

Issue 2

# THE CURRENT NOTION

A Magazine with Varied Topics

Who wins?

## THE SEASON AWARDS



# CONTENTS

04

Luka Dončić

*Luka is still underestimated in the league.*

24

Khadija Shaw

*Khadija knows how to score goals.*

08

Bruno Fernandes

*Bruno is just an assist merchant.*

26

Caitlan Clark

*Caitlan knows how to shoot threes.*

12

Victor Wembanyama

*Victor is unplayable sometimes.*

28

Moses Itauma

*Moses can knock out his opponent at ease.*

16

Mohamed Salah

*Mo is a Premier League legend.*

30

Harry Kane

*Harry has a high IQ for goals.*

20

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

*Shai knows the game very well.*

32

Dakota Ditcheva

*Dakota fights like Jon Jones.*

*Luka Dončić has showed that he is a real maestro on the court. Bringing magic nights at Crypto.com Arena and tremendous skills on NBA court. This season, he is showing why he should be given the MVP but he won't get it.*

# EL METEOR DOOR

THE SLOVENIAN CRAFTSMAN



*He has got to be considered as one of the greatest NBA players from Europe.*



The trade between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Dallas Mavericks for Luka Dončić was highly unusual, and it felt as though the deal never made sense, as the Mavericks were losing one of their best players during the season. Anthony Davis was not the player he once was, while Luka was only just getting started. This trade led to the General Manager of the Mavericks being dismissed, and it created a new pathway for the Lakers.

Since the Lakers won their championship with LeBron James during the COVID year, they have found it difficult to attract new and exciting players, and building a team around LeBron, who is nearing retirement age, does not make sense. Anthony Davis did not have the pedigree to shoot threes and drive to the paint as Luka does. There has also been speculation that LeBron wanted Luka, as he admired him and believed he could become the next major face of the NBA.

What many people may not realise about Luka is that he has been performing at a high level in Europe for many years. He effectively conquered the EuroLeague before being drafted into the NBA. Both younger and older NBA players were already familiar with Luka through the FIBA international circuit, as well as his trophy wins with Real Madrid Basketball. The Mavericks attempted to build a team around Luka, but a lacklustre roster and a turbulent front office failed to produce meaningful playoff runs or even a finals appearance.

Luka Dončić has become a comfort watch for many fans, possessing a dynamic skill set that few players in the NBA can match. He does not physically impose himself in the way players such as Victor Wembanyama or LeBron do, and this is one reason why some pundits and commentators do not take him as seriously in the race for the MVP award.

There is also a perception that the league is reluctant to see him win MVP because, at times, Luka does not present himself as the ideal role model. His regular verbal confrontations with referees, along with fines and ejections from games due to technical fouls and on-court incidents, do not reflect well on his candidacy this season.

However, greater emphasis should be placed on his performances and contributions on the court, as this is what the MVP award ought to recognise. External factors can play a role, but they should not disqualify him from contention. Based on his statistics this season, averaging 33.7 points, 8.2 assists and 7.8 rebounds per game, he deserves to be firmly in the discussion for the MVP race.

In many sporting governance organisations, including the NBA, there appears to be a level of politics that undermines the game. There is little justification for why players are sometimes overlooked for major awards despite their statistical achievements. Each year, awards such as MVP often seem to favour the player who fits a particular image, whether as a role model or the public face of the league.

Players are not always recognised purely for their talent or their ability to create cohesion within a team and elevate their teammates. This is precisely what Luka has done throughout the season. The Lakers have enjoyed one of the strongest winning streaks this year, largely due to Luka's influence, and he is leading the league in scoring. It remains puzzling that he is not more prominently featured in the MVP conversation, as he clearly merits serious consideration.

# MAG INTER ICO

THE ASSIST MERCHANT



*Bruno Fernandes is a genius on the football pitch. He is undoubtedly the best Premier League player this season. He has been a formidable player over the years, but he deserves this recognition now.*

**B**runo Fernandes has not always been considered one of the greatest players in the Premier League, and this strikes many readers as unusual. However, Bruno continues to cement his legacy this season with both goals and assists, while also playing the most minutes for his team.

He has demonstrated that he is a force to be reckoned with, and he has either broken or is on course to break records in the Premier League not seen since Thierry Henry achieved similar feats during the so called Invincible season in the early 2000s.

