

# Transcript

Speaker 1

He's just absolutely ripped it off.

Speaker 2

The best in Salah is probably better than even Mo Salah thought it was.

Speaker 3

It's another goal for Mo Salah.

Speaker 4

Back in Egypt, he's just huge. Beckham with faith.

Speaker 5

The bloke cannot help himself right now. That's nice, isn't it? How composed is that?

Speaker 6

He's more influential than the president of Egypt.

Speaker 3

Liverpool's Egyptian kick.

Speaker 7

Chelsea ruined the fact that they don't have most salad.

Speaker 8

It's a bit like Messi. When he gets it, you're kind of sitting on the edge of your seat. Oh, yes.

Speaker 3

He is on fire.

Speaker 9

A lot of people say he's not good enough for the Premier League. I have to come back to prove them wrong.

Speaker 10

He loves and breathes and eats football and goalscoring. Salad.

Speaker 5

Cover the hour, cover the man.

Speaker 11

He's exceeded everyone's expectations. It's been absolutely fantastic.

Speaker 12

And all of a sudden, bang, gets to grow out of nowhere.

Speaker 5

The full-time whistle.

Speaker 3

That's it. Kier, here they come.

Speaker 5

Liverpool are into the Champions League final for the eighth time in club history.

Speaker 1

On Saturday, Liverpool will play their last game of the season in the biggest club final of them all. Their inspiration has been a man who's put hardship, doubt and rejection behind him and developed a genuine love affair with the city, A-team and its supporters.

Speaker 13

I think Liverpool are on the brink of something special, but you always need that one person in your squad who's got the tools to get them special goals that change big games.

Speaker 11

We weren't expecting it, but I think to get the final Champions League is a great feat in itself, but now you're there, you may as well win it.

Speaker 2

I'm not overly surprised that Liverpool have been so successful in the Champions League this season because if you look at them, they're very much a knockout side. They're very dynamic. And I think that suits obviously Mo Salah.

Speaker 14

I think this team has got exactly what it takes to win a Champions League. So much of that is down to Mo Salah. I think he's lifted everyone to new levels. He's made everyone believe that anything is possible.

Speaker 15

Yo, they're living the dream. And Mo Salah looks like he knows he's living the dream. That's a brilliant thing to see.

Speaker 1

The man Liverpool fans call the Egyptian King has had an astonishing season, scoring 44 goals in 51 games, scooping all the major individual awards along the way.

Speaker 15

And the winner...

Speaker 5

Players' Player of the Year 2018 is Mohamed Salah of Liverpool and Egypt.

Speaker 16

APPLAUSE Straight away we knew we had a top player. He was amazing in training, amazing in the pre-season games, and really he's just continued that form throughout the season, and he's been fantastic on and off the field.

Speaker 9

My personal thing is to win something with the team. I always think about the team, I don't think about myself. The way we play is very nice for me.

Speaker 1

Mo Salah's journey to the Premier League Golden Boot winner is a story of talent, hard work and an acceptance. There'll be setbacks on the way to fame. 80 miles northwest of Cairo is where it all began.

Speaker 6

Growing up in a.

Speaker 1

Modest home, Salah, the eldest of four children, was encouraged to play football at an early age. Aged 14, Salah was picked up by an Egyptian Premier League club in Cairo. Sacrifices had to be made for him to fulfill his potential.

Speaker 6

He went to school in the morning at 7 A.m., and he spent only two hours in school. Then he had to travel for 4 1/2 hours all the way to Cairo to play, and then travel 4 1/2 hours back to his village.

Speaker 16

And then the cycle continues five times in a week. . . . We are . Mohammed ..

Speaker 15

Mohammed .. Salah knew he'd have to leave Egypt for Europe.

Speaker 1

The move came in 2010, not to one of football's hotbeds, but a rather more low-key setting in Switzerland.

Speaker 6

It wasn't easy for him in Switzerland. At the beginning, there was language barrier. There was obviously the weather situations. The food, Egyptian food is totally different from Swiss food. He had to adapt to that.

Speaker 4

I definitely saw him a couple of games against Chelsea in Europe. I remember my intro was, Bala, a decent team with one outstanding player in Mo Salah.

Speaker 16

I'm here to come, and I'm here to give up. Ser Schuster, Bodensteiner, Jung, and Schnell. At the time, I'm not probably my option, and I'm not sure. His.

