


# History of african football pdf

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Without a doubt, football (i.e. football) is the most popular sport in Africa. Indeed, football is probably the most popular sport in every African country, although rugby and cricket are also very popular in South Africa. Football was introduced to Africa more than 100 years ago by the British, Belgians, French and Portuguese colonizers. Football is also the most popular sport in most European countries, so it is not surprising that European colonists have introduced football in their colonies. Football can be a very interesting game, but part of its popularity in Africa is the result of its availability. That is, unlike many team sports, it does not require a lot of money or large resources to play football. All you need is a somewhat flat field cleared of stones, four poles (or only four rocks) to serve as a target post and ball (even a homemade ball from local materials would do). Football is available because it can be played almost anywhere in Africa, and almost any healthy young man. Since more than 50 years ago, football clubs have begun to take shape in many African cities. Most often these clubs were sponsored by large companies or enterprises, and in some cases by government departments. In major cities, for example, it was not unusual for the police, army and railways to sponsor football clubs that would compete with each other and against clubs sponsored by big business. It was from these clubs that the best players who became members of the national team were selected. Club football expanded with independence in many African countries in the 1960s. Some African countries have been able to form an entire league of football clubs that have competed for a long season to be crowned league champion in their home country. Every year, national champions teams from all over Africa compete for the African Cup of Champions Clubs. You may wonder about university football teams in Africa. Varsity sports are very important in countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe, but in many African countries schools simply cannot afford to sponsor university teams. Schools cannot afford the equipment, uniforms or transport required for inter-institution sports. However, if you attend schools in rural or urban areas in almost any African country you will almost certainly find students playing football during and after school. Over the past few decades, African football teams and players have gained a strong international reputation. Today, more than 100 football players from all over Africa play in professional first division football teams in Europe, South America and the United States. Beginning in 1970, the African continent guaranteed a place in the World Cup. Based on a significant improvement in African football, by 1986 Africa had won two places, by 1998 Africa had four guaranteed places, and in May 2002 at the World Cup on the African continent, represented by five teams - Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia. Only in Europe and South America there were more national teams represented at the World Cup than in Africa! This is a clear testament to the international importance of African football! Club Football Match in Accra, Ghana and Africa Focus, University of Wisconsin-Madison Club Football Match, Abidjan, Ivory Coast and African Focus, University of Wisconsin-Madison Playing Foosball, Conton, Benin and African Focus, University of Wisconsin-Madison 0 of 51Gallo Images/Getty ImagesThree article profiles 50 of the greatest African players in history. In compiling this list, I have looked at the players of the last 100 years, both those who represented African countries on the international stage and those who did not, as well as those who played in Europe, and those who did not. Reducing the original shortlist, which ran almost 200 players was not easy, but given the careers of each player, smashing their individual honours, their international honours and their club honours have given me a way in and a clear system with which to assess decades of remarkable players. Thus, this approach has contributed to players who have achieved a lot, those who are at the elite end of the sport- champions, not those with outstanding abilities, but without honours to back up their talents. Thus, the successful Nigerian team of the early to mid-1990s, the Cameroon team that emerged in 2000, and the Egyptian side that dominated the last decade of the competition are very well represented. However, some remarkable African talents have missed out on a whole- a handful of key names are being considered for the next slide. Chaps That Missed out1 of 51Matthew Lewis/Getty ImagesThe following players almost all regular features in the equivalent lists of the greatest African players of all time, but for the following reasons did not make my choice. Larby Ben Bareka is a sublime talent who deserves a place right at the top of this list, but Black Pearl represented France, not his native Morocco. Given he would have opened the door for players such as Marcel Desailly, Basile Boli, Claude Makelele and Patrick Obi MikelHe has received plenty of criticism throughout his career, but the honours he has racked up at Chelsea as well as his talisman, an inspiring contribution to Nigeria's recent Cup of Nations triumph put him firmly in the running. Only a major achievement or two from confirming his place among the continent's best players ever. El-Haji Diouf Two-time African Footballer of the Year failed to live up to his promise in the early 2000s. Too much time spent away from elite level and his failures at Liverpool have led to a disappointing career. Frederick was a terrific scorer and the first non-African born player to win the African Footballer of the Year award. His biggest record for goals against Mali has never been translated into continental honours and he has never won a league or a Champions League to match the excellent goals scored by Sevilla and West Ham. He had to settle for a haul of cup triumphs. Badu Ezzakia is a big stopper who represented Morocco in a strong era for North African sides, he must make the top 20 on the basis of the aura, but tangible honors are scant. He enjoyed