

= Diego Costa =

Diego da Silva Costa (Spanish : [ˈdjeˈo ða ˈsilˈa ˈkosta] , Portuguese : [ˈdʒeˈu dʒi ˈsiwvʃ ˈkʰstʃ] ; born 7 October 1988) , is a professional footballer who plays as a striker for English club Chelsea and the Spain national team . He has been described by pundits as a talented striker whose main attributes are his physicality , goalscoring and ability to keep possession . Costa has been criticised and punished for several confrontations with opponents .

He began his career with Braga and Penafiel in Portugal , and was signed by Atlético Madrid in 2007 . He was loaned back to Braga , and then to Celta de Vigo and Albacete before being sold to Real Valladolid in 2009 . He returned to Atlético the following season and went on to play a key role in their attack , scoring 27 goals as they won the league title in 2014 , and then joined Chelsea for £ 32 million . He scored 21 goals in his first season in England , winning the Premier League and League Cup .

Costa is originally Brazilian and was naturalized through residence in his seven years in Spanish football . Internationally , Costa played twice for Brazil in 2013 , but later declared his desire to represent Spain , having been granted Spanish citizenship in September 2013 . He made his debut for his adopted nation in March 2014 , and represented them at the 2014 FIFA World Cup .

= = Early life = =

Costa was born in Lagarto , Sergipe , Brazil , to parents José de Jesus and Josileide . His father named him in honour of Argentine footballer Diego Maradona despite the rivalry between the two nations , and he has an elder brother named Jair after Brazilian player Jairzinho . Despite regularly playing street football , Costa did not believe as a child that he would turn professional , in part due to the remote location of his hometown . He has since set up a football academy in his hometown , where he pays all the costs . Costa is a fan of Palmeiras .

Costa trialled unsuccessfully at his hometown team Atlético Clube Lagartense . At age 15 , he left Sergipe and moved to São Paulo , to work in the store of his uncle Jarminho . Although he was never a professional , Jarminho had connections in football and recommended his nephew to Barcelona Esportiva Capela , a team from Ibiúna in the south of the city set up as an alternative to drugs and gangs for youth of the favelas . Before joining this team , he had never been coached in football . He turned professional at the club , earning around £ 100 per month , and competed in the under @-@ 18 Taça de São Paulo despite a four @-@ month ban for slapping an opponent and dissent towards the referee . Although he was sent off in the first game of the tournament , he attracted the attention of renowned Portuguese agent Jorge Mendes , who offered him a contract at Braga . Costa 's father was apprehensive of sending his son to Europe , and suggested he instead sign for nearby Associação Desportiva São Caetano , but he was adamant that he would take the opportunity .

Jair played on the same team as Diego , and was a slimmer , more technically able player , but had less focus ; the two were often not fielded at the same time in order to prevent arguments . He never turned professional , but had a three @-@ month trial at Basque club Salvatierra .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Costa signed for his first European club in February 2006 , Portugal 's Braga . He initially struggled with loneliness and the comparatively cold weather of northern Portugal . Out of action due to the club 's lack of a youth team , he was loaned that summer to Penafiel in the second division , managed by former Portugal international Rui Bento , who desired the " rough diamond . "

Through his negotiations with Spain 's Atlético Madrid , Mendes arranged Costa 's transfer for ? 1 @. @ 5 million and 50 % of the player 's rights in December 2006 , but he remained on loan at Braga

until the end of the season . Atlético defeated interest from Porto and Recreativo de Huelva for Costa 's signature , with director Jesús García Pitarch admitting that it was a risk to pay so much for an inexperienced player . After five goals in 13 games for Penafiel , he was recalled to Braga in January 2007 . On 23 February , he came on in the 71st minute for Zé Carlos and scored his first goal for the team , a last @-@ minute goal for a 1 ? 0 win at Parma to advance 2 ? 0 on aggregate to the Last 16 of the UEFA Cup . His season ended after seven games due to a metatarsal injury which ruled him out for six months .

Costa was presented by Atlético President Enrique Cerezo on 10 July 2007 as " the new Kaká . " While scout Javier Hernández wished for him to return to fitness in the club 's reserves , García Pitarch instead suggested loaning Costa out immediately . He made his debut on 11 August in the Ciudad de Vigo tournament against Celta de Vigo , replacing Simão at half @-@ time in a penalty shootout victory .