Speaker 1

Habit of scoring goals against English teams in Europe alerted Premier League clubs, and soon, London was calling the 21-year-old.

Speaker 7

Mo was pretty quiet, personality-wise, when he joined. And looking back, I guess it was quite difficult for him because we had a really strong, charismatic dressing room, you know, some big names and big personalities, and he signed from a relatively small club. in European terms, in Basel. It was probably looking back very early from him in his development to sort of take on that kind of dressing man, which probably would have been a bit daunting for him.

Speaker 17

He just never really found his feet. He was a little bit erratic. He looked like the first moment something went wrong, his confidence went through the floor. And, you know, he was amongst big names, big characters. players with huge reputations at Stamford Bridge. And he just, he looks at times like a little boy lost.

Speaker 18

A lot of people have this misconception that if you go to one club three, four, five years ago, and I don't want to say you fail, but you don't necessarily make it back then, people just think, oh, what's happened? But most of the time it's because the young boys and they're living in foreign countries, and they struggle at times. And then they need a couple of years to go away for them to grow as people, as players, to get experience.

Speaker 10

He was a kid when he came to Chelsea, and Chelsea had a squad that was unbelievable, so it was really difficult. Kevin De Bruyne didn't play in that squad. That says a lot, and I think we all agree Jose Mourinho is a fantastic manager, so it's not... Sometimes things are like that.

Speaker 7

It's very hard to criticise Chelsea, because with hindsight, things are very easy. People were trying to use it as a stick to beat them with because at the time it was a lot of competition for places. And a lot of players are worth their salts in terms of Mo Salah, in terms of Kevin De Bruyne are hungry, they want to play. And they took those decisions themselves, which I think is more credit to them than discredit to Chelsea.

Speaker 1

In search of regular first-team football, Salah opted to go on loan to Fiorentina in Italy.

Speaker 19

He made an instant impact. I would say Salah is recognized as one of the best pieces of business in the January transfer window in a long, time in Italy. Fiorentina were doing everything, really, to lock that deal down on a permanent basis. And in the end, were bitterly frustrated that they got gazumped by Roma.

Speaker 1

And the move to the Italian capital proved to be the catalyst for Salah's career.

Speaker 19

He seemed to really hit it off, not only with the manager, but also with his teammates.

Speaker 1

Salah's form in his first season for Roma, he was the top scorer with 15 goals and was voted player of the season. Led to the club signing him on a permanent deal from Chelsea.

Speaker 18

I'd seen him a few times for Roma and I liked him. I traditionally thought he was more of a winger than a goal scorer that he's turned into.

Speaker 1

But after two successful seasons in Rome, the desire to prove himself back in England was too strong to resist. Whether at home or overseas, the Egyptian community is football crazy. And having produced the Wales' newest star is a matter of pride and influence.

Speaker 6

I used to support Chelsea, but after Salah came, I started to support Liverpool.

Speaker 20

He's our angel, actually. For me personally, I wasn't one day interested in any games or any footballs, but since he's been part of it, I'm enjoying it any single minute. We pray for him always, and we wish him good luck and good life, and God plays him.

Speaker 10

He make us all proud.

Speaker 6

Everyone proud of him.

Speaker 1

He's a very humble guy, very genuine guy. He's real.

Speaker 15

He's not fake.

Speaker 10

God bless him and go on, Salah.

Speaker 20

I love Mohamed Salah.

Speaker 1

But nowhere in the world will you find a greater love for Mo Salah than in Liverpool. At the start of this season, he left Italy behind for what he felt was unfinished business in English football.

Speaker 21

I think Liverpool were excited about him, but they didn't really know what they were getting. You wondered how he would handle the physicality of the Premier League, you know, how much, you know, the slower pace of Italian football had maybe suited him.

Speaker 18

There's the money shot. This is Anfield. Very iconic. Hopefully it English some. Good luck, fingers crossed.

Speaker 14

When we signed Mo Salah in the summer, we thought we were getting a player who'd scored a few goals, who'd add pace to the side, but it'd be essentially another attacking option for us. What we've got instead is a superstar.

Speaker 18

I give it a touch.

Speaker 10

He went to Italy. He was outstanding. It's all about the potential. It's about the skills when you see it. And then even more, he needs the right circumstances. This club gave him the right circumstances. Now he can deliver.

