

THE 2020/21
TOTAL DUTCH FOOTBALL.COM



EREDIVISIE

SEASON
PREVIEW



INTRODUCTION

Well after a long absence we return with the 2020-21 Eredivisie Season Preview. It has been nearly five years since our last Season Preview publication went down a storm.

Over 5,000 readers downloaded that last preview and if you are reading this one, I can do nothing but show my appreciation for sticking around with us.

So yes, we are back in a big way and we have a lot planned for you the reader in the coming season. Stay tuned to the social media platforms for more information in the coming weeks and of course TotalDutchFootball.com. There's a tease just to the right of this text.

I personally cannot wait for the big Eredivisie kick off this weekend. Getting a chance to watch the most talented youngsters in the world come through and grab the headlines - then move onto the big leagues.

We watch Premier League, Bundesliga, Serie A and La Liga (and ahem... Chinese and Russian Premier League) of the future in the Eredivisie in some of the most exciting football in the world.

I have personally reviewed each team (with the help of *Fin Crebolder of ClorkworkOranje.com* - go visit!) for the coming season. I've told you about the players to watch, the stories to unfold and the teams that I think can win the trophies.

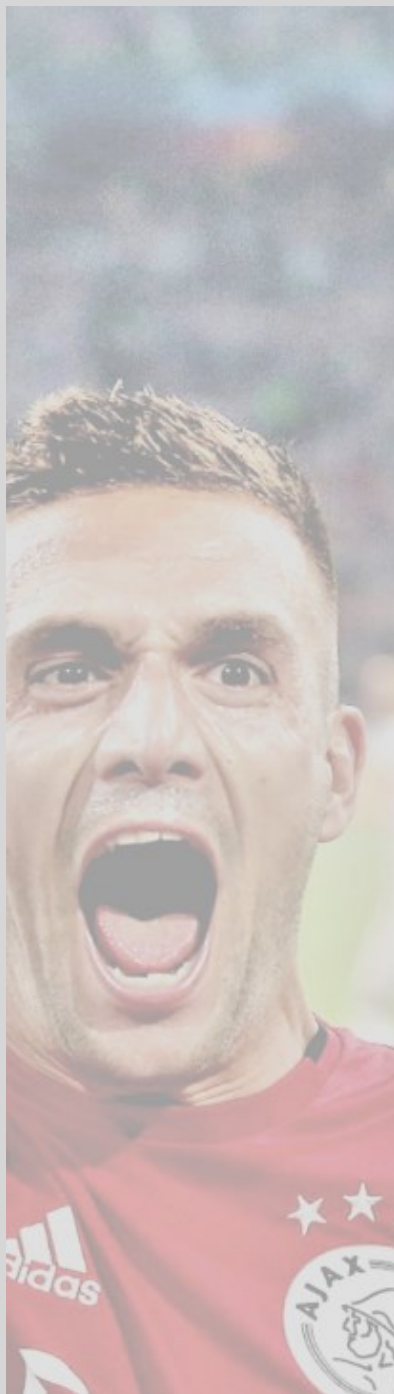
Inside you will read about stars and their clubs, new signings and newly employed coaches, rising talents and the talking points from the summer.

In offering this comprehensive guide to the new season I hope we answer some questions for you and prompt some conversations in regards to the months ahead.

If you have enjoyed this free publication remember to check out our website, our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Thank you for downloading and more importantly thanks for reading and your support over the next season. Without you, we would not be back!

WILL BURNS



TOP 50

COMING SOON

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Big thanks to Fin Crebolder, Steve Davies, Elko Born, Michael Bell, Jeroen Thiessen and Ard Nagtegaal for their knowledge and scribes inside this publication.

RACE FOR THE TITLE

BIG THREE BECOME THE BIG FOUR?

It's been a long time prior to an Eredivisie season, where discussions can be held in a legitimate debate to which of FOUR teams is going to win the league title.

In 2020-21, we can identify Ajax, PSV, Feyenoord (standard!) and now **AZ ALKMAAR** as serious contenders. Last year, AZ pushed defending champions Ajax to the limit and if a global pandemic did not call time on the season early, we may have been discussing Arne Slot's men as the titleholders.

Joint top on points, Ajax and AZ saw the season cancelled and the Amsterdammers were awarded the Champions' League group place ahead of AZ due to positive eight goal swing.

It would be wrong to suggest that AZ just overachieved last year after clearly defeating from all three rivals and never moved out of the top four all season long.

Feyenoord (3-0), PSV (4-0) and Ajax (1-0, 2-0) all failed to score a goal against Slot's men but let's see how they perform this year, and whether they can keep the core of their squad by the time the transfer window slams shut in October.

When you are a member of the former "big three", the Eredivisie is a wild, demanding and challenging division with the rest of league seeing these games as their "cup final". Due to this, many clubs feel comfortable with an experienced head at the helm.

FEYENOORD have 72-year-old Dick Advocaat heading into his last year of his contract. It is understood by all that he is not the man for the future of the Rotterdammers but he must be desperate to end his career on a high.

This season could be his last chance to lead a club to victory and he has the squad at his disposal to mount a serious challenge.

Throughout the squad, he is surrounded by established and potential first-teamers and he has have strengthened even further by boosting his attacking options by bringing in Eredivisie stalwart Bryan Linssen from Vitesse and creative number ten Joao Carlos Teixeira, formerly of FC Porto and Liverpool, arrived from Vitoria Guimaraes.

Last year, Feyenoord only lost three games but drew eight to put them six points off the pace at the top. If Advocaat can fix these ties into wins, he could be taking the title home - one last time.

PSV, looking to resurrect their "big three" status, hired German coach Roger Schmidt, who will be hungry to burst on the scene as a success.

It was a disaster last year for PSV under Marc van Bommel and Ernest Faber, in an experiment that just simply didn't work. The pairing lacked the experience to take PSV to that next level after clinching the title in 2017-18 under Phillip Cocu.

The 53-year-old Schmidt arrives with 16 years managerial experience across Germany, Austria and more-recently China. He is known for his fluid, slick attacking style which should fit PSV's squad perfectly.

He found most of his success with another youthful pacey side at Red Bull Salzburg, winning 68% of games and clinching a Bundesliga and Cup double in 2013-14.

He and technical director Toon Gerbrands have secured Philipp Max to fill a hole left by left-back Ricardo Rodriguez. Swiss international goalkeeper Yvon Mvogo arrived to give Lars Unnerstall competition for the number one shirt. As of time of writing, Schmidt still wants to add to his squad but if he can't - he will give youth a chance.



Schmidt will look to the 18-year-old Mohamed Ihattaren as his crown jewel and will hope the likes of Donyell Malen, Cody Gakpo and Mauro Junior can continue in the same vein.

Erik ten Hag sees another new season emerge at **AJAX** without another two key players at his disposal as Donny van de Beek and Hakim Ziyech has gone onto bigger things, like Matthijs de Ligt and Frenkie de Jong did for the season before.

It is a usual process for the Amsterdammers and director of football Marc Overmars moved swiftly to bring in Mohamed Kudus (FC Nordsjælland) and Antony (Sao Paulo) as reinforcements.

Surprisingly goalkeeper Andre Onana and left-back Nicolas Tagliafico are still in Amsterdam, despite the press overseas continually sticking their signatures on deals elsewhere.

The goals and assists from Quincy Promes and Dusan Tadic, will be the key for Ajax again and look for Ryan Gravenberch and Jurgen

Ekkelenkamp to explode into the spotlight.

The defence is solid, the creativity of the midfield knows no bounds, and goals can be scored from anywhere on the pitch. Ajax are destined once again for success.

Now we have a big four, one thing is for certain, the Eredivisie will be entertaining as any league in the world - but then again, that is has been the norm for a long, long time.

VERDICT

Although the competition has grown stronger, I select **AJAX** to have enough to surpass any challenges and lift the title. They are an incredibly short price at 1.67 at *WilliamHill* so you may wish to look at the each-way markets for the other contenders for value. PSV are listed at 3/1 (*SkyBet*) but last years' "runners-up" AZ Alkmaar are priced at 8/1 (*Hills*) and Feyenoord are further out at 10/1 at *Sky*.

WILL BURNS



HEAD COACH

ALEKSANDR RANKOVIC

The 41-year-old Rankovic (pictured) climbs into the hot seat that three separate managers that evacuated last year and the Serbian cannot do much worse. Well known in Den Haag as he is a former ADO midfielder that was famous for dishing out a death threat to referee Kevin Blom in 2007 - yes, a death threat. This is his first head coach job since hanging up his boots in 2011, although he was youth coach previously in Den Haag and assistant coach at Vitesse and Sparta under the tutelage of Henk Fraser.

STAR MAN

RICARDO KISHNA

The 25-year-old returned to ADO after his contract at Lazio expired and the major concern over Kishna will be whether or not his fitness issues are over. He has been plagued with injuries throughout his tenure in Italy but returns to Den Haag for the third time in his short career. There are no questions about his ability making 47 appearances at Ajax with seven goals and 13 assists that attracted the attention of Lazio to purchase him in 2015. But those days are gone, Ricardo is looking to rebuild his career in Den Haag this season.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Luuk Koopman
Robert Zwinkels
Youri Schoonderwaldt

DEFENDERS

Boy Kemper
Aaron Meijers
Shaquille Pinas
Milan van Ewijk
Andrei Ratiu
Peet Bijen
Jamal Amofa

MIDFIELDERS

Emilio Estevez
Samy Bourard
Sem Steijn
John Goossens
Danny Bakker
Kees de Boer
Maarten Rieder
Pascu
Dante Rigo

ATTACKERS

Bilal Ould-Chikh
Ricardo Kishna
Evan Rottier
Amar Catic
Erik Falkenburg
Jonas Arweiler
Michiel Kramer
Yahya Boussakou
Amine Essabri
Vicente Besuijen

CAN ADO AVOID THE RELEGATION SCRAP?

Last season was a disaster, so much so that ADO was probably thankful that the KNVB decided to null-and-void the campaign. When time was called on the season, ADO sat in 17th, three points clear from rock bottom RKC and looked far from the team that finished ninth the season prior.

After an horrific start to the season that saw 11 defeats in 16 games under Alfons Gronenendijk, Dirk Heesen led ADO to a draw and two losses in three games. Then in-steps former Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew who would fare little better with just one win in eight.

Now former midfielder Aleksandr Rankovic sits in the hot seat for his first head coach role and his immediate task will be to rebuild the team. Technical Director Martin Jol did not mess about this summer and has shipped out Tom Beugelsdijk, Dion Malone, Tomas Necid and club legend Lex Immers chose to end his contract - the side will very much have a new look.

