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## HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 02-06-2008 11:31

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2008 (sorry, the subject line wasn't quite long enough for the full title...)

Those with frankly unhealthy memories may recall that one of my first posts on OTF was around a year ago, attempting to shamelessly promote my site's new annual award. Well, now I've (hopefully) hung around long enough to convince everyone I'm not just spamming, I'm doing it again.

Lionel Messi won last year's award and is one of the three nominees this season, along with Sergio Agüero and Carlos Tevez. You can see the nominees and their write-ups here, with videos!

Votes to be emailed to sam@hastaelgolsiempre.com by midnight of the Monday after the end of the Torneo Clausura (two weeks today, then). Feel free to debate / talk about your choices on here but bear in mind I won't be taking any votes purely on posts on this thread.

Happy voting.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 02-06-2008 12:44

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Not only do I remember you doing this, but when I saw the subject header, I thought to myself "blimey, that's come around quickly".

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by Nico Rijnders - 02-06-2008 12:45

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However, I'm not voting now as there is no Mascherano in the shortlist. Boo! Surely he's had at least as good a season as Tevez?

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by EIM - 02-06-2008 13:08

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Yes, and he has the silverware to prove it.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by erwin - 02-06-2008 13:08

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Couldn't this have been an open vote, Sam? I've only actually seen with any frequency the Argentines playing in Portugal, and of them, I'd go with the very excellent Lisandro López. Only seen Messi once or twice, ditto Tevez, Agüero not at all.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 13:42

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Thus proving that Sam needs to solicit nominations for the shortlist on here, instead of just "spamming" us for votes. I even forgot to nominate Javier Zanetti on HEGS, as has been my tradition.

Kun Agüero should walk this, btw.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by EIM - 02-06-2008 13:54

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No way, man. Carlitos all the Way. He's turned out to be an intoxicating combination of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Mark Hughes. The number of important goals he scored last season is unreal. I fucking heart him.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by evilC - 02-06-2008 13:54

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Is there an award for 'Speediest (or most mercenary) adoption of a dual nationality by a football player'?

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 13:59

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The "oriundi" Argentines and Uruguayans (Orsi, Monti, etc.) who were quickly adopted by Mussolini's Italy and helped them win the '34 and '38 World Cups are worth a shout here.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 02-06-2008 15:40

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There was an open vote for nominations. My plan was to have five nominees (as last year). Only three players were voted for. Regular readers of my site had the chance to have their say, and one single nomination for Masche (who I myself love, as I've said in the past on here) would've been enough to get him into the 'final'. I didn't want to piss too many people off by spamming first for the nominations, and then for the final voting itself. Next year, if you'd prefer, I can do precisely that...

My personal preference shall go unstated, because I'll only be voting in the event of a tie.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 02-06-2008 18:30

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ursus arctos wrote:

The "oriundi" Argentines and Uruguayans (Orsi, Monti, etc.) who were quickly adopted by Mussolini's Italy and helped them win the '34 and '38 World Cups are worth a shout here.

Orsi, Monti, Sivori, Di Stefano: come on its in the name!

Maradona, Platini, Lil Fuccillo, John Ruggiero, Daniele Dichio: it's no coincidence.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 19:52

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Not questioning their ethnicity, SixM, just noting that it was very convenient that Italy considered them to be dual nationals.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 02-06-2008 21:06

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Ursus: I wasn't being in the slightest bit serious in that regard. I just like an opportunity to throw in the names of the greats, and Fuccillo, Ruggiero and Dichio, and how much the whole world of football owes to Italians!!!!

Seriously, Italy is at it again, of course, with Camoranesi and now Osvaldo who scored a very tidy winner for Italy in the U20 final last week.

I don't know the immediate family background of Orsi, Monti, or Sivori, though they may have had an Italian national as a parent given the period?

It isn't Jack Charlton and the Republic of Ireland I suppose, nor should it be really. Though I do worry what national teams will look like in a decade or so.

