

67. Romain Alessandrini

Club: Stade Rennais

Date of Birth: 3rd April 1989

Position: Attacker

After a wonderful start to his career at Stade Rennais during his first seven months of the 2012/2013 season, a cruciate ligament injury to his knee in February put the winger out until August when he began to train again with his teammates. Nevertheless, the player's form before and after the incident in 2013 has been enough to enable him to seize a place in this year's GFFN 100. Whether or not you appreciate the Frenchman's rather abrasive character, the abilities Alessandrini possesses were simply too great to ignore, despite his being rather handicapped in terms of the 2013 judging because of the serious injury he suffered at the beginning of the year.

As 2013 commenced, Alessandrini was in blistering form. He scored goals against Toulouse, Bastia and Marseille in the opening weeks of the calendar year and his confidence was sky-high. At that point in time, Rennes were flirting with the idea of a finish among the European places. Alessandrini scored ten goals in just twenty two appearances for Rennes last season. His long shots are a major strength of his and he has scored many beltors for his previous club Clermont over the years but 2012, in the first six months of last season, marked a period where the Frenchman scored many of these. This year, however, in 2013, when he has been playing rather than sitting on the treatment table, Alessandrini failed to score any stunners, but he still provided vital goals for his team.

As well as having a fearful shot, the Frenchman has developed many other attributes which he has displayed throughout the year. The player is a bit of a set piece specialist, taking corners, as well as most indirect free kicks into the box. The winger's crossing is definitely one of his strong-suits, as is his adaptability: The player has played all over the park over the course of the 12 months. Alessandrini has played on the left wing, in a slightly deeper role on the same hand side and has also made an appearance as a central striker. The deeper role on the left hand side perhaps originates due to the 24 year old's defensive ability. The player has shown great ability to be able to track back and double up in defence with the relevant left back in order to give his side more protection down the flanks.



Alessandrini has had two fantastic games against Toulouse this year and really appears to thrive against that particular opposition, something to note for the future. He has scored two goals in these games in Ligue 1, the most recent one coming in a man of the match performance in October, when Toulouse were put to the sword and lost 5-0. Alessandrini's quick responses gifted him a goal as he met a ball rolling out to the edge of the box and passed it into a fairly open net. Despite an easy goal, Alessandrini's distribution was first class and his distribution radar is another of his fortes most certainly, with the 24 year old loving a long ball.

Alessandrini's fantastic form at the start of 2013 gained him an international call-up, but he did not play. Alessandrini was included in the squad, but was not actually picked to play by Didier Deschamps, although a first appearance did seem just around the corner until the Frenchman's horror injury. If the player can regain the form that he had at the beginning of the year he could soon make Deschamps' squad again, as despite the positives, it is clear that Alessandrini is not quite performing at the same level this campaign as last.

Alessandrini was heavily linked with the likes of Marseille this summer, but has stayed with Stade Rennais, despite publicly stating his interest in joining OM. Despite some strong performances, it does seem that the player has lost a bit of the confidence and motivation that he had last season and is now finding it hard to beat players as easily as before. This is possibly why Alessandrini appears to be being eased back into the Stade Rennais team in the first half of the 2013/2014 campaign and is not playing week in week out. Nevertheless, Alessandrini's performances so soon after coming back from a career threatening injury have been solid, and his performances at the beginning of 2013 made him one of the best performers in Ligue 1 at that point in time.

'Now I am at a real low point. I really don't want to fight for Rennes anymore. They are doing everything to make me unstable.'

Romain Alessandrini

On failed Marseille move- 8th August 2013

DID YOU KNOW? Romain Alessandrini launched an extraordinary attack on his club in August 2013, moaning about a contract extension offer he received when Rennes offered him a 70% wage rise!