

# SHE CAN KICK IT

## BONUS MATERIAL

**CLARE MCEWEN**

I couldn't fit everything into the book, so here are some bonus player profiles.



# PLAYER PROFILES

## Profile: Gillian Coultard

Gill Coultard's name is splashed throughout the history of women's football in England, thanks to her performances for Doncaster Belles and England. Gill was born in Doncaster in July 1963. Her football career began in the local park, playing with the boys, and as she grew older, she was told by her Grammar School she couldn't play. At the age of 13, one of her teachers introduced her to Doncaster Belles. Gill played with them for 21 years in total (in two different spells as she went to Rowntree Women's FC between 1982 and 1986). She won the league title twice and the FA Cup six times during this time. Gill was spotted by England scouts and made her debut for the national team, aged 18, in a game against the Republic of Ireland in 1981.

In April 1988, she scored the first England Women's goal ever to be scored at Wembley. In June 1995, Gill scored England's first-ever World Cup goal in a 3-2 win over Canada. She captained England between 1991 and 1994 and between 1997 and 2000, before her international retirement. She played for England 199 times, scored 30 goals, and was the first woman to reach 100 England caps. At the time, only four male players had achieved the same, despite having many more opportunities than women to represent their country. In 2006, Gillian Coultard was inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame, and in 2021, she was awarded an MBE.

## Profile: Kerry Davies

Kerry Davis made her England debut in 1982. Kerry was the first black woman to play for England and was a crucial attacking force for England for 16 years. She started strongly when she scored twice in her first game, played against Northern Ireland on 19 September 1982. The game was a Euro qualifier, and two weeks later Kerry scored all four goals in England's next qualifier against Scotland. Out of the six Euro qualifiers in the campaign, Kerry scored in five of them, netting 11 times. In 1984, in the first leg of the Euros semi-final against Denmark, Kerry stuck another one in the back of the net. Unfortunately, she couldn't get on the score sheet in the final against Sweden. She also played all four of England's matches at the 1995 World Cup.

## Profile: Kerry Davies (cont.)

Kerry was a versatile player so often played in midfield. Despite this, by the time her international career with the Lionesses had ended, Kerry had scored 44 goals in 82 games. Her England goal-scoring record was only surpassed in 2012 by Kelly Smith, a record that was beaten again in 2021 by Ellen White. In contrast, both these women were pure centre forwards throughout their England career. Kerry began her club career with Crewe Alexandra Ladies when she was a teenager, but within a few years was signed by Italian club Roi Lazio, who made her a semi-professional player. After a spell with Trani 80 and Napoli in Italy, she returned to Crewe. She moved to Knowsley United (later to become Liverpool) and played in the 1994 FA Cup Final with them before finishing her playing career with Croydon Women in 1999. During her time at Croydon, the team won the league and cup double, her first domestic trophies.

## Profile: Marianne Spacey

Marianne Spacey has been a big part of women's football in England since the 1990s. Part of the all-conquering Arsenal team of that era, winning five league titles and seven FA Cups whilst with them. Her senior career started at just 13 (in a time when few junior girls' teams existed) at the team British Oxygen, before moving onto Friends of Fulham. After short spells playing in Italy and Finland, she moved back to Fulham for a while before joining Arsenal. In her final season at the club in 2002, having come back after becoming a mum, the attacking midfielder finished as the club's top scorer and was voted Players' Player of the Year. Vic Akers once described her as, "capable of scoring goals from all over the pitch".

In 2002, she moved to Fulham Ladies and whilst there helped them win a domestic league and cup double before retiring from playing. Her international career began in 1984 when she made her debut against Belgium. She twice won the Mundialito with England, scoring twice in the 1985 final to beat Italy (aged only 19), and won it again in 1988. Living the dream at Wembley, she scored a goal in a 1990 friendly against Scotland. She was part of the team that played at their first World Cup tournament in 1995, scoring in their opening game against Canada.

Marianne retired after Euro 2021 having reached 91 caps and having scored 28 goals for her country. Spacey moved into coaching and gained a UEFA Pro Licence along the way. She managed Fulham Ladies for a few years from 2003 before the club disbanded the women's team.

