

= Pavel Nedv?d =

Pavel Nedv?d ( Czech pronunciation : [ ?pav?l ?n?dvj?t ] ; born 30 August 1972 ) is a Czech retired footballer who played as a midfielder . Described as one of the best footballers of his generation , he is also regarded as one of the most successful players to emerge from the Czech Republic , winning domestic and European accolades with Italian clubs Lazio ( including the last Cup Winners ' Cup ) and Juventus ( whom he led to the 2003 UEFA Champions League Final ) .

Nedv?d was a key member of the Czech team which reached the final of Euro 1996 , during which he attracted international attention . He also captained the national team at Euro 2004 , where they were defeated in the semi @-@ final by eventual champions Greece , and Nedv?d was named as part of the Team of the Tournament . Furthermore , Nedv?d helped his team qualify for the World Cup for the first time since the breakup of Czechoslovakia . Due to his performances , as well as his quick and energetic runs during matches , Nedv?d was nicknamed Furia Ceca ( " Czech Fury " ) by Italian fans and The Czech cannon in English @-@ language media .

Winning the Ballon d 'Or as European Footballer of the Year in 2003 , Nedv?d was the second Czech player to receive the honour and the first since the breakup of Czechoslovakia . During his career Nedv?d received a number of other individual awards , including the second Golden Foot award in 2004 , Czech Footballer of the Year ( four times ) and the Golden Ball ( six times ) . He was also named by Pelé as one of the FIFA 100 , and was placed in the UEFA Team of the Year in 2003 , 2004 , and 2005 . He retired following the 2008 ? 09 season , after a 19 @-@ year professional career . Nedv?d played 501 league matches at the club level ( scoring 110 goals ) , and was capped 91 times for the Czech Republic ( scoring 18 times ) .

= = Club career = =

= = = Czech Republic = = =

Born in Cheb and raised in nearby Skalná , Nedv?d began his football career in his native Czechoslovakia . A football fan from an early age , he began playing for his hometown club Tatran Skalná in 1977 at the age of five . Nedv?d moved on to Rudá Hv?zda Cheb in 1985 , playing one season before spending five years with ?koda Plze? . In 1990 , Nedv?d was loaned to Dukla Prague , a club run by the Army , as part of his military service . During his first year at Dukla Prague , he played for VTJ Dukla Tábor , a lower division club also operated by the army . On 28 October 1991 , Nedv?d played his first match for Dukla Prague . He played one season for Dukla in 1991 before finishing his military service , thus ending his loan from Plze? . He then transferred to Sparta Prague in 1992 . Plze? was to receive 30 percent of the transfer fee should Nedv?d transfer to a foreign club .

Early in his career at Sparta , Nedv?d was sent off three times in just six matches . With Sparta , Nedv?d won one Czechoslovak First League title , two Gambrinus liga titles and a Czech Cup . In 1994 , he received his first call up to the Czech Republic national football team . His performance at Euro 1996 , including a goal in the group stage match against Italy , attracted attention ; despite a verbal agreement with PSV Eindhoven , Nedv?d moved from Sparta Prague to Italian Serie A team Lazio . Sparta first sold Nedv?d to Slovak club 1 . FC Ko?ice ( which had the same owner as Sparta ) for a transfer fee of 1 @.@ 5 million CZK , and immediately , Ko?ice sold Nedv?d to Lazio . Thus Sparta paid only a small fraction of the transfer fee to Plze? . After Plze? 's protest , Czech football association ordered Sparta to pay Plze? 35 million CZK in compensation .

Nedv?d signed a four @-@ year contract for a fee of ? 1 @.@ 2 million .

= = = Lazio = = =

Nedv?d made his league debut for Lazio on 7 September 1996 in a 1 ? 0 away defeat against Bologna . He scored his first league goal for the club against Cagliari on 20 October 1996 , finishing

the 1996 ? 97 season with seven goals . He became an integral part of the side , scoring four goals in three matches early in the 1997 ? 98 season . The club had a 24 @-@ game unbeaten streak from November 1997 to April 1998 , ending with a league match against Juventus in which Nedv?d was sent off . That season , Lazio won the 1997 ? 98 Coppa Italia and reached the final of the 1997 ? 98 UEFA Cup . Nedv?d and Lazio began the 1998 ? 99 season with a victory in the Supercoppa Italiana , Nedv?d scoring as the club defeated Juventus 2 ? 1 . He played a role in Lazio 's road to the last @-@ ever Cup Winners ' Cup , scoring against Lausanne in the first round and in both legs of Lazio 's 7 ? 0 aggregate quarter @-@ final victory over Panionios . In the 1999 UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup Final , Nedv?d scored the decisive goal against Mallorca for Lazio 's 2 ? 1 win . This proved to be the last goal of the tournament , which was later discontinued .

