

= Franz Burgmeier =

Franz Burgmeier ( born 7 April 1982 ) is a Liechtenstein footballer , who plays as a midfielder for Vaduz in the Swiss Super League . Born in Triesen , Burgmeier was a burgeoning footballer and keen skier , until he gave up the latter sport at 16 following a serious injury . Having been a youth player for Triesen , he started his professional career with Vaduz . Burgmeier won several Liechtensteiner Cups with Vaduz , who were promoted to the Swiss Challenge League in 2001 , and played in the UEFA Cup . After two unsuccessful attempts to win promotion to the Swiss Super League , Burgmeier left for Aarau in 2005 . He spent only one season with Aarau before a move to the previous season 's runners @-@ up Basel in 2006 . His two seasons with Basel were broken up by a loan spell with Thun , before he moved to England with Darlington in August 2008 , where he played for one year .

Burgmeier has won 99 caps and scored nine goals for his country . He is a right @-@ footed player who is either a left midfielder or left back , with the ability to deliver a good cross . He made his international debut in 2001 against Spain and three years later scored one of the goals that helped secure his country 's first point in World Cup qualification matches .

= = Personal life = =

Burgmeier was born in Triesen , Liechtenstein , a small town with a population of 4 @, @ 500 , close to the border with Switzerland . He is the younger son of Heinz and Elsbeth , following Patrick Burgmeier , who played football for Vaduz and USV Eschen / Mauren . From a young age , Franz played both football and skied . He played for the Liechtenstein youth team in Swiss competitions from ages 11 to 16 , winning the championship when he was 13 . However , at 16 , a knee injury , which he suffered while skiing , nearly ended his football career and prompted him to stop the former sport .

Burgmeier has a girlfriend , Monica , who lives in Switzerland . She also plays football , as a full back , in National League B.

= = Club career = =

= = = Vaduz = = =

Burgmeier started out as a youth at Triesen before moving to Vaduz in 2000 . Although based in his home country , like all Liechtenstein clubs Vaduz played league football in Switzerland ? at the time in the third tier ? but also competed in the Liechtenstein Football Cup . In Burgmeier 's first season the team won promotion to the Challenge League and won the Liechtenstein Cup with a 9 ? 0 defeat against Ruggell in the final . He scored his first goal at the higher level on 31 July 2001 , in a postponed game from the first round of the season , which finished in a 4 ? 1 victory against Thun . However , Vaduz finished in 11th place in the Fall Season , before results improved and they finished in second place in the Final Table , avoiding being relegated . The team also successfully defended their Liechtenstein Cup defeating USV Eschen / Mauren 6 ? 1 in the final .

Vaduz 's success in their nation 's cup ensured they gained access to the UEFA Cup , and in August 2002 , Burgmeier scored his first European goal during a 1 ? 1 with Livingston , the Scottish side 's first game in Europe . In the second leg , Vaduz had a late goal disallowed during a 0 ? 0 , and so they went out in the qualifying round for the third successive year , losing on the away goals rule . Vaduz topped the Fall Season table that season , but failed to win promotion to the Swiss Super League after finishing fourth in the Final League . Their failure was offset with another victory in the Liechtenstein Cup , this time defeating Balzers in the final .

In June 2003 , he was set to join St. Gallen ; however , the deal never went through because the Swiss side could not afford the transfer fee . Instead he started with Vaduz , who came closer to gaining promotion but were again unsuccessful , after they lost in the promotion ? relegation play

@-@ off match . Burgmeier scored one of the goals in the second leg against Neuchâtel Xamax , but Mobulu M 'Futi scored to ensure Neuchâtel won over the two legs , and Vaduz stayed in the Challenge League . Despite his side defending their Liechtenstein Cup , Burgmeier missed the final .

However , their cup success helped Vaduz to another UEFA Cup , which resulted in their first win in the competition with a 4 ? 2 aggregate victory against FAI Cup @-@ holders Longford Town in July 2004 . Burgmeier netted his second European goal during the ties , during the 3 ? 2 second @-@ leg victory , before they were defeated in the second qualifying round to Belgian @-@ side Beveren , during which Burgmeier was injured forcing him to undergo a knee operation and miss the first month of the league season . Vaduz repeated their efforts domestically , defeating USV Eschen / Mauren in the cup and reaching the promotion play @-@ off game . However , they were defeated by Schaffhausen and were left with only ten players on secure contracts for the following season . Burgmeier himself left Vaduz after five years with the club , during which he played 115 league games and scored 27 goals .

= = = Aarau = = =

Burgmeier , instead , moved to Aarau in Switzerland . His debut came in a 2 ? 0 league defeat to Thun , before he was substituted near the end of the second half . Aarau were in the Super League , and finished seventh in Burgmeier 's only season with the club , in which he played 35 league games . His only league goal came in the second round of matches against St. Gallen , but he also scored in both the first two rounds of the Swiss Cup ? his first games in the cup since Vaduz were not eligible for the competition ? before they were eliminated in the quarter @-@ finals on penalties . His form with Aarau won Burgmeier the Liechtensteiner Footballer of the Year award , one point ahead of fellow international Mario Frick , and also earned him a move to Basel , for whom he signed a three @-@ year contract .

= = = Basel = = =

Burgmeier 's first role with Basel was to play in the Uhrencup as they defeated German @-@ side FC Köln 2 ? 1 , to share the trophy with Zürich . Basel had finished the previous season as runners @-@ up in the league to Zürich on goal difference and so qualified for the following season 's UEFA Cup . Burgmeier made his Basel debut in the competition as they defeated Kazakhstan 's Tobol 3 ? 1 on 13 July , before he was replaced by Scott Chipperfield . The second leg ended in a draw , sending Basel through . The second qualifying round draw gave Burgmeier a chance to return to Vaduz . He was a substitute in both games as his new team won on away goals . They went on to qualify for the group stages , in which they finished bottom of their division , with two points from four games . Burgmeier scored his first goal for his new club in a 4 ? 2 away defeat against Sion , but again the side only ranked in the Championship behind Zürich , this time by one point . Their disappointment was offset by an extra time victory over Luzern in the final of the Swiss Cup .

