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Pro

BESOCCER



THE ENCYKLOPPEDIA

A-M











# The Fifth Beatle

When we talk about **Jurgen Norbert Klopp**, we're talking about much more than a football manager. Although it is true that the German is going into his eighth season at **Liverpool** after narrowly missing out on a historic **quadruple**, it is also true that his influence goes way beyond the noble art of football.

An overwhelming **charisma**, a huge amount of **passion** for his job, a contagious **sense of humour** and **strong** religious, political and moral **views**, make his story a unique one. Defeat and failure have played a key role in it, especially when considering his struggle to get rid of the stigma of **losing** big games until not long ago..

Famous **footballing architect** from the sidelines, '**Kloppo**' never hesitated in deflecting praise away from himself onto those who are around him. From his own footballers to even the cooks at **Melwood**, and, of course, his large and loyal **coaching staff**..

Legendary figure at **Mainz** and **Dortmund**, the German manager has found the perfect club in **Merseyside**; the **current destination** of a brilliant career in which few players with his stats as a footballer would be able to boast about having such ability as a coach.



“  
The only way to  
reach a dream is to  
**DO IT BRAVELY**”





It is said that the first comments made by **Jurgen Klopp** after arriving at **John Lennon Airport** in October 2015, hours before signing his contract at the Anfield club, were the following: “**Ok, let’s start building!**” Seven years after that moment, his legacy goes beyond results on the pitch and the trophies (six so far) that stand in the **Reds’** trophy cabinet. His influence extends across the whole **Merseyside** region, one of the most financially deprived in the UK.

Apart from having earned the honour of joining the list of the best managers in the club’s 130 year history (he is only the 21st) and being considered a club legend, the man from **Stuttgart** has become an **icon** for **Liverpool** fans, who have not hesitated in dubbing their hero as the ‘fifth **Beatle**’ after **Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr**, who have been synonymous with the city of Liverpool since long before Klopp’s arrival. Klopp’s name even appears adorned on a pub in the historic quarter of the city called Jurgen’s Bierhaus. The Liverpool boss had his picture taken there with fans last April.

Because of this and so much more, we want to dedicate the 50th edition of **BeSoccer Pro** by looking back at his life and analysing what he has done for football in detail. We will break down **the most important data of his career**, both on the touchline and on the field of play.

Players. allies, disciples, mentors and even his most bitter rivals. All of them have a special place reserved in **The Encykloppedia**.





**ANFIELD.** Built in **1884**, it has been the home of Liverpool FC since **1892**. It is expected it will be able to hold around **61,000 people** in 2023, which will make it the sixth largest stadium in England. Its legendary atmosphere **won Jurgen Klopp over** from the start.



# Anfield

10th August 2014. **Anfield** hosts **Borussia Dortmund** in a friendly (4-0) which is to be the rehearsal ahead of the 2014-15 season and the match which sees the **Liverpool** team officially presented in front of a disenchanted fanbase after they missed out on the **Premier League** a few months earlier. **Manchester City** won the league by just two points and that deprived **Brendan Rodgers'** side of the chance to a domestic league drought which had lasted 24 years. The image of the legendary **Steven Gerrard** slipping in front of **Demba Ba** at Anfield was a key goal in the title race and it was still fresh in Liverpool supporters' minds.

The atmosphere, nevertheless, as is usual to the south of **Stanley Park**, is a rather festive one. There is certain hope in the air of what the final season of the eternal captain at **Anfield Road** can bring. At the end of the day, despite the departure of **Luis Suarez** to **FC Barcelona**, players of the quality of **Philippe Coutinho**, **Raheem Sterling**, **Daniel Sturridge** or the recently arrived **Mario Balotelli**, make up a squad hungry for success and, of course, for revenge. The opponent that night, in fact, seems the ideal one to evaluate the true strengths of the English club ahead of the new season.

Finalists of the Champions League a year earlier and the Bundesliga runners-up at the time, Dortmund appear in the legendary Merseyside stadium led by one of the greatest icons in their history, Jurgen Klopp. The German manager, still as the visiting boss, is spotted by television cameras looking at the Liverpool club slogan in the tunnel which leads to the dressing rooms seconds before shaking hands with Brendan Rodgers, who he would succeed at the club and he would sit on the bench which lies at the foot of the stand named after another Liverpool legend in **Kenny Dalglish**.

Neither of the two managers imagined that a season in which both sides failed to qualify for the Champions League would lead to one of the greatest love stories ever told: that of **Jurgen Norbert Klopp** and the **Anfield** supporters.



The truth is that the German's relationship with the Liverpool fans is very similar to what he had back in the day with the Mainz fans at **Bruchwegstadion** and the Dortmund ones at **Signal Iduna Park**. For **Klopp**, a person who shows more passion than most, having a good relationship with those who pay his wages has been a must. And he certainly won them over! His fists in the air and hitting himself on his heart while looking at **The Kop** after every victory of the **125** he has won at **Anfield** up to now, is now a tradition. His own players and even the television cameramen usually remind him to perform that **ritual** if he ever forgets it.

Many people consider that his superb relationship with the crowd is largely responsible for the club's great results there since he took over at the club in October 2015. Amazing stats with a win percentage of **66.14%** and just **19** defeats in **189** competitive matches. The situation improves if we only speak about the **Premier League**, a competition in which **Liverpool** have been **unbeaten at home in four of his six full seasons** at the club. In other words, 76 encounters.

Surprisingly, only in one of those seasons, the **2019-20**, they managed to lift the much sought after domestic trophy, a season which was interrupted by the pandemic. In the other two, **2018-19** and last season **2021-22**, they were just one point off the title. That is an unequivocal sign of the need to improve their away record, as well as at neutral venues, where their win percentage drops to **56.06%**, if they want to put an end to **Manchester City** and their manager **Pep Guardiola's** dominance in the most powerful league in the world. We'll talk about them at length later on.

**MOST GAMES**  
UNDER KLOPP AT ANFIELD



**R. FIRMINO**  
**152**

**MOST GAMES**  
UNDER KLOPP AT ANFIELD



**M. SALAH**  
**84**

**MOST WINS**  
UNDER KLOPP AT ANFIELD



**R. FIRMINO**  
**100**

**STREAKS** OF KLOPP AT ANFIELD

|                                                        |                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SCORING</b><br><b>36</b><br>27/02/2019 - 28/09/2020 | <b>CLEAN SHEETS</b><br><b>7</b><br>14/12/2019 - 04/02/2020 |
| <b>WINS</b><br><b>14</b><br>30/11/2019 - 07/03/2020    | <b>LOSSES</b><br><b>6</b><br>21/01/2021 - 07/03/2021       |





# Jürgen's citadel

No place like Anfield

|                      | GAMES      | WINS       | % WINS        | DRAWS     | LOSSES    | GAMES SCORING | % GAMES SCORING | CLEAN SHEETS | % CLEAN SHEETS | GOALS SCORED / 90' | GOALS CONCEDED / 90' |
|----------------------|------------|------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Champions League     | 26         | 17         | 65.38%        | 6         | 3         | 21            | 80.77%          | 15           | 57.69%         | 2.23               | 0.85                 |
| EFL Cup              | 10         | 3          | 30%           | 4         | 3         | 6             | 60%             | 4            | 40%            | 1.4                | 1.3                  |
| Europa League        | 6          | 5          | 83.33%        | 1         | 0         | 6             | 100%            | 3            | 50%            | 2.17               | 0.83                 |
| FA Cup               | 11         | 7          | 63.64%        | 2         | 2         | 9             | 81.82%          | 5            | 45.45%         | 1.73               | 0.82                 |
| Qualifying stage UCL | 1          | 1          | 100%          | 0         | 0         | 1             | 100%            | 0            | 0%             | 4                  | 2                    |
| Premier League       | 129        | 90         | 69.77%        | 29        | 10        | 116           | 89.92%          | 59           | 45.74%         | 2.35               | 0.77                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>183</b> | <b>123</b> | <b>67.21%</b> | <b>42</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>159</b>    | <b>86.89%</b>   | <b>86</b>    | <b>46.99%</b>  | <b>2.25</b>        | <b>0.82</b>          |











**BAYERN MÜNCHEN.** With 32 **Bundesliga** titles, six **European Cups** and another 43 trophies, both domestically and internationally, they are the greatest club in the history of German football and one of the greatest in Europe. **'Kloppo'** loves seeing them lose.



# Bayern

1st March 2013. Just two days after losing the quarter-final of the **German Cup** against **Bayern Munich** (1-0) due to an Arjen Robben goal, Jurgen Klopp tore into the Bavarian club in a press conference. **"They operate like the Chinese industry: they observe what everyone does, invest money and contract different people to better the original product,"** he said to the surprise of the journalists present. What the then **Borussia Dortmund** coach was probably not expecting was that the worst, for him and for his team at least, was still to come. Precisely, in May of that year.

His accusations of **'industrial espionage'** would blow up in his face a few months later, when, Bayern Munich beat him for the 12th time in his career when they won the **Champions League** final at Wembley (1-2); and, on the other hand, when the buyout clause of **Mario Gotze**, 21, was activated. He came through the Dortmund academy and he was one of Klopp's great proteges. Therefore, Bayern, who were waiting for their new coach **Pep Guardiola** to arrive, not only prevented the man from **Stuttgart** from winning his first Champions League trophy, but also deprived him of the opportunity of counting on one of the great Under 23 players in Europe. He had an **ELO** rating of around **86 points** at that time.

