

= Eduard Streltsov =

Eduard Anatolyevich Streltsov ( Russian : ????? ? ?? ????? ? ?????? ????????? ? ? ; IPA : [ ?d??art ?n??tol??v?it? str??l??tsof ] , 21 July 1937 ? 22 July 1990 ) was a footballer from the Soviet Union who played as a forward for Torpedo Moscow and the Soviet national team during the 1950s and 1960s . A powerful and skilful attacking player , he scored the fourth @-@ highest number of goals for the Soviet Union and has been called " the greatest outfield player Russia has ever produced " . He is sometimes dubbed " the Russian Pelé " .

Born and raised in east Moscow , Streltsov joined Torpedo at the age of 16 in 1953 and made his international debut two years later . He was part of the squad that won the gold medal at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics , and came seventh in the 1957 Ballon d 'Or . Early the next year his promising career was interrupted by a rape scandal . The 20 @-@ year @-@ old Streltsov was accused of raping a woman shortly before the 1958 World Cup ; told he could still play if he admitted his guilt , he confessed , despite inconclusive evidence against him . He was instead convicted and sentenced to twelve years in the Gulag system of forced labour camps .

Streltsov was released after five years in the camps and in 1965 he resumed his career with Torpedo Moscow . In the first season of his comeback , the club won the Soviet championship ; in 1968 Torpedo won the Soviet Cup . Streltsov was restored to the Soviet national team in 1966 , and in 1967 and 1968 named Soviet Footballer of the Year . By the time of his retirement in 1970 he had pioneered innovations such as the back @-@ heeled pass , which became known in Russia as " Streltsov 's pass " . He died in Moscow in 1990 . Six years later , Torpedo renamed their home ground " Eduard Streltsov Stadium " in his honour . In the 21st century , statues of Streltsov stand outside the stadium bearing his name and the Luzhniki Olympic Complex in Moscow .

= = Early life = =

Eduard Anatolyevich Streltsov was born in Perovo , an eastern district of Moscow , on 21 July 1937 , the son of Anatoly Streltsov , a front @-@ line soldier and intelligence officer , and Sofia Frolovna . Anatoly did not return to the family following the Second World War , instead choosing to settle alone in Kiev ; Sofia therefore raised her son on her own , working at the Fraser Cutting Instruments Factory to support Eduard and herself . As a result , Streltsov had a modest upbringing , the highlights of which were playing football and following his favoured team , Spartak Moscow .

The factory recognised his talent from a young age : Streltsov became the Fraser Factory football team 's youngest ever player when he was 13 years old . Three years later in 1953 , a friendly match was organised between Fraser and a youth team from Torpedo Moscow . Streltsov impressed the Torpedo coach , Vasily Provornov , and after befriending him , left Fraser to play for Torpedo .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Aged 16 , Streltsov made his debut for Torpedo during the 1954 season , appeared in every league game and scored four goals . The team finished ninth in the league , a drop from third the previous year . In his second season Streltsov was the league 's most prolific goalscorer , scoring 15 goals in 22 games as his side rose to fourth place . Streltsov was selected for the Soviet national team for the first time in 1955 , halfway through the season ; his debut came in a friendly match against Sweden in Stockholm on 26 June , when he scored a hat @-@ trick within the first 45 minutes as the Swedish team was defeated 6 ? 0 . On his second appearance , a friendly home game against India , he scored three goals again . A further game in Hungary and a goal against France meant that by the start of 1956 , Streltsov had scored seven goals for the Soviet Union in four matches . After scoring in a match against Denmark in April 1956 , he missed three international matches

before returning in September with a goal after three minutes in a 2 ? 1 away victory over West Germany . Streltsov continued to score regularly for Torpedo , managing 12 league goals during the 1956 season , but appeared in two successive defeats for the Soviets before they travelled in November 1956 to the Olympic Games in Melbourne . Streltsov scored three goals in a 16 ? 2 victory over Australia in an unofficial match on 15 November before scoring a late winning goal in the first tournament match against the Unified Team of Germany nine days later . The Soviets required a replay to overcome Indonesia in the quarter @-@ finals and met Bulgaria in the semi @-@ final .

