

ADAM JOHNSON

Manchester City's tricky England winger



FACT FILE

ADAM JOHNSON
 Position: Winger
 Birth date: July 14, 1987
 Birth place: Sunderland
 Height: 1.75m (5ft 9in)
 Clubs: Middlesbrough, Leeds United, Watford United, Manchester City
 International: England

HE'S FAST, HIS SKILFUL, HE CAN SCORE GOALS AND DELIVER PIN-POINT CROSSES - THAT'S WHY ADAM JOHNSON HAS BEEN LIKENED TO THE GREAT RYAN GIGGS!

JOHNSON ON...

HIS BEST POSITION

"I'm left footed but when I was growing up as a winger you can play on either side. It's not really that different, I don't mind which side I play on. I actually do my best work down the right. I just play my own game. All top wingers play on opposite sides to they can come inside on their stronger foot."

HIS FAVOURITE WINGERS

"As a lad I liked Ryan Giggs and David Ginola in his prime - he used to get past people fully, not just half a yard to get a cross in. Apart from Arjen Robben, Lionel Messi and Franck Ribery not many go past people any more."

HIS AIMS

"I want to impress and excite the fans. That's the type of player I used to watch, people who attack, are skilful and take others on. I have to keep on playing well for my club and hopefully I'll be in every game for England."

THE BOSS'S VIEW

ROBERTO MANCINI MAN CITY



"He can play on the left and the right and can also play behind the main striker. He can continue to grow and I think he can be a very important player for this club. Adam can have a top career but has to understand he must work. I remember Ryan Giggs when he was young and the way he moved. Johnson is the same."



7 JOHNSON WONDERS

1. Born in Sunderland, Johnson supported the rivals Newcastle as a boy, but signed his first professional contract with another north-east side, Middlesbrough.
2. When Man City played against Man United, Johnson wanted to grab the shirt from his idol Ryan Giggs, but was so disappointed to get beaten that he forgot.
3. After coming through Bore's famed academy, he got his first-team chance at the age of 18, his path to the side was blocked by another England winger, Stewart Downing.
4. He scored two goals at Wembley - whilst playing a schoolboy event on the famous pitch!



5. He signed for Manchester City in January 2010 for £3m, although he would have been available free that summer when he was out of contract.
6. His first goal for City was a test-gate equaliser at Sunderland - which didn't go down well with his family who are Black Cats fans!
7. Johnson's first England goal came when he took to the pitch for the final 15 minutes of the victory against Bulgaria in September 2010. He'd only been on for nine minutes.

EXTRA TIME: Many football followers expected Johnson to join England at the 2010 World Cup finals but he failed to make the final 22-man squad. He said later that missing out made him even more determined to play well and improve his game.

THE BOSS'S VIEW

SIR ALEX FERGUSON MAN UNITED



"Vidic has been a fantastic performer for us. We had to choose someone [as captain] we felt was going to be fit and playing every week. That is difficult when you rotate the squad the way we do. We felt Vidic was closest to that. He is a defender and I always think they make better captains. Vidic is a marvellous centre-back. Nemanja has determination and courage and real determination."



FACT FILE

NEMANJA VIDIC
 Position: Central defender
 Birth date: October 21, 1981
 Birth place: Trnovo Ulice, Yugoslavia
 Height: 1.85m (6ft 1in)
 Clubs: Red Star Belgrade, Spartak Subotica (loan), Spartak Moscow, Manchester United
 International: Serbia

HE'S BEEN NICKNAMED THE SERBINATOR FOR HIS TOUGH-TACKLING. BUT NEMANJA VIDIC OFFERS LOTS MORE...

VIDIC ON... HOW HE PLAYS

"I just try to do the best I can, to play my best in every game and in the end the fans and the media can form their own opinions."

IMPROVING HIS GAME

"Sometimes I read about people saying I had a hard time against a particular player but that makes me focus even more on doing my job properly. I always try to learn from my mistakes, to improve myself. I always want to improve, I am never happy, I always want to give more."

THE MANAGER

"Sir Alex always demands total concentration and a fighting approach. All of the players know their duties. Fergie has a special relationship with his players."

EXTRA TIME: Vidic was the Barclays Premier League Player of the Season for 2008-09 and 2010-11. He was also in the PFA Premier League Team of the Season for 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2010-11.

7 WONDERS OF VIDIC

1. He signed a new four-year deal at the start of season 2010-11 to try and end speculation about a transfer away from Old Trafford.
2. Vidic cost United £7m when he joined them from Spartak Moscow in January 2006.
3. When he arrived in England he could only speak a few words of English and learnt more from his team-mates and by watching television.
4. The defender took over as Man United captain at the start of the 2010-11 season because of the injury problems of his central defensive partner Rio Ferdinand.
5. He admits that he's taken a shine to eating fish and chips and the occasional bacon sarnie!
6. Vidic started his international career with the Yugoslav youth side, went on to play for Serbia and Montenegro and is now part of the Serbia side following independence.
7. A red card before the 2006 World Cup finals and then a training injury, meant he wasn't able to take part in Germany 2006.



NEMANJA VIDIC

Man United's tough tackling defender



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