= = = Celta Vigo = = =

Later that month , Costa and Mario Suárez were loaned to Segunda División Celta for the season , and he became a regular in the team , managed by former Ballon d 'Or winner Hristo Stoichkov . In his seventh league match , he scored his first goal in Spanish football in a dominant home victory over Xerez ; after scoring , he showboated , causing a brawl which resulted in him being sent off . Costa was subsequently rested from Celta 's away game at the same opposition . The event drew the wrath of Stoichkov , who unexpectedly left his position . Towards the middle of the season , he was involved in two further controversies : he struck Málaga defender Weligton in the head , causing an injury which required medical stitches , and was sent off against Sevilla Atlético for diving and dissent , leaving his team to fight for a draw without him . The loyal strike partner of Quincy Owusu @-@ Abeyie despite the pair not sharing a common language , he was dropped for Cypriot Ioannis Okkas . On 23 March 2008 , Costa scored both Celta goals in a 2 ? 1 win at Numancia , the latter after a long dribble ; but later on in the campaign , he was sent off against Tenerife at Balaídos , after which Celta went from winning 2 ? 0 to drawing 2 ? 2 . The team barely avoided relegation , and Costa earned a reputation for being a disruptive influence .

= = = Albacete = = =

Despite earning a poor reputation for his conduct , Costa attracted interest from Salamanca , Gimnàstic de Tarragona and Málaga after his loan at Celta ; García Pitarch ruled out any approach from the latter , fearing how Costa would behave on the Costa del Sol . After attending Atlético 's pre @-@ season tour of Mexico , he signed on loan for Albacete , also of Segunda División , on 22 August 2008 , signing a contract which would have a lower fee depending on how many games he played . He initially threatened to terminate his deal with the Castile @-@ La Mancha team , on account of the quality of his teammates and the city 's lack of a beach . Nine days after signing , he scored a late winner in a 2 ? 1 victory over Sevilla 's reserves at the Estadio Carlos Belmonte . The Queso Mecánico suffered with financial problems during Costa 's loan , with him threatening to strike unless their non @-@ playing staff were paid in full . He was dropped to the bench by manager Juan Ignacio Martínez for the home game against Real Sociedad on 13 December as punishment for an argument with goalkeeper Jonathan , but came on as a substitute to score another late winner .

Costa was known for misbehaviour on and off the pitch while at Albacete . He was sent off away to Tenerife , after which he slandered the referee 's mother and confronted his opponents . He pulled practical jokes on his teammates and employers , earning him the moniker " that fucking Brazilian " . However , he was a central figure as they avoided relegation , assisting twice in a 3 ? 0 win at high @-@ flying Rayo Vallecano on 2 May 2009 , despite missing a penalty .

= = = Valladolid = = =

In the summer of 2009 , Costa was desired by FC Barcelona for their reserve team , an approach which Atlético rejected , citing that he remained in their plans . However , frustrated by his lack of opportunities , a now overweight Costa argued with his management and attempted to negotiate a move to Brazil 's Esporte Clube Vitória .

On 8 July 2009 Costa was sold to Real Valladolid as part of the deal that sent goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo in the opposite direction , with the transfer including a ? 1 million buy @-@ back option that could be activated by Atlético at the end of the season . García Pitarch confessed that there was a verbal agreement that Costa would definitely return at the end of the campaign , and that the deal had been made to look permanent in order to give Costa more commitment to his new club .

Initially , Costa had competition up front from fellow new signings Alberto Bueno and Manucho , signed from Real Madrid and Manchester United respectively ; he eventually forged a friendship with the latter , a fellow lusophone . He started strong for the Castile and León side , scoring six times in his first 12 games , but only found the net once in the following 5 ½ months as the campaign eventually ended in relegation from La Liga . He was sent off in a goalless draw against RCD Espanyol on 24 March 2010 for a stamp on Dídac Vilà in the first half .

