

## Iconic Strikers: Ruud van Nistelrooy



### 1) Discussion

- a) Who are your favourite Dutch strikers?
  - b) Who are your favourite strikers to play in the Premier League?
  - c) Do you prefer strikers who stay in the box, such as Haaland, or all round strikers like Mbappé?
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### 2) Vocabulary

#### a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1) Humble (adjective) | a) In football, extremely accurate or dangerous.  |
| 2) To catapult (verb) | b) Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance; unpretentious or unassuming in behavior. |
| 3) To amass (verb)    | c) Towards the end of a career.   |
| 4) Twilight (noun)    | d) Someone scores goals through opportunistic and predatory play, often within or around the penalty area.  |
| 5) Lethal (adjective) | e) To gather or collect a large quantity of something, typically over a period of time.                     |
| 6) Poacher (noun)     | f) To move very quickly forward or upward.  |
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**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Humble

To catapult

To amass

Twilight

Lethal

Poacher

- 1) Pep Guardiola has managed to \_\_\_\_\_ an impressive collection of trophies, including league titles and continental cups.
- 2) The forward was known as a goal \_\_\_\_\_, always lurking in the box for any opportunity to score.
- 3) Andriy Shevchenko's precise finishing and instinctive ability in front of goal made him a \_\_\_\_\_ threat to any defence.
- 4) Most footballers have \_\_\_\_\_ beginnings and come from families that are not rich
- 5) .In the \_\_\_\_\_ of his career, he moved to Qatar.
- 6) After his performances in the 2016-2017 Champions League, Kylian Mbappé was \_\_\_\_\_ into the spotlight.



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

- a) What clubs does it mention in the article connected to Ruud van Nistelrooy's career?

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#### **Ruud van Nistelrooy**

Ruud van Nistelrooy, a name that resonates with precision, power, and proficiency in front of the goal, epitomises the essence of a lethal striker. Born on July 1, 1976, in Oss, Netherlands, van Nistelrooy's journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of the most feared forwards in football history is a testament to his sheer talent and relentless work ethic.

Van Nistelrooy's professional career commenced at Den Bosch in 1993, but it was his breakthrough season at PSV Eindhoven in 1998-1999 that catapulted him into the limelight. His remarkable goal-scoring prowess, netting 29 goals in 23 league appearances during the 1999-2000 season, helped PSV clinch the Eredivisie title.

In 2001, Manchester United secured the services of van Nistelrooy for a then club-record fee. His tenure at Old Trafford witnessed an illustrious chapter in the club's history. Van Nistelrooy's predatory instincts in the box were unmatched, leading United to numerous titles including the Premier League, FA Cup, and League Cup. In his five seasons with the Red Devils, he amassed an astonishing 150 goals in 219 appearances, etching his name in Manchester United folklore.

Real Madrid came calling in 2006, where van Nistelrooy continued to exhibit his goal-scoring prowess. Despite battling injuries, he managed to net crucial goals for the Galacticos, contributing significantly to their La Liga triumph in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 seasons.

As his career approached its twilight, van Nistelrooy embarked on a stint with Hamburg in the Bundesliga before concluding his journey with Malaga in La Liga. Although injuries hampered his latter years, his instinctive ability to find the back of the net remained undiminished.

Across his illustrious career, van Nistelrooy amassed an extraordinary goal-scoring record. With a total of 349 goals in 592 club appearances, his name is synonymous with lethal finishing and clinical precision.

Beyond statistics, Ruud van Nistelrooy's legacy transcends numbers. He epitomises the quintessential goal poacher, a predator inside the penalty box whose mere presence struck fear into the hearts of defenders. His impact on the game reverberates through the annals of football history, forever immortalising him as one of the greatest strikers of his generation.



#### 4) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Ruud van Nistelrooy's career?
- b) Where does he stand on your list of great strikers?
- c) From 2001-2006 there was a debate about who was better, Thierry Henry or Ruud van Nistelrooy, what are your thoughts?
- d) Can you think of any other strikers with a similar style to van Nistelrooy?