Ricardo Kishna returns on an initial one-year deal, Peet Bijen arrives from Twente and Dante Rigo has been loan in from PSV along with a wealth of youngsters to shape Rankovic's new-look side.

Forwards Amar Catic and Vicente Besuijen join from PSV and AS Roma respectively while Pascu (Valencia) and full-back Andrei Ratiu (Villarreal) arrive from Spain.

In addition, Boy Kemper signed from Ajax to help bolster the ranks at the back while goalkeepers Luuk Koopman (PSV) and Mike Havekotte (FC Dordrecht) arrive to compete for the number one spot with Robert Zwinkles.

An inexperienced manager hired, an assembly of young talents signed on and veterans sent on their way, ADO and Jol are gambling with their Eredivisie place. There is a lot of pressure on all parties in Den Haag to flourish and they will be surprising many if they can make a success out of the coming season.

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
1ST

TOP SCORER
Quincy Promes (12)



HEAD COACH

ERIK TEN HAG

Entering his third season in Amsterdam, Ten Hag's style of play has now been thoroughly integrated now. Well-travelled before nailing down employment at Ajax, Ten Hag has experience at Go Ahead Eagles, Bayern II and Utrecht. While in Germany, he spent two years working alongside Pep Guardiola with Ajax now sharing similarities with the Spaniard's style, however Ten Hag does like his men to take more risks. Ten Hag after clinching the Eredivisie/KNVB Beker double in 2018-19, went on to be fourth in FIFA's Coach of the Year award.

STAR MAN

DUSAN TADIC

It was a surprise when Ajax were able to clinch the man with the fourth most chances created in the Premier League during the 2017-18 season and Tadic (pictured) has excelled since returning to Holland. Excelled being an understatement as in a total of 98 games, Tadic has clocked up 54 goals with 45 assists. He has been influential in Ajax's triumph's in the Champions League and in domestic competitions. At 31-years-of-age, he does not seem to be slowing down and over the next nine months, he'll be as influential as ever.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Maarten Stekelenberg
Andre Onana
Dominik Kotarski
Kjell Scherpen

DEFENDERS

Perr Schuurs
Edson Alvarez
Noussair Mazraoui
Lisandro Magallan
Daley Blind
Sergino Dest
Neraysho Kasanwirjo
Nicolas Tagliafico
Jurrien Timber

MIDFIELDERS

Carel Eiting
Zakaria Labyad
Mohammed Kudus
Lisandro Martinez
Alex Mendez
Jurgen Ekkelenkamp
Ryan Gravenberch
Naci Unuvar
Enric Llansana
Quentin Timber
Kenneth Taylor

ATTACKERS

David Neres
Klaas Jan Huntelaar
Dusan Tadic
Quincy Promes
Lassina Traore
Noa Lang
Antony
Sontje Hansen
Brian Brobbey

WILL BURNS

COMMON MOURNING OF LOSSES BUT TITLE CHALLENGE STILL ALIVE

Could they have won another title last year? Did AZ have their number? All questions that sadly will not be answered due to curtailed season but one that can - is how prepared are Ajax this campaign?

Although it added €80m in the coffers, losing Donny van de Beek and Hakim Ziyech is a huge blow to the Amsterdammers chances, however this is regular occurrence and as usual, Edwin van der Sar and Erik Ten Hag have delved into the transfer market and De Toekomst academy to find suitable replacements.

The squad is still strong after the departures and as of

time of writing, more players exits may occur until the deadline passes on October 6th. However, this is time for the likes of academy products Ryan Gravenberch and Jurgen Ekkelenkamp to shine.

The Ajax scouting machine spat out Nordsjælland's Mohammed Kudus and Brazilian wonderkid Antony from Sao Paulo and they arrived at Johan Cruyff Arena with little fanfare, but already in pre-season they are showing why Ajax have shelled out over €25 million for their services.

With the rumour mill running rampant over Cameroonian first-choice stopper Andre Onana and whether or not he could be flying out of Amsterdam, old head Maarten Stekelenberg has return after a career abroad.

In defence, Joel Veltman left for Brighton but there is sufficient supply of centre-backs to replace him. One concern is left-back Nicolas Tagliafico, another reported to be sold and a transfer may be needed to permanently replace him.

Ten Hag still has abundance of talents at his disposal that should overcome the losing creative players to the Premier League. The major concerns for him is how his team adapts to the change and how quickly they can get back to winning ways - both very achievable.



HEAD COACH

ARNE SLOT

Slot's credibility was massively raised last season taking Ajax to the limit in the halted 2019/20 campaign. After spells as a youth coach at PEC Zwolle, Slot then moved onto an assistant role at SC Cambuur in 2014/15. He joined John van den Brom in Alkmaar in 2017/18 before his career took a natural progression into the head coach's role at the start of last season. If he can manage to steer AZ into the same direction this season, the Alkmaar side will be lucky to keep Slot from the attraction of the bigger leagues.

STAR MAN

TEUN KOOPMEINERS

Centre-back, Centre-midfielder, Penalty Taker and Captain - Teun Koopmeiners can do it all. He is an integral part of the success that AZ have experienced over the last 12 months under Arne Slot. The 22-year-old thrived last season, making 42 appearances in all competitions, scoring 16 goals and notching three assists. He cannot be far from getting a full international cap in the near future, and if AZ can hold onto him for another 12-18 months, it will be a very surprising, he's destined for bigger things outside of Alkmaar.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Marco Bizot
Hobie Velhurst
Mees Bakker

DEFENDERS

Jonas Svensson
Pantelis Hatzidiakos
Ron Vlaar
Timo Letschert
Owen Wijndal
Yukinari Sugawara
Ramon Leeuw
Joris Kramer

MIDFIELDERS

Fredrik Midtsjo
Teun Koopmeiners
Dani de Wit
Hakon Evjen
Jordy Clasie
Kenzo Goudmijn
Mohamed Taabouni
Tijjani Reijnders
Thijs Oosting

ATTACKERS

Calvin Stengs
Myron Boadu
Oussama Idrissi
Ferry Druijff
Zakaria Aboukhlal
Albert Gudmundsson

OVER ACHIEVERS LAST YEAR OR STABLE TOP FOUR CLUB?

AZ Alkmaar were certainly a breath of fresh air in the Eredivisie. No longer did we see Ajax, PSV and Feyenoord trying to outscore each other every week. They were the new guys in town and now the challenge will be to maintain that spot amongst the big three.

Head coach Arne Slot is certainly well equipped to continue the success with an array of talents that has other clubs' scouts drooling.

A victory in itself is that they have been able to keep the young talents in Alkmaar over the summer. The main three, Teun Koopmeiners, Calvin Stengs and Myron

Boadu have all remained at the club even though many pundits thought big offers would have saw them head onto the bigger and better things.

There has been one departure but Slot has that covered. Left-back Thomas Ouwejan moved on-loan to Serie A side Udinese due to Owen Wijndal already becoming first choice in that position.

The defence has been reinforced by bringing Timo Letschert home from Hamburg. He signed a three-year-contract and this deal possibly shows AZ's intentions of not just being a one-season wonder.

Ambition is definitely there from AZ's technical director Max Huiberts who has declared that he wants to add another striker to Alkmaar's ranks to mount a serious title

challenge.

Firstly, AZ will concentrate on qualification for the Champions League with a tough away third qualifying round tie to Dynamo Kyiv in mid-September. A win there sees them face either Rapid Vienna or Gent for a place in the group stages and a monster pay-out awaits.

Last season, they were joint top on points with Ajax and looked the more likely to win the title before the KNVB made the decision to end the season. The disappointment cannot hold them back and if they can keep the core of their squad in place - they could push Ajax and company to the limit once again.

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
12TH

TOP SCORER
Michael de Leeuw (9)



HEAD COACH

DICK LUKKIEN

The 48-year-old Lukkien embarks on his fourth season in Emmen where he is held in high regard from the FC Emmen faithful. After helping Emmen onto their first ever promotion to the Eredivisie in 2018 and guiding them to a credible 14th in the division, one has to think Lukkien might end up with a statue outside De Oude Meerdijk. The people with the chequebook at Emmen are looking forward to two more years of Lukkien after he signed a new deal this past April after the season abruptly ended.

STAR MAN

SIMON TIBBLING

Former Groningen midfielder Tibbling returns to the Eredivisie under the pressure to succeed after FC Emmen forked out around €300,000 for the Swedish midfielder. He left Groningen in July 2017 for the bright lights of Brøndby but his time in Denmark but the Danish club was looking to trim the wage bill this summer so Tibbling was sold. The defensive midfielder is now aged 26 but will bring excessive legs, energy and vigour to Lukkien's team, he does drift onto either wing with great confidence and will look to deliver the goods this season.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Robin Jalving
Dennis Telgenkamp
Stefan van der Lei

DEFENDERS

Keziah Veendorp
Nick Bakker
Miguel Araujo
Ferhat Gorgulu
Aron Timmerman
Caner Cavlan
Glenn Bijl
Denis Granecny
Leon Sopic
Devasio Payne
Collin Seedorf

MIDFIELDERS

Simon Tibbling
Sergio Pena
Behadil Sabani
Bas Aalderink
Ben Scholte
Michael Chacon
Hilal Ben Moussa
Lucas Bernadou
Robbert de Vos

ATTACKERS

Anco Jansen
Michael de Leeuw
Marko Kolar
Shani Tarashaj
Nikolai Laursen
Lentini Caciano
Sekou Sidibe

STABILITY IS ENSURED, CAN IT BE MAINTAINED?

FC Emmen have performed brilliantly under head coach Dick Lukkien since his appointment in 2016, and after finishing in 12th last season they can now be held as a permanent Eredivisie club.

Many that have been promoted have fell back to the Eerste Divisie while Emmen seem to gradually getting better. After climbing through the promotion playoffs in 2018, Lukkien led his men to a respectable 14th place finish.

For a team that are by no means rolling in cash, a climb to 12th last year with little investment in the team was a

fantastic achievement.

This year Lukkien has saw some outlay in his team with Simon Tibbling arriving from Brøndby. The Swedish midfielder has Eredivisie experience for Groningen in 2016-18 and will lend great legs to the team and protection to the defence.

Goals were a problem last year and striker Marko Kolar will need to improve his scoring record. He only contributed four of his sides 32 goals, and if progression is to continue, an improvement in front of goal is a must for him, and the team.

Veteran forward Michael de Leeuw notched 9 times last year but potentially some more goals and creativity has been added as 19-year-old right winger Sekou Sidibe comes in from PSV. Sidibe starred for Jong PSV last

year and notched six goals in 24 games.

An exciting youngster in Lucas Bernadou arrives from Paris-Saint Germain's B team. He is a midfielder without any senior experience but impressive showings in the UEFA Youth League caught Emmen's eye.

