

= Samir Nasri =

Samir Nasri (born 26 June 1987) is a French professional footballer who plays for English club Manchester City . He primarily plays as an attacking midfielder and a winger , although he has also been deployed in central midfield .

Nasri is known for his dribbling , ball control and passing ability . Of Algerian heritage , he is described as a player whose " vision and imagination make him an unpredictable opponent " . His playing style , ability , and cultural background have drawn comparisons to French legend Zinedine Zidane .

Nasri began his football career playing for local youth clubs in his hometown of Marseille . At the age of nine , he joined professional club Olympique de Marseille and spent the next seven years developing in the club 's youth academy at La Commanderie , the club 's training center . In the 2004 ? 05 season , Nasri made his professional debut in September 2004 at the age of 17 against Sochaux . In the following season , he became a regular starter in the team and also participated in European competition for the first time after playing in the 2005 ? 06 edition of the UEFA Cup . In the 2006 ? 07 campaign , Nasri won the National Union of Professional Footballers (UNFP) Young Player of the Year award and was also named to the Team of the Year . He finished his career with Marseille amassing over 160 appearances . He played in the teams that reached back @-@ to @-@ back Coupe de France finals in 2006 and 2007 .

In June 2008 , Nasri joined Premier League club Arsenal , agreeing to a four @-@ year contract . He reached prominence with the team in his third season winning the Professional Footballers ' Association (PFA) Fans ' Player of the Month award on three occasions and being named to the association 's Team of the Year . In December 2010 , he was named the French Player of the Year for his performances during the calendar year . In August 2011 , after three seasons with Arsenal , Nasri joined Manchester City on a four @-@ year contract . In his first season with the club , he won his first major honour as a player as the club won the 2011 ? 12 edition of the Premier League .

Nasri is a former French youth international and has represented his nation at every level for which he was eligible . Prior to playing for the senior team , he played on the under @-@ 17 team that won the 2004 UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Football Championship . Nasri made his senior international debut in March 2007 in a friendly match against Austria . Two months later , he scored his first senior international goal in a 1 ? 0 UEFA Euro 2008 qualifying win over Georgia . Nasri has represented France at two major international tournaments : UEFA Euro 2008 and UEFA Euro 2012 .

= = Personal life = =

Samir Nasri (Arabic : ?????) was born in Septèmes @-@ les @-@ Vallons , a northern suburb of Marseille , to French nationals of Algerian descent . His mother , Ouassila Ben Saïd , and father , Abdelhafid Nasri , were both born in France ; his father being born and raised in Marseille , while his mother being from nearby Salon @-@ de @-@ Provence . Nasri 's grandparents emigrated to France from Algeria . His mother is a housewife and his father previously worked as a bus driver before becoming his son 's personal manager . At the start of his football career , Nasri initially played under his mother 's surname , Ben Saïd , before switching to Nasri , his father 's surname , following his selection to the France under @-@ 16 team . He is the eldest of four children and is a non @-@ practising Muslim . Nasri has a younger sister named Sonia and twin brothers named Walid and Malik . All four were raised in La Gavotte Peyret . After joining Arsenal in England , Nasri settled in Hampstead , a district of North London .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

While growing up in La Gavotte Peyret , Nasri grew an attraction to the sport of football at a young age . He regularly played the sport on the streets where he learned many of his skills . Upon noticing his prodigious talent , his parents signed him up to play with the local club in his hometown . Nasri spent one year playing with the club in La Gavotte Peyret before moving to Pennes Mirabeau in nearby Mirabeau at the age of seven . While playing with Pennes , Nasri was discovered by Marseille scout Freddy Assolen who had been informed of the player 's talent through local word of mouth . After noticing Nasri 's skill in person , Assolen recruited the player to travel with a group of other young players to Italy to participate in a youth tournament where they would play against the youth academies of Milan and Juventus . Nasri impressed at the tournament and Assolen was jokingly told by a Milan scout that " he (Nasri) stays here , you leave him . " After returning to France , Marseille officials organized a meeting with the player 's father and the group agreed to allow Nasri insertion into the club 's academy at the age of nine .