The match finished 0 ? 0 after 90 minutes , and with defender Nikolai Tishchenko and Streltsov 's fellow Torpedo forward Valentin Ivanov both injured , the Soviet team had only nine fit players when Bulgaria scored early in extra time . Streltsov 's performance was later described by journalist Jonathan Wilson as " magnificent " ; he scored an equaliser after 112 minutes and then set up Boris Tatushin of Spartak Moscow four minutes later to score the winning goal . Streltsov missed the final against Yugoslavia as the team manager , Gavriil Kachalin , believed the two forward players should be club team @-@ mates ; as Ivanov was unfit , Streltsov was dropped as well . Nikita Simonyan , who took his place , offered Streltsov his gold medal following a 1 ? 0 victory over the Yugoslavs , an offer which the Torpedo player refused , saying " Nikita , I will win many other trophies " . Streltsov received two votes in that year 's Ballon d 'Or .

Streltsov scored the first goal in a 2 ? 0 win in a World Cup qualifying play @-@ off match in Poland which meant the Soviet Union qualified for the 1958 World Cup . At club level , he scored 12 goals in 15 league matches during the 1957 season . Torpedo , never league champions and traditionally overshadowed by local rivals such as CSKA , Dynamo and Spartak , finished as runners @-@ up of the Soviet Top League . At the end of that season , Streltsov came seventh in the 1957 Ballon d 'Or , gaining 12 votes ; by the start of the World Cup year , 1958 , his international record stood at 18 goals in 20 games . Streltsov scored five goals in the first eight league matches of the 1958 Top League season , and appeared in a 1 ? 1 friendly draw with England in Moscow on 18 May 1958 .

== Rape conviction ==

=== Accusation ===

Streltsov was known for womanising , drinking heavily and leading an extravagant life outside of football , as well as for wearing his hair in the British " Teddy Boy " style . As a key player for his club and for the Soviet national side , these traits combined to create an impression in government circles that , in Wilson 's words , " Streltsov was becoming rather too much of a celebrity " . The problem was brought to a head by an alleged relationship between the footballer and Svetlana Furtseva , the 16 @-@ year @-@ old daughter of the first female Politburo member Ekaterina Furtseva . With the young Svetlana besotted by the 19 @-@ year @-@ old Torpedo forward , her mother first met him at a Kremlin ball held early in 1957 to celebrate the Olympic victory of 1956 . Furtseva suggested he might marry her daughter , to which Streltsov replied " I already have a fiancée and I will not marry her [ Svetlana ] . " While drunk , he was later heard to remark either " I would never marry that monkey " or " I would rather be hanged than marry such a girl " ( both quotes were reported ) , humiliating Furtseva , a minister close to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev .

Streltsov became secretly engaged to Alla Demenko before leaving for the Olympics , and the couple married on 25 February 1957 , halfway through preparations for the Soviet season . The Department of Soviet Football criticised both the player and his club over the timing of the ceremony . The Communist Party also seemed to distrust him , considering him a possible defector after he attracted the interest of French and Swedish clubs during tours overseas with Torpedo . His file in the party archives included the comment : " [ a ] ccording to a verified source , Streltsov said to his friends in 1957 that he was always sorry to return to the USSR after trips abroad . " After he was sent off during a game in Odessa in April 1957 , the official government sports newspaper Sovetsky Sport published an article about him titled " This is not a hero " as well as letters purportedly written

by members of the proletariat , which described Streltsov as an " example of the evils of western imperialism " .

A week after appearing against England in a warm @-@ up match in Moscow for the 1958 World Cup , Streltsov was invited to a party by a Soviet military officer , Eduard Karakhanov , to be held on 25 May . Streltsov and the rest of the Soviet squad were on a pre @-@ World Cup training camp at Tarasovka , just outside Moscow , but the team had been given the day as holiday . At the end of such days , the players had to report to the authorities at Dynamo Stadium at 4 : 30 pm , but Streltsov and two team @-@ mates , Spartak players Mikhail Ogonkov and Boris Tatushin , ignored this rule and went to the party anyway . Held at Karakhanov 's dacha , it was also attended by a 20 @-@ year @-@ old woman named Marina Lebedeva , whom Streltsov had never met . The following morning , Streltsov , Ogonkov and Tatushin were all arrested and charged with raping her .

