

# RCDMAGAZINE

RCDMAGAZINE 15-22 APRIL 2020 N° 7



AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR  
**IDDRISU BABA**

RESERVED FOR LEGENDS  
**DAVID CASTEDO**

REMEMBER?  
**60 YEARS ON FROM  
OUR FIRST PROMOTION**



**“WE WILL RETURN  
STRONGER THAN EVER”**



RCD MALLORCA





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## PayPal Interview: Salva Sevilla

### “I’m sure things will get back to normal soon”

When Salva Sevilla signed for RCD Mallorca from RCD Espanyol in 2017, the midfielder knew there was a genuine possibility he would never play in La Liga again. Joining a Los Bermellones side which had just been relegated to Segunda B, there was a long way to go before a player who had spent the majority of his career at Spain’s highest level could even think about returning; and given he had not long celebrated his 33rd birthday, a legitimate concern as to if the legs of an all-action playmaker could stand the test of such time. Any doubt as to the latter was quickly quashed on his league debut against Atlético Saguntino, which upon reflection, was also perhaps a foreboding of what was to come for Sevilla. Introduced in the 80th minute with the scores level at 1-1, Vicente Moreno’s side had just won a free-kick on the edge of the box. The Andalusian made an immediate beeline towards Abdón Prats who stood over the set-piece, and following a short discussion with the game’s earlier goalscorer and a repositioning of the ball, it was apparent who had assumed responsibility. “What if he pulls it off and the first thing he does is score?”, the matchday commentator can be heard asking not once, but three times during a pause in play which seemed to last an eternity. With one fell swoop of the right leg, the masses packed into Son Moix had their answer. Since scoring with his first touch in red and black, the midfielder has been on a seemingly unstoppable upwards trajectory, yet a suspension to competitive football due to the Covid-19 outbreak has left a fairy-tale return to La Liga with a bittersweet taste for the time being. However, always one to find positives in the face

of adversity, Sevilla believes an eventual return to normality will be among the more celebrated moments of his time at RCD Mallorca.

**Hi, Salva. How are you getting on in quarantine?**

I’m getting on well at home. I’m trying to get

*“We have to be aware of the danger that exists. Football, right now is the least important thing”*

through this in the best possible way and keeping my day organised the best I can. I have training, homework with my children, and in short, it’s about organising yourselves so the day-to-day becomes a little bit more enjoyable.

**A routine is something athletes are well accustomed to, but having that become more important than ever before?**

Exactly. The idea is to have a routine from when we get up and then getting everything organised. In the morning I have training with the team by video call and the afternoons are dedicated to doing homework with the children because it’s also important they don’t miss out on what they’ve been learning at school. We like to keep everything organised and I believe we’re doing that an making a good job of it too within the limits we have to

work with.

**You recently turned 36-years-old, and despite being a veteran of the game, have plenty football left in your legs. What you probably didn’t imagine is being without football for so long while still playing, right?**

We’ve been without football now for a long time, without being with our team-mates, without getting together as a group and without playing games. That feeling you get from competing in matches has been lost, although this isn’t the priority right now. There’s an issue on the streets which we must first solve and for now the best medicine, or vaccine for that matter, is to stay at home. We have to be aware of the danger that exists. I’m sure things will change very soon and we’ll be able to enjoy football and the hobbies we all have again. Everything will go back to normal. That, without doubt, is the most important thing.

**If it was difficult to escape doing exercise with the boss before, surely it’s now impossible with the introduction of video calls...**

Now it’s impossible! We’re under more control than before, but I think that’s the best way to work. Exercising alone is harder. Days were accumulating and it was difficult to keep that same motivation for training. Now we see each other’s faces, we can talk and make jokes. They’ve been really successful so far, even if it has been through a screen. I think we’re getting on really well with the demanding work we’ve been given and all this will help us be in shape for when the competition can return.

