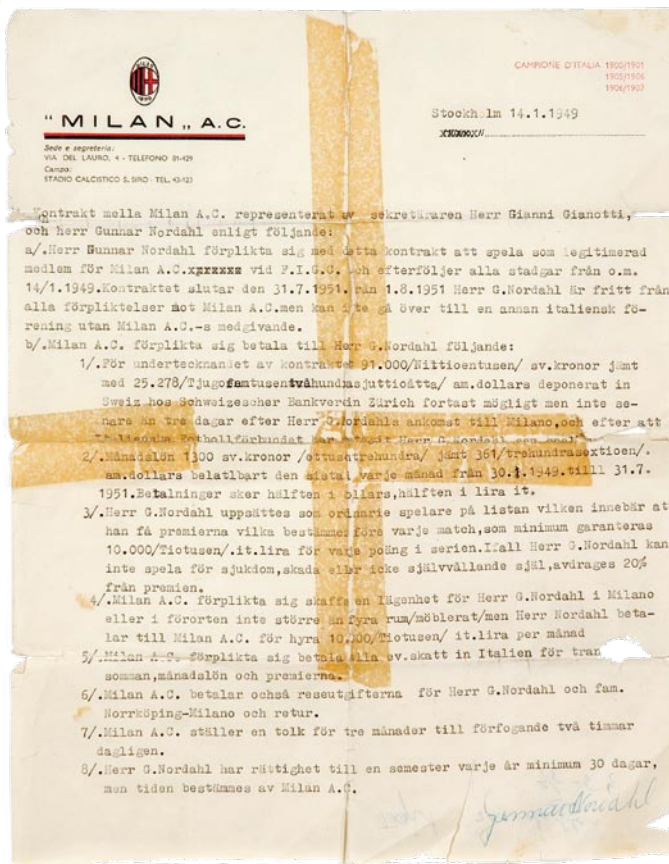




## 'Gre-No-Li' – an enormously popular Swedish trio

In 1949 during his first year in Milan, Gunnar Nordahl was joined by two more Swedes – Nils Liedholm and Gunnar Gren. Together they formed a successful trio and an Italian journalist coined the nickname 'Gre-No-Li'.

'Gren, Liedholm and I knew each other inside-out. We always knew where the others were when on the field. We built up a special kind of teamwork between us during a number of matches and numerous hours spent training together. We knew that if you put the ball there, then you'd get it back again at just the right moment. To place yourself in the gaps was something quite new down here and we had a great deal of success with our "sawings".' (Quote from Gunnar Nordahl – legenden by Magnus Höjer). Milan won its first league championship in 44 years in the 1950-51 season and Gre-No-Li became enormously popular. Gunnar Nordahl played a total of eight seasons for Milan.



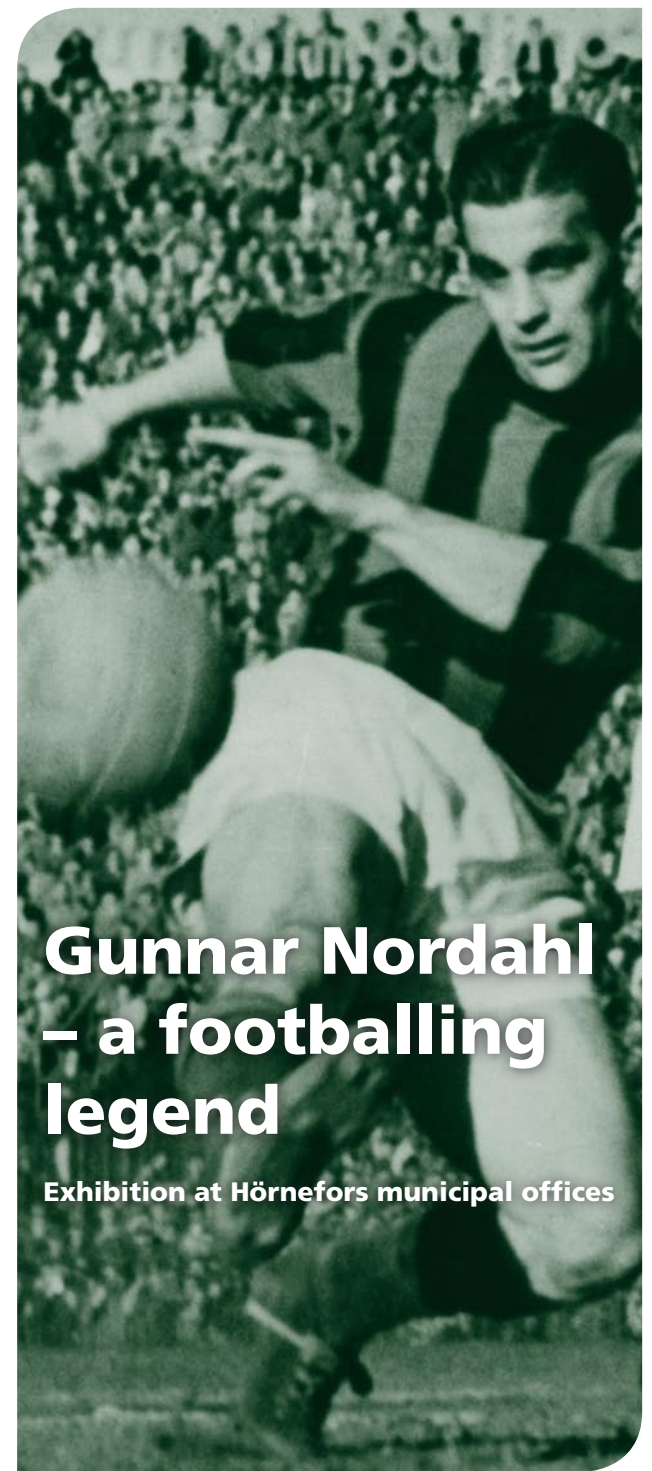
## Sweden's first profes- sional footballer

