

= Emile Heskey =

Emile William Ivanhoe Heskey (born 11 January 1978) is an English professional footballer who last played as a striker for Championship club Bolton Wanderers . Before joining the club , he made more than 500 appearances in the Football League and Premier League over an 18 @-@ year career , and represented England in international football . He also had a spell for Australian A @-@ League side Newcastle Jets .

Born in Leicester , Heskey started his career with Leicester City after progressing through their youth system , making his first team debut in 1995 . After winning the League Cup in 1997 and 2000 he made an £ 11 million move to Liverpool in 2000 , which , at the time , was the record transfer fee paid by the club . At Liverpool , he won multiple honours , including the FA Cup in 2001 . He moved to Birmingham City in 2004 and after their relegation from the FA Premier League signed for Wigan Athletic for a club record £ 5 @. @ 5 million fee in 2006 . He signed for Aston Villa in 2009 and was released in 2012 before signing for Australian A @-@ League side Newcastle Jets . After two years , he returned to England , signing for Championship club Bolton Wanderers .

Heskey was an England international at under @-@ 16 , under @-@ 18 , under @-@ 21 , B and senior levels . He made his England debut against Hungary in a 1 ? 1 draw in 1999 . He lost his place in the squad after UEFA Euro 2004 , during which he failed to shine and was the subject of much criticism . After a long lay @-@ off from international duty , Heskey was recalled to the England squad for UEFA Euro 2008 qualifiers in September 2007 . He retired from international football following the 2010 FIFA World Cup , having attained 62 caps and scored 7 goals for his country .

= = Club career = =

= = = Leicester City = = =

Heskey was born in Leicester , Leicestershire to a family of Antiguan descent , and his father , Tyrone Heskey , ran the security of nightclubs in Leicester . He was a keen footballer in his childhood and played for Ratby Groby Juniors , a local youth team in Leicester . He stood out amongst his peers and at the age of nine he accepted a place at Leicester City 's football academy . Progressing through their youth system , he made his first team debut at the age of 17 while still a first @-@ year trainee in an FA Premier League match against Queens Park Rangers on 8 March 1995 . Leicester were relegated to the First Division following the end of the 1994 ? 95 season and he signed his first professional contract with the club on 3 October 1995 . He became a first team regular in the 1995 ? 96 season , making 30 appearances for the club , helping them earn promotion back to the FA Premier League . During this season , Heskey scored his first goal as a professional footballer , which came in a 1 ? 0 victory over Norwich City , in a season he managed to score seven goals .

During the 1996 ? 97 season , his first in the Premier League , Heskey scored 10 goals in 35 appearances , and scored the equaliser in the 1997 League Cup Final against Middlesbrough , which Leicester won in a replay . The following season , 1997 ? 98 , saw interest from Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur for Heskey , as he again managed to score 10 Premier League goals , which made him Leicester 's top scorer that season . However , the 1998 ? 99 season saw Heskey score only six top @-@ flight goals , and he was criticised for not scoring enough goals and going to ground too easily . During this season however , he forged an effective strike partnership with Tony Cottee , who benefited from Heskey 's unselfish style of play , which manager Martin O 'Neill claimed kept the club in the Premier League . He went on to win the League Cup again in 2000 with a 2 ? 1 win against Tranmere Rovers in the Final .

= = = Liverpool = = =

Heskey joined Liverpool on 10 March 2000 in a long @-@ anticipated £ 11 million move , which , at the time , set the record transfer fee for the Merseyside club . Liverpool manager Gérard Houllier looked forward to working with him , but stated that " at his age he is not the finished product " . The press saw the move as expensive and risky as Heskey was relatively inexperienced and was not a prolific goalscorer . However , he was held in high regard by both the England under @-@ 21 manager , Peter Taylor , and England and Liverpool teammate Michael Owen . Veteran Liverpool striker Ian Rush approved of the signing , noting that Heskey would " give Liverpool a different dimension " , bringing strength to the Liverpool strikeforce and complementing Owen and Robbie Fowler 's pacey play . Heskey made his debut in an FA Premier League clash with Sunderland on 11 March 2000 and scored his first goal in a 3 ? 0 victory over Coventry City on 1 April . He finished the 1999 ? 2000 season with 12 appearances and three goals for Liverpool . He featured in the 2001 FA Cup Final on 12 May 2001 , starting ahead of Fowler , which Liverpool won 2 ? 1 against Arsenal . During the 2000 ? 01 season Heskey scored 22 goals for Liverpool as the club won the FA Cup , League Cup and UEFA Cup treble . He also scored Liverpool 's second goal when they beat Bayern Munich 3 ? 2 in the 2001 UEFA Super Cup .