an outstanding season in La Liga for Mallorca, not one of the team in the division. Kalusha Bwialal hurts my heart to leave this genuine icon off the list. Once an African footballer of the year and an elite player with PSV in Holland, arriving only after the club's triumph in the 1988 European Cup.His stunning solo destruction of Italy at the 1988 Olympics was the highlight of his career in zambia. It certainly would have been so different if Chipolopolo had not been devastated by the tragic 1993 plane crash.Lakhdar BelloumiConsidered to be the greatest Algerian player of all time, his nation's most cap player and their cultural cornerstone during the 80s trophy cabinet- both internationally and club level, which is surprisingly rare. Godfrey ChitaluScorer's glorious goals and five-time footballer of zambia's year, the temperamental forward won precious little with the zambian national or club side Kitwe United and Kabwe Warriors.Francois Omam-Biyik with Papa Buba DiopResponsible for iconic and almost-identical World Cup goals, moments and wins, no man has ever won much at club level. Omam-Biyik won the Africa Cup of Nations title with Cameroon.Asamoah GyanA moved away from the truly elite end of club competition and persistent setbacks on continental one with Ghana affected Gyan's incredibly promising career. Mustafa Hadji2 of 51Clive Brunskill/Getty ImagesIndividualHadji was a deft, innovative, creative attacking midfielder who excelled with the ball at his feet and the defence ahead of him. He was named African Footballer of the Year in 1998 - the only non-West African footballer to win the award in the past two decades. International HonoursHe qualified for two World Cups with the Moroccan side and impressed in France in 1998. His performance against Norway remains one of the best performances of an African player on the world stage. The Atlas Lions never quite thrived in continental competition during this time, although Haji never won the African Cup of Nations. Club HonoursA's stop-start club career has seen him spend time in Germany, Spain, Portugal and even Luxembourg.Hadji was remembered fondly for his time in England with Coventry City but was powerless to prevent Sky from relegation in 2001.He won the FA Cup with Aston Villa, The Portuguese Cup Sporting and League Two with Nancy.49. Marc-Vivien Foe3 of 51Shaun Botterill/Getty ImagesIndividualCornerstone of the Cameroonian side that is so dazzled at the turn of the millennium, the defensive midfielder's life was cut short during the Confederations Cup as he suffered heart failure. International HonoursFoe won two continental crowns with Cameroon - in 2000 and 2002, and represented the side at the 1994 and 2002 World Cups. He was supposed to be present in 1998, but missed the tournament due to injury. HonoursA Club is a French league champion with Lens and Lyon, he has also won a couple of French League Cups and the Cameroon Cup with Canon Yaounde.48. Fintidi George4 of 51Phil Cole/Getty ImagesIndividualNamed by the International Football History Federation and as the 10th best African player of the last century, George was a meandering striker who, at least early in his career, was a direct and menacing threat from the flanks. Considered one of the best strikers in the world in the early 90s ... But not much during his unsuccessful stint in England with Ipswich.International HonoursGeorge represented Nigeria at the 1994 and 1998 World Cups, and was part of the irrepressible Super Eagles side's 1994 AFCON-winner. He made the subsequent three continental semi-finals with Nigeria.Club HonoursGeorge was perfectly equipped with honours at Ajax where, along with compatriot Kanu, he won the Champions League in 1995 and lost the final in 1996. He also won three Dutch League titles, the UEFA Super Cup, the Intercontinental Cup and two Dutch Super Cups.47 Laurent Pocu5 of 51SSOUF SANOGO/AFP/Getty ImagesIndividualSecond-ranked African Footballer of the Year in 1970 and third place three years later, Poku was a player of the big game and considered one of the continent's best forwards. A great dribbler and a terrific finisher. Pele once identified Poku as his successor. Pele.International HonoursI will argue that only Rashidi Yekini and Roger Milla have made an individual impact in the Nations Cup comparable to Poc. The Ivorian twice became the top scorer - in 1968 and 1970, and was also the player of the tournament in the last competition. The HonoursHe club forged a fine career in France in the 1970s, winning almost everything it had to win in Ivory Coast with ASEC Abidjan. His time at Nancy was badly hurt by injury, but before that he had managed 44 goals in 63 outings with Rennes.46. Kolo Toure6 of 51Dino Panato/Getty ImagesIndividualAnother of the famous Golden Generation of Ivory Coast, the elder Toure is a sporty, imposing central defender who has had his share of controversies and failures. The HonoursToure international has suffered the misfortune of his compatriots as the recent incarnation of elephants so often stumbled upon the business end of the Nations Cup. He's got his country at two world championships. Club HonoursHaving enjoyed Premier League life with Arsenal, Manchester City and now Liverpool, Kolo Toure is no stranger to domestic success. Twice won the Premier League and twice the Ivory Coast Championship. One of Arsene Wenger's unbeaten signings, the signing of 150,000 pounds from ASEC Mimosas is one of the Frenchman's best acquisitions.45 Segun Odegbami7 of 51 has climbed the podium for African Footballer of the Year in 1977 and 1980 without winning a big one. Odegbami was recognized by IFFHS as the joint-19th best African player of the last century. International HonoursOdegbami guided Nigeria to their first African title, on home soil, in 1980. He was twice the top scorer in the Cup of Nations, in 1978 and 1980, and remains Nigeria's second-highest scorer of all time, behind only the incomparable Rashidi Yekini.Club HonoursHe has spent his entire career in the Ibadan side shooting the Stars, picking up numerous Nigerian leagues and domestic trophies in the process. The highlight was, perhaps, the 1976 African Cup of Winners' Cup, the first triumph of the Nigerian team in the continental championship.44. Nouredidine