**For technical players like yourself, is having to do more physical work a greater challenge?**

It’s difficult for everyone. At the end of the day, every player wants to play football and have fun with the

ball. When you have the ball, you don’t really notice the physical work as much because it’s carried out in another way. Doing only physical work can be tiring and boring, but we’re aware that this is how things are right now. We have to prepare ourselves in the best way possible, not lose our fitness and

*“In the mornings I train with the team and in the afternoons I train with my son”*

wait. I also try and play with the ball a little with my son. In the mornings I train with the team, and in the afternoons, I train with him. It’s something that has been good for both of us.





**On that topic, we can't forget about children who are among those having a particularly tough time, locked up at home and without a real understanding as to what's happening...**

My son is four-years-old and he's not very aware of what's happening, which is normal. On days I have training, he goes to the RCD Mallorca Foundation and he never tires of asking me when he'll be able to train again and see his friends. He tells me how much he misses them all, but he knows he can't do what he wants to do right now, which is playing with his friends at Son Moix. We all hope this issue is resolved as soon as possible so the little ones can also get back to their normal lives, who need it more than we do.

**Are things easy to organise at home then?**

I'm honestly very lucky to have the wife that I have. She takes care of the baby we had a few months ago and he needs her more than ever right now. I take care of the other two, but we all get along very well. We didn't go out a great deal anyway prior to this, so we've not noticed the difference so much.

**Are you taking advantage of these weeks to watch some vintage football? What have you been watching?**

I'm watching a lot of games right now. It might appear like too much, but I'm always watching football, because the truth is: I love it. I'm watching a lot of games from a long time ago and from when I was younger. It brings back a lot of good memories of my childhood seeing players that I looked up to. I also have a little son who is

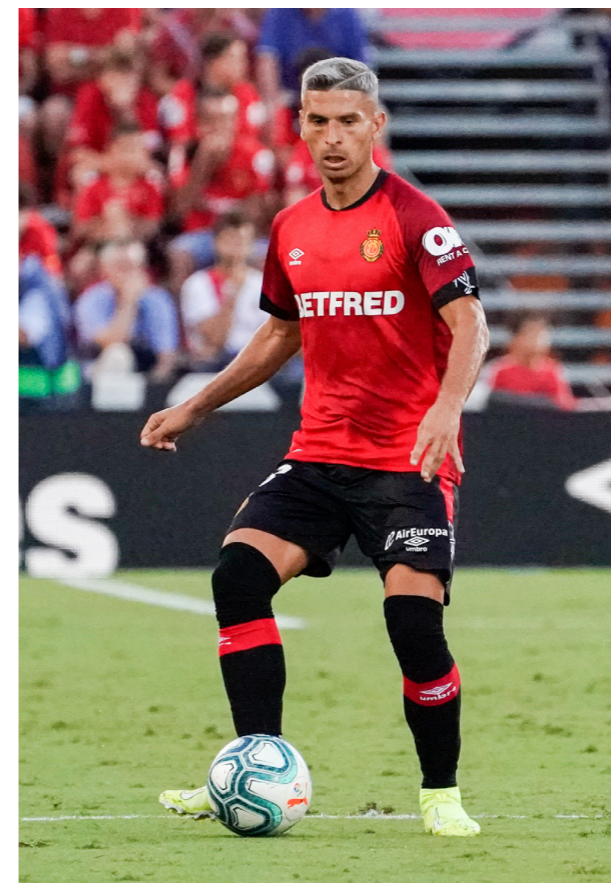
watching RCD Mallorca goals all day, so thanks to him I'm also seeing goals from my team-mates and myself.

**Speaking of goals, we've been posting the very best on our social media platforms of late. Among those was your free-kick against Saguntino on your league debut for RCD Mallorca. You came on in the 80th minute to score from the edge of the box. What a start, right?**

Every time I see that goal it makes my hair stand on end. We've all seen that free-kick a lot because my children are always on their tablets watching old RCD Mallorca goals on the internet. Both the commentator and following celebration make my hair stand on end because, honestly, I didn't expect to come on and score at such a key moment in the game. When the boss made the change after the foul, I saw that I could hit it. You don't come on knowing you will score, but it just came out perfectly. It was a very beautiful and special moment.

