered engine. Up and down that left side, creating opportunities for himself and others to score. Pace, power, ball control. His ability to turn defence into attack is incredible to watch. That 70-yard lung-busting run against Crotone in February. Stopping the attack, eating up the yards, moving away from opponents before and then laying off the ball perfectly for his teammate was the perfect microcosm of how he plays the game. Imperious. And it wasn't the first time he'd done it. A player controlling the game from left back. The position formerly known as left back.

The goal that he scored in the Nations League semifinal for France—running onto a loose ball on the edge of the box, one touch to steady himself, before hammering the ball home—was no surprise to anyone who has watched him in Serie A. It was only his second appearance for France.

He's recorded three assists for Les Bleus since that game, too, and if the world didn't know before, it does now. Now it understands. But what happens next? Can he run any faster? Can he become any stronger? Can he shoot any harder? AC Milan has a player who further redefines his position every time he steps onto the pitch. A player who makes fans of all ages dream. ●

HE DICTATES
THE PLAY FROM
THE POSITION
FORMERLY KNOWN
AS LEFT BACK



THEO
HERNÁNDEZ

THE ITEM:



83

PHYSICALITY

It's the goal against Spezia in 2020. The overwhelming presence of muscle, bone, and heart that allows him to steal the ball off the flinching right winger before he can try to do anything with it. The explosion into a 40-yard run directly towards goal and the retreat of their defenders. The power he strikes the ball with. The screaming of the net. The fact that, actually, Theo Hernández does this quite a lot.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THEO?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30

1.

WHICH TEAM DID THEO SCORE HIS FIRST EVER PROFESSIONAL GOAL AGAINST?

- A: BARCELONA**
B: LEICESTER CITY
C: REAL SOCIEDAD

2.

WHICH EUROPEAN CITY WAS THEO BORN IN?

- A: MADRID**
B: MARSEILLE
C: MUNICH

3.

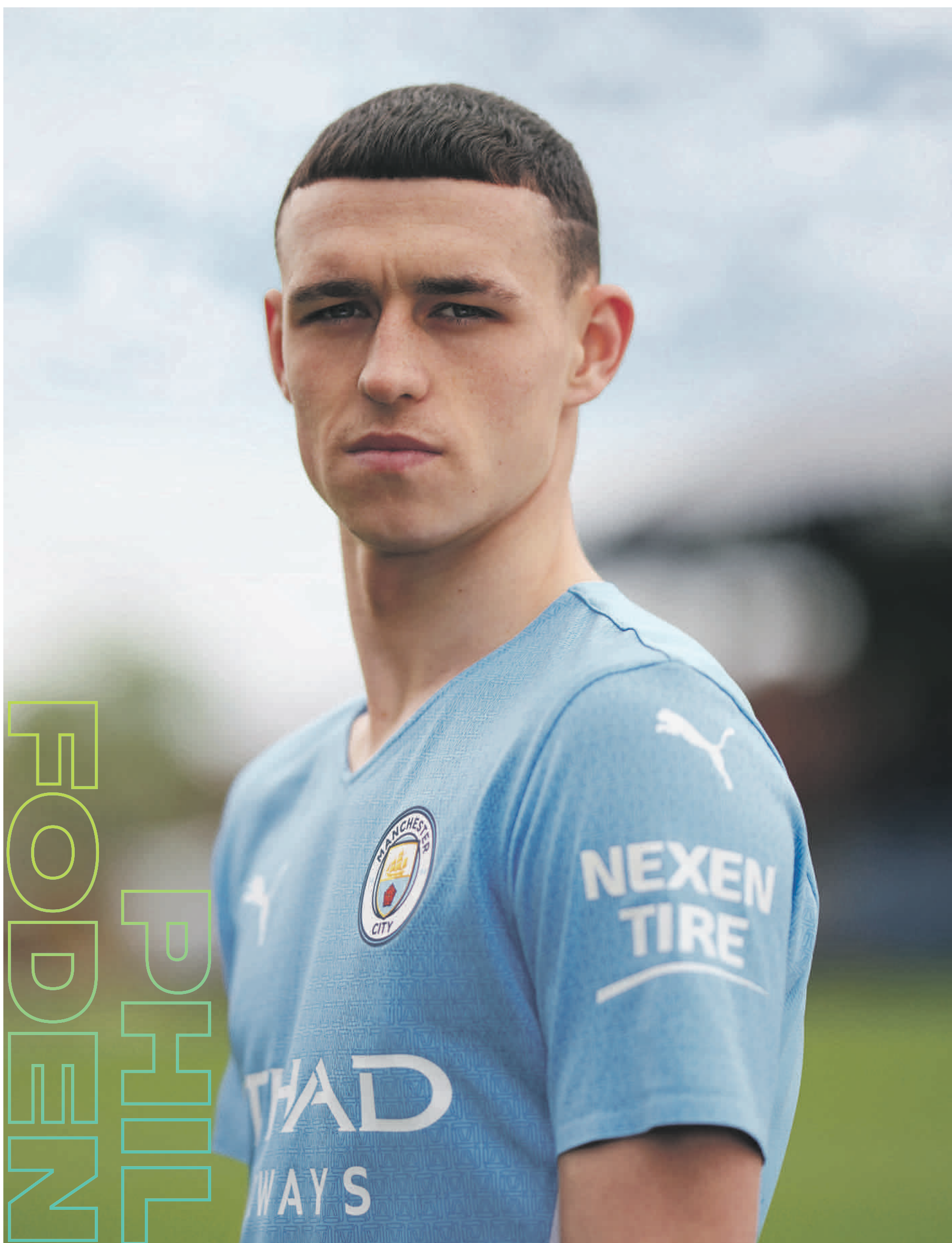
HOW HAS THEO'S TEAMMATE SAMU CASTILLEJO PRANKED HIM IN THE PAST?