Lukkien has a great chance to extend his popularity in Emmen with an improved squad. Some good additions to virtually the same squad as last year should see an improvement in league position.

Although last term, they found draws at PSV and Feyenoord, their success looks likely to be built on defeating weaker sides in the division and receive the odd thumping off the top four sides.

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
3RD

TOP SCORER
Steven Berghuis (15)



HEAD COACH

DICK ADVOCAAT

In his eighteenth spell as a club's head coach, Advocaat has steered the ship at Feyenoord after a tumultuous period before his arrival. At 72-years-old, the Rotterdammers know that he is not a long-term head coach but will look to Advocaat as the best man to try and bring Champions League qualification back this year. However, as long as Advocaat gives in to his addiction of football, he may be at De Kuip for longer than many think - unless the KNVB knock on his door with the offer of a possible fourth run as manager of the national side.

STAR MAN

LUIS SINISTERRA

Colombian international winger Sinisterra experienced a breakout year in Rotterdam last year. The shortened 2019-20 season was on his to being an ever-present at De Kuip until he was sidelined by a knee injury prior to the season ending. He managed to notch seven goals and eight assists in his 32 outings across all competitions. His contract is set to expire in 2021 so unless Feyenoord can tie him down the Rotterdammers will be forced to cash in if his progression continues at a quick rate.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Justin Bijlow
Nick Marsman
Ramon ten Hove

DEFENDERS

Bart Nieuwkoop
Sven van Beek
Marcos Senesi
Ridgeciano Haps
George Johnston
Tyrell Malacia
Lutsharel Geertruida
Eric Botteghin
Ramon Hendriks
Ian Smeulers

MIDFIELDERS

Mark Diemers
Leroy Fer
Jens Toornstra
Wouter Burger
Jordy Wehrmann
Orkun Kokcu
João Carlos Teixeira

ATTACKERS

Nicolai Jorgensen
Steven Berghuis
Bryan Linssen
Luis Sinisterra
Christian Conteh
Robert Bozenik
Luciano Narsingh
João Carlos Teixeira
Christian Conteh
Marouan Azarkan

CAN ADVOCAAT AND GO PICK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF?

When Feyenoord hired Dick Advocaat in late October, it's fair to say it wasn't an appointment that thrilled the fans. However, by the premature end of the season, he had made them the Eredivisie's in-form side, losing just one of his 22 games in charge.

This convinced the Rotterdam club to give him a one-year extension in April, and he immediately began preparing his side for the 20/21 season, one which will surely be his last as a manager. While his sporting director, Frank Arnesen, hasn't made any spectacular signings, he'll still be happy with the window given the turbulent time it's taken place in.

Scoring over 10 in each of his last four seasons, Bryan Linssen is a proven goalscorer, while Mark Diemers was hugely impressive at Fortuna Sittard and will be an excellent backup option at the very least. With the further addition of young talent Christian Conteh, it can be deemed a successful summer at De Kuip.

An even bigger reason for them to be happy with it is the fact that they've managed to keep the squad that was oh so impressive under Advocaat last season together.

There were fears that the likes of Steven Berghuis, Eric Botteghin, Marcos Senesi and Orkun Kokcu would all be lost to bigger clubs but, at the time of writing, that hasn't been the case. What's more, youngsters like Justin Bijlow, Robert Bozenik and Wouter Burger

have impressed in pre-season.

With their best squad in a while and an experienced manager who knows how to get the best out of them, Feyenoord will be aiming to challenge for the title. While the lack of fans may make De Kuip less of a fortress than usual, all signs suggest that they'll be able to do so.

Ultimately, bringing down the juggernaut that is arch-rivals Ajax may prove too big a task but qualifying for the Champions League and winning a cup is a definite possibility. If they can do so, Advocaat will be able to walk away from the game with his head held high. Or perhaps he'll decide to stay another year.

After all, the last time he retired, it lasted a grand total of three weeks...

FIN CREBOLDER

Twitter: @ClockworkOranje
ClockworkOranje.com

FORTUNA SITTARD

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE

16TH

TOP SCORER

Mark Diemers (7)



HEAD COACH

KEVIN HOFLAND

Former international defender Hofland returned to where it all began for him this summer, to take on his first managerial role. He originally signed on as a youth in 1989 at the club until in 2000 when he was recruited by PSV. The 41-year-old Hofland replaces Sjors Ultee as head coach, with Ultee moving upstairs into a double role of Technical Director and one of Hofland's assistant. How that will work, who knows... but this is a very unique move by the Fortuna board.

STAR MAN

SEBASTIEN POLTER

The 29-year-old striker (pictured left) joined Fortuna this past summer under a bit of cloud after leaving German side Union Berlin. He allegedly clashed with Union officials and was withdrawn from their squad for the rest of the campaign. Formerly of QPR, Polter only played twice last year, scoring two in 13 league outings, but his nine goals in 20 games the season prior helped Union gain promotion to the Bundesliga. Fortuna will be hoping he hits the ground running and help them steer away from the relegation troubles.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Yanick van Osch
Joshua Wehking
Tom Hendriks
Alexei Koselev

DEFENDERS

Martin Angha
Branislav Ninaj
Roel Janssen
Clint Essers
Mike van Beijnen
Patrik Raitanen
George Cox
Lazaros Rota
Cas Verhoeven

MIDFIELDERS

Jorrit Smeets
Mats Seuntjens
Emil Hansson
Tesfaldet Tekie
Nassim El Ablak
Dimitrios Ioannidis
Tibebau Swinnen
Bo Breukers
Yasin Sarikaya
Ben Rienstra

ATTACKERS

Sebastien Polter
Zian Flemming
Veron Parkes
Djibril Dianessy
Andre Vidigal
Bassala Sambou
Jacky Donkor
Lisandro Semedo

ALL CHANGE AT SITTARD, WILL BE FORTUNA-TE TO AVOID DANGER

With 13 new players and a new inexperienced coach Fortuna Sittard, last year's 16th best team in the Eredivisie, may struggle to avoid the relegation battle this year.

Out of the thirteen players the club attracted over the summer, on paper Fortuna look stronger. Losing Wessel Dammers and Mark Diemers was a blow but with old acquaintances such as Ben Rienstra, Mats Seuntjens and Emil Hansson arriving, new coach Kevin Hofland's has the resources to battle the drop. However, an inexperienced manager at the helm bares a lot of questions itself.

Hopes are pinned on German forward Sebastian Polter, once of Queens Park Rangers (11 goals in 56 games), to lead the line but 22-year-old Zian Flemming has arrived to lend a hand from PEC Zwolle.

The aforementioned trio of Rienstra, Seuntjens and Hansson all return to the Eredivisie after spells abroad. Midfielder Rienstra and Seuntjens fly in from Turkey as last season they competed in the Super Lig with Kayserispor and Genclerbirligi respectively.

Swedish left-winger Emil Hansson, a former Eredivisie and KNVB Beker winner with Feyenoord, arrives from Bundesliga 2. Side Hannover 96, even though he spent the start of the year on-loan at RKC Waalwijk.

Time will tell whether or not the recruitment drive in Sittard will deemed a success over the next nine months, but the financial aspects are a worry for many clubs in the Eredivisie.

With the restrictions on fans allowed in the stadiums, the obvious drop in revenue could hit teams like Fortuna hard.

Hofland's first managerial role in football will be a tough one in Sittard a club he holds very dearly in his heart. The pressure for him could be on very hard to succeed not only for his love of the club, but for the future of his beloved Fortuna Sittard.

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
9TH

TOP SCORER
Kaj Sierhuis (6)



HEAD COACH

DANNY BUIJS

Despite being a shock candidate for the vacant Birmingham City job, Buijs remains in Groningen for his third season. After great success on the field, Buijs entered management at Dutch amateur side Kozakken Boys in July 2016, the side who he ended his playing career at. He led Kozakken to 39 wins in 72 games before coaching Groningen where he spent two years in the mid-00's. Buijs has managed to capture two top-ten finishes in consecutive seasons (8th and 9th), but should be aiming to go one better this year.

STAR MAN

ARJEN ROBBEN

At the age of 36, Robben (pictured) signed a one-year-deal with his boyhood club to potentially end his career in the Eredivisie, 18 years after he left the club for PSV in 2002. Yes, he will be slower, his feet will not be as slick but he can prove to be a real asset for Groningen this coming year. His experienced head will help the young colleagues around him and he will certainly be amongst the goals. Robben will be out to not only help his old side but to show the world that there is plenty left in the tank.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Sergio Padt
Nigel Bertrams
Jan de Boer

DEFENDERS

Damil Dankerlui
Bart van Hintum
Wessel Dammers
Ko Itakura
Nicklas Strunck Jakobsen
Amir Absalem
Gorken Can
Thomas Poll

MIDFIELDERS

Azor Matusiwa
Ramon Pascal Lundqvist
Sam Schreck
Ahmed El Messaoudi
Ajdin Hrustic
Daniel van Kamm
Tom van de Looi
Tomas Suslov

ATTACKERS

Arjen Robben
Mo El Hankouri
Patrick Joosten
Gabriel Gudmundsson
Thijs Dallinga
Romano Postema
Kian Slor
Jorgen Strand Larsen

WILL ROBBEN'S RETURN BE MORE THAN A FAIRYTALE?

Perhaps for the first time ever, heading into a new Eredivisie season, FC Groningen are the most talked-about club, and it's all because of one man.

Arjen Robben's return has already hugely benefitted the club, with sales of shirts and season tickets skyrocketing immediately. In a time of corona, the financial benefits of this are invaluable. However, he may be able to make an even bigger impact on the pitch.

Granted, he's been out for a year, but when he retired, he was still one of Bayern Munich's and the Bundesliga's best players. If he can get anywhere near that level again, the Eredivisie will be his playground. We're talking

double figures in terms of goals.

With a fully fit and firing Robben at their disposal every week, the club will have a genuine chance of challenging for their first top-four league finish since 1991. Given that he scored a signature goal in pre-season, they'll be optimistic he can deliver.

However, the 36-year old can't do it on his own. With this in mind, Groningen are also trying to bring another former player to the club in the form of Richairo Zivkovic. He's had a difficult time since leaving but, at the age of 24, there's still plenty of time for him to re-find the talent that convinced Ajax to sign him from the club in the first place.

If Zivkovic and Robben don't do the trick, it's hard to see anything other than yet another mid-table finish for Danny Buijs' side. While there are some exciting young talents like

Romano Postema, the squad doesn't have enough quality to challenge the bigger clubs without some magic from their number 10 in particular.