Heskey was linked with a £ 12 million move to Tottenham in December 2002 , but Houllier insisted he was a part of his long @-@ term plans and he remained at Liverpool . The same year , Heskey made a six @-@ figure donation to aid a consortium led by Gary Lineker in their bid to buy @-@ out his former club , Leicester City , who were experiencing financial difficulties . The 2002 ? 03 season saw him score nine goals in 51 appearances for Liverpool and received criticism for his low goal to game ratio , with Houllier claiming that his future at the club was safe .

He picked up a hamstring injury during a match against Newcastle United in January 2004 , which ruled him out of action for three weeks . In the 2003 ? 04 season Heskey faced increasing competition from Milan Baro? for a place in the Liverpool starting line @-@ up . Nevertheless , he scored 12 goals and secured a place in the England squad for UEFA Euro 2004 .

= = = Birmingham City = = =

At the end of the 2003 ? 04 season , Heskey signed for Birmingham City on a five @-@ year contract for an initial fee of £ 3 @.@ 5 million , which could have risen to £ 6 @.@ 25 million , and would thus have become Birmingham 's most expensive player . He suffered from an ankle injury during a pre @-@ season friendly against CA Osasuna , which put his Premier League debut against Portsmouth in doubt . He was eventually able to play against Portsmouth on 14 August , and the match ended as a 1 ? 1 draw . His first goal came with a header in the eighth minute against Manchester City , which was enough to earn a 1 ? 0 victory on 24 August . Despite Birmingham 's mediocre 2004 ? 05 season , Heskey was named as the club 's Player 's Player of the Season , Fan 's Player of the Season , finished as top goalscorer with 11 goals and won most Man of the match awards .

He suffered from an ankle injury against Blackburn Rovers on 19 April 2006 , and after passing a late fitness test , played in a 0 ? 0 draw against Everton on 22 April . Birmingham 's 2005 ? 06 season , during which Heskey scored only four goals in 34 league appearances , culminated in relegation into the Championship . During this season , Heskey gave inconsistent performances and received abuse from Birmingham fans . Birmingham managing director Karren Brady stated that Birmingham 's relegation meant that the last £ 1 @.@ 5 million of the maximum £ 6 @.@ 25 million fee for signing Heskey from Liverpool would not be payable .

= = = Wigan Athletic = = =

Heskey was signed by Wigan Athletic for a fee of £ 5 @.@ 5 million on 7 July 2006 . He made his debut for Wigan against Newcastle United on 19 August 2006 , which his new club lost 2 ? 1 . On his 500th league appearance , Heskey scored his first goal for Wigan in a 1 ? 0 Premier League victory over Reading on 26 August . He scored eight goals in 36 appearances during the 2006 ? 07 season , as Wigan avoided relegation on goal difference over Sheffield United , against whom

Heskey played well for Wigan on 13 May 2007 , in a game he nearly scored a bicycle kick . He suffered a suspected broken metatarsal in September 2007 , and made his return for Wigan in a 2 ? 0 defeat to Arsenal in November . He picked up an ankle injury during Wigan 's 5 ? 3 victory against Blackburn in December 2007 . On 14 April 2008 , Heskey scored a 90th minute equalising goal against Chelsea , which damaged their hopes of winning the Premier League . He went on to score Wigan 's equaliser against Tottenham in the following game to give them a 1 ? 1 draw , which proved to be his last goal of the 2007 ? 08 season , which he finished with four goals in 30 appearances .