**Speaking of the past, let's talk about your best year in front of goal. In the 2009-10 season of the Second Division, you scored an incredible 13 times for Salamanca – was the manager playing you as a striker!?**

No, I was playing in the same position as now, but it's true it was my highest-scoring year. I was in a team which played really good football and that was something fans at Salamanca enjoyed. Despite playing in midfield, the coach gave me the freedom to get forward and I had a good year. That season opened the door to Real Betis for me,

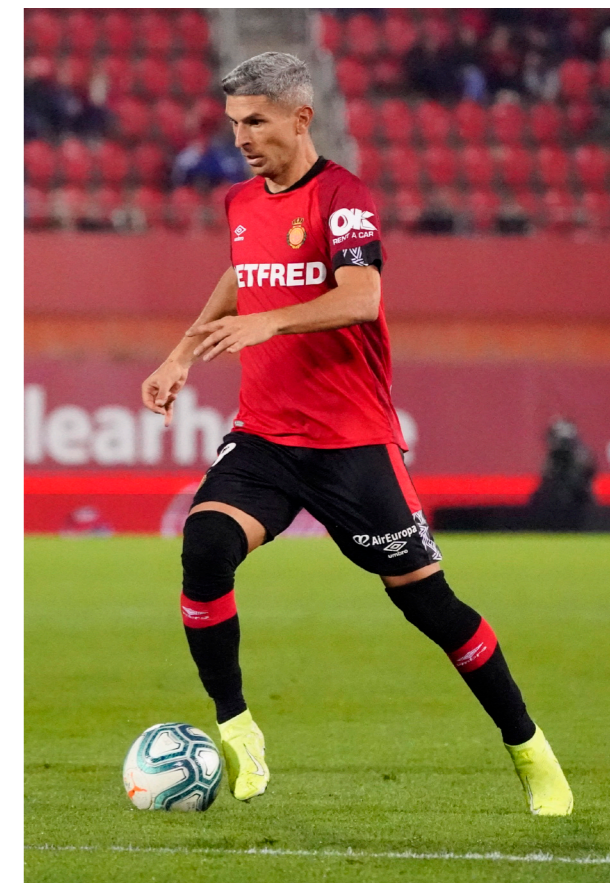


*"We've experienced unforgettable things here at Mallorca and I'm sure there will be more to come"*

which as you know, was a very important step in my career. My family and I have always been big Real Betis fans and when I received the call, I couldn't believe it - I thought it was a joke! The day of my presentation was a dream come true.

**Let's fast forward to the present. The situation we find ourselves in has cost many people their lives and also ruined whatever plans people had...**

No one ever thought that all this could happen. It has upset plans across the word. Professions, weddings, holidays – you name it. My family had planned to come to Mallorca and watch the game against Barcelona, but they were unfortunately left disappointed. Many of my friends had also bought a ticket and for them it was also a blow.



However, as you said, the most serious thing is the number of people dying – that's the real tragedy. The situation gets increasingly complicated as days and weeks pass, and I hope there will be a solution soon because what is happening is truly terrible.

**Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, you were living the dream here on the island: two consecutive promotions, a return to La Liga and over a century of appearances for the club. While we're in all in a difficult situation together, do you believe we'll return better than ever before?**

I'm convinced we will. I'm sure little by little everything will return to normal. We'll be able to get back to what we like to do and what we're passionate about. We've had to put things on hold, but I'm sure we'll back doing amazing things in Mallorca because I trust in the team, in what we're doing, in the club and in the people who support us. We've experienced unforgettable things here at Mallorca and I can assure you there will be more to come too.





# RCD MALLORCA 1 - 0 CHELSEA

## The Night We Reached A European Cup Final

"RCD Mallorca is now at the top of the footballing stratosphere. The Cinderella of European football will complete her dream of competing in a first European final on the 19th of May in Birmingham." Journalist Patricio Candia's opening in El País' match report following Los Bermellones' 1-0 over Chelsea at Lluís Sitjar on April 22nd 1999 may have made analeptic reading for sore heads the morning after one of the most memorable nights in club history, yet 21 years on, such symbolism has stood the test of time.