So, after a year away from the sport, Robben comes back and immediately has the hopes of his boyhood club resting on his shoulders. If he can perform, he'll ensure his incredible career has the perfect ending. If not, many will just remember his swansong as a publicity stunt. No pressure, Arjen.

FIN CREBOLDER

Twitter: @ClockworkOranje
ClockworkOranje.com



THE HEERENVEEN TALENT MACHINE CHURNS ON

Notorious for their tremendous scouting and academy at Heerenveen, the big news of the summer in the Friesland was the sale of Nigerian winger Chidera Ejuke to CSKA Moscow. Once again, the club profits from a sale but they have a fantastic prospect in Arjen van der Heide ready to take his place.

That's what happens every year at the Abe Lenstra Stadion, Ejuke is just another talent in a long list of names who move elsewhere and Heerenveen find a replacement either from Scandinavia or their academy products.

Although all good teams need a mix of youth and experience and two former favourites in the Friesland returned. Goalkeeper Erwin Mulder re-joined from Swansea City to replace the outgoing Warner Hahn and target man Henk Veerman signed on from German side St. Pauli.

Head coach Johnny Jansen will be looking to improve on last season's tenth finish but his defence still looks like a problem.

Despite the season being curtailed after 26 games, Jansen saw his side leak 41 goals. Luckily, they managed to score 41 at the other end to make 10th place.

Things haven't improved vastly under Jansen's leadership but he will get time being a hometown hero. The 11th place captured by Jan Olde Riekerink prior to Jansen's

appointment saw him leave the club before the end of 2018-19 season.

Jansen and the Heerenveen faithful will be hoping that the defence can be shored up by the arrival of Joaquin Fernandez from Uruguayan side River Plate.

At only 21, Fernandez flies in the Friesland knowing of the club's history of being a stepping stone to success stories across the globe. If he can help stop the goals leaking at the wrong end, he could be yet another to write about.

Jansen works hard at his job and he expects the same from his players, even if they are just at his disposal for a short period of time in the club's history.

WILL BURNS

HEAD COACH

JOHNNY JANSEN

Jansen is the epitome of a hard-working man that has worked his way up the ladder. Born and bred in Heerenveen, Johnny starred as a midfielder until retirement in 2000 when he began training as a youth coach at the club he supported as a boy. Fourteen years in the academy prepared Jansen for the assistant role in 2014 under Dwight Lodeweges and he held that position for five years. His dream of managing his boyhood club came true in May 2019 as he was announced the Heerenveen head coach.

STAR MAN

MITCHELL VAN BERGEN

After his development at Vitesse stalled, Heerenveen took a chance on the winger, tying him down to a four-year-deal in August 2018 and has now become the first name on Jansen's teamsheet. Van Bergen usually stars in the right-wing but on either side of attack and is comfortable to both cut inside or stay on the outside. His eagerness to make runs into space is a real threat and now Chidera Ejuke left for big money in Russia, he may see more time on the left with Arjen van der Heide taking the right-wing slot.

100 JIER SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Erwin Mulder
Jaimy Kroesen
Jan Bekkema

DEFENDERS

Sherel Floranus
Joaquin Fernandez
Lucas Woudenberg
Ibrahim Dresevic
Stefan Westra
Timo Zaal
Chris van der Zee
Guus Offerhaus

MIDFIELDERS

Hicham Faik
Sieben Dewaele
Rami Hajal
Hamdi Akujobi
Joey Veerman
Rodney Kongolo
Jan Ras
Orri Hrafn Kjartansson
Djenahro Nunumete
Nordin Tahboun
Yoram Boerhout

ATTACKERS

Mitchell van Bergen
Henk Veerman
Arjen van der Heide
Rein Smit
Runar Espejord
Couhaib Driouech

HERACLES ALMELO

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
8TH

TOP SCORER
Cyriel Dessers (15)



LACK OF GOALS MAY HAMPER HERACLES' PROGRESS

Heracles head coach Frank Wormuth has a big task on his hands this season after the club cashed in on top scorer Cyriel Dessers. Scorer of 15 goals before the season was curtailed, Dessers joined Genk and who can Wormuth find to replace those missing goals?

To make matters worse, the highly impressive Brazilian playmaker Mauro Junior has returned to parent club PSV after he notched seven times. Heracles, only scoring 40 goals last campaign with Dessers and Mauro Junior in tow, means an attempt to match last year's 8th place may be a struggle.

However, Wormuth has brought in attacking midfielder Rai Vloet from Excelsior to try bolster options but up front, the recruitment has been sparse and the pressure will be on new Turkish striker Sinan Bakis who arrived from Admira Wacker. Bakis did well last term in the Austrian Bundesliga with 12 goals in 25 outings but Wormuth has recently stated "Sinan is not yet at the level necessary".

One man that can create chances is Delano Burgzorg. The 21-year-old played five times last season while on-loan from Italian outfit Spezia and convinced Wormuth to bring the winger back on a permanent basis. If the lack of goals is a problem then stopping them at the other end could save their season as Heracles's defence looks solid.

With the experienced heads of Tim Breukers, Jeff Hardeveld and captain Robin Propper leading the way for new signings Marco Rente and Giacomo Quagliata the defence seems to be good hands.

In addition, the calm and composed young central defender Mats Knoester is a name that will be written on scouting reports across Europe in the coming months.

It's a simple equation in football of scoring more than you can concede to be successful and if Heracles and Wormuth can do that they could go better than eighth place this year. That's certainly the aim.

WILL BURNS

HEAD COACH

FRANK WORMUTH

The 59-year-old German replaced John Stegeman in July 2018 after a great career in Germany at lower league clubs and the Under-20 national side. After steering Heracles to 7th and 8th since joining, Wormuth looks to take the club that next step and qualify for Europe for only the second time in its history. Before arriving in Holland, Wormuth was the head of coaching courses at the German FA ending a ten-year career where he saw managers like Hansi Flick, Julian Nagelsmann and Domenico Tedesco as former students.

STAR MAN

DELANO BURGZORG

Burgzorg began his career in Doetichinchem at De Graafschap before earning a move to Italy with Spezia Calcio. The winger did not experience enough football in Italy so return to Holland with Heracles last January initially on loan. The 21-year-old Burgzorg impressed on loan last year so Heracles made the move a permanent one this past summer. With Mauro junior now left the club, Wormuth will look to Burgzorg as his team's main source of creativity.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Janis Blaswich
Michael Brouwer
Koen Bucker

DEFENDERS

Tim Breukers
Robin Propper
Marco Rente
Mats Knoester
Navajo Bakboord
Giacomo Quagliata
Noah Fadiga
Elias Oubella
Jeff Hardeveld

MIDFIELDERS

Giacomo Quagliata
Orestis Kiomourtzoglou
Teun Bijleveld
Rai Vloet
Luca de la Torre
Lucas Schoofs
Huseyin Bulut
Rohat Agca

ATTACKERS

Jeremy Cijntje
Sinan Bakis
Silvester van der Water
Adrian Szoke
Mohamed Amissi
Delano Burgzorg



ZWOLLE LOOK INCOMPLETE FOR THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

When John Stegemen left Go Ahead Eagles for adversaries PEC Zwolle last July, hopes were high that the 44-year-old could lead the club into the European football like he had with Heracles in years' past.

Unfortunately for the *Blauwingers*, as of yet, that has not worked out with Zwolle losing 14 of their 26 fixtures last year to land 15th in the table and ten points off the pace.

Of course, only a (cut-short) season into the project, Stegeman's plan may still be bedding into the club, however the recruitment over the summer seems to

suggest that PEC Zwolle might be experiencing more of the same this time round.

The defence is a major worry as no new blood as his been brought in to a team that conceded 55 goals in 26 games last year, the second worse record only bettered by rock-bottom RKC Waalwijk.

With the transfer window not slamming shut until 6th October there is of course plenty time for new recruits, but with their opening game at home to Feyenoord (joint-third best scorers last year) and then away to AZ (second best), Stegeman's men could be trouble before the window closes.

There has been a small number of recruits from other areas on the pitch with 25-year-old German goalie Michael Zetterer arriving on a years' loan from Werder Bremen.

To help protect the weak defence, holding midfielder Rico Strieder arrived permanently from FC Utrecht as old favourite Jesper Drost returned from Heracles to help build the attacking play.

Hopes are high for 20-year-old loanee Slobodan Tedic from Manchester City up front but Iran international Reza Ghoochannejhad and Mike van Duinen form a formidable partnership that might be able to fire Zwolle out of trouble.

Although they lost a lot of width when Vito van Crooij left for VVV, you might see Zwolle play a much narrower game than before.

Either way, Stegeman's squad looks more average than last year and they could be in for a real battle for survival over the next nine months.

HEAD COACH

JOHN STEGEMAN

Stegeman enters his second season in Zwolle looking to improve on last years' 15th finish. Prior to Zwolle, Stegeman ended up a legend at Heracles leading them to their best ever Eredivisie finish and a first taste of European football. After his time at Heracles came to an end, deeming he could take the club no further, he joined Go Ahead Eagles in 2018 in the Eerste Divisie. He left the Eagles on a sour note after narrowly missing out on promotion, he jumped to bitter rivals PEC in July 2019.

STAR MAN

REZA GHOONCHANNEJHAD

Raised in Holland from a young age, Iranian international striker Ghoochannejhad emerged from the youth ranks at Heerenveen before moving onto to experience football in Cambuur, Standard Liege, Charlton Athletic to name a few. He returned to Heerenveen in 2016 and scored 27 in 67 games. Last year, he notched seven goals in just 13 games and PEC will hoping for a similar return this coming season. Reza has been on fire in pre-season four goals in his last three warm-up games - all against Eredivisie opposition.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Xavier Mous
Michael Zetterer
Mike Hauptmeijer

DEFENDERS

Bram van Polen
Thomas Lam
Yuta Nakayama
Kenneth Paal
Sam Kersten
Rav van den Berg
Sai van Wermeskerken
Anthony Dekono
Michael Maria
Marc-Olivier Doue
Destan Bajselmani

MIDFIELDERS

Mustafa Saymak
Clint Leemans
Jesper Drost
Rico Strieder
Pelle Clement
Dean Huiberts
Samir Lagsir
Quinten van den Heerik
Eliano Reijnders
Thomas van den Belt

ATTACKERS

Reza Ghoochannejhad
Mike van Duinen
Jarno Westerman
Slobodan Tedic

WILL BURNS



TACTICAN SCHMIDT CAN TURN PSV'S FORTUNES AROUND

PSV hired Roger Schmidt as the new head coach this past summer and under the reign of the German, the *Boeren* might see him implement a new style of play. Schmidt likes to stick to his philosophy could look to install a program of high-tempo attacking football. While coaching at Salzburg, Leverkusen and Beijing Guoan, he used a 4-4-2 or 4-3-1-2 formation which may not suit PSV with the lack of centre-forwards on the books.

