

TOTAL DUTCH FOOTBALL.COM

SEASON

PREVIEW

2015 / 16

**YOUR DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO
THE DUTCH FOOTBALL SEASON**

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INTRODUCTION

WELL all the players of Dutch football have finished the hard training of the pre-season and the kick-off to a new campaign is here!

After the raging success of the [Total Dutch Football Top 50](#) magazine we provided last month, we decided to follow up with a season preview publication.

Although the team have previewed all 18 Eredivisie sides inside these pages, this will prove to much more. Inside you will find the management hierarchy for each club, as well as updated squad lists with full squad numbers and date of births.

I have provided my thoughts and betting tips on the Eredivisie season ahead while Martijn Hilhorst has give his knowledge of the new Jupiler League campaign to give you a taste for that action.

So to quote the front page of this exclusive, free magazine this is... 'Your Definitive Guide to the Dutch Football Season'.

Enjoy,
Will Burns

TOTAL DUTCH FOOTBALL.COM SEASON PREVIEW 2015/16

All transfer and statistical information included in this publication is correct as of August 6th 2015.



EREDIVISIE NEW BOYS

Will Burns introduces the latest arrivals to the Eredivisie...



YAYA SANOGO (AJAX)

YOUNG striker Yaya Sanogo joins the Amsterdammers on a season-long loan from Premier League giants Arsenal with a great reputation. However, spending last year at Crystal Palace in another loan deal, the 22-year-old failed to make an impact. Gunners boss Arsene Wenger has a good relationship with Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars and has trusted *de Godenzonen* to improve the youngster in a move and thinks Sanogo could help Ajax on the way: *'I am sure it will be good for Ajax and he has an opportunity to play in the Champions League and that's vital for his experience.'* The next nine months could be possibly the most important in Sanogo's career - if he does not to prove to be a hit in Amsterdam - it could spell curtains for his Arsenal tenure.

BRUNO UVINI (FC TWENTE)

TOTTENHAM Hotspur fans may recognise the name after Brazilian defender Bruno Uvini spent some time three years ago on loan at White Hart Lane but failed to earn a permanent move. Later that season, he clinched a five-year contract in the Serie A with Napoli, but after only starting one game in three years so far, Uvini is now at FC Twente to begin his third loan move since moving to Italy. Standing at 6ft 2inches, Uvini is a strong central defender that will do his best to fill the void of the outgoing Andreas Bjelland (Brentford). The cash-strapped Twente will be hoping that the Brazilian can shore up the defence in what looks to be a difficult season for *The Tukkers*. Similar to Sanogo, his Napoli career may be in jeopardy, if not already over, and big Bruno may look to settle in Holland to finally give his career some stability.



VINCENT JANSSEN (AZ ALKMAAR)

THE goal machine of the Eerste Divisie last year, Vincent Janssen earned himself a summer move to AZ after notching 19 times in 34 matches for Almere City. Several Eredivisie clubs tussled for his signature but AZ gaffer John van de Brom was the most persuasive in the negotiations and clinched the 21-year-old for a reported snip of €800,000. Before writing this piece, Janssen had scored ten goals in just four pre-season matches and I predict this man could make an immediate impact in Alkmaar. With Guus Hupperts, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Thom Haye and Markus Henriksen supplying him and now USA international Aron Jóhannsson is off to Germany, chances will be of aplenty and could we see the emergence of Holland's next top striker?

ISAIAH 'IZZY' BROWN (VITESSE)

CHELSEA'S partnership with Vitesse could once again prove successful for the Arnhem side as 'Izzy' Brown is set to show his potential in the Gelredome. As always with the link-up, most of the Chelsea lads that come over, arrive with great reputations - however possibly no more than Brown. The winger-cum-striker captained the Chelsea Under-19 side in the finals of the UEFA Youth League against Shakhtar Donetsk last April. Scoring twice, Brown earned the man of the match award in the 3-2 win that saw *the Blues* claim the trophy. At just 18-years-old, 'Izzy' will use this move as vital experience and bolsters Peter's Bosz attacking options. Tall, strong and quick, Brown will add another dimension to the Vitesse strikeforce and will terrorize the defences he face.



SIMON GUSTFASON (FEYENOORD)

HIGHLY-RATED Swedish midfielder Simon Gustafson arrived at De Kuip from BK Häcken on a four-year contract earlier this summer with no great fanfare. The tall, blonde 20-year-old stands at 6ft 1, and will look to break through the Feyenoord first-team this season. In front of him in the pecking order, Jens Toornstra, Marko Vejinovic, Lex Immers and Karim El Ahmadi all stand his way, however, Feyenoord chief Martin van Geel has high hopes for the Swedish youngster: *"We have followed Simon for many years, and I am very happy with have him signed with us for four years - he has the potential to have a great career at Feyenoord"*. Gustafson is an left-footed attacking midfielder with great intelligence and was able to notch 10 times in 28 games in 2014 for Häcken. Creative with calm finishing ability he should fit right in at Feyenoord who last season looked poor in front of goal.



GASTON PEREIRO (PSV)

AFTER Georginio Wijnladum hopped over the North Sea to join Newcastle United, PSV jumped at the chance to clinch the signing of playmaker Gaston Pereiro from his homeland and Uruguayan giants Nacional. He is a 6ft 2inch , left-footed, intelligent midfielder and is capable of playing anywhere across the attacking midfield line. With a brilliant technique along with vision and the ability to pick the perfect pass, the 19-year-old is most comfortable with the ball at his feet orchestrating plays. This will suit PSV without Depay and Wijnaldum that have been filling that role over the last 24 months. The South American possesses a highly polished finishing ability and will be a constant danger through late surges into the opposition area.

AMIN YOUNES (AJAX)

GIVING an impressive performance at this summer's UEFA Under-21 European Championships, for his country Germany, Amin Younes caught the eye of Frank de Boer at Ajax. With some many players ahead of him in Monchengladbach's squad, the 21-year-old jumped at the chance to join the Amsterdammers. The winger holds rapid pace in his arsenal with a tricky pair of feet ready to attack the Eredivisie full-backs. Younes will look to, and basically needs to, make an impact at Ajax to resurrect his career and with the departure of Ricardo Kishna, the young German should gain great opportunities to do so.



MAXIME LESTIENNE (PSV)

THE young Belgian left-winger Maxime Lestienne is well-travelled for a 23-year-old. After beginning his career at home-town club Mouscron in Belgium, he moved onto Club Brugge where he really made a name for himself, appearing 102 times bagging 33 goals. After four years, Saudi club Al-Arabi snapped him up, but he is yet to make an outing for them. For reasons unknown, he was loaned straight to Genoa in the Serie A last year (23 games) and now he is at PSV. He look to fill the rather big shoes of Memphis Depay, but he has the credentials to give it a good shot. Fast, intelligent with a refined left boot in his locker, Lestienne could take the Eredivisie by storm, and Philip Cocu will be certainly hoping he does.





ADO DEN HAAG

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Henk Fraser	Head Coach
Arno van Zwam	Assistant Coach
Ekrem Kahya	Assistant Coach
Nol Hornix	Fitness Coach
Lex Schoenmaker	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Martin Hansen	DEN	15/06/90
18	Tim Coremans	NED	10/04/91
22	Robert Zwinkels	NED	04/05/83
24	Rody de Boer	NED	22/08/97

DEFENDERS

2	Dion Malone	NED	13/02/89
3	Vito Wormgoor	NED	16/11/88
4	Timothy Derijck	BEL	25/08/87
5	Wilfried Kanon	CIV	06/07/93
8	Aaron Meijers	NED	28/10/87
28	Tyronne Ebuehi	NED	16/12/95
51	Gianni Zuiverloon	NED	30/12/86

MIDFIELDERS

6	Thomas Kristensen	DEN	17/04/83
7	Kevin Jansen	NED	08/04/92
10	Mathias Gehrt	DEN	07/06/92
17	Danny Bakker	NED	16/01/95
23	Ronald Alberg	NED	06/08/90
30	Segun Owobowale	NED	17/08/97
31	Hector Hevel	NED	15/05/96
34	Dylan Nieuwenhuijs	NED	27/01/95

FORWARDS

11	Ludcinio Marengo	NED	14/09/91
12	Kenji Gorré	NED	29/09/94
14	Giovanni Korte	NED	01/08/93
21	Édouard Duplan	FRA	13/05/83
27	Ruben Schaken	NED	03/04/82
29	Michiel Kramer	NED	03/12/88
33	Gervane Kastaneer	NED	09/06/96



FRESH from a June 2014 takeover by Beijing-based, United Vansen International Sports Company Ltd and with their financial difficulties behind them, ADO came into the 14/15 campaign with a newfound optimism. However, the air of confidence around the Kyocera Stadion soon dissipated as the club won just one of its first ten matches in both league and cup; a 3-0 home league victory over FC Groningen. This included an embarrassing KNVB Beker exit on penalties at second tier outfit, Almere City last September and left the club struggling at the wrong end of the table when newly promoted, FC Dordrecht arrived in The Hague a month later. After posting a much needed 2-0 victory and edging out another keenly fought contest at home to Willem II in November, things looked up for Henk Fraser's men. However, *the Residentionclub* failed to win another match until a 2-0 home victory over FC Twente, beginning an unbeaten run throughout the month of February, which included back-to-back home victories over NAC Breda and PEC Zwolle and a-point-a-piece from road trips to FC Dordrecht and FC Groningen. Yet, three successive defeats in the month of March to Heerenveen and Heracles Almelo in front of their own fans and a narrow 1-0 away reverse at the Amsterdam ArenA, left ADO looking uneasily over their shoulder at the relegation zone. However, a run of three wins in their next four matches, beginning with a 3-2 success at Excelsior, backed up by a 2-0 home victory over mid-table, FC Utrecht the

following week and a narrow 1-0 victory over Vitesse at the Kyocera Stadion on 24th April 2015 after a 3-1 reverse in Alkmaar the previous week, effectively secured Eredivisie status for another year; the club finishing in 13th place, nine points clear of the relegation/promotion playoff places. Eager to avoid a repeat of the struggles of last season, Fraser was proactive during the summer transfer window, securing some surprising coups with the capture of experienced wide-men: Edouard Duplan, from FC Utrecht and Ruben Schaken, returning to the Netherlands after a spell with Inter Bakú in Azerbaijan, on freebies, with fellow winger, 20-year-old, Kenji Gorre, arriving on a season-long-loan from Swansea City. Forward, Mike van Duinen, left to join Fortuna Dusseldorf for €500,000, while Ricky van Haaren (Dinamo Bucharest) and Malcolm Esajas (FC Den Bosch) departed the Kyocera Stadion on free transfers. With ADO scoring the least amount of goals in the Eredivisie outside of the bottom three in 2014/15 (44), Duplan, Schaken and Gorre will give 17-goal top-scorer, Michiel Kramer (who scored almost half of the club's league goals in 2014/15) and the club's misfiring attack some much needed dynamism in 2015/16. However, with a squad largely unchanged from 2014/15 and the promised investment by the club's new owners as yet failing to materialise, another season of struggle appears likely.

Steven Davies

BEST XI



AUGUST

8th - PSV (H)
15th - FC Twente (A)
23rd - FC Utrecht (H)
30th - Ajax (A)

SEPTEMBER

13th - Heracles (H)
19th - PEC Zwolle (A)
27th - Excelsior (H)

OCTOBER

3rd - N.E.C. (A)
18th - De Graafschap (H)
25th - SC Cambuur (A)

NOVEMBER

1st - Feyenoord (H)
6th - Roda JC (A)
22nd - Vitesse (H)
29th - FC Groningen (A)

DECEMBER

4th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
12th - Willem II (H)
20th - SC Heerenveen (A)

JANUARY

17th - Ajax (H)
24th - SC Cambuur (H)
27th - De Graafschap (A)
31st - Feyenoord (A)

FEBRUARY

6th - Roda JC (H)
14th - Excelsior (A)
19th - PEC Zwolle (H)
27th - PSV (A)

MARCH

4th - FC Twente (H)
13th - FC Utrecht (A)
20th - N.E.C. (H)

APRIL

3rd - FC Groningen (H)
9th - Vitesse (A)
17th - Willem II (A)
20th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

MAY

1st - Heracles (A)
8th - SC Heerenveen (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Kenji Gorré*	Swansea City
Ruben Schaken	Inter Baku
Edouard Duplan	FC Utrecht
Ludcinco Marengo	FC Volendam

OUTS

NAME	TO
Mike van Duinen	Fortuna Dusseldorf
Xander Houtkoop	SC Cambuur
Ricky van Haaren	Dinamo Bucharest
Malcolm Esajas	FC Den Bosch
Guy Smith	VV Noordwijk
Richelo Fecunda	Released
Ninos Gouriye	Released
Papito Merencia	Released
Mitchell Schet	Released
Mitchell de Vlugt	Released
Robin Buwalda*	VVV Venlo

* indicates loan move



KEY PLAYER: MICHEL KRAMER

ROTTERDAM born, Michiel Kramer came through the youth ranks at XerxesDZB and Excelsior before signing for NAC Breda; making his professional debut in November 2008 in a 4-0 away loss at Sparta Rotterdam. A free transfer to FC Volendam followed on in June 2009; Kramer's debut coming in a 1-1 home draw against FC Den Bosch in August. The giant forward's first career goal was soon followed by his second and third; the young forward leaving the JenS Vesting Stadion in Emmen with the match ball and his side a 4-2 victory in December. The giant striker's most productive season was also his last at the club; the 6ft 5in forward scoring 23 times in 36 appearances in all competitions

in 2012/13. A free transfer to his debut coming in an August 2013 defeat a 3-2 loss at home to PSV. Kramer's first goal for ADO arrived later that month in the third minute of added time to seal a dramatic 2-1 away win at Kramer's old club, NAC. Kramer netted 17 times in 33 appearances in all competitions the following season; finishing 14/15 as the Eredivisie's third best marksman and with a year left on his contract, it appears likely *the Residentionclub* will cash-in before his contract expires. With ADO's well documented struggles in front of goal last year, the club will hope to keep the prolific forward in The Hague until January 2016.

Steven Davies

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	13th
KNVB BEKER	Second Round
TOP SCORER	Michiel Kramer (17)
DISCIPLINE	60 Yellows, 4 Reds



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Frank De Boer	Head Coach
Dennis Bergkamp	Assistant Coach
Hennie Spijkerman	Assistant Coach
Carlo l'Ami	Goalkeeping Coach
Marc Overmars	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Jasper Cillessen	NED	22/04/89
24	André Onana	CAM	02/04/96
33	Diederik Boer	NED	24/09/80

DEFENDERS

2	Ricardo van Rhijn	NED	13/06/91
3	Joël Veltman	NED	15/01/92
4	Mike van der Hoorn	NED	15/10/92
5	John Heitinga	NED	15/11/83
17	Nicolai Boilesen	DEN	16/02/92
22	Jairo Riedewald	NED	09/09/96
23	Kenny Tete	NED	09/10/95
26	Nick Viergever	NED	03/08/89
35	Mitchell Dijks	NED	09/02/93

MIDFIELDERS

6	Riechedly Bazoer	NED	12/10/96
8	Daley Sinkgraven	NED	04/07/95
10	Davy Klaassen	NED	21/02/93
11	Amin Younes	GER	06/08/93
16	Lucas Andersen	DEN	13/09/94
20	Lasse Schöne	DEN	27/05/86
25	Thulani Serero	SAF	11/04/90
27	Nemanja Gudelj	SER	16/11/91

FORWARDS

7	Viktor Fischer	DEN	09/06/94
9	Arkadiusz Milik	POL	28/02/94
19	Yaya Sanogo	FRA	27/01/93
21	Anwar El Ghazi	NED	03/05/95
18	Robert Murić	CRO	12/03/96



AFTER four successive league titles, Frank de Boer's Ajax went into the 2014/15 season knowing that no team had ever won five consecutive Eredivisie championships. Despite losing both Siem de Jong (Newcastle United) and Daley Blind (Manchester United) as well as being shocked by PEC Zwolle in the Johan Cruyff Schaal, *de Godenzonen* recorded back-to-back wins against Vitesse and AZ before PSV arrived at the Amsterdam Arena. The match proved to be a turning point as Ajax failed to make up the ground suffered by a shock 3-1 reverse in August. The following week, De Boer tasted another bitter defeat at FC Groningen, although he led his side to an unbeaten run in the league until a loss to Vitesse on 1st February 2015; compiling 11 wins and four draws in the process. That setback in Arnhem came in the midst of a run of three games that would prove to effectively cost Ajax the silverware. Following a goalless home draw with bitter rivals Feyenoord the previous week, a home defeat to AZ Alkmaar was next in early February 2015 and the Amsterdam giants were also humiliated 4-0 at home to the Arnhem-based outfit in the fourth round of the KNVB Beker. While in the Champions League, the club fared little better in a group that featured: FC Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and APOEL. Ajax collected just one win, two draws and suffered three consecutive losses (both games against Barcelona and away to PSG). A victory over APOEL in December ensured Europa League qualification where they reached the last sixteen but lost out on the away goal rule

to Ukrainian side Dnipro. Despite bringing in Richairo Zivkovic (€2.5m), Nick Viergever (€2m) and Daley Sinkgraven (€7m), it was the home-grown talents, Anwar El Ghazi, Riechedly Bazoer, Ricardo Kishna and Jairo Riedewald who shone brightest last season. While Dutch international goalkeeper, Jasper Cillessen's election as Player of the Year by the club's supporters told its own story. The permanent capture of top-scorer, Arkadiusz Milik, who had spent the last campaign on a season-long-loan from Bayer Leverkusen began the rebuilding of a squad looking to wrestle back domestic supremacy this season after finishing 17 points behind PSV the previous. Nemanja Gudelj (AZ Alkmaar), Mitchell Dijks (Willem II) and Amin Younes (Borussia Monchengladbach) also arrived over the summer for significant sums of money with John Heitinga (Hertha BSC) returning to Amsterdam on a free transfer and young French striker, Yaya Sanogo landed on a season-long-loan from Arsenal. Departing captain, Niklas Moisander (Sampdoria) and Bas Kuipers (Excelsior) left on free transfers while the sales of Kolbeinn Sigthórsson (FC Nantes - €3m) and Kishna (Lazio - €4m) offset some of the club's exorbitant spending. This year, Ajax will aim to recapture the Eredivisie championship crown and successfully negotiate the third qualifying round of the Champions League to reach the lucrative group stages of the competition and try to make an impact on Europe's grandest platform.