The statistics for Bruno Fernandes are remarkable, showing that he is capable of performing at the highest level on any stage in world football. He has been an inspirational figure within his team, even if this is not always recognised.

At times, he may be perceived as lacking leadership qualities or as not caring about his teammates, but in reality, Bruno consistently shows his commitment. While he may display frustration on the pitch, this must be understood in the context of playing for Manchester United, a side that has struggled over the past decade.

Many would argue that if Bruno had been part of a consistently successful team over the last five years, he would already be regarded as one of the greatest players in the Premier League. It cannot be overlooked that he has operated within a team that has been underperformed, yet he has still demonstrated exceptional skill and resilience, leading his side and contributing to trophy wins.

Some commentators may judge his legacy based on the accolades he has not achieved, but this overlooks the reality that Bruno Fernandes is a truly outstanding player. Players should not

be judged solely on major trophies, but also on what they contribute to their team over time.

Bruno may ultimately be regarded as one of the finest midfielders to have played in the Premier League, yet there remains a tendency to measure his talent primarily against achievements such as winning the league or the UEFA Champions League. There should be greater recognition of his individual brilliance, with serious consideration given to honours such as the PFA Players' Player of the Year and even the Ballon d'Or, particularly if he finishes as the league's leading assist provider.

With the FIFA World Cup approaching and Portugal national football team looking strong, there is every possibility that Bruno Fernandes, alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the world, could compete to win the tournament. This could provide Bruno with an opportunity to further define his legacy on the global stage.

It may also allow Ronaldo to further cement his place in football history as one of the greatest players of all time. There is a growing belief among fans and commentators that Bruno Fernandes has been one of the standout players this season. He has certainly challenged long standing assist records in the Premier League, underlining the quality and consistency of his performances.





# THE ALIEN

Victor Wembanyama can lead the San Antonio Spurs to their NBA Championship since 2014. Wemby has the charisma and leadership traits at his young age to lead a roster of promising young talent.

THE GIANT MAESTRO

”

**I DEFINITELY SEE IT HAPPENING.  
SUPPLY AND DEMAND.  
I'M HERE TO SUPPLY.**



**A**s tall as Victor Wembanyama is, he has shown that height does not limit his ability to move with remarkable fluidity around the court. Defences are wary of Wemby because he can dunk at any moment, and he is equally fearless with the ball in his hands, capable of shooting from the three point line in a manner reminiscent of Stephen Curry in his prime.

Wemby's speed is undeniable, and he can dribble past defenders with a style comparable to Allen Iverson or Kyrie Irving. He possesses tremendous agility, and his movement is so smooth that opponents are often left in awe of the way he glides across the court and executes his shots.

He won Rookie of the Year last season with apparent ease and earned his first All-Star Game selection without hesitation. He has demonstrated that a European player can enter the NBA and emerge as one of its defining figures. Wemby is clearly moving in that direction and may go beyond being the face of the league, representing a new era of tall players who are no longer confined to the paint and are fully capable of shooting from distance.

There is a strong case to be made for Victor Wembanyama as the Most Valuable Player this season. Averaging 28 points, 11 assists, and 4 rebounds per game would ordinarily place him at the forefront of the MVP race.

However, the exceptional form of Shai Gilgeous Alexander has made the competition far more challenging.

Nevertheless, commentators and analysts could reasonably argue that Wemby deserves the award based on the way he has elevated the San Antonio Spurs, guiding them to second place in their conference and

positioning them as serious contenders for the NBA championship.

It appears increasingly possible that Wemby may not secure the MVP this season, but if he leads the Spurs to a championship, his legacy will begin to take shape rapidly. He would be firmly on the path towards long-term recognition within the sport, with his impact already resonating strongly within San Antonio and beyond.