- A: PUT MANDARINS IN HIS SHOES**
B: PUT APPLES IN THE BACK OF HIS CAR
C: PUT PEARS IN HIS FOOTBALL SOCKS

4.

TRUE OR FALSE?

THEO SCORED HIS FIRST-EVER BRACE IN A 2-2 DRAW AGAINST PARMA IN DECEMBER 2020.

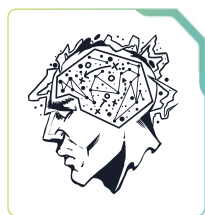


PHIL FODEN

CENTRAL ATTACKING MIDFIELDER, 21, MANCHESTER CITY

● HE'S WON THREE Premier League titles, his manager sees him as a gift, and for every second of every game he plays, the boy who joined City is a man who controls time and bends it to his will... →



CHEMISTRY
STYLE:

PHIL FODEN

→FROM THE MOMENT PHIL FODEN seized on a wayward clearance by Liverpool's goalkeeper 27 yards from goal, to him delivering the assist that put Manchester City in the lead, took 5.23 seconds. In that time, he touched the ball nine times. The first four took him from static into the right-hand side of the area and between two defenders, the next four into a position to deliver the cross. For the entire 5.23 seconds, the ball does not leave his left foot until he wants it to. In his career so far, this is what has made him stand out. The close control. The way he plays with his head up. His ability to play the killer pass at the right time.

Since Phil Foden signed for Manchester City, it is highly unlikely he has ever been the biggest player on the pitch. Wild games of 18-a-side on the streets and parks of Stockport, organised games of 4-a-side at the Manchester City academy, Champions League finals. His technique and timing have been endlessly worked on. The ability to take the ball on the inside or outside of both feet. How he moves out of danger from the smallest of spaces. All of it is the result of thousands of hours and millions of touches. Combine this with the bravery and speed of mind to do it on the big stage, and you have a footballer we'll talk about for a long time.

KEY
MOMENT:

23.05.21,
THREE PREMIER
LEAGUE TITLES



IN JULY 2017, PHIL FODEN MADE his Manchester City debut against their cross-city rivals in a preseason friendly. After the game, Pep Guardiola was asked about his performance by the club's media. "It's a long time since I saw something like this," he purred. "His performance was another level. He's 17 years old, he's a City player, he grew up in the academy, he loves the club, he's a City fan—for us, he's a gift."

Three months after this, in the FIFA U-17 World Cup final, he scored twice to help England come from 2-0 down to beat Spain 5-2. For this, and his ability throughout, he was awarded the Golden Ball as the best player in the tournament. If you go back and watch the footage from those games, it's all on show. The movement into space at the right time. How his body position is always perfect; open to receive a pass, ready to spring into life and start an attack.

The three seasons after that were about continuing to learn his craft. In a star-studded squad and with training at an unbelievably high level, every day was about getting better. The ball moving faster and faster. His technique tested every day and improving every day. In each season, he made more appearances than the last, scored more goals than the one before, and became more influential with each moment on the pitch.

In terms of Phil's development, last season was the big one. He made 50 appearances, scoring 16 goals and assisting 10 more. 26 goal involvements in all. More than one every other game. The standard by which top attacking players have always been judged. He's still only 21.