BEST XI



AUGUST

8th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
 15th - Willem II (H)
 22nd - N.E.C. (A)
 30th - ADO Den Haag (H)

SEPTEMBER

12th - FC Twente (A)
 20th - Excelsior (A)
 26th - FC Groningen (H)

OCTOBER

4th - PSV (H)
 17th - Heracles (A)
 25th - Vitesse (A)
 31st - Roda JC (H)

NOVEMBER

8th - Feyenoord (A)
 21st - SC Cambuur (H)
 29th - PEC Zwolle (A)

DECEMBER

5th - SC Heerenveen (H)
 13th - FC Utrecht (A)
 20th - De Graafschap (H)

JANUARY

17th - ADO Den Haag (A)
 23rd - Vitesse (H)
 26th - Heracles (H)
 31st - Roda JC (A)

FEBRUARY

7th - Feyenoord (H)
 14th - FC Groningen (A)
 21st - Excelsior (H)
 28th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

MARCH

3rd - Willem II (A)
 13th - N.E.C. (H)
 20th - PSV (A)

APRIL

3rd - PEC Zwolle (H)
 9th - SC Cambuur (A)
 17th - FC Utrecht (H)
 20th - SC Heerenveen (A)

MAY

1st - FC Twente (H)
 8th - De Graafschap (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Yaya Sanogo*	Arsenal
Amin Younes	Borussia Monchengladbach
Mitchell Dijks	Willem II
Nemanja Gudelj	AZ Alkmaar
Arek Milik	Bayer Leverkusen
John Heitinga	Hertha Berlin
Kasper Dolberg	Silkeborg

OUTS

NAME	TO
Kolbeinn Sigthórsson	FC Nantes
Ricardo Kishna	Lazio
Niklas Moisander	Sampdoria
Bas Kuipers	Excelsior
Sinan Keskin	FC Utrecht
James Efmorfidis	AZ Alkmaar
Marvin Höner	SV Rodinghausen
Tom Noordhoff	Telstar
Mike Grim	Almere City
Melvin Visser	Sparta Rotterdam
Richairo Zivkovic*	Willem II
Ruben Ligeon*	Willem II
Lesly de Sa*	Willem II
Sheraldo Becker*	PEC Zwolle
Queensy Menig*	PEC Zwolle
Peter Leeuwenburgh*	FC Dordrecht
Xavier Mous*	FC Oss

* indicates loan move



KEY PLAYER: ANWAR EL GHAZI

ANWAR EL GHAZI started out in the youth ranks of local club, BVV Barendrecht, before later spending two years with Feyenoord. A stint at Spartaan '20 followed, before being snapped up by Sparta Rotterdam from whom Ajax signed the talented winger in 2013. El Ghazi made his debut substituting Ricardo Kishna in August 2014 in the Johan Cruyff Schaal 1-0 defeat against PEC Zwolle at the Amsterdam ArenA. His Eredivisie debut arrived in the 4-1 season-opening win over Vitesse; El Ghazi providing the assist for a late Lasse Schöne goal. A week later, the 6ft 2inch winger who, despite being right footed can provide a threat down either flank, scored his first league goal against AZ in the 90th minute of a 3-1 away success.

El Ghazi featured 42 times in all competitions, notching ten goals and was voted Talent of the Year by the club's supporters at the end of the 2014/15 campaign. Having dual Dutch and Moroccan citizenship, El Ghazi is eligible to represent either country but has been capped by the Netherlands at Under-17, Under-18 and Under-21 level. The 20-year-old will shoulder great expectancy this term after solidifying his place in the plans of Frank de Boer last season. El Ghazi has all the tools to follow in the footsteps of Memphis Depay and if he can build upon the scintillating form of 2014/15, the young winger could become the Eredivisie's next big export.

Steven Davies

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	2nd
KNVB BEKER	Last 16
TOP SCORER	Arkadiusz Milik (11)
DISCIPLINE	37 Yellows, 1 Red



AZ ALKMAAR

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
John van der Brom	Head Coach
Dennis Haar	Assistant Coach
Nick van Aart	Goalkeeping Coach
Martin Haar	First Team Coach
Denny Landzaat	First Team Coach
Earnest Stewart	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
GOALKEEPERS			
1	Sergio Rochet	URU	23/03/93
16	Gino Coutinho	NED	05/08/82
25	Nick Olij	NED	01/08/95

DEFENDERS

2	Mattias Johansson	SWE	16/02/92
3	Jeffrey Gouweleeuw	NED	10/07/91
4	Jan Wuytens	BEL	09/06/85
5	Rajko Brežančić	SER	21/9/89
14	Jop van der Linden	NED	17/07/90
15	Donny Gorter	NED	15/06/88
17	Djavan Anderson	NED	21/04/95
23	Derrick Luckassen	NED	03/07/95
24	Ridgeciano Haps	NED	12/06/93
33	Pantelis Hatzidiakos	GRE	18/01/97
34	Joris Kramer	NED	02/08/96

MIDFIELDERS

6	Celso Ortiz	PAR	26/01/89
8	Joris van Overeem	NED	01/06/94
9	Alireza Jahanbakhsh	IRA	11/08/93
10	Markus Henriksen	NOR	25/07/92
19	Dabney dos Santos Souza	CVI	31/07/96
20	Thom Hays	NED	09/02/95
26	Stijn Spierings	NED	12/03/96
36	Alexander Sigurðarson	ICE	08/04/96
38	Thomas Ouwejan	NED	24/06/96
40	Jeremy Helmer	NED	03/07/97
	James Efmorfidis	GRE	18/01/96
	Jónatan Ingi Jónsson	ICE	15/03/99

FORWARDS

7	Guus Hupperts	NED	25/04/92
11	Muamer Tanković	SWE	22/02/95
12	Vincent Janssen	NED	15/06/94
21	Robert Mühren	NED	18/05/89
27	Raymond Gyasi	NED	05/08/94
28	Levi Garcia	TRI	20/11/97
29	Fernando Lewis	NED	31/01/93
41	Achille Vaarnold	NED	26/01/96



SO, what does the upcoming season hold for AZ? They have always been an admirable team with a respectable amount of silverware, recent trophies being the Eredivisie in 2008/2009 and the KNVB Beker in 2012/2013. They are seen as one of the better teams in the league, only finishing outside of the top five three times in the last decade, but still quite a long way away from competing for the title. Last season was a very impressive one for the boys in red, finishing third and just pipping Feyenoord to a spot in the Europa League third qualifying round, this was their highest finish since they were crowned champions in 2009. Key players such as Nemanja Gudelj, Jeffrey Gouweleeuw and Steven Berghuis really shined, with Gudelj earning a €6m move to Dutch giants Ajax and Berghuis making a massive step up to the Premier League with Watford for around the same fee. Alkmaar have debatably had a poor transfer window so far, losing many key players and failing to adequately replace them, so far in this window along with Gudelj and Berghuis, they have sold the likes of Wesley Hoedt (Lazio), Aron Jóhannsson (Werder Bremen) and Simon Poulsen (PSV) earning around €16m from all the departures. The arrivals however, do not make up for those departing, although signing Alireza Jahanbakhsh (winger from N.E.C.), Gino Coutinho (goalkeeper from Excelsior) and Jop Van Der Linden (centre back from relegated Go Ahead Eagles) all for just around €1.5m is some great business. Meanwhile, not only have AZ

failed to match the quality of the departures, but they simply have not bought players in the vacant positions, admittedly there is still just under a month left for Alkmaar to bring in some replacements, but it is a big ask considering the calibre of players that have already departed this summer, worrying times for Alkmaar. One bright spark could be the emergence of striker Vincent Janssen. The striker signed from Almere City in the summer has notched 12 goals in just five games and could fire this team up the league. Although, for the upcoming campaign, I expect it will take something big to match the brilliant season they've just had. AZ can expect to be targeting a top seven finish, and I see them accomplishing that goal but we will have to wait and see, and taking into account the fact that they are competing in three different competitions, they will be playing a lot more games than other teams and this is a massive disadvantage and they certainly have a mountain to climb. The upside is a cup run is entirely possible and would be welcomed by the fans, I do not see why they cannot target at least the semi-finals of the KNVB cup without jeopardising the league performance too much. As for the Europa league, anything is a bonus, so we will write them off just yet.

Alex Gardner

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Alireza Jahanbakhsh	N.E.C. Nijmegen
Jónatan Ingi Jónsson	FH Hafnarfjörður
Vincent Janssen	Almere City
Jop van der Linden	Go Ahead Eagles
Gino Coutinho	Excelsior
James Efmorfidis	Ajax

OUTS

NAME	TO
Steven Berghuis	Watford
Aron Jóhannsson	Werder Bremen
Nemanja Gudelj	Ajax
Wesley Hoedt	Lazio
Simon Poulsen	PSV
Yves de Winter	St. Truiden
Jonas Heymans	Royal Antwerp
Esteban Alvarado	Released
Eli Babalj*	Adelaide United

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	3rd
KNVB BEKER	Quarter-Finals
TOP SCORER	Nemanja Gudelj (11)
DISCIPLINE	50 Yellows, 1 Red

AUGUST

9th - Ajax (H)
15th - Excelsior (A)
23rd - Willem II (H)
30th - Roda JC (H)

SEPTEMBER

12th - De Graafschap (A)
20th - FC Groningen (A)
26th - Heracles (H)

OCTOBER

4th - FC Twente (H)
17th - SC Cambuur (A)
25th - Feyenoord (A)

NOVEMBER

1st - N.E.C. (H)
8th - Vitesse (A)
21st - Heerenveen (H)
29th - PSV (A)

DECEMBER

4th - ADO Den Haag (H)
13th - PEC Zwolle (A)
19th - FC Utrecht (H)

JANUARY

16th - Roda JC (A)
24th - Feyenoord (H)
27th - SC Cambuur (H)
30th - N.E.C. (A)

FEBRUARY

6th - Vitesse (H)
13th - Heracles (A)
20th - FC Groningen (H)
28th - Ajax (A)

MARCH

5th - Excelsior (H)
12th - Willem II (A)
20th - FC Twente (A)

APRIL

2nd - PSV (H)
10th - Heerenveen (A)
16th - PEC Zwolle (H)
20th - ADO Den Haag (A)

MAY

1st - De Graafschap (H)
8th - FC Utrecht (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: JEFFREY GOUWEELEEUW

TWENTY-FOUR year old Gouweleeuw is a central defender who currently leads from the back at AZ. Born in Heemskerk, he started his footballing career at SC Heerenveen in 2010. He made 66 appearances for the Friesland club, scoring four goals in the process. However, in 2013 he made the move to Alkmaar where he has so far made 67 appearances and has scored twice. In his most recent season with Alkmaar, he was one of the players of the season in the Eredivisie and was an integral part of AZ's impressive campaign and helped lead them to a very respectable third place finish. So far, Gouweleeuw has earned three caps for the Jong Oranje Under-21's

and is well on his way to earning a full call-up by Oranje boss Danny Blind if he continues his development at such a rapid pace. Gouweleeuw is possibly Alkmaar's most important player in the upcoming season and if he has a season as good as his most recent one, he'll be a massive help to Alkmaar's season. He's a fantastic leader and a brick wall at the back, he has massive potential and if he has another great season it could see him move onto bigger things, which he would rightly deserve. Jeffrey Gouweleeuw is definitely one to watch in the 2015/16 season.

Alex Gardner



DE GRAAFSCHAP

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Jan Vreman	Head Coach
Dennis te Braak	Assistant Coach
Jan Oosterhuis	Assistant Coach
Edwin Susebeek	Goalkeeping Coach

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Hidde Jurjus	NED	09/02/94
16	Jasper Heusinkveld	NED	24/12/88
41	Eric Verstappen	NED	19/05/94

DEFENDERS

3	Robin Pröpper	NED	23/09/93
4	Ted van de Pavert	NED	06/01/92
5	Thijs Bouma	NED	02/04/92
12	Bart Straalman	NED	28/08/96
18	Tim Linthrost	NED	03/07/94
19	Nathaniel Will	NED	16/02/89
24	Jan Lammers	NED	10/05/95
25	Tolgahan Çiçek	NED	19/06/95

MIDFIELDERS

6	Lion Kaak	NED	26/06/91
7	Alexander Bannink	NED	20/02/90
8	Karim Tarfi	BEL	05/07/93
14	Bryan Smeets	NED	22/11/92
20	Youssef El Jebli	NED	27/12/92
29	Tom Menting	NED	29/11/94
34	Mart de Jong	NED	21/11/95

FORWARDS

9	Vincent Vermeij	NED	09/08/94
10	Dean Koolhof	NED	15/12/94
11	Erik Quekel	NED	16/04/87
17	Nathan Kabasele	BEL	14/01/94
21	Jeroen Meurs	NED	29/10/95
23	Kristopher Vida	HUN	23/06/95



DE GRAAFSCHAP is one of the three new boys in the Eredivisie this season. They managed to gain promotion after winning the play-offs, where they defeated Almere City (3-2 aggregate), Go Ahead Eagles (2-0 aggregate) and FC Volendam (1-0 aggregate). They ended in the regular competition on the sixth place, with gave them the ticket to the first round of the play-offs. It's logical their prognosis is to avoid relegation and stay in the Eredivisie this term. With that ambition they searched for players to lift the team up to a higher level. One of the players who is capable to do that, is the Belgian striker Nathan Kabasele. The 21-year-old talent is on a season-long loan from RSC Anderlecht, just like in 2013/14. Kabasele scored eight goals in 33 games, and was one of the key players in that particular season. Of course they not only bought players, but also sold a few. Caner Cavlan is the one who they gonna miss the most. The 23-year-old left back was one of the more important players - with his great skill on the ball he was not only good as left defender, but also was a plague on the backs of the opponents. His constant drive combined with a good cross makes him a constant treat for the opponents. Not only he's got five assists last season, which is very good for a defender, but also scored an amazing number of seven goals. It's not a surprise there were loads of clubs interested in him, and he eventually chose for sc Heerenveen. De Graafschap is a team that yo-yo's between the

Eredivisie and the Eerste Divisie. In the last 45 years they have been promoted eight times to the top flight and relegated seven times to the second division. Going up and down the last few years, it's clear they want to be in the Eredivisie as long as possible, and at least break their own record of eight years in a row. Although the most people see the 'Superboeren' as a traditional Eredivisie team, they played the most time in the Jupiler League. Only the last two decades they played more times in the Eredivisie (13 years versus 7 years). They also got their highest ranking at the end of the season in this time. They ended as number eight in 1996/97, just one place behind European tickets. Based on their selection, Jan Vreman and his boys are up for a heavy battle to avoid relegation. The difference between the bottom of the Eredivisie and the top of the Jupiler League is declining, which makes the fight for the 18 spots in our highest division even more interesting. The last two seasons saw six relegations/promotion. This well could be the case this year. Thankfully for 'De Superboeren' they got a talented goalkeeper which could truly make the difference this season.

Thomas Jacobs

BEST XI



AUGUST

7th - Heerenveen (A)
 15th - PEC Zwolle (H)
 22nd - Roda JC (A)
 29th - Excelsior (A)

SEPTEMBER

12th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
 20th - Vitesse (A)
 27th - Willem II (H)

OCTOBER

4th - Feyenoord (H)
 18th - ADO Den Haag (A)
 24th - Heracles (H)
 31st - PSV (H)

NOVEMBER

7th - N.E.C. (A)
 21st - FC Groningen (H)
 27th - SC Cambuur (A)

DECEMBER

5th - FC Utrecht (H)
 12th - FC Twente (A)
 20th - Ajax (A)

JANUARY

16th - Excelsior (H)
 23rd - Heracles (A)
 27th - ADO Den Haag (H)
 30th - PSV (A)

FEBRUARY

7th - N.E.C. (H)
 13th - Willem II (A)
 21st - Vitesse (H)
 28th - Heerenveen (H)

MARCH

5th - PEC Zwolle (A)
 11th - Roda JC (H)
 19th - Feyenoord (A)

APRIL

2nd - SC Cambuur (H)
 10th - FC Groningen (A)
 15th - FC Twente (H)
 20th - FC Utrecht (A)

MAY

1st - AZ Alkmaar (A)
 8th - Ajax (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Andrew Driver	Aberdeen
Tim Linthorst	Vitesse
Eric Verstappen	VVV Venlo
Youssef El Jebli	Lienden
Thijs Bouma	Almere City
Alexander Bannink	FC Emmen
Bryan Smeets	MVV Maastricht
Eric Quekel	FC Den Bosch
Nathan Kabasele*	Anderlecht

OUTS

NAME	TO
Tim Janssen	Fortuna Sittard
Caner Cavlan	SC Heerenveen
Jerry van Ewijk	Go Ahead Eagles
Milan Massop	FC Eindhoven
Kars Vierwind	FC Oss
Jordy van de Kracht	De Treffers
Vlatko Lazlo	Released
Santy Hulst	Released
Edwin Linssen	Retired

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EERSTE DIVISIE	6th
KNVB BEKER	Last 16
TOP SCORER	Vincent Vermeij (18)
DISCIPLINE	46 Yellow, 6 Red



KEY PLAYER: HIDDE JURJUS

HIDDE JURJUS is already one of the key players for this team. Despite his young age (21) he has managed to hold down 'Superboeren's' number-one shirt for over a year now. He is born in February 1994 in Lichtenvoorde, just 19km away from Doetinchem and he began his career at amateur team sv Longa, at which he got scouted by De Graafschap. Last season he was in the goal for 27 games in the Jupiler League, six in the play-offs and two in the KNVB Beker. It is really fascinating to see such a young goalkeeper being this composed. Of course, every goalie will have his mistakes throughout his career, but Hidde haven't made that many terrible errors yet. Jurjus could be compared to

several goalkeepers. The one comparison who truly justified Hidde is with a certain player from Ajax. Because his calm way of playing and amazing saves made people compare him with Jasper Cillessen. The Ajax man is also a keeper who does not seem to get nervous for any game, therefore the interest of Manchester United is not that strange. About Jurjus, with his great talent it is not the question if, but when he transfers to a bigger club. Jurjus said he will do his best to win points for De Graafschap, and he's has a big challenge on his hands with the strikers he will face.

