

# **Football Top 100**

The hundred best footballers of all time

**Ted Luyckx**

*Also available:*

100 Soccer Teams of All Time, Ted Luyckx (2020) 9-789463-989589

All statistics up to date June 2020

Including:

- international caps and goals
- national champions, national cups, league cup and state champions (only Brazil)
- European Cup, Cup Winners' Cup (UEFA, CAF and AFC), Fairs/UEFA Cup, Copa Libertadores, Concacaf Champions Cup, Intercontinental cup and Club World Cup
- World Cup, European Championships, Copa América, Africa Cup and Olympics (until 1976)

*Without national super cup, European Super Cup, Confederations Cup and youth championships*

## Contents

- |                                 |                                  |                                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Pelé (Bra)                   | 35. Andrès Iniesta (Esp)         | 69. Omar Sívori (Arg/Ita)       |
| 2. Johan Cruyff (Nld)           | 36. Uwe Seeler (Ger)             | 70. Paul van Himst (Bel)        |
| 3. Diego Maradona (Arg)         | 37. Michael Laudrup (Den)        | 71. Raymond Braine (Bel)        |
| 4. Alfredo di Stéfano (Arg/Esp) | 38. František Plánincka (Cze)    | 72. Kazimierz Deyna (Pol)       |
| 5. Franz Beckenbauer (Ger)      | 39. Matthias Sindelar (Aut)      | 73. Ryan Giggs (Wal)            |
| 6. Lionel Messi (Arg)           | 40. Gianni Rivera (Ita)          | 74. Wim van Hanegem (Nld)       |
| 7. Cristiano Ronaldo (Por)      | 41. Dino Zoff (Ita)              | 75. Nílton Santos (Bra)         |
| 8. Ferenc Puskas (Hun/Esp)      | 42. José Nasazzi (Uru)           | 76. Roberto Baggio (Ita)        |
| 9. Bobby Charlton (Eng)         | 43. Giacinto Facchetti (Ita)     | 77. Luigi Riva (Ita)            |
| 10. Zinedine Zidane (Fra)       | 44. Sepp Maier (Ger)             | 78. Gianluigi Buffon (Ita)      |
| 11. Stanley Matthews (Eng)      | 45. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Ger)  | 79. Xavi Hernández (Esp)        |
| 12. Garrincha (Bra)             | 46. Luis Suárez (Esp)            | 80. Zbigniew Boniek (Pol)       |
| 13. Lev Yashin (Usr)            | 47. Kevin Keegan (Eng)           | 81. Teófilo Cubillas (Per)      |
| 14. José Andrade (Uru)          | 48. Gunnar Nordahl (Swe)         | 82. José Santamaria (Uru/Esp)   |
| 15. Michel Platini (Fra)        | 49. Valentino Mazzola (Ita)      | 83. Billy Meredith (Wal)        |
| 16. Bobby Moore (Eng)           | 50. Sandro Mazzola (Ita)         | 84. Frank Rijkaard (Nld)        |
| 17. George Best (Nir)           | 51. Kenny Dalglish (Sco)         | 85. Just Fontaine (Fra)         |
| 18. Ronaldo (Bra)               | 52. Oleg Blochin (Usr)           | 86. Hugo Sánchez (Mex)          |
| 19. Marco van Basten (Nld)      | 53. Daniel Passarella (Arg)      | 87. Artur Friedenreich (Bra)    |
| 20. Giuseppe Meazza (Ita)       | 54. Vivian Woodward (Eng)        | 88. Josef Bican (Aut/Cze)       |
| 21. Gordon Banks (Eng)          | 55. Romário de Souza Faria (Bra) | 89. Lászlo Kubala (Hun/Cze/Esp) |
| 22. Ricardo Zamora (Esp)        | 56. Billy Wright (Eng)           | 90. Gheorghe Hagi (Rom)         |
| 23. Lothar Matthäus (Ger)       | 57. Carlos Alberto (Bra)         | 91. Leônidas da Silva (Bra)     |
| 24. Eusébio (Por)               | 58. Djalma Santos (Bra)          | 92. Peter Schmeichel (Den)      |
| 25. Juan Schiaffino (Uru/Ita)   | 59. John Charles (Wal)           | 93. Györgi Sárosi (Hun)         |
| 26. Gerd Müller (Ger)           | 60. Franco Baresi (Ita)          | 94. Hristo Stoichkov (Bul)      |
| 27. Zico (Bra)                  | 61. José Moreno (Arg)            | 95. Grzegorz Lato (Pol)         |
| 28. Didi (Bra)                  | 62. Ruud Gullit (Nld)            | 96. Obdulio Varela (Uru)        |
| 29. Sándor Kocsis (Hun)         | 63. Josef Masopust (Cze)         | 97. Luís Figo (Por)             |
| 30. Paolo Maldini (Ita)         | 64. Elías Figueroa (Chl)         | 98. José Chilavert (Par)        |
| 31. Raymond Kopa (Fra)          | 65. Włodzimierz Lúbanski (Pol)   | 99. Roger Milla (Cmr)           |
| 32. Francesco Gento (Esp)       | 66. Ernst Happel (Aut)           | 100. Duncan Edwards (Eng)       |
| 33. Fritz Walter (Ger)          | 67. Pat Jennings (Nir)           |                                 |
| 34. Luis Monti (Arg/Ita)        | 68. Dragan Džajić (Yug)          |                                 |

