

## 87. Lamine Sané

Club: Girondins de Bordeaux

Date of Birth: 22nd March 1987

Position: Defender



Ludovic Sane, known as Lamine, has, on the face of it, had a very comfortable year at the Stade Chaban-Delmas. The player has started in almost all of Bordeaux's games this season and has impressed throughout. The Senegalese international received interest from West Ham in the summer and even went to visit their training facilities. No move was agreed in the end, however, and whether the Hammers are looking to come back in for the player is currently unknown.

Yet in truth it has been a far from easy-going 2013 for Sané, who has been battling to keep his place in the side after being told by manager Francis Gillot that he will drop him should he fail to shake out the consistently frustrating howlers he commits, often leading to cheap goals for the opposition. It is no secret that the player is waiting for the right club to come along to scoop him up.

His clumsiness was evident during his attempts to take his country Senegal to the World Cup this year. Having won their original group comfortably, they lost 4-2 on aggregate in the final knock-out round to the Ivory Coast. What will be particularly upsetting for the player is that fact that he scored an own goal in a 3-1 away loss in the first leg. On the other hand, Sané has now managed to nail down a place in the national side, and earned some valuable international experience over the course of the calendar year which will only help him improve.

Conversely, not a single player makes the GFFN 100 lightly. One thing that is impressive about Lamine Sané is his versatility. The 26 year old started his career as a midfielder, but has become a key player at the heart of the defence for Bordeaux. When needed, Sané turns back time to occupy that defensive midfield role, generally having success when doing so. It is clear, however, that the player is settled at centre back now and this is where he would like to play. The Senegalese international was a key member of Bordeaux's defence last season, and partly thanks to him, Bordeaux came away with the third best defensive record in Ligue 1.

The player is fairly quick for a defender and is therefore lively and effective at tracking opponent's runs and making interceptions. Sané is a fan of the long ball, something that Francis Gillot is actually trying to deter as he imposes a shorter passing mentality upon his squad Sané is nonetheless surprisingly accurate with these heat-seeking missile like passes of his, coming away with a passing accuracy rate of almost 90% in 2013.

The 26 year old should be aiming to add more goals to his game. Standing at 6ft3, Sané should be a real presence in the opposition box, but has only actually scored one league goal this year. This came against Montpellier in a 4-2 win in the early months of this year. Sané rose unmarked in the box to nod home into a fairly open net. The player also added 2 goals to his tally in the Europa League in 2013-2014, although neither were particularly noteworthy finishes.

Sané played a rather underrated role in Bordeaux's lifting of the Coupe de la Ligue trophy. The Senegalese defender produced a string of clinical and solid performances which provided a solid basis for Les Girondins to get the goals necessary to progress from round to round.

If Sané can cut the jitters out of his football then this bouncy character can make real inroads into sealing a move away from Ligue 1. Another example of the modern centre-back: tall, robust, agile and with a clinical passing ability; all the ingredients are there for Sané to become a top player. He must overcome his often apparent lack of focus to go to the next level in 2014.

*'Personally I am trying to be focused, to be responsible but sometimes we don't have time to defend well.'*

Lamine Sané

1st December 2013

**STATS CENTRAL:** Out of the 36 Ligue 1 games that Lamine Sané played in during 2013, 12 clean sheets were kept.