

Foreigners in Costa Rica, Part I

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To print

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A couple of weeks ago and probably unknowingly, the Argentine Ismael Gomez, the flier of Limon's box, entered the history of Costa Rican football in the top category by becoming the number 500 foreigner to play in the national soccer circuit. There have been many and diverse destinations in the world that came to Costa Rica to make a name and bring in different times the teams of the country.

Today we can look back at the history and highlight the tremendous figure pioneer, Cuban Frank Mejías who in 1925 was hired by the Dean, Club Sport La Libertad to play in the ranks of the capital. The West Indian was seen while he came to play an international series with the Fortuna team of Cuba; Mejías helped that the blanquinegros rose with the scepter of unconquered way and were also monarchs a year later.

After that first entry of a foreigner to the league, the most unexpected destinations have come from Kenya and Sierra Leone in Africa, Trinidad and Tobago or Haiti from the American continent and Europeans from destinations such as Slovakia, Switzerland and Denmark where contact With the Costa Rican has been little in spite of the fact that in the last years it has been due to the export of our players to these leagues, especially to the last two mentioned.

For this it is always valid to remember some names that indisputably left their mark as the players who were on tactical soil after playing a World Cup or that maybe after playing here served as a springboard to reach the maximum appointment of the world. Names like those of the Uruguayan Julio César Cortes-mundialista of Chile 1962, England 1966 and Mexico 1970, played for Guanacaste-the Salvadoran Luis Baltazar Ramírez "Pele Zapata" that was in the appointment of the orb in Spain 1982 and acted for the Carthaginian, Wilmer Cabrera Colombian world-wide of 1990 and that dressed the coat of Herediano or the American Roy Lassiter who played for Turrialba, Carmelita and Alajuelense and played with his selection in France 1998.

Other names that left their surnames printed in the memory of the Costa Rican football fan were among others Panamanian Roberto Tyrrel, Argentines Ricardo Carreño, Adrián Mahía, Diego País, Brazilians Odir Jacques, Gaetano Da Silva, Adonis Hilario and Nidilson de Mello, the Charrúas Miguel Mansilla, Alejandro Larrea, Mario Orta and James Cantero or the Hondurans Nahamán González, Dolmo Flores and César "Nene" Obando, but the fact is that many have left their samples of quality in the courts of the first division Tica.

In this review we will talk during the week about some data that have left here the foreign players in Costa Rica, which team has hired more outsiders, what nationality they have been, which is the top scorer and which has played in more clubs in Tiquicia

This delivery will be dedicated to talk about foreigners with more national championship matches, of which 504 outsiders so far a total of nine who surpassed the wall of 220 official meetings being the Brazilian Geraldo Da Silva who acted most with 319 Shocks. Da Silva came to the country in 1988 to play with Saprissa where he was national champion on that occasion and in 1989, after returning to Brazil and returning to the "S" for a short period, he moved to other clubs such as Belén, Herediano and Pérez Zeledon where he finally hung the boots of his career in the division of honor.

Another more recent was the Argentine Gustavo Martinez who arrived in 1997 to act with Santa Barbara, after his good step was hired in Saprissa, later played for Carmelita and retired with Santos de Guápiles where he is currently coach, Historic scorer of that institution with 35 goals.

The third site was occupied by a Brazilian who later became Costa Rican nationals and even came to play for the National Team in Mexico 1986, Nilton Nóbrega who with Herediano played 295 games. Then he went to the Saprissa, but he was already an expert. With the florenses crowned like champion in 1978, 1979 and 1981.

The following is the list of foreigners with more games in Costa Rica:

Player	Country	Games
Geraldo Da Silva	Brazil	319
Gustavo Martínez	Argentina	303
Nilton Nobrega	Brazil	295
Alessandro Moreira	Brazil	249
Josef Miso	Slovakia	248
Jorge Barbosa	Brazil	233
John J. Quiñones	Colombia	224
Kleber Ponce	Brazil	223
Leonardo Moreira	Brazil	223

Foreigners of Costa Rica, Part III

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Like many Costa Rican players who have changed their jersey several times in the first division, the outsiders who have played in the country have also had important leaps from one club to another.

Of the 504 foreign players who went through national football a large majority had two or more houses, going from team to team. A proof of them is the Brazilian Jorge "Flecha" Barbosa still active and who since his arrival at the beginning of the previous decade has had the fortune of always finding equipment. For Barbosa there have been nine geographical destinations within the country since he has been fighting from Perez Zeledon to teams like Puntarenas FC and Santos.