Speaker 9

I had two great seasons in Rome. But I said to myself, everyone was telling me, no, don't come back. But when I left Chelsea, I said many times, it was always in my mind to come back.

Speaker 11

I think he had a good season with Roma. He didn't score lots of goals. He made a lot. So you're thinking, is he coming as an assist player or a goal scorer? So I would imagine it was a bit of a gamble.

Speaker 13

I don't think Liverpool's recruitment's seen it as a gamble. You've just got to praise Jurgen Klopp and the recruitment team because although everyone else was like, wow, I don't think they were. They must have knew, paying 39 million pounds, what they were going to get.

Speaker 22

For the last 15, 20 years, I think we've been very poor in the transfer market, and they've fished a few good players out lately, since Klopp's arrival, we're in good hands.

Speaker 19

This was before the Neymar transfer changed everything, when all of a sudden, 40, 50 million EUR looked cheap. At the time, it wasn't.

Speaker 21

There wasn't really anyone else battling Liverpool for a signature. when you think now of the prices in the transfer market, to get Salah for 36.9 million pounds has to be the best piece of business in Liverpool's history.

Speaker 15

I think he's developed as a player because of the players around him and also because Jergen's moved to more central.

Speaker 23

I feel like he represents the team that Klopp has put together. and in a way the dream that Klopp sold us, and the way that Klopp tries to play and wants the players to play.

Speaker 2

The system of play clearly suits Mo Salah. The style of Klopp's football, the high press has suited him, and they attack so quickly. So there's no question that Klopp's bought out the best in Salah.

Speaker 13

He should pick people out of the transfer market. That basically suits his system. Good people, hungry players. The relationship between player and coach right now looks super strong to me. He's nailed it.

Speaker 4

I think Klopp's got the best tactically out of most Salah by basically saying, Attack.

Speaker 1

And Europe provided the perfect stage for those attacking instincts.

Speaker 5

The return of the Champions League has created the usual buzz. Liverpool back in a competition they've had so much success in down the years.

Speaker 13

A lot stronger than people think who watch him. You know, he's got that low sense of gravity where he's got big quads and he's got, you know, big glutes.

Speaker 5

Salah's done well to win it back and then the deflected shot. Liverpool don't mind because they lead at Anfield.

Speaker 10

Speaker's skill is always going in behind. That's his skill and that's completely natural.

Speaker 3

Mohamed Salah, three and counting.

Speaker 15

The bridge that he's built with the fans has been built on the fact that you can see the smile on his face, he's enjoying it.

Speaker 5

It's always a threat for the opponent, so it helps other players to perform the other.

Speaker 8

He's just someone who's really brought them to life with his goals, his personality, he's always smiling.

Speaker 9

He's a special player, he's fantastic for the team.

Speaker 12

Yeah, he'll make it continue as well.

Speaker 3

Nifty, nifty finish.

Speaker 22

He's a little bit like Georgie Bestish, Messi-ish.

Speaker 5

Firmino waiting Salas in there as well.

Speaker 7

He's found himself part of a fantastic trio from players with Firmino and their money. So he's not all on him. He can actually trust in the fact he's got two other great players doing it with him.

Speaker 12

Liverpool's fun free. The great thing about them is that they all seem as happy to learn a goal and to score a goal.

Speaker 3

Lucky 7 for Liverpool. Yeah, we can all go home now, Mojalas scored.

Speaker 19

Probably the best front three that we've seen since Messi, Suarez, Neymar.

Speaker 1

Originally, it was an attacking Fab Four for Liverpool, but one member was determined to break up the group.

Speaker 10

I would have loved to keep him, but it was no chance.

Speaker 5

Here's Salah, and now Firmino with Liverpool in, and Felipe Coutinho. That's brilliant.

Speaker 3

Absolutely fantastic.

Speaker 1

The saga of Coutinho's protracted move to Barcelona left center stage three.

Speaker 10

A very dominant person leaves. There's a space, and Alice can step in.

Speaker 18

When Coutinho left, there was question marks about them all, but they really clicked into gear.

Speaker 10

So Phil could make his dream move and we could carry on. That's what we did. It.

Speaker 5

Is knockout now, exclusively heavyweight, but Liverpool carry a punch. And in their moment, on their night, they can land that punch on anyone.

