

= Didier Drogba =

Didier Yves Drogba Tébily (French pronunciation : ? [didje d???ba] ; born 11 March 1978) is an Ivorian professional footballer who plays as a striker for Canadian Major League Soccer club Montreal Impact . He is the all @-@ time top scorer and former captain of the Ivory Coast national team . He is best known for his career at Chelsea , for whom he has scored more goals than any other foreign player and is currently the club 's fourth highest goal scorer of all time . He has been named African Footballer of the Year twice , winning the accolade in 2006 and 2009 .

After playing in youth teams , Drogba made his professional debut aged 18 for Ligue 2 club Le Mans , and signed his first professional contract aged 21 . After finishing the 2002 ? 03 season with 17 goals in 34 appearances for Ligue 1 side Guingamp , he moved to Olympique de Marseille , where he finished as the third highest scorer in the 2003 ? 04 season with 19 goals and helped the club reach the 2004 UEFA Cup Final .

In the summer of 2004 , Drogba moved to Premier League club Chelsea for a club record £ 24 million fee , making him the most expensive Ivorian player in history . In his debut season he helped the club win their first league title in 50 years , and a year later he won another Premier League title . In March 2012 , he became the first African player to score 100 Premier League goals , and also became the only player in history to score in four separate FA Cup finals the same year , when he scored in Chelsea 's win over Liverpool in the 2012 final . He also played in the 2012 UEFA Champions League Final , in which he scored an 88th @-@ minute equaliser and the winning penalty in the deciding shoot @-@ out against Bayern Munich . After spending 6 months with Shanghai Shenhua in China , and one and a half seasons with Turkish club Galatasaray where he scored the winning goal in the final of the 2013 Turkish Super Cup , Drogba returned to Chelsea in July 2014 . With a career record of scoring 10 goals in 10 finals winning 10 trophies at club level , Drogba has been referred to as the " ultimate big game player . "

An Ivory Coast international between 2002 and 2014 , Drogba captained the national team from 2006 until his retirement from the Ivory Coast team and is the nation 's all @-@ time top goalscorer with 63 goals from 104 appearances . He led the Ivory Coast to the 2006 FIFA World Cup , their first appearance in the tournament , and also scored their first goal . He later captained the Ivory Coast at the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cups . He was part of the Ivory Coast teams that reached the final of the Africa Cup of Nations in 2006 and 2012 , but were beaten on penalties on both occasions . On 8 August 2014 , he announced his retirement from international football .

= = Early life = =

Drogba was born in Abidjan , Ivory Coast , and at the age of five was sent to France by his parents to live with his uncle , Michel Goba , a professional footballer . However , Drogba soon became homesick and returned to Abidjan after three years . His mother nicknamed him " Tito " , after president Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia , whom she admired greatly . He played football every day in a car park in the city but his return to the Ivory Coast was short lived . Both of his parents lost their jobs and he again returned to live with his uncle . In 1991 , his parents also travelled to France ; first to Vannes and then , in 1993 , setting in Antony in the Paris suburbs , at which point the 15 @-@ year @-@ old Drogba returned to live with them and his siblings . It was here that he began playing team football more frequently , joining a local youth side . Drogba then joined the semi @-@ professional club Levallois , gaining a reputation as a prolific scorer in the youth team and impressing the coach with his professional attitude . His performances earned him a place in the senior squad but despite scoring in his debut , the 18 @-@ year @-@ old Ivorian failed to make an impression on Jacques Loncar , the first team coach .

= = Club career = =

= = = Le Mans = = =

When Drogba finished school he moved to the city Le Mans to study accountancy at university and he had to change clubs , becoming an apprentice at Ligue 2 club Le Mans . However , his first two years there were marred by injuries and he was physically struggling to cope with the training and match schedule . Former Le Mans coach Marc Westerloppe later remarked that " it took Didier four years to be capable of training every day and playing every week " . Furthermore , Drogba 's complicated family life meant that he had never attended a football academy and only began daily football training as a fully grown adult .

By age 21 , Drogba realised that he had to establish himself as a player soon or else he would have little chance of becoming a professional footballer . He made his first team debut for Le Mans soon thereafter and signed his first professional contract in 1999 . The same year , he and his Malian wife Alla had their first child , Isaac . He grew into his new responsibilities , later stating : " Isaac 's birth was a turning point in my life , it straightened me out " . His first season , in which he scored seven goals in thirty games , boded well for the future , but during the following season he did not live up to expectations . Drogba lost his place to Daniel Cousin due to injury , then upon his return , he failed to score throughout the remainder of the season . However , he returned to form the following season , scoring five goals in 21 appearances .