**"He's left because he wanted to play under Guardiola," Klopp** admitted after the transfer was completed. "I can't get shrink 15 centimetres and starting speaking in Spanish so that he stays," he joked. That's how he is.

But he was not laughing a year later in summer 2014, when his top goalscorer and a consolidated global star in **Robert Lewandowski**, 25, confirmed his departure to the **Allianz Arena** after his contract at Dortmund expired. A tremendous blow to **Borussia Dortmund**, in general, and to their coach's project, especially after losing the 2-0 **German Cup final** against the team from Munich a few weeks earlier. Robben and Muller scored both goals in the second period of extra-time. That was Bayern's first double under Guardiola after winning the 2013-14 **Bundesliga** as well.





It is not surprising, therefore, that the current **Liverpool** manager cannot stand the sight of the Bavarians. Especially after the signing of **Sadio Mane** a few weeks after losing to **Real Madrid** in the **Champions League** final. His disdain for Bayern Munich - the team which have inflicted most defeats in his career (**16**) - was made clear when in December 2016, when he had been at **Anfield** for more than year, he talked about **Mainz 05's** victory over Bayern moments after his own side defeated **Manchester City** (3-0). It is worth remembering that his first professional coaching job was at Mainz. "I'm not up to date with the other results (in the **Premier League**), but **I saw that Bayern lost**," he added. The comment went viral.

These feelings, however, have never been reciprocal. In fact, important figures connected to **Bayern Munich** have showered Klopp with praise on more than one occasion. "**Nothing would please me more than for him to come to Bayern.** He would fit in well. He is one of the best managers in the world. He brought the new football to Germany," the legendary **Franz Beckenbauer** said in 2019 in comments to Bild. **Uli Hoeness**, ex-Bayern president, even interviewed him to take the place of **Ottmar Hitzfeld** in 2008, but **Jurgen Klinsmann** was selected instead.

**Hasan Salihamidzic**, sporting director at the club on **Sabener Strasse** since 2017, must also be attracted by the idea that some day Klopp will lead the club's project. He himself revealed in May 2022 that "**he could have gone to Bayern several times**," hinting that the attempts of his irremediable nemesis to sign him have never stopped.. However, he made it clear at the same time that he would not change his life on Merseyside for "having won more trophies" in his life. Current Bayern manager **Julian Nagelsmann**, whose contract expires in **2026**, like Klopp's, can breathe easily.



# Klopp's Nemesis

His stats against Bayern München

|                                                                                               | GAMES     | WINS          | DRAWS         | LOSSES        | GOALS SCORED / 90' | GOALS CONCEDED / 90' | CONCEDING 3+ GOALS |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| B. Dortmund  | 22        | 36.36%        | 18.18%        | 45.45%        | 1.41               | 1.5                  | 18.18%             |
| Mainz 05     | 7         | 0%            | 14.29%        | 85.71%        | 1.57               | 3.43                 | 71.43%             |
| Liverpool    | 2         | 50%           | 50%           | 0%            | 1.5                | 0.5                  | 0%                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                  | <b>31</b> | <b>29.03%</b> | <b>19.35%</b> | <b>51.61%</b> | <b>1.45</b>        | <b>1.87</b>          | <b>29.03%</b>      |

## MOST GOALS SCORED



R. Lewandowski

5

## MOST GAMES PLAYED



N. Subotić, R. Weidenfeller,  
M. Hummels, M. Schmelzer

17

## MOST WINS



R. Lewandowski, K. Großkreutz  
S. Kehl, M. Hummels, M. Schmelzer

7

## MOST LOSSES



N. Subotić, R. Weidenfeller

9

## MOST GOALS CONCEDED



R. Weidenfeller

26

# Westfalia heist

Klopp pupils seduced by Bayern



37M€

Mario Götze

SEASON 13-14 AGE 21 ELO 86

Young star



0M€

Robert Lewandowski

SEASON 14-15 AGE 25 ELO 91

World star



35M€

Mats Hummels\*

SEASON 16-17 AGE 27 ELO 85

Top player



32M€

Sadio Mané

SEASON 22-23 AGE 30 ELO 92

World star

\*Left the club a year after Klopp arrived in Liverpool









**MANCHESTER CITY FC.** Founded in 1894, the 'Cityzens', have become in the second best team in the **Premier League** era with six domestic titles to their name. For **Jurgen Klopp**, this term is to **Liverpool** what **Bayern Munich** are to **Borussia Dortmund**.



# City, Manchester

If **Jurgen Klopp's** relationship with **Bayern Munich** is marked by frustration, the one he has with Manchester City since his arrival in the **United Kingdom** is synonymous. Both clubs have something in common: **Pep Guardiola**. In Germany and in England, the Catalan coach has prevented his German counterpart from dominating domestically. He only 'let' him win it once, during the 2019/20 season, when the **Reds** won their first **Premier League** title in 30 years. That season was interrupted by the pandemic. But the 'Cityzens' have won another off them. By very little.

It was **Manuel Pellegrini** and not Guardiola who dealt Klopp his first major psychological blow when he was starting to build a project at **Anfield**. That occurred when he won the 2016 **EFL Cup** on penalties (1-1). It was the first title which the new **Liverpool** had missed out on and the fifth consecutive final which their new manager had lost.

**Liverpool** were unable to prevent **Leicester's** unexpected Premier League triumph in 2016, **Chelsea's** under **Antonio Conte** in 2017 and, of course, that of their Manchester neighbours, who got the record number of points in a single league season (**100**) in 2018. However, reaching the **Champions League** final in **Kiev** against Real Madrid (1-3) gave them the impetus which was lacking in **Klopp's** project to aspire to something more than Champions League qualification season after season. **It was time to fight for the Premier League title** and they made the signings of Alisson and Van Dijk.

They missed out on winning it a year later, in the 2018-19 season. The **97 points Liverpool** got, which was the third highest ever in the competition back then, were not enough to beat **Manchester City**, who got, at the same time, the second highest points tally, only behind their own record of 100. The same thing happened last season (2021-22), when **92 points** were not enough either for the **Reds** to become champions in England. In other words, two of the best 10 points tallies in **Premier League** history were not enough for them to win the title. Both of those were achieved by **Jurgen Klopp's** men.



# Game of thrones

## Klopp's squeeze on City

### MOST POINTS EARNED IN PREMIER LEAGUE'S HISTORY

|            |    |                                                                                     |                                                |
|------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>100</b> | 1° |    | <b>MAN CITY</b><br>2017-18 PEP GUARDIOLA       |
| <b>99</b>  | 1° |    | <b>LIVERPOOL</b><br>2019-20 JÜRGEN KLOPP       |
| <b>98</b>  | 1° |    | <b>MAN CITY</b><br>2018-19 PEP GUARDIOLA       |
| <b>97</b>  | 2° |    | <b>LIVERPOOL</b><br>2018-19 JÜRGEN KLOPP       |
| <b>95</b>  | 1° |    | <b>CHELSEA</b><br>2004-05 JOSÉ MOURINHO        |
| <b>93</b>  | 1° |   | <b>CHELSEA</b><br>2016-17 ANTONIO CONTE        |
| <b>93</b>  | 1° |  | <b>MAN CITY</b><br>2021-22 PEP GUARDIOLA       |
| <b>92</b>  | 1° |   | <b>MAN UNITED</b><br>1993-94 SIR ALEX FERGUSON |
| <b>92</b>  | 2° |   | <b>LIVERPOOL</b><br>2021-22 JÜRGEN KLOPP       |
| <b>91</b>  | 1° |   | <b>MAN UNITED</b><br>1990-00 SIR ALEX FERGUSON |
| <b>91</b>  | 1° |   | <b>CHELSEA</b><br>2005-06 JOSÉ MOURINHO        |
| <b>90</b>  | 1° |   | <b>ARSENAL</b><br>2003-04 ARSÈNE WENGER        |
| <b>90</b>  | 1° |  | <b>MAN UNITED</b><br>2008-09 SIR ALEX FERGUSON |





Many experts have ended up comparing the fierce battles that both Man City and Liverpool have have since the German moved to England to the ones **Manchester United** and **Arsenal** had when **Sir Alex Ferguson** and **Arsene Wenger** were in charge. Just like with Klopp and Guardiola, Ferguson got three of the 10 best Premier League points tallies, sharing the 'Top 10' with the legendary '**Invincibles**' of his French counterpart. In any case, the points tallies were not as high up in the top 10 as those of Klopp and Guardiola. Ferguson is the manager with most Premier League titles to his name (**13**).

The only league title **Jurgen Klopp** has won, the one in 2020, prevented Man City from winning every one of the last five edition. Even though those from the **Etihad Stadium** are still winning come out on top overall,, few doubt that the influence of the ex-**Borussia Dortmund** man has prevented the Sky Blues from being the new **Bayern Munich**. Although they have lost more than half the games they have played against the Bavarians, Klopp can boast about winning the head to head battles with Man City.