Thomas Jacobs



EXCELSIOR

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Alfons Groenedijk	Head Coach
Andre Hoekstra	Assistant Coach
Rob van Dijk	Goalkeeping Coach
Ferry de Haan	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Filip Kurto	POL	14/06/91
16	Alessandro Damen	NED	17/05/90
	Tom Muyters	BEL	05/12/84

DEFENDERS

2	Khalid Karami	NED	29/12/89
3	Kevin van Dierman	NED	03/07/89
5	Bas Kuipers	NED	17/08/94
6	Sander Fischer	NED	03/09/88
12	Jurgen Mattheij	NED	01/04/93
20	Elsó Brito	NED	02/04/94
24	Daan Bovenberg	NED	25/10/88

MIDFIELDERS

4	Rick Kruys	NED	09/05/85
7	Jordan Botaka	NED	24/06/93
8	Adil Auassar	NED	06/10/86
10	Jeff Stans	NED	20/03/90
18	Kevin Vermeulen	NED	20/11/90
23	Luigi Bruins	NED	09/03/87
	Tom Overtoom	NED	20/11/90

FORWARDS

9	Tom van Weert	NED	07/06/90
11	Daryl van Miegham	NED	05/12/89
14	Cedric Badjeck	CAM	25/01/95
15	Nigel Hasselbaink	NED	21/11/90
17	Brandley Kuwas	NED	19/09/92
21	Carlo de Reuver	NED	29/01/95
25	Marko Maletic	BOS	25/10/93



EXCELSIOR, like every season, will face the difficult task to secure their place in the top-flight. Excelsior's 'brothers' Feyenoord and Sparta Rotterdam have overshadowed them for the past decades, although Sparta were not able to fire themselves to the Eredivisie last season. As a matter of fact, Excelsior are the smallest club in the league in terms of stadium capacity and status. Stadion Woudestein can only offer tickets to 3,531 fans, contracting the title of smallest ground in the Eredivisie. So, every year the Kralingers have to battle to avoid relegation. That is why last season's performance went in the books as a terrific one, because Marinus Dijkhuizen's side secured the 15th place to avoid straight relegation and even a relegation play-off. Moreover, Excelsior's performances during the KNVB Beker campaign were excellent, reaching the semi-final, which they unfortunately lost against eventual winners FC Groningen. Nevertheless, a 4-1 victory at Roda JC and an impressive 6-0 win against NAC Breda were definitely the highlights of the season. The Rotterdam outfit ended last season on a high and the board was happy with manager Dijkhuizen. A big setback will therefore be the departure of their beloved head coach as he

made the move to English side Brentford. His successor Alfons Groenedijk will face a difficult job to over exceed those performances. The new manager has been given a small budget to lure new and exciting players to the club, which caused for quite a few shifts inside the squad. First of all, there has been a major change in the goalkeeping department as Gino Coutinho earned himself as move to AZ, Jordy Deckers moved to VVV Venlo and Theo Timmermans decided to put an end to his internship at the club. Filip Kurto arrived from FC Dordrecht to replace Coutinho and Excelsior were also able to sign Mike Havekotte from FC Utrecht. In defence, 20-year-old left-back Bas Kuipers has made the permanent switch from Ajax after last season's successful loan spell. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's nephew Nigel Hasselbaink will return to the Netherlands after he spent five years in Scotland and last but not least, Groenedijk has added two new recruits from Volendam to his ranks. Brandley Kuwas and Tom Overtoom will add the much-needed manpower to Groenedijk's side.

Jeroen Adriaanse

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Tom Muyters	FC Eindhoven
Tom Overtoom	FC Volendam
Nigel Hasselbaink	Hamilton Academicals
Bas Kuipers	Excelsior
Brandley Kuwas	FC Volendam
Filip Kurto	FC Dordrecht

OUTS

NAME	TO
Gino Coutinho	AZ Alkmaar
Jordy Deckers	VVV Venlo
Daan Blij	Maassluis

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	15th
KNVB BEKER	Semi-Finals
TOP SCORER	Tom van Weert (13)
DISCIPLINE	37 Yellows, 3 Reds

AUGUST

9th - N.E.C. (A)
15th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
21st - FC Groningen (A)
29th - De Graafschap (H)

SEPTEMBER

12th - PEC Zwolle (A)
20th - Ajax (H)
27th - ADO Den Haag (A)

OCTOBER

3rd - FC Utrecht (H)
17th - PSV (A)
24th - Roda JC (A)
31st - Vitesse (H)

NOVEMBER

7th - Willem II (A)
22nd - Heracles (A)
28th - Feyenoord (H)

DECEMBER

5th - FC Twente (A)
11th - Heerenveen (A)
20th - SC Cambuur (H)

JANUARY

16th - De Graafschap (A)
23rd - Roda JC (H)
27th - PSV (H)
30th - Vitesse (A)

FEBRUARY

5th - Willem II (H)
14th - ADO Den Haag (H)
21st - Ajax (A)
26th - N.E.C. (H)

MARCH

5th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
12th - FC Groningen (H)
18th - FC Utrecht (A)

APRIL

2nd - Feyenoord (A)
9th - Heracles (H)
17th - Heerenveen (H)
20th - FC Twente (A)

MAY

1st - PEC Zwolle (H)
8th - SC Cambuur (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: TOM VAN WEERT

TOM VAN WEERT will be worth keeping your eye on this season. Alongside Jordan Botaka, Van Weert is a vital player for Excelsior and the fans are hoping that he is capable of scoring another 13 goals this season. Despite the fact that the coming Eredivisie campaign will only be his second season in the top-flight, Tom van Weert has already proved to be capable of scoring a lot of goals for his club. He could have made a move to the Eredivisie back in 2013 when he impressed at FC Den Bosch, scoring seventeen goals at that time. However, during the second-to-last match against FC Eindhoven, he suffered a torn ligament in his knee, which ruled him out for one year.

Eventually, at the age of 24, Van Weert was back playing the game like he used to do before his injury. As a result, ADO Den Haag tried to lure him to Den Haag, but Excelsior are all but keen to let him go after his debut season for the club and being to only all-round number nine available. Moreover, Van Weert boasts good finishing, which make him a constant threat inside the box. As well as being able to hold up the ball well, Van Weert is capable to drop deep and link play, while he is also capable to press from the front to regain possession.

Jeroen Adriaanse



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Edwin van de Looi	Head Coach
Dick Lukkien	Assistant Coach
Marcel Groninger	Assistant Coach
Sierd van der Berg	Goalkeeping Coach
Jan Arend Vredeveld	Fitness Coach
Hans Nijland	General Director

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Sergio Padt	NED	06/06/90
26	Peter van der Vlag	NED	05/12/77

DEFENDERS

2	Johan Kappelhof	NED	05/08/90
3	Eric Botteghin	BRA	31/08/87
4	Martijn van der Laan	NED	29/06/88
5	Lorenzo Burnet	NED	11/01/91
15	Nick Bakker	NED	21/07/92
33	Hans Hateboer	NED	09/01/94

MIDFIELDERS

8	Michael de Leeuw	NED	07/10/86
11	Albert Rusnák		07/06/94
16	Hilal Ben Moussa	NED	22/05/92
17	Jesper Drost	NED	11/01/93
18	Henk Bos	NED	12/11/92
20	Yoell van Nieff	NED	17/06/93
21	Rasmus Lindgren	SWE	29/11/84
22	Simon Tibbling	SWE	07/09/94
23	Nick van der Velden	NED	16/12/81
24	Tom Hiariej	NED	25/07/88

FORWARDS

7	Jarchinio Antonia	NED	27/12/90
9	Danny Hoesen	NED	15/01/91
14	Mimoun Mahi	NED	13/03/94
19	Dino Islamovic	SWE	17/01/94



LAST season was an excellent one for FC Groningen as they finished eighth in the league and won the KNVB Beker to gain qualification for the Europa League group stages. This will be the first time they have played in Europe past qualifiers since 2007-08. Their defence was shaky last season, and ended up conceding 53 goals leaving the club with a minus 4 goal difference. This is an area in which they need to improve upon in the coming months. They also finished the season with the second most amount of draws with 13, which shows they are difficult to beat. However, if they manage to win a few more of these tight matches, they could push to finish in the top six, which would be an excellent achievement. The most important piece of incoming business that the club have done this summer is bringing in Bryan Linssen from Heracles Almelo for £595k. Last season, he was excellent in the final third, scoring ten goals and getting eight assists in a poorer side than Groningen. He will add dynamism in the final third and could play a key part in the club pushing on for the top six. Groningen have also added Jesper Drost to their squad to boost their attacking options and he could be a useful option to have. The final first team addition in Abel Tamata, who has failed to break into the PSV line up in recent years, but he will get more first team opportunities at FC Groningen and he could be an excellent player for the club. He has a lot of potential and will improve a lot if given the opportunities. Unfortunately for Groningen,

they have lost some important players in the close season, with Tjaronn Chery departing for QPR. The club received over £2m for him, but he will leave a big hole in the midfield, which the club are hoping will be filled by Linssen. Maikel Kieftenbeld has also gone to England to join Birmingham City and he will be a huge miss as he provided a shield to the back four last season and played a part in launching attacks. Paco van Moorsel, Genero Zeefuik and William Troost-Ekong have also left the club. The aim for Groningen this season is simple. They will want to improve on last season's finish in the Eredivisie and challenge again in the KNVB Cup. The Europa League campaign is less of a priority and they can use the competition to test themselves against better sides and just enjoy the ride. They still have some excellent players, which should allow them to have another solid campaign. They will miss Chery, but Groningen are used to losing their big players down the years and they have always managed to move forwards.

Jake Jackman

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Bryan Linssen	Heracles
Abel Tamata	PSV
Jesper Drost	PEC Zwolle

OUTS

NAME	TO
Tjaronn Chery	Queens Park Rangers
Genero Zeefuik	Balikesirspor
Jafar Arias	FC Dordrecht
Paco van Moorsel	Sparta Rotterdam
Maikel Kieftenbeld	Birmingham City
William Troost-Ekong	Released
Henk Bos	Released
Hilal Ben Moussa	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	8th
KNVB BEKER	Winners
TOP SCORER	Michael de Leeuw (17)
DISCIPLINE	43 Yellows, 3 Reds

AUGUST

9th - FC Twente (H)
16th - PSV (A)
21st - Excelsior (H)
29th - FC Utrecht (A)

SEPTEMBER

13th - Heerenveen (H)
20th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
26th - Ajax (A)

OCTOBER

4th - Vitesse (A)
17th - Willem II (H)
25th - N.E.C. (A)
31st - PEC Zwolle (A)

NOVEMBER

8th - SC Cambuur (A)
21st - De Graafschap (A)
29th - ADO Den Haag (H)

DECEMBER

6th - Roda JC (A)
13th - Feyenoord (H)
19th - Heracles (A)

JANUARY

17th - FC Utrecht (A)
22nd - N.E.C. (H)
26th - Willem II (A)
30th - PEC Zwolle (A)

FEBRUARY

7th - SC Cambuur (H)
14th - Ajax (H)
20th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
27th - FC Twente (A)

MARCH

5th - PSV (H)
12th - Excelsior (A)
20th - Vitesse (H)

APRIL

3rd - ADO Den Haag (A)
10th - De Graafschap (H)
16th - Feyenoord (A)
19th - Roda JC (H)

MAY

1st - Heerenveen (A)
8th - Heracles (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: ALBERT RUSNÁK

ALBERT RUSNÁK has burst onto the scene in Holland since joining SC Cambuur last summer on loan from Manchester City. He was well liked in Manchester, but the quality in the squad meant he had to go elsewhere for first team football. His performances at Cambuur earned him a permanent move to FC Groningen and he has become a key player for the club in a short period of time. Rusnák is an attacking midfielder, capable of playing in any of the attacking positions. He is skilful, mobile and has the ability to consistently beat his marker and create chances in the final third. Last season, across the whole season for Cambuur and Groningen combined; the Slovakian scored ten goals and got the

same number of assists in all competitions. This was his first full season of first team football and he has the potential to continue growing. Anybody who has watched Rusnák will know that he can grow into a great player, but at the moment, the Eredivisie is the right place for him and Groningen will reap the rewards for having one of the most unpredictable attacking players in their line up. After Chery departed over the summer, Rusnák has developed into one of the club's most important players and he must now live up to the expectations.

Jake Jackman



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Alfred Schreuder	Head Coach
Boudewijn Pahlplatz	Assistant Coach
Michel Jansen	Assistant Coach
Theo Snelders	Goalkeeping Coach
Ted van Leeuwen	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Nick Marsman	NED	01/10/90
20	Sonny Stevens	NED	22/06/92
25	Daniel Fernandes	POR	25/09/83

DEFENDERS

2	Peet Bijen	NED	28/01/95
3	Bruno Uvini	BRA	03/06/91
4	Giorgos Katsikas	GRE	14/06/90
5	Robbert Schilder	NED	18/04/86
15	Joachim Andersen	DEN	31/05/96
17	Hidde ter Avest	NED	20/05/97

MIDFIELDERS

6	Felipe Gutiérrez	CHI	08/10/90
7	Youness Mokhtar	NED	29/08/91
8	Kyle Ebecilio	NED	17/02/94
10	Hakim Ziyech	NED	19/03/93
11	Jesús Manuel Corona	MEX	06/01/93
19	Shadrach Eghan	GHA	18/09/94
22	Kamohelo Mokotjo	SAF	11/03/91
23	Jelle van der Heyden	NED	31/08/95
26	Renato Tapia	PER	28/07/95

FORWARDS

9	Torgeir Børven	NOR	03/12/91
12	Tim Hölscher	GER	21/02/95
13	Joël Drommel	NED	16/11/96
21	Jerson Cabral	NED	03/01/91
27	Felicitiano Zschusschen	NED	24/01/92
29	Jari Oosterwijk	NED	03/03/95
	Michael Olaitan	NIG	01/01/93



FC TWENTE had an underwhelming season during the 2014/15 campaign, but there is still a lot of talent available to Alfred Schreuder. They finished 10th last season missing out on European qualification and it was an inability to kill games off that was the club's downfall. They drew ten games, which if they would have won two or three of, the club could have qualified for the Europa League. Twente have fallen since their championship winning year of 2010, but they still have a decent squad that can cause the very best in the league a lot of problems. The likes of Hakim Ziyech, Kyle Ebecilio and Jesus Corona have grown a lot over the past twelve months and they could be standout players in the division this year. The financial problems at the club have dictated that a lot of first team players have been shown the door to raise money. This could hinder the team going into the new season, with the only replacements being free agents and loanees. Luc Castaignos is the biggest name to depart after being the club's main forward for the last few seasons. He has joined Eintracht Frankfurt for £1.75m, which will be a disappointment for FC Twente as Castaignos is worth more than the sum they received and they will be a shorter for goals without the former Inter Milan player. Cuco Martina (Southampton) and Andreas Bjelland (Brentford) have both left for England, which leaves FC Twente short of defensive quality. Bilal-Ould Chikh, Kasper Kusk, Dico Koppers, Orlando Engelaar, Filip Bednarek, Tim Breukers

and Darryl Lachman have also left the club over the summer. Giorgos Katsikas is the only permanent signing the club have made this summer from PAOK. The Greek youth international has plenty of potential and first team experience, which could lead to him being a great signing, but he is a huge risk. The lack of finances means that Twente need to recruit players like Katsikas, who could be good signings, but don't have the profile of the players they are replacing. Bruno Uvini is better known and is coming in on loan from Napoli. The defender has been tipped for great things from a young age and could finally achieve that at Twente. Michael Olaitan and Thomas Agyepong have also joined on loan to boost options. This season, Twente will be unable transitional period and it will be very hard to recover after getting rid of so many players in the off season. The club still need to make some more additions to ensure they don't suffer from having a small squad, as they have lost a lot more than they have brought in. They still have a lot of quality in the squad to challenge in the Eredivisie, but the fan-base needs to lower their expectations given the limitations regarding finances.

Jake Jackman

BEST XI



AUGUST

9th - FC Groningen (A)
15th - ADO Den Haag (H)
23rd - PEC Zwolle (A)
29th - Heracles (A)

SEPTEMBER

12th - Ajax (H)
19th - SC Cambuur (A)
27th - Roda JC (A)

OCTOBER

4th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
18th - N.E.C. (H)
24th - PSV (H)

NOVEMBER

1st - FC Utrecht (A)
7th - Heerenveen (H)
22nd - Feyenoord (A)
28th - Willem II (H)

DECEMBER

5th - Excelsior (A)
12th - De Graafschap (H)
18th - Vitesse (A)

JANUARY

15th - Heracles (H)
24th - PSV (A)
27th - N.E.C. (A)
31st - FC Utrecht (H)

FEBRUARY

6th - Heerenveen (A)
13th - Roda JC (A)
20th - SC Cambuur (H)
27th - Fc Groningen (H)

MARCH

4th - ADO Den Haag (A)
12th - PEC Zwolle (H)
20th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

APRIL

2nd - Willem II (A)
10th - Feyenoord (H)
15th - De Graafschap (A)
20th - Excelsior (H)

MAY

1st - Ajax (A)
8th - Vitesse (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Bruno Uvini*	Napoli
Giorgos Katsikas	PAOK
Michael Olaitan*	Olympiakos

OUTS

NAME	TO
Cuco Martina	Southampton
Andreas Bjelland	Brentford
Luc Castaignos	Eintracht Frankfurt
Darryl Lachman	Sheffield Wednesday
Kasper Kusk	FC Kobenhavn
Filip Bednarek	FC Utrecht
Dico Koppers	Willem II
Tim Breukers	Heracles
Dario Tanda	Go Ahead Eagles
Orlando Engelaar	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	10th
KNVB BEKER	Semi-Finals
TOP SCORER	Hakim Ziyech (11)
DISCIPLINE	44 Yellows, 2 Reds



KEY PLAYER: HAKIM ZIYECH

HAKIM ZIYECH is one of the most talented players in the Eredivisie and it has been a real boost for FC Twente that they have managed to keep hold of him after a superb debut season at the club. He was tipped for big things while at Heerenveen, but he has grown even further at FC Twente, and he is certainly a future Dutch international if he continues to grow at the current rate that he is. He is a versatile midfielder, who is best suited to playing as a number ten, but he is also capable of playing deeper or on the wing. Last season, he managed to score 11 goals and get 16 assists for FC Twente, while he also managed to find the back of the net twice for Heerenveen before his transfer. He is

very dangerous in the final third, as he is an excellent dribbler and can score and create goals, which makes him difficult to mark. If defenders back off him, he can score from distance, while if they get tight to him, he is capable of beating his defender and play accurate through balls. Ziyech is also an excellent set piece taker, but his defensive contribution is weak. He will bring attacking quality to FC Twente this season, but he is unlikely to stay at the club long term as he is destined for greater things.

