

= Vratislav Lokvenc =

Vratislav Lokvenc (born 27 September 1973) is a Czech former professional footballer who played as a striker . After playing youth football for Náchod and Hradec Králové , he began his senior club career with the latter team . After moving to Sparta Prague he won five league titles and one cup , as well as the 1999 ? 2000 league top scorer award . He subsequently played abroad , playing club football in Germany , Austria and Switzerland for 1 . FC Kaiserslautern , VfL Bochum , Red Bull Salzburg , FC Basel and FC Ingolstadt 04 . He retired in 2009 .

Lokvenc played international football for the Czech Republic . He played at the 1997 FIFA Confederations Cup before going on to take part in three major competitions . He made three substitute appearances at Euro 2000 and played in one game at Euro 2004 . His last international tournament was the 2006 World Cup , where he played in two group matches before missing the third through suspension . The Czech Republic did not qualify for the next round of the competition and Lokvenc subsequently retired from international football in 2006 .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early success = = =

Lokvenc was born into a football family ; his father , also named Vratislav Lokvenc , played club football for FK Ústí nad Labem in the second football league of Czechoslovakia and later Náchod . Born in 1973 , Lokvenc started his professional career during the 1992 ? 93 season with Hradec Králové , joining Sparta Prague in October 1994 . He featured in the 1995 ? 96 UEFA Cup for Sparta , scoring the first goal and providing the pass for the second in a 2 ? 1 win against Danish club Silkeborg IF , whereby Sparta qualified on the away goals rule for the second round . He scored a goal shortly after entering the game as a substitute in a first round match of the 1996 ? 97 UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup against Austrian side Sturm Graz ; the match finished 2 ? 2 .

Lokvenc spent six seasons at Sparta Prague , with whom he won five league titles and the 1995 ? 96 Czech Cup . In March 2000 , in a match against ?eské Bud?jovice , Lokvenc scored four times for Sparta as the match finished 4 ? 1 . In doing so he became the third player in the Czech era to score four times in the same match , after Josef Obajdin and Robert Vágner . Lokvenc scored twice in the Prague derby match against Slavia Prague in May 2000 , in a 5 ? 1 win which secured the league title for Sparta . He was top scorer of the Czech First League in the 1999 ? 2000 season with 22 goals , tying the league record , which stood until David Lafata scored 25 goals during the 2011 ? 12 season .

= = = Germany = = =

Lokvenc joined 1 . FC Kaiserslautern of the German Bundesliga in 2000 , agreeing to the move before the 2000 European Championship . Around the same time , a daughter was born to Lokvenc in May 2000 . He scored six goals in an 11 ? 1 friendly match win against an amateur side before the start of the season . In December 2000 Lokvenc scored in the UEFA Cup against Rangers , helping his team qualify for the last 16 of the competition . In the following round Kaiserslautern were paired with Slavia Prague ; after the first match had finished goalless , Lokvenc scored the only goal in the second leg of their two @-@ legged tie to eliminate the Czech team . He scored a hat @-@ trick in the 2002 ? 03 DFB @-@ Pokal quarter @-@ final against Bochum , a game which finished 3 ? 3 but was won by Kaiserslautern after a penalty shoot @-@ out . Lokvenc played in the final of the competition at the end of May 2003 , but his side were beaten 3 ? 1 by league winners Bayern Munich as the latter claimed the double .

Kaiserslautern announced that Lokvenc would be sold in April 2004 , citing his salary demands as reasons for his sale . He joined VfL Bochum of the Bundesliga in the summer of 2004 , agreeing the transfer before the European Championships . Bochum were relegated from the league after 33

games of the 34 @-@ game season , with Lokvenc scoring his tenth goal of the season in a 2 ? 0 win at third placed Stuttgart .

= = = Late career = = =

Lokvenc signed for Red Bull Salzburg in the summer of 2005 , rejecting offers from Portsmouth and Hertha Berlin . He described his move to Salzburg as " the best transfer of my life " , arriving around the same time as Germany national team players Thomas Linke and Alexander Zickler . Lokvenc only played four league matches in his first season with the club before requiring surgery on an injury to his right knee in November . He returned to the team in May 2006 , taking part in a match for the first time since July 2005 , as he made an appearance as a substitute in a 2 ? 1 home loss against Pasching . The club finished the season as league runners @-@ up , behind Austria Vienna .

Lokvenc scored his first league goal of the 2006 ? 07 Austrian Football Bundesliga in a December match against Altlach , levelling the scores as the game finished 1 ? 1 . The club went on to win the league in April 2007 with five matches of the season remaining .

In October 2007 Lokvenc scored the only goal in Salzburg 's 1 ? 0 UEFA Cup first round win against AEK Athens This was not enough for his team to advance , having lost 3 ? 0 in the first leg of their two @-@ legged tie . Lokvenc featured less for Salzburg in the 2007 ? 08 season , prompting him to join Swiss Super League team Basel on loan in February 2008 for the remainder of the season . He scored in Basel 's 1 ? 0 semi @-@ final Swiss Cup victory against Thun . The club went on to win the 2008 league championship title and the 2008 Swiss Cup .