Speaker 18

Porto was the one. Porto away.

Speaker 3

It's Mane! Slither in! And Liverpool lead.

Speaker 18

I expected Liverpool to win, but I didn't expect them to win the way they did.

Speaker 5

James Milner, always rattled the post, and Salah and two. Well, that was nice, wasn't it?

Speaker 18

Away from home, to win that impressively and to effectively see yourself through after one game, they really clicked into gear that night.

Speaker 5

Salah's at full tilt, and so is Roberto Firmino. It's come back to Mone. It's 3-0 Liverpool.

Speaker 7

To go to a place at full tilt, which is, I played there, it's one of the most difficult atmospheres and grounds to play in Europe, and they dismantled them.

Speaker 5

Brilliant! He has blushed it in for five.

Speaker 22

That's one of the best performances I've seen from Liverpool, away from home. Counter-attacking football at its very, very best. Porto very rarely get beat at home in the champion, never mind 5-0. That's when I knew we could get to the final and possibly win it. was absolutely majestic.

Speaker 5

And Liverpool's name goes forward into the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Speaker 1

Mo Salah's superstar status is newfound over here, but back home, his progress has been closely followed for years. And his status as a national hero was confirmed last October. An equaliser 3 minutes from time threatened to ruin Egypt's World Cup dream. But Salah refused to give up. A penalty was awarded deep into injury time. And Salah secured Egypt's place at the World Cup for the first time in 28 years.

Speaker 6

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Speaker 16

... ..

Speaker 1

Salah would take his place in Russia at next month's tournament, with the hopes of a nation on his shoulders.

Speaker 6

If he's able to lead this Egypt team even out of the group stages, that's going to be an incredible achievement.

Speaker 9

Yeah, we'll do our best to go as far as we can.

Speaker 1

All over Egypt, you can't escape Salah's image. His commercial appeal is huge. And such is his popularity. A million Egyptians spoiled their ballot papers in the presidential election by voting for Salah.

Speaker 4

I mean, it's Beckham with faith. in terms of an impact on a nation, which has got economic issues, political issues, religious issues, we know all about that. And I think most Salah just rises above all that. If there was an election tomorrow, and he said for prime minister, he'd win in a landslide.

Speaker 1

Despite relocating to Europe, ties to his village remain strong. His wife is from the area he grew up in, and he returns home every year.

Speaker 6

He's not just your old or average footballer who has grown wealthy and has got fame. He thinks about the ordinary man. He thinks that to become a better nation, everybody has to be given equal opportunity. And that's what Mo Salah is. ...

Speaker 16

In the Zayb of Hamad Salah.

Speaker 3

Musa.

Speaker 16

Musa.

Speaker 24

The place I'm in right now is England's first mosque. This mosque was established by Sheikh Abdullah Quliam, and he opened this mosque on the 25th of December, 1889.

Speaker 17

It's a gem for the British Isles because Islam started here. It brought together more and more young people. visiting mosques and attending Friday prayers just for the fact that Mo Salah's going.

Speaker 24

Mo has brought together children of all faiths, groups, colour, and we are all proud of him. He's A formidable figure in British football. and he's also a formidable figure playing a vital role in the communities. He's an absolute positive role model for the Muslim and non-Muslim community here in the UK and around the world.

Speaker 10

It's fantastic to have him around. He's Muslim and he is doing all the things what Muslims are doing before a game, washing procedures and stuff like that. So we come a minute or two minutes earlier in the dressing room that he can be ready for the game. Like Sadio, by the way, like Amra Chan, by the way, they all do that.

Speaker 3

And one of the many fan chants about Salah has gone viral.

Speaker 17

The chant also says, I want to be sitting where he's sitting. When he's sitting in a mosque, then that's where I want to be. And I think that's resonated not only with the non-Muslim community, but also with the Muslim community.

Speaker 24

It brings fun to our lives. He brings positive images of everything that's in Islam, in games, and in people.

Speaker 4

We're seeing an individual who leads his life the right way. He goes back to his family. He doesn't drink. You don't see him falling out of nightclubs. He's a fantastic role model, you know, whatever your religious faith.

Speaker 24

He has changed the perception of some of the negative belief that people have about the Islamic faith. This is the model that we're looking forward for whole of Britain, really, people like him who can bring us all together. I think Mo has given us a gift that we will not forget.