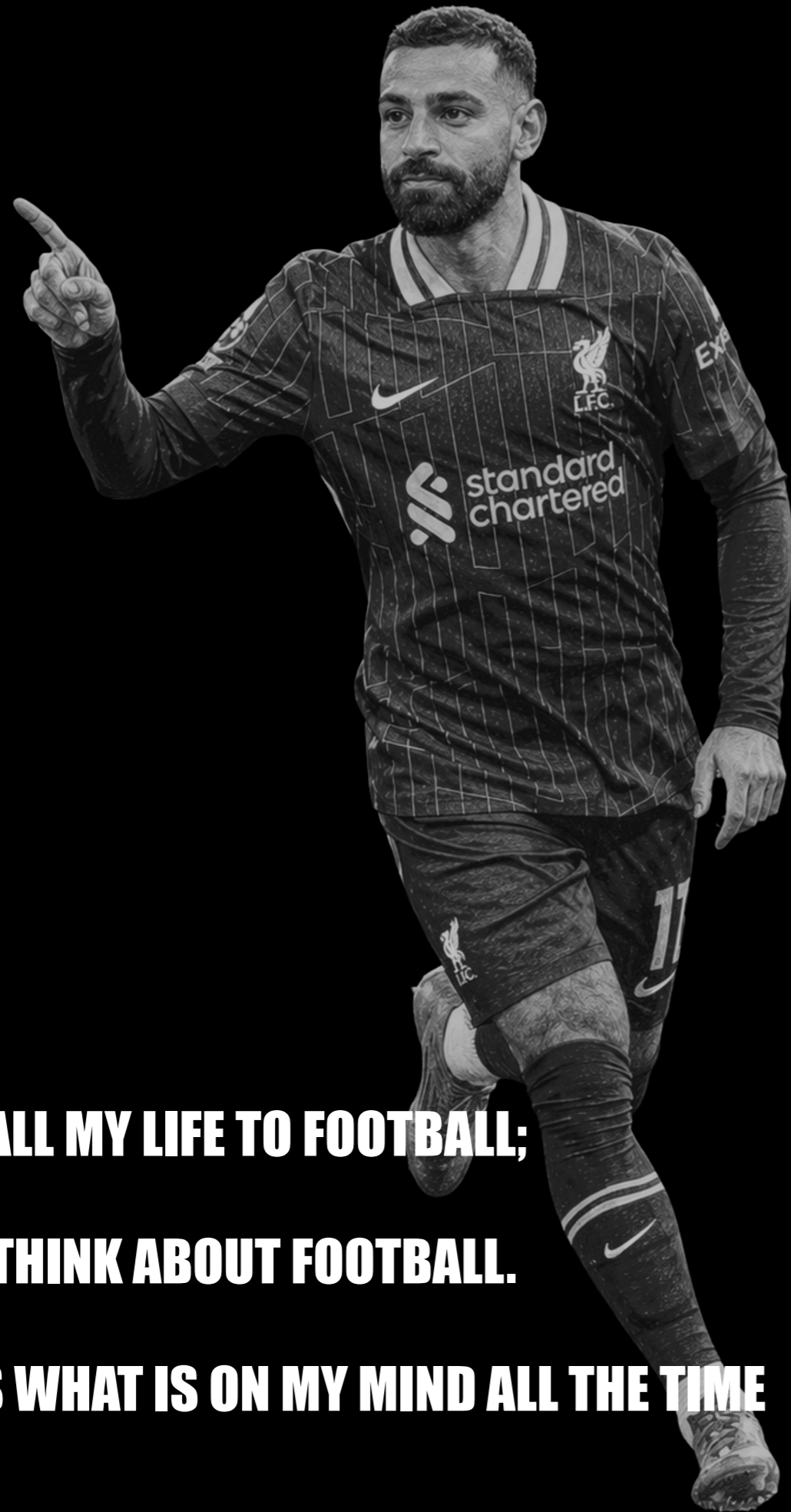
The momentum behind Wemby is undeniable, and he has an extraordinary future ahead of him. He remains grounded and disciplined, and his experiences abroad, including time spent in China, have contributed to a sense of focus and composure that is evident in his performances. Even if he does not win the MVP this season, it seems only a matter of time before he claims the award in the years to come.

A black and white photograph of Mo Salah, an Egyptian footballer, celebrating a goal. He is wearing a Liverpool football kit with the number 11 on his shorts. He has a wide, joyful expression with his mouth open and eyes closed. The background is a solid yellow color with faint, stylized architectural shapes.

# EGYPTIAN KING

THE LEGEND ARTIST

Mo Salah is not called the 'King' for no reason. His footballing abilities and his goals in the Premier League speak for themselves. Salah has lit the Premier League stage, and this legend should get his flowers as he leaves the league to embark on new challenges.