Although a 1-1 stalemate in the first leg of the UEFA Cup 'Winners' Cup semi-final at Stamford Bridge - courtesy of strikes from Dani García Lara and Tor Andre Flo on a brisk evening in south London - gave Hector Cuper's side the away-goal advantage going into the return fixture, a plethora of talent named in the starting XI of his managerial counterpart, Gialluca Vialli, meant a place in the final was still very much to play for at the Lluís Sitjar. What can now be seen as perhaps a foreboding of what was to come for Graeme Le Saux, the current Club Director lined up at left back alongside the likes of renowned stars Marcel Desailly, Diego Poyet, Dennis Wise, Roberto Di Matteo and Gianfranco Zola as Chelsea looked win a consecutive UEFA Cup Winners' Cup title having defeated Stuttgart in the final 1-0 the season prior.

Despite much fanfare surrounding the fixture in Spain, a tight-affair with few opportunities for either side was decided after 15 minutes when Leo Biagini headed home Jovan Stankovic's whipped cross following a neat corner routine with Miquel Soler on the left flank. The resulting pandemonium as the Argentine reeled off in ecstasy towards fans could be heard across the island, as could a collective sigh of relief later on in the second half when Di Matteo rattled the crossbar before a final whistle which cued celebrations throughout Palma spanning days.

In celebration of the feat's 21st anniversary prior to the release of this week's RCDMagazine, we reunited the club's first goalscorer in Europe, Marcelino Elena; scorer of the semi-final's decisive goal, Biagini; the man who created the winner, Jovan Stankovic; and the driving force in midfield, Vicente Engonga, for a

reflection on the result.

Marcelino: "After the first leg, we had the feeling we were going to suffer. We were a very hard-working team which supported one another and was used to holding off teams. We would resist teams and then beat them with our strengths."

Biagini: "We knew that they were better than us, at least in terms of the names they had. We had something we believed in though, such as the unity of the team, security in what we did and the confidence



of a coach like Cúper."

Stankovic: "Those were without a doubt the best years of my career. I shouldn't have played that game against Chelsea. I was suspended, but we appealed and I was able to play. I was lucky to play that ball to Biagini and help the team through to the final."

Engonga: "When I saw Leo score that goal from Jovan's pass, I thought: 'now I'm going to have to hit everyone'. The attackers had done their job and now we had to do ours, which was to try keep the ball and be very forceful. When the game ended, I remember



PHOTO: DIARIO DE MALLORCA



PHOTO: DIARIO DE MALLORCA

two things: the explosion of joy from a crowded Sitjar and Javi Olaizola getting chased by Desailly. They wanted to carry the Basque away with them!"

While we would ultimately lose the final 2-1 to Lazio at Villa Park less than a month later, it's a memory the four protagonists can fondly look back upon - even if it was a second consecutive finale heartbreak having lost to Barcelona in the Copa del Rey the year prior.

Marcelino: "Eliminating Chelsea and going to that European final was something very special for me. I already knew that I was playing the final few games of my time at Mallorca and that a transfer was in the works. So that final in Birmingham, despite the loss against Lazio, was like going full circle on four incredible years.



PHOTO: DIARIO DE MALLORCA

represent the Spanish national team despite being over 30-years-old. I will never forget it."

Stankovic: "Two years before playing the cup final against Barcelona, I was in Serbia watching television and I saw the final between Valencia and RCD Deportivo. Playing for Valencia was a certain Vicente Engonga. Who knew that years later we would play in finals together in Spain?"

Biagini: "Every time these dates come around, many people start to remind me of my goal against Chelsea. For me, it was my best season. Playing a European final, despite the defeat, was a dream come true."

### Line-ups

**RCD Mallorca:** Roa, Olaizola, Siviero (Carreras, 46'), Marcelino, Miquel

Soler, Lauren, Engonga, Paunovic, Stankovic (Arpón, 79'), Dani, Biagini ('Chichi' Soler, 67').

**Chelsea:** De Goey, Ferrer, Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux (Babayaro, 46'), Petrescu (Morris, 78'), Wise, Poyet, Di Matteo, Flo, Zola.