Speaker 1

Liverpool entered the last eight of the Champions League, unbeaten, but a far sterner test was predicted as the runaway Premier League leaders came to Anfield.

Speaker 2

I think Liverpool were the one team that probably Manchester City wouldn't have wanted to face. This game promises so much, it can't disappoint, can it?

Speaker 13

Impossible. I mean, with two forward lines that we're going to see on show tonight, we expect goals.

Speaker 4

Anfield that night was an absolute fever pitch.

Speaker 2

Given the fact that Man City was so far clear in the league, you'd have thought that City would be massive favourites, but I don't think any of us really saw it that way.

Speaker 5

The Battle of Britain is on in the Champions League. It's the last night.

Speaker 22

Proud Newton. He had to play the part. We've done it time and time again. And I've seen teams come to Anfield and quake in the boots. I really have.

Speaker 5

Now there's the chance for Mo Salah to run. Walker's got plenty of speed as well. Firmino joins in. Here's Firmino, saved by Ederson. And then in the follow-up is Salah.

Speaker 3

First blow to Liverpool?

Speaker 13

I've never seen someone who's so calm in front of the goal. He almost doesn't get excited in front of the goal. He actually goes either way.

Speaker 22

When we started getting at them and the crowd was getting on, they collapsed. Without doubt, they collapsed.

Speaker 5

It's Oxlade-Chamberlain. He can hit one! Oh, he can hit Wimberlain.

Speaker 2

That first 45 minutes, Liverpool was so forceful, so dynamic, so dominant.

Speaker 5

It's a good ball into Sadio Mane.

Speaker 3

Liverpool are running riot here in the Champions League.

Speaker 21

It was like a whirlwind, wasn't it? And it does irritate.

Speaker 5

Fans of other clubs when we in the media or Liverpool fans go on about special nights at Anfield. But we go on about it, and it's a cliché, because it's true.

Speaker 18

We all like to talk about how going into the next game it can change, but rarely 2 Premier League teams, if one's leading three-nil, they shouldn't, you know, they shouldn't lose three or four-nil in the next game.

Speaker 5

So out they come for what could be quite a night here at the Etihad. It's Advantage Liverpool after a brilliant first-leg performance at Anfield. Can City pull off their greatest ever European comeback? There's a chance for Sterling to run, and he can tee up Jason, and that's the start they wanted. I think for Liverpool fans, they'll think the most important goal that he scored was the goal that he scored at Manchester City at the time Liverpool were 1-0 down. Under the cost, they were struggling, but Man City were still very much in the game. Oxlade-Chamberlain, now Salah. Here's Sadio Mane, he's in here for Liverpool. Was he touched? Mo Salah can pick up the pieces and score. It's an away goal and Liverpool's grip on the tie is strengthened now.

Speaker 18

Like most good centre-forwards who score goals, very calculated at times, know when to strike, know when to have another touch or a feint, and never, ever panic.

Speaker 22

Someone other than Mo Salah, they just blasted it over the bar. It was just a lovely little thing.

Speaker 5

That's a mistake. Liverpool looking to profit. In they go. And it's in. And that's showing me the goal now. Scored by Roberto Firmino to take Liverpool through to the semi-finals of the Champions League.

Speaker 11

Manchester City most probably have a stronger squad than Liverpool. 11v11, Liverpool can beat him.

Speaker 1

Another evening, another awards ceremony for Mohamed Salah. After winning the Players Player of the Year and the Liverpool Player of the Year, he arrived in London to receive the award from the journalists, for whom he provided copy all season. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage your Footballer of the Year for 2018, Mo Salah.

Speaker 4

I voted for him as FWA Footballer of the Year for two reasons. First, obviously, the way he packs out stadiums, the way he gets fans on the edge of their seats, standing singing his name. But I think also for what he stands for as an individual, the humility. I just think there's a class about the man.

Speaker 17

What does it mean to you to win this award?

Speaker 9

I'm always happy when I feel I achieve something, I get an award, so I work hard for that. I always want to help my team, so I'm always happy to win an award. To be honest, the players, the quality is unbelievable, and I'm very proud to be part of the team and to play with them.