There was the left-footed screamer that followed his assist against Liverpool that saw City go five points clear with a game in hand, there were winning goals in both legs of the Champions League quarterfinal, and there were endless moments of brilliance to help propel his club to the league title and see him voted PFA Young Player of the Year.

From now until he finally hangs up his size eight boots, Phil Foden will continue to thrill everybody who watches him play. The technique, work rate, and football intelligence will always make people take notice. Hundreds and thousands of decisions made in a split second that change games. Those relentless 90-minute shifts that change the course of seasons. Millions of calculations made at the right time that help the team play beautiful football and will see him win trophies and become an idol. As Pep Guardiola said, he's a gift. ●

HIS PERFORMANCE
WAS ANOTHER LEVEL.
FOR US, HE'S A GIFT

THE ITEM:



82

PASSING

Two of Phil's most memorable performances to date came against PSG in last season's semi-final. In the 63rd minute of the second leg at home, he played a one-two with Kevin De Bruyne, raced down the left channel and hit a perfect deadweight pass across the face of goal that took out the defence and keeper and left Riyad Mahrez with a simple tap-in.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW PHIL?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30

1.

WHAT WAS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT PHIL'S CITY DEBUT AGAINST FEYENOORD IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE?

- A: FIRST PLAYER TO BE BORN AFTER 2000 TO PLAY IN THE COMPETITION**
B: THE QUICKEST EVER CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RED CARD
C: THE FINAL WHISTLE WENT AS SOON AS HE ENTERED THE PITCH

2.

PHIL'S NICKNAME AS A KID WAS RONNIE. WHY?

- A: HE PLAYED LIKE RONALDO**
B: HE LOVED SNOOKER AND RONNIE O'SULLIVAN IN PARTICULAR
C: TO AVOID BEING CONFUSED WITH HIS DAD

3.

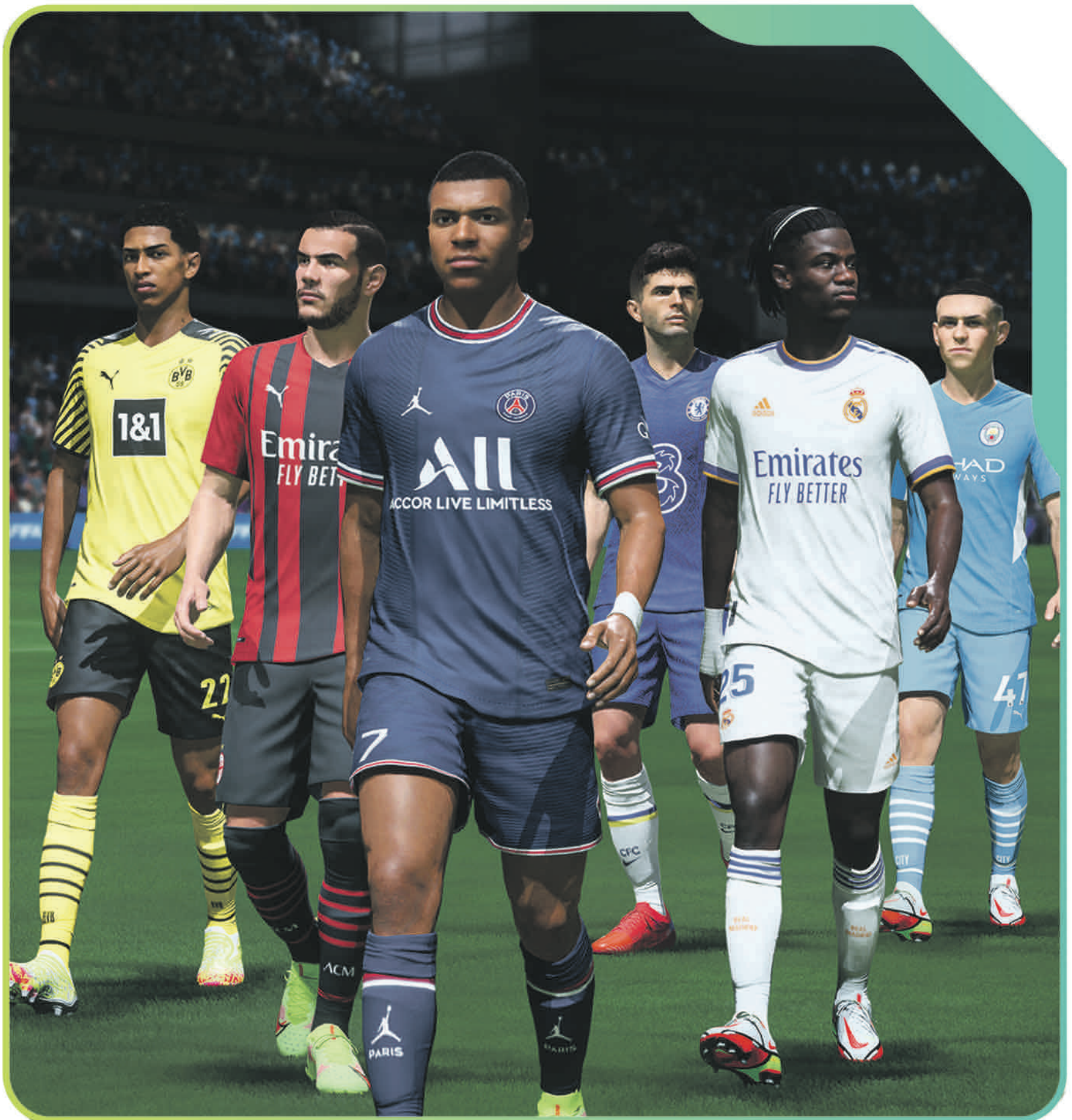
PHIL LOVES FISHING AND REGULARLY GOES WITH HIS DAD. WHAT'S HIS BIGGEST EVER CATCH?