= = = Atlético Madrid = = =

= = = 2010 ? 11 season = = =

In June 2010 , Costa returned to the Colchoneros , initially as a backup to Sergio Agüero and Diego Forlán ? Atlético also paid an undisclosed sum to Braga to buy all the residual 30 % economic rights (the former also had to pay in excess of ? 833 @,@ 000 in agent 's fees to Gestifute) . He was an unused substitute as Atlético won the 2010 UEFA Super Cup on 27 August .

On 26 September , with the injured Agüero on the substitutes bench , Costa scored the game 's only goal at home against Real Zaragoza . On 3 April of the following year , already as a starter after manager Quique Flores demoted Forlán from his position , he netted all of his team 's goals in a 3 ? 2 win at Osasuna .

= = = 2011 ? 12 season = = =

In July 2011 , during Atlético 's pre @-@ season , Costa suffered a serious knee injury , going on to miss the majority of the season . The injury prevented him from passing a medical at Turkish club Beşiktaş J.K. , having already agreed to transfer to them . On 23 January 2012 , Costa was loaned to fellow league club Rayo Vallecano until June ; he scored four goals in his first three appearances , including two in a 5 ? 3 away win against Levante , eventually finishing his loan spell with ten goals from 16 games .

= = = 2012 ? 13 season = = =

For the second time in his career , Costa was an unused substitute as Atlético won the UEFA Super Cup on 1 September 2012 .

In December 2012 , Costa was involved in several on @-@ field altercations in two separate matches . The first was in a 0 ? 2 local derby loss against Real Madrid where he avoided disciplinary action after spitting incidents between him and Sergio Ramos . He was sent off in the following game at Viktoria Plzeň in the Europa League for headbutting opponent David Limberský , and was handed a four @-@ match ban by UEFA . This , however , did not deter coach Diego Simeone from continuing to start him , and he responded by netting three goals in two home contests , against Deportivo de La Coruña in the league (6 ? 0) and Getafe in the season 's Copa del Rey (3 ? 0) .

After the Spanish Cup semi @-@ finals against Sevilla , Costa took his goal tally in the competition to seven in as many matches , having scored three times in the tie : in the first leg he netted two penalties in a 2 ? 1 win and , in the second at the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán , scored one after an

individual effort and assisted Radamel Falcao in the other , also being involved in situations which resulted in two opposing players ? Gary Medel and Geoffrey Kondogbia ? being sent off in the 2 ? 2 draw .

Costa scored Atlético 's equalising goal in the Copa del Rey Final clash against city @-@ rivals Real Madrid on 17 May 2013 , contributing to the 2 ? 1 triumph ? the first in 25 games in a streak stretching back to 1999 ? and the tenth win in the tournament , confirmed by Miranda 's extra @-@ time header . He and opponent Cristiano Ronaldo had gone into the match as joint top scorers in the tournament , and thus Costa 's eighth goal made him the top scorer .

= = = = 2013 ? 14 season = = = =

In August 2013 , Costa was heavily linked with a move to Liverpool , who allegedly matched his release clause of ? 25 million and offered him three times his salary at Atlético . However , he chose to stay at the club and renewed his contract until 2018 , while also doubling his wages ; a few days after this in the first match of the new season on 19 August , he scored a brace in a 3 ? 1 win at Sevilla .

On 24 September Costa netted both goals in a 2 ? 1 home triumph over Osasuna , to help his team stay level on points with league leaders Barcelona through six games . Four days later , in the Madrid derby , he scored the only goal of the game to record a second win over Real at the Santiago Bernabéu in under five months . For his performances , he was crowned the inaugural La Liga Player of the Month for September 2013 . By his 25th birthday on 7 October , he had scored ten goals in eight league matches , equalling his tally from the previous season . All of those matches were won by Atlético , setting a new record for the best start to a season . On 23 November 2013 , Costa scored an overhead volley from a cross by Gabi in a win over Getafe ; the goal was nominated for the FIFA Puskás Award .

On 22 October 2013 Costa marked his UEFA Champions League début with two goals against FK Austria Wien , the first coming after a fine individual effort in an eventual 3 ? 0 group stage away win . On 19 February of the following year , in the first knockout round 's first leg , he scored the game 's only goal at Milan , netting seven minutes from time after a corner kick from Gabi ; he added a further two in the second match , helping to a 4 ? 1 victory that put Atlético into the quarter @-@ finals for the first time in 17 years .