Schmidt regularly looks for his side to focus their attack in the central areas so we may see wingers like Bruma and Cody Gakpo into roles further inside.

Schmidt always looks for the quickest and most effective way into the opposition's box using short passing and creating triangles to retain the ball high up the pitch.

Whether or not Schmidt is a good fit in his new role is unknown but he might be able to revitalise PSV into the high pressing and attacking threat of years past.

His number one task will be to bring Champions League football back to the Philips Stadion as soon as possible. The club are financially burdened by the lack of the big European nights that could see the club fall down the table without some investment, and could be forced to part with some of their younger talents before they are ready to.

As Ricardo Rodriguez heads back to Milan, Schmidt has used the resources he has to

bring in attacking-minded left-back Philipp Max (*pictured above*) from FC Augsburg to replace the Switzerland international. Max is one who could make a huge impact.

Giving Denzel Dumfries the captains armband is a valiant attempt to keep him happy for at least another year. Schmidt has managed to keep virtually the same side as last year and added Swiss stopper Yvon Mvogo. Mauro Junior has returned after a successful year at Heracles and Joel Piroe should see more playing time after impressing last year.

Schmidt has the talent at his disposal to mount a title challenge and qualify for the most wanted Champions League place.

WILL BURNS

HEAD COACH

ROGER SCHMIDT

After experimenting with Marc van Bommel, PSV hired attack-minded coach Schmidt this summer to try and revitalise the team and steer them back towards the title and the Champions League. Entering his sixteenth season in club management, Schmidt left Chinese Premier League club Beijing Guoan after leading the side to the Chinese FA Cup in 2018. Schmidt has been known to go between a 4-3-1-2 and 4-4-2 formation, the latter has been rarely used at PSV over the years but Schmidt has been fielding a 4-4-2 formation in pre-season.

STAR MAN

MOHAMMED IHATTAREN

The newly-capped Dutch international midfielder Mo Ihattaren has potential to be the best player in the league this year and Holland's next great playmaker. Last term he was in great form with a return of seven goals and nine assists in his 33 outings. This performance allegedly caught the attention of teams in the Premier League. Under new coach Schmidt, Ihattaren will play as a central attacking midfielder stepping up to forward depending on the opposition and what the German needs from him.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Yvon Mvogo
Lars Unnerstall
Maxime Delanghe

DEFENDERS

Armando Obispo
Nick Viergever
Timo Baumgartl
Philipp Max
Denzel Dumfries
Oliver Boscagli
Jordan Teze
Dennis Vos
Justin de Haas
Luis Felipe
Christopher Gloster

MIDFIELDERS

Jorrit Hendrix
Pablo Rosario
Erick Gutierrez
Mohamed Ihattaren
Michal Sadilek
Ryan Thomas
Mauro Junior
Emmanuel Matuta
Richard Ledezma

ATTACKERS

Bruma
Donyell Malen
Sam Lammers
Cody Gakpo
Maximiliano Romero
Noni Madueke
Joel Piroe



HEAD COACH

FRED GRIM

Former long-time Cambuur and Ajax goalkeeper Grim signed on at RKC in July 2018 and his first season did not go to plan: rooted at the bottom of the division, by the time the global pandemic called halt to the season. Despite the disappointing start in Waalwijk, Grim has coached in the Eerste Divisie with Almere City which led to KNVB recruiting him for the Jong Oranje job. Grim was even named interim manager of the Oranje in 2017 after Danny Blind was let go. However, his toughest task to date may be the job he currently holds.

STAR MAN

VURNON ANITA

No disrespect to Vurnon, but I am clutching at straws trying to find a star man for RKC. Anita is a former Ajax star that has three KNVB Beker medals along with Eredivisie championships in his locker. He brings a wealth of experience from the Dutch league, Premier League (Newcastle United), the English Championship (Leeds United) and more recently the Bulgarian A Liga with CSKA Sofia. Small defensive midfielder, at home at left-back too, he has a good engine and will not stop running for the team. Now 31-years-old.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Etienne Vaessen
Mike Grim
Konstantinos Lamprou

DEFENDERS

Jurien Gaari
Melle Meulenstein
Ahmed Touba
Paul Quasten
Lars Nieuwpoort
Nigel Langras
Teun van Grunsven
Luuk Wouters
Thierry Lutonda

MIDFIELDERS

Vurnon Anita
Anas Tahiri
Richard van der Venne
Hans Mulder
Nando Nostlinger
Sebbe Augustijns
Ayman Azhil
Said Bakari
Nicolas Olsak

ATTACKERS

Mario Bilate
Cyril Ngonge
Morad El Haddouti
Jari Koenraat
Sylla Sow
Lennerd Daneels
David Min
James Efmorfidis

WHILE RKC LOOK DOOMED, CAN FRED STOP THINGS BECOMING TOO GRIM?

A global pandemic may have saved RKC from Eerste Divisie football this year. Rock-bottom in 18th before time was called on the season, Waalwijk conceded the most goals (60) and scored the second least (27) a feat only beaten by ADO Den Haag's poor showing in front of goal with 25.

To make matters worse for head coach Fred Grim he saw many stars of team last term go on to other teams

or return to their parent club with very little coming in to aid his campaign this year.

A total of seven first-teamers re-joined their parent club as Hannes Delcroix (Anderlecht), Emil Hansson (Hannover 96), Stefan Velkov (FC Den Bosch), Tijjani Reijnders (AZ) Dylan Vente (Feyenoord), Clint Leemans and Stanley Elbers (both PEC Zwolle).

To add to their issues, Sylla Sow (joint-top scorer with Leemans with a paltry grand total of 4 goals) wanted to leave and refuse to train with the club, although this issue is now resolved.

With many of the squad left aging, Vurnon Anita arrives on a free to give Grim's team some legs. The diminutive midfielder, formerly at Ajax and Newcastle United, is 31-years-old now and should have a few more years left in

the tank.

The same cannot be said for midfielder Hans Mulder (33) and defender Paul Quasten (35) who last year showed signs of slowing down rapidly.

Other arrivals include Belgian winger Cyril Ngonge from Club Brugge, Almere City winger James Efmorfidis, Isreali midfielder Nicolas Olsak from Maccabi Netanya and former Feyenoord keeper Konstantinos Lamprou arrived from Vitesse Arnhem and is a strong contender to become Grim's first-choice keeper.

The RKC board have put faith in Fred Grim by handing him an extension to his contract before the big kick-off, the fans at the Mandemakers Stadion will have fingers crossed Grim can repay that faith by giving them survival.

WILL BURNS

SPARTA ROTTERDAM

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
11TH

TOP SCORER
Mohamed Rayhi (7)



SPARTA BRING IN ADO LEGEND TO SHORE UP DEFENCE BUT MAY STRUGGLE IN ATTACK

One of the most surprising moves this summer saw ADO icon Tom Beugelsdijk (pictured above) switch Den Haag for Rotterdam to join Henk Fraser's Sparta.

With over 200 Eredivisie games under his belt, head coach Fraser knows he has installed a wealth of defensive experience and tremendous leadership on the pitch that can rub off into the future of Sparta's defence. He will be partnered by another new boy Michel Heylen

who arrives from FC Emmen and mainstay Bart Vriends.

There is a change in between the sticks as the departing Ariel Harush (free agent) is replaced by Benjamin van Leer, who sat on Ajax's sidelines for three years, is set to start on Sunday against his former employer.

However, the main headache for Fraser may be in front of goal. Sparta scored a respectable 41 last season but a blow was dealt at the start of September as new signing Reda Kharchouch, 20 goals in 28 games in the Eerste Divisie last season, was brought in to improve the attack but went under knee surgery and will be out of action for at least two months.

Lennart Thy, scorer of six goals in 24 last year for PEC Zwolle, joined on a free but the

signing of Danzell Gravenberch from Dordrecht is uninspiring. Sparta are his fourth club within a year and he only notched twice in 18 games last season in the Eerste Divisie at Dordrecht.

One shining light going forward is the talents of Abdou Harroui. In 2019-20, the 22-year-old turned out in every game for Sparta and managed to notch four and create nine assists, so if he can recreate the joys of last season, the new strikers may have ample opportunities to rack up a decent number of goals.

Fraser has already done the job of steering Sparta well away from relegation trouble last season. An improvement on 11th would be welcoming but survival should be before progression in the list of priorities.

HEAD COACH

HENK FRASER

Fraser will be on the touchline for his second season at the helm of Sparta. Previously managed Vitesse to a KNVB Beker victory in 2017, Fraser is a well-respected coach with a decent record in Rotterdam. In 71 games, he has saw victory in 32 of those games and led Sparta to an 11th placed finish last year, in a season which many pundits saw the Rotterdam club as fodder for the majority of the league. His success saw Fraser sign an extension to his contract until the summer of 2022 last month.

STAR MAN

ABDOU HARROUI

Already a fan favourite in Rotterdam, the 22-year-old Harroui has never looked back since joining Sparta from amateur side Alphense in July 2014 as a 14-year-old. After helping his side clinch promotion back into the Eredivisie in 2018-19, he excelled in the top flight last year. Starring in all 26 games for the oldest club in Holland, he racked up nine assists with four goals to help Sparta reach 11th. This season he will be the first name on the team sheet for Henk Fraser as long as he can ward off any potential suitors for the creative midfielder.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Benjamin van Leer
Tim Coremans
Michael Fabrie
Maduka Okoye

DEFENDERS

Bart Vriends
Tom Beugelsdijk
Tariq Dilrosun
Lorenzo Fonseca
Lassane Faye
Michael Heylan
Mica Pinto
Jeffrey Fortes
Bradley Martis
Dirk Abels
Augustin Drakpe

MIDFIELDERS

Bryan Smeets
Abdou Harroui
Sven Mijns
Laros Duarte
Adil Auassar
Deroy Duarte
Jason Meerstadt

ATTACKERS

Danzell Gravenberch
Mohamed Rayhi
Lennart Thy
Reda Kharchouch
Emanuel Emegha

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
14TH

TOP SCORER
Haris Vuckic (11)



TWENTE'S REBUILD IN ENSCHEDE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Ron Jans' leads a FC Twente side that is still undergoing a metamorphosis it seems as they try to secure their Eredivisie status once again this year.

Last season, Twente achieved 14th place but the board did not seem too chuffed at the achievement as Spanish head coach Gonzalo Recoba was did not see his contract renewed.