## **Profile: Marianne Spacey (cont.)**

She coached England's under-16s, under-17s, and under-19s, and had spells at Arsenal and Charlton. In 2013 she became Lionesses assistant coach, alongside Mark Sampson, helping the team get third at the 2015 World Cup. In 2017, she became head coach of the under-23 Young Lionesses, a year in which they won the Nordic tournament in Sweden. Part of that squad were some of the current Lionesses' stars, including Leah Williamson, Beth Mead, Keira Walsh, and Jess Carter, plus a string of other familiar WSL stars. In 2016, she joined Southampton as Head of Women's and Girl's Football. In her first season as head coach, they won a league and cup double. Marianne Spacey was inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame in 2009 and awarded an MBE for services to football in 2016.

## **Profile: Karen Walker**

Karen Walker was known for her superb heading ability and she put her aerial prowess to good use for Doncaster Belles and England. She began her Belles career at the age of 15 and spent 20 years with the team through their glory years. During the late eighties and nineties, the formidable centre-forward played in 11 FA Cup finals, picking up the trophy five times. During the 1992 FA Cup campaign Karen scored a hat-trick in every game, including the final against Red Star Southampton. She helped the Belles win the 1991/92 Women's Premier League National Division when she scored 36 goals in only 14 games. The Belles won it again two years later.

Karen made her senior England debut in 1988 when still a teenager, playing in the Mundialito World Cup. She scored with her first kick of the ball. She was a key player for England for around 15 years, scoring 40 goals in 83 appearances. She helped the team reach the 1995 World Cup and was captain of the team when she retired from international duty in 2003.

She moved to Leeds United for the last couple of years of her playing career and reached one last FA Cup Final (losing out to Arsenal) in 2006.

## Profile: Fara Williams

Fara Williams is England's most capped player, having made 172 appearances for her country over her 18-year international career. A renowned set-piece specialist, Fara has played for six different clubs over her two decades as a top-class player. She began as a youth at Chelsea, joining the under-14s when she was only 12. She progressed into the senior squad whilst still a teenager, scoring 30 goals in her first season, 2000/01. She signed for Charlton Athletic the following season and won their Player of the Year award as well as the FA Young Player of the Year award that year. After a couple of difficult years, the midfielder helped Charlton challenge for all three domestic trophies and came away with the FA Women's Premier League Cup. Despite the successful season, Fara joined Everton in 2004, where she stayed until 2012. After several attempts, Fara finally got her hands on the FA Cup in 2010/11, when Everton beat Arsenal in a thrilling final. She moved to rivals Liverpool for the next couple of seasons. In 2013, Liverpool won the FA WSL league title and retained it in 2014. Fara moved on to Arsenal for the 2016/17 season before finishing her career at Reading, retiring at the end of 2020/21.

For England, Fara made her debut at age 17 against Portugal. In February 2002, against the same opponents, she scored a trademark free kick in her first senior start. And she didn't stop scoring. Fara played in the 2005, 2009, 2013, and 2017 European Championships and the 2007, 2011, and 2015 World Cups. She also played at the 2012 London Olympics as part of the Great Britain team. Amongst her 40 international goals, Fara scored three penalties at the 2015 World Cup, including the winning goal that gave England a 1-0 victory over Germany to win the bronze medal – their best ever finish at a FIFA World Cup.

She was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2016 and in 2024 had a main pitch named after her at St. George's Park, to honour her legacy at the home of England Football.

## Profile: Hope Solo

Hope Solo is one of the best goalkeepers the women's game has ever seen. Her first professional clean sheet came in 2003 in her first season for US team Philadelphia Charge. Throughout her career, she played her club football in the United States, Sweden, and France, moving to Europe when the U.S. league collapsed.

Hope Solo played for the USWNT from 2000 to 2016. She was the number one choice from 2005. She won Gold Medals in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. In the 2011 World Cup, she saved a penalty in the quarter-final shootout against Brazil that helped the US team through to the semi-finals and she finished the tournament with the Golden Glove and was voted the third-best player in the tournament. She was also named in the All-Star team of the tournament. In the 2015 World Cup, she won the Golden Glove again as the USWNT won the trophy again.

Throughout her career, she played 202 times for her country and finished with 102 clean sheets. She was the first female goalkeeper to reach 100 clean sheets, in 2016, and reached her 200th appearance at the Rio Olympics in 2016. Although sometimes controversial, Hope Solo remains one of the best goalkeepers the women's game has seen.

