

90. Gaël Danic

Club: Olympique Lyonnais

Date of Birth: 19th November 1981

Position: Attacker



2013 has very much been a year of two halves for 32 year old Gael Danic. The Frenchman began the year playing for Ligue 1 outfit Valenciennes, where he excelled above all expectation last season. These last five months have been difficult for the player; however, as despite signing for Lyon for just over €750k euros, the player has received limited game-time at his new club and has only made one start in the first half of the season.

Thus, we can mainly judge Danic on his time at Valenciennes, and probably the biggest testament to him is that the club are struggling without his creativity and find themselves in trouble at the close of 2013. Danic entered the calendar year in explosive form and added a further five assists to his count in the closing months of the season. This left him with 11 overall for last season, which is a highly impressive figure. Danic is a bit of a dead ball specialist and three of these five assists came from corners and free-kicks, where the winger was able to accurately guide the ball onto one of his team-mates' heads. On top of that, Danic scored three league goals for his club in 2013. Two of these did come from the spot with well taken penalties, but Danic scored in a 1-1 draw away at PSG where he tucked in a rebound after Douchez had parried an impressive shot.

Danic also added experience to the Valenciennes team and led by example on the pitch and in training alike. Another great strength which the Frenchman displayed at Valenciennes was his passing. Danic has the ability to turn his team's attack on its head in one ball with a cross-field pass, something that was typical of his game in 2013. He makes up for his lack of pace by playing killer through balls in order to get the quicker players in the team running on the ball. In such a way he demonstrated that he had a great understanding of the game and thus a strong footballing brain. From this point of view, Lyon's signing of the player seemed logical. Although he may not be playing, they might have hoped his experience would rub off on the OL youngsters at the training ground.

Danic has not been able to repeat the majority of the heroics that he produced at Valenciennes for Les Gones in 2013. Although he has a handful of Europa League appearances under his belt, Danic has been virtually non-existent in Ligue 1. Danic's passing radar appears to have taken a turn for the worse and this may be one reason why Garde has felt justified in keeping him out in the cold.

Danic has a passing accuracy rate of just over 60% this season, which is way down on where it should realistically be. The batch of young talent at Lyon is also ruining the 32 year old's cause, as youngsters with more pace and arguably desire are getting games ahead of him. Danic is yet to provide a goal or an assist for his new club and frankly, has been consistently poor. The player came on in the 5-1 defeat by Montpellier and the 4-0 loss to PSG and hardly touched the ball. Danic's composure appears to have gone walkabout and the player seems unable to successfully dribble past opposition in the manner in which he did for Valenciennes. It is clear that Danic has struggled to make the step up.

Overall, a great start to the year with Valenciennes has been overshadowed by a turbulent time thus far at Lyon. Whether the side are looking to offload him at Christmas remains to be seen, but it could be the best option for Gael Danic in order to get the remaining few years of his career back on track. Lyon President Aulas may have thought the signing of Danic was coy business at the time, but now it seems Les Gones have bought a player in decline. Danic takes 90th place in this year's GFFN 100; although if he had stayed at Valenciennes for the whole year, who knows how high up he could be.

'I'm a Breton. I have an idiot character. I can talk a lot of crap...but I'm easygoing. Generally people like me.'

Gaël Danic

7th July 2013

A little different... In November 2013, RMC Sport's radio programme 'Kazaroké' produced a comical song about Gaël Danic: http://www.wat.tv/video/kazaroke-gael-danic-04-11-6icin_5hatr_.html