On 30 April 2014 , Costa won and converted a penalty in the second leg of the Champions League semi @-@ final against Chelsea , as Atlético won 3 ? 1 at Stamford Bridge and advanced to the final of the competition for the first time since 1974 . He finished the league season with 27 league goals to become the third highest scorer , and the team won the title for the first time since 1996 , but he was substituted after 16 minutes of the last match of the season against Barcelona due to a hamstring injury . Atlético sought to cure this injury before the upcoming Champions League final against Real Madrid by sending him to Belgrade for treatment with a horse placenta , and he was included in the starting line @-@ up for the decisive match . However , he left the pitch after eight minutes in an eventual 1 ? 4 loss ; manager Diego Simeone later admitted a personal mistake in selecting the player to start the final despite his recent injury . Costa scored 8 goals during the Champions League campaign , equalling the record held by Vavá since 1959 for most in a season by an Atlético player , and in his entire career was in the top 10 Atlético players by goal average . At the season 's LFP Awards , he was nominated for the league 's Best Forward , losing out to Cristiano Ronaldo .

= = = Chelsea = = =

Having completed his medical in June , Chelsea announced on 1 July 2014 that they had agreed to meet the £ 32 million buy @-@ out clause in Costa 's contract . On 15 July , Chelsea confirmed the completion of the signing of Costa , who signed a five @-@ year contract on a salary of £ 150 @,@ 000 a week . Costa said : " I am very happy to sign for Chelsea . Everybody knows it is a big club in a very competitive league , and I am very excited to get started in England with a fantastic coach

and team @-@ mates . Having played against Chelsea last season I know the high quality of the squad I am joining " . Following the departure of former Chelsea striker Demba Ba , Costa inherited his number 19 shirt , the same number he wore at the 2014 World Cup for Spain and previously at Atlético .

===== 2014 ? 15 season =====

Costa scored on his Chelsea debut on 27 July , running onto a through ball from Cesc Fàbregas in a 2 ? 1 friendly win against Slovene club Olimpija . Costa then scored his second goal of pre @-@ season in a 2 ? 0 friendly win against Fenerbahçe on 8 August , described by the Daily Mail as a " wondergoal . " He ended his pre @-@ season with two goals in his first match at Stamford Bridge , a 2 ? 0 friendly win against Real Sociedad , on 12 August .

His first competitive match was Chelsea 's first game of the league season , away to Burnley on 18 August , scoring the team 's equaliser in a 3 ? 1 victory . Costa also scored in his second league game , opening a 2 ? 0 home win over Leicester City . He scored in his third consecutive match on 30 August , netting the first and last goals of a 6 ? 3 win at Everton , the first goal coming after 35 seconds . Costa was given the Premier League Player of the Month award for August 2014 . He completed his first Premier League hat @-@ trick in his fourth game of the season against Swansea City as Chelsea continued their perfect start to the season with a 4 ? 2 win . With seven , Costa holds the record for most goals in his first four Premier League matches , surpassing the tally of six by both Sergio Agüero and Micky Quinn . In spite of his form at the start of the season , Costa had been suffering from a recurring hamstring problem which limited his participation in training ; manager José Mourinho said that it would not heal until mid @-@ November .

Costa scored his tenth goal of the league season to give Chelsea a 2 ? 1 win away to Liverpool on 8 November , preserving their unbeaten start to the campaign . On 17 January 2015 , he scored twice in the first half as Chelsea won 5 ? 0 away at Swansea . Later that month , Costa was charged by the FA in relation to a stamp on Emre Can during Chelsea 's win over Liverpool in the League Cup semi @-@ finals , and was given a three @-@ match ban . Costa won his first trophy for Chelsea on 1 March , as they defeated Tottenham Hotspur 2 ? 0 to win the League Cup Final at Wembley Stadium . In the 56th minute , his shot was deflected in by Kyle Walker for the second goal of the game . Initially the goal was given as a Walker own goal , but Costa was later awarded the goal .

