



Union des associations européennes de football



**Media Release**

Date: 16/12/2005

**Communiqué aux médias**

No. 147

**Medien-Mitteilung**

## ***uefa.com Team of the Year 2005***

**Fans can vote on line until 13 January 2006**

Voting opens today for the uefa.com users' Team of the Year 2005. The poll, now in its fifth year, gives the users of uefa.com, Europe's football website, the chance to have their say about the players who made their mark in European football over the last 12 months.

Sixty players and managers have been nominated for 12 positions, including coach, and the final team will be announced on 17 January 2006. The nominees were chosen by uefa.com staff writers on the basis of their coverage of football throughout Europe on a daily basis. The players were selected for their overall performances either for a European club or national team, or in a UEFA club competition in 2005.

The uefa.com Team of the Year is not intended as a rival to more established awards, and does not bear the official UEFA imprimatur. Nevertheless, it has already proved hugely popular with fans, and over seven million votes have been cast in previous polls.

English champions head the list of nominations with eights while Italian giants Juventus and AC Milan each have seven players nominated. FC Barcelona receive six nominations with European champions Liverpool FC and Olympique Lyonnais each receiving four nominations. Indeed, players and coaches from some 17 European clubs figure in the list of nominations.

uefa.com Editor-in-Chief David Farrelly said: "Our intention was to examine performances in UEFA club and national team competitions from both the latter stages of the 2004/05 season as well as the start of the 2005/06 campaign, but not forgetting performances in domestic league matches. I am sure the list of nominees will lead to plenty of heated debate and maybe some fans will feel aggrieved that their particular favourites have not made the short list of 60. But having to narrow it down to eleven players plus the top coach is not an easy task, and it will be interesting to see who our users consider worthy for inclusion in the Team of the Year."

Users can vote by accessing [www.uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com) and clicking on the Team of the Year banner that opens the extensive Team of the Year section. The section includes profiles, video compilations and photo galleries for each player. Voting continues until 13 January 2006.

The full list of nominees, over the next two pages, is as follows:

**Goalkeepers**

Petr Čech (Chelsea FC)  
Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus FC)  
Dida (AC Milan)  
Heurelho Gomes (PSV Eindhoven)  
Grégory Coupet (Olympique Lyonnais)

**Right backs**

Cafu (AC Milan)  
Willy Sagnol (FC Bayern München)  
Michel Salgado (Real Madrid CF)  
Juliano Belletti (FC Barcelona)  
Jan Kromkamp (AZ Alkmaar/Villarreal CF)

**Left Backs**

Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus FC)  
Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)  
Ashley Cole (Arsenal FC)  
Asier Del Horno (Athletic Club  
Bilbao/Chelsea FC)  
Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid CF)

**Central Defenders**

John Terry (Chelsea FC)  
Jamie Carragher (Liverpool FC)  
Alessandro Nesta (AC Milan)  
Carles Puyol (FC Barcelona)  
Fabio Cannavaro (Juventus FC)  
Cris (Olympique Lyonnais)  
Lilian Thuram (Juventus FC)  
Lucio (FC Bayern München)  
Ricardo Carvalho (Chelsea FC)  
Alex (PSV Eindhoven)

**Central Midfielders**

Frank Lampard (Chelsea FC)  
Michael Essien (Olympique Lyonnais/Chelsea FC)  
Steven Gerrard (Liverpool FC)  
Andrea Pirlo (AC Milan)  
Xavi (FC Barcelona)

**Right Midfielders**

Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United FC)  
Joaquín Sánchez (Real Betis Balompié)  
David Beckham (Real Madrid CF)  
Luis García (Liverpool FC)  
Mauro Camoranesi (Juventus FC)

**Left Midfielders**

Pavel Nedvěd (Juventus FC)  
Arjen Robben (Chelsea FC)  
Ji-Sung Park (PSV Eindhoven/Manchester United FC)  
Simão (SL Benfica)  
Florent Malouda (Olympique Lyonnais)

**Attacking Midfielders**

Ronaldinho (FC Barcelona)  
Kaká (AC Milan)  
Deco (FC Barcelona)  
Juninho Pernambucano (Olympique Lyonnais)  
Daniel Carvalho (PFC CSKA Moskva)

**Strikers**

Thierry Henry (Arsenal FC)  
Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)  
Samuel Eto'o (FC Barcelona)  
Adriano (FC Internazionale)  
Luca Toni (US Città di Palermo/ACF Fiorentina)  
Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Juventus FC)  
Diego Forlán (Villarreal CF)  
Miroslav Klose (SV Werder Bremen)  
Dirk Kuijt (Feyenoord)  
Didier Drogba (Chelsea FC)

**Coaches**

Rafael Benítez (Liverpool FC)  
José Mourinho (Chelsea FC)  
Valeri Gazzaev (PFC CSKA Moskva)  
Guus Hiddink (PSV Eindhoven)  
Frank Rijkaard (FC Barcelona)