- A: A 500LB BASKING SHARK**
B: A 130LB CATFISH
C: A SQUID THE SIZE OF A HOUSE

4.

TRUE OR FALSE?

PHIL USED TO SELL PROGRAMMES OUTSIDE THE ETIHAD STADIUM.



*Play by January 14, 2022. Conditions and restrictions apply. Learn more at ea.com/be-the-next-generation

THE NEXT GENERATION

THE NEXT GENERATION



FIFA 22



PLAY FIFA 22, GET A

NEXT GENERATION

86
LW


MBAPPÉ

90 PAC	84 DRI
78 SHO	31 DEF
74 PAS	68 PHY

81
CM


BELLINGHAM

77 PAC	82 DRI
71 SHO	78 DEF
76 PAS	79 PHY

85
LB


HERNÁNDEZ

94 PAC	83 DRI
72 SHO	78 DEF
78 PAS	83 PHY

PLAYER ITEM*

Receive an untradeable Next Generation Player Item* when you play FIFA 22 by Jan.14, 2022.

83
LW


PULISIC

90 PAC	87 DRI
72 SHO	38 DEF
75 PAS	60 PHY

81
CM


CAMAVINGA

75 PAC	83 DRI
68 SHO	78 DEF
80 PAS	81 PHY

85
CAM


FODEN

85 PAC	88 DRI
80 SHO	57 DEF
82 PAS	58 PHY



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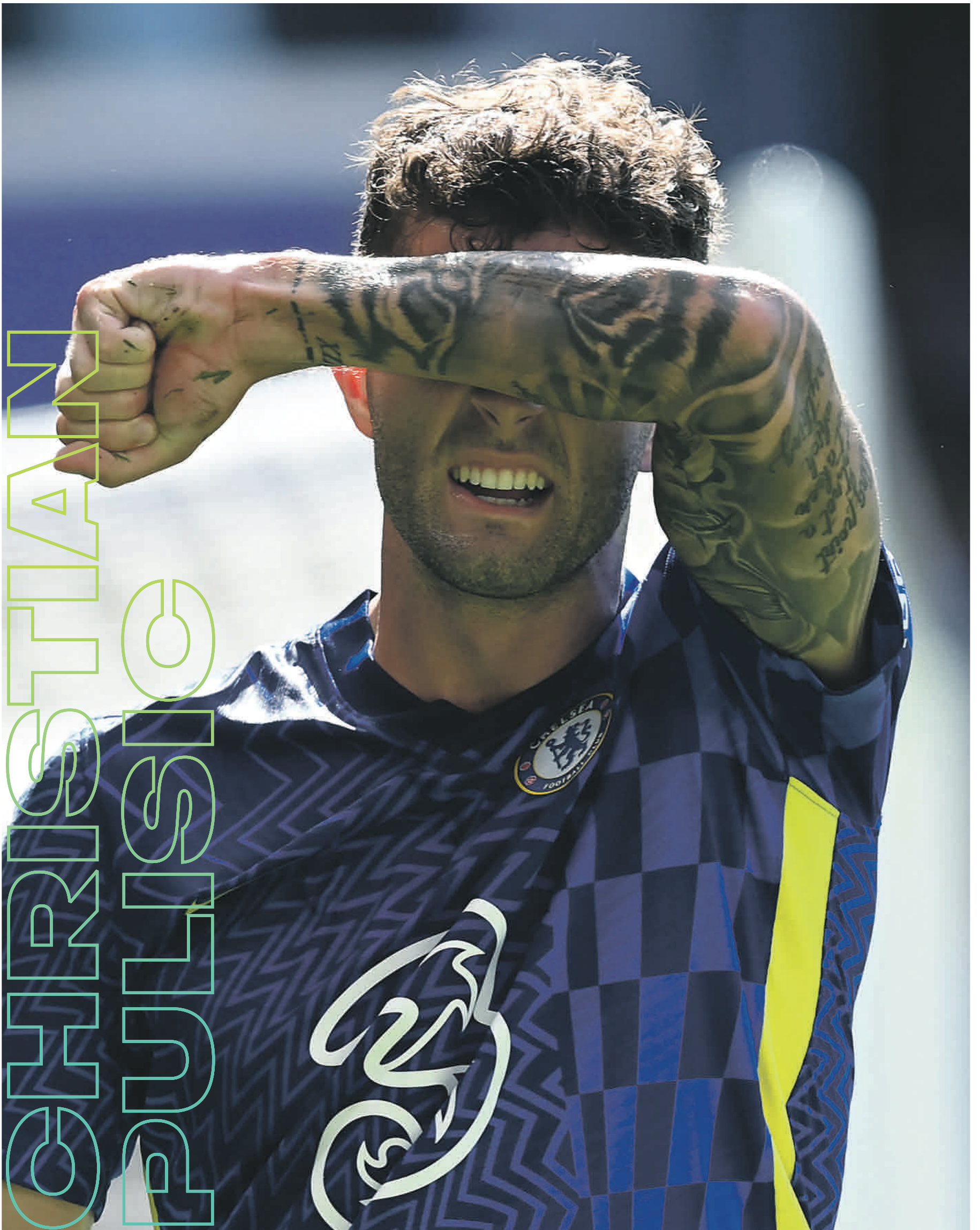
POWERED BY **FOOTBALL™**

CHRISTIAN PULISIC

LEFT WINGER, 23, CHELSEA



● A CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNER at 22, sure, but this is just the beginning for the Hershey boy turned Captain America... →



CHEMISTRY
STYLE:

CHRISTIAN PULISIC

→ LIKE MANY BIRDS, EAGLES have extraordinary eyesight. They use both monocular and binocular vision, which means they can use both eyes together or separately, depending on what they need to look at. They also have two focal points in each eye, one that looks forward and one that is to the side, at a 45-degree angle. The second one is for long-distance sight, and an eagle can use it to see a rabbit from around two miles away. They can also distinguish more colours than humans, and they can see in the UV light range.

It's why they're so good at hunting. Eagles can see everything.