Of the 21 matches they have played against **Manchester City** in all competitions, **Klopp** has managed to win **42.86%** of them, with just **19.05%** of defeats. In addition, they have scored more goals per game than City (**1.67**). As far as trophies are concerned, **Liverpool** have won every possible one at least once since the German's arrival, including the **Champions League**, **UEFA Super Cup** and **Club World Cup**, trophies which, at least as of June 2022, the club owned by **Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan** have yet to win.

|                                                                                     | GAMES     | WINS          | DRAW          | LOSSES        | GOLES A FAVOR/90' | GOALS CONCEDED / 90' | CLEAN SHEETS  | GAMES SCORING | SCORING 3 OR MORE GOALS | CONCEDING 3 OR MORE GOALS |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | <b>19</b> | <b>42.11%</b> | <b>36.84%</b> | <b>21.05%</b> | <b>1.74</b>       | <b>1.63</b>          | <b>21.05%</b> | <b>84.21%</b> | <b>31.58%</b>           | <b>21.05%</b>             |
|  | <b>2</b>  | <b>50%</b>    | <b>50%</b>    | <b>0%</b>     | <b>1</b>          | <b>0.5</b>           | <b>50%</b>    | <b>100%</b>   | <b>0%</b>               | <b>0%</b>                 |

|              |           |               |              |               |             |             |               |               |               |               |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>42.86%</b> | <b>38.1%</b> | <b>19.05%</b> | <b>1.67</b> | <b>1.52</b> | <b>23.81%</b> | <b>85.71%</b> | <b>28.57%</b> | <b>19.05%</b> |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|



**MOST GOALS SCORED**  
**S. MANÉ AND M. SALAH**

**7**



**MOST GAMES PLAYED**  
**R. FIRMINO**

**19**



**MOST WINS**  
**R. FIRMINO**

**8**









**DORTMUND.** With more than **five million inhabitants**, is the largest city in the Ruhr region. **Signal Iduna Park**, the home of **Borussia Dortmund**, is located. That is where Jurgen Klopp won his first trophies as a coach, including two of the club's **five Bundesliga titles**.



# Dortmund

Although his time at **Liverpool** is, without doubt, the most successful one in his career, whenever this finishes, a large part of the decisions **Jurgen Klopp** has made at **Anfield** both on and off the field, could not be understood without taking into account his time at **Signal Iduna Park**. As **Borussia Dortmund** manager, who he arrived at in 2008 after leaving **Mainz 05** very close to promotion to the **Bundesliga**, he won more than half of the **319 matches** he took charge of, and he did so with an average of almost two goals per game (**1.96**). His style of play, marked for the constant pressing - we will talk about it in detail later on - and constant attack, led to clubs like **Manchester United** opening the doors to him, whose offer he politely declined.

Despite not sharing a past with the city of **Dortmund**, something he did with **Mainz**, where he spent 18 years as a player and a coach, Klopp did not take long in winning over the trust and affection of their fans. Not only because of his imposing **charisma**, but also because he took so little time in converting a club who were bankrupt, with a debt of close to **250 million euros** when arrived, into German champions. He won his first **Bundesliga** in his third season in charge (**2010-11**), which preceded a historic double the following campaign.

Ten years after that feat, Klopp is still the latest coach to have won the domestic league at a club which is not **Bayern Munich**. If he had not lost the **Champions League** final at **Wembley** against the Bavarians in 2013 (1-2), his legendary status at Dortmund would be even greater. At the end of the day, two of the five **Bundesligas** won by **Borussia Dortmund** were won under him. The club's five league titles took them level with **Borussia Monchengladbach** and went ahead of **Werder Bremen's** tally of four.

These achievements would strongly attract the attention of Bayern Munich, whose sporting strategy in the following seasons would focus on '**dismantling Dortmund's ideal XI**', as we've seen in previous pages. Although they would try and tempt their charismatic coach, they would not be successful in getting him.





It was at **Wembley**, precisely, where Jurgen Klopp's **Borussia Dortmund** reached their peak. They were runners-up in the **2013-14** season, 19 points behind the Bavarians, but they had a disastrous **2014-15** campaign. Despite coming seventh, which felt like a huge achievement after being in the relegation zone, Klopp took a difficult decision: that of leaving the club from **North Rhine-Westphalia** when he still had a year left on his contract. "I always said if some day I **felt I was not the perfect coach** for this club, I'd say so," he said in April 2015. The farewell he was given at **Signal Iduna Park** was fitting of a legend both on the pitch and as a person.

Despite the poor performances in the **Bundesliga** and the **Champions League**, he would still have the opportunity to say goodbye by winning another title before beginning a deserved - a later interrupted - sabbatical year. The final of the **German Cup**, which Dortmund made after eliminating **Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich** in the semi-finals, would be his last match in charge of Dortmund. But **Dieter Hecking's Wolfsburg** prevented Klopp from signing off in style (1-3). The Dortmund supporters who had travelled to the **Olympic Stadium** in **Berlin** could not avoid feeling that, maybe, it was time for a change. Excluding the **German Super Cup**, **Jurgen Klopp** had lost three finals in a row.

Time, however, would put Klopp's era at **Dortmund** into perspective. Since his departure, up to six people have sat on the **Signal Iduna Park** bench. **Marco Rose**, a disciple of his at **Mainz 05**, lasted just one season in the role. The club's CEO, **Hans Joachim-Watzke**, ended up admitting that his departure "**hurt for weeks**" and that he remembers frequently "**those times in which he used to listen and everything was fine.**"



# Giants from the Ruhr

Klopp's happy era at Dortmund



| GAMES | WINS | % WINS | GOALS<br>SCORED/90' | GOALS<br>CONCEDED/90' | GAMES<br>SCORING | CLEAN SHEETS | SCORING 3 OR<br>MORE GOALS |
|-------|------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 319   | 180  | 56.43% | 1.96                | 1.04                  | 84.64%           | 36.36%       | 34.48%                     |









**EDWARDS, MICHAEL.** British football analyst. He worked as Liverpool's **sporting director** between **2016 and 2022** after occupying several roles at the club for over a decade. He is a **great friend of Jurgen Klopp**, although he will not stay at Anfield next season.



# Edwards, Michael

When **Jurgen Klopp** accepted the offer to manage **Liverpool**, he did so knowing that his way of working, at least in terms of the building of the squad is concerned, were going to change substantially. Used to working together with the sporting director, a position which **Christian Heidel** and **Michael Zorc** held at **Mainz** and **Dortmund**, respectively, However, at Liverpool things were different. The German not only had to get used to a cold and rainy climate in **North-West England**, but also to adapting to building his squad without the daily support of a sporting director at his new club.

But the new main man in charge at **Anfield** soon discovered that he was not on his own. Far from it. **Ian Graham**, director of research at Liverpool, was one of the first to offer him his help when he entered the old **Melwood** training complex for the first time. He explained how the stats - precisely, **expected goals** (xG) - helped them to conclude that he must be **Brendan Rodgers'** successor, as well as his ability to find suitable footballers for his style of play. However, it would be **Michael Edwards**, the club's technical director, who would end up occupying that role **Klopp** was worried about at Liverpool.

The young British analyst, who was just 36 years old at the time, arrived at **Liverpool** from **Tottenham Hotspur** in 2011. In just five years, he had already occupied the roles of **chief analyst**, **director of technical performance** and that of **technical director**, such was his influence when it came to identifying and developing footballers. Proof of it is that, ahead of the first summer transfer window with Klopp at the helm, in 2016, he was capable of persuading the manager that **Mohamed Salah**, from **Roma**, was the footballer to bolster his attack.. Klopp had thought about **Julian Brandt**, of **Bayer Leverkusen**, who he had faced on several occasions during his time in Germany, but he decided to trust Edwards' judgement.

The rest is history.



Klopp and his coaching staff's good work during his first nine months on **Merseyside** were rewarded with a six year contract extension. News which came at the same time that **Michael Edwards** was promoted to **sporting director**, a new role created at the **Anfield** club. "Jurgen's faith and trust in what we do (...) has been a key factor in accepting this responsibility," the new **Liverpool** sporting director, said after the news was confirmed. Although **Klopp** would continue having "the final say" in terms of signings, both would form an unbreakable alliance in one of the golden eras of the club.

Of the numerous operations Edwards has led in the last six years, the sale of **Philippe Coutinho** to **FC Barcelona** clearly stands out. An unpopular move back then, but it allowed the club to fulfil its philosophy of **financial self-management**, completely different to the money the likes of **Paris Saint-Germain** and **Manchester City** were squandering. That allowed them to sign **Alisson Becker** and **Virgil Van Dijk**. Although it is true that they were the most expensive signings in the club's history, it is also true that with **Michael Edwards** at the helm, Liverpool's signings and sales have led to them having a net profit of around **180 million euros**.

In other words, the **Reds** do not spend what they don't have on players and they only buy those who they really need for **Jurgen Klopp's** system. The most recent example is that of **Luis Diaz**, whose performances have been excellent from the first day. Now, the sporting director is leaving to look for new challenges, the German can only cross his fingers and hope that **Julian Ward**, his successor from next season, has taken good note of everything Edwards has done at the Premier League club.





# The guru of Anfield

Michael Edwards' achievements

## HIS BIGGEST TRANSFERS



## HIS BIGGEST SALES



## HIS MOST PROFITABLE SALES



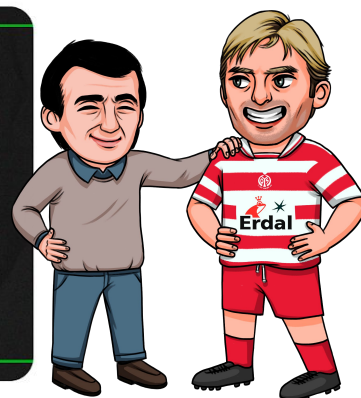
## THE ACADEMY, SOURCE OF INCOME







**FRANK, WOLFGANG.** Former German football player and coach who **took charge of 16 clubs** after ending his playing career, including Mainz 05. He trained Jurgen Klopp there and the **Liverpool manager was amazed** by his knowledge of the novel **4-4-2 formation**. He died in 2013 at the age of 62.