Jake Jackman



FC UTRECHT

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Erik ten Hag	Head Coach
Jean-Paul de Jong	Assistant Coach
Sjors Ultee	Assistant Coach
Stefan Postma	Goalkeeping Coach
Chris Kronshorst	Technical Coach

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Robbin Ruiters	NED	25/03/87
16	Filip Bednarek	POL	26/09/92
31	Menno Haus	NED	17/12/95

DEFENDERS

2	Mark van der Maarel	NED	12/08/89
3	Ramon Leeuwin	NED	01/09/87
5	Christian Kum	NED	13/09/85
12	Gévero Markiet	NED	08/04/91
14	Timo Letschert	NED	25/05/93
17	Sean Klaiber	NED	31/07/94
20	Louis Nganioni	FRA	03/06/95
24	Yannick Cortie	NED	07/05/93
31	Ali Ulusoy	TUR	15/02/96
34	Jeff Hardeveld	NED	27/02/95
38	Darren Rosheuvel	NED	15/05/94
50	Jelle de Lange	NED	30/01/98

MIDFIELDERS

6	Yassin Ayoub	NED	06/03/94
8	Willem Janssen	NED	04/07/86
15	Mark Diemers	NED	11/10/93
19	Adam Sarota	AUS	28/12/88
23	Bart Ramselaar	NED	29/06/96
25	Sofyan Amrabat	NED	21/08/96
29	Fernando Quesada	ESP	05/01/94
	Rico Strieder	GER	06/07/92
	Andreas Ludwig	GER	11/09/90

FORWARDS

7	Kristoffer Peterson	SWE	28/11/94
9	Ruud Boymans	NED	28/04/89
10	Nacer Barazite	NED	27/05/90
11	Sébastien Haller	FRA	22/06/94
18	Rubio Rubin	USA	01/03/96
20	Issa Kallon	NED	03/01/96
21	Gyrano Kerk	NED	02/12/95
26	Leon de Kogel	NED	13/11/91
28	Hamza Boukhari	NED	28/03/95
30	Rodney Antwi	NED	03/11/95
32	Patrick Joosten	NED	14/04/96



FC UTRECHT were backed to make a push for the Europa League play-off places in 2014/15 and these ambitions seemed well founded as the club, under new coach Rob Alflen, secured back-to-back 2-1 victories in August: the first, at home to Willem II followed by an impressive display at De Kuip against Feyenoord. However, with just five wins before the winter break, three of these away from home and four losses at Stadion Galgenwaard, the expectancy of the vociferous home crowd weighed heavily on the players shoulders. More worrying for coach Alflen was the manner of these defeats; the club suffering a 3-2 reverse at home Go Ahead Eagles at the start of October before being thrashed 5-1 by PSV at the end of the month, while a 3-1 defeat at home to Cambuur in late November was followed a few weeks later by a 4-2 trouncing at the hands of Heracles. The new year began where 2014 left off with home defeats to Heerenveen on 18th January and PEC Zwolle at the start of February; Utrecht failing to record a victory until 15th February when they ran riot, 6-1 over hapless FC Dordrecht at Stadion Galgenwaard. The club only managed three more wins in the second half of the campaign: a 6-2 demolition of AZ Alkmaar at home on 8th March and back-to-back successes against FC Twente at home and then Go Ahead Eagles towards the end of April. Unsurprisingly, an eleventh place finish with nine points separating the club from an Europa League play-off spot cost Rob Alflen his job with the

former Bayern Munich II coach, Erik ten Hag taking the reins at the close of the campaign. Centre back, Kai Heerings headed the queue of those leaving Stadion Galgenwaard on a free transfer in the summer, heading to SC Cambuur, followed by: Gyliano van Velzen (FC Volendam), Edouard Duplan (ADO Den Haag) and Michael Zullo (Melbourne City). With little money to spend, the club prioritised the capture of last season's 11-goal top-scorer, Sébastien Haller from Auxerre for a fee of €800,000 following a successful loan stint at the club. In addition, several new faces were added throughout the summer: Rico Strieder arrived from Bayern Munich for an undisclosed sum, fellow German, Andreas Ludwig came on a free transfer from VfR Aalen, goalkeeper, Filip Bednarek on a free transfer from FC Twente and young Frenchman, Louis Nganioni on loan from Olympique Lyon. Despite having little to spend on drastically reshaping its squad in 2015/16, FC Utrecht remain a club with lofty ambitions and fans that are amongst the most vociferous in the Netherlands. As such, the club and its supporters expect their team to turn Stadion Galgenwaard into a fortress and off the back of a strong home record be contesting for a place in European football. Anything less will be deemed a failure and likely result in Ten Hag following his predecessor Alflen out the door.

Steven Davies

BEST XI



AUGUST

8th - Feyenoord (A)
16th - Heerenveen (H)
23rd - ADO Den Haag (A)
29th - FC Groningen (H)

SEPTEMBER

13th - Vitesse (H)
19th - Willem II (A)
26th - SC Cambuur (H)

OCTOBER

3rd - Excelsior (A)
17th - Roda JC (H)
23rd - PEC Zwolle (A)

NOVEMBER

1st - FC Twente (H)
8th - PSV (A)
22nd - N.E.C. (A)
29th - Heracles (H)

DECEMBER

5th - De Graafschap (A)
13th - Ajax (H)
19th - AZ Alkmaar (A)

JANUARY

17th - FC Groningen (A)
24th - PEC Zwolle (H)
28th - Roda JC (A)
31st - FC Twente (A)

FEBRUARY

7th - PSV (H)
12th - SC Cambuur (A)
21st - Willem II (H)
28th - Feyenoord (H)

MARCH

5th - Heerenveen (A)
13th - ADO Den Haag (H)
18th - Excelsior (H)

APRIL

2nd - Heracles (A)
10th - N.E.C. (H)
17th - Ajax (A)
20th - De Graafschap (H)

MAY

1st - Vitesse (A)
8th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Rico Strieder	FC Bayern Munich II
Andreas Ludwig	VFL Aalen
Filip Bednarek	FC Twente
Sinan Keskin	Ajax
Louis Nganioni*	Olympique Lyon

OUTS

NAME	TO
Michael Zullo	Melbourne City
Edouard Duplan	ADO Den Haag
Kai Heerings	SC Cambuur
Gyliano van Velzen	FC Volendam
Tommy Oar	Released
Elroy Pappot	Released
Jeroen Verhoeven	Released
Kenny Teijsse*	Go Ahead Eagles

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	11th
KNVB BEKER	Second Round
TOP SCORER	Sebastien Haller (11)
DISCIPLINE	56 Yellows, 4 Reds



KEY PLAYER: SÉBASTIEN HALLER

BORN in Ris Orangis, France; striker Sébastien Haller came through the youth ranks of F.C.O Vigneux and Bretigny Foot before joining the youth set-up at Auxerre in 2007; making his professional debut against Nimes on 27th July 2012 in Auxerre's opening league match of 2012/13. Between July 2012 and the end of December 2014, the 6ft 2inch attacker made over 50 appearances in all competitions at first team level for Auxerre, netting on eight occasions, while hitting the back of the net an impressive 29 times in 57 outings for Auxerre II prior to being loaned out to FC Utrecht in December 2014 for the remainder of the 2014/15 season. The young marksman proved an instant hit at Stadion Galgenwaard, netting 11 times in 17 appearances and collecting the

'Di Tommaso' Trophy, FC Utrecht's Player of the Year Award. The club used what little resources it had at its disposal to secure the services of the French striker paying €800,000 for the 21-year-old's signature in April this year. As anyone who witnessed Haller's four-goal-haul (his first goals for the club) in the 6-1 mauling of FC Dordrecht on 15th February 2015 will attest, Utrecht may have quietly secured one of the bargains of the season should the goal-scoring form the young Frenchman produced in the second half of 2014/15 be replicated this coming season.

Steven Davies



FEYENOORD

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Giovanni van Bronckhorst	Head Coach
Jean-Paul van Gastel	Assistant Coach
Jan Wouters	Assistant Coach
Patrick Lodewijks	Goalkeeping Coach
Arno Philips	Fitness Coach
Marcel Cas	Fitness Coach
Roy Makaay	Individual Trainer
Martin van Geel	Technical Director



NO NAME NAT D.O.B.

GOALKEEPERS

1	Kenneth Vermeer	NED	10/01/86
13	Kamil Miazek	POL	15/08/96
16	Warner Hahn	NED	15/06/92

DEFENDERS

2	Rick Karsdorp	NED	11/02/95
3	Sven van Beek	NED	28/07/94
4	Terence Kongolo	NED	14/02/94
6	Jan-Arie van der Heijden	NED	03/03/88
15	Lucas Woudenberg	NED	25/04/94
18	Miquel Nelom	NED	22/09/90
22	Wessel Dammers	NED	01/03/95
23	Luke Wilkshire	AUS	02/10/81
24	Calvin Verdonk	NED	26/04/97
25	Stef Grönsveld	NED	11/01/96
32	Rodney Lopes Cabral	NED	28/01/95

MIDFIELDERS

5	Marko Vejinović	NED	03/02/90
8	Karim El Ahmadi	MOR	27/01/85
10	Lex Immers	NED	08/06/86
11	Eljero Elia	NED	13/02/87
14	Bilal Başaçıkoğlu	TUR	26/03/95
20	Joey Slegers	NED	20/07/94
21	Tonny Vilhena	NED	03/01/95
26	Bart Nieuwkoop	NED	07/03/96
27	Simon Gustafson	SWE	11/01/95
28	Jens Toornstra	NED	01/01/89
30	Jari Schuurman	NED	22/02/97

FORWARDS

7	Dirk Kuyt	NED	22/07/80
9	Colin Kâzim-Richards	TUR	26/08/86
17	Elvis Manu	GHA	13/08/93
19	Mitchell te Vrede	NED	07/08/91
29	Anass Achahbar	NED	13/01/94

AFTER an impressive Europa League campaign and a bit of a disappointing Eredivisie season under Fred Rutten, the Feyenoord faithful are hoping to see a more competitive side under Giovanni van Bronckhorst. Due to the performances of young players such as Terence Kongolo, Sven van Beek and Jordy Clasie, the Rotterdammers were able to surprise in the Europa League, playing some good football against Sevilla and AS Roma. As a matter of fact, Feyenoord were even able to win against Sevilla during the group stage in front of almost 52,000 fans, who were having the night of their lives after their club were shining again in Europe. Those performances got them international recognition, which has hindered the side going into the season, as the skipper Clasie made a well-deserved transfer to Ronald Koeman's Southampton. Furthermore, talents like Jean-Paul Boëtius, Tonny Vilhena and striker Mitchell te Vrede are all allowed to leave the club this summer. Boëtius and Vilhena have both stated that they will not sign a new contract at Feyenoord, so technical director Martin van Geel would like to cash-in on these two talented players. Nevertheless, the new manager Van Bronckhorst has still enough revenue to work

with; especially the arrival of Dirk KUYT has been welcomed with a lot of joy. Moreover, a number of young talents have joined the club this summer, with Simon Gustafson joining from BK Häcken and Marko Vejinovic and Jan-Arie van der Heijden – on a free - joining from Vitesse. The Dutch side are not able to spend big due to some financial problems, although they are already labelled as a 'healthy club', which means that they are doing a great job on their finances. So, it will be likely that the club is done on the market, although Van Bronckhorst would like to add ADO Den Haag striker Michiel Kramer to their squad to replace Te Vrede. He will most likely take place on the bench though, as Feyenoord are already able to use either Colin Kazim-Richards or Dirk Kuyt as their striker. With the upcoming season just less than a week away, Feyenoord will be anxious to start their Eredivisie campaign on a positive note as they FC Utrecht at their stadium 'De Kuip'. Feyenoord will be hoping to secure at least a Europe League spot, as they missed out on the third place – and Europe -last season.

Jeroen Adriaanse

BEST XI



AUGUST

8th - FC Utrecht (H)
16th - SC Cambuur (A)
23rd - Vitesse (H)
30th - PSV (A)

SEPTEMBER

13th - Willem II (H)
20th - Roda JC (A)
27th - PEC Zwolle (H)

OCTOBER

4th - De Graafschap (A)
18th - Heerenveen (H)
25th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

NOVEMBER

1st - ADO Den Haag (A)
8th - Ajax (H)
22nd - FC Twente (H)
28th - Excelsior (A)

DECEMBER

6th - Heracles (H)
13th - FC Groningen (A)
20th - N.E.C. (A)

JANUARY

17th - PSV (H)
24th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
28th - Heerenveen (H)
31st - ADO Den Haag (H)

FEBRUARY

7th - Ajax (A)
14th - PEC Zwolle (A)
21st - Roda JC (H)
28th - FC Utrecht (A)

MARCH

6th - SC Cambuur (H)
13th - Vitesse (A)
19th - De Graafschap (H)

APRIL

2nd - Excelsior (H)
10th - FC Twente (A)
16th - FC Groningen (H)
21st - Heracles (A)

MAY

1st - Willem II (A)
8th - N.E.C. (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Jan-Arie van der Heijden	Vitesse
Simon Gustafson	BK Hacken
Dirk Kuyt	Fenerbahce
Marko Vejinovic	Vitesse
Colin Kazim-Richards	Bursaspor
Eljero Elia	Werder Bremen

OUTS

NAME	TO
Jordy Clasie	Southampton
Erwin Mulder	SC Heerenveen
Kostas Lamprou	Willem II
Jean-Paul Boëtius	FC Basel
Khalid Boulahrouz	Released
Joris Mathijsen	Released
Wesley Verhoek	Released
Ronald Graafland	Released
Matthew Steenvoorden	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	4th
KNVB BEKER	Second Round
TOP SCORER	Colin Kazim-Richards (11)
DISCIPLINE	47 Yellows, 2 Reds



KEY PLAYER: DIRK KUYT

DIRK KUYT made his debut for Feyenoord during the 2003/2004 Eredivisie campaign. He came from FC Utrecht to form an attacking duo with Salomon Kalou, which worked out pretty well. Kuyt grew into a favourite among Feyenoord's fanatical fans during his first spell at the club. He was the Eredivisie's top scorer in the 2004/2005 campaign and was, moreover, named Dutch footballer of the year in 2006. Kalou and Kuyt left the club for Chelsea and Liverpool as two gods. Kuyt stole the hearts of the fans due to his work-rate and his eye for the goal. This season, the fans are hoping to see the exact same Kuyt on the pitch, as Feyenoord are looking for a striker to let the fans forget about John Guidetti and

Graziano Pelle although that would be almost impossible. Nevertheless, Kuyt will have to be Feyenoord's new figurehead and as a captain he will have to perform on and off the pitch to guide the club to silverware. His work rate is one of his major strengths and with him around, defenders will have to be at their best the entire game, because Kuyt will make sure that the defenders will never have a moment to rest, let alone breath. All in all, Kuyt is constantly galloping around to give himself and his teammates a better chance of gaining possession.

Jeroen Adriaanse



HERACLES

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
John Stegeman	Head Coach
Rene Kolmschot	Assistant Coach
Hendrie Kruzen	Assistant Coach
Brian van Loo	Goalkeeping Coach
Nico-Jan Hoogma	Managing Director

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
GOALKEEPERS			
1	Bram Castro	BEL	30/09/82
16	Michael Brouwer	NED	21/01/93
25	Renze Fij	NED	26/09/92
DEFENDERS			
2	Tim Breukers	NED	04/11/87
3	Mike te Wierik	NED	08/06/92
4	Gino Bosz	NED	23/04/92
5	Fahd Aktaou	NED	13/01/93
12	Wout Droste	NED	25/05/89
18	Ramon Zomer	NED	13/04/83
21	Robin Gosens	GER	05/06/94
27	Joonas Vanhanen	NED	19/01/94
29	Coen Gortemaker	NED	29/10/94
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Bas Sibum	NED	26/12/82
7	Brahim Darri	NED	14/09/94
8	Iliass Bel Hassani	NED	16/09/92
10	Thomas Bruns	NED	07/01/92
11	Oussama Tannane	NED	23/03/94
14	Joey Pelupessy	NED	15/05/93
17	Dario Vujicevic	NED	01/04/90
20	Peter van Ooijen	NED	16/02/92
23	Mark-Jan Fledderus	NED	14/12/82
24	Menno Heerkes	NED	22/07/93
26	Rick Hemmink	NED	14/02/93
FORWARDS			
9	Paul Gladon	NED	18/03/92
15	Jaroslav Navrátil	CZE	30/12/91
19	Wout Weghorst	NED	07/08/92
22	Gonzalo Garcia Garcia	ESP	13/10/83



JOHN STEGEMAN leads Heracles into the new season under virtually no expectations. With the squad weakened with the sale of Bryan Linssen to FC Groningen, and feeling the pinch financially like many others, the Almelo side are under serious consideration for relegation to the Eerste Divisie for the first time for 11 seasons. Even with Linssen's inspiration in the side, Heracles finished last year in a disappointing 14th and flirted with relegation all year long after losing nine of their opening ten contests. The days of the 2009/10 campaign where the *Black and White's* climbed up to sixth place in the top flight are now long gone. To prepare for the battle ahead, Stegeman has recruited some Eredivisie experience in central midfielder Peter van Ooijen (relegated last year at Go Ahead Eagles), defender Tim Breukers from FC Twente and Wout Droste arriving from SC Cambuur. Former loanee striker Gonzalo Garcia Garcia has returned to Almelo (he appeared 16 games with three goals in 2008/09) on loan from Greek side Anorthosis Famagusta. The well-travelled striker has great experience in Dutch football with formerly representing AGOVV, Heerenveen, FC Groningen and VVV-Venlo. However, he is not the prolific consistent goal-scorer that Heracles will wish for to help lift themselves out of the bottom of the league. Neither will be fellow summer recruit Paul Gladon from Eerste Divisie side Sparta Rotterdam. Scorer for 13 goals in the Dutch second tier last season, he may find life in the Eredivisie less productive. If

goals are hard to come by up top, Heracles will have to rely on the strong talent in the youthful midfield they possess. Stegeman will have his hopes pinned on Mark-Jan Fledderus, Iliass Bel Hassani and Thomas Bruns with Brahim Darri and Oussama Tannane flying down the wings. The hugely fan favourites, Darri and Tannane, are Stegemen's biggest assets and it remains to be seen if these two can be as influential as the outgoing Linssen was at the club. The majority of supporters were not exactly ecstatic at the thought of Stegemen taking over from John de Jong last year after losing nine out of ten games at the beginning of the season. But they were won over after they climbed to avoid the drop and showed great character in the squad to do so. What Stegemen lacks in experience, he certainly made up in results but will this prove to be a one-season wonder and I have to question if such a horrid run begins this season, could the Almelo side climb out of it? With the aforementioned wingers in the side, Heracles can be pleasing on the eye and very daring while in possession, although this time round, but looking at the squad heading into this season, they do not look as strong as they were just three months ago. One of the big questions this summer will be can the team survive without the industrious Linssen? Unless some signings arrive to beef up the playing staff before the window shuts in September, I would be hard pressed to answer the question positively.

