



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

Date: 12/12/03

Communiqué aux médias

No. 172

Medien-Mitteilung

uefa.com Team of the Year 2003

Voting opens for fans' team of the year 2003

Voting opens today for the uefa.com Team of the Year 2003. The poll, now in its third year, gives the users of uefa.com, the official UEFA website, the chance to have their say about the players who made their mark in European football over the last 12 months.

Sixty players and managers have been nominated for 12 positions, including coach, and the final team will be announced on 12 January 2004. The nominees were chosen by uefa.com staff writers on the basis of their coverage of football throughout Europe on a daily basis. The players were selected for their overall performances either for a European club or national team, or in a UEFA club competition in 2003.

The uefa.com Team of the Year is not intended as a rival to more established awards, and does not bear the official UEFA imprimatur. Nevertheless, it has already proved hugely popular with fans, with some 4 million votes cast in the 2001 and 2002 polls.

European champions AC Milan head the list of nominations with nine nominees. Former champions Real Madrid CF have eight players nominated while Juventus FC have seven nominees. Indeed, players and coaches from some 19 European clubs figure in the list of nominations.

uefa.com Editor-in-Chief David Farrelly said: "The list of nominees will lead to plenty of heated debate across the continent and we're aware that some fans will feel aggrieved that their particular favourites have not made the short list of 60. However, we hope fans have a lot of fun choosing their particular selections and it will be fascinating to see who makes the final team."

Users can vote by accessing www.uefa.com and clicking on the Team of the Year banner that opens the extensive Team of the Year section. The section includes profiles, video compilations and photo galleries for each player. The uefa.com users' Team of 2002 was: Rüstü Reçber; Carlos Puyol, Alessandro Nesta, Cristian Chivu, Roberto Carlos; Clarence Seedorf, Michael Ballack, Zinedine Zidane, Damien Duff; Thierry Henry, Ronaldo. Coach Senol Günes.

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Uefa.com Team of the Year Nominees

Goalkeeper

Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus FC)
Dida (AC Milan)
Francesco Toldo (Internazionale FC)
Sergei Ovchinnikov (Lokomotiv Moskwa)
Timo Hildebrand (VfB Stuttgart)

Right back

Lilian Thuram (Juventus FC)
Hatem Trabelsi (AFC Ajax)
Michel Salgado (Real Madrid CF)
Javier Zanetti (Internazionale FC)
Paulo Ferreira (FC Porto)

Left back

Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid CF)
John O'Shea (Manchester United FC)
Kakha Kaladze (AC Milan)
Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus FC)
Bixente Lizarazu (FC Bayern München)

Centre backs (2)

Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan)
Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)
Christian Chivu (AS Roma)
Daniel Van Buyten (Olympique de Marseille)
Fabio Cannavaro (Internazionale FC)
Patrick Muller (Olympique Lyonnais)
Jaap Stam (S.S. Lazio)
Ricardo Carvalho (FC Porto)
Iván Helguera (Real Madrid CF)
Sergei Ignashevitch (FC Lokomotiv Moskwa)

Right midfield

Luís Figo (Real Madrid CF)
Andy van der Meyde (Internazionale FC)
Karel Poborsky (AC Sparta Praha)
Valery Karpin (Real Sociedad de Fútbol)
Steven Pienaar (AFC Ajax)

Central midfield

Andrea Pirlo (AC Milan)
Gennaro Gattuso (AC Milan)
Claude Makelele (Chelsea FC)
Edgar Davids (Juventus FC)
David Beckham (Real Madrid CF)

Attacking midfield

Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid CF)
Paul Scholes (Manchester United FC)
Deco (FC Porto)
Michael Ballack (FC Bayern München)
Xabi Alonso (Real Sociedad de Fútbol)

Left midfield

Ryan Giggs (Manchester United FC)
Rafael van der Vaart (AFC Ajax)
Damien Duff (Chelsea FC)
Pavel Nedved (Juventus FC)
Francesco "Javi" de Pedro (Real Sociedad de Fútbol)

Forwards (2)

Ruud van Nistelrooij (Manchester United FC)
Ronaldo (Real Madrid CF)
Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
Filippo Inzaghi (AC Milan)
Roy Makaay (FC Bayern München)
Henrik Larsson (Celtic FC)
Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
Alessandro del Piero (Juventus FC)
Thierry Henry (Arsenal FC)
Derlei (FC Porto)

Coaches

José Mourinho (FC Porto)
Raynald Denoueix (Real Sociedad de Fútbol)
Marcello Lippi (Juventus FC)
Carlo Ancelotti (AC Milan)
Martin O'Neill (Celtic FC)