

96. Claudiu Keserü

Club: SC Bastia

Date of Birth: 2nd December 1986

Position: Attacker

Claudiu Keserü is a man who had an impressive start to the year and indeed a wonderful 2012/13 campaign with Angers, but somebody who is now struggling to cope with the pressures of Ligue 1 on a goal scoring front at least. It is definitely fair to say that Keserü's performances in Ligue 2 at the beginning of the year were outstanding and the Romanian international was rightly rewarded for them. He won the UNPF Ligue 2 player of the month award on two occasions at the beginning of this year, in January and March, as well as being named in the Ligue 2 Team of the Year during the last campaign. Keserü was also nominated for the UNPF Ligue 2 Player of the Year Award, but was eventually beaten to it by the now Marseille man Gianelli Imbula. Keserü added seven goals to his overall tally of 17 in the first six months of this year for Angers, with two of those coming in a Man of the Match performance against Dijon where the game eventually finished 3-3. The 27 year old finished last season with 63% of all of his team's goals for the 2012/2013 campaign.

It is not just the player's impressive goal scoring start to the calendar year that puts him in this year's 'GFFN 100', however. The former Nantes man showcased a fantastic ability to hold the ball up at Angers, always acting as the furthest man forward. Keserü thus poses a real counter-attacking threat as he is able to bring teammates into attacking moves- a catalyst if you like. Keserü also has a frightening left foot and has been known to shoot from range with wonderful results. Thus, despite a lack of pace, the Romanian does not necessarily need to beat people in order to create chances and score goals.

His 2012/2013 season culminated in securing a move to the top flight of French football in the form of the fiery Corsican outfit SC Bastia for an undisclosed fee on a 2 year deal. Returning to Ligue 1 after a 5 year absence, the Romanian was determined to leave his mark this time around.

As mentioned, since his move to Bastia in the summer, the forward does appear to have struggled. Although he started the season as a first team regular, in the last few months, Keserü has been used mainly as a substitute and has been played out of position on a couple of occasions; out on the wing or in an attacking midfield role.



The 27 year old's single Ligue 1 goal in 2013/2014 is evidence of the player's drying up in form during the second half of the year. This goal was an impressive strike, however, as the player cut in from the right against Toulouse and jammed a ball into the bottom corner with his left foot from the edge of the area.

Perhaps Keserü is compensating for his lack of goals with the chances he creates for his teammates. According to Squawka, Keserü has created 8 chances for his new side- making him the 5th most creative player in the squad in terms of carving out opportunities.

Having said this, Keserü's form has not been very impressive and this may be down to a lack of focus. The Romanian doesn't look particularly composed on the ball in his new colours and appears to be unable to pass consistently accurately to his teammates. As it stands, the player has a pass accuracy rate of 70% and this is something which needs to change if he wants to force himself back into the team.

There are a few other points to Keserü's game which lack polish. The player's defensive contribution from opposition set plays is substandard. One would expect a Ligue 1 out and out forward to provide aerial protection, something Keserü does not seem all that motivated to offer. Another slight criticism of the player is that he gets caught offside too often, and it is possibly this positional awareness that is not helping him in Ligue 1. Bastia are a side who typically struggle to create many clear cut chances and Keserü's attitude is contributing to that.

The player won his first international cap against Andorra in October and this was a game in which he went on to score.

Overall, a lighting start to the year slowed as the Romanian tries to find his feet in Ligue 1 once again. We are certain that Keserü can turn his performances around in 2014 and play a more integral role at SC Bastia if given the time.

*'Bastia was my straight choice.
When I had the manager on the
phone, I knew this was for me.'*

Claudiu Keserü

2nd July 2013

#GFFN recommends: Keep up to date with the following excellent English-speaking Twitter fan pages for various Ligue 1 clubs: @1970_PSG, @OLNews_eng, @MarseilleUK, @FCLOrientUK, @StadeRennaisUK, @LOSCUK, @SochouxUSA, @SochouxUK and @ToulouseFCUK.