

Hall of Fame · Rank 04 of 20

Dennis Oliech

FC Nantes · France Ligue 1 · Forward

Portrait: Wikipedia — Dennis Oliech

AI score	Career appearances	Career goals	Kenya caps
74/80	323	87	76

Highest transfer fee

\$3.7m / KSh 268m (January 2006). Transfer fee, Al-Arabi to Nantes — reported at \$3.7m, at KSh 72.4 to the dollar.

Profile

Mathare to the Gulf

The Menace: a striker out of Mathare United who was sold to Al-Arabi in Qatar at eighteen and moved on to Qatar SC.

France — Nantes and Auxerre

In 2006 he became Kenya's first export to a major European league at Nantes. Five seasons at Auxerre followed, including Champions League football and double figures in Ligue 1 in 2011-12, then Ajaccio and a spell in Dubai.

Home to Gor Mahia

He returned to Kenya with Gor Mahia in 2019, closing a career of 323 senior appearances and 87 goals.

Kenya

He won 76 caps and scored 34 goals — second on the all-time list — winning the CECAFA Cup and its golden boot in 2002 as a teenager.

Cup and continental record

UEFA Champions League football with Auxerre in 2010-11, and Coupe de France and Coupe de la Ligue campaigns across six seasons in France. For Kenya he won the CECAFA Cup in 2002 and finished it as the tournament's leading scorer.

Managers he played under

Serge Le Dizet managed him at Nantes and Jean Fernandez through five seasons at Auxerre, including their Champions League campaign; Fabrizio Ravanelli managed him at Ajaccio. For Kenya he played under Jacob 'Ghost' Mulee.

Firsts and milestones

— He is the first Kenyan to play in France's Ligue 1, signing for Nantes in 2006 and going on to Auxerre and Ajaccio, and he remains one of Kenya's leading international scorers.

Did you know

Kenya's record scorer, who did it while carrying the national team on his own

Thirty-four goals in 76 appearances for Kenya between 2002 and 2015 — the country's record — scored in a period when Harambee Stars had no development base behind them and no reliable professional league at home. In France he made 293 appearances for Nantes, Auxerre and Ajaccio, scoring 44 and reaching double figures in Ligue 1 with Auxerre in 2011-12. He was, for a decade, the entire attacking case for Kenyan football abroad.

34 Goals for Kenya, a national record · 293 Appearances in French football · 10 Ligue 1 goals for Auxerre in 2011-12
Source: RSSSF international goal records and career statistics — <https://www.rsssf.org/miscellaneous/oliech-intlg.html>

Did you know

Nineteen years old, offered a fortune to stop being Kenyan

Playing for Al-Arabi as a teenager, he was approached by the Qatar Football Association with a proposal to take a Qatari passport and a new name and play for Qatar. Reports of the sum run from roughly KSh 200m to KSh 890m. He turned it down, citing Kenya and what he had seen of how foreign workers were treated in the Gulf. He has admitted since that watching the neglect of talent at home made him question it — and that he still would not change it.

19 His age when the offer came · KSh 200m+ Reported value of the offer he refused · Kenya The shirt he kept instead

Source: Oliech on why he rejected the Qatar offer — Pulse Sports —
<https://www.pulsesports.co.ke/story/dennis-oliech-reveals-unsettling-reason-for-rejecting-ksh200-million-from-qatar-2025021612073885982>

Did you know

A hat-trick in sixteen minutes, and a bill of KSh 124m

He moved to Nantes in 2005 for a reported US\$2.9m after Al-Arabi blocked a bid from Monaco, then spent six seasons at Auxerre — more than 160 league games, the Champions League, and a hat-trick against Sochaux in September 2011 that took him sixteen minutes. The other figure from those years is the roughly KSh 124m he spent on medical treatment for his mother and his brother. A career of French top-flight wages went, in large part, on trying to keep his family alive.

16 minutes The Auxerre hat-trick against Sochaux, 2011 · 160+ Ligue 1 appearances for Auxerre · KSh 124m Spent on family medical treatment

Source: The sacrifices of Dennis Oliech — City News — <https://citynews.co.ke/the-sacrifices-of-dennis-oliech-loyalty-love-and-loss-beyond-the-football-pitch/>

Career record

293 club appearances and 44 goals in France with Nantes, Auxerre and Ajaccio, having started at Mathare United and Al-Arabi before finishing at Gor Mahia in 2019. 76 caps and 34 goals for Kenya between 2002 and 2016.

Career appearances and goals reconciled against Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Oliech)