**I GIVE ALL MY LIFE TO FOOTBALL;**

**I ONLY THINK ABOUT FOOTBALL.**

**THIS IS WHAT IS ON MY MIND ALL THE TIME**

**T**hey say legendary footballers emerge every decade in the Premier League. Whether that is true or not, one thing is certain: Mohamed Salah is one of those players with the ability to change a game in an instant. Since joining Liverpool F.C. under Jürgen Klopp, he has collected medals, broken records, and established himself as one of the league's defining figures.

His first spell in the Premier League with Chelsea F.C. was disappointing, and many believed he would never succeed in England. When Liverpool signed him from AS Roma, there were doubts that he would struggle again.

Klopp, however, was a different type of manager, and his system perfectly suited Salah's style of play. The front three of Salah, Sadio Mané and Roberto Firmino is widely regarded as one of the greatest attacking trios the Premier League has seen.

Salah thrived alongside them, scoring goals consistently and becoming the focal point of Liverpool's attack. Over the years, he has proven himself to be not only a Liverpool legend but also one of the finest players in Premier League history.

It would be unfair to judge Salah too harshly on one difficult season. Every elite player experiences periods where maintaining peak form becomes challenging. Some critics argue that his lucrative contract may have affected his performances, as there are examples of players struggling after signing major deals. While that may be part of the discussion, it should not overshadow everything he has achieved throughout his career.

Salah is a generational talent, even if rival fans dispute the claim because of his difficult time at Chelsea. His achievements have secured his place among the Premier League's greatest goal scorers. Some argue that he benefited from playing in one of Liverpool's strongest modern teams under one of football's best managers, but great teams still need exceptional players to

reach the highest level. Salah made himself virtually impossible to stop for years, and that consistency is what defines a truly elite footballer.

There is often an assumption that a generational talent must be a young player who rises through an academy into the first team, but that is not always the case. Salah's journey was different.

He left the Premier League, rebuilt himself abroad, and returned stronger than ever. His success showed other players that setbacks do not define a career and that it is possible to come back and thrive at the very highest level. Liverpool's ability to compete for major trophies during the Klopp era would not have been the same without him.

Whatever Salah chooses to do next in his career, he has already exceeded expectations. If he were to move to leagues such as the Saudi Pro League or Major League Soccer, there is little doubt he would continue to make an impact. His experience, movement, and technical quality would still allow him to dominate games and break records. Salah deserves immense credit for what he has achieved with Liverpool and in the Premier League, and his place among the league's all time greats is already secure.

A number of fans from rival teams criticise the way Shai Gilgeous Alexander plays. Some argue that he attacks the paint primarily to draw fouls, while others claim that he does not shoot enough three pointers to justify being considered for the MVP award.

What many critics fail to recognise, however, is that Shai operates at a level reserved for elite players with exceptional composure and natural ability. There are parallels between the way Shai controls games and the manner in which Kobe Bryant led the Los Angeles Lakers to the championship in 2010.

Shai demonstrated similar authority during the previous campaign, dominating the league and finishing the season with the MVP award.

Shai has never shied away from the biggest moments. He has shown that he can carry a team through a demanding playoff run and guide them towards a championship.

Of course, he was not alone in delivering success for Oklahoma City Thunder, with players such as Chet Holmgren and Jalen Williams playing vital supporting roles.

Nevertheless, one of the principal reasons Shai secured both the MVP and the championship was his ability to produce decisive moments and memorable performances when they mattered most.