= = = Guingamp = = =

Halfway through the 2001 ? 02 season Ligue 1 club Guingamp consolidated months of interest with a transfer offer and Drogba left Le Mans for a fee of £ 80 @, @ 000 . The second half of the 2001 ? 02 season saw Drogba make 11 appearances and score three goals for Guingamp . While his contributions helped the club avoid relegation , the coaching staff remained unconvinced of their new young striker . However , the next season he rewarded his coaches ' patience , scoring 17 goals in 34 appearances and helping Guingamp finish seventh , a record league finish . He credited his teammates for his impressive season , highlighting the contributions of winger Florent Malouda , a long time friend of Drogba , as a key factor in his goalscoring prolificity that season . His strong goal scoring record attracted interest from larger clubs and at the end of the season , he moved to Ligue 1 side Olympique de Marseille for a fee of £ 3 @. @ 3 million .

= = = Marseille = = =

After a switch of coaches , Drogba retained his position in the team , scoring 19 goals and winning the National Union of Professional Footballers (UNFP) Player of the Year award . He also scored five goals in that season 's UEFA Champions League and six in the UEFA Cup . At the end of the season , he was bought by Chelsea as the club 's then record signing for £ 24 million . His shirt from his only season at Marseille is also framed in the basilica of Marseille , Notre @-@ Dame de la Garde , which he presented to the church before the 2004 UEFA Cup Final .

= = = Chelsea = = =

= = = = 2004 ? 06 = = = =

Signing for Chelsea in July 2004 for £ 24 million , Drogba scored in his third game for the club with a header against Crystal Palace . His season was interrupted when he pulled a stomach muscle against Liverpool which kept him out of action for over two months . Chelsea won the Premier League , only their second English top @-@ flight championship and their first in 50 years , and the League Cup . Later , Drogba scored in extra time in a 3 ? 2 final win against Liverpool at the Millennium Stadium , as well as reaching the semi @-@ finals of the Champions League . Drogba scored a somewhat disappointing 16 goals in a total of 40 games for Chelsea in his first season : ten in the Premier League , five in the Champions League and one in the League Cup final .

Drogba started the 2005 ? 06 season by scoring two goals in a Community Shield win over Arsenal . His reputation was marred amidst accusations of cheating during Chelsea 's 2 ? 0 win over Manchester City . Replays showed that he had used his hand to control the ball before scoring the second of his two goals . This occurred just a week after a similar incident against Fulham where the goal was disallowed . Chelsea went on to retain the league title with two games to play , becoming only the second club to win back @-@ to @-@ back English titles in the Premier League era . Again Drogba finished with 16 goals for the season , 12 in the Premier League , two in the Community Shield , one in the Champions League and one in the FA Cup .

= = = = 2006 ? 07 = = = =

After the departure of Damien Duff to Newcastle United , Drogba switched from the number 15 shirt he had worn for Chelsea since 2004 to the number 11 shirt vacated by Duff . The season was a personal success for Drogba as he hit 33 goals in all competitions (more than his tally in the previous two seasons combined) , including 20 in the Premier League to win the Golden Boot . In doing so , he became the first Chelsea player since Kerry Dixon in 1984 ? 85 to reach 30 goals in a season , scoring 20 in the Premier League , six in the Champions League , three in the FA Cup and four in the League Cup .

Among the highlights were scoring game @-@ winners from outside the penalty area against Liverpool , Everton and Barcelona , a 93rd @-@ minute equaliser against Barcelona at the Camp Nou and both Chelsea 's goals in their 2 ? 1 League Cup final win over Arsenal . He also completed two hat @-@ tricks ; one against Watford and the other against Levski Sofia in the Champions League , Chelsea 's first hat @-@ trick in European competition since Gianluca Vialli in the Cup Winners ' Cup in 1997 . In his last competitive game that season , he scored the winning goal over Manchester United in the first FA Cup final at the new Wembley Stadium . This also meant that he joined Norman Whiteside (Manchester United in 1983) and Mark Hughes (Manchester United in 1994) as players who have scored goals in both English domestic finals in the same year , although Drogba was the first player to end up on the winning team after scoring in both finals .

In January 2007 , Drogba was named the Ivorian Player of the Year , ahead of Kader Keïta , Aruna Dindane , and Kolo Touré . In March , he was named African Footballer of the Year for the first time , ahead of Samuel Eto 'o and Chelsea teammate Michael Essien . His performances during the season saw him named in the PFA Premier League Team of the Year and runner @-@ up to Cristiano Ronaldo in the PFA Player of the Year awards .

Drogba faced problems off the pitch during the end of the season as his transfer from Marseille to Chelsea in July 2004 came under scrutiny . The Stevens inquiry in June 2007 expressed concerns because of the lack of co @-@ operation from agents Pinhas Zahavi and Barry Silkman .

