

= Jesper Blomqvist =

Lars Jesper Blomqvist (born 5 February 1974) is a Swedish former footballer who played as a left winger .

Most recently he was the playing assistant manager of Superettan side Hammarby from December 2009 to November 2010 . He played at IFK Göteborg , where he won four straight Allsvenskan league titles between 1993 and 1996 , and Manchester United , where he was part of the team that won the treble in 1999 , consisting of the Premier League , FA Cup and UEFA Champions League . He returned to Swedish football in 2003 with Djurgården , where he won his final Allsvenskan title , before initially retiring in 2005 . An injury crisis prompted a playing return for Enköpings IF in 2008 . Blomqvist has made 30 international appearances for Sweden and helped them to third place at the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States .

= = Club career = =

= = = Swedish football = = =

After an early spell at Tåvellsjö IK , Blomqvist signed for then recently formed Umeå FC in 1992 . In the spring portion of his first season for the club , he helped them to the Division 2 Norra Norrland title , promoting the club to Division 1 Norra for the autumn . At the time this was the second tier of Swedish football . Subsequently , he signed for IFK Göteborg on 11 September 1993 . Blomqvist played a part in the club 's Allsvenskan win that year . He scored eight goals in 24 league appearances en route to the league title in 1994 . Furthermore , he played a part in Sweden 's advance to the semi finals of the World Cup and scored in the club 's 3 ? 1 win over Manchester United in the Champions League , knocking them out of the competition . This performance caught the eye of United manager Alex Ferguson and helped the team qualify for the quarter @-@ finals of the tournament . Another title followed in 1995 , with Blomqvist 's goal against Helsingborgs IF , when he performed a variant of the Pelé runaround move , voted goal of the season . In his last season for Göteborg , he played against former club Umeå , who had reached the Allsvenskan for the first time in their history . In 1996 , Blomqvist was voted Fan 's Player of the Year and Midfielder of the Year . At the end of the 1996 season , he signed for newly crowned Serie A champions Milan .

= = = Serie A = = =

In his first season of Italian football , Milan failed to win a trophy , and Blomqvist often sat on the bench . He nearly decided against going to Old Trafford because he did not want a repeat of this season . The defending champions had an equally disappointing season , finishing 11th in Serie A and failing to qualify for European football . Blomqvist was subsequently sold to Serie A runners up Parma in the summer of 1997 . Blomqvist enjoyed more regular football , although the club finished 6th in the league and missed out on the knockout stages of the Champions League . The Swede 's sole league goal for the club was scored in a 4 ? 0 win over Napoli at Stadio San Paolo .

= = = Premier League = = =

Manchester United purchased Blomqvist as a backup to Ryan Giggs in 1998 , for a fee of £ 4 @. @ 4 million . He featured in enough games to win a Premier League winner 's medal in the 1999 season , scoring his only goal for the club in a 4 ? 1 away win against Everton . He received an FA Cup winners medal despite being an unused substitute in the final . He did , however , start against Bayern Munich in the Champions League final . He came close to scoring before eventually being replaced by Teddy Sheringham , who later scored , equalising the match after Bayern 's early goal . United went on to win the match 2 ? 1 . He lost his Champions League medal in the celebrations but

found it again before leaving Barcelona .

Due to a serious knee injury , Blomqvist did not play football in the next two seasons , which resulted in Manchester United deciding not to renew his contract (During his time out , due to this injury , he did media work for MUTV , United 's in @-@ house television channel , and presented his own cookery show called " Cooking With Jesper ") . Nonetheless , Ferguson persuaded Everton manager Walter Smith to offer the Swedish international a short term contract at Goodison Park , from November 2001 until the end of the season . Blomqvist played on the wings alongside compatriot Niclas Alexandersson , and scored his first goal for Everton against Sunderland in January 2002 . Injury problems persisted , however , and new manager David Moyes allowed him to leave the club in June 2002 . He had a trial at Middlesbrough , but was unhappy with the club 's handling of the situation , labelling it " a bit unprofessional " . Instead he signed for Alan Curbishley 's Charlton Athletic on a free transfer , for whom he made three league appearances .

= = Return to Sweden = = =

Again struggling with injury , Blomqvist returned to his native Sweden after only four games with Charlton . He signed on a short term deal with Djurgårdens IF . This proved unpopular among supporters of IFK Göteborg , who labelled him " Judas " . Göteborg fans considered the decision to join Djurgården instead of them a betrayal . Blomqvist played a part as the side became Swedish champions that year . Injury problems , however , restricted him to only nine league appearances . As during the stint with Manchester United , he remained at the club for another two seasons , before finally deciding to retire due to injury in 2005 .

Blomqvist joined Enköpings SK as a coach in 2008 and went on to make a playing return in the Superettan , the second tier of Swedish football . Ironically , a shortage of players at the club due to injury forced Blomqvist 's playing return . The player shortage was highlighted when Blomqvist was sent off in his second game for the club . This resulted in a suspension for Blomqvist , and Enköping only having fifteen players available for the following match . On 15 September 2008 , he scored his first professional goal in five years in a 1 ? 0 win against IK Sirius . In total , he made 10 Superettan appearances , but was unable to save Enköping from relegation to Division 1 for the 2009 season . He left Enköping after the season and later signed a contract with newly relegated Hammarby IF as assistant manager to Michael Borgqvist .

In 2010 Blomqvist played again , coming on as a substitute in the 85th minute for Hammarby against Trelleborg FF in the Swedish Cup , being one of very few coaches actually playing a game for their team . After a rough period at the club , he left Hammarby in a mutual consent in November 2010 .

In 2012 , Blomqvist effectively retired as a footballer by focusing on his civilian career . He did this by initiating studies in commerce .

= = International career = =

Blomqvist was part of the bronze medal @-@ winning Swedish national team at the 1994 FIFA World Cup . He gained his first international cap against Colombia in 1994 . His only World Cup match in the starting eleven came against Cameroon , although he also replaced Henrik Larsson in the second half of a draw against eventual champions Brazil . Each member of the squad was awarded a Svenska Dagbladet Gold Medal in recognition of their third place in the tournament . Blomqvist was also considered for the 2002 FIFA World Cup squad . In total , Blomqvist has made 30 appearances for his country , without scoring .

= = Personal life = =

Blomqvist was born and raised in Tavelsjö , in the Umeå Municipality of Sweden . He currently resides in Sweden , although he has also purchased property in Croatia . After officially retiring in 2005 , he became a pundit (football expert) for Swedish television station TV4 . Blomqvist was the

victim of an assault during a visit to his hometown Umeå in September 2006 , when he was struck twice across the face . His attacker was prosecuted for the incident .

= = Career statistics = =

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Umeå

Division 2 Norra Norrland (1) : 1992

IFK Göteborg

Allsvenskan (4) : 1993 , 1994 , 1995 , 1996

Manchester United

Premier League (1) : 1998 ? 99

FA Cup (1) : 1998 ? 99

UEFA Champions League (1) : 1998 ? 99

Djurgården

Allsvenskan (1) : 2003

= = = Country = = =

FIFA World Cup

Third place (1) : 1994

= = = Individual = = =

Årets komet (1) : 1994

Swedish Goal of the Year (1) : 1995

Folkets lirare (1) : 1996

Swedish Midfielder of the Year (1) : 1996