Speaker 17

He performs, and you say that about the very best players, the Messis, the Ronaldos. Listen, I'm not actually making a comparison directly with them, but in terms of what he

does, he influences games, and he makes an impact. In very many ways, Salah reminds me of Kenny Dalglish.

Speaker 3

Dalglish. Oh, what a goal.

Speaker 17

The fundamental memory for me of Kenny Dalglish was the look on his face when he scored, the smile, you know, as wide as the Mersey. In Salah, you can just see that he loves the experience of doing well. Liverpool's a football club which wants heroes because of, I think, the lack of success of the team. They can't put all their hopes and dreams into one player. He's become a symbol of Klopp's Liverpool.

Speaker 1

From the media, it's praise and respect. From the Liverpool fans, it's pure adoration.

Speaker 17

It's just been unbelievable, unbelievable.

Speaker 5

I've never seen a player like Salah. He takes about 3 or 40 fans with him every time.

Speaker 3

He scores so many goals, he's the Egyptian king.

Speaker 13

The fans don't just look at the player, I think they look at the person as well.

Speaker 9

You play alongside very good players, you know, the quality is different for each one. It makes it easy for me and, you know, I'm very happy and pleased to play alongside them.

Speaker 13

He doesn't do many interviews and he doesn't speak much and I think they like that. They like the fact that, he just goes and does his talking on the pitch. He's.

Speaker 16

Just hit the ground, Ron, and it's great to get a signing that just comes in and is great immediately.

Speaker 1

He's brilliant, yes.

Speaker 17

Yeah, he's awesome. Fantastic. What we need. Just hope he stays.

Speaker 21

They've taken him to their hearts, I think. You know, they love the way that, you know, he gives everything for the shirt.

Speaker 15

He brings the team together.

Speaker 2

He's, he finishes the team off, the pinnacle of the team. He's just seen that as Allah.

Speaker 22

The Egyptian King.

Speaker 23

Without a shadow of a doubt, the best.

Speaker 3

He's not going to do it. He's going all the way. He's going all the way. He wants to go. He wants to go! Oh, my God! Oh, my God.

Speaker 11

You know, it's amazing how he's been, and that's what the supporters love. You know, they love someone like that. You know, he can just walk around town and everything. You know, he walks into a chippy.

Speaker 5

You have to pay.

Speaker 3

Charlie's a shot failure down there.

Speaker 14

His personality as well has really kind of endeared him to Liverpool fans. He's a hard worker, which is important to Liverpool because Liverpool's a city which really believes in community. Mo Salah really embraces that.

Speaker 15

You want the person on the pitch to care as much as you do. And he does, you can see it, the work he puts in, it's not just about the goals.

Speaker 23

Mo's journey that he was on in Egypt and hearing about all the The time that it took him to get to training, the incredible efforts that he went to, very much fits, I think, with the mould of players that we like. I don't think that we really appreciate people if we think that they've maybe had it easy. And May's definitely not had it easy.

Speaker 14

There's been lots of songs for him already, because the fans love him, so lots of different ones, but I just love the James Swan and Mo Salah, Mo Salah, running down the wing.

Speaker 23

Mo Salah, Mo Salah.

Speaker 22

It's a very catchy song, and, you know, it's indeed in, you know, which a song that'll always be remembered in folklore, you know, where Liverpool fans are concerned.

Speaker 1

Fate and football go hand in hand. With Mo Salah now one of the hottest properties in the world, it was time to face the team he'd left just eight months previously.

Speaker 10

Now semis, like the quarter-final already, just an opportunity to go out there and play football.

Speaker 2

There have been some memorable nights here at Anfield over the years. Will tonight be another one?

Speaker 13

Looking through the Liverpool starting 11 it's the biggest night of their careers so far and they have to deliver.

Speaker 18

The eyes the whale were on him because it was his old team because he was in really good form because of the semi-final and you know he was there he stepped up to deliver again didn't he?

Speaker 3

Mo Salah goes for it again Mo Salah Liverpool's Egyptian King with another crowning moment in the Champions.

Speaker 7

League first cow was completely out of the top drawer in terms of ability and technique.

Speaker 11

When you could put three goalkeepers in there and one of saved it.

Speaker 13

He couldn't have got it any further into the top corner. The one after is almost just as good. He's through on goal. He's about to face one of the best people in the world and Allison?