In comes the charismatic Jans in a hectic summer that saw 13 players leave with 11 new arrivals. Not only did the playing staff and head coach change, the backroom staff and a new technical director has been appointed

Twente seem to rebuilding for progression every year but the lack of stability is a worrying sign that everything is not going to plan. At the end of June, when training resumed, only nine outfield players were under contract - so the plan doesn't seem too planned .

However, some of the new faces are exciting, highly-rated central defender Kik Pierie continues his progression on loan from Ajax. He will be partnered in the heart of the defence with the experienced Dario Dumic, now in his fifth Eredivisie season.

Brazilian forward Danilo also comes in from Ajax on a lean deal. The 21-year-old born in Sao Paulo, scored six goals in 11 outings last year in all competitions and an extended run in Jans' side could be on the cards to add to his

career statistics.

Impressing in the Eerste Divisie since his debut in 2017, 22-year-old attacking left-back Gijs Smal joins from FC Volendam. He will be an improvement on that left side of defence than Spanish loanee Matos, who returns to parent club Cadiz CF. It is up to Jans to steer the ship into the right path this season and try and encourage some stability at the club. Eredivisie status is secure but the rebuilding process needs some direction.

Otherwise another season will go by with multiple players leaving and many more coming in to disrupt the reconstruction of a successful unit, and before he knows it - it could be Jans looking for employment elsewhere.

WILL BURNS

HEAD COACH

RON JANS

Jans joined Twente this summer as the club continues its rebuild from financial difficulties. Jans, most famous for leading PEC Zwolle to the 5-1 KNVB Beker final victory against Ajax in 2014, left his last role in the MLS under great controversy. Jans was deemed to use a racial slur while coaching FC Cincinnati, an allegation that led to his resignation this past February. However, Jans will look to build his CV by helping Twente to the top half of the table again, a task he already has achieved at Zwolle, Heerenveen and Groningen.

STAR MAN

DANILO

After only managing three outings for the first-team, including a goal against Getafe on his first start (Europa League - February 2020) Brazilian Danilo Pereira da Silva joined Twente on a season-long loan from Ajax this past summer. He started his career in his homeland with Portuguesa, before moving onto many clubs across Brazil, eventually landing at Santos. Ajax forked out €2m to bring him over to Amsterdam on a five-year contract in August 2017. He scored 24 goals in 42 games Eerste Divisie in the last two years for Jong Ajax.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Joel Drommel
Jeffrey de Lange
Ennio van der Gouw

DEFENDERS

Xandro Schenk
Tyronne Ebuehi
Julio Pleguezuelo
Gijs Smal
Kik Pierie
Dario Dumic
Jayden Oosterwolde
Nathangelo Markelo
Nathan Markelo
Caspian Dennen

MIDFIELDERS

Wout Brama
Giorgi Aburjania
Lindon Selahi
Ramiz Zerrouki
Godfried Roemeratoo
Jesse Bosch
Thijs van Leeuwen
Daan Rots
Casper Staring

ATTACKERS

Danilo
Vaclav Cerny
Lazaros Lamprou
Queensy Menig
Alexander Jeremejeff
Simon Seppenwoolde

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
6TH

TOP SCORER
Gyrano Kerk (10)



1970 50 JAAR 2020 SQUAD



HEAD COACH

JOHN VAN DEN BROM

Entering his second season in Utrecht, Van den Brom failed to breach the top four last year but led his side to the finals of the KNVB Beker, which unfortunately failed to conclude this past May. Van den Brom has the credentials to take Utrecht forward after spells in the hot seat at ADO, Vitesse, AZ and Anderlecht. Even leading the Belgian giants to the league title in 2012-13. With his "defence-first" mentality in a 4-3-3 formation, Van den Brom is not one to take risks unless his hand is forced and usually to great results.

STAR MAN

ELJERO ELIA

Now 33, Elia is now back in the Eredivisie after a storied career back and forth in his homeland, Germany, Italy, England and Turkey. The former Juve man will surely see his career out now back in Holland signing a two-year-deal in Utrecht in the summer. Now in the twilight years of his career, one would think Eljero would have slowed down but he made 30 appearances for Istanbul Basaksehir, the champions of the Turkish Super Lig. Van den Brom will possibly use Elia in a counter-attack and he still possesses great pace to make an impact.

GOALKEEPERS

Maarten Paas
Thijmen Nijhuis
Fabian de Keijzer
Joey Houweling

DEFENDERS

Mark van der Maarel
Justin Hoogma
Leon Guwara
Emil Bergstrom
Willem Janssen
Sean Klaiber
Giovanni Troupee
Django Warmerdam
Tommy St. Jago
Christopher Mamengi

MIDFIELDERS

Adam Maher
Joris van Overeem
Simon Gustafson
Justin Lonwijk
Sander van de Streek
Bart Ramselaar
Odysseus Velanas
Davy van den Berg
Mohamed Mallahi
Rida El Barjiji
Hicham Acheffay

ATTACKERS

Gyrano Kerk
Adrian Dalmau
Eljero Elia
Mimoun Mahi
Othmane Boussaid
Eros Maddy
Daniel Arzani

CAN FC UTRECHT CRACK THE TOP FOUR AGAIN?

Since the turn of the new century, Utrecht have only been in the top four once, in 2016-17 under Erik ten Hag, the years since have been stable despite a constant change in head coaches.

Jean-Paul de Jong lead Utrecht to a fifth place in 17-18, then handed the baton to Dick Advocaat who finished sixth and then onto current head coach John van den Brom in another sixth position in the 2019-20 curtailed season.

As always in Utrecht, expectations are high this season, as they aim to go one better and break into the top four.

After all, AZ Alkmaar proved last year that they could battle with the big dogs and Utrecht will look to emulate them. The board have backed the quest for the top four with some good investment that has saw some ambitious signings coming through the door at the Stadion Galgenwaard.

Although 33-years-old, Eljero Elia is a winger that can still make an impact in attack, former Groningen winger Mimoun Mahi arrives after a spell in Switzerland with FC Zurich and highly-rated Iranian winger Daniel Arzani has been borrowed from Manchester City.

The defence has been bolstered by the arrival of left-back Django Warmerdam from Groningen and Justin Hoogma has been loaned in from Hoffenheim so the business done over the summer looks solid.

The major problem van den Brom may have is where to play all these players. Elia, Mahi and Arzani all are strongest on the left-wing where Bart Ramselaar (usually a central midfielder) played in pre-season. He played there due to vast competition in the middle of the park.

With some many players in the same position, then motivation in these may be scuppered once they are left out of the team. In addition, there has not been much sight of bleeding youngsters into the team, which van den Brom was vocal about when he first took up the post.

Utrecht have a great amount of talent in the team and a proven manager, if they can gel, they have a great foundation for mounting a challenge for the top four.

WILL BURNS

VITESSE ARNHEM

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
7TH

TOP SCORER
Bryan Linssen (14)



HEAD COACH

THOMAS LETSCH

German coach Letsch flew into Arnhem this May to led Vitesse replacing Edwards Sturing. The 52-year-old has a wealth of experience as a head coach in his homeland and Austria. Letsch is very attacking minded and should bring some entertaining football to the Vitesse faithful which will give the defence some tough days ahead. Not only a coach, Letsch has held a scouting role at Stuttgarter Kickers and was the Head of Youth Development at Red Bull Salzburg - a club where he also was assistant to new PSV coach Roger Schmidt.

STAR MAN

IDRISSA TOURE

Toure (22) signed on loan from Italian giants Juventus earlier this month and he his is a player that Letsch knows very well. In the 2014-15 season, Letsch was the U-18 coach at Red Bull Salzburg and played the central midfielder 31 times. By the time Toure reached his 20th birthday, he signed for Schalke, Werder Bremen before attracting the attention of Juventus. He has yet to make a senior game for *I Bianconeri* but will look to his time at Vitesse as a way to kickstart his career. Letsch will certainly give him time to do so.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Remko Pasveer
Jeroen Houwen
Bilal Bayazit

DEFENDERS

Eli Dasa
Danilho Doekhi
Max Clark
Jacob Rasmussen
Tomas Hajek
Maximilian Wittek
Million Manhoef
Enzo Cornelisse

MIDFIELDERS

Sondre Tronstad
Riechedly Bazoer
Thomas Bruns
Matus Bero
Idrissa Toure
Patrick Vroegh
Daan Huisman

ATTACKERS

Lois Openda
Oussama Darfalou
Armando Broja
Ousamma Tannane
Filip Moller Delaveris
Roy Beerens
Hillary Gong
Thomas Buitink

LETSCH LEADS A NEW LOOK VITESSE SIDE INTO EURO AIM

New coach Thomas Letsch arrives with a new Vitesse team ready to implement Mike Bassett's favourite formation, 4-4-2. The German is an attacking minded coach and he lost Vitesse's best goal scorers in Bryan Linssen and Tim Matavz, who combined for 26 goals in last season.

Johannes Spors (Vitesse's sporting director) worked quickly to bring reinforcements in as Oussama Tannane, on-loan in Arnhem last season from AS Saint-Etienne, joined on a permanent deal. The agreement with Chelsea was exploited again as 18-year-old striker Armando Broja joined on a season-long loan and Belgian Under-21

international Lois Openda arrived from Club Brugge in another loan deal.

Letsch and Spors, who has a history at Red Bull sides Salzburg and Leipzig, have also worked hard over the summer strengthening the defence by bringing Maximilian Wittek, a German left-back from Greuther Furth on a free and loaning 23-year-old Danish Jacob Rasmussen from Fiorentina, who plays central defender.

In midfield, loanee Charly Musonda went back to Chelsea and is yet to return for a third year in a row and Letsch used old contacts to bring in Idi Toure on-loan.

Toure is a right-footed number ten that knows Letsch well from their time together at Salzburg academy and he joined on a years' loan from Juventus.

Letsch will look to integrate a 'German' way of

playing with a lot of high pressing and intensity which could get results against the top sides. However, in the style of football, fitness and stamina is key and this can be difficult to build.

Vitesse have never breached the top four in the Eredivisie since 2012/13 but this year they certainly have the talent at their disposal to make that their aim, but whether or not Letsch can lead them into these unfamiliar territories remains to be seen.

However, an improvement on last year's 7th place is a must or Spors and Letsch may find themselves out of a job come the end of the campaign.

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
13TH

TOP SCORER
Johnatan Opoku (6)



HEAD COACH

HANS DE KONING

Known as "Hans The King" in his playing days as a goalkeeper at AZ and Twente, de Koning took over as head coach in Venlo in December 2019 replacing the outgoing Robert Maaskant. He led VVV to a very respectful 13th place in the cut-short 2019-20 season, losing just twice in nine games and took the club out of the relegation battle. After this impressive period, the VVV board showed faith in the 60-year-old in April this year by extending his contract on a one season deal.