Will Burns

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Gino Bosz	Vitesse
Tim Breukers	FC Twente
Wout Droste	SC Cambuur
Paul Gladon	Sparta Rotterdam
Robin Gosens	Vitesse
Peter van Ooijen	Go Ahead Eagles
Gonzalo Garcia Garcia	Anorthosis Famagusta

OUTS

NAME	TO
Bryan Linssen	FC Groningen
Dennis Telgenkamp	FC Emmen
Travis Brent	Almere City
Mark Engberink	RKC Waalwijk
Daan Reinstra	RKC Waalwijk
Simon Cziommer	Released
Milano Koenders	Released
Bart Schenkeveld	PEC Zwolle
Jeroen Veldmate	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	14th
KNVB BEKER	Last 16
TOP SCORER	Bryan Linssen (10)
DISCIPLINE	45 Yellows, 3 Reds

AUGUST

8th - Roda JC (A)
16th - N.E.C. (H)
22nd - SC Cambuur (A)
29th - FC Twente (H)

SEPTEMBER

13th - ADO Den Haag (A)
19th - PSV (H)
26th - AZ Alkmaar (A)

OCTOBER

2nd - Heerenveen (H)
17th - Ajax (H)
24th - De Graafschap (A)
30th - Willem II (A)

NOVEMBER

7th - PEC Zwolle (A)
22nd - Excelsior (H)
29th - FC Utrecht (A)

DECEMBER

6th - Feyenoord (A)
13th - Vitesse (H)
19th - FC Groningen (H)

JANUARY

15th - FC Twente (A)
23rd - De Graafschap (H)
26th - Ajax (A)
29th - Willem II (A)

FEBRUARY

6th - PEC Zwolle (H)
13th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
20th - PSV (A)
28th - Roda JC (H)

MARCH

6th - N.E.C. (A)
13th - SC Cambuur (H)
19th - Heerenveen (A)

APRIL

2nd - FC Utrecht (H)
9th - Excelsior (A)
16th - Vitesse (A)
21st - Feyenoord (H)

MAY

1st - ADO Den Haag (H)
8th - FC Groningen (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: OUSSAMA TANNANE

MOROCCAN-BORN Oussama Tannane has been part of the fixtures and fittings in Almelo since joining from Eredivisie rivals sc Heerenveen in the summer of 2013. He has been quite the success story at Heracles, appearing 42 times for the club notching nine goals in the process. The winger, still only 21-years-old, will prove to be vital if Heracles are to have a successful season since the final departure of stalwart Bryan Linssen. After struggling to settle in his youth career that saw the player move five times before landing at Heerenveen, Tannane seems to have found a home in Almelo with Heracles. With the ability to play up top, and across the wings his versatility is worth his weight in gold for

manager John Stegeman. But Tannane did miss sometime last season through injury, appearing only 19 times. He still made an reduced impact, scoring five and creating four in a topsy-turvy campaign for the Almelo outfit. Tannane's skills and dribbling will hope spur on a Heracles side not optimistic for the new term, and get off to better start this time round. His crucial contribution will be needed to stave off relegation another year.

Will Burns



N.E.C. NIJMEGEN

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Ernest Faber	Head Coach
Ron de Groot	Assistant Coach
Jefta Bresser	Assistant Coach
Wilfried Brookhuis	Assistant Coach

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

22	Joshua Smits	NED	06/11/92
26	Marco van Duin	NED	11/02/87
1	Hannes Halldórsson	ICE	27/04/84

DEFENDERS

2	Marcel Appiah	GER	26/03/88
3	Rens van Eijden	NED	03/03/88
4	Wojciech Golla	POL	12/01/92
5	Bart Buysse	BEL	16/10/86
37	Jeffrey Leiwakabessy	NED	23/02/81
	Todd Kane	ENG	17/09/93

MIDFIELDERS

6	Tom Daemen	NED	17/06/85
8	Gregor Breinburg	NED	16/09/91
11	Christian Santos	ECU	24/03/88
19	Janio Bikel	POR	28/06/95
25	Navarone Foor	NED	04/02/92
	Thijs van Hofwegen	NED	

FORWARDS

9	Sjoerd Ars	NED	15/04/84
10	Anthony Limbombe	BEL	15/06/94
14	Kristjan Gauti Emilsson	ICE	26/04/93
20	Mohamed Rayhi	NED	01/07/94
23	Cihat Celik	NED	02/01/96



RELEGATION always hurts, but so does the financial blow you get for not receiving the TV money from the Eredivisie (which is a big difference with the Jupiler League of course). After a season in the second tier, it is safe to say that N.E.C. truly benefited from their relegation. The finances were dealt with, helping the money concerns in several area throughout the club and they became champions without any trouble. There were 38 matches to play last season and the 'Nijmegenaren' managed to get 101 - from the possible 114 - points. Only drawing twice and losing three times and to put that in perspective, FC Eindhoven, who finished second, ended the season on only 80 points. Due to the difference in points with their only competitor, N.E.C. had the chance to take care of transfer business early on which resulted in the arrival of seven players including Icelandic international goalkeeper Hannes Þór Halldórsson, however they did let a few players go. Their biggest loss came earlier this week after Alireza Jahanbakhsh, the Iranian international, left the club for AZ Alkmaar as the successor of Steven Berghuis who left for Watford. It is safe to say that Alireza was by far the most influential player N.E.C. Nijmegen had. Therefore, Ernest Faber needs to alter his line-up. His place on the right wing is up for grabs and there are several candidates for that position, but - arguably - the best successor is the new kid in town: Mohamed Rayhi. Playing

for the second squad of PSV in the Jupiler League was not to his liking and with all the players before him, Rayhi choose for playing time at Faber's N.E.C. Nijmegen. Faber was not responsible for their promotion last season, he was the assistant of Phillip Cocu at PSV last season and changed his position with Brood. Where Faber became the manager of N.E.C replacing Ruud Brood, latter became an assistant of Cocu at PSV. Both clubs were not unknown territory for Faber, because he played for PSV from when he was 13 (1984) until he eventually stopped playing football when he was 34 in 2004. He never left the club permanently, but he was loaned out to respectively Sparta, FC Groningen & N.E.C. Nijmegen. Faber was known as a two-footed centre back, who did not reach his full potential due to numerous severe injuries in his playing career. Faber cannot seem to shake his love for his city. He has been (interim) manager of PSV and also FC Eindhoven, before signing a two-year deal with N.E.C. As stated in other previews, the difference between clubs is declining from the Jupiler League to the bottom of the Eredivisie, but N.E.C have not bought/loaned enough players to easily survive this season in the highest division. It will be long and hard season for 'de Nijmegenaren'.

Martijn Hilhorst

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Janio Bikel	SC Heerenveen
Hannes Þór Halldórsson	Sandness ULF
Bart Buyse	Cercle Brugge
Mohamed Rayhi	PSV
Marco van Duin	Almere City
Wojciech Golla	Pogon Szczecin
Todd Kane*	Chelsea

OUTS

NAME	TO
Lasse Nielsen	AA Gent
Alireza Jahanbakhsh	AZ Alkmaar
Jasper Waalkens	Almere City
Daan Disveld	FC Den Bosch
Tobias Haitz	Viktoria Koln
Mike Vanhamel	Royal White Stars
Stan Bijl	Magreb'90
Kenny Elders	Released
Kevin Conboy	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EERSTE DIVISIE	1st
KNVB BEKER	Last 16
TOP SCORER	Sjoerd Ars (28)
DISCIPLINE	38 Yellow, 2 Red

AUGUST

9th - Excelsior (H)
16th - ADO Den Haag (A)
22nd - Ajax (H)
28th - Willem II (A)

SEPTEMBER

12th - Roda JC (A)
18th - Heerenveen (H)
26th - PSV (A)

OCTOBER

3rd - ADO Den Haag (H)
18th - FC Twente (A)
25th - FC Groningen (H)

NOVEMBER

1st - AZ Alkmaar (A)
7th - De Graafschap (H)
22nd - FC Utrecht (H)
29th - Vitesse (A)

DECEMBER

6th - PEC Zwolle (H)
12th - SC Cambuur (A)
20th - Feyenoord (H)

JANUARY

17th - Willem II (H)
22nd - FC Groningen (A)
27th - FC Twente (H)
30th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

FEBRUARY

7th - De Graafschap (A)
14th - PSV (H)
20th - Heerenveen (A)
26th - Excelsior (A)

MARCH

6th - Heracles (H)
13th - Ajax (A)
20th - ADO Den Haag (A)

APRIL

3rd - Vitesse (H)
10th - FC Utrecht (A)
17th - SC Cambuur (H)
20th - PEC Zwolle (A)

MAY

1st - Roda JC (H)
8th - Feyenoord (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: ANTHONY LIMBOMBE

N.E.C. Nijmegen had a quartet of players who would be vital to their ambition: Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Sjoerd Ars, Christian Santos & Anthony Limbombe. First of four, Jahanbakhsh left for AZ while Sjoerd Ars, who was the top scorer of the Jupiler League last season has attracted interest from international clubs. Santos is the only player who seems to stay in Nijmegen. Because, an unknown English club made an offer for Belgian winger Anthony Limbombe, this was confirmed by director Bart van Ingen a few days ago. What kind of footballer is Limbombe? He can be described as a typical fast winger, but has combined his physical strength with great goalscoring ability. He netted

14 goals last season as a left-winger, plus he also provided Ars with numerous assists. Limbombe is just 21-years-old and has already won the Belgian league, cup and Super Cup and he became champions of the Jupiler League last season. The burden of Jahanbakhsh's departure falls upon 'Bombe' and N.E.C. are desperately in need of a creative mind to provide the likes of Ars/Santos, and he should deliver. It is always hard to predict if a player can succeed after a promotion. Is he still good enough? Anthony showed that he can be a real asset to the Eredivisie, but can he fulfil his potential this year? We think he will and grant N.E.C. Eredivisie survival.

Martijn Hilhorst



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Ron Jans	Head Coach
Gert Peter de Gunst	Assistant Coach
Albert van der Haar	Assistant Coach
Jacques Storm	Goalkeeping Coach
Gerard Nijkamp	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
GOALKEEPERS			
16	Kevin Begois	BEL	13/05/82
25	Boy de Jong	NED	10/04/94
DEFENDERS			
2	Bram van Polen	NED	11/10/85
3	Trent Sainsbury	AUS	05/01/92
4	Dirk Marcellis	NED	13/04/88
5	Bart van Hintum	NED	16/01/87
17	Josef Kvida	CZE	16/01/97
20	Kingsley Ehizibue	NED	25/05/95
28	Thomas Lam	FIN	18/12/93
	Bart Schenkeveld	NED	28/08/91
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Mustafa Saymak	NED	11/02/93
7	Sheraldo Becker	NED	09/02/95
18	Wouter Marinus	NED	18/02/95
19	Rick Dekker	NED	15/03/95
23	Ben Rienstra	NED	05/06/90
30	Ryan Thomas	NZL	20/12/94
33	Thanasis Karagounis	GRE	25/09/91
	Max de Boom	NED	17/02/96
	Tristan Berghuis	NED	13/02/96
FORWARDS			
9	Lars Veldwijk	NED	21/08/91
10	Stef Nijland	NED	10/08/88
21	Queensy Menig	NED	19/08/95



PEC ZWOLLE have been the little club that could since their return to the Eredivisie in 2012/13 season. In this time they've finished 11th, 11th and last year, sixth (their best ever finish) in the Eredivisie. They've also been THE team of the KNVB Beker in this period as well having won it in 13/14 and runners-up last term whilst also being semi-finalists in 12/13. This is a fantastic record for a club with an average attendance of 12,000 and has been out of the Eredivisie as often as they've been in it in their history and who also have a budget a fifth of which PSV & Ajax has. Last season was a tremendous one for Zwolle who never dropped below seventh position at any time and had the fourth best defence in the league. The mastermind behind this success has been manager Ron Jans, who is a great motivator and has made the best out of the resources at his disposal. Key to last season's success was the attacking duo of Tomas Necid and Stef Nijland, who contributed 11 goals each and the midfield work of the excellent Jesper Drost. Drost and Necid have left the club in the off-season and how PEC replaces them will be crucial to their success this time around. Jans has managed to recruit the services of former PSV, AZ and Dutch International defender Dirk Marcellis to help support an already solid defence, led by the impressive Australian Trent Sainsbury. The midfield has the graft of Nijland as well as the creativity of young Kiwi flyer Ryan Thomas. Big things are also expected of the young Greek Athanasios Karagounis and

The Turkish-Dutchmen Mustafa Saymak. The goals will hopefully come from Ajax loanees Queensy Menig and Sheraldo Becker, who have big wraps on them and should be given the game time at PEC to prove their potential. Menig & Becker will be ably supported by Lars Veldwijk, who is no stranger to Dutch football, despite being on loan to PEC from Nottingham Forest. It is their leader Ron Jans though who is the biggest ace up the sleeve for PEC Zwolle. With his man-management skills and tactical nous more than making up for any shortcomings in the playing squad. Jans, who is a legend at FC Groningen, had unsuccessful stints at Heerenveen and Standard Liege before finding his niche in Zwolle. He is always entertaining and often controversial in press conferences and ala Jose Mourinho is happy to take the limelight away from his players if it achieves a common goal. PEC have a fairly good run of fixtures to open the season with but face a tough last five games and so will want to hit the ground running. One disappointment for the PEC fans in the campaign was the relegation of the local rivals Go Ahead Eagles last season meaning that the IJssel Derby will not take place this season. Although given that Go Ahead have won the last three matches between the two clubs perhaps a season off maybe of benefit to the PEC fans.

Rogier Waalder

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Dirk Marcellis	Free Agent
Josef Kvida	1.FK Příbram
Sheraldo Becker*	Ajax
Queensy Menig*	Ajax
Lars Veldwijk*	Nottingham Forest
Bart Schenkeveld	Heracles

OUTS

NAME	TO
Jody Lukoki	Ludogorets
Maikel van der Werff	Vitesse
Aleksandar Bjelica	Helmond Sport
Dimitrios Ferfelis	PAS Giannina
Jesper Drost	FC Groningen
Denis Mahmudov	Released
Joost Broerse	Retired

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	6th
KNVB BEKER	Runners-Up
TOP SCORER	Stef Nijland (11)
DISCIPLINE	45 Yellows, 5 Reds

AUGUST

8th - SC Cambuur (H)
15th - De Graafschap (A)
23 - FC Twente (H)
29th - Heerenveen (A)

SEPTEMBER

12th - Excelsior (H)
19th - ADO Den Haag (H)
27th - Feyenoord (A)

OCTOBER

3rd - Willem II (A)
18th - Vitesse (H)
23rd - FC Utrecht (H)
31st - FC Groningen (A)

NOVEMBER

7th - Heracles (H)
21st - Roda JC (A)
29th - Ajax (H)

DECEMBER

6th - N.E.C. (A)
12 - AZ Alkmaar (H)
19th - PSV (A)

JANUARY

16th - Heerenveen (H)
24th - FC Utrecht (A)
27th - Vitesse (A)
30th - FC Groningen (H)

FEBRUARY

6th - Heracles (A)
14th - Feyenoord (H)
19th - ADO Den Haag (A)
27th - SC Cambuur (A)

MARCH

5th - De Graafschap (H)
12th - FC Twente (A)
19th - Willem II (H)

APRIL

3rd - Ajax (A)
8th - Roda JC (H)
16th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
20th - N.E.C. (H)

MAY

1st - Excelsior (A)
8th - PSV (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: TRENT SAINSBURY

AUSTRALIAN defender Trent Sainsbury will be one to watch for PEC this season and is expected to have a breakthrough season and establish himself as key to PEC's fortunes. Signed from his native Central Coast Mariners in 2013/4, Sainsbury has the misfortune of breaking his kneecap in his first game for PEC, which ruined his World Cup dreams. Sainsbury came back fighting fit last season and played a total of 24 games. His consistent performances saw him become an integral member of the

Australian team who won the 2015 Asian Cup. He also scored his first International goal in the tournament's Semi-Final vs UAE. Sainsbury is a calm and consistent performer who's ball-playing abilities are well suited to Jans' style. It was his tackling and work rate that really stood out in the Asian Cup and if he can replicate this form for PEC this season expect him to be snapped up by a bigger club next summer.