**Goals:** 1-0, min. 15. Leo Biagini

**Goles:** 1-0, min. 15. Leo Biagini



# Training At Home With Verónica Sebastianes



'Prevention is better than the cure' has long been a mantra within medical practices, and while much aligned with current rationale upheld by the Ministry of Health amid the Covid-19 crisis, for our physiotherapy department, its very essence encapsulates the profession. In previous issues, we've discussed the extensive science behind the anticipation and resulting avoidance of injuries within the world of elite sports with physiotherapist Magí Vicens; but while competitive football remains in a state of adjournment, novel challenges have been posed by the sudden reliance on remote workouts. As first-team stars work tirelessly to maintain their physical form ahead of an eventual return to football yet to be decided, first-team physiotherapist Verónica Sebastianes reveals how the well-being of the squad is being monitored to combat any potential setbacks:

"As we already know which players have had a problem this season, or the injuries they've had in the past, we've been able to do that preventive work and it's something which we have continued to do too. The players train every day with the group via video call and prior to that, we work individually with those who have to work certain

*"The players are on top of things. Their commitment hasn't changed in the slightest"*

areas of their body, depending on the ailments or discomforts they've previously had throughout the season. The truth is, the players are very much on top of things. They connect to the group video call and they already have all the material prepared to carry out the desired activity. Their commitment hasn't changed in the slightest."

Although injury prevention remains at the forefront of our physiotherapy team's responsibilities, a difference in how players are now keeping fit means Verónica has also had to change how she approaches her profession: "Players can't go running at the moment, nor do certain speed or group exercises with an opposition which carries the chance of a potential impact. Now work is more focused on cardio. For example: working with the bicycle, and after that, muscular work so players don't lose muscle mass. The job is different, but the risk of injury is much lower."

Despite a lower chance of injury occurring, our physiotherapy team are using means similar to the public to keep players in peak condition: "On days the physical trainer has planned a session with high muscular load, what we then do is schedule an afternoon training session. For example: pilates, which is more focused on the stretching and posterior hip. I think it's great people do these kinds of activities at home. If you can't go to the gym, then you have no choice but to bring the gym home. Luckily for us there are many online platforms that – both free of charge and private - allow people to do sports and activities such as pilates, yoga, spinning and so on. We also always have the option of following up with videos through YouTube where there are many and also not short of quality."

Much like the squad she oversees and the wider football community, Verónica says she can't wait

*"Now work is more focused on cardio, bike work and not losing muscle mass"*

to get back out on the pitch: "We're used to being on the pitch all day, so this is something we really miss. There were days when it rained before all this and you thought things would be done slower and with less enthusiasm, but we would all pay good money to train in the rain right now. Hopefully with patience and the desire to overcome this, we'll be back out there soon."





# REMEMBER?

## Sixty Years On From Our First Promotion To The Primera División

On the 17th of April 1960, manager Juan Carlos Lorenzo guided RCD Mallorca to the Primera División with a historic 2-1 win at Levante

Six decades have passed since RCD Mallorca first reached the promised land of the Primera División. Sunday, April 17th 1960 remains a date etched into the history of the club as a 2-1 victory over Levante and title challengers Córdoba's defeat to San Fernando secured a dramatic final-day ascension from the Segunda División's southern category; bequeathing the members of a much-eulogized squad the title: 'The Heroes Of Vallejo'.

Among the protagonists of the "promotion against

all odds" was Mallorquin-born forward Julià Mir in what would ultimately prove to be his breakthrough season for the senior side having signed from island neighbours Poblense. Opening the scoring on the afternoon after just 12 minutes before former Real Madrid striker Joseíto put the game beyond the hosts, Mir spoke to RCDMagazine about his goal: "Antonio Oviedo made a great run down the wing and when he reached the by-line, he pulled it back and as I was running, I managed to get rid of the defenders and I was able to score. It was fantastic for me. The truth is that the last fifteen minutes of the game were very tense because we needed victory."