STAR MAN

VITO VAN CROOIJ

Van Crooij returned to VVV this past summer, after making 50 appearances (10 goals, 5 assists) for PEC Zwolle. Previously played 147 games for VVV scoring 37 goals, he will already have a lot of admirers in the stand this season. He started his career at amateur side Quick Boys before VVV picked him up at just aged 8. He can play on either wing and he will add pace to VVV attack with his bursting acceleration and has decent finishing ability to add to Hans de Koning's options.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Thorsten Kirschbaum
Delano van Crooij
Bram Verbong
Jens Craenmehr

DEFENDERS

Tobias Pachonik
Arjan Swinkels
Roy Gelmi
Steffen Schafer
Christian Kum
Tristan Dekker
Stan van Dijk
Lukas Schmitz
Tom Plezier
Jessy Hendriks
Joel Roeffen

MIDFIELDERS

Danny Post
Aaron Bastiaans
Simon Janssen
Thijme Verheijen
Aaron Bastiaans
Evert Linthorst
Nezar S'Rifi
Wassim Essanoussi
Richard Neudecker

ATTACKERS

Guus Hupperts
Vito van Crooij
Georgios Giakoumakis
Yahcuroo Roemer
Jafar Arias
Joshua John

LACK OF GOALS IS THE BIG CONCERN FOR VVV

Entering their third season since promotion back to the Eredivisie, VVV-Venlo have cemented their status as a top flight team achieving a 13th place last year. Ranked 12th and 15th the season's prior, Venlo look to be spending another year below the top ten.

However, they look to avoid the danger of a relegation battle - if they can score enough goals. Despite the 13th place, they only scored 24 goals in 26 games and conceded over twice as many goals (51.)

No-one in the league scored less (ADO scored 25, RKC 27) and this should be a major concern for head coach Hans de Koning.

To make matters worse, top scorer Johnatan Opoku opted to drop down a division to play for De Graafschap in the summer but de Koning and technical director Stan Valckx acted swiftly to bring Vito van Crooij (pictured above) home.

The 24-year-old winger played in Venlo for five years becoming a fan favourite in 2014 until signing for PEC Zwolle in 2018. While in Zwolle he notched 10 goals in 50 appearances so the winger should be able to help out - but it does solve the issue.

One guy who might is Guus Hupperts. The blonde striker returns to the Eredivisie after plying his trade in Belgium for Lokeren. In three seasons in the Jupiler Pro league, he managed to notch 17 goals in 85 outings with 11 assists.

Not the most impressive of numbers but he brings great experience and stamina and has the ability to score.

In addition, Jafar Arias arrives from FC Emmen who failed to score a goal in 17 Eredivisie appearances last season, Greek striker Georgios Giakoumakis joins from AEK Athens. The 25-year-old is a former Greek Under -21 international but again his stats are uninspiring. Last year he was loan out to Gornik Zabrze scoring three times in 12 outings for the Ekstraklasa side.

De Koning has addressed the issue of lack of goals by bringing in four players that his resources would allow. He will demand more consistency and ruthlessness from his strikeforce but that might open up games for opposition to exploit.

WILL BURNS

LAST SEASON

EREDIVISIE
5TH

TOP SCORER
Vangelis Pavlidis (11)



HEAD COACH

ADRIE KOSTER

Former PSV winger Koster has emerged as fan-favourite in Tilburg, after steering Willem II, in his second spell as head coach, to their highest finish since 2000 last season. After a storied career managing across many continents, Koster settled once again in Tilburg in 2018 and led the side to an improved 10th place from 13th the previous season under Edwin van de Looi. Progression under Koster, has seen European football return to Tilburg, the first time for twenty years, and fans will hope this becomes a permanent fixture.

STAR MAN

VANGELIS PAVILIDIS

One has to wonder how Willem II has managed to keep Pavlidis at the club after his sensational form over the past few seasons. The Greek international striker managed to find the net 19 times in 45 appearances and at only 21 years of age he has plenty time to add to that tally. Joining initially on loan from German side Bochum in January last year, Pavlidis joined permanently that April on a deal until 2022. He is vital to Willem II's progression under Adrie Koster.

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Robbin Ruiten
Connor van den Berg
Jorn Brondeel

DEFENDERS

Freek Heerkens
Jordan Peters
Dylan Ryan
Leeroy Owusu
Miquel Nelom
Victor van den Bogart
Sebastian Holmen
Derrick Kohn
Justin Ogenia

MIDFIELDERS

Pol Llonch
Rick Zuiderwijk
Driess Saddiki
Mike Tresor Ndayishimiye
Gorken Saglam

ATTACKERS

Che Nunnely
Paul Gladon
Vangelis Pavlidis
Mats Kohlert
Elton Kabangu
Kwasi Okyere Wriedt

WILL THE EURO ADVENTURE SLIGHT THE LEAGUE CAMPAIGN?

Head coach Adrie Koster leads his team into the new campaign, "ready for the competition". However, earlier this week a pre-season friendly against RC Genk was cancelled as Willem II are nursing so many injuries. The Tilburgers also have a Europa League qualification match ahead, and the amount of games, along with many bandaged-up players, how can they be prepared?

Two long term injuries to new signings Kwasi Okyere Wriedt (broken metatarsal) and Leeroy Owusu (hamstring) will see them miss many months of the campaign. Driess Saddiki has just returned to training

and Justin Ogenia, Rick Zuiderwijk and Dylan Ryan are not match-fit yet.

Despite the potential increase in matches that qualification to the European competitions will bring, there has not been an influx of signings coming in, rather than just replacements for those that have left.

Robbin Ruiten looks to resurrect his career as he'll stand between the sticks instead of Timon Wellenreuther who signed for Anderlecht. Ogenia, a right-back from FC Eindhoven, came in for Damil Dankerlui who joined Groningen.

Mike Tresor Ndayishimiye was €500,000 signing from N.E.C. Nijmegen as Atakan Akkaynak packed his bags for Rizespor in Turkey. Although, Derrick Kohn, a left-back from Bayern II is a fantastic prospect.

The success of the season will be pinned on the goalscoring exploits of Vangelis Pavlidis but the signing of Wriedt, like Kohn from Bayern II, smashed in 24 goals in 33 games in the German 3. Liga last season and he could well help take the burden of the Greek international.

This was great business by sporting director Joris Mathijsen, however, disaster struck when he suffered the injury in a friendly against amateur side VVCS that will keep out of action for several months.

Koster will have a threadbare squad and a qualification tie against Luxemborgan side Progress Niedercorn to attend to in the immediate future. After a successful season finishing fifth, do they the legs to do it again with the added pressure of the Europa League?

WILL BURNS

EREDIVISIE GOLDEN BOOT

THE BOOT THAT IS A PERFECT FIT FOR MANY

In the cut-short Eredivisie season, over the 232 games that were actually played, a total of 715 balls hit the back of the net. That's an average of 3.08 goals per match, one of the highest averages throughout Europe so identifying a top scorer can be difficult when they are so many goals flying in.

When the 2018-19 season was called at a halt, Cyriel Dessers (Heracles) and Steven Berghuis (Feyenoord) both topped the Golden Boot table level at 15 goals which was a low amount over the 25 games when looking at past years.

In 2017-18 the averages were a lot higher. Ajax's Dusan Tadic and then-PSV striker, Luuk de Jong shared the award with 28 goals in 34 games - an average of 0.82 goals per game. In comparison with last season, Dessers averaged 0.58 goals per game and Berghuis averaged 0.63, which is a vast drop but more of a usual average looking at the last five seasons.

I will be closely looking at goals and in particular goal scorers throughout the season as I see these being the best markets at the bookies to exploit for value. Although, at time of writing, frustratingly the Golden Boot markets this year are incredibly sparse here in the UK.

One thing I was look at per game would be would be likely to take penalties. Last year 74 spot kicks were awarded so it makes sense in looking at attacking players that have the responsibility to step up to the kick for their club.

Although he only notched three Eredivisie spot-kicks last year, in 2018-19 **Dusan Tadic**

hit 11, if he can replicate efforts of seasons past, he will be a decent bet at 8/1, although I still feel that price is harsh.

The young man that will lead the line at PSV again this year is **Donyell Malen**. Under new boss Roger Schmidt, Malen is the German coach's proven striker with target man Sam Lammers (15/1) yet to prove he can be trusted as a forward for one of the division's top clubs. Lammers was selected to take penalties after he made a comeback from injury last January, notching two from two.

Meanwhile, Malen slipped through the net at Ajax and Arsenal academies before PSV signed him up in the summer of 2017. He made 49 senior appearances with 21 goals so far, and being PSV's only option up top, he will be sure to add to that this season. He is priced at an incredibly short 4/1.

AZ's trio of Teun Koopmeiners, Oussama Idrissi and **Myron Boadu** should see double figures again this year but I'm siding with Boadu as he will be front and centre for Arne Slot's men this year.

Only 19-year-old Boadu scored 14 in 24 appearances last term that helped fire AZ joint top of the division. With another season of experience under his belt, look for him to reach 20-25 goals this year but unfortunately the bookies are thinking the same as me, pricing him up at a paltry 4/1 (joint favourite with Malen).

Koopmeiners will be on the penalties and you will see me featuring him in many bets this year. I made a killing on him last year on the anytime markets and we will be going back to that well again.

One cannot look past **Steven Berghuis** (8/1) after scoring 18-12-15 in the Eredivisie over the past three years at Feyenoord. He should be on the spot-kicks too, however, bringing in perennial goal scorer Bryan Linssen from Vitesse might take some opportunities off



Berghuis' boots.

Also, in Rotterdam, while Danish striker Nicolai Jorgensen was falling out of favour, 6ft 2inch **Robert Bozenik** could grab more chances this campaign. The Slovak hitman hit the ground running at De Kuip after his January transfer from MSK Zilina. Known to develop his own chances with the likes of Berghuis, Linssen, Luciano Narsingh and Luis Sinsterra, he could get umpteen opportunities to be the running for the Golden Boot too.

One player I really like for a bit of value is Willem's II Greek striker **Vangelis Pavlidis** at 15/1. Since arriving in Tilburg in 2018, he has nabbed 19 goals in 45 games and again, he should be on the penalty kicks to give him that leg up on others. At only 21-year-old, the worry is that another club could snap him up if he continues his good form.

Now That 15-goal-man Cyriel Dessers went back to Belgium, Heracles have purchased Turkish striker Sinan Bakis from Austrian Bundesliga side Admira Wacker after decent

success last year scoring 12 in 25 outings but coach Frank Wormuth has admitted that his new number nine looks off the pace in pre-season and may need some time to settle in at Almelo.