= = = = 2007 ? 08 = = = =

The 2007 ? 08 season began badly for Drogba as he expressed doubts about the departure of manager José Mourinho . He was reportedly in tears when Mourinho told him he was leaving the club , and said " Mourinho 's departure destroys a certain familiarity we had at the club . Many of us used to play first and foremost for the manager . Now we need to forget those feelings and find another source of motivation " . Following these claims , Drogba told France Football Magazine " I want to leave Chelsea . Something is broken with Chelsea , The damage is big in the dressing room " . Despite having signed a four @-@ year contract with the club in 2006 , Drogba reportedly pointed out several favoured clubs in the interview , identifying Barcelona , Real Madrid , Milan or Internazionale as possible future destinations , he later admitted he regretted this and was 100 % committed to Chelsea . Drogba made it up to the fans by scoring in Chelsea 's 2 ? 0 victory over Middlesbrough on 20 October 2007 , against Schalke 04 in the Champions League four days later , and two goals against Manchester City . In December 2007 , Drogba was voted fourth (after Kaká , Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo) for the 2007 FIFA World Player of the Year .

Drogba continued scoring goals but suffered an injury at the training ground and decided to have an

operation on his knee . He was unable to play for four weeks and missed key games against Valencia , Arsenal and Liverpool . Drogba returned from injury to play in an FA Cup third round match against Queens Park Rangers and wore the captain 's armband for the last 30 minutes he was on the pitch , but that was his last performance for Chelsea before international duty at the Africa Cup of Nations . Upon his return , Drogba scored a goal in the 2008 League Cup Final , making him the all @-@ time leading scorer in League Cup Finals with four goals , but could not help prevent Chelsea fall to a 2 ? 1 defeat at the hands of Tottenham Hotspur . Drogba also became the first player to score in three League Cup finals and the first to score in three consecutive English domestic cup finals . He scored both goals in a key 2 ? 1 victory against Arsenal on 23 March 2008 , bringing Chelsea equal on points with leaders Manchester United .

On 26 April 2008 , Drogba faced controversy after a clash with Manchester United defender Nemanja Vidi? . The Serbian centre @-@ back had to have stitches under his lip after losing a tooth in the clash . There was discussion whether Drogba had the intention or not to injure his rival . The debate also called into question an earlier incident on 26 November 2006 where Drogba elbowed Vidi? . Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson expressed concerns over elbowing in the Premier League . Despite media speculation , Drogba 's yellow card for the clash was deemed adequate punishment by the Football Association .

Controversy still dogged the player as before the UEFA Champions League semi @-@ final second leg clash with Liverpool , Drogba was accused of diving by Liverpool manager Rafael Benítez . Benítez claimed to have compiled a four @-@ year dossier of Drogba 's " diving " antics but Drogba hit back at Benítez in an interview . On 30 April 2008 , Drogba scored two goals in the second leg of the semi @-@ final against Liverpool , which Chelsea won 3 ? 2 at Stamford Bridge . This was the first time Chelsea had beaten Liverpool in the semi @-@ finals of the Champions League , having lost their previous two meetings to Liverpool . This also led to Chelsea reaching their first Champions League Final . Drogba became Chelsea 's top scorer in European competition , the two goals he scored put his total at 17 , surpassing Peter Osgood 's record of 16 . Drogba was sent off in the 117th minute of the Champions League Final for slapping defender Vidi? , becoming only the second player to be sent off in a European Cup final ? after Jens Lehmann in 2006 ? and the first for violent conduct . Chelsea went on to lose 6 ? 5 on penalties after a 1 ? 1 draw in extra time . Chelsea assistant boss Henk ten Cate revealed Drogba was due to take the decisive fifth spot @-@ kick in the shootout . Team captain John Terry took his place but missed after slipping whilst taking the penalty .

== == 2008 ? 09 == ==

Drogba suffered a string of injuries early on in the 2008 ? 09 season and struggled to regain fitness , missing games from August to November due to knee problems . He scored his first goal of the season in mid @-@ November but there was little reason to celebrate : he incurred disciplinary action and a three @-@ match ban for throwing a coin back into the stands and Chelsea suffered a League Cup defeat against Burnley . Drogba scored his second goal of the season in a 2 ? 1 victory against CFR Cluj in the UEFA Champions League , while his first Premier League goal of the season came in a 2 ? 0 win against West Bromwich Albion in late December 2008 . Having missed many games through injury and suspension , Drogba had lost his first team place and manager Scolari favoured playing Nicolas Anelka as a lone striker rather than pairing the two . However , he resolved to regain his position in the squad .