On 26 April , Costa was chosen of one of two forwards for the season 's PFA Team of the Year , alongside Tottenham 's Harry Kane . Five of Costa 's Chelsea teammates were also in the selection . Due to injury , he was due to miss the remainder of the season , in which Chelsea won the league title with a 1 ? 0 home win over Crystal Palace on 3 May . However , he featured in their last match of the season on the 24th , replacing the injured Didier Drogba after half an hour against Sunderland . Seven minutes later , he scored his 20th goal of the league campaign , an equalising penalty in an eventual 3 ? 1 home win .

With reports speculating that Costa wanting to leave Chelsea , Costa affirmed on 2 June 2015 after Chelsea 's post @-@ season tour that he had no desire to leave London , saying , " It 's always a bit more difficult in the first season for adaptation , but I have no reason to leave this place , I love it , the fans love me , and I want to stay . It ? s really good to come in the first season [to Chelsea] and win two things [the Premier League and the League Cup titles] . Next year I ? ll be ready to come back and , hopefully , win a couple more trophies . "

===== 2015 ? 16 season =====

Due to injury , Costa missed the 2015 FA Community Shield , which Chelsea lost 1 ? 0 to rivals Arsenal . On 23 August , he scored his first goal of the campaign in a 2 ? 3 win at West Bromwich Albion , which was Chelsea 's first victory of the campaign , set up by international teammate Pedro . He scored his first Champions League goal for the team on 16 September , a volley from a Cesc Fàbregas ball in a 4 ? 0 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv .

Three days later , Costa was involved in controversy in a 2 ? 0 home win over Arsenal ; he repeatedly slapped Laurent Koscielny and chest @-@ bumped him to the ground , and then confronted Gabriel , who allegedly tried to kick him and was sent off , though footage from ESPN Brazil later showed that little to no contact actually took place . He escaped any punishment at the time . His conduct was deemed " disgusting " by visiting manager Arsène Wenger , and teammate Kurt Zouma initially reacted by saying " Diego likes to cheat a lot , " but later clarified that he meant that " Diego is a player who puts pressure on his opponents . " As a consequence , on 21 September , he was charged with violent conduct by The Football Association (FA) , and the following day he was given a three @-@ match suspension . Gabriel 's red card was also rescinded , although he was given a 1 @-@ match ban and £ 10 @,@ 000 fine for improper conduct after failing to leave the pitch immediately . After this incident , the Daily Express wrote that Costa was " named as [the] Premier League 's dirtiest player . "

Costa returned from the ban on 17 October , when he scored and forced an Alan Hutton own goal in a 2 ? 0 home win over Aston Villa . After a 1 ? 0 defeat at Stoke City on 7 November , a Britannia Stadium steward made an allegation of assault against Costa , which was resolved without further action . Also that month , Costa was again involved in a skirmish with Liverpool 's Martin Škrtel , where he appeared to dig his boot into the Slovak defender 's chest . , but escaped punishment by the FA . On 29 November , Costa was an unused substitute in a match against Tottenham and threw his bib on the floor when Ruben Loftus @-@ Cheek was sent on at his expense . Mourinho told the media that " For me his behaviour is normal . A top player on the bench will not be happy " .

Costa , Oscar and Fàbregas were targeted by Chelsea supporters as the players whose poor form led to the dismissal of popular manager Mourinho in December 2015 . He scored twice in the first game under interim replacement Guus Hiddink , a 2 ? 2 home draw against Watford . Costa , who played in a protective mask after breaking his nose in training , improved his form under the Dutchman , scoring seven times in his first eight games under the new management .

On 12 March 2016 , Costa received his first red card in a Chelsea shirt near the end their 2 ? 0 FA Cup quarter @-@ final defeat to Everton for confronting opponent Gareth Barry . Footage appeared to show Costa biting Barry during that confrontation after clashing heads . Earlier in the match , Costa appeared to spit in the direction of the referee after he was yellow carded for a clash with Barry . Later , both Costa and Barry denied that the bite occurred . Costa 's two @-@ match ban was extended to three , and he was fined £ 20 @,@ 000 . On 2 May , as Chelsea drew 2 ? 2 against Tottenham to deny them the title , Costa was gouged in the eyes by Mousa Dembélé during a mass brawl ; the Belgian received a retrospective six @-@ match ban .