Journalist Kevin O 'Flynn writes that since heavy drinking had taken place at the party , the evidence against Streltsov was " confused and contradictory " , even from Lebedeva herself . But the Soviet team coach , Gavriil Kachalin , claimed shortly before Streltsov 's death that influence from high up in the Communist Party dictated that the player could not be helped ; Kachalin said that police told him of Khrushchev 's personal involvement , fuelled by a grudge held by Furtseva . According to Soviet Union team @-@ mate Nikita Simonyan , speaking in 2006 , Streltsov wrote home to his mother " saying he was taking the blame for someone else " . Streltsov and Lebedeva did sleep together , Simonyan said , and he did not believe their meeting had been set up , but he was unsure about whether or not Streltsov had raped her . Simonyan proposed that consensual sex could have been twisted into a rape accusation by " the system " , which he said bore ill will towards the Torpedo forward . However , in the same interview Simonyan revealed incriminating photographs of both Lebedeva and Streltsov from the time of the trial , including one in which the Torpedo player 's face " was streaked from nose to cheekbone with three parallel scratches " . " [ T ] here is the possibility that the photographs were doctored or the injuries inflicted at a later date " , Wilson comments , " but Soviet justice rarely required such damning evidence . " Streltsov 's wife of just over a year , Alla , filed for divorce soon after the accusations were made . Apart from Streltsov himself , the only members of the team present at his trial were Ogonkov and Tatushin , who appeared as witnesses .

= = = = Conviction ; the Gulag = = = =

Streltsov confessed to the crime after being told this would allow him to keep his place in the Soviet team for the 1958 World Cup . This did not happen , however ; far from remaining in the national side , Streltsov was sentenced to twelve years in the forced labour camps of the Gulag , and barred from ever returning to professional football of any kind . Plans for a march by 100 @,@ 000 workers at Moscow 's ZiL car factory , the base of the Torpedo club , to show support during the trial , were abandoned when Streltsov was sentenced before the march could be arranged . Ogonkov and Tatushin , meanwhile , were banned from playing any kind of organised football for three years , and barred from representing the USSR for life . In the camp where he was incarcerated , Streltsov was initially victimised by a young criminal who inflicted so much physical harm on him that he spent four months in the prison hospital , suffering from injuries caused by blows from either an " iron bar or a shoe heel " . Camp authorities later started to include Streltsov in football matches to calm down the inmates in times of trouble ; one prisoner , Ivan Lukyanov , later said : " [ w ] e loved Streltsov , we believed he would return to football . And not only us . "

Meanwhile , the Soviet team travelled to Sweden for the World Cup without Streltsov , Ogonkov or Tatushin . The world 's press claimed that two of the competing teams were severely weakened : England by the Munich air disaster , and the Soviets by the loss of Streltsov . The Soviets reached the quarter @-@ finals , losing 2 ? 0 to hosts Sweden , a team defeated 6 ? 0 by the Soviet Union during Streltsov 's 1955 debut . Without Streltsov , Torpedo dropped from their second @-@ place finish in 1957 to seventh in 1958 , though the team also reached the Soviet Cup final before losing to Spartak . Streltsov 's place as the club 's leading scorer was taken by the 21 @-@ year @-@ old

forward Gennadi Gusarov , who had turned professional with Torpedo during 1957 . The team rose to fifth in 1959 before winning the Double of Top League and Cup during the following year , with Gusarov leading the league in goals with 20 . Torpedo then finished as runners @-@ up in both competitions in 1961 , with Gusarov scoring 22 . Two mid @-@ table finishes followed as Gusarov was sold to city rivals Dynamo between the 1962 and 1963 seasons , but Torpedo once again came second in 1964 , losing a championship play @-@ off against Dinamo Tbilisi after the two clubs finished equal on points .