Naybet8 of 51 Lawrence Griffiths /Getty ImagesIndividualSurely one of the best and certainly one of the most consistent defenders Africa has ever produced, Naybet was loyal to Morocco and also made a successful transition to European football. He was another great African defender linked to Manchester United.International HonoursNaybet represented the Atlas Lions in two World Cups but, like Mustafa Hadji, remained unfulfilled at the Nations Cup.Club HonoursHe won the African Champions League with Wydad Casablanca in 1992, a triumph that brought him the crossing across the Mediterranean. He won the Spanish championship with Deportivo La Coruna in 2000 before supplementing his trophy haul with a number of Spanish Cups. Victor Ikpeba9 of 51Photo Andreas Renz / Bongarts / Getty ImagesIndividualIkpeba has been recognized by IFFHS as the joint-34-best African player of the last century. He was named African Footballer of the Year in 1997 and won Eboh Shone as the best African player in the Belgian league in 1993.International HonoursA continental champion with Nigeria in 1994, Ikpeba was also part of the team that won Olympic gold two years later. He represented Gnaia at two World Championships.Club HonoursA Ligue 1 champion with Monaco in 1997 and Belgian Cup winner with RFC Liege in 1990, Ikpeba also enjoyed a stint with Borussia Dortmund.42. Rashid Mekhoufi10 of 51 great player game and key influence in important collisions, forward forward one of the first (and most notable) African-born players to represent the French national side. He remains the second-highest scorer in the history of AS Saint-Etienne.International HonoursMekhoufi failed to win much with the desert lions, with his greatest contribution came within the Front Liberation National side who traveled the world representing their compatriots then under French rule. The FLN team has become one of Africa's most powerful symbols of national identity and autonomy. He has represented France four times but also played at the 1982 World Cup with Algeria.Club HonoursSome other North African players are often billed as one of the continent's best to have a pure honour to back up their status. This is not a criticism that can be levelled at Mehloufi, who excelled in France with Saint-Etienne.During his time at L'Hexagone he won Ligue 1 four times and also gained a clutch of other honours including the French Cup. This victory in 1968 was the last act of a glorious career in the Loire.41 Rigobert Song11 of 51Michael Steele /Getty ImagesIndividualA wild boy early in his career, Tauntong gently became the wise old head of Cameroonian football, becoming an African icon in the process. The song remains, along with zinedine Zidane, the only player to be sent to two World Cups.International HonoursA two-time AFCON winner, Song was the star of the tournament man in 2002 as the indomitable Lions retained their continental crown. He represented the Central African giants at a remarkable four World Cups - the biggest of all players on this list. The Honours Club has not had any impact on his club career, which explains his rather modest position on the list. Two FA Cups to Galatasaray and several domestic Cup triumphs in Turkey and France are the sum of his career honours from Cameroon's famous green.40. Mahamadou Diarra12 of 51Ian Walton/Getty ImagesIndividualDiarra was a tough-tackling midfielder who, along with Michael Essien, forged the foundation of that excellent Lyon side that so often threatened to take the French side to the next level in the middle of the last decade. The International HonoursThe Mail captain guided the team to third place in the Under-20 World Cup in 1999 but has struggled to win anything with Les Eagles over the past decade. The side have already been ruled out of next summer's World Cup. Club HonoursDiarra's place on this list is all about its domestic form of the past decade. Between 2002 and 2008 he won the league title, whether in France or Spain (with Real Madrid) every season or six consecutive major titles, not to mention a streak of domestic cups. Daniel Amokachi13 of 51Photo by Henri Schwartz/Bongarts/Getty ImagesIndividualAmokachi was IFFHS as the 18th best African player of the last century. His flaws in where he struggled to muscle his way past Duncan Ferguson and Paul Rideout, should not diminish his position. Twice he finished third in the African Footballer of the Year Award.International HonoursAmokachi played at the 1994 and 1998 World Cups with Nigeria, and was a key member of the iconic Super Eagles side that won at AFCON in '94. He also won historic Olympic gold in 1996, playing his part in the famous final win over Argentina.Club HonoursStill managed to win the FA Cup at Everton in 1995, eliminating Tottenham in the semi-finals with a stunning brace. Lucas Radebe14 of 51Scott Heavey/Getty ImagesIndividualRadebe was an elegant, consistent defender, having given the example and enjoyed a storied career in South Africa and Yorkshire.Leeds United's Player of the Season in 1998, he could have achieved much more if he had moved to Manchester United when Sir Alex Ferguson came calling in 2000.International HonoursRadebe, who was once identified by Nelson Mandela as a great man hero, was one of the national builders who won the Nations Cup with South Africa in 1996. He also represented Bafan Bafan at two world championships in 1998 and 2002.Club HonoursHe arrived in Leeds in 1994, primarily to provide company for his compatriot Phil Masinga. Little was expected from the boy Kaiser Chiefs, but he became a loyal side, one of the Premier League's most famous defenders and Yorkshire legend. Radebe had never won a major league title, but still managed to collect various trophies in South Africa before the adventure began. Tarek Dhiabi15 of 51IndividualThis wonderful Tunisian playmaker was named Footballer of the Year in 1977 and was recognized by IFFHS as joint 15th best African player of the last century. The HonoursHe international has never managed to lead Tunisia to the AFCON title, but give the world an idea of his (and his compatriots') talents at the 1978 World Cup.Club HonoursDhiab enjoyed a trophy-laden career with Esperance but retired before the club won its first CAF Champions League.36. Kareem Abdul Razak16 