Upon the temporary appointment of Guus Hiddink in early February following the sacking of Scolari , Drogba enjoyed a rejuvenation of sorts , returning to his goal @-@ scoring form with four goals in five games after the new manager took over . His revival in form saw him net twice against Bolton Wanderers , and four times in four Champions League matches , one in each leg of the last sixteen and quarter @-@ final of the competition against Juventus and Liverpool respectively , with these goals ensuring Chelsea 's passage into the semi @-@ finals . Just four days after his Champions League games , Drogba scored a late goal in the FA Cup semi @-@ final match against Arsenal after Frank Lampard 's pass found Drogba and he carefully rounded Arsenal goalkeeper ?ukasz

Fabia?ski before passing the ball into Aersenal 's empty net . Drogba also caused controversy after Chelsea 's Champions League semi @-@ final defeat at the hands of Barcelona . Feeling that many decisions had gone against Chelsea , substituted Drogba confronted referee Tom Henning Øvrebø after the final whistle . He received a yellow card in the process and was recorded shouting " It 's a fucking disgrace " into a live television camera . On 17 June 2009 , UEFA subsequently handed him a six @-@ game European ban with the final two games suspended . The ban then was reduced by one match after an appeal by Chelsea . In the 2009 FA Cup Final , Drogba scored Chelsea 's first and equalising goal as they went on to win 2 ? 1 . This was his sixth goal in a major cup final in England . Although Drogba had previously expressed his desire to switch clubs , he decided to remain with the Blues under new coach Carlo Ancelotti and signed a new contract .

= = = = 2009 ? 10 = = = =

Drogba began the 2009 ? 10 season in fine form for Chelsea , netting a penalty during a shoot @-@ out in the Community Shield over Manchester United , before scoring twice in a 2 ? 1 victory over Hull City . Drogba earned himself an assist when he was fouled in the penalty box to give Chelsea a penalty , which Frank Lampard converted , in a 3 ? 1 victory over Sunderland . In Chelsea 's third game of the season against West @-@ London rivals Fulham , Drogba scored his third goal of the season . Drogba scored his fourth goal of the season , against Stoke City ; Chelsea ended winning the game 2 ? 1 with a late strike from Malouda . He added a fifth at home against London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on 20 September . He scored his 100th goal for Chelsea in a 3 ? 1 defeat against Wigan Athletic . Drogba was again important in the 2 ? 0 win over title rivals Liverpool on 4 October . He assisted both goals , setting up Nicolas Anelka and Florent Malouda . He then scored a glancing header against Blackburn on 24 October 2009 , bringing his tally to eight goals in eleven appearances , scoring his third goal in as many games . Drogba continued his fine form scoring a header against Bolton Wanderers in a 4 ? 0 win in the League Cup , Drogba went on to score a goal in the same week with another 4 ? 0 win against Bolton Wanderers in the Premier League .

After missing the first three Champions League matches for Chelsea with a ban for being unsportsmanlike , Drogba started the fourth game against Spanish side Atlético Madrid . He scored two goals in the last ten minutes and the match ended 2 ? 2 . On 29 November , Drogba scored a goal against London rivals Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium , the second of which a free kick from outside the box . It brought his tally for the season to 14 goals in 16 games . On 12 December , Drogba continued his performance with two goals in 3 ? 3 draw against Everton .

Between 3 and 30 January Drogba was on Africa Cup of Nations duty and came back on 2 February against Hull City where he scored a 40th @-@ minute equaliser to tie the game 1 ? 1 . On 24 March , Drogba scored his 30th goal of the season in an away game against Portsmouth .

On 9 May , Drogba helped Chelsea to win the Premier League by scoring a hat @-@ trick in an 8 ? 0 win over Wigan Athletic . In doing so , he not only collected his third League winner 's medal but also won the Golden Boot for the season , his second time doing so , by topping the chart with 29 league goals , beating Wayne Rooney to the title who remained on 26 goals . Both players had the same number of goals (26) before the start of their respective matches . However , during the game , Drogba appeared to be clearly angry with team @-@ mate and regular penalty taker Frank Lampard , after Lampard refused to let Drogba take a penalty which would lead Chelsea to go 2 ? 0 up and give him a chance of winning the golden boot . Lampard scored the penalty , but Drogba did not celebrate with his team @-@ mates . Later on in the game though Ashley Cole was tripped in the box when Chelsea were already 5 ? 0 up , and this time Lampard allowed Drogba to take the penalty , which he scored to go two goals clear of Rooney .

The following week , Drogba scored the only goal of the 2010 FA Cup Final against Portsmouth from a free @-@ kick , keeping up his record of having scored in all six English cup finals (FA Cup and League Cup) in which he has played .

= = = = 2010 ? 11 = = = =

Drogba came on as a substitute for Anelka against Manchester United in the Community Shield , but could not help prevent Chelsea from succumbing to a 3 ? 1 loss . However , he started the Premier League season in fine form , continuing from where he left off on the last day of the previous campaign as he scored a hat @-@ trick against West Bromwich Albion in a 6 ? 0 victory . In Chelsea 's next game against Wigan Athletic at the DW Stadium , Drogba made three assists in another 6 ? 0 win . Drogba also played the next game at home against Stoke City where he played the whole 90 minutes and scored his fourth Premier League goal of the season when he kicked home a penalty after Nicolas Anelka was brought down by Thomas Sørensen inside the box . On 7 November 2010 , Drogba missed the first half of Chelsea 's 2 ? 0 defeat by Liverpool . It was later revealed that he had been suffering from malaria for at least a month . He had first complained of feeling unwell before the October 2010 international break but the illness was only diagnosed on 8 November 2010 . Having diagnosed the problem , Chelsea insisted that he would make a full recovery within days .