= = = Marseille = = =

Upon entering the Marseille youth academy , Nasri quickly impressed . Upon moving to Bastide , where the club 's youth players reside , his style of play began to take shape . In 2007 , Nasri admitted that the move to Bastide really helped his game stating , " That 's where I really started to progress . Training was different and the facilities are beautiful , all of which helps you work well . " As a result of his quick progression , Nasri was an integral part of every youth team he was a part of winning several trophies , such as the Championnat de Provence , Coupe de Provence , and the Ligue de la Méditerranée . After spending most of the 2003 ? 04 season playing with the club 's under @-@ 18 team , for the latter part of the season , the now 16 @-@ year @-@ old Nasri was promoted to the club 's reserve team in the Championnat de France amateur , the fourth division of French football . He appeared primarily as a substitute in a few matches during the campaign as the reserve team failed to rebound from its bad start to the season , which resulted in a 16th @-@ place finish and relegation to the Championnat de France amateur 2 .

= = = = Debut season = = = =

Ahead of the 2004 ? 05 season , several clubs were reported to be interested in signing Nasri , most notably English clubs Arsenal , Chelsea , Liverpool and Newcastle United . In an effort to decrease the speculation , Nasri was offered a three @-@ year professional contract by Marseille officials led by president Pape Diouf and manager José Anigo . On 13 August 2004 , Nasri agreed to the contract . Marseille officials had been eager to sign Nasri to a contract in an attempt to not undergo a situation similar to the departure of Mathieu Flamini , in which the player departed the club without Marseille receiving any compensation . As a result of his professional contract , Nasri was promoted to the senior team by Anigo and assigned the number 22 shirt . He began the season playing on the club 's reserve team and appeared in four matches before earning a call up to the senior team in September 2004 . Nasri made his professional debut on 12 September in a 2 ? 0 league defeat to Sochaux appearing as a substitute for Bruno Cheyrou . On 17 October , he made his first professional start playing the entire match in a 1 ? 1 draw with Saint @-@ Étienne . Nasri featured heavily within the team under Anigo and later Philippe Troussier . In the team 's first match following the winter break , he scored his first professional goal in a 2 ? 1 away victory over Lille . Nasri finished his rookie campaign with 25 total appearances , one goal , and two assists .

= = = = 2005 ? 06 season = = = =

The 2005 ? 06 season saw Marseille boosted by the arrival of attackers Franck Ribéry and Djibril Cissé ; the latter arriving after having a successful loan stint with the club the previous season . Nasri , who was now given a more prominent role within the team by new manager Jean Fernandez , formed impressive partnerships with the two along with lead striker Mamadou Niang . He appeared in 49 total matches , which included appearances in both the UEFA Cup and the UEFA Intertoto

Cup . Nasri made his European debut on 16 July 2005 in the first round of the 2005 UEFA Intertoto Cup against Swiss club BSC Young Boys . Marseille won the first leg 3 ? 2 . In the second leg , Nasri scored his first European goal in a 2 ? 1 win . Marseille ultimately won the competition after beating Spanish outfit Deportivo de La Coruña 5 ? 3 on aggregate . In the league , Nasri appeared in 30 matches , 25 as a starter . He scored his only league goal of the season on 29 April 2007 in a 4 ? 2 win over Sochaux . In the Coupe de France , Nasri appeared in five matches as Marseille reached the final of the competition where the club faced Le Classique rivals Paris Saint @-@ Germain . Nasri appeared as a substitute in the match as Marseille were defeated 2 ? 1 . Following the season , Nasri signed a two @-@ year contract extension with the club until 2009 .

= = = = 2006 ? 07 season = = = =

Nasri began the 2006 ? 07 season playing under Albert Emon , his fourth different manager in three years . Despite this , Marseille 's now heightened popularity saw increased speculation from writers and supporters that the club would finally win its first league title since the 1991 ? 92 season . Nasri began the season on a quick note scoring the second goal in the team 's 3 ? 1 win over Paris Saint @-@ Germain in September 2006 . On 29 April 2007 , Nasri scored a goal in Marseille 's 4 ? 2 hammering of Sochaux . Marseille were due to face the same club in the 2007 Coupe de France Final just days later and were , subsequently , heavy favorites as a result of the team 's two @-@ goal victory in the previous match . However , Sochaux recorded an upset victory defeating Marseille 5 ? 4 on penalties after the match ended 2 ? 2 following extra time . On the final match day of the season , Nasri converted the only goal in a 1 ? 0 win over Sedan . The victory secured 2nd place for Marseille and was the club 's best finish since finishing runner @-@ up to Bordeaux in the 1998 ? 99 season . Nasri finished the season with a career @-@ high 50 appearances , 37 of them in the league . For his efforts , he was awarded the UNFP Young Player of the Year award and named to the Team of the Year . Nasri was also voted the Club Player of the Year by supporters , receiving 62 % of the votes ahead of the likes of Ribéry and Niang .