Christian Pulisic was born in Pennsylvania in 1998 to two ex-college footballers. College soccer is a pretty big deal in the States compared to everywhere else. Proper training. Big crowds. His dad Mark went on to play professionally for Pennsylvania indoor team Harrisburg Heat in the National Professional Soccer League, where he scored 296 goals before he retired and worked as a coach.

Even before the Klinsmann influence as USMNT manager, the spell at the Dortmund machine that develops exciting, pacy, expansive talents, the relink with Tuchel in west London, Christian's spectrum of football initiation would be broad and thorough.

There was the move to England. A year spent playing for Brackley Town as a muddy seven-year-old and playing in the cage afterwards. There was the futsal league that his dad founded back in Detroit after seeing the game's affect on the South American players he was coaching at Detroit Ignition. He wanted some of that for Christian, too. There was the front yard he'd practice in, the shelf in the basement where they would kick a ball when he was tiny—then there was the induction to PA Classics back in Pennsylvania.

Doug Harris, the president and co-founder of the club, remembers Christian well.

"His special awareness," he told *The Guardian*. "Where to go, where the ball was going to fall. It was just something else."

Through a childhood laced with football, Christian had seen it all. Like an eagle. He could see everything.

KEY
MOMENT:

02.01.19,
SIGNED FOR
CHELSEA

BY THE TIME CHRISTIAN HAD ARRIVED at Chelsea for the start of the 19/20 season, it was go go go. By October, he'd become the youngest ever Chelsea player to score a hat-trick, a perfect hat-trick at that: left foot, right foot, header. There was his first Champions League goal for Chelsea the following month. Eleven goals and ten assists in his first 34 games in all competitions for a new club in a new country. The faces in Stamford Bridge glowed.