His first goal of the 2008 ? 09 season came in Wigan 's fourth game , a 5 ? 0 victory against Hull City at the KC Stadium . He hinted in October 2008 that he would be interested in leaving Wigan to play in the Champions League , with former club Liverpool believed to be interested in signing him in the January transfer window . However , Wigan manager Steve Bruce hoped to persuade him to sign a new contract at the club . Heskey commented on reports of interest from Liverpool by saying " It would be lovely . We 'll see how it goes . " He scored his 100th goal in the Premier League against Portsmouth on 1 November 2008 , which secured a 2 ? 1 victory for Wigan . Dave Whelan , the Wigan chairman , hinted that Heskey could be transferred by Wigan in January 2009 , as a fee would be received , whereas he would move on for free in the summer , which came after he had stalled on talks over a new contract . However , Bruce said he would only accept an offer for Heskey if it was " outrageous " . He later said he was confident of keeping Heskey at the club . Heskey picked up a hamstring injury during a match against Bolton Wanderers in December 2008 , which resulted in him missing an FA Cup third round tie against Tottenham . He later said he would stay at Wigan and see out his contract until the summer of 2009 .

= = = Aston Villa = = =

Heskey signed for Aston Villa for a fee of £ 3 @ . @ 5 million on a three @ - @ and @ - @ a @ - @ half @ - @ year contract on 23 January 2009 . He made his debut against Portsmouth on 27 January 2009 and scored in this game with a strike from 20 yards ; the first time he has scored on his debut for any club for which he has played . He scored one more goal before the end of the season , with the opening goal in a 1 ? 1 draw with West Ham United . He finished the season with 14 appearances and two goals for Villa .

He suffered from concussion after minutes into a Peace Cup pre @ - @ season friendly game against Málaga CF in July 2009 . Heskey was reported to have said he was considering leaving Villa during the January 2010 transfer window , to help ensure he would be chosen for the England team at the 2010 FIFA World Cup , to which manager Martin O 'Neill responded by saying " There are players at this club with England ambitions . I wouldn 't be overly concerned about all that yet . " However , Heskey later denied he was seeking to leave Villa . O 'Neill told him to " build up a head of steam " in February 2010 , saying he was concerned that Heskey 's injuries were denying him from producing his best form . Heskey finished the 2009 ? 10 season with 42 appearances and five goals .

His first appearance of the 2010 ? 11 season came after starting in a 1 ? 1 draw at Rapid Vienna in the Europa League play @ - @ off first leg . Under Gérard Houllier , who previously managed Heskey at Liverpool , the striker enjoyed a successful start to the 2010 ? 11 campaign including winning goals in the local derbies with Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion .

On 7 May 2011 in Aston Villa 's home game against Wigan , Heskey barged into referee Mike Jones and continued to argue with him because he did not award a free kick for an alleged elbow by Antolín Alcaraz . Heskey received a yellow card for his behaviour and had to be restrained by team @ - @ mates such as Brad Friedel and captain Stiliyan Petrov . He played for the remainder of the half , but had to be restrained again in the tunnel at the interval . Caretaker manager Gary McAllister chose to substitute him for Marc Albrighton at half @ - @ time , and Heskey was not allowed to remain at the stadium for the rest of the game . Despite his outburst , Heskey received no punishment from either Villa or The Football Association . Teammate Luke Young later said that Heskey was " lucky he didn 't get sent off " .

Heskey remained at Villa Park for one more year , during which he scored just once , in an August 2011 win over Blackburn , before he was released in May 2012 after being told he would not be offered a new contract .

== Newcastle Jets ==

Heskey signed for Australian A @-@ League side Newcastle Jets on 21 September 2012 as their marquee player for the 2012 ? 13 season . He made his debut in the Jets ' 2 ? 0 home defeat to Adelaide United , in which he was substituted in the 72nd minute for James Virgili . Heskey scored his first A @-@ League goal in a 3 ? 2 away win against Sydney FC on 13 October 2012 . In five starts , Heskey put his goal tally up to five , with his goal against Sydney FC , followed by one goal against F3 Derby rivals the Central Coast Mariners , two goals against Melbourne Victory on 26 October and one goal against the Western Sydney Wanderers , which took him to joint top scorer of the league . The match against Melbourne featured " Heskey Cam " , which allowed the viewer to track Heskey 's movements with one camera throughout the match . Having finished the 2012 ? 13 season with nine goals in 23 appearances and earning a nomination for the Jets ' Player of the Year award , Heskey signed a new contract for the 2013 ? 14 season in April 2013 . After scoring once in 19 appearances in the 2013 ? 14 season , Heskey left the Jets to pursue a move to an English club .