= = = = 2007 ? 08 season = = = =

Similar to his previous three years at Marseille , Nasri began the new season under new management as the club was now being led by the Belgian Eric Gerets . Due to the departure of Ribéry to Bayern Munich , Gerets installed Nasri as the focal point of the attack and he responding by having his best season at the club . He appeared in 42 total matches scoring a career @-@ high six goals and also assisting on a career @-@ high 15 goals . Nasri formed partnerships in the midfield with winger Mathieu Valbuena and midfielders Lorik Cana and Benoît Cheyrou as Marseille boasted the third @-@ best attack in the league behind champions Lyon and Bordeaux , who finished first and second in the league , respectively . Nasri , initially , struggled during the infancy of the campaign due to dealing with the effects of a severely sprained ankle suffered in the pre @-@ season . He failed to score a goal or provide an assist in the team 's first eight league matches . On 24 November 2007 , he assisted on two goals in a 2 ? 0 victory over Metz . Nasri closed out the fall season by assisting on the equalizing goal in a 2 ? 2 draw with Bordeaux and making the final pass on the game @-@ winning goal against Le Mans .

Following the winter break , Nasri 's goal @-@ scoring began to take form . In late January , he scored goals in back @-@ to @-@ back matches against Nancy and Caen . In European competition , Nasri participated in the UEFA Champions League for the first time in his career , however he failed to make an impact in the four group stage matches he appeared in . He missed the club 's upset victory over Liverpool at Anfield due to dealing with a bout of meningitis . Marseille ultimately finished the group in third place , which resulted in the team qualifying for the Round of 32 of the UEFA Cup . The club was defeated in the Round of 16 by Russian club Zenit Saint Petersburg despite being up 3 ? 1 heading into the second leg . Of those three goals Marseille scored in the first leg , Nasri assisted on two of them . On 16 March 2008 , Nasri scored a goal in a 3 ? 3 draw with Lens . A month later , he scored the game @-@ winning goal in a 2 ? 1 victory over

Metz . In his final match with Marseille against Strasbourg , Nasri scored a goal and assisted on another in a 4 ? 3 victory . Marseille finished the league campaign in third place , which resulted in the club qualifying for the Champions League for the second consecutive season . On 8 May 2008 , with all the transfer speculation surrounding the player , Nasri surprised many by signing a three @-@ year contract extension with the club until 2012 .

= = = Arsenal = = =

= = = 2008 ? 09 season = = =

A week later , despite signing a contract extension with Marseille , Nasri was linked with a move to Premier League club Arsenal . Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger had been tracking Nasri since watching him play at the 2004 UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Football Championship . It was later revealed that the contract extension Nasri signed with Marseille was simply protocol to allow Marseille to get a higher transfer fee for the player . The Bouches @-@ du @-@ Rhône @-@ based club was seeking £ 14 million for the young midfielder . Ahead of UEFA Euro 2008 , both Nasri 's agent and Wenger admitted that offers were made for the player and that a move to the English club was imminent . The deal was ultimately concluded following the competition on 11 July 2008 with Nasri agreeing to a four @-@ year contract . The transfer fee was undisclosed , but has been purported to be in the region of £ 12 million . Upon arriving to the club , Nasri admitted that Wenger was one of the primary reasons for him joining the club , stating , " The fact that Arsène Wenger gives great opportunities to young players is very important for me . Arsène has a great reputation and he is one of the best managers in the world . "

Nasri was given the number 8 shirt and made his club debut on 30 July 2008 in a friendly match against German club VfB Stuttgart in a 3 ? 1 win . He made his Premier League debut in the team 's first game of the season on 16 August 2008 against West Bromwich Albion . In the match , Nasri scored his first league goal scoring with a close range effort , after four minutes in a 1 ? 0 victory . As a result of his debut goal , he became the 83rd player in Premier League history to score on his league debut and the 22nd Arsenal player . On 27 August , Nasri scored his second goal for the club in the team 's 2008 ? 09 UEFA Champions League third round qualifying second leg tie against Dutch club Twente . Arsenal won the match 4 ? 0 and the tie 6 ? 0 on aggregate . On 8 November , Nasri scored both of Arsenal 's goals in a 2 ? 1 win over Manchester United .