# Frank, Wolfgang

In his time as a professional footballer, which was only at **Mainz 05**, **Jurgen Klopp** ended up being coached by up to 12 different managers until he himself took charge of the team in 2001. Only one of them, however - if we ignore **Manfred Lorenz**, who had four short caretaker spells at the club, - ended up having two spells at the club in that period of time: **Wolfgang Frank**. Far from being considered a legend of German football, Frank had an interesting career as a striker before hanging up his boots. He ended up playing for the likes of **AZ Alkmaar** and **Borussia Dortmund**.

Born in **Reichenbach an der Fils** in 1951, in former West Germany, he was **Mainz 05's** fourth manager since **Klopp** joined Mainz in 1990. Unlike his predecessors, Frank managed to remain in the post for close to a year and a half between September 1995 and April 1997. It is a record if we take into account that the average time in charge for managers at the club was less than one full seasons in the 1990s. **Their innovative tactical ideas** were largely to blame for that.

Frank, when he took over, introduced at **Mainz** what was then a new **4-4-2** formation which **Arrigo Sacchi** used to make Italy champions at the 1994 **World Cup** in the **USA**. His decision to get rid of the sweeper role, something that was used so well and created by **Franz Beckenbauer**, caused controversy in the country, in general, and amongst the **Mainz 05** fans. It did not go down particularly well amongst the players in the dressing room either. Not initially, anyway.

When **Wolfgang Frank** took over at the club for the first time, **Klopp** was one of those who had been there the longest and, at the age of 28, he was well respected in the **Bruchwegstadion** dressing room. Far from being afraid, he embraced without hesitation, the tactical methods of his new manager. Not only did he receive them as a breath of fresh air, but he also used them for his coaching model later on in life and, to develop a brand of football which would be recognised across the world of football. That was the start of '**Gegenpressing**', a key part of his particular footballing ideology.





The idea of getting rid of the libero from his formation was not the only idea **Arrigo Sacchi** had which Frank used to reconstruct that **Mainz 05** side because he also decided to constantly press their opponents non-stop with just one aim in mind: that of **getting back possession of the ball** as close to the opposing goal as possible. All of that was to try and attack the goal with a numerical advantage as many times as possible. A plan in which **Jurgen Klopp** played a very important role, both in **Wolfgang Frank's** first and second spells at the club. Happy times on the banks of the **Rhine**.

Of the **120 matches** his mentor was Mainz coach, he played in 95 of them as well as starting 90 of them. In other words, he was a substitute just **5.26%** of the time. His goal scoring averages, that said, were affected, given that he went from being a striker to a defender. At the same time, the average number of minutes he played per match also decreased slightly. His contribution in defence, nevertheless, was key to helping his teammates keep a clean sheet **34.76%** of the time he played during the Frank era.

Klopp saw his win and loss percentages improve notably under Frank with a win percentage of 37.89% and 31.58% for losses. For the other 11 coaches in charge, it was practically the reverse. That said, Frank's tactical work was not enough for to get Mainz 05 promoted from the **2.Bundesliga**. Only one person would better his stats in the coming years and take the team to the top flight for the first time. That person - you've guessed it would be **Jurgen Norbert Klopp**.



# Jürgen Klopp's **mentor**

Life in Mainz with or without Frank



## WITHOUT FRANK



## WITH FRANK



|               |                                    |               |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>31.84%</b> | <b>WINS</b>                        | <b>37.89%</b> |
| <b>29.8%</b>  | <b>DRAWS</b>                       | <b>30.53%</b> |
| <b>38.37%</b> | <b>LOSSES</b>                      | <b>31.58%</b> |
| <b>0.19</b>   | <b>GOALS SCORED</b>                | <b>0.11</b>   |
| <b>91.02%</b> | <b>GAMES AS A STARTER</b>          | <b>94.74%</b> |
| <b>8.98%</b>  | <b>GAMES ON THE BENCH</b>          | <b>5.26%</b>  |
| <b>81.37</b>  | <b>MINUTES EARNED</b>              | <b>77.48</b>  |
| <b>71.84%</b> | <b>GAMES WHERE THE TEAM SCORED</b> | <b>69.47%</b> |
| <b>26.53%</b> | <b>CLEAN SHEETS</b>                | <b>34.74%</b> |





**GEGENPRESSING.** Name given to a style of play founded in Germany which is based on trying to **win the ball back immediately** after having lost it in areas of the pitch close to the opponent's goal. In other words: **'counterpressing'**. **Jurgen Klopp** is its biggest exponent of it.



# ‘Gegenpressing’

As well as his sporting achievements, **Jurgen Klopp's** career on the bench has been marked by all sorts of **famous quotes**; some of them, quite controversial. Ahead of the clash with **Arsenal** in the **Champions League** group stage, the German coach was asked about his opponents, **Arsene Wenger**, and if he considered himself to be among the candidates to take over some day at the **Emirates Stadium** in London. It was then when he used one of those phrases which will be remembered forever.

He likes having the ball, passing it constantly... It's like an orchestra, but **the song they play is silent**. I like **heavy metal** more!," the then **Borussia Dortmund** coach said while laughing his head off. His metaphors were misinterpreted as an attack on the **Gunnars** boss by the British press despite the praise he had given the Frenchman moments earlier. In any case, few could match Klopp for the level of excitement and adrenaline which his electric style of play caused. The same style of play which helped him take his team to **Wembley** just a few months later (which they lost to Bayern Munich).

That achievement catapulted Klopp to the top of European football, generating a great interest in the football which had conquered those in **North-Rhine Westphalia**. Gradually, the term **'Gegenpressing'** - which could be translated as **'counterpressing'** - became more and more popular, reaching its height in 2015, coinciding with the arrival of the man from **Stuttgart** to **Liverpool**. It was at Anfield, nevertheless, where this term has reached its maximum expression. It was not an immediate transformation, given that he replaced **Brendan Rodgers** with the season already underway, but he has more than made his mark on the pitch during his six full seasons at **Liverpool**.

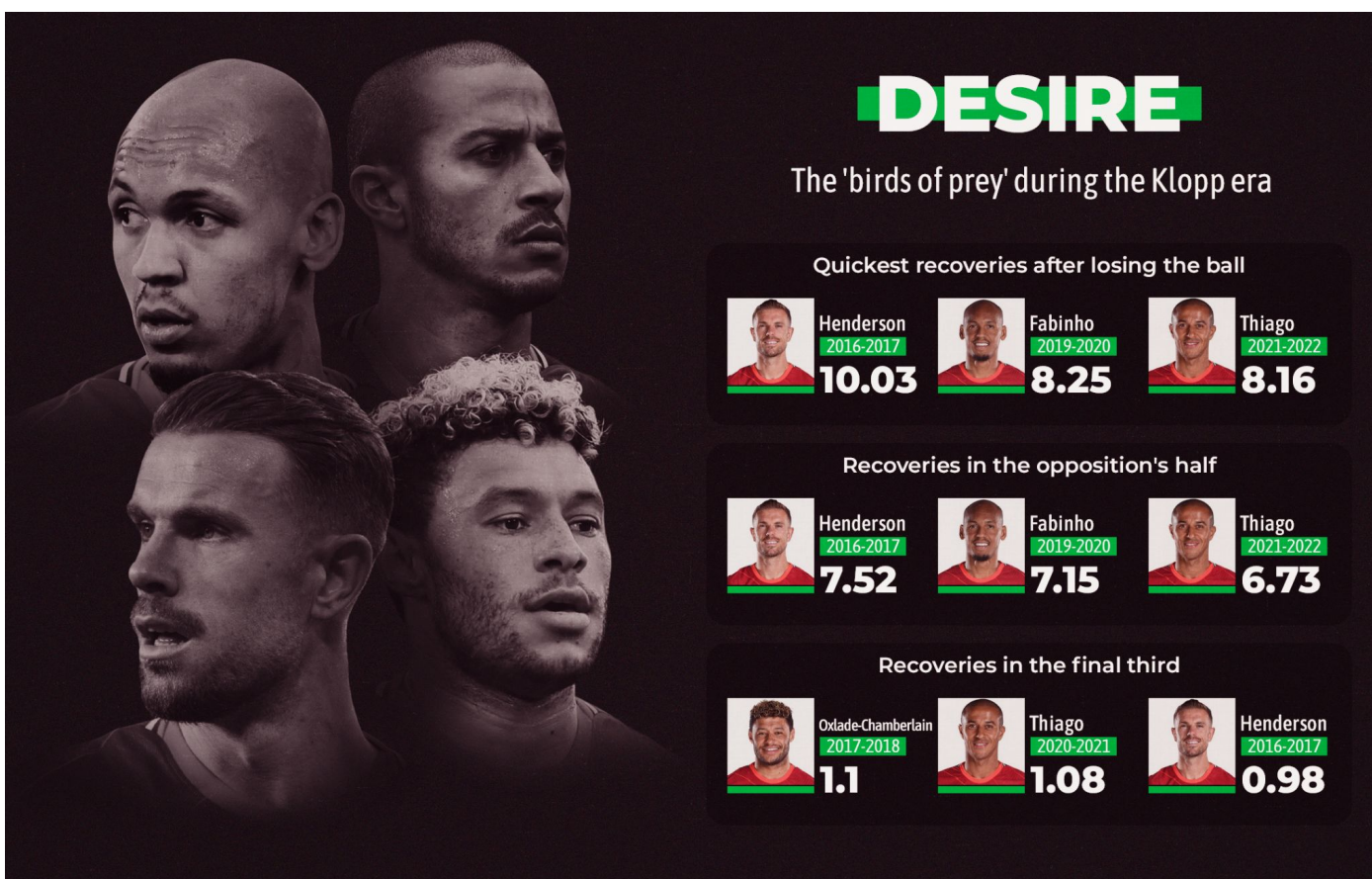
In fact, Jordan Henderson is Liverpool's expert at 'Gegenpressing'. The averages of **quick recoveries after losing the ball** (10.03) and **recoveries in the opposing half** (7.52) of the new captain, the first of the era post **Steven Gerrard**, are still the best out of any player which **Jurgen Klopp** has managed on the banks of the **Merseyside**.