= = = 2011 ? 12 = = =

While playing against Norwich City on 27 August 2011 , Drogba suffered a concussion in a collision with Norwich goalkeeper John Ruddy . After missing two games , Drogba made his return to the Chelsea squad on 24 September against Swansea City . Drogba went on scoring his first goal of the season in a 4 ? 1 win . Drogba received a red card on 23 October against Queens Park Rangers , Chelsea ended up losing 1 ? 0 . On 29 November , Drogba rejected a new deal with Chelsea and was set to sign for the highest bidder . On 31 December 2011 , Drogba scored his 150th goal for Chelsea against Aston Villa , putting him level with Peter Osgood and Roy Bentley in terms of the club 's top scorers of all time . Even though , Chelsea was leading with the penalty scored by Drogba , the game ended in a 3 ? 1 loss for Chelsea .

Drogba scored his 99th Premier League goal for Chelsea on 25 February 2012 , in a 3 ? 0 win over Bolton Wanderers . Drogba scored his 100th Premier League goal for Chelsea on 10 March 2012 , in a 1 ? 0 win over Stoke City . He is the first African player to reach that landmark .

Drogba scored his seventh goal at Wembley against London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on 15 April , blasting the ball past former teammate Carlo Cudicini as Chelsea became 5 ? 1 winners and secured a place in the FA Cup Final against Liverpool . Three days later , he scored a vital goal as Chelsea beat Barcelona 1 ? 0 at Stamford Bridge in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League Semi @-@ final clash . Drogba became the first player to score in four different FA Cup Finals , as he netted the winner in Chelsea 's 2 ? 1 triumph over Liverpool on 5 May .

In the Champions League final on 19 May 2012 , Drogba scored the equaliser from Juan Mata 's corner in the 88th minute , taking Chelsea into extra time and then penalties . He also scored the winning penalty in the 4 ? 3 penalty shootout that led Chelsea to the victory over Bayern Munich . Sir Alex Ferguson remarked : " As far as I was concerned , he [Drogba] won the Champions League for Chelsea . " Drogba 's headed effort marked his ninth goal in nine cup final appearances for Chelsea , Chelsea legend Gianfranco Zola spoke after the match about Drogba 's ability in big games : " In all their very important matches he has put a stamp on it . " In November 2012 Drogba was named Chelsea 's greatest ever player in a poll of 20 @,@ 000 fans conducted by Chelsea Magazine .

= = = Shanghai Shenhua = = =

On 22 May 2012 , Chelsea released a note on their official website announcing that Drogba will be leaving the club when his contract expires at the end of June 2012 . On 19 June 2012 , Drogba declared he would be joining Chinese Super League side Shanghai Shenhua , linking up with his former Chelsea teammate Nicolas Anelka . It was reported that he signed a two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year deal where he will earn £ 200 @,@ 000 a week . On 22 July , Drogba made his debut for Shanghai Shenhua in a 1 ? 1 away draw against Guangzhou R & F , coming on as a

substitute for Brazilian defender Moisés in the second half . He assisted Cao Yunding 's equaliser in the 67th minute . On 4 August , he scored his first two goals in a 5 ? 1 win against Hangzhou Greentown . He scored two more goals on 25 August , both set up by Anelka , as Shenhua drew 3 ? 3 with Shandong Luneng .

= = = Galatasaray = = =

On 28 January 2013 , Drogba agreed to a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ year deal with Süper Lig team Galatasaray . He would earn a sign @-@ on fee of ? 4 million plus basic wage of ? 4 million per season , ? 2 million for the remaining 2012 ? 13 Süper Lig) and ? 15 @,@ 000 per match . However , on 30 January 2013 , Shenhua released a press release that Drogba would unilaterally breach his contract if he were to join Galatasaray .

Drogba argued that he had not been paid his wages by the club and asked FIFA , the sport 's governing body , to invalidate his contract . In February 2013 , FIFA granted a temporary license for him to play for Galatasaray pending the outcome of the contract dispute .

On 15 February , Drogba scored his debut goal for Galatasaray just five minutes after coming off the bench against Akhisar Belediyespor in a match that ended 2 ? 1 . On 6 April , Drogba scored twice in a match against Mersin ?dmanyurdu that ended 3 ? 1 . On 9 April , Drogba scored his first goal for Galatasaray in the Champions League , against Real Madrid . On 20 April , Drogba scored twice in a match against Elazigspor that ended 3 ? 1 .