People talk about players being quick over ten yards or fastest over five. And Christian's quick over those distances, too, but it's the first two yards where he's most dangerous. Watch him collect the ball anywhere on the pitch, and it's like he's got the ball in the box with three defenders in front of him. He zips past them like they're in a state of shock.

An eagle will swoop and glide at an average speed of something like 50 km per hour to hunt. They're incredibly skilful predators, arriving without being noticed, utilising that exceptional vision, and then flying at speeds of up to 200 km per hour when they have spotted their end goal.

Doug Harris also told *The Guardian* that, right away, you could tell Pulisic was fearless. The pursuit with the ball is his greatest weapon.

For Chelsea in the Champions League, for the USA across the world, it is his ability to cause damage within the first couple of yards, to evade being noticed before moving at top speed, that makes him such a dangerous predator. An eagle in the fields. Captain America on the pitch.

The Captain America nickname pointed to a future with Pulisic at the helm of the sport for over 300 million people. And he's acknowledged there was an uneasiness with a sort of cheesy nod to being very good at football, but its meaning goes far deeper than having superhero talents. It's what he represents to young Americans. He represents the future. The sport is growing rapidly in a country that is primed for it. In 1990, America didn't even have a professional football league and had just qualified for their first world cup in over twenty years. But since 2012, the MLS has seen a rise in interest of at least 27%. Players from across the country are moving to Europe—the traditional home of the best players—to play for the biggest clubs; the national team is getting stronger, they're hosting a World Cup with Canada and Mexico in 2026, the fan culture is electric, dedicated, and fun. Pick-up games in every town in every State of the country are full of young boys and girls wanting to be the next Christian Pulisic.

"It's been a difficult road for me," Christian told *CBS Sports* in May. "I couldn't imagine winning the Champions League ever in my life, and now I'm here. It's just crazy. I can't explain it; it's just incredible. I have no words. I'm so proud. I've been hugging my family and friends—I'm just so proud."

The journey, really, is only just beginning. ●

**RIGHT AWAY, YOU
COULD TELL PULISIC
WAS FEARLESS.
THE PURSUIT WITH
THE BALL IS HIS
GREATEST WEAPON**



THE ITEM:



87

DRIBBLING

Thirty six minutes gone against Manchester City in June 2020, and Christian collects a loose ball in his own half. The Stamford Bridge pitch is 103m long; there are 65m to go plus two City players. A lot to do. He turns on the burners, pushes it past one, then turns on the afterburners, weaves past another, approaches the box, slots it past the goalie. Six touches of elite dribbling perfection. Ruthless.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW CHRISTIAN?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30

1.

WHAT BOARD GAME HAS CHRISTIAN RECENTLY GOTTEN INTO?

- A: TRIVIAL PURSUIT**
B: CHESS
C: DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

2.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN'S HOMETOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA FAMOUS FOR?

- A: BIRD WATCHING**
B: ITS BASKETBALL TEAM
C: REESE'S PEANUT BUTTER CUPS

3.

CHRISTIAN'S MIDDLE NAME IS 'MATE'; WHO IS HE NAMED AFTER?

- A: A FRIEND OF HIS FATHER'S**
B: HIS GRANDFATHER
C: A SOUTH AMERICAN DRINK

4.

TRUE OR FALSE?

THERE IS A PHOTO OF CHRISTIAN FROM WHEN HE WAS JUST 11 YEARS OLD, IN FULL CHELSEA KIT, WITH MASON MOUNT'S ARM AROUND HIM.



FIFA 22



NEXT GENERATION



THE NEXT GENERATION

THE NEXT GENERATION

THE NEXT GENERATION



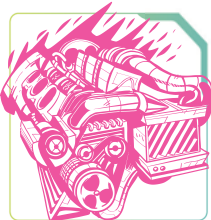


EDUARDO CAMAVINGA

CENTRAL MIDFIELDER, 19, REAL MADRID

● THE REAL MADRID central midfielder is learning from the best, and at only 19 years old, has it all ahead of him... →



CHEMISTRY
STYLE:

EDUARDO CAMAVINGA

KEY
MOMENT:

31.08.21,
SIGNED FOR
REAL MADRID

THERE WAS JUST OVER AN HOUR GONE in Real Madrid's first game back at the Bernabéu in 560 days when Carlo Ancelotti asked Eduardo Camavinga to start warming up. Celta de Vigo had gone ahead twice, but Real Madrid were now 3–2 up and starting to play well. The fourth official held the board up. The numbers 7 and 25 in the air. Eden Hazard off, and after a double-high five and a big hug, Eduardo Camavinga on.

Six minutes later, the score was 4–2 and something just made sense.