= = International career = =

= = = Brazil = = =

On 5 March 2013 , Costa was called up by Brazilian national team coach Luiz Felipe Scolari for friendlies with Italy in Geneva and Russia in London , both taking place late in that month . He made his debut in the first match on 21 March , replacing Fred midway through the second half of the 2 ? 2 draw . Four days later at Stamford Bridge , he replaced Kaká for the last 12 minutes of a 1 ? 1 draw with Russia .

= = = Request to change teams = = =

In September 2013 , the Royal Spanish Football Federation made an official request to FIFA for permission to call up Costa for the Spanish national team . He had been granted Spanish nationality in July . FIFA regulations currently permit players with more than one nationality to represent a second country if , like Costa , he had only represented his first country in friendly matches .

On 29 October 2013 , Costa declared that he wished to play international football for Spain , sending a letter to the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) . Following the news , Scolari

commented , " A Brazilian player who refuses to wear the shirt of the Brazilian national team and compete in a World Cup in your country is automatically withdrawn . He is turning his back on a dream of millions , to represent our national team , the five @-@ time champions in a World Cup in Brazil . "

The CBF judicial director , Carlos Eugênio Lopes , said :

" It 's obvious that the reason he made that choice was financial . The chairman (of the CBF , José Maria Marin) authorised me to open a legal action at the Justice Ministry requesting that he loses his Brazilian citizenship , which Diego Costa has rejected ... The chairman told me that Costa has proved he 's not fit to be part of the Scolari family , that he would contaminate the family because he 's not committed to Brazil , but to Spain . He rejected his Brazilian citizenship . Marin has asked me to study the situation deeply in order to keep him from ever playing for Spain . He told me that , from now on , Costa is ' persona non grata ' at the national team and that the players themselves wouldn 't welcome him because of that episode " .

= = = Spain = = =

On 28 February 2014 , Spain manager Vicente del Bosque included Costa in the squad for a friendly against Italy , but he was an unused substitute . He finally made his début on 5 March , playing the full 90 minutes at his club ground the Vicente Calderón Stadium as the hosts won 1 ? 0 .

Costa was named in Spain 's 30 @-@ man provisional squad for the 2014 FIFA World Cup , as well as the final list which was named on 31 May . He returned from the injury which had ended his club season by starting in a warm @-@ up game against El Salvador , winning a penalty in a 2 ? 0 victory . In the first match of the tournament , against the Netherlands , he again won a penalty , conceded by Stefan de Vrij and converted by Xabi Alonso for a 1 ? 0 lead but in an eventual 1 ? 5 defeat ; he was booed by Brazilian fans during the match , to which he reacted by saying " I have confirmed that Spain is my country and the Spanish people are behind me , the criticism of my decision does not affect me " . Costa then started in a 0 ? 2 loss to Chile making little impact as he was substituted for Fernando Torres for the second consecutive match , and Spain were eliminated . He was an unused substitute in the team 's third match , a 3 ? 0 defeat of Australia .

Costa scored his first goal for Spain with the third in a 4 ? 0 UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying win away to Luxembourg on 12 October 2014 . He did not feature again for Spain until 5 September 2015 , when he was fouled by Slovakia goalkeeper Matú? Kozá?ik for a penalty , which Andrés Iniesta converted for a 2 ? 0 qualifying win at the Estadio Carlos Tartiere in Oviedo . He was booed when he was substituted for Paco Alcácer later in the match . Del Bosque defended Costa from criticism , saying that he performed well against the Slovak defence . However , he was not included in the final squad for the tournament .

= = Style of play = =

Friends and family recalled how Costa 's style of play changed little over time , with his father stating how as a child , Costa would be furious whenever his team lost . Atlético scout Javier Hernández , on watching 17 @-@ year @-@ old Costa play for Penafiel , was impressed by the young forward 's determination and power , although found it evident that he was not observing a healthy lifestyle . Costa 's Penafiel manager Rui Bento , who was at Sporting CP when Cristiano Ronaldo broke into the team , rated Costa in the same calibre as the Portuguese winger . According to Atlético Director Jesús García Pitarch , Costa ranks as one of the best signings of his career , alongside Mohamed Sissoko , Miranda and Ricardo Oliveira .