## Profile: Rachel Yankey

Rachel Yankey was the first professional female player in England with the ambitious Fulham Ladies, who were the first club to pay a woman a salary to play. But she's best known for her time with Arsenal, played in two different spells. The fast-paced winger began her senior career with Arsenal as a teenager, maturing into a top-class player under the guidance of Vic Akers. During her first stint with the Gunners. Her footballing career started before that though, when she shaved her hair, called herself Ray and pretended to be a boy to play in an under-8s team. She got away with it for two seasons. She later joined Mill Hill United, as herself.

She left Arsenal to become a professional player at Fulham in 2000 before spells with Birmingham City and New Jersey Wildcats in the U.S. before returning to Arsenal for 11 seasons. During her time with Fulham, she helped them win a historic treble in 2002 before winning a cup double the season after. At Arsenal, she scored 51 goals in nearly 200 appearances, winning six FA Women's National Premier League titles, nine FA Cups, four FA Women's Premier League Cups, the UEFA Women's Cup (now the Women's Champions League) during Arsenal's historic quadruple-winning 2007 season, and two WSL titles.

## Profile: Rachel Yankey cont.

She got her first England call-up in 1997 and scored on her debut. During her international career, Rachel made 129 appearances, a then-record that exceeded Peter Shilton's all-time England appearance record. Since then, only four players have represented England more times. She scored 19 goals for her country and was part of the Great Britain squad for the London 2012 Olympics.

Rachel Yankey was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2006 and an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2014. She was inducted into the National Football Museum's Hall of Fame in 2017.

## Profile: Sylvia Gore

Sylvia Gore began her playing career at Manchester Corinthians before moving to Fodens in 1967. She was part of the Fodens team that beat Southampton in the 1974 Women's FA Cup final, the first time Southampton had lost the Cup final. A goalscoring midfielder, Sylvia once scored 134 goals in a single season. Known as the "Denis Law of women's football", Sylvia scored the very first official England goal in their 3-2 win over Scotland in November 1972.

She was forced to retire at age 35 because of a serious back injury but continued to give her life to the game. She managed the Wales national women's team between 1982 and 1989, including providing financial assistance too, despite the fact she was a volunteer. After that, she continued to coach and was a women's football development officer in Liverpool before becoming the first female director of Liverpool County FA in 2014. She was also part of the Women's FA (WFA) before the FA took over control in 1993.

Sylvia Gore played, coached, and gave her life to football and was made an MBE for services to the game in 2000. She was inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame in 2014.

## Profile: Carli Lloyd

Carli Lloyd was born in 1982 and started playing football (soccer) when she was about five. She played football at her high school in the United States and was a talented player, scoring goals and providing assists for her team. She was twice named Girls' High School Player of the Year. She was inspired to play for her country after going to a game at the 1999 Women's World Cup.

At University, she played for the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. She was the first Rutgers University athlete to be named First-Team All-Big East for four years in a row. Whilst at college, she became the school's all-time top goalscorer with 50 goals. She was such a talent that before she'd even left high school, Carli played for W-League teams, and in 2004 played alongside Kelly Smith and Tobin Heath at the New Jersey Wildcats. In 2009, when the Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) league began, Carli played for the Chicago Red Stars. During her club career, she played for a range of clubs, including several seasons at Western New York Flash (2013-2014), Houston Dash (2015-2017), and NJ/NY Gotham FC (2018-2021). With the New York Flash she won the NWSL Shield and a brief loan spell at Manchester City earned a Women's FA Cup title.

During her international career, Carli Lloyd played 316 games, scoring 134 goals for her country. She won six Algarve cups, two CONCACAF Women's Championships, four CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournaments, two Olympic gold medals and a bronze medal, two FIFA World Cups, and four SheBelieves Cups. Her trophy cabinet must be bulging.