Nedv?d was one of the ten highest @-@ paid footballers in the Italian league in 1999 . He played in the 1999 UEFA Super Cup against Manchester United at the beginning of the season , where Lazio won the match by a single goal . The club went on to win the Serie A title and Coppa Italia , completing a domestic double in 2000 with Nedv?d 's help ; he won the Supercoppa Italiana with Lazio for a second time in 2000 . With Sini?a Mihajlovi? , Nedv?d was one of two Lazio players sent off in the quarter @-@ final of the 2000 Coppa Italia held in December ; the defending champions lost 5 ? 3 on aggregate to Udinese . Nedv?d played UEFA Champions League football with Lazio , scoring against Real Madrid in a 2 ? 2 draw in the second group stage before the Italian side were eliminated . In Lazio 's final Champions League match of the season , Nedv?d was criticised by Leeds United manager David O 'Leary for a challenge on Alan Maybury ( although the referee did not call a foul ) and he received a three @-@ match suspension from European competition from UEFA .

Despite Nedv?d 's signing a new four @-@ year contract with Lazio in April 2001 , the club tried to sell him and teammate Juan Sebastián Verón that summer ; this triggered fan protests against club president Sergio Cragnotti . The players were ultimately sold to Juventus and Manchester United , respectively .

== = Juventus == =

After five seasons with Lazio , Nedv?d was speculatively linked to several clubs ( including Manchester United and Chelsea ) before moving to Juventus in 2001 for ? 41 million . At Juventus he replaced Zinedine Zidane , who had transferred to Spain 's Real Madrid that summer . Nedv?d was a regular on Juventus ' 2001 ? 02 and 2002 ? 03 Scudetto @-@ winning teams . Although he was a substantial part of the club 's championship season in 2003 , he was also the subject of controversy . Nedv?d quit the Italian Footballers ' Association in protest of the union 's limit on non @-@ EU players ; his native Czech Republic did not become an EU member until 2004 . Although he was instrumental in leading Juventus to the 2003 UEFA Champions League Final against Milan , he had to sit out the final because of an accumulation of yellow cards after his semifinal booking for a foul on Real Madrid midfielder Steve McManaman .

In December 2003 , Nedv?d was named World Footballer of the Year by World Soccer . Later that month he won the European Footballer of the Year award over Thierry Henry and Paolo Maldini , the second Czech to win the award ( after Josef Masopust in 1962 ) . Nedv?d received further recognition in his home country when he won the 2004 Golden Ball , awarded by Czech sportswriters , for the fifth time in seven years .

The 2004 ? 05 season was frustrating for the midfielder , who was sidelined for two months by knee and head injuries and first considered retirement in April 2005 . Although Juventus won Serie A titles that year and in 2006 , the titles were revoked after the Calciopoli match fixing scandal . After the 2005 ? 06 season , which ended with Juventus ' relegation from Serie A despite its first @-@ place finish , many stars ( such as Fabio Cannavaro and Lilian Thuram ) left the club and the remaining players ' future was uncertain . After the World Cup Nedv?d dispelled rumours about his departure by reiterating his desire to help Juventus regain promotion to Serie A , citing his family and his commitment to the club as reasons for his decision . He received a five @-@ game ban after a red card against Genoa in December 2006 , and repeated his threat to retire . However , he remained

with the club until the end of the season and scored 11 league goals in the 2006 ? 07 Serie B.

For the 2007 ? 08 season , Juventus again played in Serie A. Nedv?d played frequently for the Bianconeri , contributing as the team 's first @-@ choice left winger and scoring two goals that season . He was again controversial , with his November 2007 tackle of Internazionale midfielder Lu?s Figo breaking the Portuguese player 's fibula . In April 2008 , Nedv?d was hospitalised overnight for a concussion sustained in a collision with Roberto Guana during a match against Palermo .

Nedv?d scored Juventus ' first league goal of the 2008 ? 09 season in a 1 ? 1 away draw with Fiorentina , and scored twice against Bologna in a 2 ? 1 away win in October . On 26 February 2009 , Nedv?d announced that he would retire at the end of 2008 ? 09 season to spend more time with his family . On 10 March 2009 , Nedv?d was substituted due to injury after 12 minutes of the Champions League last @-@ 16 second leg match against Chelsea . Due to his impending retirement and his club 's 3 ? 2 loss on aggregate , it was his last European game for Juventus . Nedv?d retired at the end of the season , captaining the final match against former team Lazio and setting up Vincenzo Iaquinta 's goal for a 2 ? 0 victory .

