

TOM PALMER

ULTIMATE FOOTBALL HEROES



FOOTBALL'S GREATEST MOMENTS



ULTIMATE GOALS, GAMES AND GLORY

ACTION-PACKED AND UNOFFICIAL

AUTHOR'S NOTE

When you write a book about football's greatest moments, you're setting yourself up for people disagreeing with you. But that's fine. I think this. You think that. That's football.

We might agree on some of what I've included. Maradona. Marta. Messi. But we're going to disagree on plenty.

For instance, I will have left something out that does your head in. *How could he not include that? He knows nothing about football.* (Maybe I don't.) Or, *He dislikes my team and has left things out because of that.* (Maybe I do and have.)

Also, I might have included some things that really annoy you. Identify which team has way too many mentions in this book and you've probably worked out who I support.

What can I say? I'm sorry? I'm not sorry? You decide.

But, I hope you agree that this book contains most



TOM PALMER

of football's greatest moments from your point of view. Just not all. No apologies for that.

Thank you.

Tom (#MOT)



PERFECT ENDING

The argument about who is the greatest footballer that ever lived intensified as Lionel Messi's brilliant career evolved. Here was a man who had won the Ballon D'Or, the award for the year's greatest male footballer, seven times. But Messi had never lifted the World Cup. Could he be compared to Pelé and Maradona, football geniuses who had lifted the ultimate prize?

Messi was 35 when his last chance came: Qatar 2022. After unthinkable losing their opening game to Saudi Arabia, Messi's Argentina went on to beat Mexico, Poland, Australia, the Netherlands and Croatia. Now they faced the reigning champions, France, in the World Cup final. The two teams were so evenly matched that 90 minutes and extra time could not separate them. The winners of the 2022 men's World Cup – and Messi's legacy – would be decided on penalties.

Argentina needed to score with their last kick.



Messi waited with his teammates, a row of blue and white stripes, to see if he and they would achieve the ultimate stamp of greatness... or not.

GOALLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL!!!!!!

The world changed in a moment. The penalty went in. The crowd roared. Most of the Argentina players rushed forward. But Lionel Messi dropped to his knees. On seeing him, his teammates doubled back, their arms encircling their captain, as every Argentina fan's arms encircled him in spirit. Maybe every football fan's.

Because those fans had just witnessed one of the greatest moments in football.

LIONEL MESSI	
Born	1987, Argentina
Position	Forward
Club goals	726
International goals	119
Selected honours	La Liga (10 times); Champion's League (4 times); World Cup



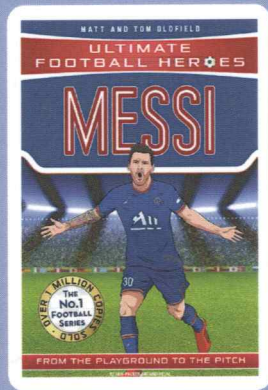
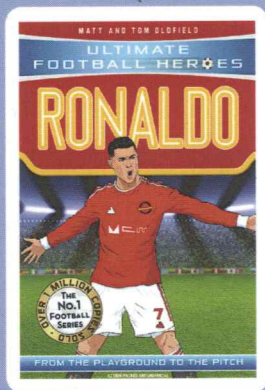
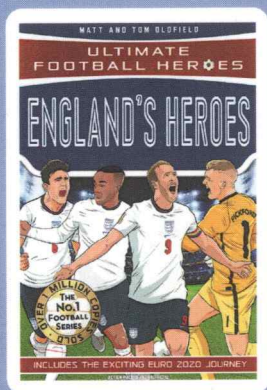
THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME

Discover one hundred of the most memorable moments in football history in this fascinating Ultimate Football Heroes collection!

From the invention of the modern sport right the way to the present day, read all about the most thrilling and significant goals, games, and players across more than 150 years of the Beautiful Game.

ULTIMATE FOOTBALL HEROES

HAVE YOU READ THEM ALL?



Cover Illustration by Dan Leydon
YOUNG ADULT/SPORT/BIOGRAPHY
AGES 8 AND UP

UK £6.99



ebook
available



ISBN 978-1-789-46715-4



9 781789 467154

www.heroesfootball.com



@footieheroesbks @UFHbooks