It is also worth highlighting the **0.98 recoveries in the final third** per 90 minutes by Henderson himself that season, because it is good proof of the sacrifice the English midfielder had to make until the club had enough money at their disposal to bolster the midfield. The first to strengthen it - a year and a half later, that said- was **Alexander Oxlade-Chamberlain**, notably bettering the contribution of his teammate in this statistic (**1.10**) just after arriving on **Merseyside**. The signing of **Fabinho** in the 2018-19 season would make all the difference, with **Thiago's** contribution, although it may sound surprising, being key in the last two seasons.

Speaking about individual players in this case, however, is not worth it, because everyone in **Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool** side religiously fulfil the role they have been given since he took over at the club. Since August 2016, his squad has always been amongst the best out of the top leagues with regards to **rapid recoveries after losing the ball**, **recoveries in the opposition half**, **recoveries in the final third** of the pitch together with **Bayern Munich**, Klopp's nemesis; **Manchester City**, his team to beat in England; and, listen to this, Spanish side **SD Eibar**, coached by **Jose Luis Mendilibar**.

With data in hand and tactical evolutions related to **Positional Play** put to one side, there is no doubt at all over what Klopp's football philosophy is founded on: **recovering the ball back as close as possible to the opposition's goal**, exactly what 'Gegenpressing' is.



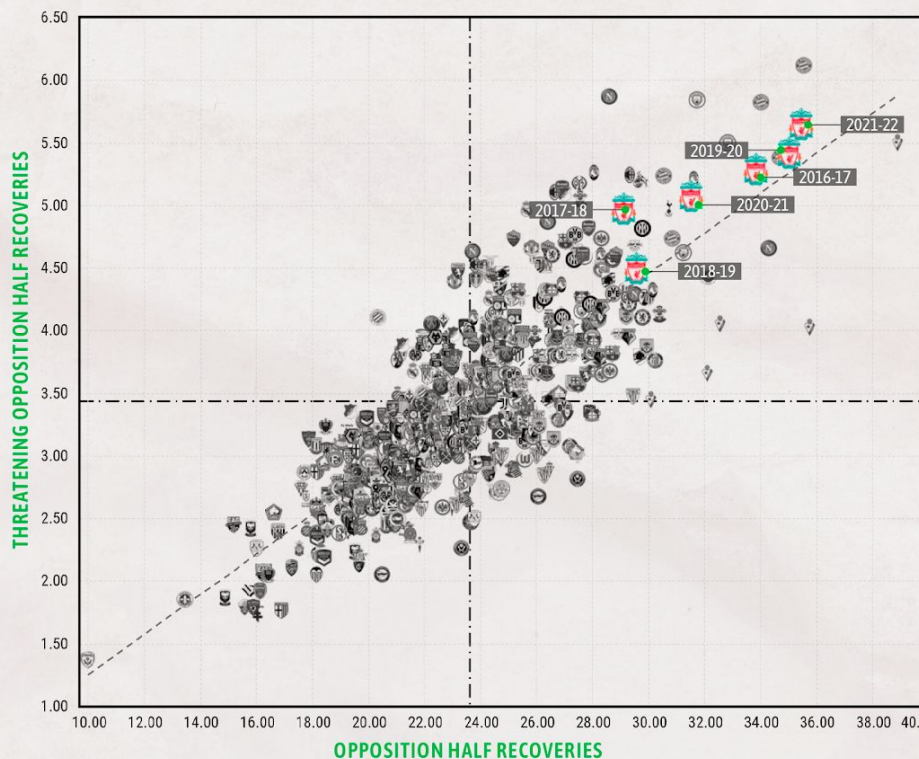


# 'Gegenpressing' way of life

## Klopp's heavy metal Liverpool

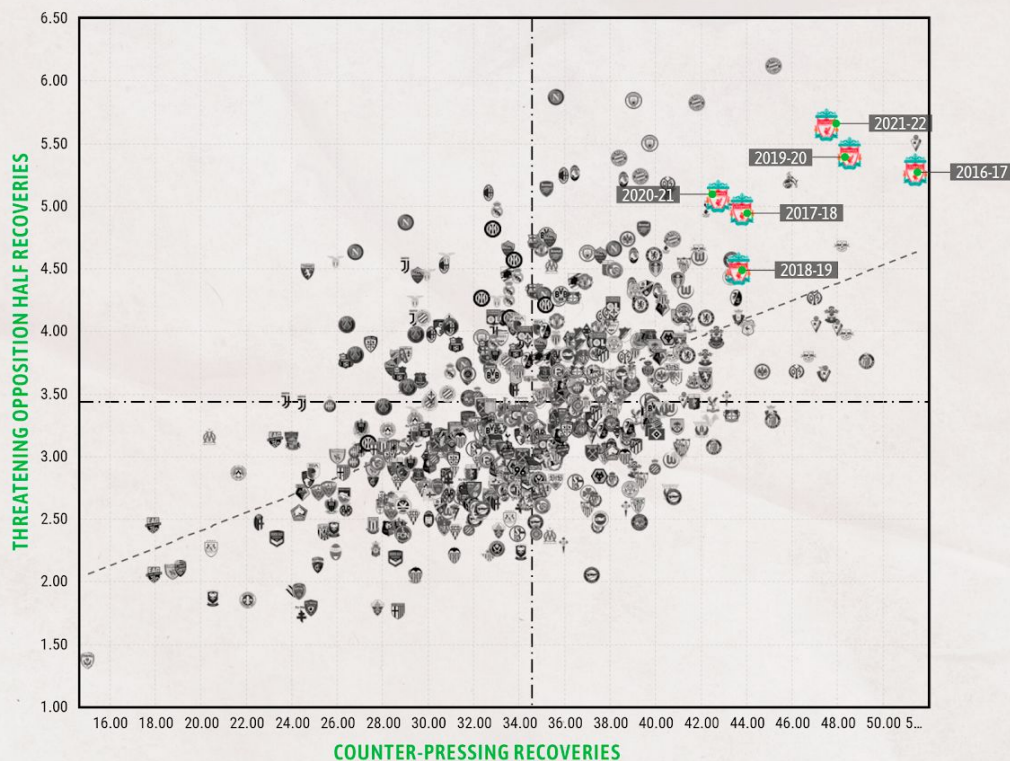
### OPPOSITION HALF RECOVERIES vs THREATENING OPPOSITION HALF RECOVERIES

Top-5 European Leagues averages per game from the 2016-2017 to the 2021-2022 season



### COUNTER-PRESSING RECOVERIES vs THREATENING OPPOSITION HALF RECOVERIES

Top-5 European Leagues averages per game from the 2016-2017 to the 2021-2022 season







**HEIDEL, CHRISTIAN.** German businessman whose work as sporting director at **Mainz 05** gave the club the best years in their history. He is known for having given **Jurgen Klopp** his first opportunity as coach. A decision which would mark his career, in a positive way.



# Heidel, Christian

It was Autumn 2000 and **Mainz 05** needed a new coach after the sacking of **Rene Vandereycken**. The threat of relegation was once again hanging over the German club, whose sporting director, **Christian Heidel**, was under immense pressure. He needed something to turn the tide and he needed it now. The temptation to bring **Wolfgang Frank** back to the club for the third time was strong, but he had only been sacked by Mainz just a few months earlier. The squad were not good enough for his footballing ideas. That said, that was the path which, in his opinion, the team had to take.

It was for that reason that Heidel decided on **Eckhard Krautzun**. Both had an interesting chat over the phone in which the coach, who had an inconsistent coaching career at teams like **Darmstadt, St. Pauli and Kaiserlautern**, showed great knowledge over the famous **4-4-2** formation which Frank had introduced with relative success previously. What the Mainz sporting director didn't know, as **Raphael Honigstein** writes in his book **Klopp Bring the Noise**, was that that knowledge had been transmitted to him the night before by one of his own players. It was indeed **Jurgen Klopp**.

The farce did not take long to look obvious and, after getting just one victory in nine matches, the ball was once again in **Christian Heidel's** court. He was going through, probably, his most difficult moment of his time in charge, which he had been at since 1992. The executive manager had got tired of looking at stats in the legendary magazine 'Kicker' in search of candidates to coach **Mainz 05**. It was then when he met with the captain and spiritual leader of the dressing room and asked him a question which would change the history of German and European football forever: "**What do you think of the idea of being our coach?**"

"**I think it's a great idea!**", was the immediate response of **Klopp**, who did not hesitate in hanging up his boots at the age of 33 to manage his teammates at that time in order in search of 2. Bundesliga survival. The decision, many times classed by himself as "**kamikaze**", was the best that both could have made.





