

= Milan Baro? =

Milan Baro? ( Czech pronunciation : [ ?m?lan ?baro? ] ; born 28 October 1981 ) is a Czech football striker who currently plays for Liberec in the Czech First League .

In 2005 , he was part of the Liverpool team which won the UEFA Champions League . He went on to win Ligue 1 with Lyon in 2007 , the FA Cup with Portsmouth in 2008 and the Süper Lig with Galatasaray in 2012 . He has also had spells with Baník Ostrava , where he started his career , and English club Aston Villa .

Born in Vala?ské Meziříčí , Baro? represented the Czech Republic international team in 93 matches , scoring on 41 occasions . He won the Golden Boot as top scorer of the Euro 2004 tournament , where his nation reached the semi @-@ finals . He went on to play in three more major international tournaments . His 41 goals for the Czech Republic is second behind only Jan Koller .

= = Personal life = =

Baro? was born in the Czech town of Vala?ské Meziříčí . He grew up in the village of Vigantice . In 2009 he married Tereza Franková , who he started dating in 2005 . Their son Patrik was born on 1 September 2009 .

On 1 November 2007 , Baro? was arrested in France while driving at 271 km / h ( 168 mph ) in his black Ferrari F430 , on a freeway limited to 130 km / h ( 81 mph ) . Stopped by French police between Lyon and Geneva in the region of Ain , the local authorities said the radar reading of 271 km / h was the fastest speed ever recorded in the region , surpassing the previous mark of 248 km / h ( 154 mph ) set by a motorcyclist in 2000 . As a result , Baro? had his car and licence confiscated and had to return to Lyon in a taxi .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

As a boy , Baro? played for youth clubs in Vigantice and Ro?nov pod Radho?t?m before joining the youth team of Baník Ostrava at the age of 12 . In 1998 he made his debut for the club in the Czech First League , the top division of Czech football , becoming a regular over the next few seasons . In 2000 , he won the Talent of the Year award at the Czech Footballer of the Year awards . He was described by the Czech News Agency in the 2000 ? 01 season as " perhaps the biggest star of the [ Czech ] football league " . He played his last game for the club on 2 December 2001 , in a 1 ? 0 loss at Viktoria ?i?kov . During his time in Ostrava , he scored 23 league goals in 76 appearances .

= = = Liverpool = = =

Baro? joined Liverpool in 2002 in a transfer worth £ 3 @.@ 2 million , although he did not move straight away due to delays in obtaining a work permit for him . He made his club debut in a UEFA Champions League tie away to Barcelona on 13 March ; he played last 16 minutes in place of Emile Heskey as the match finished goalless . It was his only appearance of the 2001 ? 02 season .

In the 2002 ? 03 season , Baro? scored twice on his Premiership debut away to Bolton Wanderers on 14 September 2002 , as Liverpool won 3 ? 2 away . Baro? was a substitute in the 2003 Football League Cup Final against Manchester United . He entered the game in the second half , but did not play to the end of the game , being substituted himself a minute before the end of the game . Liverpool won the game 2 ? 0 to win the cup , the first major trophy of Baro? ' career . Towards the end of the season , he scored twice in a 6 ? 0 away win over already @-@ relegated West Bromwich Albion in April 2003 . He ended his first season in the Premiership with 12 goals for the club .

Baro? broke his ankle in a September 2003 match against Blackburn Rovers , a match which also saw team @-@ mate Jamie Carragher sustain a broken leg . Baro? subsequently missed five months of football and scored just two goals in the 2003 ? 04 season . His first goal came in a league match against Leeds United in February 2004 , while his other goal was in March in a 1 ? 1 Champions League draw against Marseille . Baro? would later claim that had manager Gérard Houllier stayed at the club after the summer of 2004 , he would have put in a transfer request . As it was , Houllier left the club and was replaced by Rafael Benítez .

Baro? entered the 2004 ? 05 season having been the top goalscorer in the summer 's Euro 2004 tournament . With Michael Owen and Emile Heskey having been sold and new signing Djibril Cissé out with a long @-@ term injury , Baro? was now Liverpool 's only senior striker . Despite being the club 's joint top scorer with 13 goals , including a hat @-@ trick against Crystal Palace , Spaniard Fernando Morientes was preferred to Baro? in Liverpool 's starting lineup for the League Cup Final , a match they lost to Chelsea . However , he did start the 2005 Champions League Final , being substituted after 85 minutes as the game finished 3 ? 3 in normal time . Liverpool went on to win the match on penalties . Baro? reportedly dropped the trophy during the team 's celebration , leaving a dent , but Liverpool decided not to mend it because it " added to the character " of the trophy . He finished the season with 13 goals , becoming the joint @-@ top scorer for the club . Baro? also received his first red card during the campaign , being sent off for a high challenge on Everton 's Alan Stubbs in the Merseyside derby on 20 March .

