



Union des associations européennes de football



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Top three Golden Jubilee players unveiled

Final placings announced on Thursday 22 April

UEFA's Golden Jubilee search for the 50 finest European players of the past 50 years reaches its conclusion this Thursday, with the announcement of the placings of the top three. They are in alphabetical order, Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff and Zinedine Zidane.

As part of the events marking UEFA's 50th anniversary 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 in October last year.

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 were unveiled as from the start of this, UEFA's Jubilee year. A total of nearly 150,000 people took part, producing over 7,000,000 votes, and the final 50 represents a fascinating mix of eras, playing positions and nationalities.

The countdown began with the player ranked 50th, Alessandro Costacurta, who received 42,511 votes, and today it has reached number 4, Marco van Basten, with 117,987 votes. Thus only three names – Beckenbauer, Cruyff and Zidane – are left from the top 20 announced by UEFA last month. On Thursday, at UEFA's Jubilee Congress in Cyprus, UEFA will reveal the number 1 European player of the past half-century. The choice was yours.

For the full list of players revealed so far, go to www.uefa.com, Europe's football website.

**For further information:
UEFA Media Services: ++41-22 99 44 55 9**

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