Speaker 21

It just goes back to the fact that he's so confident and he's so calm in front of goal. When he's clean through, you think he's going to \*\*\*\* him and he's going to score.

Speaker 5

Mo Salah's in for Liverpool.

Speaker 3

And there's Salah... Salah throws to Vader. 3-0 to.

Speaker 4

Liverpool. I just thought when they needed him most in the crunch situation, he absolutely rose to the occasion.

Speaker 5

Look at the space again for Salah. Off he goes. There's the ball.

Speaker 19

One of the most prominent journalists in Italian football said that, it was a horror movie. From the 25th minute to what, the 68th, Liverpool were completely unplayable.

Speaker 5

And it goes from Milner Van \*\*\* was in there. So was the leader.

Speaker 3

It's 5-nil.

Speaker 21

He tormented his old club that night. Two goals, 2 assists. Yet again, Liverpool's match winner.

Speaker 5

De Jekko scores. Nangolan coming in. It's a really important deflection. It's a penalty. Liverpool have just gone to sleep. And he scores. It's a second away goal for Roma. Liverpool 5, Roma 2.

Speaker 1

Salah's stunning first leg performance had virtually guaranteed a place in the final. Back at his former home, his team just had to get the job done. But nothing with Liverpool is ever a formality.

Speaker 5

So out they come, 90 minutes from Kiev, Roma and Liverpool into the lion's den. And now Sallio Mane, here's the chance, and there's the start, and that's exactly what Liverpool wanted. El Shirawi, and then the deflection, it's gone in. That fall here for Wijnaldum, it does fall for Wijnaldum, and Liverpool get a second goal. They.

Speaker 18

Were 2-1 up at half-time. That's 7-3 on aggregate. You know, the game should have been completely over.

Speaker 5

Danger for Liverpool?

Speaker 3

And then Edin Djeko, and they get one back.

Speaker 18

There were a little few mistakes and you could see panic had set in a few times in the defensive areas at Liverpool.

Speaker 22

7-6 was never a true reflection of what we've seen in over the two legs.

Speaker 12

They weren't a fancy team at the beginning. No one in that dress room could have told you that they'd been going to the Champions League final. No one would have expected

it. But once you get a bit of momentum behind you, especially in tournament football, it can be hard to stop and they are living proof for that.

Speaker 5

Liverpool are into the Champions League final for the eighth time in club history.

Speaker 1

With 44 goals in the season, Salah's exploits have been beyond what anyone predicted. But there's one record on Merseyside that might just elude him.

Speaker 3

It's Ian Rush, can he score his fourth? It looks as though he has. Yes. Five-nil.

Speaker 1

Ian Rush's all-time tally of 47 goals in a season for Liverpool has stood for more than three decades. A hat-trick in Saturday's final would equal it, and Salah's composure in front of goal has led to comparisons with the heroes of the past.

Speaker 11

Record's there to be broken and it's always proud to have records and all that, but I look back now, when I scored 47 goals, it was an absolutely amazing season. I walked out the pitch knowing I was going to score, not thinking I was going to score, and I'm sure Salah would be exactly the same.

Speaker 3

Onside, Ian Rush, 1-0 Liverpool, brilliant goal.

Speaker 13

Started watching the pool around six years of age and all you heard on the radio on the telly was rush, rush, rush, rush.

Speaker 3

Straight on. Rush. And it's in at last.

Speaker 23

I think we have to compare him to legends like Dalglish and Rush. I think because of the number of goals that he scored. I don't often think statistics tell the story, but I think they do in this case that you have to look at what he's achieved in his first season.

Speaker 13

You know, Mo deserves to be talked about in the same breath as Ian Rush this season. Of course he does, but all you got to remember is Rush done it one year, the next year, the next year, the next year.

Speaker 5

It's swung in towards Rush and a very good ball. Oh, that's superb.

Speaker 3

Finishing by Ian Rush.

Speaker 11

He does break it. Hopefully, it's the winning goals in the Champions League final. Then I would be a happy man.

Speaker 1

And that final is almost upon us. With only a few days to go until the showdown with Real Madrid, the eyes of the world are on Mo Salah and Liverpool.

Speaker 15

He has the quality, he has this world-class experience already, and when you look Messi, Ronaldo, it's Mo Salah, you know, he deserves to be at the top three. It's one of the more important games in your career. And of course, it will be not easy because we know they have experience and we respect them a lot, but we're going to go there and try to win the game.