He won his first title with Galatasaray on 5 May , with a 4 ? 2 win over Sivasspor . In Galatasary 's derby match against Istanbul rivals Fenerbahçe on 12 May , Drogba and his Ivorian team @-@ mate Emmanuel Eboue were subjects of racist chants from opposing fans in the team 's 2 ? 1 loss , but no fine or bans were handed down to the supporters or the club . On 11 August , he scored the only goal in the 2013 Turkish Super Cup against the same opponents , and he scored two second @-@ half goals in a 2 ? 1 away win against fellow city rivals Be?ikta? on 22 September , although the match was abandoned due to hooliganism from fans of the opponents .

= = = Return to Chelsea = = =

On 25 July 2014 , Chelsea announced on their official website that Drogba completed his return to the club on a free transfer , and signed a one @-@ year contract . Speaking on his move back to the club , Drogba said : " It was an easy decision . I couldn 't turn down the opportunity to work with José Mourinho again . Everyone knows the special relationship I have with this club and it has always felt like home to me . " Mourinho also commented on the transfer , saying : " He 's coming because he 's one of the best strikers in Europe . I know his personality very well and I know if he comes back he 's not protected by history or what he 's done for this club previously . He is coming with the mentality to make more history . " On 28 July 2014 , Chelsea announced that Drogba would wear the number 15 shirt which he wore when he first signed for the club in 2004 . Mohamed Salah , who wore the number during the 2013 ? 14 season , took over the number 17 shirt vacated by Eden Hazard . On 15 August , however , it was announced that Drogba had been given back the number 11 shirt he previously wore at the club , with its previous occupant Oscar taking over the number 8 jersey vacated by Frank Lampard .

Drogba made his Premier League return for Chelsea in a 3 ? 1 win away to Burnley , replacing winger Eden Hazard in the 84th minute at Turf Moor on 18 August 2014 . On 17 September he made the first start of his second spell , in a 1 ? 1 home draw against Schalke 04 in Chelsea 's first game of the Champions League group stage . He scored his first goal in his second spell at Stamford Bridge on 21 October , converting a penalty kick in a 6 ? 0 win over Maribor in the Champions League . Five days later , with Chelsea 's attack limited by injuries to Diego Costa and Loïc Rémy , Drogba started against Manchester United at Old Trafford , making his 350th appearance for the club . Early in the second @-@ half , he headed in the first Premier League goal of his second spell although Robin van Persie equalised in added time . He scored his 50th goal in European football against Schalke 04 .

On 24 May 2015 , Drogba announced that Chelsea 's final game of the season against Sunderland would be his last as a Chelsea player . He started the game as captain and was substituted with injury after half an hour , being carried off by his teammates in an eventual 3 ? 1 win .

= = = Montreal Impact = = =

On 27 July 2015 , Drogba signed a Designated Player contract with Major League Soccer side Montreal Impact , believed to be 18 months in length . On 23 August , he made his debut in a 0 ? 1 home loss against the Philadelphia Union , coming on as a substitute for Dilly Duka in the second half . On 5 September , Drogba scored a hat @-@ trick on his first MLS start , the first player to do so in the league 's history . Additionally , it was considered a " perfect hat @-@ trick " , with one goal scored with either foot and one with the head . He was September 's MLS Player of the Month after scoring 7 goals in his first 5 games in the league .

On 25 October , he scored both of the Impact 's goals from back heels as the team came from behind to defeat Toronto FC 2 ? 1 at home in the 401 Derby ; the win gave Montreal the home advantage for their knock @-@ out fixture against Toronto in the 2015 MLS Cup Playoffs . Drogba finished the 2015 MLS regular season with 11 goals in 11 games . On 29 October , Drogba scored Montreal 's third goal in a 3 ? 0 home win over Toronto in the knock @-@ out round of the Playoffs , to advance to the Eastern Conference Semi @-@ finals for the first time in the club 's history ; they were eliminated by Columbus Crew SC . He was named one of the three finalists for the 2015 MLS Newcomer of the Year Award .

In July 2016 , Drogba was included in the roster for the 2016 MLS All @-@ Star Game .

= = International career = =

Drogba contributed to the Ivory Coast to qualify for its first ever FIFA World Cup , held in Germany in 2006 .

In February 2006 , Drogba captained the Ivory Coast to their second Africa Cup of Nations final , scoring the only goal in their semi @-@ final match with Nigeria and putting away the deciding spot @-@ kick in their record @-@ tying 12 ? 11 penalty shootout quarter @-@ final win over Cameroon . However , they lost in the final to Egypt 4 ? 2 on penalty kicks after a 0 ? 0 draw , with Drogba 's shot being stopped by Egyptian goalkeeper Essam El @-@ Hadary .

At the 2006 FIFA World Cup , the Ivory Coast were drawn in a " group of death " with Serbia and Montenegro , the Netherlands and Argentina . On 10 June 2006 , Drogba scored the first World Cup goal of his career and of his country 's history in the opening game against Argentina , but his team lost 2 ? 1 . The Ivory Coast were eliminated from the World Cup after their next game , a 1 ? 2 defeat to the Netherlands , but came from 0 ? 2 down to win against Serbia and Montenegro 3 ? 2 in their final group game , with Drogba watching from the sidelines following suspension after picking up a yellow card in the previous two games .

