

93. Florian Raspentino

Club: Olympique de Marseille, SC Bastia (loan)

Date of Birth: 6th June 1989

Position: Attacker



Despite being a Marseille player, Florian Raspentino hasn't actually spent any of 2013 playing for OM. The attacker had made two loan spells, one at Brest, the other at SC Bastia, and has impressed on both outings this year. The 24 year old has spent numerous interviews detailing his desire to play an active role in the Marseille set up and despite promising performances in 2013, OM's decision to sign a number of attackers in the summer has severely tainted Raspentino's chances of achieving that goal.

As a Brestois, Raspentino added four goals to his tally whilst on loan. Here, Raspentino demonstrated his slick finishing and formed a strong partnership with Magaye Gueye, who was on loan from Everton at the time. The pair set each other up on a few occasions and twice, Raspentino was there to meet two of Gueye's crisp through balls and slot home. The 24 year old's final goal for the club showed a bit more individual class. The player used his pace to break away after a corner was headed out against Montpellier. Raspentino ran the length of the pitch and whizzed the ball home from just outside of the opposition penalty area. Such goals demonstrate what the player is truly capable of. Unfortunately, be it for a lack of service or otherwise, there were too many matches where Raspentino simply went missing which effectively made the then Marseille manager Elie Baup's decision for him with regards to integrating the player into the OM first team squad or not. Brest played Raspentino in a variety of positions, but mainly on the wing where his impressive pace and close control allowed him to freely dribble across and past the opposition back four.

As hinted at, Raspentino's versatility is clearly one of his major strengths. The player can play on the right, the left or upfront and therefore gives his manager many options on an attacking front. Raspentino has been used mainly as a sub at SC Bastia, performing especially well when playing up front.

The player has scored two in two in December playing in this role, and it is likely that Bastia coach Frédéric Hantz sees this position as the way forward for the 24 year old during the remainder of the campaign.

Both of these goals were slick finishes, with his first of the season against Lyon coming after a great ball in from Julian Palmieri.

If Florian Raspentino ever harboured any ambitions of making it into the French international set up these have been well and truly shelved in 2013. The player is of Algerian descent, and was contacted by Nourredine Kourichi recently, who is the assistant manager of the national team, in order to see if he would be interested in playing for the North African side at some point in the future. Raspentino has said he would be interested, but the World Cup does seem too early, considering that the player is yet to play for the Desert Foxes. However, in football, situations can change so quickly and if the player picks up his form and goal-scoring in the opening months of 2014, then we could indeed see him in Rio.

So despite promising performances when playing up front, Florian Raspentino needs to add more goals to his game in 2014. He has got good pace combined with nifty tricks and is therefore a danger to the opposition on the break, as well as being cool and composed when finishing. Raspentino needs however to learn to read the game better, so that he can create more space for himself off defenders and put himself in better positions in order to score goals. Marseille's reject has been trying ever so hard to shake that unfortunate title off of himself and 2014 promises to be a year full of opportunity for vindication, maybe even by playing for Algeria at the World Cup.

'Right now I am a bit disappointed. The point of a loan is to get game time...'

Florian Raspentino

On SC Bastia- 15th October 2013

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