Curiously, Brazilians have been the ones that have changed their thirst most times. Alessandro Moreira and Marco Lima were in six different teams, same luck ran the coffeemaker John Jairo Quiñones who also remains in activity with the San Carlos box.

In the case of Barbosa is one of the foreigners who have more parties on their backs in the tactical football,

same case of Moreira since the first sum nowadays 234 encounters while the second added 249.

Another outsider who can boast of an important brand is another carioca Alfredo Álvez Filho, defender who was linked in the 90s to clubs like Turrialba, Carthage, Goicoechea, Perez Zeledon, Municipal Puntarenas and Carmelite.

The curious thing of the fact is that basically the Brazilian players are the ones that the national teams look for, of that the changes in many occasions such is the case of Adonis Hilario and Pedro Pablo Ribeiro "Pedrinho" who played in four clubs, Leonardo Moreira did it in Five, Kleber Ponce did it in three, same case of Luis Fernandes Texeira and Luis Claudio Dos Santos, among many others.

The debate is always whether it is a matter of little stability or whether this has been a way of noting the success of the players in tactical soil. Debate or not, are players who have been named and listed in the records of football in the first division of our country.

The following are the foreign players with the most clubs in the honorary division of Costa Rica:

Soccer player	country	Clubs	Quantity
Jorge Barbosa	Brazil	Sta. Bárbara, Brujas, Santos, Osa, Carthaginian, P. Zeledon, Puntarenas FC, Barrio México, Herediano	9
Alessandro Moreira	Brazil	Belén, San Carlos, Liberia, Carmelita, Goicoechea, Osa	6
John J. Quiñones	Colombia	Ramonense, San Carlos, Guanacasteca, Carthaginian, Liberia, P. Zeledon	6
Marco Lima	Brazil	Bethlehem, Limon, Carthaginian, Goicoechea, M. Puntarenas, Carmelite	6
Alfredo Álvez	Brazil	Turrialba, Carthaginian, Goicoechea, P. Zeledon, M. Puntarenas, Carmelite	6
Charles Otieno	Kenya	Lemon, Sta. Barbara, Carthaginian, Carmelite, Heredian, P. Zeledon	6

The foreign goals in Costa Rica were made by Brazil and Herediano
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From 1925 until today, 592 foreign players went through the first division football, of which 322 got at least one goal in the highest category with the most representative names in this regard being the Slovak Josef Miso with 88 goals, the Brazilian Jorge Barbosa with 83 and Odir Jacques with 82, Uruguayan Claudio Ciccia with 78 and also Brazilian Adonis Hilario with 71.

At nationality level, Brazilians have excelled in the scorecard aspect of the championship history, 67 players from that nation have achieved 889 goals from the 3030s scored by outsiders throughout history, leading well over other countries that have scored in Costa Rica like the Uruguayans with 691 goals, the Argentines with 543 and the Colombians with 249.

If we look at the top 10 list of Brazilians who scored in the first division, we find names that left their mark for their magnificent performances in local football, such as Jorge Barbosa, Odir Jacques and Adonis Hilario; They are joined by Nilton Nobrega with 51 entries, Pedro P. Ribeiro "Pedrinho" with 42, Kleber Ponce with 41, **Alessandro Moreira with 36**, Everardo Da Costa and Leandro Barrios with 31 and Leonardo Moreira with 29.

At the national level, 29 of the 37 that have been represented managed to score, with the top 10 being the Brazilian with 889, the Uruguayan with 691, the Argentine with 543, the Colombians got 249, the Hondurans 126, Slovaks 89, the Panamanians 84, the Americans 52, the Peruvians 44 and close the Dominicans with 42.

Speaking properly of the national clubs, the most benefited from the foreign goals in history was the Club Sport Herediano that with 48 foreign players managed to shout 435 so many, second appears a little distant Deportivo Saprissa getting 369 so many of its 39 scorers And very near the purple appears Alajuelense with 367 conquests of its 37 gunners. A curious case is that of the Carthaginian who occupied more foreign players than any other club to achieve so many representatives of other countries with a total of 50; Nevertheless they occupy the fourth box with only 314 goals.

Herediano commands the list of 30 teams that had foreign scorers throughout history.