On 21 December , Nasri assisted on the opening goal scored by Robin van Persie in the team 's 1 ? 1 draw with Liverpool . Nasri returned to his scoring form in the new year . On 17 January 2009 , he scored the second goal in the club 's 3 ? 1 win over Hull City at the KC Stadium . It took Nasri another two months to score another goal , which came in Arsenal 's 3 ? 1 away win against Newcastle United . He finished his first campaign at Arsenal appearing in 44 matches , scoring seven goals , and providing five assists .

= = = 2009 ? 10 season = = =

On 21 July 2009 , while participating in a training match during pre @-@ season with Arsenal in Bad Waltersdorf , Nasri suffered a broken leg . The injury required two to three months of rest and , as a result , Nasri missed the opening of the 2009 ? 10 Premier League season . He made his debut late in the campaign on 25 October 2009 in a Football League Cup tie against Liverpool . Nasri played the entire match in a 2 ? 1 win . On 4 November , he scored his first goal of the season in the team 's Champions League group stage match against Dutch outfit AZ . Three weeks later , Nasri converted another Champions League goal , this time against Belgium club Standard Liège in a 2 ? 0 win . He featured heavily with the team during the winter months and he ended the 2009 calendar year by scoring a goal and providing an assist 4 ? 1 win over Portsmouth away at Fratton Park .

After going nearly two months without scoring a goal , Nasri marked his goal @-@ scoring return in emphatic fashion in the team 's 5 ? 0 second leg victory over Portuguese club Porto in the Round of

16 of the Champions League knockout stage . The goal , described by English newspaper The Guardian columnist David Lacey as " reminiscent of a lost art in British football , " showcased Nasri 's dribbling , as well as his individuality . Upon receiving the ball on the right wing from midfielder Abou Diaby , Nasri dribbled through and past three Porto players in a small area of space before bringing the ball past wingback Álvaro Pereira and driving it across the goalkeeper , sending the ball in off the far post . Nasri goal was subsequently compared by the English media to similar goals that occurred in the country . Three weeks later , after appearing as a substitute in the second half , Nasri scored the opening goal against Birmingham City . Birmingham later equalized through a late goal from Kevin Phillips . The draw ended a string of seven consecutive league victories for Arsenal and Wenger admitted that the draw " was a big blow for our chances [of winning the league] . " In the team 's final seven league matches , Nasri assisted on goals in a 3 ? 2 loss to Wigan and a 4 ? 0 home win over Fulham . Arsenal ultimately finished the campaign in third place . Nasri concluded his second season at Arsenal appearing 34 games scoring five goals and issuing the same amount of assists .

= = = = Breakthrough season = = = =

Ahead of the 2010 ? 11 season , Nasri admitted that he was determined to re @-@ capture his form that resulted in Arsenal signing him two years prior . He also admitted that he did not take missing out on the 2010 FIFA World Cup well , stating , " When I discovered that I wasn 't part of the squad for the World Cup , I got a big slap in the face . " However , after speaking to Wenger , who informed him that he should use the non @-@ callup as motivation , he was reassured . Nasri started the campaign well . He was named in Arsenal 's starting line @-@ up to play against Liverpool for the first match of the season on 15 August 2010 . Nasri played the entire match in a 1 ? 1 draw . After the match , Arsenal confirmed that Nasri had suffered a knee injury that would keep him out for a month . However , the player returned to the team after just three matches helping Arsenal defeat Portuguese outfit Braga 6 ? 0 in the Champions League on his return . On 21 September , Nasri scored a double in the club 's 4 ? 1 extra time victory over North London derby rivals Tottenham Hotspur . Both goals were converted from the penalty spot . Four days later , Nasri scored another double in a 3 ? 2 home defeat to West Bromwich Albion .

