

Samuel Eto'o'



Samuel Eto'o, one of the most feared strikers in today's football scenery, has become one of the most recognizable African players to date. Having been awarded the title of African Footballer of the Year for three consecutive years (2003, 2004, 2005) Samuel Eto'o is considered a world-class striker, and a Cameroonian national icon.

Club Career

Samuel Eto'o started his professional football career at the age of 15, when he was signed by Real Madrid, only to be transferred on a loan to Mallorca, where he managed to grow as a player and be recognized for his accuracy and fast pace. His hard work translated into a permanent contract in 2000, and the title of the club's all time leading domestic scorer. Four years later, in 2004, Samuel Eto'o moved to FC Barcelona, where he played until 2009. During his time with Barcelona, Eto'o became one of the most acclaimed strikers of the world, after receiving the title of UEFA Champions League Best Forward for 2006, the same year that FC Barcelona won the double Spanish League Primera and the UEFA Champions League. The 2009/2010 season brought a change for Eto'o and he moved to Inter Milan where he continues to showcase his skills as a striker.

International Career

After earning his first international cap in 1996, Samuel Eto'o continued to become the youngest player of the 1998 World Cup 2 years later, at the age of 17. His rise has impressed even his strongest critics. His international career includes wins in the 2000 and 2002 African Cup of Nations and the 2000 Summer Olympics. The only player to receive three consecutive African Player of the Year titles in 2003, 2004 and 2005, Samuel Eto'o has helped Cameroon become a feared force in football. At the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup, Cameroon finished as a runner-up.

Eto'o scored his sole goal of the 2002 World Cup when he netted the game-winner against Saudi Arabia during the group stage on 6 June 2002, which was Cameroon's only win of the competition. During the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations, Eto'o became the all time leading scorer of the competition, finishing as the top scorer for the second consecutive tournament. He is also the player with the most goals scored in the history of the Cameroon National Team.

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Playing Style

Samuel Eto'o was described in 2006 by football "pundit" Tommy Smyth as one of the best pure strikers in the world. He is known for his quick pace and agility on and off the ball and an ability to score equally well with both feet as well as his head. His style of play is characteristically daring and he often runs at defenders and goalkeepers with total confidence in his ability to get the ball past them. Because of his slight frame, Eto'o relies on nimbleness and timing rather than strength to score, and he frequently scores on the first touch after running onto well-placed through balls. He has also been known to use a move in which he passes the ball to himself high over the opposing goalkeeper before running around him, settling the pass, and scoring.

Personal Life

Samuel Eto'o has two brothers, also professional football players. David Pierre Eto'o Fils plays for Reus Deportivo and Etienne Emmanuel Eto'o Fils, who plays for Real Mallorca; both brothers are playing as strikers as well. Samuel Eto'o is married to Georgette Eto'o, with whom he has three children: Etienne, Maelle and Siena. Samuel Eto'o's family lives in Paris, France.

Honors

Mallorca Copa del Rey Winner: 2002 – 2003

Barcelona- La Liga:

Winner (3): 2004-05, 2005-06, 2008-09

- Supercopa de España:

Winner (2): 2005–06, 2006–07 - UEFA Champions League:

Winner (1): 2005-06

- Copa del Rey:

Winner (1): 2008-09

International

- African Cup of Nations:

Winner (2): 2000,2002

- Confederations Cup

Runner up (1): 2003

- African Cup of Nations

Runner up (1): 2008

- 2000 Summer Olympics

Gold medal (1): 2000

Individual

- African Cup of Nations Top Scorer: 2006, 2008

- African Player of the Year: 2003, 2004, 2005

- FIFPro World XI: 2004-05, 2005-06

- UEFA Champions League Best Forward: 2006

- UEFA Team of the Year: 2005, 2006

- Spanish La Liga Top Scorer: 2006

- World XI Striker: 2004-2005, 2005-2006

- Most Goals Scored In Domestic League RCD Mallorca: 54 Goals

- African Cup of Nations Top Scorer Of All Times: With 16 Goals [As of January 9th, 2010]

- Most Goals Scored In History Of Cameroon National Team- FIFA World Player of the Year: Third Place:

2005

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