However, victory alone would not guarantee promotion as Cordoba occupied top spot heading into the final day of the season. With the league advantage of having already beaten the Andalusian

side earlier in the campaign, RCD Mallorca needed relegation candidates San Fernando to do the unthinkable and take points off Los Califas while ensuring they won at Levante. Cordoba fell to a 1-0 defeat, cueing pandemonium for residents young and old throughout the island upon the squad's return

*Julià Mir: "It was a promotion against all odds"*



via a lengthy boat ride back from the peninsula. "My grandmother, who was 90-years-old at the time, came to the Palma docks to welcome us," Mir continued. "She had never come to a football match before and was there that day. It was a party for the family and for everyone. Thousands of people greeted us and carried us to Cort. It's day that I'll never forget."

Overseeing the promotion was legendary manager Juan Carlos Lorenzo, who had previous Primera División experience having spearheaded Atlético Madrid's forward line before joining RCD Mallorca as a player-manager role in 1959 via a productive spell with Rayo Vallecano in the Segunda División. His only goal in the red and black of Mallorca would come in a 3-0 victory over Condal in the Copa Del Rey, a club which would later become what is now known as FC Barcelona B. Although the tie is perhaps remembered best for Lorenzo's goal, it was



also the game in which Mir made his debut for the club: "Juan Carlos Lorenzo saw me play for Poblense and decided to sign me for Mallorca. He lived in the well-known Plaza de los Patines and the truth is he welcomed me to the club really well. He helped me a lot and advised me a lot, not only about football, but also about personal decisions. Lorenzo didn't have his own car and sometimes I would pick him up at his house and we would go to the Fortí together to train. Before that match in Barcelona, I made my debut in a friendly match against Constancia during the Dijous Bo holiday celebrations. The following week we played the cup match against Condal and Lorenzo started me. That day he, Joan Forteza and I scored."

While fortunate to have a contingent of 'The Heroes Of Vallejo' still with us today, Mir and team-mate

Diego Llopis were the only Balearic-born players on the day of the victory as fellow Mallorquin forward Joan Forteza was suspended for the fixture. The starting XI which went down in history lined up as: Zamora, Bolao, Cobo, Diego, Guillamón, Mir, Currucale, Rodríguez II, Oviedo, Laguardia and Csóka.

*"Thousands of people greeted us and carried us to Cort. It's day that I'll never forget"*







## Iddrisu Baba: An Unforgettable Year

It's amazing what can happen in the space of a year if Iddrisu Baba's example is anything to go by. Rewind exactly 365 days to the matchweek in which this magazine has been published, and a fresh-faced academy graduate in his first year of senior football at RCD Mallorca replaced Salva Sevilla in the 89th minute of a 1-0 win at Málaga CF in the Segunda División. Little did the midfielder know, this would be one of the last

*"I'd like to say a big thank you to Vicente Moreno for that credibility and trust he has given me"*

games he would have to watch the majority of from the sidelines. Since then, Baba has missed just four league fixtures, started all of the 25 appearances he has made in La Liga so far this term and even earned himself a first call-up to the Ghanaian national side. Never one to settle on what he has achieved, an enforced respite to competitive football due to the Covid-19 outbreak has finally given our midfielder pause for reflection.

"I think I've improved because it depends on the number of games I've played," he told RCD Magazine. "I think that says a lot. Comparing this season to last season, this season has been great. If I want to be a part of this team all the time, I have to do even more than what I'm doing now. Every season there is new talent, so you have to

be there as the competition goes on. "I'd like to say a big thank you to Vicente Moreno for that credibility and trust he has given me, but I think there's still room for improvement. It's my first season really and I'm trying to get used to everything still. I think there's still room



for improvement so I would like to say thanks to him. As for the rest, I have to put in more effort if I want to sustain or go even further than that level of confidence he has given me." Forming a partnership with this edition's cover star Salva Sevilla in midfield, Baba believes playing next to a player with over a century of appearances at the highest level in Spain has had a profound effect on his development: "It's not only Salva who helps me. Every one of my team-mates help me, including the tactical team. Everyone helps. During the game though, he has this kind of motivation and words which he gives me that keeps me going. Playing right next to him, I think I've learned a lot and he's