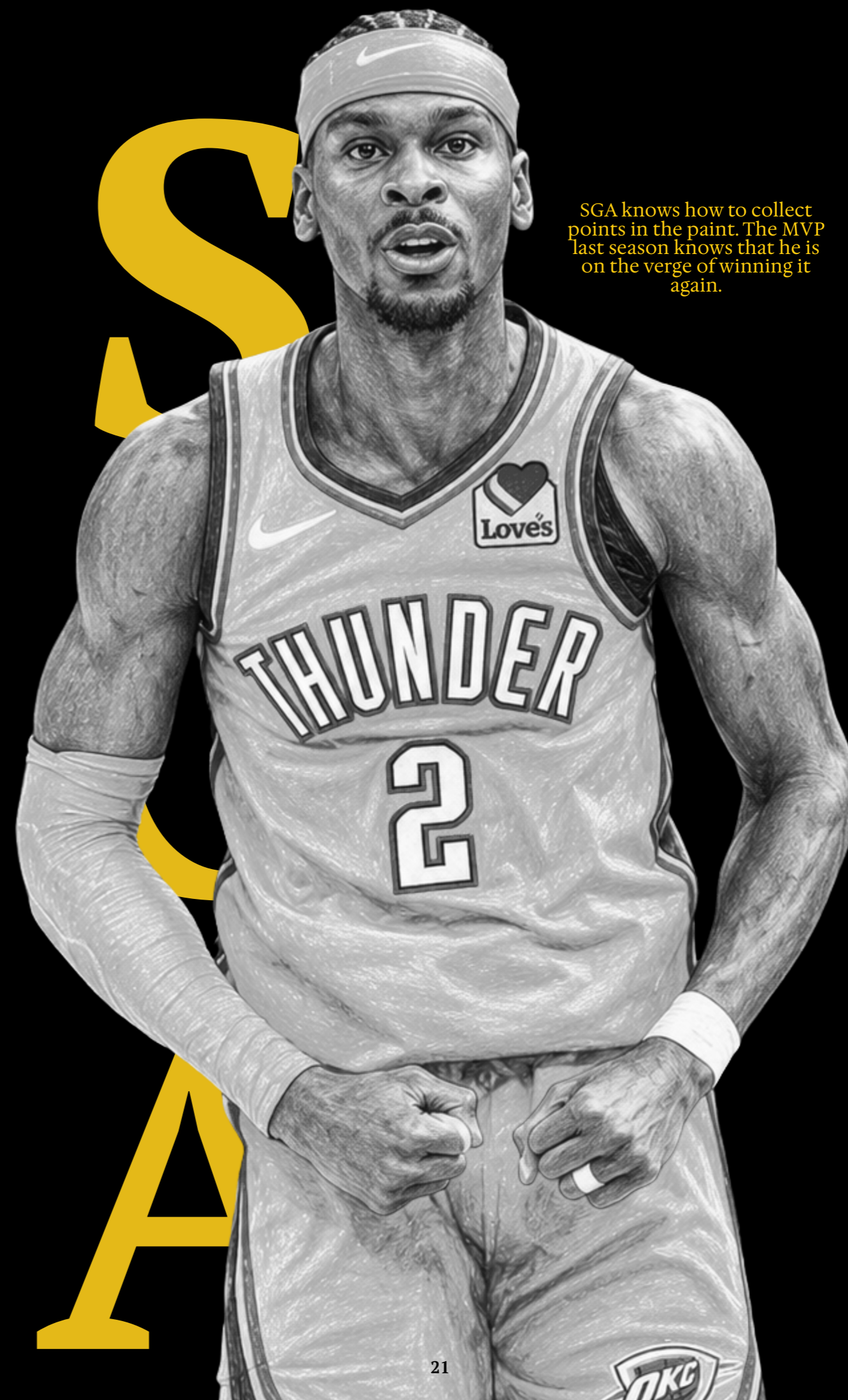
This season, genuine challengers have emerged to threaten Shai's position at the top of the league. Competitors such as Victor Wembanyama, Luka Dončić and Nikola Jokić have all elevated their

performances while carrying significant responsibility for their respective teams. Even so, Shai has continued to respond impressively, consistently averaging more than 30 points per game across 68 regular season appearances.

While some of his rivals may post more eye catching statistics in certain categories, Shai's consistency and overall influence remain extraordinary.

It increasingly feels as though Shai may edge the MVP race once again, particularly because commentators and analysts continue to appreciate the efficiency and composure he brings to the court, even while doing the fundamentals so effectively.

Another MVP victory for Shai would also continue the recent trend of international players dominating the award, further strengthening the global reach and recognition of the NBA.



SGA knows how to collect points in the paint. The MVP last season knows that he is on the verge of winning it again.

# THE FORGOTTEN ONES

The sport players who always perform well all the time but they are always forgotten because they are not in the limelight.