Many people ask themselves today whether someone else would have gone for this option had they been in Heidel's shoes that day. Would **Mainz 05** have been able to survive? Would **Jurgen Klopp's** career as manager have panned out in a similar fashion? Would his career have even started? Would **Christian Heidel** have triumphed finally? We'll never know. What we do know, however, is that the decision to put him in charge of the team changed the German club's destiny forever.

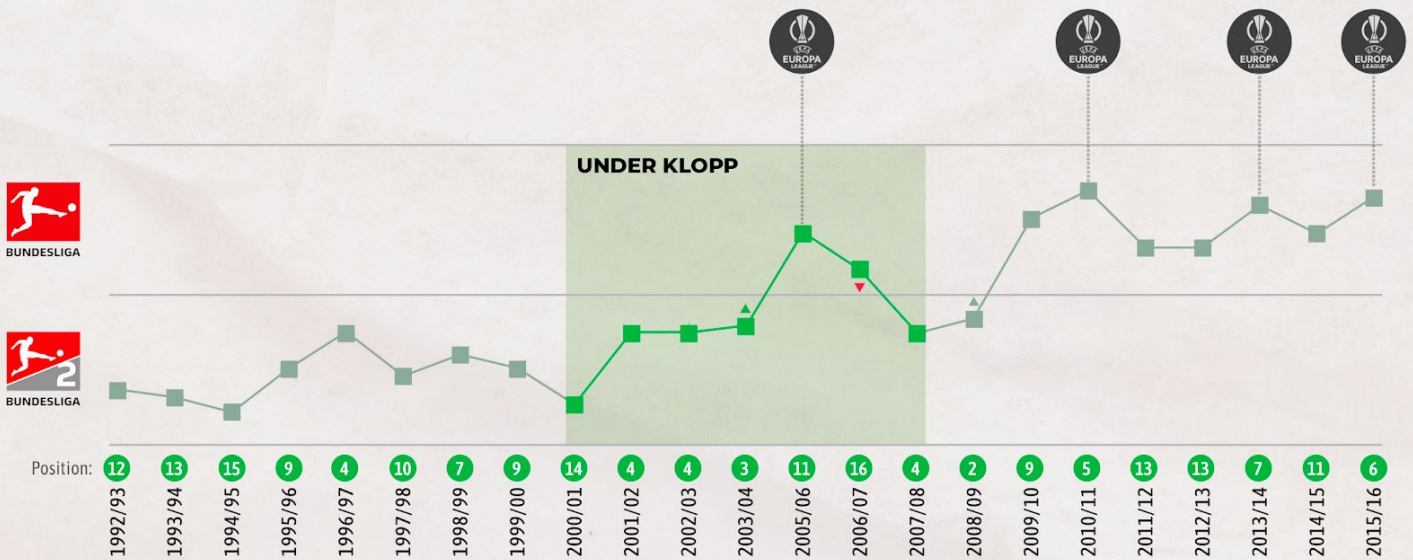
After years of concern, where they were only close to getting promoted once (**1996-97**), Mainz went through a radical sporting and social transformation since **Klopp** took over. After securing survival at the death in the final third of the **2000-01** season, the campaign in which he made his debut as a coach, he then secured two fourth placed finishes before securing promotion to the **Bundesliga** in 2004. A success based on complicity and the good relationship on the transfer front between the coach and sporting director. That laid down the foundations for the future.

The work of the former was more important than ever before after Klopp's departure in 2008, when he moved to **Borussia Dortmund**. The soul of the club said goodbye, but his legacy allowed **Mainz 05** to return to the elite of the German football where they booked their place in the qualifying stages of the **Europa League** on three occasions until the departure of another key figure in **Christian Heidel**. His work in **Mainz** meant he was given the role of sporting director at **Schalke 04**, where he stayed for three seasons. In December 2020, he returned to what was always his home, ending the 2021-22 campaign in eighth position with **Bo Svensson** as the new coach.



# Heidel factor

Trajectory of Mainz 05 in his first spell







**INGLETHORPE, ALEX.** *Former British footballer. He played for **Watford** and **Leyton Orient** before becoming a coach. He formed part of the **Tottenham** staff before becoming **Liverpool's Under 23 coach** in 2012. Two years later, he was promoted to **head of the Academy**.*



# Inglethorpe, Alex

When **Jurgen Klopp** arrived at John Lennon Airport at 17:00 local time on 8th October 2015, the first thing he did was to go to the quiet town of **Formby**. There he would live in the house which, until then, had been occupied by his predecessor, **Brendan Rodgers**. Shortly afterwards, at around 20.00, he headed for **Anfield** to sign the contract which would make him the new **Liverpool** manager for the next three seasons. That same night, the German boss invited his new coaching staff to dinner.

The meeting took place in the glamorous **Hope Street Hotel** in the city. His two confidantes, **Zeljko Buvac** and **Peter Krawietz**, attended the dinner, but they were not the only ones. The president of the club, Tom Werner, the CEO, Ian Ayre, and the new members of his coaching staff which were not sacked by the club including **Pepijn Lijnders**, first team coach, **John Achterberg**, goalkeeping coach, and **Alex Inglethorpe**, director of the Academy, were also present. The trio have played a key role in how events have developed since then, but we will focus our attention on Inglethorpe.

After settling in, and given that his new footballers were on international duty, the first thing **Klopp** did as Liverpool manager was to go to **Kirkby**, where **Liverpool's** Academy is based and where the Under 18 team were playing a match against **Stoke City**. The German even had time to watch the Under 18 and Under 14 sides. All of that in the company of Inglethorpe, with whom he has worked side by side since then to develop young homegrown talent. An arduous job which has, without doubt, borne fruit.

Two of the boys involved in that youth match, **Rhian Brewster**, now a **Sheffield United** player, and **Oviemumo Ejaria**, currently at **Reading**, would make their professional debut, precisely, under Klopp a few years later. But they would not be the only ones. His history of giving young talent an opportunity at **Dortmund** preceded the new 'coach' helped **Alex Inglethorpe's** job as head of the club's academy tremendously.



The clearest example was **Mario Gotze**, one of his most successful pupils. Irregularity and injuries have not helped the playmaker's development since he joined **Bayern Munich**, it is true, but he can boast, among many other things, of having won the **World Cup for Germany** in 2014. **Jonas Hofmann**, currently at **Borussia Monchengladbach**, and **Marvin Ducksch**, at **Werder Bremen**, are other players to whom he gave his first professional opportunity and who are still in the top flight today.

Of all of them, however, **Trent Alexander Arnold** currently leads the way. Not only was he **Kirkby's** first young talent to make his debut (in October 2016 at the age of **17**), but he has become his greatest masterpiece. As well as remaining in the team that gave him his footballing birth and 'raised' him, he is also the most improved performer since then, improving his **ELO** (rating system) by no less than **53 points**. Few people today doubt that the 23-year-old right-back is a star at the age of **23**. His record speaks for itself. It was virtually impossible for **Ki-Jana Hoever** to make a name for himself against him, although the 20-year-old is already playing in the **Premier League** with **Wolverhampton Wanderers**.

The cases of **Curtis Jones**, **Caoimhin Kelleher** and **Rhys Williams**, who will belong to the Reds, are also noteworthy, as is that of **Ryan Kent**, a key player in **Rangers'** run to the last **Europa League** final, which ended up, curiously, on the side of **Erik Durm**, another former pupil of him at **Borussia Dortmund**. Even if they do not continue under him, none of them will forget who gave them their first opportunity.





# Raised by Klopp

His best debutants so far

| POS                                                                                                                          | Debut ELO | Current ELO |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|  <b>ALEXANDER-ARNOLD</b><br>LIVERPOOL       | 40        | 93          |
|  <b>MARIO GÖTZE</b><br>EINTRACHT FRANKFURT  | 40        | 82          |
|  <b>RYAN KENT</b><br>RANGERS FC             | 41        | 82          |
|  <b>HARRY WILSON</b><br>FULHAM              | 42        | 79          |
|  <b>JONAS HOFMANN</b><br>B. MÖNCHENGLADBACH | 50        | 77          |
|  <b>MARVIN DUCKSCH</b><br>WERDER BREMEN    | 46        | 75          |
|  <b>PEDRO CHIRIVELLA</b><br>NANTES        | 33        | 73          |

| POS                                                                                                                         | Debut ELO | Current ELO |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
|  <b>KORAY GÜNTER</b><br>HELLAS VERONA      | 42        | 71          |
|  <b>CURTIS JONES</b><br>LIVERPOOL          | 50        | 68          |
|  <b>NECO WILLIAMS</b><br>LIVERPOOL*        | 46        | 68          |
|  <b>CAMERON BRANNAGAN</b><br>OXFORD UNITED | 37        | 65          |
|  <b>OVIEMUNO EJARIA</b><br>READING         | 32        | 65          |
|  <b>YASIN OZTEKIN</b><br>SAMSUNSPOR       | 41        | 65          |

\*On loan at Fulham during the 2021-2022 season











**JURGEN.** Former footballer, now football coach born in Stuttgart in 1967. In addition to his sporting achievements, he is known worldwide for his charisma and sense of humour. Behind the coach, however, there is also a father and a husband with strong political and religious beliefs.