= = International career = =

Nedv?d began playing for Czechoslovak national youth teams in 1988 , representing his country in the under @-@ 15 age group before progressing to 16 , 17 and 18 . In 1992 he made his first appearance on the under @-@ 21 team , playing seven times between 1992 and 1993 .

The midfielder debuted for the re @-@ formed Czech national team in June 1994 in a 3 ? 1 win over the Republic of Ireland . His first major tournament was Euro 1996 , where he scored his first senior international goal and helped his team reach the final . He was also part of the Czech team that placed third in the 1997 FIFA Confederations Cup , defeating Uruguay in the third @-@ place match . Nedv?d scored two goals during the tournament , both which came during the Czech Republic 's 6 @-@ 1 win over the United Arab Emirates in their final group match , which allowed them to progress to the semi @-@ finals , where they were defeated by eventual champions Brazil .

= = = Euro 1996 = = =

The Czech Republic were not expected to make an impact against the favoured German side in their opening match ; Nedv?d missed two scoring chances and was one of ten players to receive a yellow card as Germany won 2 ? 0 . He contributed defensively , however , clearing a goal @-@ bound shot from Christian Ziege off the line .

Nedv?d scored his first senior international goal in his nation 's Group C match against Italy , putting the Czech Republic in the lead 1 ? 0 after four minutes . Although Italy scored an equaliser during the first half , they were reduced to ten men and the Czech Republic scored again before halftime for a 2 ? 1 win . Nedv?d played in the third group match , against Russia , getting his second yellow card of the tournament as the Czechs tied 3 ? 3 to advance to the knockout stage .

Due to a suspension , Nedv?d missed the Czech Republic 's quarter @-@ final game against Portugal ; however , the Czechs won in his absence and progressed . In the semifinal match against France , Nedv?d was named man of the match as the Czech Republic advanced to the final after a penalty shoot ? out when he scored his team 's second penalty shot . He and the Czech Republic team lost 2 ? 1 in the final to Germany , who scored a golden goal .

= = = Euro 2000 = = =

Before Euro 2000 , Nedv?d was unable to train normally due to an ankle injury . The Czechs ' first match ( against the Netherlands ) saw him and international teammate Jan Koller hit the woodwork without scoring , before the Dutch scored a controversial penalty to win 1 ? 0 . In the second match , against France , he was fouled ; the resultant Czech penalty was converted by Karel Poborsk? to even the score 1 ? 1 . Despite two shots on goal , Nedv?d could not beat French goalkeeper Fabien

Barthez and France won the match 2 ? 1 . He played in the third group match , against Denmark ; despite the Czechs ' 2 ? 0 victory , the team was eliminated from the tournament . After Euro 2000 , Nedv?d took over the national team captaincy from Jiří N?mec .

= = = Euro 2004 = = =

Nedv?d was instrumental in the Euro 2004 group stage match against the Netherlands . Two goals down after 19 minutes , he gave a man of the match performance as the Czechs rebounded to win 3 ? 2 . Nine players ( including Nedv?d ) were rested for the group match against Germany , with the Czechs already qualified for the knockout stage . He received a yellow card , upheld on appeal , in the quarter @-@ final match against Denmark ; this meant that Nedv?d would miss the final if he received another yellow card in the semifinal against Greece . However , Greece defeated the Czech Republic and Nedv?d was substituted after a knee injury . After their exit from the tournament , Nedv?d announced his retirement from the national team ; he was named to the Team of the Tournament with countrymen Petr ?ech and Milan Baro? .

= = = 2006 World Cup = = =

The midfielder was persuaded by coach Karel Brückner and his teammates to come out of international retirement in time for the World Cup qualification playoffs against Norway , in which the Czech Republic qualified for the final tournament for the first time since the breakup of Czechoslovakia . Although Nedv?d 's World Cup participation was jeopardised by a June knee injury , he was able to play .

The Czechs won the first match of the 2006 FIFA World Cup with 3 ? 0 against the United States , but key players were injured ; they lost their next two group matches against Ghana and eventual winners Italy , finishing third in their group . Nedv?d 's apparent goal at the beginning of the second half in the match against Ghana was ruled offside . His shots on goal against Italy were saved by Juventus teammate Gianluigi Buffon . Nedv?d again announced his retirement from the international scene before the August 2006 friendly match against Serbia and Montenegro , in which he made his 91st ( and final ) appearance . He refused to reverse his decision before Euro 2008 , despite requests from teammates and Brückner . In the 91 appearances he made for his national side , Nedv?d scored 18 goals .

