

Iconic Strikers: Michael Owen



1) Discussion

- a) Who are your favourite English strikers now and from the past?
 - b) Can you think of any strikers from the 90s or 2000s that you liked watching?
 - c) Can you think of any Ballon D'or winners from the 2000s?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Renowned (adjective) | a) To make something stronger, firmer, or more certain. |
| 2) Exceptional (adjective) | b) To make it difficult for something to happen or progress. |
| 3) To Hinder (verb) | c) An award given to someone for their achievements. |
| 4) To Solidify (verb) | d) Famous or well-known. |
| 5) Accolade (noun) | e) Loved or greatly admired by many people. |
| 6) Beloved (adjective) | f) Outstanding or very good. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Renowned

Exceptional

To Hinder

To Solidify

Accolade

Beloved

- 1) Winning the FIFA World Cup can _____ a player's legacy as one of the greatest footballers of all time, as it did for Pelé in 1970.
- 2) Barcelona's _____ 2011 team is often called the greatest ever.
- 3) Winning the Ballon d'or is one of the biggest _____ in football.
- 4) Diego Maradona remains a _____ figure in Argentina.
- 5) Lionel Messi is _____ for his exceptional skill and talent on the football field.
- 6) Injuries can often _____ a player's ability to perform at their best.



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

a) What clubs are mentioned in the article?

Michael Owen

Michael Owen, a renowned English footballer, began his career at Liverpool, where he quickly made a name for himself. Born on December 14, 1979, Owen's talent was evident from a young age. He joined Liverpool's youth academy and made his first-team debut at just 17 years old before bursting onto the scene at the France 98 World Cup, scoring a stunning solo goal against Argentina.

During his time at Liverpool, Owen became known for his impressive goal-scoring abilities. He netted 158 goals in 297 appearances for the club, showcasing his talent and skill on the field. In 2001, Owen's exceptional performances earned him the prestigious Ballon d'Or award, recognizing him as the best player in the world that year. During his time at Anfield Owen won 5 trophies, including the 2000-2001 UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League cup.

However, Owen's career was not without its challenges. He struggled with injuries throughout his time as a professional footballer, which often hindered his ability to play at his best. Despite these setbacks, Owen remained determined and resilient.

In 2004, Owen made a significant move to Real Madrid, joining the star-studded team during their iconic Galactico era. He played alongside footballing legends such as Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo, further solidifying his status as one of the top players in the world. Owen scored 16 goals for the Spanish giants.

After only one year in the Spanish capital, Owen returned to the Premier League, signing with Newcastle United. Despite his continued struggles with injuries, Owen remained a respected figure in English football.

In 2009, after Newcastle were relegated, Owen earned his last big move when he signed with Manchester United. In his debut season with the club, he helped them secure the League cup and in the 2010-2011 season he achieved a lifelong dream



when he helped United win the Premier League, adding another accolade to his impressive career.

Throughout his journey, Michael Owen's talent and determination have left an indelible mark on the world of football. Despite the challenges he faced, he remains a beloved and respected figure in the sport and the only English player to win a Ballon d'or since Kevin Keegan in 1979.

4) Discussion

- a) What do you think about Michael Owen's career?
- b) Can you think of any other players who were very good at a young age?
- c) Do you think his career was hindered by injuries?