# Jurgen

There is much to talk about **Klopp** in terms of to this report. Firstly, there is his career as a footballer and, secondly, there is his coaching career. Anyone can watch his games and work out how many minutes he played, how many goals he scored or how many trophies he has won since he retired. However, what few people can talk about is what lies beneath the surface; **the roots, the origins and the background** of a man made famous by football, but whose life is distanced from the glamour.

Born on **16th June 1967** in **Stuttgart** as the son of a Protestant mother (**Elisabeth**) and a Catholic father (**Norbert**), he grew up in the small town of Glatten with his parents and two older sisters, **Stefanie** and **Isolde**. It was there he took his first steps as a footballer, without forgetting his studies. In fact, he turned down an offer from the **Eintracht Frankfurt** reserve team to finish his studies. He accepted the offer later, when he was travelling around Europe with friends after a disastrous season with **FC Pforzheim**. He made a 48-hour train journey from **Crete** (Greece) when he received the offer.

In **Frankfurt**, he combined his university in **sports sciences** with football and his night job in a pub. At the age of 21, his time at Eintracht came to an end, almost coinciding with the birth of his first and only son, **Marc**, the result of his relationship with his first wife, **Sabine**. In the meantime, he would go on to play for two minor clubs in the city, **Sindlingen** and **Rot-Weiss**, before becoming a professional footballer in the summer of 1990 with a move to **Mainz 05**, the club around which his life would revolve for the next 18 years.

There he would share a dressing room with **David Wagner**, who would later become one of his best friends and coach at **Huddersfield Town**, **Schalke 04** and **Young Boys**. In 2001, he would also become his pupil, due to Klopp's promotion to coach the **Mainz 05** team. This almost overlapped with his **divorce**. But love would soon come knocking on his door again.





It was at the **Oktoberfest** in **Munich** that **Ulla Sandrock** crossed the path of the then **Mainz 05 coach**. They got married in 2005 and are still married today. The novelist, who has also worked as a teacher in the past, has always kept a low media profile, supporting her husband behind the scenes, especially when he **decided to donate one per cent of his annual salary** to the charity movement **Common Goal**. They both spend their summers in **Ibiza** and travel together wherever their team plays.

Despite the little free time he has, **Jurgen Klopp** also needs his moments of solitude; to put his mind at rest and leave football to one side. **To smoke a cigarette** in silence, looking out the sea. But he is not alone in those little moments either, which often enjoys in the company of his dog **Emma**, his faithful companion on walks through the wooded areas and along the beaches of **Formby**, north of **Liverpool**. Occasionally he is seen watching the local boys and girls play on the (few) Sundays when he is not working.

Like many of his counterparts, **Klopp** keeps his personal life very private. He has turned down numerous offers to publish a book or film an autobiographical documentary, and tends to choose his interviews very carefully. He is not so careful, however, when expressing his political opinions, such as those concerning **Brexit**, “a nonsense” for a self-confessed **socialist** like him. **“There has not been a single time in history when dividing us has been a success,”** he told ‘The Guardian’ in 2018. **Homosexuality** in professional football or universal healthcare are other causes he has publicly defended tooth and nail.





pass-Nr  
YNWA620226

Typ  
M

Kode  
D

[b] Geburtsname

1. [a] Name

[a] NORBERT

[b] KLOPP

2. Vornamen

JÜRGEN

### 3. Geburtstag

16.06.1967

6. Genurtsort

STUTTGART

7. Ausstellungsdatum  
08.10.2015

9. Behörde

STADT DORTMUND

#### 4. Geschlecht

M

5. Staatsangehörigkeit  
**DEUTSCH**

8. Gültig bis

30.06.2026

10. Unterschrift der Inhaberin,  
des Inhabers

M<D<<NORBERT<<JÜRGEN<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<  
YNWA62026PL<<2013W2018K2019M2022P<<<<<<<<<<<4







**KIEV.** With **2.9 million inhabitants**, it was the seventh most populous European city before the war with **Russia**. The **Champions League final** was held there in 2018. A match that was to be a blow for **Jurgen Klopp**, but also a turning point in his career.



# Kiev

2018 marked a milestone in **Jurgen Klopp**'s career. A turning point. At the beginning of the same year, the German would finally see his desire to manage **Virgil Van Dijk** come true. Like **Alisson Becker**, who had arrived six months earlier, the Dutchman was to complete the development of the system of play that the **Liverpool** boss had had in mind since joining Liverpool. Both would put an end to the poor performances in defence that prevented the **Reds** from fighting for higher goals in the **Premier League** that **Pep Guardiola** would win for the first time that year.

It was a different situation in Europe. Despite **100 points** in the domestic championship, 25 more than their **Merseyside** rivals, **Manchester City** would be knocked out of the **Champions League** in the quarter-finals by a **Liverpool** side that won three of the four matches against the **Cityzens** that same season and emerged as a virtually unbeatable two-legged team in the top continental competition, knocking out **Porto** in the last 16 and **Roma** in the semi-finals. Only **Real Madrid** stood between Klopp and his first UCL title.

Circumstances, however, were not at all favourable to the German coach. Just days before the semi-final second leg, he lost **Zeljko Buvac**, his right-hand man since taking the reins at **Mainz 05** in February 2001. A 17-year relationship was ended on the verge of a European final because of the Bosnian coach's jealousy, who was challenged by the young assistant **Pepjin Linjders**. **Mohamed Salah's** injury happened coming together with **Sergio Ramos** and **Loris Karius'** embarrassing performance, after which he would never wear the England shirt again, sealed victory for **Zinedine Zidane's** side.

While defeat was a possibility - as in any single-leg final - it came as a bitter pill to swallow for the **Merseyside** outfit. It was not only a missed opportunity, but also **Jurgen Klopp's** third final loss in as many occasions at the **Anfield** helm. In Kiev, the German coach had his **sixth successive silver medal** in a major final since the 2013 defeat against **Bayern** at **Wembley**.



While social media and the local press debated whether or not to trust **Jurgen Klopp**'s ability to win titles at **Anfield**, the Reds were welcomed at the airport by their families. **"What's wrong with you?"** the fitness coach asked those who tearfully greeted the team. Far from giving up, Klopp headed home to **Formby** to bring the season to a close with his wife, staff and close friends. A video of him chanting **"Real Madrid got all the f\*\*\*ing luck!"** soon went viral on social media.

**"We were all drunk and we decided to record it (...)** It wasn't a good time to make that decision," he later admitted. What began as "one of the worst nights" of his life turned into an almost prophetic act. "Perfect. We've hit rock bottom. **Now we can rise again like a phoenix,**" he said as he went through security at the airport in the **Ukrainian capital**, as he confessed to the 'PA' news agency. As he was about to board the plane back to England, a brief thought crossed his mind: **"Will we be back next year?"**

That team was still in the midst of a rebuilding process, despite how well it had been strengthened, and both **Jurgen Klopp** and the club's board were aware of this. The road they had travelled together for nearly three years could not end that way after that Champions League final in **Kiev**. That painful defeat against Real Madrid would give **Liverpool** the push they needed to challenge their rivals, **Manchester City**, for domestic supremacy and, why not, the coveted European crown. Nobody could have known at the time. Perhaps the tears, so to speak, prevented them from seeing what was really important.





# Stage **fear**

Klopp's frustrated search for glory

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  2008/2009 <br><b>2 1</b><br>German Super Cup<br>vs Jürgen Klinsmann        |  2011/2012 <br><b>0 4-3 0</b><br>German Super Cup<br>vs Ralf Rangnick     |  2011/2012 <br><b>5 2</b><br>DFB Pokal<br>vs Jupp Heynckes                  |  2012/2013 <br><b>2 1</b><br>German Super Cup<br>vs Jupp Heynckes       |
|  2012/2013 <br><b>1 2</b><br>Champions League<br>vs Jupp Heynckes           |  2013/2014 <br><b>4 2</b><br>German Super Cup<br>vs Pep Guardiola         |  2013/2014 <br><b>0 2</b><br>DFB Pokal<br>vs Pep Guardiola                  |  2014/2015 <br><b>2 0</b><br>German Super Cup<br>vs Pep Guardiola       |
|  2014/2015 <br><b>1 3</b><br>DFB Pokal<br>vs Dieter Hecking                 |  2015/2016 <br><b>1 1-3 1</b><br>EFL Cup<br>vs Manuel Pellegrini          |  2015/2016 <br><b>1 3</b><br>Europa League<br>vs Unai Emery                 |  2017/2018 <br><b>3 1</b><br>Champions League<br>vs Zinedine Zidane     |
|  2018/2019 <br><b>0 2</b><br>Champions League<br>vs Mauricio Pochettino |  2019/2020 <br><b>1 4-5 1</b><br>Community Shield<br>vs Pep Guardiola |  2019/2020 <br><b>2 5-4 2</b><br>European Super Cup<br>vs Frank Lampard |  2019/2020 <br><b>1 0</b><br>Club World Cup<br>vs Jorge Jesus       |
|  2020/2021 <br><b>1 5-4 1</b><br>Community Shield<br>vs Mikel Arteta    |  2021/2022 <br><b>0 11-10 0</b><br>EFL Cup<br>vs Thomas Tuchel        |  2021/2022 <br><b>0 5-6 0</b><br>FA Cup<br>vs Thomas Tuchel             |  2021/2022 <br><b>0 1</b><br>Champions League<br>vs Carlo Ancelotti |











**LEWANDOWSKI, ROBERT.** Polish footballer born in Warsaw in 1988. Named **FIFA Player of the Year** in 2020 and 2021 and **Bundesliga** record breaker, he became world famous for his outstanding performances under Jurgen Klopp at **Borussia Dortmund**.