## 100 Duncan EDWARDS (England)

*Date of birth:* 1 October 1936  
*Date of death:* 21 February 1958 (aged 21)  
*Playing position:* defender, midfielder  
*National team:* 18 caps, 5 goals (1955-1957)  
*Club teams:* Manchester United (1953-1958)  
*National champion:* 1956, 1957  
*Nickname:* The Tank

- Won three times the FA Youth Cup with Manchester United (1953, 1954, 1955)
- Made his professional debut at the age of 16. After Edwards also Booby Charlton, Jackie Blanchflower and Dennis Violet made also their debut in the first team
- Physically, enormous strong, so he gets the nickname "The Tank"
- One of the most complete players in history and played most of the time as a center back of wing-half
- Died at the Munich air disaster. Seven of his teammates of Manchester United also died
- If Edwards survived the disaster, he would definitely play with the English national team at the World Cup 1966. Maybe he would be the England captain instead of Bobby Moore



## 99 Roger MILLA (Cameroon)

*Date of birth :* 20 May 1952  
*Playing position:* striker  
*Squad number:* 9  
*National team:* 77 caps, 43 goals (1973-1994)  
*Club teams:* Eclair de Douala (1968-1970)  
Léopard Douala (1970-1974)  
Tonnerre (1974-77, 1990-94)  
Valenciennes (1977-1979)  
Monaco (1979-1980)  
Bastia (1980-1984)  
Saint-Étienne (1984-1986)  
Montpellier (1986-1989)  
Saint-Pierroise (1989-1990)  
Pelita Jaya (1994-1995)  
Putra Samarinda (1995-1996)  
*National champion:* 1972, 1973, 1987, 1990, 1994  
*National cup:* 1980, 1981  
*Cup Winners' Cup:* 1975 (CAF)  
*Nickname:* Grandfather

### *International tournaments:*

Africa Cup 1982	1 <sup>st</sup> round	3 matches, 0 goals
World Cup 1982	1 <sup>st</sup> round	3 matches, 0 goals
Africa Cup 1984	winners	5 matches, 1 goal
Africa Cup 1986	runners-up	5 matches, 4 goals
Africa Cup 1988	winners	5 matches, 2 goals
World Cup 1990	quarter-finals	5 matches, 4 goals
World Cup 1994	1 <sup>st</sup> round	2 matches, 1 goal

- Became famous at the World Cup 1990, scoring four times and celebrating his goals with a dance at the corner flag
- African player of the year 1976 and 1990
- FIFA World Cup All-Star Team 1990
- Best player Africa Cup 1986
- Top scorer Africa Cup 1986 and 1988
- Oldest goal scorer at the World Cup (aged 42)

## 98 José Luis CHILAVERT (Paraguay)

*Place of birth:* 27 July 1965  
*Playing position:* goalkeeper  
*Squad number:* 1  
*National team:* 74 caps, 8 goals (1989-2003)  
*Club teams:* Sportivo Luqueño (1982-1984)  
Guaraní (1984)  
San Lorenzo (1984-1988)  
Real Zaragoza (1988-1991)  
Véléz Sársfield (1991-01, 2004)  
RC Strasbourg (2001-2003)  
Peñarol (2003)  
*National champion:* 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2003  
*National cup:* 2001  
*Copa Libertadores:* 1994  
*Intercontinental cup:* 1994  
*Nickname:* The Bulldog

### *International tournaments:*

Copa América 1991	1 <sup>st</sup> round	4 matches, 0 goals
Copa América 1993	quarter-finals	4 matches, 0 goals
Copa América 1997	quarter-finals	4 matches, 1 goal
World Cup 1998	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	4 matches, 0 goals
World Cup 2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	3 matches, 0 goals