In the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations , the Ivory Coast were drawn in a group with Nigeria , Mali and underdogs Benin . Drogba scored two goals in the group stage , opening the scoring in the 4 ? 1 win over Benin , as well as in the 3 ? 0 win over Mali . In the quarter @-@ finals , Drogba was on the score sheet once again in the 5 ? 0 win over Guinea with the last four goals coming in the final twenty minutes . The semi @-@ final was a rematch of the 2006 final against Egypt , but it was to be the end of the road for Drogba and the Ivory Coast , losing 4 ? 1 to the eventual champions . On 9 February , Drogba lost 4 ? 2 to hosts Ghana and thus ended their run in the playoffs .

Drogba scored six goals in five qualification games to help the Ivory Coast qualify for the 2010 FIFA World Cup . In the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations Drogba scored one goal in the 3 ? 1 victory against Ghana in the group stage . The Ivory Coast reached the quarter @-@ finals but lost 2 ? 3 to Algeria . In March 2010 , he was named as the 2009 African Footballer of the Year , his second time winning the award in his career .

On 4 June 2010 , Drogba was injured in a friendly match with Japan . He received the injury in a high challenge from defender T  lio Tanaka . He fractured the ulna in his right arm and had an

operation the next day in the hope of making the finals . On 15 June 2010 , Drogba was cleared by FIFA to play in the Ivory Coast 's first group game against Portugal wearing a protective cast on his broken arm . The match ended in a goalless draw at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium with Drogba coming on in the 65th minute . On 20 June 2010 , Drogba became the first player from an African nation to score against Brazil in a World Cup match , scoring with a header in the 78th minute as the Ivory Coast were defeated 1 ? 3 . On 25 June 2010 , the Ivory Coast went out of the competition despite winning 3 ? 0 against North Korea in their final match .

In the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations , the Ivory Coast were drawn in a group with Sudan , Angola and Burkina Faso . Drogba scored the first goal for his team in the tournament against Sudan and his only goal in the group stage . In the quarter @-@ finals , Drogba scored twice in the 3 ? 0 win over Equatorial Guinea . He did not score in the semi @-@ final in which the Ivory Coast beat Mali 1 ? 0 . In the final against Zambia , Drogba missed a penalty kick in the last 15 minutes of the game , which ended with their loss for the second time by penalty shootout .

In June 2014 , Drogba was named in the Ivory Coast 's squad for the 2014 FIFA World Cup . He won his 100th international cap in a pre @-@ tournament friendly against Bosnia and Herzegovina , scoring a penalty kick in his side 's 2 ? 1 loss on 2 June . In the Ivory Coast 's opening match , he appeared as a second @-@ half substitute with the team trailing 1 ? 0 to Japan . Within five minutes of Drogba 's arrival , Les Éléphants scored twice to win the match 2 ? 1 . On 8 August 2014 , Drogba announced his retirement from international football with a record of 63 goals in 104 appearances .

= = Style of play = =

Given his relatively late breakthrough into professional football , Drogba has often been described as a late bloomer , having signed his first professional contract with Le Mans at the age of 21 . He is noted for his physical strength , ability in the air , and his ability to retain possession of the ball . Richard Beech of the Daily Mirror says that his " powerful and intrusive approach made him the lone striker [José] Mourinho grew to admire , and made it nearly impossible for opposing teams to isolate him and freeze him out of the game . "

Drogba is renowned for performing in big games , with a goalscoring record at club level of 10 goals in 10 finals winning 10 trophies . Aside from his goalscoring ability , Drogba is also capable of providing assists to his team @-@ mates . Between the 2009 ? 10 and 2011 ? 12 seasons , he managed 24 assists in the Premier League , with an average pass success rate of 61 @.@ 4 percent , owing to his vision and creativity on the ball . He provided 71 assists to team @-@ mates over the course of his entire career at Chelsea until May 2012 , showing that he is also a team player .

In set pieces , Drogba has also been known for his free kick ability , known to strike the ball with power and pace . Dr. Ken Bray of University of Bath has described him as a specialist especially from central positions , and says that he " really just passes the ball very hard " . He adds , " He hits it [the ball] very straight and appears to hit the ball with a very powerful side @-@ foot action , almost like the technique used in a side @-@ foot pass . Drogba 's style is about beating the goalkeeper with speed and depth . "

= = Personal life = =

Drogba is married to Diakité Lalla , a Malian woman whom he met in Paris , and the couple have three children together . His eldest son , Isaac , was born in France in 1999 , but grew up in England and has played in the Chelsea academy system . Drogba has two younger brothers who are also footballers : Joël and Freddy Drogba . Freddy , (born 1992) , is currently in the youth system of French Ligue 1 side Dijon . He is a devout Roman Catholic .