## Profile: Nadine Angerer

Nadine Angerer had a stellar career as Germany's goalkeeper for nearly 20 years. During her time as their number one, she won the FIFA World Cup twice (2003, 2007), the UEFA Euros five times (all of them from 1997-2013), two Algarve Cups and three Olympic bronze medals. She played 146 times for her country and earned herself honours including making the FIFA Women's World Cup All-Star Team in 2007 and 2015, named FIFA's Best World Cup Goalkeeper in 2007, the 2013 Euros Best Player of the Tournament, and FIFA World Player of the Year in 2013. In the 2007 World Cup, Nadine didn't concede a single goal and set the record for the most consecutive World Cup minutes played without conceding (540 minutes). She is undoubtedly one of the best goalkeepers to ever play the game.

She initially began playing as a forward as a youth before standing in for an injured goalkeeper. It just so happened that this game was a youth scouting game and her talent in goal was spotted. She began her senior career at 1. FC Nürnberg before moving to FC Wacker München for a couple of years.

## Profile: Nadine Angerer (cont.)

In 1999, she signed for Bayern Munich and made 17 appearances there before spending her longest club spell at Potsdam (where she made 126 appearances). She had four years at FFC Frankfurt between 2009 and 2013 before moving to Brisbane Roar in Australia's W-League. She also played for the Portland Thorns in the U.S. before becoming their goalkeeper coach. She is now goalkeeping coach for Switzerland's national women's team.

## Profile: Megan Rapinoe

Megan Rapinoe is as much known for her activism as her quick-footed football skills. Not only has she had an enviable career on the pitch, but she has improved the world a little bit too. She has campaigned for equal pay and conditions for female footballers and vocally supported her LGBTQIA+ community, as well as inclusivity in general. In 2020, she was named in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People.

She began to play football when she was a toddler, copying her older brother Brian. Her father coached her youth teams as she grew up before she joined Elk Grove Pride in 2002; where she played in the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL). In college, she made 60 appearances for the Portland Pilots and scored 30 goals. Before that, she already had international experience at the FIFA Under-19s World Cup. In her first season with Portland, the team were undefeated and won the NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship. She earned several accolades, including being named NSCAA First Team All-American and being named in the NCAA Women's Soccer Championships All-Tournament Team. In her sophomore year, she scored 10 goals and had two assists in 11 matches, before suffering her first ACL injury. The following year, she suffered her second ACL injury after only two games.

Despite the early injury setbacks, Megan went on to have an epic career. During her club career, she played for Chicago Red Stars, Philadelphia Independence, MagicJack, Sydney FC, Seattle Sounders, Lyon, and OL Reign. She won the Division 1 Féminine and Coupe de France Féminine with Lyon and with OL Reign won the NWSL Shield three times and the Women's Cup. Megan played 203 times for her country between 2006 and 2023, scoring 63 goals and providing assists for many more. She won two World Cups, Olympic gold and bronze medals, three Algarve Cups, three CONCACAF Women's Championships, four SheBelieves Cups, and a CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament. During the 2019 World Cup, Megan Rapinoe won the Golden Boot and Golden Ball awards, and was named Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year and the Best FIFA Women's Player in the same year. In 2022, she was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honour the U.S. gives to civilians.

## Profile: Hege Riise

Hege Riise began playing football when she was six and played on a boys' team until she was 14. In 1989, the Norwegian began her senior career with Setskog/Høland and won the Norwegian Cup with them in 1992. She moved to Japan to play in 1995 and spent several seasons with Nikko Securities Dream Ladies. Whilst there, she won the Japanese League once and their Cup twice. She moved back to Norway and played again for Setskog/Høland before moving to Asker, winning the Norwegian Cup with them in 2000. She moved to the U.S. to play for Carolina Courage in the early part of the new millennium before finishing her playing career with Team Strømmen. Hege's international career spanned 15 years, where she played 188 times for Norway, scoring 58 goals from midfield. She won the 1993 Euros with them and two years later the FIFA World Cup, where she was awarded the Golden Ball as best player. In 2000, she won the Olympic gold medal and became one of only three women to win the Olympics, Euros, and World Cup (fellow Norwegians Bente Nordby and Gro Espeseth were the others).

Hege Riise moved into management after her playing career ended, and has coached at the highest level. She was assistant manager with the USWNT, interim manager for England, and then the Olympic Great Britain team in 2021, and most recently took Norway to the 2023 World Cup. At club level, she won four Norwegian League titles and three Cups with LSK Kinner. She also took the Norway Under-19s team to a silver medal at the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship in 2022.



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