Rogier Waalder



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Philip Cocu	Head Coach
Ruud Brood	Assistant Coach
Chris van der Weerden	Assistant Coach
Ruud Hesp	Goalkeeping Coach
Egid Kiesouw	Fitness Coach
Art Langelier	Head of Youth
Marcel Brands	Technical Director

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Jeroen Zoet	NED	06/01/91
21	Luuk Koopmans	NED	18/11/93
22	Remko Pasveer	NED	08/11/83
31	Nigel Bertrams	NED	08/01/93

DEFENDERS

2	Nicolas Isimat-Mirin	FRA	15/11/91
4	Santiago Arias	COL	13/01/92
5	Jeffrey Bruma	NED	13/11/91
14	Simon Poulsen	DEN	07/10/84
15	Jetro Willems	NED	30/03/94
20	Joshua Brenet	NED	20/03/94
25	Menno Koch	NED	02/07/94
30	Jordy de Wijs	NED	08/01/95
33	Suently Alberto	NED	09/06/96
49	Hjörtur Hermannsson	ICE	08/02/95

MIDFIELDERS

6	Davy Pröpper	NED	02/09/91
7	Gastón Pereiro	URU	11/06/95
8	Stijn Schaars	NED	11/01/84
10	Adam Maher	NED	20/07/93
18	Andrés Guardado	MEX	28/09/86
23	Rai Vloet	NED	08/05/95
24	Marcel Ritzmaier	AUT	22/4/93
26	Clint Leemans	NED	15/09/95
29	Jorrit Hendrix	NED	06/02/95
32	Kenneth Paal	NED	24/06/97
	Nicolai Laursen	DEN	19/02/98
	Aleksandar Bolijevic	MON	12/12/95

FORWARDS

9	Luuk de Jong	NED	27/08/90
11	Luciano Narsingh	NED	13/09/90
16	Maxime Lestienne	BEL	17/06/92
17	Florian Jozefzoon	NED	09/02/91
19	Jürgen Locadia	NED	07/11/93
27	Steven Bergwijn	NED	08/10/97



LAST season was a huge success for PSV as they clinched the championship for the first time since 2008 and did so with some style. The performances of Memphis Depay, Georginio Wijnaldum and Jetro Willems stood out, while new signings Luuk de Jong and Andrés Guardado added the required quality to overcome the challenge of Ajax, who had dominated the division for years prior. PSV finished 17 points clear of the Amsterdam club, failing to win just five times from their 34 Eredivisie matches. Their attack was incredible as they found the back of the net 92 times, which was the main reason for their title win. As expected, Philip Cocu has lost some big players from his squad this summer, but they have also added some impressive young prospects from across Europe. The first player to depart was Depay, which was expected after he outgrew PSV and the Eredivisie over the last 12 months. He joined Manchester United for a fee in the region of £25m. Also leaving for England was Wijnaldum who joined Newcastle United for around £14.5m, which was a shock as he was expected to move to a Champions League club, but he felt playing in England was more beneficial than another season in Holland. The club have also lost Karim Rekik, who the club have failed to retain after a loan spell and Oscar Hiljemark, who has joined Palermo. Przemyslaw Tyton, Abel Tamata and Danny Wintjens have all also left the champions. In terms of incomings, PSV have

made very astute signings from both the Eredivisie and across the globe. The highlight has to be Gastón Pereiro, who is without doubt a huge talent at the age of 20. The Uruguayan could be a player who develops quickly in the Eredivisie and moves onto bigger things. He will be the perfect replacement for Wijnaldum and add quality in the final third. Maxime Lestienne has also joined to help replace some of the attacking quality that has left and he has a lot to prove after leaving Europe for the money of Qatar at a young age. Davy Pröpper and Simon Poulsen are the domestic players to join and will add competition to the squad. Moreover the club have made the loans of Nicolas Isimat-Mirin and Andrés Guardado permanent, who were both integral to the side last season. The last campaign was perfect for PSV as everything came together at the right time and they easily had the best squad in the league. However losing two crucial players will mean the squad needs time to adapt and although the new signings look promising on paper, they may not hit the ground running straight away. Cocu will want his team to challenge for the title once again and they have the quality to do so, but the league will be tighter this season. The Dutch club will also be keen to do well on the Champions League stage as they will be first seeds this year.

Jake Jackman

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Nicolas Isimat-Mirin	AS Monaco
Maxime Lestienne*	Al-Arabi
Davy Pröpper	Vitesse
Gaston Pereiro	Nacional
Andrés Guardado	Valencia
Simon Poulsen	AZ Alkmaar
Nikolai Laursen	Brøndby IF
Luuk Koopmans	FC Oss

OUTS

NAME	TO
Memphis Depay	Manchester United
Georginio Wijnaldum	Newcastle United
Przemyslaw Tyton	VFB Stuttgart
Zakaria Bakkali	Valencia
Oscar Hiljemark	Palermo
Mohamed Rayhi	N.E.C. Nijmegen
Abel Tamata	FC Groningen
Farshad Noor	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	1st
KNVB BEKER	Last 16
TOP SCORER	Memphis Depay (22)
DISCIPLINE	31 Yellows, 5 Reds

AUGUST

8th - ADO Den Haag (A)
16th - FC Groningen (H)
22nd - Heerenveen (A)
30th - Feyenoord (H)

SEPTEMBER

12th - SC Cambuur (A)
19th - Heracles (A)
26th - N.E.C. (H)

OCTOBER

4th - Ajax (A)
17th - Excelsior (H)
24th - FC Twente (A)
31st - De Graafschap (A)

NOVEMBER

7th - FC Utrecht (H)
21st - Willem II (A)
29th - AZ Alkmaar (H)

DECEMBER

5th - Vitesse (A)
12th - Roda JC (H)
19th - PEC Zwolle (H)

JANUARY

17th - Feyenoord (A)
24th - FC Twente (H)
27th - Excelsior (A)
30th - De Graafschap (H)

FEBRUARY

7th - FC Utrecht (H)
14th - N.E.C. (A)
20th - Heracles (H)
27th - ADO Den Haag (H)

MARCH

5th - FC Groningen (A)
12th - Heerenveen (H)
20th - Ajax (H)

APRIL

2nd - AZ Alkmaar (A)
9th - Willem II (H)
16th - Roda JC (A)
19th - Vitesse (H)

MAY

1st - SC Cambuur (H)
8th - PEC Zwolle (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: ANDRÉS GUARDADO

ANDRÉS GUARDADO has joined the club on a permanent deal off the back of his performances in the club's title winning season. He played as the anchor in the midfield, allowing the likes of Wijnaldum and Adam Maher to bomb on and contribute in the final third. His presence in the middle of the part added a shield to the back four and it certainly made the club stronger as a result. His ability to retain the ball with a pass success rate of 83.9% allowed PSV to dominate games. In a summer where the club lost Wijnaldum and Depay, it was crucial that they got Guardado to join permanently, especially as his role will be even more important if they club are to challenge in the Champions League. After the transfer

business done this summer, both in and out, it will be important that PSV have a settled line up and a game plan that will be effective. The Mexican midfielder has a role in both as he is very experienced and he has the leadership capabilities to ensure PSV don't suffer for the losses of Wijnaldum and Depay. He is an excellent in the tackle and is a solid option to anchor the midfield. He will do the dirty work that will allow more talented players to perform at the other end of the pitch.

Jake Jackman



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Darije Kalezić	Head Coach
Regillio Verde	Assistant Coach
Rick Plum	Assistant Coach
Robert-Jan Zoetmulder	Goalkeeping Coach
Gert-Jan van Dijk	Fitness Coach
Wim Collard	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Benjamin van Leer	NED	9/4/92
21	Bram Verbist	BEL	5/3/83
22	Yannick Derix	NED	28/6/91

DEFENDERS

3	Bart Biemans	BEL	14/3/88
4	Gibril Sankoh	SIE	15/5/83
5	Ard van Peppen	NED	26/6/85
17	Henk Dijkhuizen	NED	9/6/92
20	Daryl Werker	NED	27/6/94
23	Arjan Swinkels	NED	15/10/84

MIDFIELDERS

6	Nathan Rutjes	NED	1/12/83
7	Tom van Hyfte	BEL	28/4/86
8	Jens van Son	NED	19/8/87
16	Hicham Falk	NED	19/3/93
19	Mitchell Paulissen	NED	21/4/93
25	Jorrit Smeets	NED	25/3/95
27	Edwin Gyasi	NED	1/7/91

FORWARDS

10	Marc Höcher	NED	9/9/84
11	Anco Jansen	NED	9/3/89
14	Nayib Lagouireh	BEL	6/6/91
15	Santiago Palacios	MEX	21/4/91
18	Brian Jacobs	NED	30/3/95
29	Regino Cicilia	NED	23/9/94



JUST like N.E.C. Nijmegen, Roda JC are also new boys in town, and have returned in the Eredivisie after one year in the Jupiler League. Biggest difference between those two is that latter had accomplished this by becoming – easily – champions, but Roda JC struggled last season and eventually clinched promotion via play-offs. It was arguably one of the most thrilling matches last season, the clash between Roda JC and NAC Breda in the promotion/relegation stand-off. ‘RJC’ dealt with FC Emmen first, while NAC Breda conquered VVV-Venlo. The final between these historical clubs was played over two matches. NAC won the away match with 0-1, a big step towards maintaining their Eredivisie spot, but was not prepared for the Roda JC they faced in their own home. Latter was leading with 0-1 after 90 minutes, so extra time was required. NAC took the lead, but Roda JC managed to score the 1-2 in the 110th minute, taking what was rightfully theirs. The match was a true battlefield with two red cards, an own goal & several injuries. So Roda JC are in the Eredivisie this season. What now? Being in the begin of August, their squad is arguably one of the worst together with other promoted side De Graafschap. It’s safe to say that RJC’s goal is to survive this season but not with their manager from last year Rick Plum, who was replaced by experienced coach Darije Kalezic. Darije (45) trained several clubs including: Zulte Waregem, Stockport County and Jong PSV. His biggest success was with De Graafschap where

he won the Jupiler League-title in 2010 and maintaining in the Eredivisie - without play-offs - the year after that. The Bosnian—Swiss manager then coached Stockport County, Zulte Waregem and Jong PSV (in that order) before signing this June until the summer of 2017 with Roda JC. Kalezic took on a real challenge with RJC. The club didn’t lose much quality in players such as Demouge, Guy Ramos and Schreurs, but also haven’t successfully added players with the required level for the Eredivisie. They contracted two defensive midfielders in Jens van Son, who was FC Eindhoven’s captain last season and Australian free agent Rostyn Griffiths. The other two players they signed are Gibril Sankoh, an experienced defender who played for FC Groningen between 2005-2010 and Santiago Palacios, a Mexican attacker from amateur side De Treffers. Every club should have ambitions, but based on their squad’s level (and depth) Roda JC should be highly concerned that they won’t immediately relegate after this season. ‘De Koempels’ still have a few weeks left until the transfer window closes and they are going to successfully make use of the time remaining; otherwise they will – most likely – end up at the bottom three.

Martijn Hilhorst

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Rostyn Griffiths	Free Agent
Santiago Palacios	De Treffers
Gibril Sankoh	Henan Jianye FC
Jens van Son	FC Eindhoven

OUTS

NAME	TO
Guy Ramos	FC Wil 1990
Kai-David Bösing	Fortuna Koln
Johan Plat	Katwijk
Danny Schreurs	Released
Frank Demouge	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EERSTE DIVISIE	3rd
KNVB BEKER	Quarter-Finals
TOP SCORER	Marc Höcher, Bart Biemens, Johan Plat (7)
DISCIPLINE	60 Yellow, 8 Red

AUGUST

8th - Heracles (H)
14th - Vitesse (A)
22nd - De Graafschap (H)
30th - AZ Alkmaar (A)

SEPTEMBER

12th - N.E.C. (H)
20th - Feyenoord (H)
27th - FC Twente (A)

OCTOBER

3rd - SC Cambuur (H)
17th - FC Utrecht (A)
24th - Excelsior (H)
31st - Ajax (A)

NOVEMBER

6th - ADO Den Haag (H)
21st - PEC Zwolle (H)
28th - Heerenveen (A)

DECEMBER

6th - FC Groningen (H)
12th - PSV (A)
19th - Willem II (A)

JANUARY

16th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
23rd - Excelsior (A)
28th - FC Utrecht (H)
31st - Ajax (H)

FEBRUARY

6th - ADO Den Haag (A)
13th - FC Twente (H)
21st - Feyenoord (A)
28th - Heracles (A)

MARCH

6th - Vitesse (H)
11th - De Graafschap (A)
19th - SC Cambuur (A)

APRIL

3rd - Heerenveen (H)
8th - PEC Zwolle (A)
16th - PSV (H)
19th - FC Groningen (A)

MAY

1st - N.E.C. (A)
8th - Willem II (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: MITCHELL PAULISSEN

THE 22-YEAR-OLD Mitchell Paulissen is one of the best players from the youth of Roda JC in the last years. The offensive midfielder is born in Kerkrade on 21 April 1993, and can be named as a real Roda JC player. Even though his young age, he is one of the most experienced player of the club. This will be already his fifth season in Kerkrade. In his first four seasons he played a total of sixty games in which he scored ten times, including cup- and play-off matches. His most important goal he scored last season in the play-offs. With his goal he set his team next to opponent NAC Breda at that moment (1-1 over two games), after which Roda JC won with 2-2 after extra-time. With just ten goals in his

career, it's a surprise he scored nine of them last season. Even more surprising is that he scored a hat-trick against Helmond Sport, netting in a third of his total goals. Paulissen started his career at local club RKTSV, on the outside of Kerkade. Soon his magnificent talent was seen by Roda JC. Just at the age of 10, he transferred to Roda JC and has never left. Now, twelve years later, he is the key player of the 'Koempels'. He is the one who have to take the lead, and keep his team in the Eredivisie.

Thomas Jacobs

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Henk de Jong	Head Coach
Jan Bruin	Assistant Coach
Sandor van der Heide	Assistant Coach
Arne Slot	Assistant Coach
Rene Grotenhuis	Goalkeeping Coach
Henry van der Vegt	Technical Director

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

22	Leonard Nienhuis	NED	16/03/90
26	Harm Zeinstra	NED	27/07/89

DEFENDERS

2	Kai Heerings	NED	12/01/90
3	Etiënne Reijnen	NED	05/04/97
4	Vytautas Andriuškevičius	LIT	08/10/90
5	Marlon Pereira	NED	26/03/87
23	Marvin Peersman	BEL	10/02/91
30	Calvin Mac-Intosch	NED	09/08/89

MIDFIELDERS

6	Erik Bakker	NED	21/03/90
8	Sjoerd Overgoor	NED	06/09/88
10	Jack Byrne	IRE	24/04/96
20	Sander van de Streek	NED	24/03/93
24	Sebastien Steblecki	POL	16/01/92
25	Berend Schootstra	NED	11/03/95

FORWARDS

7	Furdjel Narsingh	NED	13/03/88
9	Martijn Barto	NED	23/08/84
11	Dominik Masek	CZE	10/07/95
14	Mikhail Rosheuvel	NED	10/08/90
15	Jerge Hoefdraad	NED	17/07/86
18	Bartholomew Ogbeche	NIG	01/10/84
19	Valmir Berisha	SWE	06/06/96
	Xander Houtkoop	NED	26/03/89



FOLLOWING an unlikely 12th place finish in 2013/14 after making their return to the Eredivisie as champions of the second tier, SC Cambuur, under new coach, Henk de Jong, had to work within strict financial constraints in the transfer market in preparation for the 2014/15 campaign; the club paying an undisclosed fee for the services of Polish midfielder, Sebastian Steblecki with the rest of their recruitment coming by way of free transfer signings and the loan market. The 14/15 campaign became a season of two halves for the Leeuwarden-based outfit; the first saw the club remarkably threatening to gate-crash the Europa League playoff places, while the second witnessed the club's form dip alarmingly. After opening the season with successive draws at home to FC Twente and on the road in Arnhem, Cambuur won five of their next seven matches beginning with a 1-0 away success in Almelo in August including a 4-0 away victory in the KNVB Beker at FC Den Bosch a month later. Inconsistency plagued the Leeuwarden-based outfit following a 2-2 draw at fierce rivals, SC Heerenveen in October, the club winning five, losing four and drawing one of its next 10 matches in all competitions before the winter break. Importantly though, *the Yellow-Blues* continued to make progress in the KNVB Beker, posting wins over amateurs, Scheveningen and fellow Eredivisie outfit, Heracles. However, the club had to wait until 15th February to record its first victory of 2015, A 2-1 success over Friesland rivals, Heerenveen

having previously lost five games on the trot in all competitions. Cambuur would win only three more games over the course of the season and of the eighteen matches the club played in all competitions in the second half of the 2014/15 campaign, Cambuur lost eleven (including being eliminated from the KNVB Beker by PEC Zwolle at the start of 2015), and drew three, finishing well out of the Europa League playoff scenario but, on account of their impressive form prior to the winter break, in a comfortable 12th place once more, 13 points clear of the bottom three. With no money to swell the coffers by way of transfer fees being accrued over the summer, the club who came perilously close to bankruptcy in 2005, once again had to rely on free transfers: Kai Heerings (FC Utrecht), Dominik Mašek (Hamburger SV), Marvin Peersman (FC Dordrecht) and Xander Houtkoop (ADO Den Haag). The little money at Henk de Jong's disposal was spent on bringing in Sjoerd Overgoor (Go Ahead Eagles) and Valmir Berisha (AS Roma) with 19-year-old, Jack Byrne also arriving in Leeuwarden on a season-long-loan from Manchester City. With their finances tight and their recruitment understated, SC Cambuur will be amongst the favourites to struggle in 2015/16 with much resting on the shoulders of 13-goal top-scorer, Bartholomew Ogbeche. However, the Leeuwarden-based outfit thrive on confounding expectations.

Steven Davies

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Xander Houtkoop	ADO Den Haag
Valmir Berisha	AS Roma
Kai Heerings	FC Utrecht
Domenik Masek	HSV
Sjoerd Overgoor	Go Ahead Eagles
Marvin Peersman	FC Dordrecht
Jergé Hoefdraad	Almere City
Jack Byrne*	Manchester City

OUTS

NAME	TO
Lucas Bijker	SC Heerenveen
Mohamed El Makrini	Odense BK
Mart Dijkstra	Sparta Rotterdam
Wout Droeste	Heracles
Bob Schepers	ONS Sneek
Jurjan Wouda	Flevo Boys
Daniël de Ridder	Released

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	12th
KNVB BEKER	Quarter-Finals
TOP SCORER	Bartholomew Ogbeche (13)
DISCIPLINE	46 Yellows, 2 Reds

AUGUST

8th - PEC Zwolle (A)
16th - Feyenoord (H)
22nd - Heerenveen (H)
30th - Vitesse (A)

SEPTEMBER

12th - PSV (H)
19th - FC Twente (H)
26th - FC Utrecht (A)

OCTOBER

3rd - Roda JC (A)
17th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
25th - ADO Den Haag (H)

NOVEMBER

1st - Heerenveen (A)
8th - FC Groningen (H)
21st - Ajax (A)
27th - De Graafschap (H)

DECEMBER

6th - Willem II (A)
12th - N.E.C. (H)
20th - Excelsior (A)

JANUARY

16th - Vitesse (H)
24th - ADO Den Haag (A)
27th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
31st - Heerenveen (H)

FEBRUARY

7th - FC Groningen (A)
12th - FC Utrecht (H)
20th - FC Twente (A)
27th - PEC Zwolle (H)

MARCH

6th - Feyenoord (A)
13th - Heracles (A)
19th - Roda JC (H)

APRIL

2nd - De Graafschap (A)
9th - Ajax (H)
17th - N.E.C. (A)
21st - Willem II (H)

MAY

1st - PSV (A)
8th - Excelsior (H)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: FURDJEL NARSINGH

AMSTERDAM-BORN, Furdjel Narsingh started out in the youth ranks of Fortius and Zeeburgia before being snapped up by Ajax. In 2006, he left Ajax without having cracked the first team and signed for AZ, where the winger also failed to make a senior appearance, instead spending the next three years being farmed out on season-long loans at FC Volendam and then Telstar. Narsingh made his professional debut in October 2008 for Volendam in a 3-0 defeat against parent club, AZ, before spending the following two seasons in Velsen with SC Telstar, scoring his first league goal on his debut in a 2-2 draw at Excelsior on 7th August 2009. In July 2011, Narsingh joined PEC Zwolle on a free and played a key role in the team

which secured the Eerste Divisie title in 2011/12; notching five goals in 18 appearances. Injury limited his action over the next two seasons and although part of the side which lifted the KNVB Beker in April 2014 after a shock 5-1 drubbing of Ajax in the final, Narsingh's role in the team had gradually decreased. A free transfer followed last June to Cambuur where the winger began to realise his potential. Having become a key figure in Leeuwarden, making 27 appearances and scoring twice in all competitions in 2014/15, it is imperative to Cambuur's success this season that Narsingh avoid the niggling injuries that have hindered his career to date.