= = Style of play = =

A complete , tenacious and consistent two @-@ footed player , Nedved frequently played as a left @-@ sided , offensive wide midfielder or as a left @-@ winger throughout his career , due to his crossing ability with his left foot , as well as due to his ability to cut inside and shoot with his right foot , although he was capable of playing anywhere in midfield due to his offensive and defensive work @-@ rate . He was also deployed as a central midfielder on occasion , as well as in an attacking midfield and playmaking role , or as a supporting striker , where he excelled as an assist @-@ man due to his excellent dribbling ability , passing range , and vision . Primarily known for his powerful shots and volleys from distance , as well as his stamina , he was also noted for his speed , endurance , technique and goal @-@ scoring ability . He was also an accurate set @-@ piece and penalty kick taker .

Nedv?d was nicknamed Furia Ceca by Italian fans , who noted his skill , consistency and verve , as well as his stamina , pace , power , and determination . In the English @-@ language media , he was called " the Czech cannon " . His former Lazio boss Sven @-@ Göran Eriksson described him as " an atypical midfielder , totally complete " . Despite his ability and tenacious playing style , Nedv?d was also criticised by some in the sport for going to ground too easily when challenged .

= = Post @-@ playing career = =

Nedvěd ran the Prague Half Marathon in 2010 ( his first race at the distance ) , finishing the course in 1 : 49 : 44 . He ran the 2012 Prague Marathon in a time of 3 : 50 : 02 for the 42 @-@ km course . Exor ( the Agnelli family 's investment company ) nominated Nedvěd for a seat on the Juventus board of directors on 12 October 2010 ; he joined the board on 27 October 2012 , and remains a member . Nedvěd was named International Personality at the 2012 FAI International Football Awards in February . In January 2013 , Nedvěd was banned from attending Serie A games for three weeks after he insulted referee Paolo Valeri during Juventus ' game against Sampdoria . On 23 October 2015 Nedvěd was appointed vice @-@ president of his former club Juventus .

= = Personal life = =

The son of Václav and Anna , Nedvěd has lived with his wife Ivana since 1992 . The couple have two children , named Ivana and Pavel after their parents . Nedvěd 's 2010 autobiography was published in Italian as *La mia vita normale : di corsa tra rivoluzione , Europa , e pallone d 'oro* . It was translated into Czech as *Můj obyčejný život* and released in the Czech Republic in 2011 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

Sources : League matches , Coppa Italia stats at Juventus , European competition stats  
Notes

= = = International = = =

= = = = International goals = = = =

Scores and results list Czech Republic 's goal tally first .

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Sparta Prague

Czechoslovak First League : 1992 ? 93

Czech Republic Football League : 1993 ? 94 , 1994 ? 95

Czech Cup : 1996

Lazio

Serie A : 1999 ? 2000

Coppa Italia : 1997 ? 98 , 1999 ? 2000

Supercoppa Italiana : 1998 , 2000

UEFA Cup Winners ' Cup : 1998 ? 99

UEFA Super Cup : 1999

UEFA Cup : Runner @-@ up 1997 ? 98

Juventus

Serie A : 2001 ? 02 , 2002 ? 03

Supercoppa Italiana : 2002 , 2003

Serie B : 2006 ? 07

UEFA Champions League : Runner @-@ up 2002 ? 03

Coppa Italia : Runner @-@ up 2001 ? 02 , 2003 ? 04

= = = International = = =

Czech Republic

UEFA European Championship :

Runner @-@ up : 1996

Semi @-@ finalist : 2004

FIFA Confederations Cup :

Third place : 1997

= = = Individual = = =

Golden Ball ( Czech Republic ) : 1998 , 2000 , 2001 , 2003 , 2004 , 2009

Největší český fotbalista ( List of Greatest Czechs ) : 41st place

Czech Footballer of the Year : 1998 , 2000 , 2003 , 2004

ESM Team of the Year : 2000 ? 01 , 2002 ? 03

Sportsperson of the Year ( Czech Republic ) : 2003

Serie A Footballer of the Year : 2003

Serie A Foreign Footballer of the Year : 2003

UEFA Club Best Midfielder of the Year : 2002 ? 03

World Soccer Awards Player of the Year : 2003

Ballon d 'Or : 2003

UEFA Team of the Year : 2003 , 2004 , 2005

UEFA European Championship Team of the Tournament : 2004

Golden Foot : 2004

FIFA 100 : 2004

FAI International Football Awards ? International Personality : 2012

UEFA Ultimate Team of the Year ( substitute ; published 2015 )