of 51 Boy may not be a household name for most of you, but a Ghana midfielder with miraculous close control has an outstanding track record that puts him firmly in my top 50.A once African Footballer of the Year, he was recognised by IFFHS as the joint 31st-best African player of the last century. International HonoursRazak was the tournament's player in 1968 and he guided the Black Stars to their third African title. HonoursRazak enjoyed a stint in naSL among the glittering stars of New York Space, sandwiched between time in Ghana with Asante Kotoko and in Egypt with Arab contractors.35 Rashidi Yekini17 of 51GABRIEL released a set set Players who knew how to find a network with unwavering regularity; however, unlike, for example, Godfrey Chitalu and Tony Eboa, Shkini has the honor to back up his great work in front of the gate. Kaduna's bull was once named African Footballer of the Year and also came in second and third place in the polls. He was voted IFFHS 17th Best African Player of the Last Century. An international HonoursPart Nigerian team that conquered Africa in 1994, Yekini also starred at the World Championships in America in the same year. He was the top scorer in two continental championships and was the player of the tournament in 1994.Club HonoursYekini played throughout Africa and in Europe, in Spain, Portugal, Greece and Switzerland, winning the Ivorian title. He was the premier league's top scorer in 1994 - an incredible year for the frontman.34 Joseph-Antoine Bell18 of 51Getty ImagesIndividualBell was recognized by IFFHS as Africa's greatest goalkeeper during the 20th century and twice finished second in the African Footballer of the Year award. An international HonoursTwice Champion of Africa, Bell travelled with the indomitable Lions on a three World Cup stint. HonoursBell won the African Champions League in 1979 as part of the exclusive Union Douala team. He achieved domestic success with the Union and the Egyptian side of the Arab Contractors.His career in France with Marseille often threatened to deliver excellence, but the side too often fell short as the final hurdle approached. Kazadi Mwamba19 of 51Photo by Bride Lane Library /Popperfoto/Getty ImagesIndividualThe only one of the iconic zaire sides in the late 60s and early 70s to make this list, Casadi was the goalkeeper of the 1974 World Cup, who had his reputation so tarnished by his flaws, in which their numbers are almost impossible to challenge. After finishing second in the African Footballer of the Year award, Casadi was voted IFFHS among the top five African goalkeepers of the last century. The International HonoursTwice African champion with zaira in 1968 and in 1974 - the year of the great leopard's journey to the World Cup in West Germany-Mwamba was named player of the tournament after the triumph of 1968. HonoursMwamba has spent its entire career with the Giants of Lubumbashi TP Mazembe, collecting a number of domestic and continental honours in the process. He is a forgotten great despite his World Cup failures.32 Salif Keita20 of the 51JARNOUX Patrick/Paris Match via Getty ImagesIndividual Owner African footballer of the year in 1970, Keita also received the FIFA Order of Merit in 1996. A deadly striker in his time, he enjoyed a stunning scoring record in France with Saint-Etienne.International HonoursKeita guided Mali to the 1972 Nations Cup final but was helpless as the Republic of Congo beat Les Eagles 3-2 in the classic final. HonoursA Club is a relentless winner-like in Mali, he transferred his desire and success to Europe. He won a trio of consecutive Ligue 1 titles at the Loire in the late 60s and also enjoyed various triumphs in the French Cup.Keita took the Portuguese Cup with sport more than a decade after leaving Africa.31. Pat Mboma21 of 51Ben Radford/Getty ImagesIndividualMboma was an incredibly powerful man with terrific technical prowess to match. He was African Footballer of the Year and BBC African Footballer of the Year in 2000.International HonoursAn is an incredibly consistent scorer for the indomitable Lions, his numbers match almost all the other forwards on this list. Mboma won the honors to go with his goals as well as a figure in cameroon's great side in the early 2000s. Along with this excellent collection of stars, he won two AFCON titles, Olympic gold and featured at two World Championships.One of the six players to be the top scorer in two different Nations Cup tournaments. The success of the HonoursHis club with Cameroon, unfortunately, did not correspond throughout the peripatetic club career. The clutch of French cups is a meager reward for such sizzling talent.30 Benny McCarthy22 of 51Gallo Images/Getty ImagesIndividualDon't let the flabby, shameful end of his career distract you; Benny McCarthy was once one of Africa's most feared frontmen. An international HonoursDespite, having never won the Nations Cup with South Africa, McCarthy was an outstanding man in the 1998 edition. He was the top scorer and was identified as the best player of the tournament. He represented Bafana Bafan at two world championships, but he infamously missed out on home soil in 2010. He remains the top scorer in the history of the country, HonoursMcCarthy's club won the Champions League with Jose Mourinho's Porto side, enjoying success early in his career at Ajax.He impressed in England at Blackburn Rovers, where he handed his prolific goal-getting in the Premier League. Jean Manga-Onguene23 of 51Stu Forster/AlisportIndividualRecognised IFFHS as joint 34th best African player of the last century, Manga-Onguene won the CAF Footballer of the Year award in 1980.International HonoursBad terms cost him the glory of his successors with the Cameroon national side. Manga-Onguene ended his national team duty just three years before the first African title of the indomitable Lions. He returned to manage the national team for a short, unsuccessful period in the late 90s. HonoursManga-Onguene has spent its entire career in Cameroonian power plants Canon Yaounde. During a remarkably successful 16 years, he transformed the club, winning his first six league titles and guiding them to three African Champions League victories. Since his departure in 1982, no team in Africa will have more continental championships