While on loan at Celta , Costa drew comparisons to their former Egyptian striker Mido , who was also known for his temper . During his spell at Albacete , Costa was nicknamed after bullfighter Curro Romero and the Tasmanian devil . His manager Juan Ignacio Martínez conceded that Costa played as a model professional for 89 minutes per match , with only one minute per match being his downfall . Costa refers to José Luis Mendilibar as his greatest manager because of his fatherlike "

tough love , " respecting his talents while keeping strict discipline , once sending Costa to work in a vineyard as a punishment .

Earlier in his Atlético Madrid career , Costa 's physical play was used in support of Radamel Falcao , thus ensuring a lower goalscoring rate . After Falcao was sold in 2013 , the attack was restructured around Costa by manager Diego Simeone . Simeone , who like Costa was known for his competitiveness and aggression , found ways to enhance his discipline while retaining his determination .

Ahead of his competitive debut for Chelsea in August 2014 , BBC Sport pundit Robbie Savage described Costa as " the missing piece in the jigsaw " for the " clear favourites " who " could end up winning the title by five or six points . " He explained that Chelsea 's defence was already the strongest in the league , but a poorer rate of shot @-@ to @-@ goal conversion had cost them the title . He praised Costa 's stature and physical style of play which " suits the Premier League down to the ground " in the same role that Didier Drogba previously played at Chelsea , an opinion also voiced by the league 's top scorer of all time , Alan Shearer . Costa has also been attributed with a greater ability to keep possession of the ball than any Chelsea striker since Drogba first left the club in 2012 .

= = = Controversies = = =

Costa has been the source of much controversy in his career due to confrontations with opponents , and has received multiple violent conduct charges from the English Football Association . Opposing managers have also opined that Costa himself intends to provoke his opponents . Danny Murphy of Match of the Day has stated that Costa is targeted by players who " wind him up , " but he " remains calm , " and is justified to taunt opponents who taunt him . Pat Nevin , a former Chelsea winger , believes that Costa 's style of play is likely to cause himself " a few injuries . " In August 2014 , he was criticised by Everton manager Roberto Martínez for taunting Everton 's Séamus Coleman following his own goal , and stated Costa needed " to understand the ethics " of the Premier League . In October 2014 , he clashed with Slovakia 's Martin Škrteľ in a Euro 2016 qualifier .

In January 2015 , following two stamp incidents involving Costa and Liverpool players for which Costa received a three @-@ match ban by the FA , Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers stated that he thought Costa had fouled his players when " he could easily have hurdled over the player " and " there ? s no need to do it . " Costa described his style of play as " strong but noble " , and refuted allegations that he deliberately aims to injure opponents .

In late 2015 , Costa was the subject of scrutiny for his comparatively poor start to his second season at Chelsea and his low scoring rate for Spain . Daily Mail writer Adam Shergold credited this to consistent injuries and transfer speculation , concluding that , " The whole perception of the 26 @-@ year @-@ old has switched in a matter of months from appreciation at his deadly abilities in front of goal to derision at the fighting , profligacy and now diving that has crept into his game . " French newspaper L 'Equipe named Costa as the most hated footballer in December 2015 , based on his provocative and violent behaviour .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of 7 May 2016

= = = International = = =

As of match played 13 November 2015

= = = International goals = = =

Scores and results show Spain 's goal tally first

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Atlético Madrid

La Liga : 2013 ? 14

UEFA Super Cup : 2010 , 2012

Copa del Rey : 2012 ? 13

UEFA Champions League : Runner @-@ up 2013 ? 14

Supercopa de España : Runner @-@ up 2013

Chelsea

League Cup : 2014 ? 15

Premier League : 2014 ? 15

= = = Individual = = =

Copa del Rey : Top scorer 2012 ? 13

La Liga Player of the Month : September 2013

La Liga Team of the Season : 2013 ? 14

Trofeo EFE : 2013 ? 14

UEFA Champions League Team of the Season : 2013 ? 14

Premier League Player of the Month : August 2014

PFA Team of the Year : 2014 ? 15