If you're interested in football gambling keep an eye out for any updates and betting tips throughout the season at TotalDutchFootball.com.

VERDICT

Although Teun Koopmeiners will be on the spot kicks, AZ's **MYRON BOADU** is my pick for the top scorer. An absolute menace to the defenders and came up big in the tough games last year, I see the 19-year-old having a big campaign in front of goal. He is unfortunately priced up at a very short 4/1 at Unibet but keep a look out for other bookies revealing their odds before the weekend. An each-way bet will be on Willem II's **VANGELIS PAVLIDIS** at 15/1.

WILL BURNS

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

The *TotalDutchFootball.com* team and various other experts in the world of Dutch football give you their predictions for the 2020-21 Eredivisie campaign.

	Who will win the Eredivisie title?	Runner-up?	Who will win the KNVB Beker?	Which clubs will be relegated?	Who will win the Golden Boot?	Which player will have the most impact this season?	Who will be the breakout star of the season?
WILL BURNS TotalDutchFootball.com	I cannot look past AJAX to lift the title again. AZ ran them close last year and I see PSV improving, but I think the Amsterdammers will be too strong for the others to challenge.	AZ exceeded all expectations last year but PSV have strengthened under new boss Roger Schmidt and I can see him leading PSV to a close second.	If their core can stay around AZ may be a good bet for the Dutch Cup. Last year, they showed they can beat anybody on any given day.	After a major overhaul of their squad, I think ADO will struggle again and possibly RKC , who have failed to strengthen in the summer.	If he sticks around at AZ, I think MYRON BOADU has what it takes to really kick on this season. I can see him well surpassing the 14 goals scored last year.	I really like PHILIPP MAX that has signed for PSV and I'm surprised that they have been able to nab him. He racked up 14 goals and 20 assists in the Bundesliga the last three years. He can revitalise the PSV attack.	Ajax signed another "Brazilian wonderkid" but I see ANTONY having much more impact than the past imports. He certainly looks the real deal and I feel Ajax will struggle to retain him for the duration of his contract.
ELKO BORN Twitter: @Elko_B	It would have to be AJAX once again. PSV will hope to have improved and AZ will have another good go, but in terms of squad quality and depth, the Amsterdammers are way ahead.	I expect AZ to have another great run. They came pretty close last year and right now there's no reason to believe they won't be able to continue their positive momentum.	AZ will be hungry for silverware, and FEYENOORD are usually up for a good cup run as well. I can see either one of these teams winning it.	A lot has gone wrong at ADO , and it appears their fans do not have lady luck on their side. I fear the worst for Den Haag.	AZ's MYRON BOADU will blast on after finishing third in the top scorers list last year. I can only see him improving.	I'm curious about PSV's PHILIPP MAX , as well as Ajax's ANTONY and MOHAMMED KUDUS . I think all three of these players should do well in the Eredivisie.	I hope AZ's CALVIN STENGES , who made his debut for Oranje last year, will be able to reach the next stage in his development and possibly become the Eredivisie's new Hakim Ziyech.
FIN CREBOLDER Twitter: @ClockworkOranje ClockworkOranje.com	They weren't at their best last season, and the losses of Ziyech and van de Beek will hurt them, but AJAX still have the squad and manager to win the title, although their youngsters need to perform.	Judging by pre-season, PSV and Feyenoord may well be stronger than AZ. Advocaat has improved things at De Kuip considerably since taking over, but I think Schmidt's PSV are slightly better and pip them to 2 nd .	In what may well be Advocaat's last year in football, he'll be desperate to go out with silverware. Bearing that in mind, I can see FEYENOORD being out of the title race come January and turn their attention to the Beker.	ADO had a good transfer window and don't have Alan Pardew, so I expect them to be a lot better. RKC have not strengthened much, while FORTUNA SITTARD will be hurt by the losses of Mark Diemers and Amadou Coulibaly.	If he can stay fit, DONYELL MALEN . He's unstoppable on his day and with the Euros on the horizon, will be more fired up than ever. Boadu could push him close, but the AZ man hasn't looked great in pre-season.	MOHAMED IHATTAREN showed glimpses of his enormous talent last season, but was playing in a poor side. With a year of first-team experience under his belt, playing in a presumably better PSV team, he'll light up the league before leaving for bigger and better things.	Many hoped that last season would be RYAN GRAVENBERCH'S big break, but Ten Hag never really gave him a chance. With Van de Beek and Marin gone, he looks set to have a run in the first team. With his array of abilities, I expect him to establish himself as a key player in no time.
MICHAEL BELL Football-Oranje.com Twitter: @michaeljbell09	AJAX may have lost Van de Beek and Ziyech but they still look very strong in pre-season. It will be tight but I think Ajax will come out on top but it could easily be a 3-4 horse race this season.	AZ, Feyenoord and PSV all have a great chance of finishing runners-up. I like the project Schmidt is bringing to PSV so they will come a close second behind Ajax.	I think PSV will win the cup this season but it is very difficult to predict. FC Utrecht and Feyenoord will be in with a good shout too.	RKC are doomed as they haven't strengthened their squad enough. I think PEC ZWOLLE could also be in trouble this season along with SPARTA . Both squads look thin and weak.	I think he would have won it last season if he didn't get injured so I have to go with DONYELL MALEN . I think he will net at least 25 this season for PSV.	CALVIN STENGES will be eager to have a big campaign and can see him having a big impact for AZ Alkmaar as he looks to seal a place in the Netherlands squad for Euro 2020.	A hard question with so many youngsters in the league, but ANTONY looks an incredible signing for Ajax. He looks quick, tricky and full of goals. He will be a household name by the end of the season.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY?

STEVE DAVIES
TotalDutchFootball.com

JEROEN THIJSSSEN
Dutch/German Head of Research for Football Manager. Scout and intermediary.

ARD NAGTEGAAL
Twitter: @DFEBets

	Who will win the Eredivisie title?	Runner-up?	Who will win the KNVB Beker?	Which clubs will be relegated?	Who will win the Golden Boot?	Which player will have the most impact this season?	Who will be the breakout star of the season?
	<i>AJAX</i> have to be considered the clear favourites. Despite losing van de Beek and Ziyech during the close season, the reigning champions have strength in depth in every position which will see them compete strongly on all fronts this term.	While AZ's young guns pushed Ajax all the way last term, you would have to think the arrival of Roger Schmidt will galvanise PSV to re-emerge as De Godenzonen's main title rivals this season.	Generally, the Beker lends itself to sides who are in and around the Europa play-off picture who, on their day, can put one over the big three. If AZ can keep their talents together, I think we could well see Arne Slot's men ultimately prevail in the competition.	Had last season been allowed to run its course, it is reasonably safe to assume that, having punched well above their weight to firstly achieve promotion and then subsequently compete at Eredivisie level, RKC would no longer be a top tier club.	Providing he remains, having bagged 20 goals in 39 appearances in all competitions last term, I can see AZ hot-shot, MYRON BOADU ending the campaign as the top marksman. Whether he will be wearing an AZ shirt at the end of the season is another matter, though.	Clearly, if, Ajax come out on top next May, it stands to reason that it will be an Amsterdammer who will have the biggest impact over the course of the campaign. You really can't look beyond Ajax skipper, DUSAN TADIC , whose stats from last term speak for themselves - 42 games played, 16 goals scored and a whopping 21 assists posted in all competitions.	Given that the departure of van de Beek will present someone with an opportunity to make the CM role theirs going forward, I can see 18-year-old RYAN GRAVENBERCH stepping up to the plate over the course of the forthcoming campaign. The young midfielder has all the tools to fill the void at the Johan Cruiff Arena.
	If AJAX don't see more players depart/or can replace them (Tagliafico/Onana) they are fine for the title. I don't think the other teams are strong enough to really challenge them but it won't be a walk over. It will be interesting to see what both Feyenoord and PSV can do for sure.	I think FEYENOORD will finish second, I really like their squad depth and I think they will just edge PSV who will come third and AZ fourth but Utrecht could challenge the latter.	I always like a team outside of the top sides doing well and you always have to consider a side like FC UTRECHT or WILLEM II to do well both in the league and for the cup this season.	RKC are miles behind everyone else and will have a horrible season. It's going to be very exciting in the bottom half. I think Twente will be unlucky this season. PEC and ADO will just make it and Emmen if they don't lose a few key players.	I'm going for DONYELL MALEN if he stays fit. Teams like Ajax and Feyenoord have a more mixed bag of players who can provide goals. I'm expecting a lot from Fortuna's Polter as well. Myron Boadu should also be in the mix.	A lot of the sides have done some excellent scouting and signings, from Kees de Boer and Ratiu at ADO Den Haag to Granecny at Emmen. Max and Mvogo will shine at PSV. Openda is good for Vitesse and also Wriedt and Kohn at Willem II!	NONI MADUEKE could do really well at PSV and hopefully Ihattaren will shine this season, it's do or die this season for him. Kudus will have an excellent season for Ajax too.
	I have to agree with Will here. AJAX have the best squad and should be favourites in every match they play this season. They are simply a few steps ahead of their competitors.	This will go between PSV, Feyenoord and AZ. In my opinion they are equal in terms of strength. Injuries, suspensions and squad depth will be key in this battle. I think FEYENOORD will take 2nd place in the end. They should have a small edge on the other two but it will be a very close affair nonetheless.	I have to go with AJAX here as well. They have so much quality, even their second team would be a decent Eredivisie side. Although the cup normally is a lottery, Ajax should take it. With their squad depth they will be able to compete on 3 fronts successfully.	RKC are favourites to get relegated and I agree. They have the worst squad and similarly to last season, they will have a very difficult time. The other spot will go between ADO, FC Twente and VVV. I'll pick ADO to join RKC in the Eerste Divisie next season. In terms of quality and depth I think VVV and FC Twente are slightly ahead.	It will be an Ajax player. It's tough to call who exactly as they have plenty of players that will make a significant impact. With his experience, I think DUSAN TADIC will be the most consistent this season, therefore taking the golden boot.	STEVEN BERGHUIS . The winger's impact on Feyenoord is huge. He is their most important attacker and the success of Feyenoord depends on Berghuis' capabilities. I think he will deliver on the expectations and gift Feyenoord a second place with his goals and assists.	RYAN GRAVENBERCH . The 18-year-old Ajax midfielder has insane talent. He had a great season with Jong Ajax last year and did a good job in the first squad when he played. With van de Beek leaving there's a spot available in the starting eleven. Gravenberch will take it. Other players you should keep an eye on are van der Water (Heracles), Tedic (Zwolle), Van den Berg (Utrecht), Openda (Vitesse), Wriedt (Willem II) Evjen (AZ), Madueke (PSV), Lang, Kudus and Antony (Ajax).



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