than Canon- 14 years, than zamalek beat their impressive trio.28, trio.28. Keita24 of 51David Ramos/Getty ImagesIndividualHis contribution to Barcelona, where he was an important figure, not consistently holding the first team place, rarely anything less that excellent. Keita finished second in the running for African Footballer of the Year in 2011, beaten only by Yea Toure.International HonoursA third place in the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in 1999 foreshadowed identical finishes in the 2012 and 2013 Nations Cup tournaments when Mali fell short at the semi-finals stage. HonoursA club favourite Pep Guardiola, Keita has taken three La Liga titles, two Copa del Rey, three Spanish Super Cups and two Champions League titles during his time at Barcelona. This is complemented by previous successes at Sevilla and Lorient. Emmanuel Amunke25 of 51Stu Defender.org/ is certainly true that Amunke has not had a career as brilliant as his talent should have allowed, but the fact that the player's injury record binds him forever tells his own story. Recognized by IFFHS as the joint 26-best African player of the last century, this one-time African Footballer of the Year was once runner-up and a former BBC African player of the year. Not a bad catch for one so regularly stuck in the treatment room. International HonoursPart of the glorious Nigerian generation of the 90s, Amunke won Olympic gold and an African title in the early 90s, and represented the Super Eagles at the US '94.Club HonoursOnce signed by Barcelona for 2.2 million pounds, Amunke won domestic titles in Nigeria and Egypt before tasting sporadic success in Europe and Asia.26. Theophilus Abega26 of 51Photo Bob Thomas /Getty ImagesIndividual Figure in African Context, Abega was once named African Footballer of the Year and finished third in another event. He was identified as the sixth greatest African player of the 20th century by IFFHS. International Honours created some of the most iconic images of African football during the 1984 AFCON final, as his glorious late winner against Nigeria secured Cameroon a first continental title. He was named Tournament player.He also represented the Central African giants at the World Cup.Club HonoursDomestically, Doctor was loyal to Canon Yaounde for ten years, guiding the club to two CAF Champions Leagues in 1978 and 1988.25. Ahmed Hassan27 of 51Clive Mason/Getty ImagesIndividualOne of the best African passers of his generation, Hassan was a cheerfully wide player early in his career before moving inside to dictate play as age crept up on him. In 2006 and 2010 he was an AFCON tournament player. He suffers, like his team-mates, for his persistent inability to qualify for the World Cup.International HonoursA four-time Cup of Nations With Egypt, Hassan remains the most cap male player in the world ever. His 184-year-old for the Pharaohs is unlikely to be better any time soon. The Honours Club only represented AI Ahli for three years, he has not amassed the same number of domestic honours as some of his compatriots. Time in Belgium and Turkey has given additional awards and distinguishes Hassan from other Egyptian players who have fought abroad.24. Lauren28 of 51Alex Livesey/Getty ImagesIndividualA member of Arsenal's legendary Invincibles team, Lauren once finished second in the African Footballer of the Year award. International Honorary Members of this iconic Cameroonian team of the early 2000s, Lauren, playing predominantly as a right midfielder, attended both the AFCON triumphs, the Olympic gold medal triumph and the 1998 and 2002 World Cups.He was the player of the tournament for the Nations Cup triumph in 2000.Club HonoursTwice Premier League champion with Arsenal, he also took a clutch of other honours during his time in England, the final time of the 2008 FA Cup with Portsmouth. In 2004 he was part of the pfa.23 team of the year. Bruce Grobbelaar29 of 51Chris Jackson/Getty ImagesIndividualGrobbelaar may not have had the sheer ability of Thomas N'Konu or Joseph-Antoine Bell, both of whom pipped him on the IFFHS Keeper of the Century list, but he remains one of the continent's best stopper. The International HonoursCapped more than 30 times by Rhodesia and then zimbabwe, he has made little tangible impact in international football during his nearly 20-year career. HonoursGrobbelaar was part of one of Liverpool's best teams during one of their most dominant eras as the zimbabwe stopper claimed six league titles and three domestic cups. The highlight, however, was the 1984 European Cup final, where his Bendy legs and expert penalty saves almost alone helped the Reds stitch up another star above those Shankly Gates.22. Emad Moteab30 of 51Gallo Images/Getty ImagesIndividualEgyptian forward Emad Moteab is not a player who usually belongs in such a sublime company and among such illustrious names; However, a look at the striker's record goal and the impact of the big game must convince that his record requires a reassessment. He was named Africa's best striker in 2005, the same year that he top scored in the Egyptian Premier League. International HonoursMoaty has attended Egypt's three AFCON triumphs of the last decade. He scored three times in the 2006 edition, including playing changing goals against Ivory Coast in the group stage. Four

years later, he bagged two goals, notably a sharp finish against Nigeria that turned the wave of competition towards the Pharaohs. He also competed at the 2012 London Olympics and almost beat the Pharaohs in the 2010 World Cup.Now 30, his goal scoring a record for Egypt is 34 goals in 69 games. Club of Honoursopled by Mohamed and Mohamed Barakat, he formed the iconic Egyptian offensive line at Al-Ahly.He won domestic championship titles in Egypt (six) and Saudi Arabia, as well as a commemorative collection of continental honors with Ahly.21. Mahmoud El-Khatib31 of 51The Daily Mail/ Bibo, El Khatib was an icon of Egypt in the 70s and 80s. He was awarded african footballer of the year in 1983 and was also named an Arab athlete of the 20th century. He was recognized by IFFHS as the joint 11th best African player of the last century and CAF in 2007 as the second largest. International HonoursEl-Khatib won the continental crown with Egypt in 1986 and also