



Union des associations européennes de football



**Media Release**

Date: 05/03/04

**Communiqué aux médias**

No. 028

**Medien-Mitteilung**

## ***Top 20 European players unveiled***

### **Fans' vote for UEFA's Golden Jubilee finest players**

The top 20 in UEFA's Golden Jubilee search for the 50 finest European players of the past 50 years has been announced today, with the final order to be unveiled on uefa.com from next Wednesday, 10 March.

As part of the events marking UEFA's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, European football's governing body set out to establish the 50 best European players of the past 50 years - as voted for by the fans. A list of 250 players from across the five decades of UEFA's existence was assembled, and uefa.com readers were asked to choose their ten favourite players from each decade, a process which began on 7 October 2003.

The nominations were based on performances in domestic and European club competitions, as well as UEFA European Championships and FIFA World Cups. The list of candidates was carefully compiled by a panel headed by Jozef Venglos, the former Czechoslovakian national coach who is now chairman of UEFA's Technical Development Committee.

Voting continued until December last year and the results began to be unveiled at the start of this, UEFA's Jubilee year. A total of nearly 150,000 people took part, producing in excess of 7,000,000 votes, and the final 50 is a fascinating mix of era, playing position and nationality.

Player No22, David Beckham, was announced on uefa.com today and Player No21 will be on Monday, with three more published each week until the top three players are announced, on Thursday 22 April at UEFA's Jubilee Congress in Cyprus. You can find the list of players published so far, in order from No50, on uefa.com and here is the list, in alphabetical order, of the top 20 players.

Franco Baresi; Franz Beckenbauer; George Best; Bobby Charlton; Johan Cruyff; Alfredo Di Stéfano; Eusébio; Ruud Gullit; Kevin Keegan; Paolo Maldini; Lothar Matthäus; Gerd Müller; Michel Platini; Ferenc Puskás; Paolo Rossi; Karl-Heinz Rummenigge; Marco van Basten; Lev Yashin; Zinedine Zidane; Dino Zoff.

**For further information:**  
**UEFA Media Services: +41-22 99 44 559**

Route de Genève 46  
CH-1260 Nyon 2  
Tel. +41 22 994 45 59  
Fax +41 22 994 37 37  
info@uefa.com  
**uefa.com**