Drogba is credited with playing a vital role in bringing peace to his country . After the Ivory Coast qualified for the 2006 World Cup , Drogba made a desperate plea to the combatants , asking them to lay down their arms , a plea which was answered with a cease fire after five years of civil war .

Drogba later helped move an African Cup of Nations qualifier to the rebel stronghold of Bouake ; a move that helped confirm the peace process . On 24 January 2007 , Drogba was appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a Goodwill Ambassador . The UNDP were impressed with his previous charity work and believed that his high profile would help raise awareness on African issues . In September 2011 , Drogba joined the Truth , Reconciliation and Dialogue Commission as a representative to help return peace to his home nation . His involvement in the peace process led to Drogba being named as one of the world 's 100 most influential people by Time magazine for 2010 . Drogba 's charity work continued when , in late 2009 , he announced he would be donating the £ 3 million signing on fee for his endorsement of Pepsi for the construction of a hospital in his hometown of Abidjan . This work was done through Drogba 's recently created " Didier Drogba Foundation " and Chelsea announced they too would donate the fee for the deal toward the Foundation 's project . Drogba decided on building the hospital after a recent trip to the Ivorian capital 's other hospitals , saying " ... I decided the Foundation 's first project should be to build and fund a hospital giving people basic healthcare and a chance just to stay alive . "

In November 2014 , Drogba appeared in FIFA 's " 11 against Ebola " campaign with a selection of top football players from around the world , including Cristiano Ronaldo , Neymar , Gareth Bale and Xavi . Under the slogan " Together , we can beat Ebola " , FIFA 's campaign was done in conjunction with the Confederation of African Football and health experts , with the players holding up eleven messages to raise awareness of the disease and ways to combat it .

Levallois Sporting Club , the amateur club where Drogba began his career , used their percentage of his transfer fees including £ 600 @ , @ 000 out of the £ 24 million paid when he joined Chelsea ? first to ensure the club 's survival , and then to improve their stadium to incorporate modern sports facilities for the benefit of the local community . They renamed the new stadium Stade Didier Drogba in his honour .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

Updated to games played 2 June 2016 .

= = = International = = =

Updated to games played 31 May 2014 .

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Chelsea

Premier League : 2004 ? 05 , 2005 ? 06 , 2009 ? 10 , 2014 ? 15

Football League Cup : 2004 ? 05 , 2006 ? 07 , 2014 ? 15

FA Cup : 2006 ? 07 , 2008 ? 09 , 2009 ? 10 , 2011 ? 12

UEFA Champions League : 2011 ? 12

FA Community Shield : 2005 , 2009

Galatasaray

Süper Lig : 2012 ? 13

TFF Süper Kupa : 2013

Türkiye Kupas? : 2013 ? 14

= = = Individual = = =

Ligue 1 Player of the Year : 2003 ? 04
 Ligue 1 Team of the Year : 2003 ? 04
 Ligue 1 Goal of the Year : 2003 ? 04
 Onze d 'Or : 2004
 FA Community Shield Man of the Match : 2005
 Africa Cup of Nations Team of the Tournament : 2006 , 2008 , 2012
 Ivory Coast Player of the Year : 2006 , 2007 , 2012
 African Footballer of the Year : 2006 , 2009
 Premier League Golden Boot : 2006 ? 07 , 2009 ? 10
 Premier League PFA Team of the Year : 2006 ? 07 , 2009 ? 10
 ESM Team of the Year : 2006 ? 07
 FIFPro World XI : 2007
 Alan Hardaker Trophy : 2007
 UEFA Team of the Year : 2007
 Chelsea Players ' Player of the Year : 2007
 BBC African Footballer of the Year : 2009
 FA Cup Final Man of the Match : 2010
 Chelsea Player of the Year : 2010
 Time Top 100 : 2010
 UEFA Champions League Final Man of the Match : 2012
 Turkish Footballer of the Year : 2013
 Golden Foot : 2013
 FWA Tribute Award : 2015
 MLS Player of the Month : September 2015 , November 2015

= = = Records = = =

As of 26 November 2014 .

= = = = Chelsea = = = =

Fourth all @-@ time top scorer : 163 goals
 Most goals scored by a non @-@ English player : 163 goals
 Most goals scored in one Premier League season : 29 goals (2009 ? 10)
 Most goals scored in FA Cup Finals : 4 goals
 Most goals scored in Football League Cup Finals : 4 goals
 Most goals scored in Cup Finals : 9 goals
 Most goals scored in the UEFA Champions League : 36 goals
 Most goals scored in international games as a Chelsea player : 46 goals
 Highest transfer fee paid for a player : £ 24 million (July 2004 ? August 2005)

= = = = Ivory Coast = = = =

Ivory Coast all @-@ time top scorer : 65 goals

= = = = Other = = = =

Most goals scored in the UEFA Champions League by an African player : 44 goals
 Most goals scored in the Premier League by an African player : 104 goals