Nasri continued his fine form as season wore on . In the club 's Champions League group stage tie against Serbian club FK Partizan , he assisted on a Sébastien Squillaci goal in the team 's 3 ? 1 victory . In October 2010 , Nasri went on a streak , in which he scored goals in three straight matches . He started the streak by converting a penalty in a 2 ? 1 win over Birmingham City . In the club 's following match against Ukrainian competitors Shakhtar Donetsk , Nasri scored on a left @-@ footed volley in a 5 ? 1 victory . He also assisted on a goal in the match . Against Manchester City five days later , he scored the first goal and set up the third in a 3 ? 0 victory . As a result of his performances in October 2010 , Nasri was named the PFA Fans ' Player of the Month . In November , Nasri was on the score @-@ sheet again netting the opener in a 3 ? 2 defeat to Tottenham . A week later , he scored a volley in a 4 ? 2 win over Aston Villa .

On 4 December , Nasri scored two goals against Fulham to give Arsenal a 2 ? 1 win . The victory placed Arsenal at the top of the league table . The two goals were Nasri 's seventh and eighth goals , respectively , in the league and his tenth and 11th overall . Just four days later , Nasri scored a goal in Arsenal 's vital last group game against Partizan . Arsenal won the match 3 ? 1 . On 13 December , for his performances during the 2010 calendar year , Nasri was named the France Football French Player of the Year beating out Chelsea midfielder Florent Malouda and Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris . He is the first Arsenal player to achieve the honour since Thierry Henry in 2006 . Nasri was also rewarded domestically for his performances in December winning the Fans ' Player of the Month for the second time in the season and , also , capturing the club 's monthly award . He won the award for the second consecutive month in January .

Nasri scored his 13th goal of the season in the 3 ? 0 win against Birmingham City on New Year 's Day 2011 . In the FA Cup , Nasri scored his first @-@ ever goal in the competition in a 3 ? 1 win over Leeds United in the third round . On 30 January 2011 , Nasri was forced to leave the team 's

fourth round FA Cup tie against Huddersfield Town due to a hamstring injury . He , subsequently , missed two weeks and returned to the team ahead of its Champions League knockout round tie with Spanish champions Barcelona . In the first leg , Nasri assisted on the game @-@ winning goal scored by Andrey Arshavin . Arsenal won the match 2 ? 1 , but loss the tie 4 ? 3 on aggregate after suffering a 3 ? 1 defeat at the Camp Nou in the second leg . On 8 April , Nasri was nominated for both the PFA Players ' Player of the Year and PFA Young Player of the Year awards . He lost out on both awards to Tottenham midfielder Gareth Bale and teammate Jack Wilshere , respectively , but was given consolation with an appearance on the association 's Team of the Year .

= = = Manchester City = = =

On 24 August 2011 , it was confirmed that Nasri had joined Premier League club Manchester City . The transfer fee was priced in the region of £ 25 million and the player signed a four @-@ year contract .

= = = = 2011 ? 12 = = = =

Nasri made his club debut on 28 August in a league fixture away to Tottenham Hotspur . In the match , he assisted on three goals as Manchester City cruised to a 5 ? 1 win . In the team 's next match following the September international break , Nasri assisted on one of Sergio Agüero 's three goals in a 3 ? 0 win over Wigan Athletic . On 1 October , he scored his first goal for the club netting the third goal in a 4 ? 0 victory . Nasri also assisted on two goals in the match . After nearly two months without a league goal , on 3 December , Nasri scored his second goal for Manchester City converting a free kick in a 5 ? 1 win against Norwich City . In the following month , Nasri scored his third goal for the club in a 3 ? 2 win against Tottenham Hotspur . On 21 March , he scored the game @-@ winning goal in a 2 ? 1 win over Chelsea after receiving a through ball from teammate Carlos Tevez . On 22 April , he scored in a 2 ? 0 away win against Wolverhampton Wanderers . On 13 May 2012 , Nasri won his first Premier League trophy , as Manchester City were crowned Premier League champions for the 2011 ? 12 season after beating Queens Park Rangers 3 ? 2 .

= = = = 2012 ? 13 = = = =

At the start of the 2012 ? 13 season , Nasri switched his squad number from 19 to 8 . On 12 August , Nasri scored and assisted a goal in the 2012 Community Shield , a 3 ? 2 win against FA Cup winners Chelsea . A week later on the opening day of the 2012 ? 13 Premier League season he scored and assisted again in a 3 ? 2 win , this time against newly promoted Southampton . He then scored against Ajax in a 3 ? 1 loss in the UEFA Champions League . In December 2012 , Nasri was criticised for not blocking Robin van Persie 's winning goal in the Manchester Derby .

