

Stage one · Kenya's football history

The Talent Was Always There

Generated 21 August 2026. Every professional below was produced without a national development system behind them: no county academy, no graded pathway, no camp base within reach of home. This is the evidence that Kenya is a football country, and the reason the next three stages of this case exist.

Professionals archived	Firsts and landmarks	Estimated squad value	Development system behind them
60	22	\$88.4M USD	None

The professionals

Player	Club	League	Era
McDonald Mariga	Inter Milan	Serie A	2010–2019
Divock Origi	Liverpool	Premier League	2010–2019
Victor Wanyama	Southampton	Premier League	2010–2019
Dennis Oliech	FC Nantes	France Ligue 1	2000–2009
Michael Olunga	Djurgårdens IF	Sweden	2010–2019
Taiwo Leo Atieno	Walsall Football Club	EFL Championship	2000–2009
Ayub Timbe	K.R.C. Genk	Belgium	2010–2019
Joseph Okumu	Real Monarchs	USL Championship	2010–2019
Lawrence Olum	Portland Timbers	USL First Division	2000–2009
Musa Otieno	Cleveland City Stars	USL Second Division	2000–2009
Patrick Osiako	Mjällby AIF	Sweden	2000–2009
David Kenga	Charleston Battery	USL First Division	2000–2009
Mwanalima Adam Jereko	Kansas City	National Women's Soccer League USA	2020–present
Nabilai Kibunguchy	Minnesota United	MLS	2020–present
Philip Mayaka	Colorado Rapids	MLS	2020–present
Siad Haji	Portland Timbers	MLS	2010–2019
Abdi Mohamed	New York City F.C.	MLS	2010–2019
Ismael Athuman	UD Las Palmas	Spain Second Division B	2010–2019
Alwyn Tera	Not listed	Not listed	2010–2019
Timothy Ouma	Slavia Prague	Under-21 pathway	2010–2019
Taiwo Leo Atieno (USA)	Puerto Rico Islanders	USL First Division	2000–2009
Brian Ombiji	Harrisburg City	USL Second Division	2000–2009
Kekuta Manneh	Vancouver Whitecaps	MLS	2010–2019

Player	Club	League	Era
Handwalla Bwana	Seattle Sounders	MLS	2010–2019
Victor Wanyama (USA)	Montreal	MLS	2020–present
Tyler Onyango (Ones to Watch)	Everton	Under-21 pathway	2020–present
Silko Otieno (Ones to Watch)	Leicester City	Under-21 pathway	2020–present
Zech Obiero	Leyton Orient	Under-21 pathway	2020–present
Amos Nondi	Kolkheti 1913	Georgia	2010–2019
Henry Ochieng	Leyton Orient	EFL League Two	2010–2019
Eugene Asike	WhiteHawk (semi pro)	Isthmian League	2020–present
Silko Otieno	Leicester City	Premier League	2020–present
Leo Messo	Arsenal (Youth Academy)	Premier League	2020–present
Aymen Lucas Onyango	Man City (Youth Academy)	Premier League	2020–present
Zachary Obiero	Leyton Orient	EFL League Two	2020–present
Tyler Onyango	Everton	Premier League	2020–present
Micah Obiero	Huddersfield Town	EFL Championship	2020–present
Vincent Harper	Bristol City	EFL Championship	2010–2019
Clarke Oduor	Leeds United	EFL Championship	2010–2019
Mike Origi	K.V. Oostende	Belgian	1990–1999
Jonah Ayunga	Brighton & Hove Albion	Premier League	2010–2019
Zak Vyner	Bristol City	EFL Championship	2010–2019
Marcus Olsson	Blackburn Rovers	EFL Championship	2010–2019
Jonathan Wafula	Chesterfield	EFL League Two	2010–2019
Martin Olsson	Blackburn Rovers	Premier League	2000–2009
Curtis Osano	Reading	EFL Championship	2000–2009
Ayub Timbe Masika	K.R.C. Genk	Belgium	2010–2019
Clifton Miheso	AFC Eskilstuna	Sweden	2010–2019
Ismailia Dunga	Acharnaikos F.C.	Greece	2010–2019
Daniel Anyembe	Esbjerg fB	Denmark	2010–2019
Aboud Omar	Slavia Sofia	Bulgaria	2010–2019
Eric Johana Omondi	Vasalunds IF	Sweden	2010–2019
Paul Were	Kalloni	Greece	2010–2019
Divock Origi (Europe)	Lille OSC	France Ligue 1	2010–2019
Victor Wanyama (Europe)	Beerschot AC	Belgium	2000–2009

Player	Club	League	Era
Arnold Origi	Moss	Norway	2000–2009
Marcus Olsson (Europe)	Högarborgs BK	Sweden	2000–2009
McDonald Mariga (Europe)	Enköpings SK	Sweden	2000–2009
Robert Mumba	K.A.A. Gent	Belgian	2000–2009
Emmanuel Ake	Akademisk Boldklub	Denmark	2000–2009

First to do it

From a teenager signing at Walsall in 2001 to a Champions League medal in Milan. Each landmark was reached without a system behind it.

Year	Landmark	Player
1989	A Kenyan striker breaks into Belgian football	Mike Origi
1998-99	First Kenyan to win a top-flight European league	Mike Origi
2001	First Kenyan to sign for an English professional club	Taiwo Leo Atieno
2005	The Swedish route opens	McDonald Mariga
2006	First Kenyan in Ligue 1	Dennis Oliech
2007	First Kenyan goalkeeper established in Norway	Arnold Origi
2007	First Kenyan to play in the USL	Taiwo Leo Atieno
2008	First Kenyan to win the USL First Division — and the first in the CONCACAF Champions League	Taiwo Leo Atieno
2009	First Kenyan born outside Kenya to play for the Harambee Stars	Taiwo Leo Atieno
2009	One of the first Kenyans cleared to hold dual citizenship lawfully	Taiwo Leo Atieno
2009	First Kenyan in Serie A	McDonald Mariga
2010	First Kenyan to play in and win the Champions League	McDonald Mariga
2012	First Kenyan to score in the Champions League	Victor Wanyama
2013	First Kenyan to win the Scottish league and cup	Victor Wanyama
2013	First Kenyan to sign for and play in the Premier League	Victor Wanyama
2014	Kenya's record cap holder retires into coaching	Musa Otieno
2018	First Kenyan to play in La Liga	Michael Olunga
2019	A Champions League final goal, with Kenyan blood	Divock Origi
2020	First Kenyan named J.League Player of the Year	Michael Olunga
2022	Belgian Cup and European nights	Joseph Okumu
2024	First Kenyan to play in the NWSL	Mwanalima Adam Jereko
2026	The next first is unwritten	—

What the talent is worth

These values represent the combined estimated career peak valuations of Kenyan footballers who have played professionally in these regions.

Region	Scope	Estimated value
England list	Top 20 players	\$44.9M
Europe list (excluding England)	Top 20 players	\$30.9M
USA list	Top 14 players	\$12.6M
Total	54 players	\$88.4M USD

Valuations are our own estimates and move with form, contracts and transfer windows. They are published so they can be challenged.

What follows

Stage two: build the county game and the professional clubs. Stage three: invest in them, with the costs and returns published county by county. Stage four: a Harambee Stars training centre in each of the eighteen corridor counties, so a national call-up no longer depends on living near Nairobi. All three are costed at kickstartkenyafootball.com.