There's often talk about the passing of the baton in sport. An older player approaching the glow of the twilight years handing down the rites of their role to the younger version of them. A player whose stars are just starting to blink, waiting to go supernova.

So, when Luka Modrić had an outside-of-the-boot shot saved in the 72nd minute, it made sense that Eduardo Camavinga was there at the precise moment he needed to be to stick it away. Not anywhere else, not slightly right or left or behind, just there. The stars aligned. The perfect position to put Real Madrid two goals

ahead. To collect the baton, wheel away to the corner flag, slide on both knees, slap his chest and Real crest with his hand while 30,000 fans deprived of their stadium for a year and a half go ballistic, their new architect getting the foundations for the new house going. Still on his knees, his teammates smothered him.

And in the background, still in the penalty area, Modrić adjusted his hair, looked across, and smiled. A Ballon d'Or wide smile that said *I remember when I was your age*. A hopeful smile that said *I'm going to teach you so much*. An excited smile that said *All of this is going to be yours*. It was a move that Modrić had started and one that Camavinga had finished.

The goal wasn't even the most impressive thing he did. There were touches that made the Madridistas hum and purr in delight. Simple, well-weighted first time passes that went straight to a player or just in front so he could take it in his stride. A take of the ball in a tight space and a double drag back to turn a tight corner into an open canvas. They'd seen a tall French central midfielder do that for them before. Hundreds of times. The warm sound of approval that rippled around the ground said they were ready to see it again. There were 34 touches in that 25 or so minutes. An 89% passing accuracy, a long ball completion, a dribble completion, two ground duels won, a free kick won.

The crowd could see this was an architect at work, making those first lines on the paper ones that could be built on, lines that would stand the test of time.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT Eduardo Camavinga without talking about the things he's had to overcome. Born in a refugee camp in Angola after his Congolese parents were forced to flee the country, the family moved to France in 2003, settling in Fougères, a town 50km north of Rennes in Brittany. Life settled down compared to what it had been previously. Eduardo competed in judo, attended school with his siblings, and the family had built a house.

Eduardo was sitting at school when he saw the fire engines go past. The house that the family had built had burned down. Everything was gone. Eduardo has said that

the day after, he had to go training because football helped him relax. It was a way to escape, he said. "My father told me I was going to become a great player and rebuild that house," Eduardo told *Ouest France*. "I was the family's hope, and I suddenly got extra motivated. My parents were happy, but I knew I could make them even happier."

The induction to the Rennes academy saw him go from promising player to a key cog as part of a team that qualified for Champions League for the first time. Protecting defence, driving the ball out of midfield, constantly looking over his shoulder, an innate knowledge to assess space. There were goals, too, slalomed dribbles followed by quality finishes. With his feet drawing the lines, Eduardo was building new houses for a team and family that needed them. Strong foundations, beautiful exterior. But Real Madrid is different. It's Real Madrid.

The French U19 coach, a man involved with Eduardo at Rennes, perhaps puts it best. "He is a team player and an elegant player," Landry Chauvin told *BBC Sport*. "He is not an individual or a soloist; he respects the collective. He plays with his head up. He is always focussed on the position of his teammates. When he plays, he smiles."

The baton he is collecting from Modrić, Casemiro, and Toni Kroos—three players who have made the centre of the Real Madrid midfield their house for years—is the next step. The daily lessons, words of encouragement, smiles as they see him learn every day.

There's an exuberance to his play, the confidence of a teenager who knows he's good enough, trusts his ability, understands the game. An elegance. Whether it's challenging for a header, making an interception, shifting the ball from his left foot to his right, there is something balletic to the way he moves with the ball. He's exceptionally athletic, but not in a pistons and mechanics way, not in a powerhouse and engine way; it's all so refined. Just look at the standing overhead kick he scored for France. On his debut. More ballet than boxer. More beautiful than brutal. His toolbox is varied, a pencil for ideas, a scalpel for precision, a brain to make it all come together.

The next house he builds, one with bricks rooted in Angola, an interior crafted at Rennes, and a brain constantly learning new things in Madrid, has a ceiling as high as the sky. ●

THE CROWD
COULD SEE
THIS WAS AN
ARCHITECT
AT WORK

EDUARDO
CAMAVINGA

THE ITEM:



80

PASSING

Let's go to the San Siro. 88 minutes. Champions League. 0-0. Camavinga picks up the ball on the left, plays it inside, and continues his run into the box. That's pass one. Nice. The ball's chipped over to him, and, calculating so many angles, speeds, spaces, and weights at once, he side volleys it first time into Rodrygo's path. That's pass two. Generational. One-nil. Three points. Architect.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW EDUARDO?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 30

1.