In March 2013 , after a man of the match performance in a 4 ? 0 win against Newcastle United , City manager Roberto Mancini said he " would like to give [Nasri] a punch " due to his inconsistent form . On 14 April , Nasri scored the opening goal as City defeated Chelsea 2 ? 1 in the FA Cup semi @-@ final .

= = = = 2013 ? 14 = = = =

Narsi scored his first goal of the 2013 ? 14 season in the game against Manchester United in a 4 ? 1 win . On 5 November , Nasri provided assists for goals by Sergio Agüero and Álvaro Negredo as City cruised by CSKA Moscow 5 ? 2 to advance to the knockout stages of the Champions League for the first time in club history . On 1 December , Nasri scored twice in a 3 ? 0 win over Swansea City .

On 2 March 2014 , Nasri scored the second goal as Manchester City defeated Sunderland 3 ? 1 to win the 2014 Football League Cup Final . For his performance in the final , Nasri received the Alan Hardaker Trophy , given to the Man of the Match .

In a crucial league game away to Everton on 3 May , Nasri provided the assist for Edin Džeko 's game @-@ winning goal as City came from behind to win 3 ? 2 and go top of the table with two games remaining . On 11 May , Nasri scored Manchester City 's opening goal in a 2 ? 0 defeat of West Ham United as the club won the 2013 ? 14 Premier League title .

== 2014 ? 15 ==

On 10 July 2014 , Nasri signed a new five @-@ year contract deal with Manchester City , which will keep him at the club until 2019 .

== 2015 ? 16 ==

On 22 November 2015 , Manuel Pellegrini confirmed that Nasri would miss 4 ? 5 months action because of a tendon injury sustained in training . On 10 April 2016 , during his first match back from injury , he scored the match winning goal against West Bromwich Albion as Manchester City won the match 2 ? 1 .

= International career =

= Youth =

Nasri has earned caps with all of France 's youth teams for which he was eligible . He is a member of the group , commonly known as the Génération 1987 , that produced current internationals Hatem Ben Arfa , Karim Benzema and Jérémy Menez , alongside himself . With the under @-@ 16 team , Nasri made 16 appearances scoring eight goals . Of the four players , Nasri was the first player to become a regular starter in the team under coach François Blaquart and made his debut in the team 's opening match of the campaign against Spain . France won the match 3 ? 0 . Nasri scored his first goal for the team on 29 October in its first group stage match against Sweden at the Tournio du Val @-@ de @-@ Marne . On 11 December , Nasri scored the opening goal in the team 's 6 ? 1 defeat of Greece . At the 2003 Aegean Cup in Turkey , he scored two goals in four matches as France finished the competition in third place . Nasri scored in the team 's second group stage match against Israel , a 3 ? 1 win . In the next group stage match , he scored a goal in 5 ? 0 win over the Ukraine . In the third place match against Belgium , Nasri assisted on a goal scored by Ben Arfa . At the Tournio de Montaigu , Nasri scored his only goal in the team 's 8 ? 0 win over Gabon in the team 's opening group match . France finished the competition runner @-@ up to Italy who defeated France 5 ? 1 in the final match .

At under @-@ 17 level , Nasri , Menez and Ben Arfa were joined by Karim Benzema and tasked with the goal of winning the 2004 UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Football Championship on home soil . Nasri made his debut with the team in the opening match of the season against Sweden netting a goal in a 5 ? 2 victory . In the team 's second straight yearly appearance at the Tournio du Val @-@ de @-@ Marne , Nasri scored his lone goal in the competition against the United States in a 2 ? 0 win as France were declared champions without conceding a goal . At the 2004 UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Football Championship , Nasri scored against Portugal in the competition 's semi @-@ finals . France went on to win the match 3 ? 1 to earn a place in the final . In the final match , France faced Spain . In the match , Nasri scored the game @-@ winning goal to give France its first @-@ ever title in the competition . In total with the under @-@ 17s , he made 16 appearances and scored six goals . Due to increased playing time at his parent club Marseille , Nasri stint with the under @-@ 18 team was uneventful appearing in only four matches .