In June 2005 , former manager Gérard Houllier , then with French club Lyon , made an approach to sign Baro? . The player rejected the approach , but only made two substitute appearances for Liverpool in the 2005 ? 06 season before leaving the club . He left Liverpool with league figures of 19 goals in 68 appearances .

= = = Aston Villa = = =

Baro? moved to Premiership side Aston Villa for a fee of £ 6 @. @ 5 million in August 2005 , signing a four @-@ year contract . He was given the number 10 shirt . Just ten minutes into his Aston Villa debut , he scored the only goal in his new team 's league victory over Blackburn . He played a crucial role in Villa 's League Cup second round victory against Wycombe Wanderers in September . With Villa trailing 3 ? 1 at half time , Baro? scored shortly after the beginning of the second half and won a penalty , which Gareth Barry converted . He also provided the cross for Barry 's second goal of the game as Villa scored seven goals in the second half , resulting in a final score of 8 ? 3 , their biggest win in over 40 years . He set up the first Aston Villa goal in a November match against Sunderland in dubious circumstances ; back @-@ heeling the ball , which " looked to have gone out of play " to Aaron Hughes . Hughes ' pass found Kevin Phillips , who opened the scoring against his old club . He later scored a goal himself in the same game , which ended 3 ? 1 to Villa .

In the Boxing Day match against Everton , Baro? was involved thoroughly in the proceedings . He opened the scoring in the 35th minute , having handled the ball immediately beforehand . This was not punished and the referee awarded a goal . Baro? subsequently celebrated in front of the travelling Everton fans , making a gesture as if to listen to them . A number of missiles from the crowd were subsequently thrown in Baro? ' direction . The goal was just his third in what Glenn Moore of The Independent described as " an indifferent season " for Baro? . He went on to score his second goal of the game , and Villa 's fourth , earning him man of the match honours . Baro? scored twice in January 2006 's fourth round FA Cup win against Port Vale , and added another in the following round 's 1 ? 1 draw with Manchester City . Late in the season , he scored two goals in the Second City derby against Birmingham City at Villa Park , marking his 11th and 12th goals of the season and winning another man of the match award . He would score no further goals that season .

Baro? failed to score at the start of the 2006 ? 07 season , leading new manager Martin O 'Neill to challenge him in October to prove himself before the January transfer window . He subsequently scored his first goal of the season in December 2006 , eight months since scoring his last one , with a close @-@ range equaliser against Sheffield United in a 2 ? 2 draw . Although he also managed

to score for Aston Villa in a 2 ? 1 loss to Manchester United in the FA Cup , he left the club in January 2007 , having scored just once in 17 league matches that season .

= = = Lyon = = =

On 22 January 2007 , Baro? signed with French side Lyon , signing a three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half year contract and reuniting with former manager Gérard Houllier from his time at Liverpool . The deal swapped Baro? with Lyon striker John Carew , who joined Aston Villa on a three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year deal . Just two days after joining the club , he made his Lyon debut in a league match against Bordeaux . He appeared as a substitute , as league leaders Lyon lost 2 ? 1 for their first home defeat of the season . Baro? took part in that year 's Champions League , featuring as a substitute in a 0 ? 0 draw in Rome against Roma . He played no further part in that season 's Champions League campaign , as he remained on the bench in the return leg as Lyon were eliminated .

In May 2007 , Baro? was accused of making a racist gesture towards his Cameroonian opponent Stéphane Mbia during Lyon 's match against Rennes on 18 April . After having been fouled by Mbia several times , Baro? held his nose in front of Mbia and waved his hand as if to waft away an unpleasant smell . In the ensuing controversy , Baro? insisted that his gesture was not intended to be racist in any way , and he was only trying to tell Mbia to get out of his face and leave him alone . Baro? and Mbia were brought before an official disciplinary hearing of the Ligue de Football Professionnel ( LFP ) , which ruled that Baro? was innocent of racist behaviour , but he was nevertheless suspended for the remaining three games of the season for unsportsmanlike conduct . The end of the season saw Lyon win the league title , but nonetheless manager Houllier left the club .

Baro? scored in Lyon 's opening game of the 2007 ? 08 season as his club won 2 ? 0 against Auxerre . However , he played significantly less under new manager Alain Perrin , making just six starts and scoring a total of three league goals . In mid @-@ November , Baro? revealed a break down in his relationship with Perrin and hinted at a move to another club .