# BUNNY SHAW

THE SEASON  
VETERAN

**T**hey say football is most enjoyable when a player is scoring goals, particularly when that player is a striker, and this is exactly what Khadija Shaw has been doing this season in the Women's Super League.

There is an argument that Shaw is not the best striker in Europe, with players such as Alessia Russo, Aitana Bonmatí, Ewa Pajor and Temwa Chawinga also in contention. However, the Jamaican forward has been lighting up the WSL, scoring 18 goals so far, with the season still ongoing.

At 29 and in her prime, Shaw is demonstrating that she has the ability to score consistently and dominate defenders in the opposition box. She combines raw power with a refined touch, making her extremely difficult to contain.

Reaching the milestone of 100 goals this season, Shaw has scaled new heights and is firmly entering conversations as a modern legend for Manchester City Women.

When she joined the club in 2021, there were doubts about whether she was the right fit and whether the team required a different type of striker. Over time, however, she has silenced those doubts, consistently delivering high level performances whenever she steps on to the pitch.

After winning the WSL Player of the Season award for the 2023 to 2024 campaign, many expected Shaw to continue her rapid rise, although her progression appeared to level off slightly for a period. Now, however, she is rediscovering her very best form and should be firmly in contention for major individual honours, including FIFA and UEFA player of the year awards.

Shaw deserves to receive the same level of recognition as players such as Aitana Bonmatí have enjoyed in recent years. It may be that the profile of her national team, Jamaica women's national football team, plays a role in the level of attention she receives compared with her peers.

Nevertheless, her performances this season make a compelling case for inclusion in player of the season discussions and even consideration for the Ballon d'Or.

THE  
PRECISION  
SHOOTER

CAITLIN  
CLARK



Caitlin Clark lit up the college game and made her name known on a global scale. She was shooting three pointers with remarkable ease, prompting comparisons to Stephen Curry in his prime.

While the WNBA already featured elite long range shooters such as Sabrina Ionescu, who has consistently demonstrated her range from multiple distances, there was a sense that Clark brought something different.

Whether it was her marketability or the sheer level of hype surrounding her, the initial impression was clear: she could play, and her ball handling stood out even at college level.

For Nike to offer her a major contract at the start of her professional career was seen by many as surprising, with some questioning whether she was sufficiently marketable at that stage. From Nike's perspective, however, it was a calculated decision to secure a rising star who could help strengthen its presence in the women's game.

As women's basketball continues to grow in prominence, there is an expectation that a leading figure will emerge, and Clark appears well positioned to take on that role and become the face of the WNBA.

In the short term, it will not be easy for Clark to dominate the league, and some will dismiss suggestions that she could take over so quickly. She enters a competitive environment that includes players from her own cohort, such as Angel Reese, as well as established stars like A'ja Wilson and Breanna Stewart.

However, as these experienced players approach the later stages of their careers, there is a clear opportunity for Clark to establish herself as the leading figure in

the league.

There is frequent discussion comparing Clark and Reese, although the comparison is often overstated. Clark's ability to score both from long range and in the paint, combined with her superior ball handling, sets her apart stylistically.

That said, the league continues to develop emerging talent, with players such as Juju Watkins and Paige Bueckers likely to challenge her position in the years ahead.



# MOSES ITAUMA

THE KNOCKOUT ARTIST

When Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury were both beaten by Oleksandr Usyk, many believed that the United Kingdom heavyweight boxing scene was in decline. Over the past decade, however, Britain has revitalised the heavyweight division and restored it as one of the sport's premier categories. Joshua brought renewed global attention to the division, and Fury's emergence further elevated its profile.

Defeats to Usyk created uncertainty, with some fans recalling the Wladimir Klitschko era, when heavyweight boxing lacked commercial momentum.

Despite scepticism surrounding Joshua, it is widely acknowledged that he played a central role in the resurgence of heavyweight boxing, with fighters now regularly selling out stadiums across the world. He has helped create opportunities for a new generation of boxers to build their own legacies within the division.

It now appears that the established names are beginning to pass the torch to a younger generation, and that generation is already making an impression. Moses Itauma has emerged as a particularly exciting prospect. Some suggest he combines elements of Joshua, Usyk and Fury, drawing on their respective strengths.