played at the Olympics two years earlier. HonoursA's club is an extremely dominant figure since Al Ahli, El Khatib has won almost a dozen domestic titles with the giants Cairene, and helped build the club's continental reputation, with their first two CAF Champions League triumphs in 1982 and 1987.20. Mohamed Barakat32 of 51Koichi Kamoshida/Getty ImagesIndividualHe was named BBC African Player of the Year in 2005 and Egyptian Footballer of the Year in 2002 and 2009 as the spread of honours over seven years recognizes Barakat's consistency and longevity. Barakat was two-time Egyptian footballer of the year and top scorer in the Champions League in 2005.International HonoursA is the central part of Egypt's ridiculously successful decade at the top of the African game, it is a shame he was present for only one first triumph. HonoursThe Mercurial arrived in Al Ahly in 2004 and embarked on a hugely successful nine years with the club before his retirement at the start of the summer. He took two CAF Champions League titles and seven Egyptian championships among a huge streak of other honours.19 Patrick Ntsoelengoe33 of 51Soccer Laduma / all accounts, a wonderful talent. Alan Merrick suggested he had abilities that matched the greatest players of the 1970s. Clive Barker argued that if Ace were around in the modern era, his status would be akin to Messi or Ronaldo.International Honours's, since until 1992, because of the apartheid regime. Fifa banned him from competing. The HonoursPlayed Club in America after an early career in South Africa with the Kaiser Chiefs, where he enjoyed the status of idol. Ntsoelengoe has had a very successful career in outposts as diverse as Toronto, Denver and Minnesota. Rabah Madjer34 of 51Vittorio zunino Celotto / Getty ImagesIndividualMadjer was the player of the tournament as Algeria won the Cup of Nations in 1990, was recognized as African Player of the Year in 1987 and was named Algerian footballer of the 20th century. The Daily Mail speculated in 2010 that Madjer A glorious decade of Algeria in the 1980s. International Honours Madjer won the African title in 1990 with Algeria falling to the final hurdle a decade ago. He has also represented the desert lions in consecutive World Cups. Club HonoursOn found great success in Portugal, resulting in making a key contribution as Porto won the European Cup in 1987. This is a highlight among the flurry of domestic and other European honors17. Geremi35 of 51Bryn Lennon/Getty ImagesIndividualGeremi was a versatile talent capable of working in midfield or defence, especially on the right flank, as well as a recruitment specialist. The HonoursHe international was part of a sublime Cameroonian team that claimed Olympic gold in 2000, as well as bagging the Nations Cup in 2000 and 2002 along with an excellent crop of teammates. Geremi also represented the indomitable Lions at two World Cups. A two-time Champions League winner with the Spanish giants, the midfield has also managed three major league titles, two minor leagues of them and a clutch of cup triumphs. Except for the World Cup, this boy has a lot16. Dr. Khumalo36 of 51IndividualThe cultural centrepiece of South African football in the 90s, the midfield general was limited 50 times. International HonoursAlong with Radebe, Doctor was one of the nation's builders who won the AFCON so decisively on home soil in 1996. He also scored the only goal of the game in Bafan Bafan's clash with Cameroon in July 1992 - the nation's first game since independence. He represented the national team at the 1998 World Cup.The HonoursKhumalo Club has amassed numerous tournament victories, not to mention several domestic championships, during the first seven years with the Kaiser Chiefs. He enjoyed a brief stint in Argentina and the US before returning to Soweto for final prosperity with the Chiefs.15 Thomas N'Kono37 of 51Photo Bob Thomas /Getty ImagesIndividualN'Kono was voted Africa's second best goalkeeper in the last 100 years by IFFHS, second only to his longtime rival Joseph-Antoine Bell.A two-time African Footballer of the Year, N'Kono also made the podium twice as many. An international HonoursFirst selection for Cameroon at two World Cups, the sides were unbeaten and missed only once in the 1982 edition. N'Kono also won Africa's top prize with the indomitable Lions in 1984, although Bell led the team on target as N'Kono left for his club team. HonoursHaving played in Spain with Espanyol for almost a decade and has made great strides with the Yaounde Canon club. He won a streak of domestic titles and some continental club awards with Kpa-Kum.14. Yaya Toure38 of 51Alex Livesey/Getty The powerhouse midfielder who has taken his game to another level since arriving in England with Manchester City after the aftermath Twice named African Footballer of the Year in 2011 and 2012, Toure was also named in the PFA Premier League team of the year in 2012.International HonoursDespite becomes one of the best crop of players ever found on the African continent, Yaya, like his compatriots, has suffered a number of Nations Cup heartbreaks. He has represented elephants at two world championships and will anticipate a third next summer. An HonoursA club big-game player, Toure was the standout man in Manchester City's Triumphant Premier League winning campaign. This medal came after the domestic championships in Ivory Coast, Greece and Spain (two La Liga titles), a number of domestic honours and the Champions League title in 2009.13. Jay-Jay Okocha39 of 51Alex Livesey/Getty ImagesIndividualOkocha's sublime technical ability and flair was recognised by the BBC as he twice won their African Footballer of the Year award - one of two players to be honoured more than once. He never claimed the CAF award, but twice finished second. He was named among the 125 greatest players in the history of Pele.International HonoursOkocha won Olympic gold as part of a talented Nigerian side in the early 90s and an African title in 1994 along with Yekini, Amuneke and Co He excelled in the 2004 edition of the tournament as well as where he was joint top scorer and outstanding man of the competition. He has represented the Super Eagles at three world championships. Club HonoursThe awards are surprisingly scant for the player's