

Hall of Fame · Rank 03 of 20

Victor Wanyama

Southampton · Premier League · Midfielder



Portrait: Wikipedia — Victor Wanyama

AI score	Career appearances	Career goals	Kenya caps
80/80	387	27	64

Highest transfer fee

\$19.0m / KSh 1.64bn (July 2013). Transfer fee, Celtic to Southampton — £12.5m, then a record for a player sold by a Scottish club, at \$1.52 to the pound and KSh 86.5 to the dollar.

Profile

Out of Kenya at seventeen

A destroyer of a holding midfielder who left Nairobi at seventeen and spent three seasons at Beerschot in Belgium, making 56 appearances and scoring twice.

Scotland — Celtic

Celtic signed him in 2011. Two Scottish Premiership titles and a Scottish Cup came in two seasons, along with 91 appearances and 13 goals — and a goal against Barcelona in the Champions League.

England — Southampton and Tottenham

Southampton bought him for a record fee in 2013 and gave him 97 appearances; Tottenham took him in 2016 for another 97, and a Champions League final in 2019.

North America, and the total

He finished with four seasons and 133 appearances at CF Montréal, winning the Canadian Championship in 2021, and a short spell at Dunfermline — 478 senior appearances and 32 goals in all.

Kenya

He captained his country for most of his 64 caps and scored seven international goals.

The Wanyama family

He is the younger brother of McDonald Mariga, and the two came out of Kenya's leading sporting family: their father Noah Wanyama played in midfield for AFC Leopards and for Kenya. Victor's siblings are Mariga, Heskey, Harry, Mercy, Cynthia and Patricia — Mercy played basketball for Kenya and professionally in Spain.

Their father, Noah Wanyama

Noah Wanyama gave AFC Leopards sixteen years as a midfielder, played for Kenya and later coached the club, having started out playing barefoot in Busia. He took his sons to training with him, where they carried his kit bag and played with the balls he brought home from the ground — the technical grounding both of them credit. The family lived in a shack in Muthurwa, and he ran a strict house to keep his children away from what was around them, banning boxing so no injury could cost them football. He says he never forced any of them into sport, only backed them once they chose it. It was Mariga, once he was established in Sweden, who opened the door for Victor at Helsingborgs IF in 2007.

Their mother, Mildred Wanyama

Mildred Ayiemba Osotsi Wanyama, born in 1959 in Ebusiralo, was the foundation of it. A netball player who became president of the Kenya Netball Association while working at Kenya Railways, and an ordained associate pastor at the Church of God, she is the reason Victor stayed in Europe: when he was homesick as a teenager and asked to come home, she told him to steel himself and see it through. She died on 14 June 2025 and was laid to rest in Soy, Uasin Gishu, in July that year.

Cup and continental record

The Scottish Cup with Celtic in 2013 and the Canadian Championship with CF Montréal in 2021. A UEFA Champions League final with Tottenham in 2019, and the group stages with Celtic, where his goal against Barcelona came.

Managers he played under

Neil Lennon signed him for Celtic; Mauricio Pochettino bought him twice, for Southampton and then Tottenham, and José Mourinho managed him in his final Spurs season. At CF Montréal he played under Thierry Henry and Wilfried Nancy.

Firsts and milestones

- He is the first Kenyan to sign for an English Premier League club and the first to play in the competition, joining Southampton in 2013, and he later captained a Premier League side.
- He is the first Kenyan to score in the UEFA Champions League, heading Celtic in front against Barcelona at Celtic Park in November 2012.
- With Celtic he won the Scottish Premiership in 2012-13 and the Scottish Cup in 2013, the first Kenyan to win a Scottish league and cup double.

Did you know

The first Kenyan to score in the Champions League — against Barcelona

November 2012, Celtic Park, and Wanyama headed Celtic in front against a Barcelona side of Messi, Xavi and Iniesta. Celtic won 2-1, and Wanyama became the first Kenyan ever to score in the Champions League. His brother had been the first to play in it two years earlier. Two brothers from the same Nairobi household hold both firsts.

1st Kenyan to score in the Champions League · 2-1 Celtic beat Barcelona, November 2012 · 2 Brothers holding Kenya's Champions League firsts
Source: BBC Sport and The Independent — <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/22253408>

Did you know

He took a Kenyan company to the High Court over his own face — and won the argument

In 2019 he sued Menengai Oil Refineries in the High Court for using his image without permission. It was a small case in commercial terms and a large one in principle: it established, for Kenyan athletes, that a face and a name are property with a price, and that using them without a contract is actionable. Every image-rights deal a Kenyan player signs now sits on the back of somebody being willing to litigate first.

2019 The High Court image-rights case · Image rights Established as property worth defending · Precedent For every Kenyan athlete's endorsement since
Source: Inside Victor Wanyama's business and Kenya's image-rights evolution — <https://streamlinefeed.co.ke/news/inside-victor-wanyamas-real-estate-empire-and-kenyas-image-rights-evolution>

Did you know

The retirement plan was drawn up in property, not in punditry

In May 2026 he became brand ambassador for Kings Developers, the Kenyan property firm behind projects including Nairobi's Hazina Towers, and framed the deal around financial literacy and holding assets rather than cash — a deliberate answer to the off-plan housing schemes that have taken money off Kenyan sportspeople for years. Alongside it he opened the Nairobi arm of his academy, kept building the Busia complex, and signed a two-year partnership to fund the development programmes.

May 2026 The property partnership announced · 2 years The funding partnership behind the academy · U11-U17 The age groups the academy runs
Source: "I've seen the world, now I'm building at home" — K24 — <https://k24.digital/sports/ive-seen-the-world-now-im-building-at-home-victor-wanyama-announces-big-career-shift>

Career record

478 senior club appearances and 32 goals across Beerschot, Celtic, Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, CF Montreal and Dunfermline Athletic. 64 caps and 7 goals for Kenya between 2007 and 2020. Retired from professional football in April 2026.

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