Alumnia (who is very ordinary anyway) for England etc

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 02-06-2008 21:13

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SixM, my recollection is that all three had at least one Italian parent, though each was born in Latin America. Altafini was a bit further removed.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 03-06-2008 15:51

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Yes, that was my understanding, about Sivori at least. Orsi and Monti are more obscure players for me, I know only their names in truth.

I had forgotten about Altafini.

With so many Argentinians coming to Europe at such a young age, I imagine the scope for such practice will broaden.

I may be imagining this but I think Spain were trying to get Messi and Agüero to commit to them?

How is Osvaldo eligible for Italy?

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by And I am the Life - 03-06-2008 15:57

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I wonder what percentage of the Argentinean population in 1934 was either Italian born or first generation. It must have been a huge percentage.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 15:59

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Name ends in a vowel?

More seriously, he has some Italian heritage, though I think it is more distant than a parent.

Spain never had a chance with Leo or Kun, but were able to get Bojan Krkic (at least at U-21 level, he still hasn't played for the full team). I think that it is actually easier for young South American footballers in Europe to play for their country of birth than it was in the oriundi era, not only because travel is much easier, but because it is increasingly rare for countries like Argentina or Brazil to field any home-grown players (Riquelme being a notable exception). As a result, the managers of those sides are always watching European matches and the teams are playing more and more friendlies in Europe.

It would be very interesting to do detailed interviews with dual nationality players as to just why they made the choice they made.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by pawlu - 04-06-2008 08:58

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I believe that Fiorentina's Osvaldo - who also plays for the Italy U21 side - is the latest 'oriundo' as he is originally from Argentina.

There were mumbblings that Amauri might play for Italy but nothing came of that.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-06-2008 09:07

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Indeed he is. I don't think Italy has had a Brazilian oriundo since Altafini.

To respond to aiati's question above, this Miami Herald article notes that Italians accounted for 40 percent of the population of Buenos Aires in 1905 and that even in 1991, 20 percent of the Argentine population claimed Italian descent in the census.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by gerontofiel of trutje - 04-06-2008 09:16

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Maxi Rodriguez. Nuff said (although for him it was a 'quiet' year, he got Atletico into the European Cup)

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by Tactical Genius - 04-06-2008 10:23

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I heard Sivori faked his itallian heritage.

Aparently he claimed an itallian grandfather to qualify.

I remeber an iterview with Sivori's teammate who took him to see his grandfather in some itallian town.

Sivori pointed to his grandfather and his teammate pointed out, "how can he be your grandfather, he is black", Sivori smailed.

That teammate was John Charles.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 04-06-2008 19:55

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ursus arctos wrote:

To respond to aiatl's question above, this Miami Herald article notes that Italians accounted for 40 percent of the population of Buenos Aires in 1905 and that even in 1991, 20 percent of the Argentine population claimed Italian descent in the census.

I'm amazed it's that low. My ex is 1/4 German, 1/4 Italian, and practically all her friends have at least one grandparent if not two who were born in Europe. And she's 27. The oriundi and their ilk are a fascinating subject. Sadly in solidarity with Argentines I've already stated on my site that once a player decides to play for another country (Osvaldo, Camoranesi) he no longer counts as Argentine for my purposes. You certainly won't find an Argentine apart from his own family who celebrated Camoranesi's part in Italy's 2006 win. They were all too busy getting excited about the match officials!

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-06-2008 20:00

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But she's from BA, right, Sam?

I am pretty sure the percentage in BA is significantly higher than the rest of the country, and also that third-generation Argentines who are only 1/2 or 1/4 Italian are likely not to have identified themselves as such for the census.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by sixmartletsandaseagull - 04-06-2008 21:24

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I worked in Buenos Aires for a couple of months in 2004 on a project. In my group of fourteen 19-30-year-old Argentines ten had Italian surnames.

Only one had an Italian parent, the rest were mostly one-two grandparents or a great grandparent.

None of them felt anything but proudly Argentine, though many cheered for Italy in tournaments once Argentina were out but no divided loyalties.

As a fan (Makelele thread notwithstanding) of Juve and Italy I heart Camoranesi to bits, but I do wonder where it will all end in terms of international teams.

