

36. Sébastien Corchia

Club: FC Sochaux

Date of Birth: 1st November 1990

Position: Defender



Sébastien Corchia is a name familiar to most French football fans. The 23 year has been tipped to become a future international right back, and his form over the last year has done much to help his cause. Despite a poor twelve months for Sochaux on the whole, Corchia has been by far the stand out performer and a break down in a move to Lyon this summer has allowed the Frenchman to continue shining on the east coast of France.

Corchia ended last season with some terrific performances, notably in a famous 2-1 against Lyon. It appears that the right back is refining his huge potential every week; Sébastien Corchia is known for being a cruel attacker on the wings with the potential of playing in all positions in the back. Put him as a left-back or a right-back or even a left winger he will succeed. Clubs are looking for defenders with the ability to rapidly run back and defend after helping out in attack, and Corchia is one of them. His crosses are dangerously accurate and his concentration on the ball is top class. He has excellent positioning and superb tackling skills that makes him a successful defender. These last twelve months, he had excellent performances against Paris Saint-Germain, Rennes, and Marseille showing his capabilities to play against bigger clubs.

Corchia's main job has been to stop the opponent in their tracks first and then bomb up-field. Corchia has highlighted his defensive qualities with French fans. His ability to tackle to win the ball, without giving away stupid free kicks has become apparent with the Frenchman receiving more free-kicks than fouls that he has conceded; He appears to have a great footballing brain and is able to think one step ahead of the attacker. He has made countless interceptions and goal saving challenges which invariably contributed to Sochaux's narrow avoidance of being relegated to Ligue 2 in May of 2013.

Corchia, perhaps uncharacteristically, has also added a single goal to his Ligue 1 game this year. It came in February of last season and merits a mention purely for the fact that it was a brilliant individual effort. Corchia ran inside from the right to beat three men and smash home with his wrong foot from inside the box. Such a goal showed the Frenchman's class in using his pace and skill to ghost through the Rennes defence easily. Corchia also scored a late winner this season in a Coupe de la Ligue game against Montpellier. Towards the end of the calendar year, Corchia had begun to take set pieces for Les Lionceaux. Corchia's portfolio of qualities seems to just continue to enlarge.

Sébastien Corchia's reputation with the Sochaux fans remained as good as usual despite antics this summer when Corchia was left steaming at a break down in a move to Lyon. President Aulas opted to sign Portuguese full-back Miguel Lopes on loan instead of snapping up Corchia for a fee which was seen by many as well below his true value. Corchia has this to say at the time: "I do not understand why Lyon could not just pay €250k more! Now I look abroad, my agents are working....I do not understand Lyon's position. When I met Remi Garde at the training ground he said I was 1st choice." The 23 year has set about proving the Lyon president wrong, who displayed some antics himself throughout the whole of the summer window. Moves to Arsenal, where a release clause was agreed earlier in the season only in the case of Sochaux being relegated, Marseille, where the player was in talks for a period of time, and to other places were possible, and the player was even rumoured to be on a plane for Italy on transfer deadline day. Corchia stayed put for now though, but one cannot see the full-back staying on the east coast of France for too much longer, however, after his recent performances.

It could be said, however, that Corchia's performances this season have not been as good as the ones towards the back end of the 2012/13 campaign; The defender has shone in recent games against St Etienne and Valenciennes, but he did endure a nightmare evening in a 4-1 loss to Bordeaux, where he produced well below what we know he is capable of. Corchia has also admitted that he is enjoying working under his manager: "He brought a different style of game that suits us very well." Nevertheless, Corchia is on the whole very consistent and on the whole consistently good, Despite maybe slightly poorer performances this season, Corchia was critical in keeping Sochaux up at the back end of last campaign and performances such as these cannot be ignored. Corchia was indeed acknowledged by us and leading French football pundits, who voted him into the 'Get French Football News Team of the Season' for 2012/13. Thus Corchia makes the GFFN 100.

Corchia's international career has also stalled for the moment, with the player now being too old to play for the U21s and not developed enough, in Didier Deschamps' eyes to step up to the national team. Thus 2013 has been a year where we are unable to judge Corchia on international appearances, although one does not presume that it will be too long before the French boss comes calling for Corchia.

'For the moment, I am only thinking about working hard, if it is meant to happen, it will happen.'

Sébastien Corchia

On a future in the French national team- 27th August 2013

DID YOU KNOW? Part of Sébastien Corchia's youth career saw him train for three seasons at the prestigious Clairefontaine academy.