The Unsung Hero

World football today is dominated by the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi who have scored tremendous amount of goals and made a name for themselves. In past, Big superstars like Ronaldinho Gaucho, Didier Drogba and Samuel Eto ruled the world of football. People try to emulate them for the name they have made for themselves by doing their jobs and for being so popular in the media. But often there are more players who have put the same amount of efforts as the players above, spent the same amount of time in training grounds if not more. These players do not get the fortune like the others because either they play in a position that is not as appealing as it should be or they play for small clubs or they are under the shadow of someone whose public figure is more dominating.

We are going to put some light on one such ‘Hero’, **Víctor Valdés Arribas**, born on 14th January in the year 1986. I know many people who would not include Valdés in the list of 20 best goalkeepers of all time, personally I think it is not fair to do so because the man’s career speaks for itself. Aside from the vast haul of trophies he won, playing under Pep Guardiola and Frank Rijkaard. Valdes has also earned five Zamora trophies, winning four consecutive trophies (in seasons ’09, ’10, ’11, ’12). Zamora trophies are earned by Goalkeepers in Spain’s La Liga having the least games played-to-goals conceded ratio. Astonishingly, Valdes did not receive his International call up until the 2010 World Cup held in South Africa, in which the Spaniards lifted the cup. The main reason why he was withheld from his international team was because of his colleague and rival goalkeeper Iker Casillas. Playing for Real Madrid and Spain’s national team he was the star goalkeeper of the decade winning the golden glove in World Cup 2010 thus taking Valdes under his shadow, on the National level. Valdes played majority of his career in FC Barcelona in Spain. The same place he won his major Laurels and awards.

"For me, the three best goalkeepers in the world are Casillas, Buffon, and Valdes."

*-Former Real Madrid goalkeeper*  Bodo Illgner, *February 2013*

Some pages of every book are often left untouched however good they may be, some names do not get the popularity despite the hard work put in by them. This was just a small article about one such page, about one such **‘Unsung Hero’**.