== Bolton Wanderers ==

After a successful trial Heskey signed for Championship club Bolton Wanderers on a short @-@ term contract on 24 December 2014 . He made his debut two days later as a half @-@ time substitute for Robert Hall with Bolton 1 ? 0 down at home to Blackburn , but after scoring the equalising goal in the 59th minute Bolton went on to win the match 2 ? 1 . His goal was set up by another 36 @-@ year @-@ old forward who the club had re @-@ signed that month , Eiður Guðjohnsen who had played for them 14 years earlier . Heskey was released by Bolton when his contract expired at the end of the 2015 ? 16 season .

== International career ==

== Youth level ==

Heskey gained his first international recognition after playing for the England under @-@ 16 team , making four appearances and appearing at the 1994 UEFA European Under @-@ 16 Championship . He played alongside Michael Owen in the under @-@ 18 team which finished third in the European Championships in France , and made eight appearances and scored five goals for the team . Heskey went on to gain recognition with the under @-@ 21 team , making his debut after starting in a 0 ? 0 draw with Poland on 8 October 1996 ; a year later on 30 May 1997 , he scored against the same side in a 1 ? 1 stalemate . After making his final appearance in a 3 ? 0 victory over Yugoslavia in a 2000 UEFA European Under @-@ 21 Championship qualification play @-@ off on 29 March 2000 , he finished his under @-@ 21 career with 17 caps , in which he scored six goals . He was capped once by the England B team , against Chile on 10 February 1998 , in which he scored a 90th @-@ minute goal in a 2 ? 1 defeat .

== Senior level ==

Heskey was given his first call @-@ up to the senior England team for a friendly against the Czech Republic on 18 November 1998 , but did not play . He made his debut in a friendly against Hungary in Budapest in a 1 ? 1 draw on 28 April 1999 and made his first start against Argentina at Wembley Stadium on 23 February 2000 . That showing ensured he was in the England squad for the UEFA

Euro 2000 tournament . However , his two substitute performances in the tournament could not help England , as the team were eliminated in the group stage .

===== 2002 FIFA World Cup =====

Heskey was selected in the squad for the 2002 FIFA World Cup in South Korea and Japan , and was used as a makeshift option to play in England 's left @-@ wing role in the game against Sweden , but did not perform well out of his regular position . He scored against Denmark in England 's 3 ? 0 victory , which saw England reach the quarter @-@ finals of the tournament . He featured in this game , where England were beaten 2 ? 1 by the eventual champions Brazil . He and teammate Ashley Cole received abuse from some Slovakia supporters when England played them in a friendly in October 2002 , which led to UEFA opening an investigation into the allegations . Slovakia were eventually forced to play their next home international behind closed doors .

===== UEFA Euro 2004 =====

Heskey 's place in the England squad had been placed under scrutiny in 2003 with the emergence of Wayne Rooney into the England squad . However , despite being criticised for his lack of international goals , he continued to be an integral part of the international squad and took over the captaincy from Michael Owen after he was substituted when England beat Serbia and Montenegro 2 ? 1 in his hometown of Leicester in June 2003 . Heskey was named in the England squad for UEFA Euro 2004 , but failed to perform well , and was the subject of much criticism . He came on as a substitute while England were leading 1 ? 0 against France and fouled Claude Makélélé on the edge of the penalty area , giving away a direct free kick from which France equalised . England eventually lost 2 ? 1 .

===== 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification =====

Heskey was recalled into the England squad for the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Northern Ireland and Azerbaijan in 2005 , after having been dropped following the game against Ukraine in August 2004 . Since the emergence of Peter Crouch in the England squad , the possibility of a recall receded further .

===== UEFA Euro 2008 qualification =====

Heskey 's international appearances under manager Steve McClaren were limited , although he was recalled to the England squad in September 2007 for the UEFA Euro 2008 qualifiers as cover for the injured Rooney against Israel and Russia , on the recommendation of Michael Owen , after stating that he wanted to play alongside Heskey . He started the game against Israel and played an important role in the England attack , and by featuring he became the first England player to be capped for England whilst playing for Wigan Athletic . Heskey also started the next match against Russia , fighting off competition from Peter Crouch for a place in the team , during which he created an assist for Owen 's second goal . He was widely praised for his performances in the two matches , with former England international Alan Shearer commenting , " Never in a million years did I expect to be discussing whether Emile Heskey should keep his place ahead of Wayne Rooney but the Wigan striker was outstanding over both games . "

===== 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification =====

Heskey was called into manager Fabio Capello 's first squad against Switzerland , but had to withdraw due to an injury . He was called into the squad for a friendly against the Czech Republic in August 2008 and came on as a 46th @-@ minute substitute , in a match that finished 2 ? 2 . He featured in the following 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification victories against Andorra and Croatia .