With 14 fights and 12 knockouts, he has already demonstrated his credentials as a powerful finisher. Itauma has shown that he can step into the ring with experienced opponents and dominate them convincingly.

At just 21, he is establishing himself as a serious contender within the division. Victories over Dillian Whyte and Jermaine Franklin have been highlighted as defining moments, with Itauma

defeating both inside the opening rounds. His ring intelligence has drawn comparisons with Usyk, his physical presence with Joshua and his footwork with Fury, making him a formidable opponent for anyone in the division.

Under the guidance of Frank Warren and Queensberry Promotions, there is growing belief that Itauma could become a future undisputed heavyweight champion. Modern boxing has accelerated, with fighters rising through the rankings more quickly than in previous eras. Itauma appears well suited to this pace, and a title challenge by the end of 2027 seems a realistic ambition.

Based on current form, he has the ability to compete with and potentially defeat contenders such as Fabio Wardley and Daniel Dubois. A carefully selected next bout could serve as preparation for a title opportunity in the near future. Itauma has the potential to become the face of heavyweight boxing in the United Kingdom over the next decade, provided he remains focused on his development and avoids distractions that can accompany growing fame.

THE  
GENTLEMAN  
STRIKER

# HARRY KANE ANNOUNCES



For a long time, it felt like Harry Kane was unlucky, stuck in the Spurs system, where he had been on loan every season. When he had his breakthrough season, he was still seen as a fringe player and dubbed the one who would never make it to the big leagues. Kane kept Spurs a top-six side for several years, and football fans thought that he was too good for Spurs and that he needed to go to a top club to win the league and cement his football legacy.

The love story between Kane and Spurs felt like it was never going to end, and even a gentleman's agreement was broken between Levy and Kane. Levy held Kane to ransom and ensured that Kane was not going to leave until he had won a trophy for Spurs.

For a long time, it looked like Kane was going to be like Alan Shearer and just have a goal-scoring record in the Premier League. Spurs' fans didn't want Kane to leave, and some fans even called him a 'sellout' if he left Spurs. Neutral fans wanted Kane to succeed, and football fans always knew that Kane was too good for Spurs.

The Premier League fans wanted Kane to stay in the league to break Shearer's record, but the move to Bayern was strategic as he knew that he could go to another club in Europe and break records there if he had been doing this in the Premier League.