Steven Davies



SC HEERENVEEN

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Dwight Lodeweges	Head Coach
Tieme Klompe	Assistant Coach
Johnny Jansen	Assistant Coach
Harmen Kuperus	Goalkeeping Coach
Jeffrey Talan	Technical Coach
Hans Vonk	Technical Director

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Erwin Mulder	NED	03/03/89
30	Wieger Sietsma	NED	11/07/95
33	Maarten de Fockert	NED	20/02/95

DEFENDERS

2	Pele van Anholt	NED	23/04/91
3	Kenny Otigba	HUN	29/08/92
4	Joost van Aken	NED	13/05/94
5	Lucas Bijker	NED	04/03/93
6	Stefano Marzo	BEL	22/03/91
12	Doke Schmidt	NED	07/04/92
14	Robert van Koesveld	NED	24/01/95
16	Jerry St. Juste	NED	19/10/96
22	Caner Cavlan	NED	05/02/92
23	Jordy Buijs	NED	28/12/88
27	Stefan Gartenmann	DEN	02/02/97
25	William Huizing	NED	01/02/95
32	Joris Voest	NED	08/01/95
38	Rannick Schoop	NED	25/09/96

MIDFIELDERS

7	Luciano Slagveer	NED	05/10/93
8	Morten Thorsby	NOR	05/05/96
10	Simon Thern	SWE	18/09/92
11	Sam Larsson	SWE	10/04/93
17	Branco v.d. Boomen	NED	21/07/95
18	Younes Namli	DEN	20/06/94
21	Joey van den Berg	NED	13/02/86

FORWARDS

19	Pelle van Amersfoort	NED	01/04/96
20	Henk Veerman	NED	30/06/93
28	Pascal Huser	NED	17/04/95
34	Rewan Amin	NED	08/01/96
36	Tarik Kada	NED	26/05/96
37	Michel Vlap	NED	02/06/97
	Luka Zahovic	SLV	15/11/95



MANY a football pundit over the past decade have written about the rise of the Provincial clubs in the Eredivisie marked by the Championships of AZ and FC Twente. Those one-off successes however, pail into insignificance to the sustained period of success that SC Heerenveen has had over the past 15 years, both on and off the field. This is a stable, well-run successful club which has the most fervent supporters in the land and play out of the smallest city in the Dutch top flight. Heerenveen have set the benchmark for how to have success outside of the big three clubs and last season was another par for the course effort with a seventh place finish. A good start last season was tempered by a mid-season slump before stabilising again towards the end to make the Europa League qualification playoffs, where they knocked out Feyenoord before losing to Vitesse. By far their star man last term was the German striker Mark Uth, whose 15 goals lead to a transfer to Hoffenheim and therefore leaving Heerenveen a big hole to fill. The other standout performer last season was the young Swedish winger Sam Larsson whose breakout performance filled the gloom left by the departure of prodigal son Daley Sinkgraven. In fact filling the gaps left by star players leaving has been the remarkable part of Heerenveen's success over the past

decade which has seen the likes of Sinkgraven, Hakim Ziyech, Lasse Schöne, Jon Dahl Tomasson, Klaas Jan Huntelaar, Daryl Janmaat, Bas Dost, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Michael Bradley all being sold on by the club. The Heerenveen scouting system is renowned across Europe for their ability to find unknown gems to fill the void. Apart from replacing Uth, Heerenveen also have had to replace number one goalie Kristoffer Nordfeldt for this campaign after his move to the Premier League with Swansea City. They have managed to pick up a handy replacement for the Swede though with former Feyenoord man Erwin Mulder coming in. Also coming in the highly-rated young defender Caner Cavlan from De Graafschap. Their team this campaign will be looking to the likes of Pele van Anholt, Simon Thern, Joey van den Berg, Larsson and Luciano Slagveer to again guide the team comfortably into the top eight once more. They will be buoyed by a decent showing in pre-season thus far and some good tough early matches to test their mettle. Managed by the affable and very experienced former PSV man Dwight Lodeweges, *de Superfriezen* will look to make their Abe Lenstra Stadion a fortress once more and they'll have the whole of Friesland behind them.

Rogier Waalder

BEST XI



AUGUST

7th - De Graafschap (H)
16th - FC Utrecht (A)
22nd - PSV (H)
29th - PEC Zwolle (H)

SEPTEMBER

13th - FC Groningen (A)
18th - N.E.C. (A)
26th - Vitesse (H)

OCTOBER

2nd - Heracles (A)
18th - Feyenoord (H)
24th - Willem II (A)

NOVEMBER

1st - SC Cambuur (H)
7th - FC Twente (A)
21st - AZ Alkmaar (A)
28th - Roda JC (H)

DECEMBER

5th - Ajax (A)
11th - Excelsior (H)
20th - ADO Den Haag (H)

JANUARY

16th - PEC Zwolle (A)
23rd - Willem II (H)
28th - Feyenoord (A)
31st - SC Cambuur (A)

FEBRUARY

6th - FC Twente (H)
13th - Vitesse (A)
20th - N.E.C. (H)
28th - De Graafschap (A)

MARCH

5th - FC Utrecht (H)
12th - PSV (A)
19th - Heracles (H)

APRIL

3rd - Roda JC (A)
10th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
17th - Excelsior (A)
20th - Ajax (H)

MAY

1st - FC Groningen (H)
8th - ADO Den Haag (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Lucas Bijker	SC Cambuur
Caner Cavlan	De Graafschap
Erwin Mulder	Feyenoord
Wieger Sietsma	FC Groningen
Luka Zahovic	Maribor

OUTS

NAME	TO
Kristoffer Nordfeldt	Swansea City
Marten de Roon	Atalanta
Mark Uth	Hoffenheim
Janio Bikel	N.E.C. Nijmegen
Michael Chacón	FC Dordrecht
Thomas Dalgaard	SønderjyskE
Jens Jurn Streutker	Released
Szabolcs Varga*	MTK Budapest

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	7th
KNVB BEKER	Second Round
TOP SCORER	Mark Uth (15)
DISCIPLINE	59 Yellows, 5 Reds



KEY PLAYER: SAM LARSSON

HEERENVEEN have a reputation of having great success in bringing in raw talent from Scandinavia and developing them into very good players and they've done it again with the breakout performances of Sam Larsson last campaign. The left winger joined the club last season from his native IFK Goteborg and excelled with some very eye catching performances. Larsson contributed eight goals and five assists in his 21 games and really stood up following the departure of the influential Daley Sinkgraven to Ajax. Blessed with lightning pace and great stamina Larsson is an explosive winger who sits notionally on the

left but is also comfortable cutting in-field or sitting behind the striker. Larsson gave opposing defenders nightmares last season with his combination of speed, skill and composure and Heerenveen will lean heavily on his talents this season. Larsson is still far from the finished package, the thought of which is terrifying, and he'll look to build at Heerenveen for the next 12 to 18 months before he'll no doubt head to the Bundesliga or Premier League to showcase his many abilities.

Rogier Waalder



MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Peter Bosz	Head Coach
Jon Dahl Tomasson	Assistant Coach
Rob Maas	Assistant Coach
John Lammers	Assistant Coach
Mohammed Allach	Director of Football

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Eloy Room	CUR	06/02/89
22	Piet Velthuizen	NED	03/11/86
48	Jeroen Houwen	NED	18/02/96

DEFENDERS

3	Maikel van der Werff	NED	22/04/89
5	Kelvin Leerdam	NED	24/06/90
6	Arnold Kruiswijk	NED	02/11/84
17	Kevin Diks	NED	06/10/96
35	Rochdi Achenteh	NED	07/03/88
37	Guram Kashia	GEO	07/04/87

MIDFIELDERS

10	Valeri Qazaishvili	GEO	29/01/93
11	Denys Oliynyk	UKR	16/06/87
18	Marvelous Nakamba	ZIM	19/01/94
20	Danilo Pantić	SER	26/10/96
21	Sheran Yeini	ISR	08/12/86
26	Milot Rashica	ALB	28/06/96
30	Renato Ibarra	ECU	20/01/91
34	Lewis Baker	ENG	25/04/95
40	Elmo Lieftink	NED	03/02/94
41	Mo Osman	NED	01/01/94

FORWARDS

7	Isaiah Brown	ENG	07/01/97
9	Uroš Đurđević	SER	02/03/94
13	Nathan Allan de Souza	BRA	13/03/96
14	Abiola Dauda	NIG	03/02/88
	Dominic Solanke	ENG	14/09/97



THE Arnhem based club Vitesse, have been bit of an enigma over the past decade in the Eredivisie with a solid record of unpredictability. Last season was no exception where they suffered three defeats in their first four matches before going on a 12-match unbeaten streak at the tail end to end up finishing fifth. This then propelled them into the Europa League qualification playoffs and where they defeated PEC Zwolle and Heerenveen to qualify for continental football this season - although Southampton have knocked them out at the first time of asking. Famously bank-rolled by the Russian billionaire and close personal friend of Roman Abramovic, Aleksandr Tsjigirinski, Vitesse have gained some notoriety for their links with Chelsea. A bevy of Chelsea starlets have used the Gelredome as football's version of a finishing school over the past few seasons and one such player, Bertrand Traore shone brightly last time around. Traore's 17 goal haul last season was the main impetus towards their end of season run that included fellow Chelsea loanee's Wallace and Josh McEachren. Managed by the very talented Peter Bosz, Vitesse have lost their Chelsea trio this time around as well as key midfielders Davy Pröpper (to PSV), Marco Vejinovic (to Feyenoord) and Zakaria Labyad (loan return to Sporting Lisbon). 'Vitas' have once again looked to Chelsea to help fill the gap with no less than 5 players coming in on loan (Nathan, Danilo Pantic,

Lewis Baker, Isaiah Brown and Dominic Solanke), all of whom are under 20 years of age. Up front will be where Vitesse will struggle though this campaign with no experienced talisman to speak of. Gone are the days when Wilfried Bony bossed Eredivisie defences and it will be up to the likes of the Serb Uros Djurdevic and the Nigerian Abiola Dauda to have breakout seasons. Vitesse will have the benefit of a settled defence lead by the oft-brilliant, oft-comical 'keeper Piet Velthuizen plus the dependable Georgian Guram Kashia and Dutchman Kelvin Leerdam. The Vitesse supporters are used to living on the wild-side and are renowned for their creative goal songs i.e. 'Daddy Cool' for whenever Wilfried Bony scored and Bro Hymn by punk-rockers Pennywise. They will no doubt take the relative success of the last few seasons over the years of financial ruin (with the local council have to bail them out numerous times) of the early 2000's, which also saw them flirt with relegation. Vitesse have been in the Eredivisie for 25 consecutive seasons now and have finished 5th, 6th, 4th and 7th in the past four seasons. They have had a solid pre-season this time around and will be hoping for a better start than last campaign and if their bevy of young Chelsea stars can fire then who knows where Vitesse will end up.

Rogier Waalder

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Maikel van der Werff	PEC Zwolle
Sheran Yeini	Maccabi Tel Aviv
Milot Rashica	FC Llamkos Kosova
Lewis Baker*	Chelsea
Danilo Pantić*	Chelsea
Isaiah Brown*	Chelsea
Nathan Allan de Souza*	Chelsea
Dominic Solanke*	Chelsea

OUTS

NAME	TO
Davy Pröpper	PSV
Marko Vejinovic	Feyenoord
Gino Bosz	Heracles
Jan-Arie van der Heijden	Feyenoord

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	5th
KNVB BEKER	Quarter-Finals
TOP SCORER	Bertrand Traore (13)
DISCIPLINE	60 Yellows, 2 Reds

AUGUST

9th - Willem II (A)
14th - Roda JC (H)
23rd - Feyenoord (A)
30th - SC Cambuur (H)

SEPTEMBER

13th - FC Utrecht (A)
20th - De Graafschap (H)
26th - Heerenveen (A)

OCTOBER

4th - FC Groningen (H)
18th - PEC Zwolle (A)
25th - Ajax (H)
31st - Excelsior (A)

NOVEMBER

8th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
22nd - ADO Den Haag (A)
29th - N.E.C. (H)

DECEMBER

5th - PSV (H)
13th - Heracles (A)
18th - FC Twente (H)

JANUARY

16th - SC Cambuur (A)
23rd - Ajax (A)
27th - PEC Zwolle (H)
30th - Excelsior (H)

FEBRUARY

6th - AZ Alkmaar (A)
13th - Heerenveen (H)
21st - De Graafschap (A)
27th - Willem II (H)

MARCH

6th - Roda JC (A)
13th - Feyenoord (H)
20th - FC Groningen (A)

APRIL

3rd - N.E.C. (A)
9th - ADO Den Haag (H)

16th - Heracles (H)
19th - PSV (A)

MAY

1st - FC Utrecht (H)
8th - FC Twente (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: VALERI QAZAISHVILI

VALERI QAZAISHVILI is part of the strong Georgian presence at the club and much will depend on his creative influence this campaign. Vitesse have lost a lot of creativity with the departures of Davy Pröpper and Marko Vejinovic, so 22-year-old Qazaishvili will need to step up. The Georgian likes to play in an advanced playmaker role and create opportunities for the attacking trio to feed off. An excellent passer of the ball but is equally adept with running with the ball at his feet Qazaishvili will need to settle quickly to calm the nerves of the inexperienced players around him this campaign. Qazaishvili played in all by one league game last season and contributed nine goals along with five assists. Capped seven times by Georgia, Qazaishvili will be looking to step up for club and country this season to realise his potential.

Rogier Waalder



WILLEM II

MANAGEMENT/COACHING STAFF

NAME	POSITION
Jurgen Streppel	Head Coach
Adri Bogers	Assistant Coach
Edwin Linssen	Assistant Coach
Dirk Jan Derksen	Attacking Coach
Raymond Vissers	Goalkeeping Coach
Berry van Gool	Managing Director

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

NO	NAME	NAT	D.O.B.
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GOALKEEPERS

1	Kostas Lamprou	GRE	18/09/91
21	David Meul	NED	03/07/81
	Nigel Bertrams	NED	08/01/93

DEFENDERS

2	Ruben Ligeon	NED	24/05/92
3	Freek Heerkens	NED	13/09/89
4	Jordan Peters	NED	03/05/87
5	Dico Koppers	NED	31/01/92
15	Dries Wuytens	BEL	18/03/91
24	Guus Joppen	NED	14/11/89
28	Frank van der Struijk	NED	28/03/85

MIDFIELDERS

6	Funso Ojo	BEL	28/08/91
8	Robbie Haemhouts	BEL	09/12/83
10	Erik Falkenburg	NED	05/05/88
17	Robert Braber	NED	09/11/82
23	Wiljan Pluim	NED	04/01/89
29	Stijn Wuytens	BEL	08/10/89
30	Jordy Vleugels	BEL	17/05/96
43	Frenkie de Jong	NED	12/05/97

FORWARDS

7	Terell Ondaan	NED	09/09/93
9	Richairo Zivkovic	NED	05/09/96
11	Bruno Andrade	BRA	02/06/89
19	Lesley de Sa	NED	02/04/93
22	Justin Mathieu	NED	12/04/96



NEWLY promoted and predicted to struggle in 2014/15; Willem II coach, Jurgen Streppel, armed his un-fancied outfit with an eclectic blend of young professionals and journeymen who had failed to make the grade elsewhere and set about confounding the critics week after week. Despite being relegated in 2012/13 with a little more than a whimper (finishing 18th and winning only five league games) just a season after having been promoted from the Eerste Divisie, Willem II collected a number of notable results in 2014/15. A 3-0 home victory over AZ Alkmaar at the end of August was followed a few weeks later by a surprise 2-1 away success in De Kuip against Feyenoord in early September. The Tilburg outfit also posted creditable home draws against both Ajax and Feyenoord. All in all, the *Tricolores* won eight games at the Koning Willem II Stadion but, importantly also recorded five wins on the road in 2014/15, catapulting the club away from the relegation mire and into the fight for a Europa League playoff place. The Tilburg club's KNVB Beker campaign was, in stark contrast to their heroics in the league, disastrous; the *Tricolores* humiliated 2-1 away from home by amateur outfit, Deltasport/Leonidas in September. Regardless, by season's end, the only disappointment the club, its players, fans and coaching staff felt was that of missing out on the Europa League playoffs by a mere four points as they finished a remarkable ninth. Predictably, the vultures descended upon the Koning Willem II Stadion at the end

of the campaign: Ali Massaoud joined FC Vaduz on a free transfer, Kevin Brands linked up with NAC Breda for no fee, while, Ben Sahar left on a free to Hapoel Be'er Sheva. The *Tricolores* also lost 11-goal top-scorer, Samuel Armenteros, to parent club Anderlecht following the conclusion of his season-long-loan in Tilburg. The only transfer fee received was for left-back, Mitchell Dijks; reacquired by former club Ajax in June. However, as part of Dijks' €1m, Willem II received three useful additions on season-long-loans from the Amsterdam giants: 18-year-old striker, Richairo Zivkovic, 22-year-old right winger, Lesly de Sa and 23-year-old right back, Ruben Ligeon. After securing 23-year-old Greek goalkeeper, Kostas Lamprou on a free transfer from Feyenoord following an impressive season-long-loan in Tilburg in May, coach, Streppel added four more on free transfers: Funso Ojo (FC Dordrecht), Erik Falkenburg (NAC Breda), Guus Joppen (VVV Venlo) and the unattached, Nicky Kuiper. Despite spending two out of the last four seasons in the Eerste Divisie, the *Tricolores* relegation in 2010/11 actually ended a run of 24 consecutive seasons in the Eredivisie. As such, Willem II is a club that expect to be competing in the top tier of Dutch football season-in-season-out and consequently both stability and consolidation will be the key objectives in the season ahead. Regardless, unlike in 2014/15, Streppel's men shouldn't be underestimated.