outstanding ability of Okocha. He settled in Bolton - an environment not quite suitable for a star of his calibre - after a decade wandering through various European leagues. Okocha took an obscure collection of silver from France, Germany and Turkey, but never won the title. Apologists will say he was simply too aesthetic, too handsome a player to truly play a responsible role in the elite, demanding the end of football.12 Michael Essien40 of 51David Ramos/Getty ImagesIndividualArguably football's most impressive example of the past 10 years, Essien exploded onto the stage as part of Lyon's stunning team before joining Chelsea in 2005.Once BBC African Player of the Year, Essien was third on the podium for the CAF award four times and runner-up once. This title eludes him in reality, which certainly wouldn't be the case if the injury hadn't bitten so hard. International HonoursIt is definitely an area of regret for Essien. The combination of unhappiness and injury meant he wasn't able to guide this exciting generation of Black Stars as he certainly hoped. He has achieved little attention with Ghana for one World Cup appearance. The HonoursThis club is in stark contrast to his club career, which has almost undiluted superiority. Jose Mourinho, whom he suspiciously calls dad, has shared much of his success. Essien has won one Champions League title, four major championships and a large streak of domestic cups11. Sammy Kuffour41 of 51Stuart Franklin /Getty ImagesIndividualA is a fine central defender who, at the turn of the century, was considered one of the best in Europe. He was twice the silver medalist of the African Footballer of the Year award and one of the best players of the year on the BBC African Player of the Year programme. International HonoursKuffour represented Ghana at the 2006 World Cup, but it came a decade too early to truly enjoy the country's current position in the international community. The HonoursHe club enjoyed an extremely successful 12 years in Bayern Munich, where it won four German Cups and six domestic league titles. Although he is famous for his passion for losing the 1999 Champions League to Manchester City, Kuffur was on many occasions pardoned by the victory over Valencia two years later. Kuffour is one of three Ghanaians to win the main domestic club tournament in the world10. Wael Gomaa42 of 51Gallo Images/Getty ImagesIndividualThe defensive stone is based on two dominant teams, Al Ahly and Egypt's side of the past decade, Gomaa has been remarkably consistent and extremely unruined during so many high-profile matches and intense fixtures. International HonoursAn is constantly present for the AFCON triumphs of 2006, 2008 and 2010, Gomaa, like other members of this Egyptian side, failed to make the World Cup.Club HonoursAn extremely successful careers both in Egypt and on the continent and with Al Ahli, Gomaa attended the five triumphs of the CAF Champions League. Of all those on the list, only compatriots Hossam Hassan and Essam El-Kadari have won more awards at club level9. Mohamed Aboutrika43 of 51Gallo Images/Getty ImagesIndividualAboutrika is an incredible character and cult of personality who has been an artist in the heart of Al-Ahli and Egypt during the last hugely successful decade. He was BBC African Footballer of the Year in 2008 and runner-up in the CAF award the same year. Once considered by Italian journalist Gabriele Marcotti the best player, not italic his trade in Europe or South America.International HonoursA mascot figure for the Pharaohs, Ostrika won the continental title in 2006 and scored the winning goal as the North African giants retained their title two years later. The HonoursAboutrika club has not quite won the honors of some of their compatriots, but has so far won a huge collection of domestic and continental silvers from both Ismaili and Al Ahli. He is so a regular match-winner and savior for the Cairene Giants. He is the favorite African player of this Abedi Pele44 of 51 Vittorio zunino Celotto/Getty Images A true world star of the early 90s, Pele is a three-time African Footballer of the Year and one time BBC African Player of the Year. Named in the top three Africans of all time by IFFHS and identified by his namesake, the great Brazilian as one of the greatest 125 players ever lived. International HonoursNufortally, he never managed to make the World Cup, but won the Cup of Nations with Ghana in 1982. Ten years later he was the player of the tournament as the Black Stars lost in the Ivory final. HonoursAbedi Pele built its heritage in the south of France with Marseille. A defeated European Cup finalist in 1991, he returned two years later to win the only OM Champions League to date. Three times he won Ligue 1 at the Velodrome, although at least the last of those titles will forever be tarnished. Kanu45 of 51Matthew Lewis/Getty ImagesIndividualTwice African Footballer of the Year and twice BBC Footballer of the Year, Kanu earned plaudits across Europe for his innovation, his unique style and his unpredictable, but remarkable, football skills. International HonoursIn this list is the only player who has won Olympic gold, but not the Cup of Nations. The constant failure with Nigeria on the continental stage is undoubtedly a black mark on Kanu's record. However, he represented the Super Eagles at three World Cups.Club HonoursKanu scored 25 in 52 for Ajax, securing a Champions League winner's medal in the process. He has won two major leagues - the Premier League twice - among other honours. One of the few players to have won the Champions League, UEFA Cup, Olympic gold, FA Cup and Premier League, Kanu also survived a relegation with Portsmouth at the end of his career6. Essam El-Hadary46 of 51Gallo Images/Getty ImagesIndividual claim that El Hadi, the man Didier Drogba once claimed was his toughest opponent, is critically undervalued. Over time, I hope that the reputation of the Egyptian stopper will stand next to those of the very best goalkeepers to come out of the continent. The HonoursEl-Hadary international was a four-time Winner of the Cup of Nations with Egypt - no one has more titles. Few of Egypt's Golden Generation have played their part more than El-Kadari. Let's take it this way: he has made the tournament team three