When Gunnar Nordahl signed a contract with Milan in 1949, he became Sweden's first professional footballer. He signed to play with the club for two and a half years. For that, he received a salary of SEK 1,300 per month plus a victory bonus. An apartment in Milan was arranged for his family and a sum of \$25,000 was also deposited in a bank account in Switzerland. Gunnar Nordahl was 27 years old at the time and moving to Italy was a big step for the whole family. He paved the way for others to follow him with a number of other Swedes also becoming international professionals just a short time later.

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## Gunnar Nordahl – a footballing legend

Exhibition at Hörnefors municipal offices



# The story of a sporting hero

The legendary footballer Gunnar Nordahl (1921–1995) was born and raised in Hörnefors, an industrial mill town 30km south of Umeå in the county of Västerbotten. Now you can view an exhibition in his hometown detailing his career. Through photographs, slide shows, trophies, medals, trading cards, newspaper articles and films, you can relive the history of one of our most prominent sportsmen of all time.

## Gunnar Nordahl, some of his accomplishments:

Clubs: Hörnefors IF -1940, Degerfors IF 1940-44, IFK Norrköping 1944-48, AC Milan 1949-56, AS Roma 1956-58, Karlstads BIK 1959-61.

Coach at AS Roma 1957-59

Top scorer in the Swedish Premier League: 1943, 1945, 1946 and 1948

Swedish champion: 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948

Guldbollen Award 1947

Olympic gold medal winner in London, 1948

Sweden's first professional footballer, 1949

Italian League champion with AC Milan, 1951 and 1955

Top scorer in the Italian League: 1950, 1951, 1952, 1954 and 1955

A total of 209 goals during eight seasons with Milan

All-time goal record in the Italian League: 35 goals in one season (1950)



## 'Il Cannoniere' from Hörnefors

**Gunnar Nordahl was the blue-collar kid from Hörnefors who grew up in a family of modest means to become the celebrated leading goal-scorer in Milan.**

Gunnar Nordahl grew up with four sisters and five brothers. His entire family lived in a single-room house. His mother was a housewife and his father worked at the pulp mill in Hörnefors, where Gunnar also worked for a time as a teenager.

### Fireman in Norrköping

Nordahl's footballing career began at Hörnefors IF. He later played for Degerfors from 1940 to 1944 before IFK Norrköping signed him by tempting him with an offer of a job as a fireman, amongst other things. With Nordahl on the team, IFK Norrköping won the Swedish Premier League championship (Allsvenskan), four years running and achieved international fame after a successful tour of England. Nor-

dahl was also instrumental in the national team, scoring 42 goals in 33 matches and became an Olympic champion in London in 1948 (Gunnar's brothers Knut and Bertil also played in the same gold medal-winning team). Once becoming a professional in Milan, Nordahl was no longer allowed to play for the Swedish national team – something which he regretted for the rest of his career.

### Highest goal-scorer in Italy – five times

Expectations in Milan were sky-high – and Nordahl delivered immediately. He scored a total of 209 goals for Milan and won the award for Italy's highest goal-scorer five times. His nickname was 'Il bisonte', or 'The Bison, or 'Il cannoniere' – 'the Cannoneer'. After his playing career ended, Nordahl moved back to Sweden and worked for many years as a trainer at the AIK club, amongst others. Gunnar Nordahl died on 15 September 1995 at Alghero, Sardinia, in his beloved Italy.