

Chelsea agree deal for Ajax defender Jorrel Hato



Chelsea have agreed a €43m deal for 19 year-old Ajax player Jorrel Hato. The Dutchman has agreed to a 7 year deal that expires in June 2032, according to Fabrizio Romano. Chelsea have the option to extend it for a further year.

Ajax possess an undisclosed sell-on clause for their academy graduate should he part ways from Chelsea in the future. Hato first joined Ajax from Sparta Rotterdam in 2018 and signed his first professional contract in 2022.

Hato is one of the most highly coveted youngsters in world football, having made 111 appearances for the Amsterdam based club as well as earning six caps for the Netherlands. He was the third youngest player to ever suit up in the white and red, behind Ryan Gravenberch and Clarence Seedorf.

He most recently was awarded the Johan Cruyff Talent of the Year award for the 2024-25 Eredivisie season. The award represents the best under-21 players in the division and has been won by names such as Gravenberch, Jurrien Timber and Xavi Simons.

Hato will join the inaugural Club World Cup Champions and be tasked with deputizing for Spaniard Marc Cucurella. The 27 year-old La Masia graduate played an incredible 54 games for the Blues last season, more than any other Chelsea player.

Hato is also defensively versatile capable of playing at centre-back. Levi Colwill has yet to be paired with someone consistently since Wesley Fofana was injured in December. Chelsea's current healthy rotation of central defenders consist of Trevor Chalobah, Tosin Adarabioyo, Benoit Badiashile and the returning Axel Disasi.

Enzo Maresca will hope that Hato is not the last Dutch player to arrive at Stamford Bridge this summer as the club has also been heavily linked with RB Leipzig's Xavi Simons.