The foursome of Nasri , Ben Arfa , Benzema and Menez returned to international play together for under @-@ 19 duty . The four were joined by Issiar Dia , Blaise Matuidi and Serge Gakpé with the objective of winning the 2006 UEFA European Under @-@ 19 Football Championship . The team opened the campaign with two friendly matches against Norway . Over the course of the two

matches , Nasri scored two goals : one in a 4 ? 0 win and another in a 5 ? 0 victory . In the first round of qualification for the tournament , Nasri assisted on two goals in the team 's 3 ? 1 win over Wales . In the team 's next group stage match against San Marino , he scored the third goal in a 3 ? 0 victory . In the final group match against Austria , Nasri scored the opening goal and provided the assist on a Benzema goal in a 2 ? 0 win . In the final round of qualification , despite finishing the round undefeated , France were eliminated after being beaten on points by Scotland . Nasri earned his first call up to the under @-@ 21 team under coach René Girard in the team 's first match following the 2006 UEFA European Under @-@ 21 Football Championship against Belgium . He started the match and was replaced at half @-@ time by Florent Sinama Pongolle . He featured in qualification matches for the 2007 UEFA European Under @-@ 21 Football Championship and appeared as a substitute in both legs of the team 's surprising defeat to Israel in the qualifying playoffs . Despite still being eligible to represent the team until 2009 , his appearance in the second leg defeat to Israel was Nasri 's last with the team .

= = = Senior = = =

On 15 March 2007 , Nasri was called up to the senior team for the first time by coach Raymond Domenech for UEFA Euro 2008 qualifying match against Lithuania and a friendly against Austria . Nasri said he was " very happy and very proud " to be called into the national team , stating that the call @-@ up was all the more satisfying as the game was an important European championship qualifier . He appeared on the bench in the match against Lithuania , but failed to make an appearance . Nasri made his international debut on 28 March against Austria at the age of 19 . He started the match and was involved with the only goal , delivering the free kick from which Karim Benzema scored . Nasri returned to the team in June for matches and , on 6 June , scored his first international goal in a 1 ? 0 Euro qualifying win over Georgia . On 16 November , Nasri scored his second international goal in a friendly match against Morocco . As a result of his performances , he was named in the 23 @-@ man squad to participate in UEFA Euro 2008 . Nasri made his debut in the tournament on 9 June 2008 in the team 's opening group stage match against Romania appearing as a substitute . He did not appear in the team 's 4 ? 1 loss to the Netherlands , but did appear in the team 's final group stage match against Italy . Nasri appeared as a substitute for the injured Franck Ribéry in the tenth minute . Following defender 's Éric Abidal 's red card in the 24th minute , Nasri was taken out of the match in order for defender Jean @-@ Alain Boumsong to take Abidal 's spot in the lineup .

In November 2008 , Nasri was one of a group of young players who were accused of being insolent during the team 's campaign at the European Championship . The accusation came from domestic teammate William Gallas , who made the charge in his autobiography . Though not explicitly named in the book , Nasri was widely identified as the player in question . As an example of Nasri 's disrespectful attitude Gallas cited an incident in which the young player sat in Thierry Henry 's seat on the team bus and refused to move , which , according to Gallas , undermined the striker 's seniority . The incident ultimately led to a verbal exchange between Nasri and Gallas during a training session . In response , Nasri played down the incident , stating that Gallas was overreacting to a problem that did not exist . In 2010 , after failing to make the World Cup squad , he opened up about the situation stating that during Gallas ' final year at Arsenal , he was one of " four or five " Arsenal players who did not speak to the defender . The feud culminated on 20 November 2010 when Nasri lived up to a pledge that he would not shake the hand of Gallas , who was now playing for Tottenham , during the pre @-@ match build @-@ up .

In the 2008 ? 09 season , Nasri appeared in only three matches with the national team . After playing against Lithuania on 28 March 2009 , the midfielder went uncapped for the almost a year and a half . During the 2009 ? 10 season , Nasri grew weary of his chances of appearing with the team at the 2010 FIFA World Cup . In the end , he did not appear with the team , failing to make the 23 @-@ man squad or even the preliminary squad . Nasri admitted that he took the non @-@ call up hard , recalling " Not being one of those 23 names , it was difficult . " The player also viewed the non @-@ invite from a positive perspective , stating , " But maybe it was for the best in the end , and

not just because France had a horrible World Cup . It helped me as a person . I told myself I need to work harder , to make sure I don't miss the next one . "