times, and in three Nations Cup finals he has not conceded a single goal. The HonoursHe club won the championship in Sudan with Al-Murray and in Egypt with Ahli remarkable eight times. This is complemented by outstanding triumphs in the African Champions League and many other awards of both Egypt and the continent.5 Hossam Hassan47 of 51ABDELHAK SENNA/AFP/Getty ImagesIndividualOne many Egyptians fight abroad, Hassan's legacy is built on his relentless successes with Al Ahly and the national side of the Pharaohs. Hassan can't enjoy the status of some other players at the end of the business list because of its flaws from North Africa, but it is forward that should require international attention. International HonoursThe sublime poacher was a key figure in three of Egypt's AFCON triumphs, and went to the 1990 World Cup with Pharaohs.He remains North Africa's top scorer of all time, with 68 goals in 176 outings. Seven of them came during the 1998 Nations Cup, where he was the top scorer. The HonoursAn club's irresistible career at club level saw it secure a barrel of loads of triumphs with Al Ahly, whose African club title of the century is due to, in no small degree, Hassan's stunning contribution. Thirteen league titles, five Egyptian Cups and one African Champions League triumph represent a remarkable catch. He also won a second continental title upon his arrival in zamalek as soon as the love of Ahli dried up. Roger Milla48 of 51Photo Bob Thomas/Getty ImagesIndividualMilla has been identified by IFFHS as the second greatest African player in the last 100 years. Many praise Milla because of his longevity, but he is one of the few Africans to make major, vivid effects at the World Cup (such as Omam-Biyik and Papa Buba Diop), whose numbers and honours can sustain his immense reputation. He remains the oldest player (42) to score at the World Cup (1994). Milla twice became the African Footballer of the Year and three times climbed the podium. He made the FIFA 100 and voted CAF as the African century player.International HonoursHe represented Cameroon at three World Cups and won the Nations Cup twice. Twice became the top scorer of the tournament, as well as the player of the tournament in 1986. No player can claim to have dominated continent football in the 80s as Milla.Club HonoursMilla traipsed around a number of clubs in Cameroon and France, accruing some miraculous scoring records in Saint-Etienne, Montpellier, Leopard, Pelita Jay and Tonnerre.He won several honours, including several French cups but never claimed a major league title. Didier Drogba49 of 51Clive Rose/Getty ImagesIndividualA's huge haul of individual honours points to Drogba's longevity at the absolute top of the sport and his position in the game. Magnificent eight times he was in the top three African footballers of the year, winning the award twice. International HonoursEamedly comical failures of the Golden Generation of Ivory Coast naturally affect Drogba's position among other African greats. Despite appearing at two World Championships with the Elephants, he has so far failed to secure a continental title with the CIV, despite coming close on numerous occasions. Joint top scorer of the tournament in 2010, he remains the top scorer in Ivory Coast. HonoursHaving Club has been one of Chelsea's mascot figures in recent times, a trophy laden with history. Drogba is one of the most successful all the time in the European game. Of course, no Ivorian has achieved more. Highlights will certainly be Premier League titles with Chelsea and the 2012 Champions League triumph. Sir Alex Ferguson suggested that the Ivorian frontman had won this last title alone. Drogba was voted Chelsea's best player in 2012. George Weah50 of 51Ben Radford/Getty ImagesIndividualRecognised by IFFHS as the greatest African player of the 20th century, George Weah raw and sublime ability remains unprecedented. A two-time African Footballer of the Year, Weah is the only African player to win the Ballon d'Or-receiving award in 1995. In the same year he was also named European Footballer of the Year and FIFA World Player of the Year.A one time BBC Footballer of the Year award, he was also named in fifa 100.International HonoursWeah is a big failure in terms of these rankings lies here. Liberia's diminutive position meant his 60 caps never led to success with the Lone Stars. AFFON's zero titles, zero World Cup appearances and the absence of a substantial, tangible international contribution. It's hard to deny that it affects a player's legacy... and his trophy closet. The HonoursSimilarly club, for such a premature, huge player, Wea's success at club level may not be what you would expect. Weah won two Serie A titles with Ac Milan and scored that goal against Verona, but failed to translate his domestic form into the European arena, arriving in Lombardy after the team enjoyed their glorious era in the early 90s. He was the FA Cup winner in England with Chelsea and Ligue 1 champion with Paris Saint-Germain. Samuel Eto'o51 of 51Jamie MacDonald/Getty ImagesIndividualA is a four-time African Footballer of the Year, Eto'o also featured in the top three on four more occasions. It's a sequence that few can match. Eto'o was once voted third in the FIFA Player of the Year awards. The International HonoursA is a crucial part of the great Cameroon side so heavily represented on this list. Eto'o won two Nations Cup tournaments, Olympic gold and represented the indomitable Lions in three Cups.He also made significant triumphs in the African national team 'best-selling, being the top scorer in the 2006 and 2008 editions of the tournament. Eto'o remains Cameroon's top scorer and is the top scorer in the history of the Nations Cup. HonoursEto'o have won three Champions Leagues with Barcelona and Internazionale - an unprecedented achievement among African players. Four major league triumphs in two different countries is a record only better than Samuel Kuffour.He was man of the match in the 2006 Champions League final. Final. history of african footballer of the year. history of african football pdf. history of south african football. history of south african football players union. bbc african footballer of the year history

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