



**THE  
SCOUTING  
NETWORK**

**NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2008**

**THE SCOUTING NETWORK**

Worldwide Football Scouting & Consultancy Services

[www.thescoutingnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thescoutingnetwork.co.uk)

## ITS NEVER TOO LATE FOR TALENT

When Dean Windass hit the £60m Wembley volley that made him Hull's Golden Oldie, it was a glorious reminder that in football it's never too late. With one superb strike in the Championship play-off final, a man who started his life lumping bricks around a building site became a Premier League footballer at the grand old age of 39, and his moment of glory couldn't have been more timely for the hundreds of hopeful 18-year-olds up and down the country who have just had their own dreams of glory shattered.

For this is the time of the season where Academy and Schools of Excellence kids up and down the country are hearing the news they dread – they are not being kept on. So how wonderful that Windass, rejected by his home town club Hull as a youngster, should come back and be their hero.

Luckily there are procedures in place for helping the boys who fall off the club academy production line. The League Football Education (LFE) programme helps provide learning to lads while they are with clubs, but has also developed schemes to give them a new purpose when they need it most. This year LFE's 'assessment trials' ran in three venues with more than 250 lads playing in games designed to give other clubs a chance to give them a fresh opportunity. Scouts from many leading League clubs were there, and the matches held at Coventry, Brentford and Bradford were all covered by The Scouting Network's assessment programme as well as being professionally filmed on DVD.



LFE's Dan Jolley says: "The exit and progress agenda is a big priority for us. We are not just there to give education to the guys for two years, and then not care about them. We aim to provide a rounded

development for them whether they stay in football or go into the outside world. The assessment trials are a way of channelling them back into football. We work with partners to show there are opportunities for them not only here, but in Europe. There are chances at semi-professional level, with Universities, and also to go abroad to clubs and other organisations. We are looking at the full range of playing opportunities for them.

"There needs to be a next step, when they have been told by a club their dream is over, and they are wondering what they can do. We give them something to take part in which provides a new sense of direction. When the coach at their club has effectively told them they are not good enough, they need to have some sense of closure on their dreams of being a professional there. We aim to find a new objective, whether that is within football at a new club, or in many of the professions such as physiotherapy or fitness training attached to the game."

Among those watching all three days of the trials was former England manager Glenn Hoddle, who is launching his own scheme based in Jerez in southern Spain to provide training and development for players rejected by clubs. He will invite up to 40 selected players to join his academy to give them top-class coaching at a state of the art facility and he plans to work alongside the best coaches from the professional game he can recruit.



Hoddle says: "I've wanted to do this for 17 years and I will spend a lot of time there to supervise it personally. How can you judge an 18-year-old? We know what we can give these boys mentally, physically and technically and by 19 they might be completely different players."

Clubs in Leagues One and Two have known for years that there are rich pickings to be found among the Premier and Football League's cast-offs, and that's one of the reasons for the development of The Scouting Network's structure to monitor this particular age group. TSN Managing Director Derek Bragg says: "Our clients know the thorough way we track players within our database, and the same attention to detail governs the reports on younger prospects. We were very pleased to work with LFE to help them monitor the assessment trials in an independent manner."



As Dean Windass proved it's never too late for talent.



**ONLINE RELEASED AND AVAILABILITY LISTS – JUNE 2008**



With over three quarters of the clubs within the English professional game now utilising either our database or rolling online released and availability lists, we will continue to provide the same service during June, however, this list will now be updated every Friday at 1500. During May, over 500 players were released throughout the Premier League, Football League and Conference, with a full list available to non-client clubs via our website [www.thescoutingnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thescoutingnetwork.co.uk). For more information on how you can access this unique list and receive your login details, call 01527 585870 between 0800 and 1700 (Monday-Friday).



**UEFA UNDER-17 AND TOULON TOURNAMENT REPORTS**

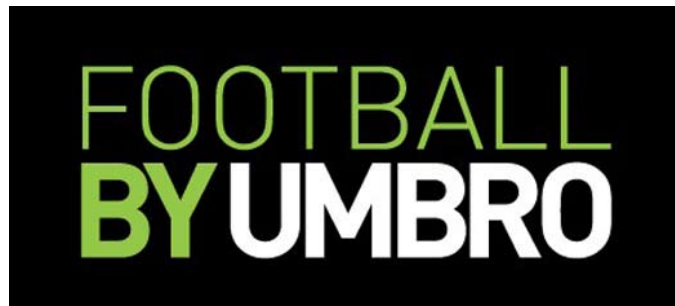
Following the completion of the UEFA Under-17 championships in Turkey, Toulon International tournament and League Football Education (LFE) exit trials, TSN now have these reports available for distribution. The Under-17 and Toulon tournament reports can be purchased at £399 and £450 respectively, whereas the Football League exit trials will appear as a FREE link via the LFE website [www.progression08.com](http://www.progression08.com)

**AVAILABILITY OF NORTH AMERICAN DATABASE**



As part of our partnerships with a number of clubs and organisations within the US, our North American only database is now regularly being updated with scouting reports from MLS games, plus preparation for the new college soccer season is now underway, providing clubs from the MLS and USL with independent scouting assessments on potential draft picks in January 2009.

To find out more about this service, contact [supportcentre@thescoutingnetwork.co.uk](mailto:supportcentre@thescoutingnetwork.co.uk)



**UMBRO - MICHAEL MANCIENNE**

Chelsea's near miss in the Champions League brought massive speculation about the big money signings the London club might make in the summer, but there is likely to be one addition to their first team squad next year who has not cost them a penny.