= = = Release and return to football = = =

= = = = Amateur play = = = =

Streltsov was released on 4 February 1963 , five years into his twelve @-@ year sentence , and owing to the ban from professional play began to split his time between work at the ZiL factory and the study of automotive engineering at the attached technical college . After failing to patch up his differences with Alla , he married Raisa Mikhailovna in September 1963 . He started to play for the amateur factory team , which caused it to attract large crowds , both at home and away . When the ZiL side travelled to Gorky for an away match late in the 1964 season , the team 's coach received orders from above not to play Streltsov , something which spectators noticed immediately when the match started ; during the first half , they began to riot and threatened to burn down the stadium , chanting Streltsov 's name . Worried that the angry crowd might go through with this , the Gorky factory chief ordered the ZiL coach to send Streltsov out for the second half . On stepping onto the field , the former Gulag prisoner received a standing ovation .

With Streltsov in the team , ZiL topped the factory league after winning all 11 matches . Although he was not allowed to play for Torpedo , Streltsov attended matches at his old club throughout the season . In October 1964 , Khrushchev was replaced as the Communist Party 's First Secretary by Leonid Brezhnev , who shortly after taking office received a letter signed by tens of thousands of people , including heroes of Socialist Labour and national and regional Supreme Soviet members , requesting the reversal of Streltsov 's professional ban . Some party members were wary of a potential comeback , fearing that Streltsov 's inclusion in a Torpedo squad that regularly travelled to Western Europe could lead to an international incident , but Brezhnev repealed the ban , arguing that as a free man Streltsov should be able to use his trained profession . He was cleared to return to Torpedo before the 1965 season .

= = = = Return to professionalism = = = =

Streltsov was enthusiastically welcomed back by supporters . Although he had lost some of his strength and agility , his footballing intelligence was still intact ; his presence helped Torpedo to win the 1965 Soviet championship , with Streltsov scoring 12 goals from 26 league matches . At the end of the season , he came second in the voting for the Soviet Footballer of the Year behind Torpedo team @-@ mate Valery Voronin . It was the second time that Torpedo had won the league ; the club had won its first title five years earlier , during Streltsov 's imprisonment . Streltsov made his debut in continental club competition on 28 September 1966 , playing in a 1 ? 0 defeat away to Inter Milan in the European Cup . He was recalled to the Soviet national team on 16 October 1966 in a 2 ? 0 home defeat against Turkey , and scored the first international goal of his comeback a week later in a 2 ? 2 draw with East Germany . An appearance in a 1 ? 0 away defeat against Italy followed two weeks later . Torpedo reached the final of the Soviet Cup in 1966 , but lost 2 ? 0 to Dynamo . Streltsov matched his previous seasonal tally of 12 league goals during the 1966 Top League season .

Streltsov successfully re @-@ established himself in the Soviet team over the following year , as he appeared in eight consecutive USSR matches , starting with a 2 ? 0 friendly victory over Scotland in Glasgow in May 1967 . He scored two goals during this run in the national side : one each in a 4 ? 2

win against France in Paris on 3 June 1967 and a 4 ? 3 European Championship qualifying home victory over Austria eight days later . After losing his place for the 1968 European Championship qualifying match against Finland on 30 August 1967 , Streltsov missed three Soviet Union matches . He regained his place for an away friendly match against Bulgaria on 8 October , scoring a goal as the Soviets fought back from 1 ? 0 to record a 2 ? 1 win . He retained his place for the rest of the calendar year , and scored a hat @-@ trick away against Chile on 17 December . He was voted Soviet Footballer of the Year at the end of the season , although he scored a relatively low six league goals during 1967 , his lowest for a full season since his debut year of 1954 .

Streltsov was dropped from the Soviet team for the first three national team matches of 1968 . After featuring in a home friendly win over Belgium in April , he made his final appearance for the USSR in the 2 ? 0 1968 European Championship quarter @-@ final first leg loss to Hungary on 4 May 1968 . The Soviets beat Hungary 3 ? 0 in Moscow a week later , without Streltsov , to qualify for the final tournament on aggregate . Streltsov was left out of the tournament squad , and never played for the USSR again ; after his final appearance , his international tally stood at 25 goals in 38 matches . Torpedo won the Soviet Cup during the 1968 season , overcoming Uzbek side Pakhtakor Tashkent 1 ? 0 in the final . Streltsov retained his title of Soviet Footballer of the Year after scoring the highest seasonal total of his career , 21 ( in the league ) , but was moved back to midfield before the 1969 season and did not score in 23 league matches during his final two years . He retired from football in 1970 , at the age of 33 , leaving his final league record for Torpedo over both spells standing at 99 goals from 222 games .

