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Michel Platini elected UEFA President

A new era for European football

The XXXI Ordinary UEFA Congress held today in Düsseldorf, Germany voted for a four-year term for the UEFA Presidency. Frenchman Michel Platini was elected by the 52 member associations of UEFA with 27 votes to 23 for Lennart Johansson of Sweden.

Michel Platini, born on 21 June 1955, is acknowledged as one of the greatest players in the history of football, being the only player ever to win three consecutive European Footballer of the Year awards (1983 through 1985).

Platini started at French club AS Nancy-Lorraine and won the French Cup in 1978 before moving on to AS Saint-Etienne, where he won the league title in 1981. His biggest successes at club level came after he had moved to Italian side Juventus (1982-1987) with which he won the Italian Cup in 1983, the Italian championship in 1984 and 1986, the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1984, the 1984 European Super Cup, the European Champions' Club Cup in 1985, and the 1985 Intercontinental Cup. He finished top scorer in Serie A for three consecutive seasons (1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85).

Platini was part of the French national team that won the 1984 European Nations' Cup, a tournament in which he was the best player and top goalscorer. He participated in the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups, reaching the semi-finals in the latter two. In 72 appearances for France from 1976 through to 1987 (including 49 appearances as captain), Platini scored 41 times, which remains a French national record.

He was the French national team coach for four years, from 1988 to 1992, and was the vice-chairman of the Organising Committee for the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France.

He has been a member of the UEFA Executive Committee and European member of the FIFA Executive Committee since 2002. He is currently the chairman of the FIFA Technical and Development Committee, and vice-president of the French Football Federation.

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