Central defender Michael Mancienne is returning to Stamford Bridge after a successful season on loan at Queens Park Rangers, with rave reviews for his performances that helped the London club move away from relegation danger in the Championship. Just to add to the good news he was Man of the Match for the England Under-21 side in their 2-0 friendly win in Wales in May.

Mancienne is one of the young talents signed up by Umbro in their policy of finding the brightest prospects to develop their endorsement programme. He signed for the company 18 months ago after being identified as a potential star of the future.

It's another example of how Umbro spot talent and build brand loyalty at an early stage, and why since last year they have been using The Scouting Network to help identify potential top players at Academy level.



\*You can contact Umbro's Player Recruitment Manager Andrew Mashiter by e-mail on [andrew\\_mashiter@umbro.co.uk](mailto:andrew_mashiter@umbro.co.uk)



## OPTA'S PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM OF THE SEASON 2007/08

It was another season of excitement and drama in the Barclays Premier League – right down to the last day when Manchester United pipped Chelsea to the title and Fulham pulled off their incredible escape.

The traditional big four sides once again dominated, and it therefore will come as little surprise that their most gifted stars almost monopolise the Opta Premier League team of the season.

The one position which wasn't taken by a big four superstar was between the posts, where England's David James proved he was central to Portsmouth's FA Cup winning season, keeping 16 clean sheets and making 138 saves.

Surprisingly only three players from champions Manchester United get into the line-up, including defender Nemanja Vidic who made a whopping 544 defensive clearances while still managing to provide an attacking threat, mustering 18 shots. However, alongside him is Liverpool's Sami Hyypia, whose distribution was exemplary, with 81% of his passes finding a team-mate, while his presence was very important to the Anfield side, where he won 63% of their games when Hyypia played as opposed to 36% when he didn't appear.

Arsenal's Bacary Sagna was the best newcomer to the division, completing 88% of his passes as well as marauding forward to send over 90 crosses and set up four goals.

Cristiano Ronaldo won all the individual awards, and Opta's stats prove it was well deserved. He not only equaled Alan Shearer's 31 goal record for a 38-game Premier League season, but fired in a league-high 131 shots and embarked on another high of 191 dribbles.



\*Opta, a partner of The Scouting Network, provide detailed statistics on all aspects of football that can help highlight tactical trends or player potential. For more information on Opta contact Mark MacCombie via e-mail on [mm@optasportsdata.com](mailto:mm@optasportsdata.com) or by phone on 0207 902 0612



## EVERY MONTH THE SCOUTING NETWORK NEWSLETTER WILL FOCUS ON ONE OF OUR CLIENT CLUBS

### This month – Hereford United



As manager, it's a great help to Graham Turner that his chairman is completely in touch with the football side of the club, then again, as chairman, it's equally fortunate that the manager understands the finances.

It's nearly ten years now that the former Aston Villa and Wolves boss has filled both roles at Edgar Street, dragging the club back from the brink of extinction. As major shareholder he's had his house on the line at times, with the tactics of dealing with banks and creditors as crucial as those for breaking down packed defences. So if after two promotions in three years, and with the club back in English football's third tier for the first time since 1978, he was having a word with the man in the mirror to say 'it's time to pump more money into the team' you wouldn't blame him. But with a ground redevelopment scheme in the pipeline he knows the need to keep the club on an even keel.

He says: "In some respects filling both roles makes it very easy. Before now I have sat in this boardroom with no money at all to pay the players' wages, having given them the cheques. I've know hardship of going seven months without paying a penny to myself, so I know exactly what it is like at a football club when times are hard. It's made me determined above all else that the club will never fall into those times again.

"I've seen exactly the problems clubs get into because they spend more than they can afford. It's always tempting when the manager says how one more player will get you promotion, or another signing will help you avoid relegation. I've got a clear vision of everything within the club and I know exactly how far we can afford to go in every direction."



Turner got himself into both roles ten years ago as the club was sliding out of the League. Having gone on a short-term role to try to stabilise the playing side he found himself having to rescue the whole club. "I never intended for one moment it would happen," he says. "I was a football manager and the last thing I wanted was to be making deals with the taxman or sorting out the VAT, but the club was going bust, a couple of people looked at the books and then decided they wouldn't touch it, and it was down to me and some other people to do something about it or let it die. I suppose it makes me feel all the more proud now that we've fought back from the Conference and into League One. I'm just as proud that for five years now we've traded in the black. We're progressing with plans to redevelop the stadium and there are signs of improvement on and off the pitch."



Turner's reputation in the game – he was, after all, the man who found Steve Bull to rebuild Wolves from 92nd into the modern club, plus he has found both loan players and rejects from other clubs to strengthen his squad as the club has climbed it's way back through the pyramid.

During this process, he has added access to The Scouting Network's database as part of improvements to Hereford's infrastructure to help cope with promotion to League One. He said: "I'm a bit of a dinosaur as a manager because I like to see players myself before I sign them, but the TSN system will definitely help me identify who I need to look at. We've used their team assessments last season, and this was a logical next step. It's all part of developing the club off the field to meet the demands of moving up another level. You have to keep improving, at the moment there's great accolades and celebrations, however, if two months into next season we are struggling it will all be forgotten."

Whisper it softly, but if he can keep Hereford stable in League One it might just give him the chance to complete his mission by handing the club on to new owners when the time is right. He admits: "At the age of 60 I still think I've got one more club in me before I retire. From a pure footballing point of view 13 years is a long time to spend at one club, and I'm hoping it won't be the last one. That said, at this moment I'm very satisfied with the way things are going and I'll definitely be meeting the chairman to see what we need to do next!"

### CONTACT US

The Scouting Network  
Bordesley Hall  
The Holloway  
Alvechurch  
Birmingham B48 7QA Tel: 01527 585870 Fax: 01527 61009

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