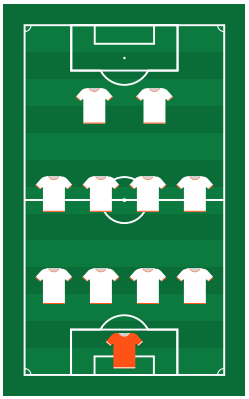


FOOTBALL ELITE ELEVEN 2024

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11-11



Those who made a big difference in your viewing of African football this year and made you proud to be a part of African football

At 32, the 'little Egyptian King' Salah, who plies his trade for Liverpool FC in England, is obviously a favourite amongst football pundits and watchers, as he comes in high in the votes. Salah is still smashing records in Liverpool, notwithstanding his 32 years; and his work with the Egyptian national team which he captains, is quite exemplary.

Salah is the leading scorer in the English Premier League thus far, and is looking like leading his club to another league title. His nomination is a testament to his consistency and respect he has earned in the football world.



MOHAMED SALLAH
(PLAYER)

2



ADEMOLA LOOKMAN
(PLAYER)

1

Hardly surprising, this 27 year old attacking player had a 2024 to remember. Very well travelled, Ade, born in London started playing football with Charlton Athletic before moving first to Everton, then to RB Leipzig, Fulham and then Leicester City. It was at Atalanta in Italy that he really found his form, coupled with his decision to pledge allegiance to Nigeria at international level.

Ade was explosive for Nigeria in the Africa Cup of Nations in Cote d'Ivoire early in 2024, reaching the final, scoring 3 goals. And in his club Atalanta, they defied the odds and won the UEFA Europa League, with Ade sensationally netting a hat trick in the final against a Bayer Leverkusen side that had not lost a game all season prior to that final. He continued in that vein when the season restarted in August, and was voted African Player of the Year 2024 by a widely popular margin.



EMERSE FAE (COACH) 3

What a story around Emerse Fae. This 40-year old had a relatively short football playing career, playing just around 200 professional games in his whole playing career. His coaching career coming into 2024 was not one that shifts the eyebrow, as he only started coaching in 2021, managing the B team of Clermont in France, where he was born.

Fae joined Cote d'Ivoire as coach of the U23 team, drafted in to assist the Head Coach of the Ivorien national team Jean-Louis Gasset at the 2023 African Cup which the country hosted in January/February 2024. In a bold and news making move, Gasset was sacked mid-tournament and Fae was tasked with reviving the fortunes of the Elephants....which he clearly did, remarkably, winning the AFCON title as Head Coach of what was a fledgling team when he took over.

That singular honour gave him the title CAF African Coach of the Year, and his exploits were not lost on our voters who overwhelmingly put him high in the Elite Eleven List.



ASHRAF HAKIMI (PLAYER)

4



The 26-year-old Moroccan international full back, who plies his trade with Paris Saint-Germain in France is regarded as one of the best full backs in the world. Hakimi enjoys wide popularity in the African football family for his contributions to the success and seeming dominance of PSG in the French league and for his role as captain of the number one ranked nation in African football - Morocco.

He received huge support and votes from the nominations poll, and surely has appeared in many news portals as an African football ambassador in 2024.

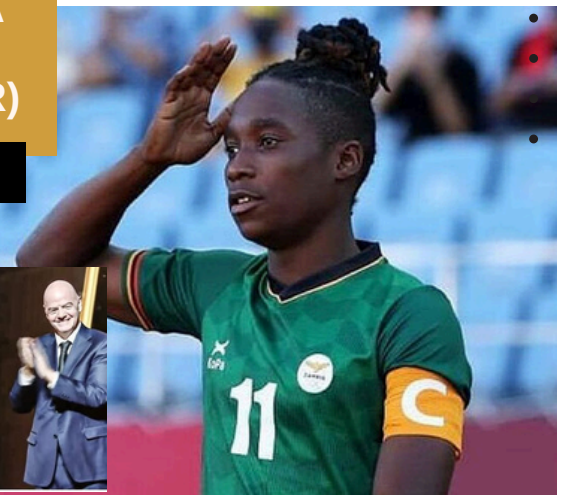
This 24-year old Zambian international, who plays for Orlando Pride in the United States, still one of the highest transfer fees paid for a player in women's football history, is captain of her national team, Zambia. Great talent, and a winner who helped her team Orlando Pride to the national title in America, was named Most Valuable Player in the country's Championship and was voted BBC African Player of the Year, she has had a remarkable 2024.

We note that Banda holds the record of Africa's top scorer in Olympic football history, scoring THREE hat tricks in two Olympic Games with her country.

Banda also capped 2024 with the award of CAF African Women's Player of the Year; and this choice has been overwhelmingly backed by the votes.