Burgmeier injured his ankle at the start of the 2007 ? 08 season , and after playing only four league games , Thun signed him on a six @-@ month loan deal in January 2008 . He played 17 times for Thun , who finished bottom of the Super League . Thun were also knocked out of the Swiss Cup by Burgmeier 's main employers in the semi @-@ finals . On 13 July 2008 , his contract with Basel was terminated early to allow him to find himself a new club after just 23 league appearances because he was seen as surplus to requirements by manager Christian Gross .

= = = Darlington = = =

While playing for Liechtenstein against England in a 2004 European Championships qualifying match at Old Trafford in 2003 , Burgmeier was spotted by Max Houghton . Although Liechtenstein lost 2 ? 0 , Houghton was impressed by Burgmeier 's stamina and effort . When Burgmeier was released by Basel in 2008 , Houghton , then 12 years old , suggested to his grandfather , George

Houghton , who was chairman of English side Darlington that he should be given a trial . Following a successful trial , Burgmeier , who was keen to move abroad , was signed by the League Two @-@ side on a one @-@ year contract at the end of August 2008 to become the first Liechtensteiner to play in England .

Burgmeier made his debut on 23 August , in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Gillingham at The Darlington Arena . He scored his first goal for Darlington in a 2 ? 1 win against Port Vale on 13 September . Manager Dave Penney praised Burgmeier for the start he made to the club , both as a goal scorer and creator , which also helped him to play his way into the affections of the club 's supporters . When Burgmeier won his 49th cap for Liechtenstein against Wales , it was his fourth in the two months since he joined Darlington . It took him past the club record three caps of Canadian Jason de Vos and New Zealander Adrian Webster , with a coach @-@ load of Darlington fans there to see him play at the Millennium Stadium . His next cap clashed with Darlington 's FA Cup first round replay with Conference North @-@ side Droylsden , in which they were defeated .

Darlington 's promotion campaign was dealt a blow in February 2009 , when club chairman George Houghton placed the club in administration . As a result , the club were deducted 10 points , a penalty from which they could not recover finally finishing 12th . Burgmeier finished with two goals during the season having played 35 games , but like the rest of the playing squad , was told he could find a new club by Darlington 's administrators .

= = = Return to Vaduz = = =

Following Darlington 's financial problems , Burgmeier returned home to Liechtenstein and signed with his former club Vaduz on a one @-@ year contract after the end of the 2008 ? 09 season .

= = International career = =

Burgmeier is a Liechtenstein international who made his debut in a 2002 World Cup qualifier against Spain on 5 September 2001 . It was the penultimate game of the side 's qualifying campaign , in which they lost all eight games without scoring a goal . Despite starting the qualifying round for 2004 European Championships with a 1 ? 1 draw with Macedonia , Liechtenstein lost their remaining games to finish bottom of their group . Burgmeier featured in seven of the qualification matches .

Burgmeier scored his first international goal in April 2003 in a friendly against Saudi Arabia to give Liechtenstein a 1 ? 0 victory . On 10 October 2004 , he scored his first competitive international goal as he helped Liechtenstein to record their first point in World Cup qualification matches . He and Thomas Beck scored Liechtenstein 's goals in a 2 ? 2 with Portugal at the Rheinpark Stadion . Burgmeier describes the draw as the " biggest moment of my career " . Three days later , Burgmeier scored two more goals as Liechtenstein earned their first World Cup win with a 4 ? 0 victory against Luxembourg . They followed it up with a 0 ? 0 draw against Slovakia and another victory over Luxembourg , to finish the qualifying campaign with eight points from their 12 matches . Burgmeier played in nine games .

Liechtenstein won another two games in their following qualifying campaign ? for the 2008 European Championships . They had started with four defeats , in the last of which Burgmeier scored a consolation goal in a 4 ? 1 win for Northern Ireland . A 1 ? 0 victory against Latvia and a draw with Iceland followed , but Liechtenstein picked up only seven points to finish bottom of their group , with Burgmeier playing in all but one game .

Having earned eight points during the 2006 World Cup qualification games , Burgmeier said the target in the 2010 campaign was to pick up " as many points as possible " , adding , " For us , the target is not to qualify but to just take each game as it comes , enjoy the matches , and try and do as well as possible . " He won his 50th cap in a 4 ? 0 friendly defeat to Slovakia on 19 November 2008 . Burgmeier has scored seven goals and picked up a number of opposition shirts which he plans to put in a hall of fame .

On 15 November 2014 , he scored his second Euro qualifier and winning goal over Moldova .

== International goals ==

Scores and results list Liechtenstein 's goal tally first .

== Career statistics ==

== Club ==

As of 28 September 2015 .

== International ==

As of 28 September 2015 .

== Honours ==

== Club ==

Vaduz

Swiss Challenge League ( 1 ) : 2013 ? 14

Liechtensteiner Cup ( 11 ) : 2000 ? 01 , 2001 ? 02 , 2002 ? 03 , 2003 ? 04 , 2004 ? 05 , 2009 ? 10 , 2010 ? 11 , 2012 ? 13 , 2013 ? 14 , 2014 ? 15 , 2015 ? 16

Basel

Uhrencup ( 1 ) : 2005 ? 06 ( shared )

Swiss Cup ( 1 ) : 2006 ? 07

== Individual ==

Liechtensteiner Footballer of the Year ( 1 ) : 2005 ? 06