Speaker 10

Very exciting journey so far, and now we want to bring it to the best possible end. We have a chance, and that's why I think let's give it a try.

Speaker 1

With 17 European cups between them, this is a battle of two genuine European heavyweights.

Speaker 3

And that is it. Real Madrid are in to their fourth final in the last five years.

Speaker 2

It's really tough to decide who might win the final in Kiev. If you looked at the two teams' performances this season, you'd make Liverpool a very strong favourite. They've been terrific, consistent, scored a lot of goals. Whereas you look at Real Madrid this season, they've been nothing like as strong as they've been in previous seasons.

Speaker 7

It's one of those hard ones to predict because two great teams playing very freely. One thing I would predict is goals.

Speaker 1

And even if recent history is on the side of Real, They're going for their third Champions League in a row. Liverpool can look back to the last time the two teams met in the final back in 1981.

Speaker 15

Alan Gennady, and he goes on.

Speaker 12

What Liverpool have is they have that fearlessness. There are no expectations on them. They've had a great run, great momentum, and they've got three players in attacking positions that can hurt you.

Speaker 11

If they can win the Champions League, I think it gives everyone belief. And I think, if they sign maybe one or two more players, I think you're looking at the Premier League next year.

Speaker 15

Obviously, I think we're going to win. I wouldn't go all the way to the Ukraine. Otherwise, I mean, when Alcemo goes to the Ukraine.

Speaker 24

I want Liverpool to win. That's really one of our main aims, and we'll be eagerly watching that match, and inshallah, by the grace of God, we will win.

Speaker 8

Obviously everyone's going on about it. It's him versus Ronaldo or whatever, but he is someone now who I feel will just relish that opportunity.

Speaker 9

It's only one game. It's not long. It's just one step, so we have to keep fighting. And, you know, I'm excited and everyone in the city and the team's excited about that, so let's see.

Speaker 1

Whatever happens in Kiev? Mo Salah's sensational season is in the record books forever.

Speaker 13

I'm really excited to see whether he can hit these numbers again, because the numbers he's hit this season, I think they're unique, and I think he's having the season of a lifetime. I don't want to say I doubt it, but I'd be surprised if he hit the same numbers year in, year out.

Speaker 22

Will he get 40 goals next season? Probably not. If he does, fantastic. But, you know, people will try to work him out.

Speaker 18

He has to evolve now. He has to learn something a bit different. But if he wants to become a great like the Messi's, like the Ronaldo's, people are expecting to get at least 20 next year, and that's how he has to keep on going now. If he wants to become a great at Liverpool and a great across the world, that's what he's going to have to be doing.

Speaker 19

This guy, all of a sudden, I think is genuinely in the conversation to be the first African winner of the Ballon d'Or since George Wea.

Speaker 6

When will this fairy tale story end? How will it end? Will it continue at the World Cup stage? Every Egyptian will want it to continue.

Speaker 21

I just hope he sees Liverpool as a final destination and not a stepping stone to one of the Spanish giants.

Speaker 12

If he's going to leave Liverpool, he's going to go to a Spanish team, obviously, Barcelona, Real Madrid. I don't know if he'll be the superstar there. He'll be fighting for that superstar position. He's got that out of Liverpool. For me.

Speaker 11

I think he loves Liverpool. Liverpool love him. The fans love him and everything, and hopefully he's there for many, many years.

Speaker 10

There are not ten better places in the world of football than Liverpool. If you go for the weather, then maybe Spain is a good idea. If you go, I don't know, if you want to see the Eiffel Tour, then you have to go to Paris. My thought is that he loves it here, and I'm as sure as I can be that he wants to stay here.

Speaker 13

The way I look at it, you get your really, really good footballers, and then you get five or six players that are on a different planet. And I think Moe's having one of them seasons now where he deserves to be in that, you know, that elite five or six top players. It's the start of greatness, and I think if he stays about, I think he's got it in him to become a great.

Speaker 8

Rebels since on the warpath and their target, humans, the new Channel 4 series continues Thursday at 9, catch up on all four. Tomorrow, what really goes on inside the EU? Meet the people who walk the corridors of power in a brand new series, Carry on Brussels at 10. But next tonight, 24 hours in police custody.