Alumnia/Cudicini for England etc, what is the point? Surely a football nation like Italy should not need to grab Camoranesi/Osvaldo etc?

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 05-06-2008 01:30

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Ursus, she's a porteña, yes. And yes you're probably right about the population split, although it wouldn't surprise me if the figures in La Plata and Rosario are similar. Both her parents' surnames are Spanish by the way - Martínez (the name she uses) and García. It's her maternal grandmothers who were from the Old Continent (although her dad's mum was conceived in Germany and born in Argentina thanks to parents who had the good sense to get the hell out before it kicked off too seriously in the mid-late 1930s...).

And she certainly wouldn't describe herself as 1/4 Italian or 1/4 German, by the way. I'm describing her that way for the

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purposes of this thread but she's 100% Argentine. The interesting thing with Argentines is that barely any of them would describe themselves as even a little bit Spanish. If there's Spanish lineage, the bloodline begins when the family entered the waters of the Río de La Plata, it seems. Are other Latin American countries this strongly anti-Iberian?

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 16-06-2008 11:26

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Just bumping this thread up to let everyone know there's one week (and eleven-and-a-half hours) to go before voting closes - at midnight BST next Monday.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 04-07-2008 11:12

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Votes closed on time, and were counted. The winner's website was contacted but, unlike last year, they didn't get back to me, the ungrateful swines.

Voting was very tight indeed this year - one vote in it, in fact.

So,

drumroll please...

[Click here to see who the winner is](#)

I didn't vote, by the way. Just so that's clear.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by Mighty Mudhsuden - 04-07-2008 11:16

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Yeah, I would have voted for him. I think that's fair.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-07-2008 11:19

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Scandalous. Typical Premier League bias. Serves Kelly right for writing in English.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign Leag

Posted by Bombanersson - 04-07-2008 11:31

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I am shocked and stunned that nobody voted for Aristides Pertot.

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## Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League

Posted by SamLKelly - 04-07-2008 11:42

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Yes, Bomba, a baffling omission, I'm sure we can all agree...

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I thought you'd be disappointed, Ursus. But for an Anglophone readership, Agüero got one hell of a lot of votes as well.

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-07-2008 11:44

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Yeah.

But I bet Kun's webmaster would have written you back.

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

Posted by SamLKelly - 04-07-2008 11:49

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Have you seen Kun's official site, though? If his webmaster couldn't find the time to reply, I'd be disappointed, because he spends fuck all time on the homepage...

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-07-2008 11:54

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Hmmm. I sense a business opportunity for you.

Translating for Beckham hasn't hurt Sid Lowe's career.

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

Posted by SamLKelly - 04-07-2008 12:17

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Ha! It's a possibility, but it would help if there was anything there to translate.

Tevez's site, surprisingly, doesn't have an English-language version. I wonder...

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

Posted by EIM - 04-07-2008 13:16

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It's a victory for common sense.

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

Posted by Jon - 04-07-2008 20:53

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An outrage Gonzalo Higuain didn't win this!

By the way, Sam, was going to ask what you know about Falcao, the River Plate striker as Madrid have been linked with him.

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**Re:HEGS Award for Best Argentine in a Foreign League**

United were linked with him in one of the tabloids here during the week, as well.

Put it this way: it's not his fault that his time at River has coincided with one of the least successful spells in their (professional) history. He leads the line well, sets team-mates up, links play brilliantly, works for the side, has good feet, but what he does best of all is win ridiculous, utterly unwinnable headers.

When I saw on the BBC transfer rumours site that one of our tabloids was linking him to United, I got all excited. He'll bring something to whatever club he moves onto, and if he goes this year, River will suffer from losing him as well.

If it's not obvious by this point: I rate him. He might well turn out to be the best Colombian striker since Asprilla.

Oh, and Higuaín didn't get so much as a nomination. He was pretty ordinary for the first half of the season, and didn't play an awful lot anyway... I'd be amazed if he's not a contender next year though, now he's started to show his class for Madrid.

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