Heskey was alleged to have been racially abused during the match against Croatia , with monkey chants being heard from sections of the Croatia support , after which FIFA opened an investigation , and eventually fined the Croatian Football Federation £ 15 @, @ 000 for the incident . He played his 50th game for England in the 2010 World Cup qualifier against Belarus on 15 October 2008 , after which he was credited as helping Wayne Rooney 's improved form in international matches , with the two forming an effective strike partnership and keeping Owen out of the side . He started in a friendly against Spain in February 2009 , which drew an angry reaction by Villa manager Martin O 'Neill , who wanted to know why Capello played Heskey after suffering from an injury . Heskey scored his first goal for England in six years against Slovakia , scoring England 's first in a 4 ? 0 victory at Wembley Stadium.He picked up a hamstring injury during this game , which forced him into withdrawing from the squad . He scored in a 4 ? 0 victory over Kazakhstan in a 2010 World Cup qualifier in June 2009 , which was his first competitive goal for England in seven years .

= = = 2010 FIFA World Cup = = =

Heskey was named in England 's preliminary 30 @-@ man squad for the 2010 World Cup on 11 May 2010 and was eventually chosen for the final 23 @-@ man squad on 1 June . Heskey injured England captain Rio Ferdinand during a training session on 4 June , which ruled Ferdinand out of the tournament . He started in England 's opening game , a 1 ? 1 draw with the United States and assisted Steven Gerrard 's goal .

Heskey retired from international football on 15 July 2010 , at the age of 32 , having scored seven goals in 62 appearances for England .

= = Style of play = =

Heskey plays as a forward with pace , being a powerful targetman with physical strength and is hard working . His play has been likened to " a blunt instrument with which to bludgeon defences " . His main contributions to the team lie in the way he holds the ball up and draws defenders out , leaving space behind him for another player to score . He has been credited as being an unselfish player who allows other forwards to benefit . He is not a prolific goalscorer but is able to provide a significant number of assists . He has been quoted as saying " Forwards are judged on their goalscoring . But I like to think I bring a lot more to the game and I do get pleasure from assisting " . He impressed the England staff with his versatility , as he can also play down the left wing . However , he has been criticised by the media for his lack of goals ; lapses in his goalscoring have been described as being " hardly uncommon " . In 2008 it was stated that " It is only the perception of his talents that changes " after Heskey stated he was no better or worse than before .

= = Personal life = =

Heskey was the partner of Kylee Pinsent but he left her in 2004 and is now engaged to Chantelle Tagoe . He started seeing Tagoe secretly in 2002 , who worked part @-@ time as a waitress at a lap @-@ dancing bar in Liverpool , while still in a relationship with Pinsent . Following the revelation of his two @-@ year affair with Tagoe , Pinsent broke up with Heskey . He is the father of five children , three of them with former partner Pinsent and two with Tagoe . His fiancée Tagoe was held at knifepoint at their home in Hale , Greater Manchester in July 2008 , while he was at a training session . The thieves burgled the house and stole Heskey 's BMW but neither Tagoe , nor their two children who were in the house , were hurt . Following this , he said Tagoe was " very , very distressed " by the incident . In 2009 , he was rated as owning a personal fortune of £ 12 million . Heskey and other members of the England team supported the Shoe Aid for Africa campaign in 2009 , which was aimed at helping underprivileged children in Africa .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of match played 7 May 2016 .

= = = International = = =

= = = International goals = = =

England score listed first , score column indicates score after each Heskey goal .

= = Honours = =

Leicester City

Football League First Division play @-@ offs : 1995 ? 96

Football League Cup : 1996 ? 97 , 1999 ? 2000

Liverpool

FA Cup : 2000 ? 01

Football League Cup : 2000 ? 01 , 2002 ? 03

FA Charity Shield : 2001

UEFA Cup : 2000 ? 01

UEFA Super Cup : 2001