WHICH HOBBY DID EDUARDO GIVE UP TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS FOOTBALL?

- A: JUDO**
B: ROCK CLIMBING
C: ATHLETICS

2.

HOW OLD WAS EDUARDO WHEN HE MADE HIS RENNES DEBUT?

- A: 16 YEARS, TEN MONTHS, AND ONE DAY**
B: 17 YEARS AND NINE DAYS
C: 16 YEARS, FOUR MONTHS AND 27 DAYS

3.

WHO SAID "HE IS A LITTLE DANCER. HE REMINDS ME OF ME. I LIKE HIM ENORMOUSLY."

- A: ZINEDINE ZIDANE**
B: PAUL POGBA
C: THIERRY HENRY

4.

TRUE OR FALSE?

ON HIS FIRST DAY OF TRAINING AT RENNES AS AN 11-YEAR-OLD, HE PLAYED SO WELL THAT THEY MADE HIM TRAIN WITH THE U15S.

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EXCLUSIVE!
JUDE BELLINGHAM
Borussia Dortmund's rising star is three players pulled into one... **P.16**

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QUIZ ANSWERS

01 KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

1: B Kylian's younger brother Ethan, a midfielder on PSG's books, celebrates like that when he beats him on FIFA.

2: A On August 31 2017, in his fifth game for the national team, he scored France's fourth against The Netherlands.

3: A Mbappé was 17 years and 62 days old when scored his first goal for the club's first team, breaking Thierry Henry's record in the process.

4: TRUE!

His mum, Fayza Lamari, originally hails from Algeria and played top-level handball in France.

04 CHRISTIAN PULISIC

1: B After watching Olivier Giroud playing it with N'Golo Kanté on the plane to matches, Christian has taken up a big love for chess.

2: C Christian's hometown is Hershey, created by the confectionery company that makes Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Delicious.

3: B Born in Croatia on an island called Olib, Pulisic's paternal grandfather was named Mate Pulišić.

4: IT'S TRUE.

Christian spent time at Chelsea as an 11-year-old, and the photo of him and Mason, plus Tom Carlton, went viral when he moved back.

02 THEO HERNÁNDEZ

1: A Theo's first professional goal was a swerving, seething free kick from 25 yards out against Barcelona while on loan at Alavés. A ridiculous goal.

2: B Theo was born in Marseille, as his dad had signed for the club after they'd been relegated to the second tier of French football.

3: A Samu, who is Spanish, and Theo are good friends. The mandarins were a prank in response to Theo's prank on him with some massage cream!

4: TRUE.

It's true, and later on in the same season, Theo also scored a brace against Torino in a 7-0 win.

05 EDUARDO CAMAVINGA

1: A Eduardo used to do a lot of judo but ended up breaking a lot of bones. His mum put a stop to it and made him focus on Rennes.

2: C He's their youngest ever player and France's youngest international player since the war—a record Kylian Mbappé held before him.

3: B "It is a pleasure to see him don the shirt," Paul Pogba said, alongside this, after Eduardo scored on his France debut.

4: FALSE.

On his first day, Eduardo told Oust-France that instead of listening to the coach, he ran straight over to the pitch, dribbled past everyone, and booted the ball over the fence.

03 PHIL FODEN

1: A His debut against Feyenoord in 2017 made Phil the first player to be born after the Millennium to play in the Champions League.

2: B Phil first went fishing with his dad when he was seven and was hooked. His biggest catch is a 130lb catfish in Spain.

3: C He may have played like a Brazilian and loved snooker, but he was given the nickname Ronnie by his nan as his dad is also called Phil.

4: FALSE.

But Phil did used to work as a ballboy on matchday whilst he was part of the academy.

YOUR SCORE:

/20

FODEN FODEN FODEN
 BELLINGHAM BELLINGHAM
 MBAPPÉ MBAPPÉ MBAPPÉ
 THEO THEO THEO THEO THEO
 PULISIC PULISIC PULISIC
 CAMAVINGA CAMAVINGA
 FODEN FODEN FODEN
 BELLINGHAM BELLINGHAM
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 CAMAVINGA CAMAVINGA

THE NEXT GENERATION

THE NEXT GENERATION



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86
LW
FRANCE
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

MBAPPÉ

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74 PAS	68 PHY

81
CM
ENGLAND
BORUSSIA DORTMUND

BELLINGHAM

77 PAC	82 DRI
71 SHO	78 DEF
76 PAS	79 PHY

85
LB
FRANCE
AC MILAN

HERNÁNDEZ

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78 PAS	83 PHY

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