*"Playing with Salva Sevilla is an honour, I've learnt a lot from him both on and off the pitch"*

taught me a lot. I'm still learning and I think it's an honour to be playing alongside someone like Salva Sevilla. He has a lot of experience when it comes to La Liga. "Playing with someone like Salva Sevilla is a pleasure. I've learnt so many things from him, and I think I'm yet to learn even more. As I said, we keep growing. You never know, maybe I might be the next Salva Sevilla - I might change from defensive midfield to attacking midfield! On a more serious note, he's really helped me both on and off the pitch. Based on the advice and the kind of support he has given me which has brought me to this point as well. I'm very grateful to be playing alongside him for the kind of motivation he gives me and things he has taught me so far."

### INTERNATIONAL IDDRISU

Called up to the Ghanaian national side once again for a since suspended African Cup of Nations qualifier against Sudan by newly appointed manager CK Akonnor, Baba is also keen to build on his experience at an international level: "I would say I'm on the right line and we're on the right course. If I'm lucky enough to get a second call-up to the national team, I think my work input has made it possible. I'm really grateful to be called back again to the national team, because in some cases some players get called up and then the second call-up becomes a problem. Looking at the second list that came out, I think my work input determined this following call-up."



# Reserved For Legends



## Fact File

### DAVID CASTEDO

- **Born:** 26.01.1974 - Palma de Mallorca
- **Position:** Left Back
- **Seasons:** 6 (1993-1998 / 1999-2000)
- **Debut:** 12.09.1993 - RCD Mallorca 4 - Cádiz 0




Should David Castedo's story ever be dramatized on the silver screen, a silent movie would perhaps be a fitting depiction of quiet confidence he exemplified throughout his career. Steadily progressing through our youth ranks to the senior side before then going to make over a century appearance at the club, the left back is revered for imperturbable consistency and self-assured ability in the face of adversity both on and off the pitch.

Growing up playing football throughout his local neighbourhood in Son Cotoner, it was not long before the Palma native was soon discovered at local club Parroquia Ramon Llull. "At that time, almost everyone played football," he told RCDMagazine. "Those which didn't play in the schoolyard did so more seriously in a proper team. In my case, I started when I was eight-years-old, in the Benjamin's category. You go up through the categories but your goal doesn't go beyond playing with your friends and having fun. Several clubs came to look at me during that period but I held out there even throughout my youth, but then the team that came looking for me was Mallorca."

At the time, Castedo readily admits it was not until Los Bermellones came calling that he thought playing football could go beyond anything but a pastime with friends. With eyes now fixed upon reaching the senior side, a meritorious rise through the academy levels at Ciudad Deportivo Antonio Asensio soon followed and an eventual debut as a substitute for Tomeu Verger in the 4-0 win over Cadiz on Matchday Two of the 1993/94 campaign. "Clubs usually rely on the academy when there's not a lot of money and at



that point there was little," he continued. "That year several players from the academy made the jump to the first team for the pre-season at Font Romeu. I'm talking about the likes of: Julián Ronda, Óscar Montiel, Raúl Pareja, Sacarés, Galindo, Manolo Moyá, Sampera and Juanan. Most of us were later able to stay in the first team and I was among them.

Castedo joined the senior side at the age of 19 and went onto start 14 of the 19 matches he featured in, but it was the following 1994/95 season where he truly consolidated himself as a first-team regular with 32 appearances under manager Victor Muñoz having. Success, however, would have to wait another two years as RCD Mallorca lost 2-1 on aggregate to Rayo Vallecano in the play-offs despite having won the first leg at Luis Sitjar. Next year would end in disappointment having led the league for a majority of the campaign, but with Muñoz replaced by Tomeu Llompart in the dugout, fate would pit RCD Mallorca once again against Rayo Vallecano in the play-offs. This time, Castedo would at last get the chance to play football in the Primera División: "We already had

experience of promotion the previous year and that came in handy. We knew it was going to be difficult and complicated but we were also aware that it could be achieved. And after so many years of suffering and hardship, in the end, we did it. It was nice and emotional for everyone and for the city to have a team in the Primera División again."