Nasri returned to the national team under the reign of new coach Laurent Blanc for the team 's friendly against Norway on 11 August 2010 . He missed the September call ups due to injury before returning to the team in October for UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying matches against Romania and Luxembourg . On 25 March 2011 , Nasri captained the national team for the first time in its 2 ? 0 Euro qualification win over Luxembourg . He provided the assist on the opening goal scored by Philippe Mexès . In the team 's final Euro qualifier against Bosnia and Herzegovina , Nasri scored the equalizing goal , converting a penalty in a 1 ? 1 draw . The point gained from the stalemate secured a UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying spot for France . After appearing regularly in qualifying for UEFA Euro 2012 , on 29 May 2012 , Nasri was named to the squad to participate in the competition . In the team 's opening group stage match against England , he scored the equalizing goal in a 1 ? 1 draw .

After France lost to Spain in the quarter @-@ finals of UEFA Euro 2012 , Nasri subjected a reporter to what was described as a " foul @-@ mouthed tirade " when asked for his views on the match . For that and other misdemeanours , the French Football Federation imposed a three @-@ match international ban . On May 13 , 2014 , manager Didier Deschamps revealed the 23 @-@ man squad that is going to the 2014 FIFA World Cup ; Nasri was again not included .

On 9 August 2014 , Nasri confirmed his decision to retire from international football aged just 27 .

= = Style of play = =

In his early years at Marseille , Nasri was deployed in several positions , most notably as a deep @-@ lying midfielder and a wide midfielder primarily on the right side as he was deemed too small to play in the middle of the park . After two years of developing his physical traits , in the 2006 ? 07 season , manager Albert Emon inserted Nasri into the playmaker role , where his vision , technical skill , and ability to read and understand the game suited him . Since that season , Nasri has been primarily deployed in the position or as a central attacking midfielder at both club and international level . The player has personally admitted that playing centrally is his preference . However , as a result of his versatility , Nasri can also function on the wing and spent the majority of his career at Arsenal occupying the role in the team 's 4 ? 3 ? 3 formation . His close control with the ball , speed , dribbling , crossing , and ability to use both feet suits the position well , which has resulted in former manager Arsène Wenger deploying Nasri in the role during the player 's four @-@ year stay at the club . Nasri often featured centrally for Arsenal in the absence of former club captain Cesc Fàbregas .

In 2009 , in order to accommodate the arrival of Russian attacker Andrey Arshavin , it was recommended by both Wenger and former national team coach Raymond Domenech that Nasri revert to his role as a deep @-@ lying midfielder so the player could showcase his underrated defensive abilities . Nasri is also an underrated direct free kick and penalty kick taker . The player had previously developed a superstition with regards to taking spot kicks , but conquered the issue after successfully converting two penalties in the team 's Carling Cup victory over Tottenham in 2010 . Wenger describes Nasri as a " young , quick and technically outstanding player . " He is described in a similar fashion by club scout Gilles Grimandi who states that Nasri is " a fantastic athlete , he 's quick , flexible and good with his feet . " Nasri 's playing style , ability , and cultural background have drawn comparisons to Zinedine Zidane . After joining Arsenal and excelling on the wing , the English media began comparing him to former club player and compatriot Robert Pirès . Nasri has often attempted to disassociate himself from the two players , particularly the former player , stating , " There 's only one Zidane , just as there was only one Platini . "

= = Career statistics = =

= = Club = =

As of match played 17 October 2015 .

= = = International = = =

As of 31 March 2014 .

= = = International goals = = =

France score listed first , score column indicates score after each Nasri goal .

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Marseille

UEFA Intertoto Cup : 2005

Manchester City

Premier League : 2011 ? 12 , 2013 ? 14

FA Community Shield : 2012

Football League Cup : 2013 ? 14

= = = International = = =

France

UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Football Championship : 2004

= = = Individual = = =

UNFP Ligue 1 Young Player of the Year : 2006 ? 07

UNFP Ligue 1 Team of the Year : 2006 ? 07

Premier League Player of the Month : December 2010

French Player of the Year : 2010

Arsenal Player of the Month : December 2010

PFA Fans ' Player of the Month : October 2010 , December 2010 , January 2011

Premier League PFA Team of the Year : 2010 ? 11

Nominated for the Best at Sport award at the British Muslim Awards : 2013

Alan Hardaker Trophy : 2014