Steven Davies

BEST XI



TRANSFERS

INS

NAME	FROM
Erik Falkenburg	NAC Breda
Kostas Lamproou	Feyenoord
Guus Joppen	VVV Venlo
Funso Ojo	FC Dordrecht
Dico Koppers	FC Twente
Richairo Zivkovic*	Ajax
Ruben Ligeon*	Ajax
Lesly de Sa*	Ajax

OUTS

NAME	TO
Mitchell Dijks	Ajax
Ali Messaoud	FC Vaduz
Kevin Brands	NAC Breda
Ben Sahar	Hapoel Beer Sheva
Charlton Vincento	Helmond Sport
Ryan Sanusi	Sparta Rotterdam
Ricardo Ippel	MVV Maastricht
Norair Aslanyan-Mamedov	Almere City
Simon van Zeelst	Released
Maxime Deckers	Released
Tim Cornelisse	Retired
Matthijs Branderhorst*	MVV Maastricht

* indicates loan move

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE	9th
KNVB BEKER	Second Round
TOP SCORER	Samuel Armentaros (11)
DISCIPLINE	45 Yellows, 2 Reds

AUGUST

9th - Vitesse (H)
15th - Ajax (A)
23rd - AZ Alkmaar (A)
28th - N.E.C. (H)

SEPTEMBER

13th - Feyenoord (A)
19th - FC Utrecht (H)
27th - De Graafschap (A)

OCTOBER

3rd - PEC Zwolle (H)
17th - FC Groningen (A)
24th - Heerenveen (H)
30th - Heracles (A)

NOVEMBER

7th - Excelsior (H)
21st - PSV (H)
28th - FC Twente (A)

DECEMBER

6th - SC Cambuur (H)
12th - ADO Den Haag (A)
19th - Roda JC (H)

JANUARY

17th - N.E.C. (A)
23rd - Heerenveen (A)
26th - FC Groningen (H)
29th - Heracles (H)

FEBRUARY

5th - Excelsior (A)
12th - De Graafschap (H)
21st - FC Utrecht (A)
27th - Vitesse (A)

MARCH

6th - Ajax (H)
12th - AZ Alkmaar (H)
19th - PEC Zwolle (A)

APRIL

2nd - FC Twente (H)
9th - PSV (A)
17th - ADO Den Haag (H)
21st - SC Cambuur (A)

MAY

1st - Feyenoord (H)
8th - Roda JC (A)

2015/16 EREDIVISIE FIXTURES



KEY PLAYER: RICHAIRO ZIVKOVIC

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD striker; Richairo Zivkovic was signed by Ajax to great fanfare in the summer of 2014 after a stellar 2013/14 for hometown club, FC Groningen where he netted 11 times in 35 appearances. In December 2012, at 16 years and 88 days, Zivkovic became the youngest debutant in club history before later surpassing Arjen Robben as the youngest player ever to score for FC Groningen on 3rd August 2013. Capped at U18 and U19 level by the Netherlands; Zivkovic had to wait to make his first team debut after arriving in Amsterdam, instead lining up for Jong Ajax in their 2014/15 Eerste Divisie season opener against SC Telstar. Zivkovic cut a swath through the Dutch second tier in 2014/15; scoring 18

goals in 25 outings but was only used sparingly in the first team after a goal-scoring debut against amateurs, SV Urk in the third round of the KNVB Beker. After a season of frustration in Amsterdam in which the young striker made just nine appearances and scored twice in all competitions at first team level, it was announced in June 2015 that Zivkovic would embark on a season-long loan at Willem II. The underutilised marksman will look to showcase his undoubted talent as well as his natural goal-scoring ability in Tilburg in 2015/16 and, in the process, make a statement to Ajax coach, Frank de Boer that he is the man to lead the line in Amsterdam in 2016/17.

Steven Davies



EREDIVISIE PREVIEW

Will Burns predicts that PSV will seal the title again - but this year it will go down to wire...



THE old adage goes that it is much harder to retain a title than it is in the first place and if it were not for Memphis Depay and Georginio Wijnaldum last season, then debatably, the Eredivisie silverware may not be housed in the trophy cabinet at the Philips Stadion right now. Although, now the duo have moved onto pastures new, it is a safe to say, that this year will not be as easy. Yes even though, I think we could see the above scene again come May at PSV, this upcoming nine months will prove to be a lot tougher for the reigning champions with Ajax and Feyenoord hot on their trail. This will be much more entertaining and competitive title race - seventeen points, it will not be.

Philip Cocu has replaced his outgoing stars with a quality midfielder in Davy Pröpper and unproven talents (although highly-rated), Gastón Pereiro and Maxime Lestienne. Cocu's main objective will be to breed these into the championship-winning side of last year as soon as possible and he will need to act fast as his side will play host to Feyenoord within the first month of the campaign - a game that could be vital in title race. Twenty-goal hitman Luuk de Jong will still thrive on [\(TDF Top 50 #1\)](#) Jetro Willems' creative play from left-back but the rest of the defence has seen a slight change. Willems' has a new understudy in Simon Poulsen and Karim Rekik left permanently for France with Nicolas Isimit-Mirin soaring in from the other direction. The Frenchman will look to create a great partnership with Jeffrey Bruma but looking below

that, it is worrying for the champs. PSV has failed in their attempt to sign Mexican Hector Moreno from Espanyol, and in central defence only Jorrit Hendrix could provide cover with (slight) experience. Add that with the rawness of young reserves Jordy de Wijs, Hjörtur Hermannsson and Suently Alberto - this may prove costly if they are relied on in big games, especially in the dizzy heights of the Champions League or at the business end of the title race.

Many changes afoot in Rotterdam too, after a mass exodus last summer and the disappointing season that followed, head coach Fred Rutten was ousted and replaced by the inexperienced Giovanni van Bronckhorst. Feyenoord finally lost Jordy Clasie but Gio encouragingly, has brought in some real quality to start the rebuild. Club legend Dirk KUYT returns to add some leadership and much needed firepower and with Vitesse pairing Marko Vejinovic and Jan-Arie van der Heijden also arriving at De Kuip, along with the abundance of the young stars in the team, Van Bronckhorst looks to have a squad worthy of title contention. In addition, no European football distraction this year could be a godsend to their trophy aspirations.

Frank de Boer and Ajax will surely be still feeling the pain of last season, after not being able to clinch that most sought fifth successive league title, which should further inspire his team this time round. Even with two defenders return back to Amsterdam, promising

PREDICTED LEAGUE TABLE

1. PSV
2. AJAX
3. FEYENOORD
4. AZ ALKMAAR
5. VITESSE
6. WILLEM II
7. FC GRONINGEN
8. ADO DEN HAAG
9. HEERENVEEN
10. FC TWENTE
11. FC UTRECHT
12. PEC ZWOLLE
13. SC CAMBUUR
14. DE GRAAFSCHAP
15. EXCELSIOR
16. N.E.C.
17. RODA JC
18. HERACLES



left-back Mitchell Dijks and the well-travelled John Heitinga, Ajax will do well to cope with the major loss of get another summer passing, with the loss of their leader at the back. Past years have seen Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld have move on and this year was no different as Niklas Moisander packed his bags for Italy.

Apart from possessing a tremendous goalkeeper in Jasper Cillessen, like PSV, it is the centre of the defence in front of him that could prove to be a worry this season. De Boer will be hoping the recruitment of the 31-year-old Heitinga, will teach some tricks to the youthful but inconsistent Jöel Veltman and also, help Ajax 'shut up shop' when needed. Promising French striker Yaya Sanogo will help take the goal-scoring burden off Anwar El Ghazi and Arek Milik; and Nemanja Gudelj will help fill the berth that Daley Blind left last year. If their title chase is to be successful, the new advanced roles of Daley Sinkgraven and new club captain Davy Klaassen will be vitally important for the Amsterdammers. At his disposal, De Boer has a squad with an excellent mix of solidity and flair, of youth and experience and if he can get the defence synchronised with the attack - the Eredivisie shield could be back in his hands come May.

At the bottom of the league, Heracles and Roda JC have to be the favourites to struggle in my eyes. Firstly, Heracles have lost their best player of the last few seasons, Bryan Linssen to FC Groningen and he is not been suitably replaced. With Linssen in tow last year, a late surge pulled them out of trouble - this year I see them flirting with danger and seeing their relationship with the Eredivisie ending in separation.

Newly promoted Roda JC, again like the Almelo outfit, have not strengthened sufficiently in the off season. With a squad bearing hardly any Eredivisie experience, it's hard to see how they can survive. The window is open until September but unfortunately with no funds for Darije Kalezić to do some wheeling and dealing, he may have to work a miracle to keep the Kerkrade side above water this season.

Others down the bottom that could get involved in the relegation battle are Excelsior and the other two promoted sides De Graafschap and N.E.C. Nijmegen, although these three are better equipped to fight.

Excelsior are another club who dived with death last year, however under Marinus Dijkhuizen's leadership, they managed to steer

the ship away from the Eerste Divisie. Well, Dijkhuizen has jetted off to Brentford in the English Championship and now Alfons Groenendijk has the job of directing the Rotterdam club to safety. In Tom van Weert they have a striker who was capable of getting 12 league goals last year and have managed to keep energetic winger Jordan Botaka at the club for another season to supply him with chances.

De Graafschap under the tutelage of Jan Vreman has picked up some of the best of the best in the Eerste Divisie signing Alexander Bannink, Bryan Smeets and Thijs Bouma. Andrew Driver, a English winger who has made his name at Dundee United and Houston Dynamo, will look to make an impact and provide former Ajax youth product Vincent Vermelj. The striker at just 20-years-old, last season was the impressively scorer of 18 goals in the second tier of Dutch football.

Last year's Jupiler League champions N.E.C. Nijmegen will be looking to Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Anthony Limbombe to flourish and inspire their season, and they should have enough quality to stick around for at least this season.

My surprise package of the year is Jurgen Streppel's Willem II. Finishing ninth last season was a tremendous achievement and I feel the Tilburgers could sneak into Europe next year through the play-offs. The triple signing of loanees from Ajax could see Streppel's reputation rise further as Richairo Zivkovic, Ruben Ligeon and Lesly de Sa can use this next year in Tilburg as a stepping stone into the Ajax team. The three youngsters possibly took the Mitchell Dijks example under great thought before deciding on the move. Further recruitment of practised Eredivisie players like Erik Falkenburg, Funso Ojo and Dico Koppers could set Willem II's steady progress in motion and enthusiasm over leapfrogging the likes of PEC Zwolle, FC Groningen and Heerenveen could be an all-time high.

GOLDEN BOOT CONTENDERS

AREK MILIK (AJAX)

If Ajax are to mount a serious challenge for the title, they will need a twenty-goal season from someone in their squad. Polish striker Arek Milik managed to earn a permanent move last year to Amsterdam scoring 11 goals in the process - he has the ability to double that this time round.

LUUK DE JONG (PSV)

After disappointing spells at Borussia Monchengladbach and Newcastle United, Luuk de Jong bounced back with a bang claiming 20 goals and an Eredivisie championship with PSV. PSV have surrounded him in creative forces to provide opportunities to score another twenty.

MICHIEL KRAMER (ADO DEN HAAG)

Rumoured to be heading to out of Den Haag, Michiel Kramer would be a huge miss to ADO if he does. The big striker has 24 goals in the last two seasons which has helped Den Haag solidify their position in the Eredivisie. A move could be on the cards to Feyenoord, if he does the goals may flow in Rotterdam.

VINCENT JANSSEN (AZ ALKMAAR)

This is my pick for the Golden Boot at a massive 25/1. AZ Alkmaar have said goodbye to Aron Jóhannsson who is off to the Bundesliga but pre-season has proved to the Alkmaar side, he is not going to be missed. The American international was missing all pre-season, due to representing his country at the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Janssen took advantage and stepped up and notched (*as of press time*) 12 goals in five appearances.

ANWAR EL GHAZI (AJAX)

Exploding on the scene last season, Anwar El Ghazi's potential is expected to surge through this campaign - and what's the say that the Ajax man cannot be this seasons' Memphis Depay. Scoring nine goals last year in 31 games was a good return in a debut year for the wide striker, El Ghazi will look to build on that this term.

PREDICTIONS

CHAMPIONS

PSV

6/4 AT CORAL.COM

18TH PLACE

HERACLES

14/1 AT 888.BET

TOP SIX

WILLEM II

4/1 AT UNIBET.CO.UK

TOP SCORER

VINCENT JANSSEN (AZ)

25/1 AT UNIBET.CO.UK



JUPILER LEAGUE PREVIEW

Martijn Hilhorst looks forward to the new season in Holland's second tier of football...



SCORING one more than your opponent is the motto in the Jupiler League with an average of 55 goals per team (in 38 matches) last season. Worth a watch, especially with all the talents produced in the second tier of Holland. Such as Kevin van Veen (Scunthorpe United), Cas Peters (Nacional Madeira), Vincent Janssen (AZ Alkmaar), Alireza Jahanbakhsh (N.E.C Nijmegen). This season has even become more interesting with NAC Breda as one of the championship contenders. Unfortunately for the NAC fans, they were relegated last term after a thrilling stand-off with Roda JC, who took their spot in the Eredivisie. However, it does make the Jupiler League an even more competitive league. They were not the only ones relegated with Go Ahead Eagles and FC Dordrecht joining them as well. Just like last year, three clubs were relegated to the second tier. Two of those three already returned to the Eredivisie (N.E.C. & Roda JC), while RKC Waalwijk plummeted down and does not look they will recover anytime soon. Let's talk predictions! Who will be champions? Just as previous season, there are two top favourites who will fight for direct promotion: NAC Breda & Go Ahead Eagles, with latter eliminated in the Europa League after a draw and loss against Hungarian top flight club Ferencváros. The Eagles received a 'qualification-ticket' for winning the Fair Play Award. Could the early start of 'GAE' be in the advantage of NAC Breda? Most likely, 'Kowet' only had 38 days without an official match between the last match of 14/15 and the first one of 15/16.

The biggest blow for them came a few days back when their best player, Deniz Türüç left the club for Turkish side Kayserispor. NAC Breda does have the upper hand on them. Especially with the likes of Kevin Brands and Luis Pedro in their squad. What about the other side of the table? Relegation is not (yet) possible in the Jupiler League, but the KNVB have presented a plan for a renewed football pyramid (see right), which will be implemented after 2016/17. Meaning that relegation and promotion between our two professional competitions and many amateur leagues is finally a possibility. Promotion from the Jupiler League to the Eredivisie can be achieved by becoming champions or win 'a period'. There are eight play-offs spots to contest for this season. Four of them will be handed to the champions of a certain period. 38 matches, so every period will last nine matches. The whole system could be quiet confusing, but that makes the Jupiler League fun to watch. Every team, regardless to their position in the table can fight for a promotion play-offs tickets. Per example, Almere City was crowned 'champions' of the second period last season. Arguably, Almere were not good enough to compete in the Eredivisie but those hopes kept everyone motivated and on their toes. Enough reason to watch at this festival of goals they call the 'Jupiler League'.

THE NEW DUTCH FOOTBALL PYRAMID STRUCTURE

EREDIVISIE (18)

JUPILER LEAGUE (20)

LANDELIJKE DIVISIE (18)

TOPKLASSE A (18)

TOPKLASSE B (18)

HOOFDKLASSE A (14) B (14) C (14)

HOOFDKLASSE A (14) B (14) C (14)

JUPLIER LEAGUE FIVE TO WATCH



Martijn Hilhorst picks his top five players to look out for in the Eerste Divisie this coming season...



BOY DEUL (FC EMMEN)

All the eyes in Emmen were pointed at Cas Peters last season, because the striker netted 23 times in 36 matches. But Peters left the Jupiler League for Nacional Madeira in the Portuguese top flight. Boy Deul stayed and he could be influential the upcoming season. The attacking midfielder has been at several clubs, including the second squad of Bayern Munich. Deul only played two seasons in the Eredivisie, which is a surprise. Deul (28) showed great skill, technique, vision and scoring abilities the last couple of seasons. He will be vital to Emmen's ambitions.

KEVIN BRANDS (NAC BREDA)

Kevin Brands played at FC Volendam previous season, partly because of his 22 (!) goals his club was able to participate in the promotion play-offs (which wasn't successful). The son of Marcel Brands (technical director PSV) was loaned from Willem II and it would make sense that the versatile, scoring Kevin would play for Willem II in the Eredivisie, but rivals NAC Breda offered him a two-year deal which he gladly accepted. Being able to play as an attacking midfielder and striker, he will be a great asset to NAC's plans to directly return to the highest Dutch division.



LUIS PEDRO (NAC BREDA)

What's a team without a strong leader in the back? Luis Pedro is that type of player. The Angolan/Dutch centre back has started the revival of his career. He made his debut in professional football for FC Groningen in 2012, but his stay at the club wasn't successful. Being not sure of playing minutes, he then signed with FC Emmen in 2013. You could describe Luis as a defender with pace, strength and leadership. After two years of being the rock in the defence, he signed until the summer of 2017 with NAC Breda, who relegated last season.

JONATHAN OPOKU (VVV-VENLO)

Frequent watchers of the Jupiler League will think of Kevin van Veen last season at FC Oss, but Opoku was also an important factor at the club. Scoring just as much as Van Veen (16), Jonathan even received a personal award for his performance last year called the 'Bronzen stier', a prize awarded to the best player of a certain period of the competition (Jupiler League is divided in 4 periods). With the departure of Melvin Platje, VVV-Venlo was in need of a forward and they've found one in the strong and pacey Jonathan Opoku.



RICARDO KIP (ALMERE CITY)

Almere City used to have a partnership with Ajax. One of the players Almere got in that period was Ricardo Kip, a small kid who wasn't physically strong enough for the Eredivisie, but was a perfect fit in the Jupiler League. A few years later down the road Kip (23) possesses several technical abilities who would be a great asset in the Eredivisie. Being only 5'7", he isn't your typical powerhouse, still he isn't shy to fight out a battle for the ball. It's surprising that not one club showed interest. Maybe after – again – a good season with Almere.

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