

46. Henri Bedimo

Club: Olympique Lyonnais

Date of Birth: 4th June 1984

Position: Defender



The Cameroonian full back has continued to impress in 2013, for Montpellier, his team in early 2013, and Lyon, the team he joined in August. He is one of the regulars in the Lyon squad so far this season, and has put in consistently solid levels of performances which will undoubtedly carry on into the New Year. Bedimo is putting together a strong case for being Lyon's most reliable player of the 2013/2014 campaign, something that cannot be taken lightly for certain.

Bedimo is very much a typical Ligue 1 full back. He is not particularly tall at 5ft 11, but is very quick and has great stamina, this allows him to both go forwards when he needs to and also be able to get back and defend if the attack breaks down. Bedimo in particular enjoys the offensive duties that come with his role as a liberal flank player. His last crucial asset is his ability to cross the ball. Being a left-footed left back means that he can bomb down the wing and whip in dangerous crosses for his forwards to get on the end of without having to cut back onto his preferred foot. By mid-December, Bedimo already had 4 assists for Lyon in the league. This means he was involved in 1/6 of their league goals, which is an impressive figure for a defender, a ratio unparalleled by any other Ligue 1 defender at the time of writing.

Bedimo is also quite extraordinarily technically gifted, especially for a defender. He does not look at all out of place when going forwards, unlike some full backs, and uses his technique and pace to get past defenders and deliver dangerous crosses.

On the defensive side of things, Bedimo can occasionally be caught exposed after some gallivanting forward on one of his attacking adventures, but whenever he is in a position to defend he has a knack of ensuring his opponents have no way of getting goal-side of him. If one does managed to confuse Bedimo with a piece of trickery, unless you have significant pace, Bedimo will merely catch back up with you and the attacker finds themselves in an identical scenario from the one that occurred just seconds beforehand only a few metres further down the pitch.

Bedimo is one of those full backs who likes to express himself; he does not feel he is constrained to a certain area of the pitch just because he is a defender, and likes to think of himself as a wing-back as much as anything else.

Bedimo is one of those full backs who likes to express himself; he does not feel he is constrained to a certain area of the pitch just because he is a defender, and likes to think of himself as a wing-back as much as anything else.

His small stature does not mean he isn't strong. In fact, Bedimo's strength is an important weapon of his; most of his opponents do not realise how strong he is, and find that he can bully them off the ball at times.

Statistically, it is clear to see that Bedimo is a crucial part of whichever team he plays for. In the 2012/13 season, he played 32 out of the possible 38 games for Montpellier and in the first half of the current season, he only missed one game, a 1-1 draw with Bordeaux, and started the rest for his club Lyon. It is clear that he is a player a coach can depend on to put in consistent performances week-in week-out, and it is for this reason that he often earns the often regarded as irrelevant title of most played outfield player at a club over a course of a Ligue 1 season.

Besides his physical and technical qualities, Bedimo also has a vast amount of experience in French football. He has played almost 300 games as a professional in France (including his days in Ligue 2), which is a huge number of games for a player who has 29 years of age. At present, Bedimo has the ideal blend of experience with ability, and he is probably near the peak performance of his career; 2013 has certainly been a good year for the Cameroonian international. His experience means that he is also a key figure in the dressing room, especially at Lyon. As a former Ligue 1 Champion with Montpellier, Bedimo knows what it takes to be the best in France, and can pass on his knowledge to his fellow players whenever he sees fit. Les Gones of course currently pride themselves on an extremely young squad at present.

Mr Reliable remained a constant throughout his time at Montpellier and although it is early days in terms of his Lyon career, it seems as if he will achieve the same feat at the Stade de Gerland. Expect more quiet brilliance from Bedimo in 2014.

'We had some fun with our fallout last season, but I shouldn't have to deal with this crap anymore. I'm disgusted.'

Henri Bedimo

On the way Montpellier's President treated him- 28th April 2013

Quotes of the Year: Louis Nicollin: "Henri Bedimo was a big pancake this season."
Montpellier President Louis Nicollin was clearly not as impressed with Henri Bedimo's performances as we have been over the course of 2013.