Lokvenc returned to Germany in the summer of 2008 , joining Ingolstadt of the 2 . Bundesliga .

= = = Post @-@ playing career = = =

After finishing his professional playing career , Lokvenc worked as a scout in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for his former team , Basel . He also played football in the amateur Czech Fourth Division for Union ?elákovice . He continued to be physically active after his football career , taking part in the 2010 Prague Half Marathon in the same field as former international teammate Pavel Nedv?d . He was again involved in the Prague Half Marathon in 2015 , taking part in a relay alongside Nedv?d , fellow footballer Tomá? Hübschman and 2014 Miss Czech Republic , Tereza Skoumalová .

= = International career = =

Lokvenc represented his country at under @-@ 21 level , scoring seven goals in 13 matches between 1993 and 1995 . He first played for the senior Czech national team in 1995 . Lokvenc was part of the Czech Republic squad at the 1997 FIFA Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia . He took part as a substitute in the group stage match against United Arab Emirates and started the third place play @-@ off game versus Uruguay , which the Czech Republic won to finish third overall in the tournament .

= = = Euro 2000 = = =

At Euro 2000 , Lokvenc made a substitute appearance in the Czech Republic 's opening game against the Netherlands , replacing Pavel Nedv?d after 89 minutes as the match resulted in a 1 ? 0 win for the Dutch . He replaced Radek Bejbl in the second group match , against France , coming on after 49 minutes in the 2 ? 1 loss . Lokvenc appeared in the third group match against Denmark , although due to both teams having lost both of their previous matches , neither team could advance to the next round of the competition . He came on after 79 minutes , replacing Vladimír ?micer in a 2 ? 0 win for his nation .

== Euro 2004 ==

Lokvenc scored twice as a substitute in a June 2003 qualification match against Moldova , scoring both goals with his head in a 5 ? 0 win for his country . He played in one match at Euro 2004 . He started the group match against Germany among a group of players which was described by the BBC as " very much a Czech second string " , but failed to score and was replaced by Milan Baro? after 59 minutes . The Czech Republic won the match , 2 ? 1 .

== 2006 World Cup ==

During the qualification process for the forthcoming World Cup , Lokvenc scored five goals for his country . In a November 2004 match , away at Macedonia , he entered the game in the 76th minute as a substitute for Zden?k Grygera with the game goalless . He scored the first goal of the game with his head , before Jan Koller made the score 2 ? 0 to win the match . In March 2005 , Lokvenc again scored the deciding goal , this time against Finland in Teplice . In a game in which the Czechs had led 3 ? 1 , Finland scored twice to level the scores , however Lokvenc made the score 4 ? 3 with three minutes remaining . Four days later , Lokvenc scored another goal , heading in a cross from Baro? , in a 4 ? 0 away win against Andorra . In June of the same year , Lokvenc scored the first and last goals for his nation in an 8 ? 1 home win , also against Andorra .

At the 2006 World Cup , Lokvenc replaced the injured Jan Koller as a substitute in the first group match , against the USA . He didn 't score but received a yellow card as his nation won 3 ? 0 . He started the second group match , against Ghana , in the absence of fellow strikers Koller and Baro? due to injury . He received another yellow card in the match , which Ghana won 2 ? 0 . Due to having received two yellow cards , he was suspended for his country 's final group match , against Italy . The Czech Republic lost to Italy and therefore failed to progress to the next stage of the competition . Lokvenc announced his retirement from international football in September 2006 , becoming the third player from the World Cup team to retire after Karel Poborský and Pavel Nedv?d . He finished his international career with figures of 14 goals in 74 matches .

== Style of play ==

Lokvenc was particularly noted for his height , being referred to as a " towering forward " , and having " a similar aerial threat " to international teammate Jan Koller . His strength was noted as another of his assets .

== Career statistics ==

== Club ==

Source :

== International ==

Source :

== International goals ==

Scores and results list the Czech Republic 's goal tally first .

== Honours ==

=== Club ===

Sparta Prague

Czech First League : 1994 ? 95 , 1996 ? 97 , 1997 ? 98 , 1998 ? 99 , 1999 ? 2000 .

Czech Cup : 1996

Kaiserslautern

DFB @-@ Pokal Runner @-@ up : 2002 ? 03

Salzburg

Austrian Football Bundesliga : 2006 ? 07 ; Runner @-@ up : 2005 ? 06

Basel

Swiss Super League : 2007 ? 08

Swiss Cup : 2007 ? 08

=== Country ===

Czech Republic

FIFA Confederations Cup : Third place 1997

=== Individual ===

Top scorer of the Czech First League : 1999 ? 2000