The continuity he had enjoyed over the past four seasons would come to an abrupt halt upon Héctor Cúper's arrival as manager. The left back was restricted to just five appearances across all competitions and took it upon himself to get game time on loan elsewhere come the January transfer window: "New players came in, like the group of footballers who came in from Valencia, and with them a new base for the team. It closed the door on some of the players who had gone up with the side to the Primera División and I was among them. I didn't have the confidence to show that I could continue to be important and that's why I decided to leave."

Moving to Hercules for the remainder of the Segunda División season and UD Extremadura on loan the following year, Castedo remained determined to come back to the island and fight for a starting berth. Upon his return, and despite registering a dozen appearances, making his European debut in a 3-0 victory against Teplice and becoming one of a handful of players to have played at both the Luis Sitjar and Son Moix, an unfortunate brush with death would have a profound effect on the defender's outlook. A rare storm during an otherwise idyllic February in 2000 caused a crane to fall upon four parked cars, of which Castedo was situated. Trapped underneath the crushing weight of fallen apparatus for several hours, the Spaniard miraculously only suffered bruises to his legs.

If life had given Castedo a second chance, so too would football in Andalusia. Signed by Sevilla under the recommendation of former team-mate Carlitos Domínguez, the defender would go onto truly live up

to his potential in the region's capital and enjoy the most successful period of his career. His first season at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium ultimately proved to be a foreshadowing of what was to come as Castedo became a vital cog in Joaquín Caparrós's over-achieving Sevilla side: "We didn't start as

*"I'm left with this feeling of not having been able to demonstrate that I could've been a player for Mallorca in the Primera División"*



favourites, despite being an important club in the division. A new squad had been put together and what was sought after was a bit consolidation. Sevilla at that time had little money and most of us had arrived on a free or at a low price, but Caparrós managed to put together a good team and a family. We saw

were up and around the top of the league and the goal began to change. We were champions and got promoted to the Primera División in style."

Castedo went onto make over 300 appearances for Los Nervionenses, captain the side on numerous occasions and win the Copa Del Rey, Spanish Super Cup and two UEFA Cups. Hanging up his boots in 2008 after a short spell with Manolo Reina for company at Levante, the Mallorquinista returned to Seville and set up a soccer school for young children. Upon reflection on a trophy-laden career, Castedo does however have one regret: "I'm left with this feeling of not having been able to demonstrate that I could've been a player for Mallorca in the Primera División."



## RECONNECTING HOME AND AWAY: DANI RODRÍGUEZ & PABLO VALCARCE

Although residents throughout Spain remain in an enforced isolation due to the COVID-19 outbreak, that hasn't stopped people of all ages connecting and re-connecting with friends and family. In keeping with such conviction, and having previously hosted a surprise videocall between Martin Valjent and loan stars Sergio Buenacasa and Stoichkov, this week we reunited Dani Rodríguez with his former partner in crime and Ponferradina loanee, Pablo Valcarce. Notorious in the dressing room for being practical jokers, the pair were quick to poke fun at one another, talk about their respective seasons so far and reflect on last year's play-off winning campaign together.



Last week RCD Mallorca and Konami launched the inaugural Pro Evolution Soccer 2020 Tournament with the participation of 158 fans from around the world competing alongside Salva Sevilla, Cucho Hernández, Iddrisu Baba and Ante Budimir. In the first-team stage of the competition, Cucho eased past Baba while Salva Sevilla got the better of Budimir. For a place in the grand finale up for grabs, the midfielder then beat the Colombian for a face-off with the winner of the supporter competition, Marlito. Recording a 5-3 victory over Salva Sevilla, Marlito was crowned champion and in doing so won himself a shirt signed by the first team. Now available on our official YouTube channel, make sure you have a watch of the games between players and the grand finale itself.



**Budimir: "Salva was the better team and had a very good Budi playing for them"**



**Baba: "Cucho knows I can player better than that. I had hoped to reach the final"**



**Cucho: "I missed a lot with my Cucho and Salva's Cucho did everything right"**



**Salva Sevilla: "It has been a good experience, I've enjoyed it"**





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