

Adieu, Almen...

It has been a summer of departures for Watford fans, but none hurt as much as yours.

Symbolic of our revolution under the Pozzos, you were the first player of the overwhelming horde of signings to prove your mettle and consistently put in top class performances.

You were, fittingly, the first Pozzo player to score for us in a dramatic victory against Crystal Palace (extra points for that), which foreshadowed the rollercoaster ride of the 2012/13 season.

You rode a wave of Zola excitement and flair, standing out amongst a sea of attacking talent in Vydra, Deeney, Forestieri and Anya. To win Watford's Player of the Season in a team that had

the Championship Player of the Year in Vydra shows how much you meant to us.

In the next season, a bit of a disaster all round, you were absent for the duration. And it showed. The team lacked coherence, and players like McGugan (who you've now replaced at Sheffield Wednesday) failed to fill the void. You were the missing link in a team of strangers.

However, by no coincidence the team was back to their best in your third season when you came back to the fore. You scored spectacular, key goals against Bolton, Reading and Nottingham Forest, whilst spearheading the creativity in midfield. Without your efforts, we would not be in the promised land of the Premier League today.

Unfortunately, a change of style was adopted for the Premier League last season. We were sorry to see you shunted to right mid (and even right back). You were stifled from showing your glimmering talent as an attacking centre midfielder who can thread a pass like no other. Like a photographer who's turned blind, it was sad to see such a talent suffocated by misfortune and misaligned tactics.

You will undoubtedly cause anyone of a yellow persuasion considerable pain when you score double figures for Sheffield Wednesday and assist twenty-plus goals for Fernando this season. But we do not begrudge you in anyway. It will be a relief to see a talented player flourish in their correct position (not right back!)

Send our regards to Daniel Pudil, and another beloved star to have fallen through the trapdoor, Fernando Forestieri. See you in 2017!

Joe Young