= = = Portsmouth = = =

Baro? joined Premier League side Portsmouth on loan from Lyon in January 2008 until the end of the season , with the option of making the move permanent at the end of the loan . Baro? played a significant role in the club winning the 2008 FA Cup . He won Portsmouth 's match @-@ winning penalty kick in the quarter @-@ final at Manchester United and assisted Nwankwo Kanu 's deciding goal in the semi final match against West Bromwich Albion with a suspected handball that went unnoticed by both the referee and his assistant . The final match of Baro? ' loan spell was the 2008 FA Cup Final victory over Cardiff City at Wembley Stadium , where he appeared as an 87th @-@ minute substitute for Kanu . By the end of the season , Baro? had played 16 matches for Portsmouth , including seven as a substitute , although he failed to score . He was one of a number of Portsmouth players to be absent at the team parade after the club won the FA Cup , leading to speculation he could have played his last game for the club . At the end of the season , Baro? returned to Lyon .

= = = Galatasaray = = =

In August 2008 , Baro? joined Turkish champions Galatasaray from Lyon for a fee of ? 4 @. @ 7 million . He made his first appearance against Kayserispor , playing the last 15 minutes . Baro? scored his first two goals for the club in the UEFA Cup first round , first leg game against Bellinzona . Three days later , in his first league start , he once again scored two goals against Kocaelispor , with Galatasaray going on to win the match 4 ? 1 . On 21 December 2008 , Baro? scored a hat @-@ trick in the 4 ? 2 Süper Lig derby win against Be?ikta? , converting two penalties and scoring one from open play . He scored another hat @-@ trick later in the season against Hacettepe . He

finished the 2008 ? 09 season as the Süper Lig top scorer with 20 goals .

Baro? scored his first goal of the 2009 ? 10 season in his third league game when he scored twice in a 4 ? 1 win against Kayserispor . His next two goals came on 13 September where Galatasaray played rivals Be?ikta? . Galatasaray won the match 3 ? 0 , with Baro? scoring his third and fourth goals of the season . He scored a total of five times in ten matches before breaking his left foot in two places after a tackle by Emre Belözo?lu in the Fenerbahçe ? Galatasaray derby on 25 October 2009 . He returned to action four and a half months later on 14 March 2010 for a game against Ankaragücü , scoring a goal on his comeback . During the season , he scored his third hat @-@ trick for the club in a match against Diyarbakirspor . He finished the season with league figures of 11 goals in 17 matches .

In August 2010 , a week before the start of the 2010 ? 11 Süper Lig , he extended his contract with Galatasaray for two seasons , keeping him contracted to the club until the end of the 2012 ? 13 season . Although he had been injured during pre @-@ season training , Baro? appeared as a substitute in his club 's UEFA Europa League qualification match against Karpaty Lviv , scoring twice as Galatasaray returned from 2 ? 0 down to draw the match . At the end of September , he scored his fourth hat @-@ trick for the club against İstanbul Büyük?ehir Belediyespor , although he failed to complete the game due to an injury . He scored two more goals in a 4 ? 2 loss against Ankaragücü on 17 October , but was injured again . Baro? was suspended for three matches in March 2011 after insulting referee F?rat Ayd?nus in a match against Be?ikta? . By the end of the season , Baro? had appeared in 17 league games and scored 9 goals .

Galatasaray started the 2011 ? 12 season well and were top of the league in January , having won eight consecutive league matches . Baro? did not start a match for his club for four weeks , but scored an important goal against Samsunspor in the eighth match of the streak . The club won a ninth @-@ straight game , with Baro? scoring his seventh goal of the season , in the 5 ? 1 win against Kardemir Karabükspor , although he left the game with an injury . He returned from injury in a February match against Antalyaspor , coming on as a substitute , but was on the field of play just 15 minutes before receiving a red card . His dismissal resulted in a three @-@ match suspension . Baro? scored his last goal for the club in April 2012 in the last match of the regular season against Manisaspor .

In 2012 , Baro? was told by then @-@ coach Fatih Terim that he would not play for the club any more . He played no competitive football after Euro 2012 and finally left the club in February 2013 .

= = = Return to Baník Ostrava = = =

On 18 February 2013 , Czech club Baník Ostrava announced that Baro? had rejoined the club where he started his career , signing a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year contract . Under the terms of the contract , his salary was donated to support the youth club of the team . Having not played a competitive match since 21 June of the previous year , he played his first match of the season on 23 February , coming on as a substitute in the 0 ? 0 home draw with Dynamo ?eské Bud?jovice . He scored a hat @-@ trick in Ostrava 's 3 ? 0 league victory against Hradec Králové on 9 March 2013 , his first hat @-@ trick in the top flight of Czech football .

= = = Antalyaspor = = =

On 16 July 2013 , Baro? agreed a one @-@ year contract with Turkish club Antalyaspor . He made his club debut in August , appearing as a substitute in a 0 ? 0 Süper Lig draw against Kayseri Erciyesspor . He scored his first goal for Antalyaspor against Bursaspor in August , then his second against Rizespor in October . He suffered damage to his anterior cruciate ligament ( ACL ) in December 2013 , ruling him out of action for the rest of the season . Baro? returned to the Czech Republic for treatment in January 2014 .

