

Iconic Strikers: Hernan Crespo



1) Discussion

- a) Who were your favourite strikers from the late 90s?
 - b) Do you prefer a striker who stays in the box (such as Haaland) or one who gets involved in the build up play (such as Harry Kane)?
 - c) Who are some of your favourite strikers from South America?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Prodigious (adjective) | a) To show or prove that something is right or reasonable. |
| 2) To justify (verb) | b) Not very large, great, or expensive; simple. |
| 3) Fruitful (adjective) | c) A special skill or ability to do something easily and well. |
| 4) To mark (verb) | d) Very large or impressive in size or amount. |
| 5) Modest (adjective) | e) Producing good results; successful. |
| 6) Knack (noun) | f) To indicate or celebrate an important event or achievement. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Prodigious

To Justify

Fruitful

To Mark

Modest

Knack

- 1) Robert Lewandowski's transfer to Barcelona has been _____, with numerous goals and crucial performances.
- 2) Luka Modrić's control and distribution in midfield _____ his selection as the FIFA Best Men's Player in 2018.
- 3) N'Golo Kanté had a _____ rise to fame, starting in lower leagues before becoming a World Cup winner with France.
- 4) Diego Maradona's career was _____ by unforgettable moments, including his legendary "Hand of God" goal.
- 5) Eden Hazard has a _____ for creating scoring opportunities with his exceptional dribbling and vision, particularly during his time at Chelsea.
- 6) Erling Haaland's _____ talent has made him a scoring sensation for Manchester City.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) How many goals did Hernan Crespo score in his club career?
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Hernan Crespo

Hernán Jorge Crespo, born on July 5, 1975, in Florida, Buenos Aires, began his professional career with River Plate in 1993. A prodigious talent, Crespo quickly became a prolific goal-scorer, netting 24 goals in 62 appearances and helping River Plate secure the 1993 Apertura and 1994 Copa Libertadores.

In 1996, Crespo made a significant move to Italy, joining Parma. During his first stint at the club, he scored 72 goals in 162 matches and won the UEFA Cup, Coppa Italia, and Supercoppa Italiana in 1999. His performances attracted Lazio, who signed him in 2000 for a then-world record fee of €56 million. Crespo justified the investment by becoming Serie A's top scorer in the 2000-2001 season with 26 goals in 32 games.

Crespo's Italian adventure continued with Inter Milan, where he had two spells (2002-2003 and 2006-2009). In between, he experienced a brief but fruitful period at Chelsea (2003-2006), where he scored 25 goals in 73 appearances and won the Premier League title in the 2005-2006 season. Crespo's time at AC Milan during the 2004-2005 season on loan was marked by his crucial role in the Champions League, where he scored twice in the final, despite Milan's loss to Liverpool.

After returning to Italy with Genoa and then Parma, Crespo concluded his playing career with 273 goals in 608 club appearances, securing his legacy as one of the era's most reliable strikers.

Transitioning into management, Crespo began with modest success at Modena in 2015. His managerial career gained traction when he led Defensa y Justicia to their first major title, the 2020 Copa Sudamericana. This achievement showcased his tactical acumen and adaptability. Crespo's coaching journey continues as he aims to imprint his attacking philosophy on the teams he manages, seeking to achieve success akin to his illustrious playing career.

Throughout his career, Hernán Crespo's prolific goal-scoring and knack for winning crucial matches made him a revered figure in football, both on the field and now on the touchline.



4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on the career of Hernan Crespo?
- b) Which period of his career do you think was the best?
- c) As a player, do you think Hernan Crespo is appreciated?
- d) Where does he rank in your list of great strikers from the late 90s and early 2000s?