BARBRA BANDA (PLAYER)

5



Williams is 32 years old, a goalkeeper by trade and is the current South Africa number one, and captain of their national team, Bafana Bafana.

He plays for successful club side Mamelodi Sundowns, winners of the South African Premier League twice, winners of the new African Football (Super) League, and was voted Goalkeeper of the last African Cup of Nations Tournament in January/February 2024. He was also the first South African to have been nominated in the 2024 Ballon d'Or.

A very influential presence for his club and country, and apparently quite popular amongst the voters.



RONWEN WILLIAMS (PLAYER)

6

SIMON ADINGRA (PLAYER)

7



A young Ivorian football prospect, Adingra is a 23-year old professional player who has grown in leaps and bounds in a very short football playing career. Adingra was the shining light in the revival of the Ivorian national team that looked dead and buried in the opening group stages of the Africa Cup of Nations, which they hosted. Taking it on his young shoulders, he put in a very impressive performance and with his goals and assists, guided his national team to the final and to actually winning the AFCON trophy in February 2024. He was voted Best Young Player of the tournament.

Playing his football for English Premier League side Brighton and Hove Albion, Adingra is one to watch, and voters clearly are in agreement.

PATRICE MOTSEPE (ADMINISTRATOR)

8

An administrator at last! But not just an ordinary one - Patrice Motsepe is the President of the Confederation of African Football. He has entered into African football, since 2021, with a different mindset and modus operandi on the direction he has wanted to take African football. He has championed the increase of prize monies to all segments of African football competitions, connected with members of the private and corporate sectors as well as high level governmental contacts to bring a new dawn on African football. Motsepe has also earned plaudits for his championing of the cause of African schools, involving young students in football and successfully establishing and investing in the CAF African Schools Football Championships.

Patrice Motsepe, ending his first term of office as CAF President in a couple of months, and gunning for a second term in office, came high on the list of nominations by our voters.



If we had a Football Elite Eleven in 2023, this is the guy who would be way up top. He had a 2023 to remember. But alas, we did not, and even in 2024, he still came in as a very popular choice among voters. He was clearly talked about a lot in 2024, a whole lot more about his transfer saga than his exploits on the field but he remains a great player who has, and is doing big things in football, in the name of his club and his country Nigeria.

Victor Osimhen, 26, plays for Galatasaray, on loan from his parent club Napoli and he has settled quite nicely in the club, was a big part of Nigeria's journey to the final of the last Africa Cup of Nations, and has led the line in guiding his country to qualifying for the next edition scheduled for Morocco in December.

VICTOR OSIMHEN (PLAYER)

9



SERHOU GUIRASSY (PLAYER)

10

Guinean international, 28 years old, featuring for Borussia Dortmund in the German Bundesliga has also come up in the list of nominees, by voters. Guirassy is a prolific player who steadily but quietly rose through the ranks in French and German football, securing his big break into the top echelon on German football in 2024, making it a good year for him. His name was not far off the lips of many anytime attacking talent from Africa was discussed. He helped reach the quarter finals of the last AFCON in Cote d'Ivoire, joint top in their World Cup qualifying group but were shocked by Tanzania and hence will not be taking part in the 2025 edition of the African Cup.

This setback, though, did not seem to diminish the popularity of this player amidst the voters.

of the Nigerian football team, the Super Eagles, is our final pick of the votes. An elite player who also had a massive 2024, this Netherlands-born defender is a proud defender of players' rights in Africa, as he has come to identify strongly with his roots over the years. Formerly of Premier League club Watford and Italian Series A club Udinese, Ekong secured a big move to Saudi Pro-League club Al-Kholood where he is making good waves.

As captain of the Nigerian team, he was pivotal to his team reaching the final of the Africa Cup of Nations, scoring 3 goals in the tournament, a remarkable feat for a defender in AFCON history. He was also named Player of the Tournament and this marked the start of a remarkable 2024 for him.



**WILLIAM
TROOST-
EKONG
(PLAYER)**

11



AND NOW....2025

As the new year has started, would you make a note to start making a note of who you would want to see in the Football Elite Eleven 2025?

We had many players in the List this year. Please make a note of coaches, referees, administrators and journalists that stand out for you in 2025, as we would like to see more of other practitioners of African football recognised in our Elite Eleven Yearly.

APPRECIATION

This exercise would have not been made possible without the input from members of the African Football Journalists Association (AFOJA) - many of whom took the time and effort to analyse and assess their choices and sent their votes. We also received a huge influx of votes from the membership of the African Football Scouts and Coaches Association (AFSCOAN) and the support and partnership of Rotary Sport International is also noted.

The African Football Hall of Fame is committed to celebrating and recognising the exploits of African football heroes, people who bring pride and honour to the game of football, and this initiative, in conjunction with Football 11-11 is one we aim to keep up every year in addition to other similar programmes.

Contact us