- Known for his leadership, strong personality, and goalkeeping ability
- Has a short temper and often makes controversial statements
- Argentinian player of the year 1996
- South American player of the year 1996
- World keeper of the year 1995, 1997 and 1998
- FIFA World Cup All-Star Team 1998
- The second-highest goalscoring (67 goals) goalkeeper after Brazilian Rogerio Ceni (131 goals) and first keeper to score a hatrick
- Record number of eight international goals as a goalkeeper

## 97 Luís FIGO (Portugal)

*Date of birth:* 4 November 1972  
*Playing position:* (right)winger  
*Squad number:* 7  
*National team:* 127 caps, 32 goals (1991-2006)  
*Club teams:* Sporting CP (1989-1995)  
Barcelona (1995-2000)  
Real Madrid (2000-2005)  
Inter Milan (2005-2009)  
*National champion:* 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009  
*National cup:* 1995, 1997, 1998, 2006  
*Champions League:* 2002  
*Cup Winners' Cup:* 1997  
*Intercontinental cup:* 2002  
*Nickname:* Fuguinho

### *International tournaments:*

Euro 1996	quarter-finals	4 matches, 1 goal
Euro 2000	semifinals	4 matches, 1 goal
World Cup 2002	1 <sup>st</sup> round	3 matches, 0 goals
Euro 2004	runners-up	6 matches, 0 goals
World 2006	4 <sup>th</sup> place	7 matches, 0 goals

- Was an outstanding winger, with a lot of assists. Did everything to win, even provoke diving and a lot of talking to the referee
- UEFA European Under-16 Champion 1989
- FIFA World Under-20 Champion 1991
- Portuguese Footballer of the Year 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
- European player of the year and World Soccer player of the year 2000
- FIFA world player of the year 2001
- Made a very controversial transfer from Barcelona to Real Madrid in 2000
- European Championship All-Star Team 2000, 2004
- FIFA World Cup All-Star Team 2006

## 96 Obdulio VARELA (Uruguay)

*Date of birth:* 20 September 1917  
*Date of dead:* 2 August 1996 (aged 78 years)  
*Playing position:* centre back  
*Squad number:* 5  
*National team:* 45 caps, 9 goals (1939-1954)  
*Club teams:* Juventude (1936-1938)  
Montevideo Wanderers ('38-'43)  
Peñarol (1943-1955)  
*National champion:* 1944, 1945, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1954  
*Nickname:* The Black Chief

### *International tournaments:*

Copa América 1939	runners-up	2 matches, 0 goals
Copa América 1941	runners-up	4 matches, 1 goal
Copa América 1942	winners	6 matches, 1 goal
Copa América 1945	4 <sup>th</sup> place	4 matches, 1 goal
Copa América 1946	4 <sup>th</sup> place	4 matches, 0 goals
World Cup 1950	winners	4 matches, 1 goal
World Cup 1954	4 <sup>th</sup> place	3 matches, 1 goal

- Nicknamed El Negro Jefe (The Black Chief) because of his influence on the pitch
- Player of the Copa América 1942
- Captain of the Uruguay winning squad at the World Cup 1950.
- FIFA World Cup All-Star Team 1950
- His role in the World Cup final of 1950 was crucial. After the first goal of Brazil, Varela walked slowly to the ball, talked to the referee. So, the Brazilian crowd cooled off a bit
- Uruguay never lost a World Cup match with Varela on the pitch. He gets injured before the semifinals in 1954 against Hungary
- He was of African, Spanish and Greek ancestry

## 95 Grzegorz LATO (Poland)

*Date of birth:* 8 April 1950  
*Playing position:* right winger  
*Squad number:* 16  
*National team:* 100 caps, 42 goals (1971-1984)  
*Club teams:* Stal Mielec (1962-1980)  
Lokeren (1980-1982)  
Atlante Mexico (1982-1984)  
*National champion:* 1973, 1976  
*Concacaf Champions Cup:* 1983

### *International tournaments:*

Olympics 1972	gold	1 match, 0 goals
World Cup 1974	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	7 matches, 7 goals
Olympics 1976	silver	5 matches, 3 goals
World Cup 1978	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	6 matches, 2 goals
World Cup 1982	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	7 matches, 1 goal

- Was the ideal right winger for his remarkable acceleration and a powerful shot with his right foot
- Polish top scorer of the season 1973, 1975
- Polish player of the year 1977, 1981
- The only player who played on five international tournaments with Poland between 1972-1982 (the Golden decade of Polish football)
- Played mostly as a right-winger but scored all lot of goals. More than 200 in his career.
- Reached his peak of his international career on the World Cup 1974
- FIFA World Cup All-Star Team 1974
- FIFA World Cup top scorer 1974