Zinedine Zidane



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Zinedine Yazid Zidane was born 23 June 1972 in Marseille popularly nicknamed Zizou, is a retired French football midfielder. He played professionally in France, Italy, and Spain, and was a member of the French national team. His career accomplishments include helping France win the 1998 FIFA World Cup and Euro 2000, in addition to winning the 2002 UEFA Champions League with Real Madrid.

One of only two three-time FIFA World Player of the Year winners , Zidane was also named the European Footballer of the Year in 1998. Zidane's abilities were further recognized in 2004 when he was included in Pelé's choice list of the world's greatest footballers. He retired from professional football after the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

Club Career

Zinedine Zidane joined the junior team of US Saint-Henri, a local club in the La Castellane district of Marseille. At the age of fourteen, he participated in the first-year junior selection for the league championship, where he caught the attention of AS Cannes scout Jean Varraud. Zidane played his firstLigue 1 match at seventeen, and scored his first goal on 8 February 1991, for which he received a car as a gift from the team president. His first season with Cannes culminated in a UEFA Cup berth.

Zidane transferred to Bordeaux for the 1992–93 season, winning the 1995 Intertoto Cup and finishing runner-up in the1995–96 UEFA Cup in four years with the club.

In 1996, Zidane moved to Champions League winners Juventus, and won the 1996–97 Scudetto and the Intercontinental Cup, but lost the 1997 UEFA Champions League final 3–1 to Borussia Dortmund. He netted seven goals in 32 matches to help Juventus retain the Scudetto the next season and make their second consecutive UEFA Champions League final appearance, losing 1-0 to Real Madrid which would be his next destination .

In 2001, Zidane joined Real Madrid , and signed a four-year contract. He scored the match-winning goal in Madrid's 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the 2002 UEFA Champions League Final completing this personal quadruple. The next season, Zidane was named the FIFA World Player of the Year for the third time.

Most expensive football player

In 2001, Zizou became the most expensive player in football history when Real Madrid acquired him for 46 million pounds (roughly $66 million US Dollars). Even if he does have to adapt to the Spanish way of life, he certainly won't have to adapt to being the star player, nor the award winner.

2006 World Cup

After being suspended on yellow cards from the final match of the group stage, [11] Zidane set up a goal for Patrick Vieira and scored one himself in the 91st minute of the second round match against Spain. As France held Brazil to just one shot on goal in the rematch of the 1998 final, Zidane's free kick led to Thierry Henry's deciding goal, sealing a 1-0 win. Zidane was named Man of the Match by FIFA.[12]

After scoring a seventh-minute penalty in the final, Zidane became only the fourth player in World Cup history to score in two different finals, along with Pelé, Paul Breitner, and Vavá.

However, he was sent off in the 110th minute with the match tied 1-1, and did not participate in the penalty shootout, which Italy won 5-3. It would be his final moment and match in professional football. Despite his red card and the controversy that followed, Zidane was nonetheless awarded the Golden Ball as the best player of the competition.