# Lewandowski, Robert

They say that behind every great coach there is always a great team. The case of **Jurgen Klopp** is no different, although he has the particularity that the three teams he has managed so far underwent a big restructuring before making history. His time at the helm of **Borussia Dortmund** is perhaps the most significant in this respect, given the dire financial situation the **North Rhine-Westphalia** outfit were in when he arrived in 2018, with debts exceeding **250 million euros**.

This situation forced **Michael Zorc**, the club's living legend and sporting director of the club, to be ingenious when it came to putting together a competitive squad, such was the needed to cut costs. Signings such as **Neven Subotic** in 2008, whom Klopp had previously managed at **Mainz**, or **Mats Hummels** in 2009 from **Bayern Munich**, did not exceed **5 million euros**. Neither did that of the unknown **Robert Lewandowski** in 2010. The 21-year-old Polish striker came from **Lech Poznan** and, despite the fact that nobody seemed to have heard of him, he would change the future of the **Signal Iduna Park** outfit forever.

It would not be immediate, in any case. He made just **15 starts and scored nine goals** in his first season with the German club, 2010-2011, in which Borussia Dortmund won the Bundesliga for the fourth time in their history. It was the first domestic title for them in a decade. **Lucas Barrios**, with 16 goals to his name, would be considered the main protagonist on the pitch, but Lewandowski would take over the following season scoring **30 goals and providing 11 assists**, which, in addition to the league title, also helped them win the coveted **German Cup in 2012** after beating Bayern 5-2.

With the Paraguayan completely displaced, who would try his luck in Chinese football, **Robert Lewandowski** emerged as the first goalscorer to shine under '**Kloppo**'. During the following season, 2012-2013 he would even improve on the previous season (**36 goals and 12 assists**), but to little avail. **That team had reached their prime.**





That became clear when **Bayern Munich** not only won the domestic championship with 91 points, 25 more than the runners-up, but also when they robbed Dortmund side of the chance to win their **second Champions League** in their history (they won the first in 1997 against Juve) in **London**. An **Arjen Robben** goal in the closing stages of the game put the final nail in the coffin of what could have been and never was. That game was set to determine whether Klopp's **Borussia Dortmund** still had a chance of making the leap to the next level. The feeling was extremely negative at the end of the game.

'Lewy's fourth and final season at Dortmund would end scoring **28 goals** and providing **8 assists** and a second runner-up finish. An insufficient milestone for a world-class player whose situation limited his many talents. The Pole let his contract expire in search of improving his career, clearly opting for the most famous German club: **Bayern Munich**.

The striker found his place in Munich, improving his goalscoring record and accumulating trophies in his trophy cabinet season after season. He finally won his long-awaited UCL title in 2020 as well as another **eight Bundesliga titles**, breaking several records set by the legendary **Gerd Muller** along the way and adding the **Golden Boots** in 2021 and 2022 to his trophy cabinet. All this under the orders of **Jupp Heynckes**, **Pep Guardiola**, **Carlo Ancelotti**, **Niko Kovac**, **Hansi Flick** and **Julian Nagelsmann**, of course, but it would be unfair to overlook the fact that it was **Jurgen Klopp** who 'took the leash' off the 'beast'.



# A made in Klopp appetite

The insatiable Robert Lewandowski

## LEWANDOWSKI'S STATS UNDER KLOPP AT DORTMUND

|                          | Overall       | Average       |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Games                    | <b>187</b>    |               |
| Minutes earned           | <b>14,227</b> | <b>76.1</b>   |
| Goals scored             | <b>103</b>    | <b>0.6</b>    |
| Games scoring            | <b>74</b>     | <b>39.57%</b> |
| Scoring at least 1 goal  | <b>50</b>     | <b>26.74%</b> |
| Scoring at least 2 goals | <b>20</b>     | <b>10.7%</b>  |
| Scoring at least 3 goals | <b>3</b>      | <b>1.6%</b>   |
| Scoring at least 4 goals | <b>1</b>      | <b>0.53%</b>  |
| Scoring the opener       | <b>25</b>     | <b>13.37%</b> |











**MAINZ.** The legend of **Jurgen Klopp**, who spent 17 years of his life in this small city of just **220,000 inhabitants** in the west of **Germany**, began to be forged in this small town on the **Rhine**. Enough to forge a strong bond with its inhabitants and his own sporting legend.



# Mainz

The city of **Mainz** can boast many things despite its small size. One of them is undoubtedly the 'birth' of a legend. The legend of **Jurgen Klopp**. He may not have been an excellent footballer - he often describes himself as "a third division player" - but fate gave him one last chance at the age of 23, when **Mainz 05** turned their attention to him. The summer of 1990 was approaching and Mainz were facing a fierce playoff for promotion to the **Bundesliga 2** against **Rot-Weiss Frankfurt**, for whom he played.

The result was to be in **Mainz 05**'s favour, apparently closing the door to professional football for '**Kloppo**'. However, for **Robert Jung**, coach of the German team, the young attacker with long blond hair and bushy moustache who played for the rival team did not go unnoticed. So much so that he decided to give him a chance in the second tier of German football during the **1990-1991** season, the first of 18 seasons he would spend at the **Bruchwegstadion**, former Mainz 05's stadium.

As a player, Klopp's contribution to the team during the eleven years he was in the team was by no means insignificant. In addition to the **56 goals** he scored in **341 games**, he became a key figure in the dressing room. In the book **Klopp Bring the Noise**, the then sporting director of the club, **Christian Heidel**, claims that Klopp was **the real captain**, but it was **Dimo Wache** who wore the armband" due to his constant disagreements with his coaches. One of them, **Dietmar Constantini**, "took it off because he **always complained about his coaching tactics**".

The current **Liverpool** manager's mind was running at a much higher speed than his legs. As he approached football maturity, he moved further back on the pitch, from where he could see the game with even greater clarity. He did not hesitate when the head of the club's sporting department, Heidel, **offered him to take over the reins in the absence of reliable candidates** to prevent the team from returning sooner or later to the third tier of German football. What happened under his leadership was just the opposite.



Against all odds, and after making his debut with a 1-0 win over **Duisburg**, the 'rookie' Klopp managed to stay up with two games still to play, **winning six and drawing three vital games** in the last twelve games of the season. The confidence in the former player to lead the club from then on was total, and he responded in kind, making **Mainz 05** a clear contender for promotion ever since. They fell just short of promotion after two consecutive fourth-place finishes in 2002 and 2003.

**Mainz** finally promoted to Bundesliga for the first time in their history in the summer of **2004**. The celebration was marked by tears of emotion from the crowd, the players and the coach himself. **Jurgen Klopp** had achieved what many had thought impossible. And in record time, just three and a half years after retiring. **Wolfgang Frank's** teachings undoubtedly made him a gifted pupil, but his own variants of the **4-4-2** and **pressing after losing the ball** made the real difference.

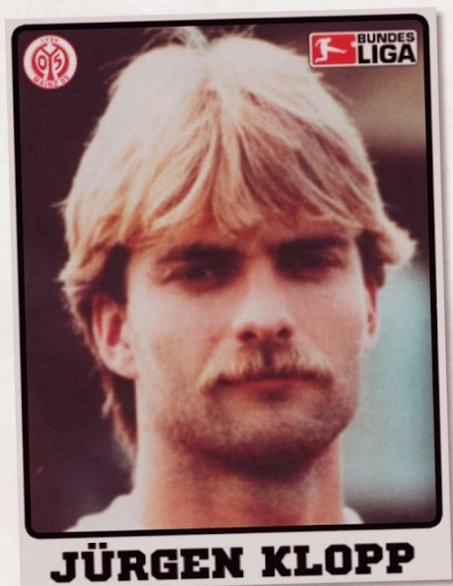
AS well as being the first coach to lead Mainz to the **Bundesliga**, he was also the first to qualify for a continental competition - by chance, thanks to **Fair Play** - although his **Europa League** adventure would be rather brief. Not so was the journey that coach and club shared together. After nearly two decades together, in 2008, Klopp accepted an offer from **Borussia Dortmund**. He did so after falling just short of returning 'his' **Mainz 05** to the elite after failing to avoid relegation in 2007. Despite this, he was honourably farewelled by his players and fans. '**Kloppo**', who burst into tears on stage, was bidding farewell **610 games later**.





# The **two faces** of Klopp

First division brain; third division feet



## AS A PLAYER

| Games                                                       | Wins                | Draws            | Losses                      |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 340                                                         | 114                 | 102              | 124                         |                   |
| <div><div>33.53%</div><div>30%</div><div>36.47%</div></div> |                     |                  |                             |                   |
| Goals/90' when played                                       | GC/90' when not pl. | Goals scored/90' | Games where the team scored | Team clean sheets |
| 1.31                                                        | 1.36                | 0.16             | 71.18%                      | 28.82%            |



## AS A COACH

| Games                                                              | Wins        | Draws         | Losses        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>270</b>                                                         | <b>109</b>  | <b>78</b>     | <b>83</b>     |
| <div> <div>40.37%</div> <div>28.89%</div> <div>30.74%</div> </div> |             |               |               |
| GS/90'                                                             | GC/90'      | Games scoring | Clean sheets  |
| <b>1.57</b>                                                        | <b>1.26</b> | <b>74.44%</b> | <b>25.19%</b> |





**FOOTBALL CREATES STATISTICS**  
STATISTICS CREATE A TOOL