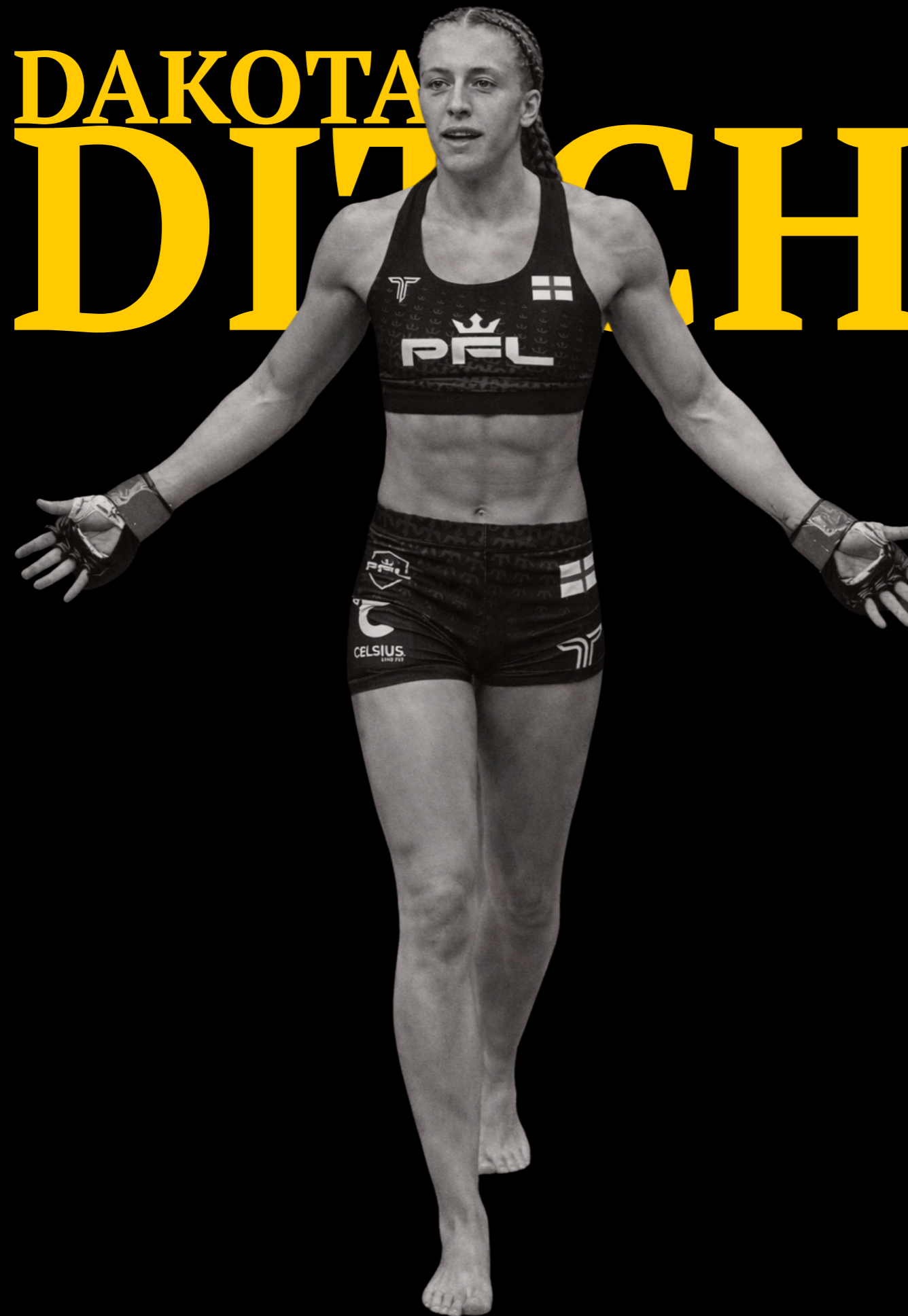
The Bundesliga was going to be easy for Kane and so far, in Bayern, he has made it look a easy. Over forty goals this season and counting, and it looks like he is going to lead Bayern to a Champions League triumph.

It is good to see that Kane has now established himself as a key player for Bayern, and now, he has won domestic trophies which every football fan wanted for him.

He is arguably the best striker in the world, and he should definitely win the Ballon d'Or. It should not be Mbappe or Dembele because they have not had a better season than Kane. If Bayern wins the Champions League and England gets to the semi-finals in the World Cup, then he is the player of the year and a Ballon d'Or winner in December.

# DAKOTA DITCHEVA

THE  
DANGEROUS ASSASSIN



In the MMA landscape, many female fighters appear to share similar styles, often defined as either explosive or highly technical. This has led to a perception that the women's division has become less engaging in recent years.

Since the dominant and explosive era of Amanda Nunes in the Ultimate Fighting Championship, there has arguably been no single fighter who has fully captured the sport in the same way. Nunes possessed exceptional fighting ability, yet she was not always considered as marketable as Ronda Rousey was during the early 2010s, which may have influenced promotional focus at the time.

Dakota Ditcheva represents a different profile of fighter. She combines a relentless pace with a highly refined skill set that stands out within women's MMA. Her agility is notable, and her hand speed resembles that of a high level boxer. Beyond her technical ability, Ditcheva also brings a strong marketable presence, something that distinguishes her from many fighters across both the Professional Fighters League and UFC rosters.

The UFC reportedly showed interest in signing her, but she chose to remain with the PFL in order to establish her reputation within that organisation. For many fighters, an approach from the UFC, historically linked with Zuffa, is a significant milestone, as the promotion

typically targets athletes who combine elite skill with commercial appeal. In recent years, the UFC has seen shifts within its women's divisions, and there is a growing sense that it is searching for a new leading figure following Ronda Rousey's departure. Ditcheva appears to meet many of the criteria required for such a role.

Her fighting style has drawn comparisons with that of Jon Jones, particularly in her use of reach and control to manage opponents. Ditcheva is an accomplished and rapidly rising fighter, and there is a strong belief that she can elevate the profile of the PFL. If her current trajectory continues, she will be a formidable challenge for anyone placed in front of her.

## *Articles that connect and inspire*

Any queries or questions, please contact us by email

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