= = = Third spell at Baník Ostrava and Mladá Boleslav = = =

24 September 2014 saw Baroš re-sign to join Ostrava ; he signed a contract until the end of the 2014 / 15 season . Following the end of the 2014 / 15 season , Baroš left Ostrava and signed a two year contract with Mladá Boleslav . Following the end of the 2015 / 16 season , Baroš left Mladá Boleslav and signed a two year contract with Liberec .

= = International career = =

Baroš started representing the Czech Republic in 1997 , at under 15 level . Over the next three years he moved up to play at higher age groups , specifically under 16 , 17 and 18 . Baroš played in the 2000 Olympic tournament , making three appearances for the team . He took part in two other major tournaments at junior level : the 2000 UEFA European Under 21 Football Championship , at which the Czech Republic placed second , and the 2002 UEFA European Under 21 Football Championship , which the Czech Republic won .

Baroš made his first appearance for the senior national side on 25 April 2001 in a friendly match against Belgium , scoring on his debut . Baroš and national teammate Pavel Nedvěd were both shown the red card in a November 2001 qualification match for the following year 's World Cup , as the Czech Republic were eliminated by Belgium .

At UEFA Euro 2004 , Baroš scored the first goal for the Czech Republic in their first game of the tournament , a come back from behind 2 - 1 victory over Latvia . With the goal he became the youngest goalscorer at the European Championships for the Czech Republic . His second goal of the tournament came against the Netherlands ; the Dutch team had taken a two goal lead over the Czechs before Jan Koller scored from a Baroš pass . Baroš then scored before Vladimír Šmicer completed the scoring , as the Czechs won the game 3 - 2 . The third group match saw the Czech Republic make nine changes to their starting lineup , having already qualified for the quarter finals . Baroš appeared as a substitute and scored the winning goal , as opponents Germany failed to advance to the next stage of the tournament . Baroš added two goals in two minutes of the second half of the Czechs ' quarter final win over Denmark , and finished as the tournament 's Golden Boot winner with five goals .

In qualification for the 2006 World Cup , Baroš scored five goals for his country , including four in consecutive matches in 2005 . An injury to his foot , picked up in a match on 3 June , kept him out of 2006 FIFA World Cup games against the United States and Ghana . He did appear in the Czechs ' final group game against Italy , but appeared unfit and left the game after 64 minutes to be replaced by David Jarolím .

In the run up to UEFA Euro 2008 , Baroš had not scored an international goal since March 2007 . He started the Czech Republic 's second group game against Portugal , but Portugal won 3 - 1 and Baroš failed to score . Jan Koller was preferred to Baroš in the starting lineup for the next match , against Turkey . Despite neither playing in the match nor even being on the pitch , Baroš suffered the indignity of receiving a yellow card during stoppage time at the end of the match .

Baroš was banned indefinitely from playing for his national side in April 2009 after a breach of discipline , having attended a bar late at night . However , he was recalled to the national side after the appointment of Ivan Hašek as head coach . On 12 August 2009 , he marked his return to international duty with a goal from the penalty spot in the 3 - 1 home win against Belgium in a friendly match . The following month , Baroš scored a career high of four goals against San Marino , in a World Cup qualifier which the Czech Republic won 7 - 0 . In doing so , he became only the second player from the Czech Republic to score four goals in an international match . He was selected as part of the squad for Euro 2012 . After the tournament , during which he failed to score , Baroš announced his retirement from international football , having scored a total of 41 international goals in 93 matches . His total of 41 international goals for his country is second only to strike partner Jan Koller , who holds the record with 55 .

= = Style of play = =

Baroš gained the nickname " the Ostravan Maradona " in his native Czech Republic due to

perceived similarities with the Argentinian footballer of the same name . He was noted particularly for being a quick player with good dribbling skill .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of 5 April 2015 . Source : League matches ; Cup and League Cup matches Liverpool European matches European club matches from 2006

= = = International = = =

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Liverpool  
League Cup : 2003  
UEFA Champions League : 2005  
Olympique Lyon  
Ligue 1 : 2006 ? 07  
Trophée des champions : 2007  
Portsmouth  
FA Cup : 2008  
Galatasaray  
Süper Lig : 2011 ? 12  
Turkish Super Cup : 2012  
Mladá Boleslav  
Czech Cup : 2015 ? 16

= = = Country = = =

Czech Republic  
UEFA European Under @-@ 21 Football Championship : 2002

= = = Individual = = =

UEFA Euro 2004 Top Scorer  
UEFA Euro 2004 All @-@ Star Team  
Süper Lig Top Scorer : 2008 ? 09