= = Post @-@ retirement career = =

Following a footballing career spent exclusively with Torpedo , Streltsov , a supporter of Spartak Moscow , repeatedly complained about his failure to play for his favourite team . After his retirement , Torpedo continued to pay his salary to fund his study of football coaching at the Institute of Physical Culture . Streltsov returned to Torpedo in the capacity of youth team manager following his qualification ; he also spent a brief spell as manager of the first team before returning to the youth team in 1982 . He also took part in matches contested by former players before dying in 1990 from throat cancer , which his first wife Alla later claimed had been brought about by irradiated food served to him in the camps . Seven years later , Marina Lebedeva , the woman Streltsov had confessed to raping , was seen laying flowers at his grave in Moscow on the day after the anniversary of his death .

Olympic policy in 1956 was to award gold medals only to members of the winning football squad who had played in the final match . Since Streltsov did not play in the final , he did not receive a medal . He was posthumously given a gold medal in 2006 , after this policy was changed retroactively to allow all members of winning Olympic squads to receive medals .

= = Style of play and legacy = =

Many critics consider Streltsov to be one of the finest footballers ever from Russia or the Soviet Union : British journalist and author Jonathan Wilson describes him as " the greatest outfield player Russia has ever produced ... a tall , powerful forward , possessed of a fine first touch and extraordinary footballing intelligence " , while Russian author Aleksandr Nilin writes that " the boy came to us from the land of wonder " . Streltsov 's skilful , innovative style of play helped him to stand out in Soviet football , and his pioneering of the back @-@ heeled pass resulted in it becoming known in Russia as " Streltsov 's pass " . During his early career , this technical ability combined with considerable speed and physical presence to create a formidable all @-@ round forward player . In his later years , with his physical attributes reduced , he emphasised his skill and on @-@ field intelligence to become more of a playmaker , playing further back and setting up attacking moves for team @-@ mates rather than leading them himself . Indeed , for his final two seasons , Streltsov played in an attacking midfield role rather than up front . Despite the eight @-@ year gap between his two spells as a member of the Soviet national team , Streltsov , nicknamed "

The Russian Pelé ", was the fourth highest international goalscorer in the country 's history .

Torpedo Moscow 's ground , Torpedo Stadium , was redubbed the " Eduard Streltsov Stadium " in 1996 . A year later , the Russian Football Union introduced the Strel'yets prizes as the most prestigious individual honours in Russian football , awarded annually to the best manager in the Russian league and the best players in each position until discontinued in 2003 . A statue of Streltsov was constructed within Moscow 's Luzhniki Olympic Complex in 1998 , and another was erected by Torpedo outside the stadium bearing his name during the following year .

The Streltsov Committee , formed in 2001 , was founded to attempt to have Streltsov 's conviction of rape posthumously overturned . The campaign 's leader , chess champion Anatoly Karpov , claimed in 2001 that the conviction had prevented Streltsov from becoming the world 's best player . The Central Bank of the Russian Federation paid tribute to Streltsov in 2010 , when it minted a commemorative two @-@ ruble coin bearing his likeness . The coin was one of three minted as part of the " Outstanding Sportsmen of Russia " series ; the other two pieces bore the faces of footballers Lev Yashin and Konstantin Beskov , respectively .

= = Honours and achievements = =

= = = Torpedo Moscow = = =

Soviet Top League : 1965

Soviet Cup : 1968

Runner @-@ up

Soviet Top League : 1957

Soviet Cup : 1966

= = = International = = =

1955 ? 68 : 38 caps , 25 goals

Summer Olympics gold medal : 1956

= = = Individual = = =

Soviet Footballer of the Year : 1967 , 1968

Soviet Top League top goalscorer : 1955 ( 15 goals from 22 matches )

Ballon d 'Or : 13th place ( 1956 ) , 7th place ( 1957 )

= = Career statistics = =

Statistics for domestic cup competitions unknown at this time save 1968 Soviet Cup .

= = = International goals = = =

Scores and results list the Soviet Union 's goal tally first .