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THE UK'S FIRST GERMAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



DER KLASSIKER
A HISTORY OF THE BUNDESLIGA'S
GREATEST RIVALRY



**UNION BERLIN
IN FOCUS**



**BENEDIKT
HÖWEDES
EXCLUSIVE**

**WIN
A TRIP TO**

**SIGNAL IDUNA
PARK**



FOR ISSUE 1 DEC 2016

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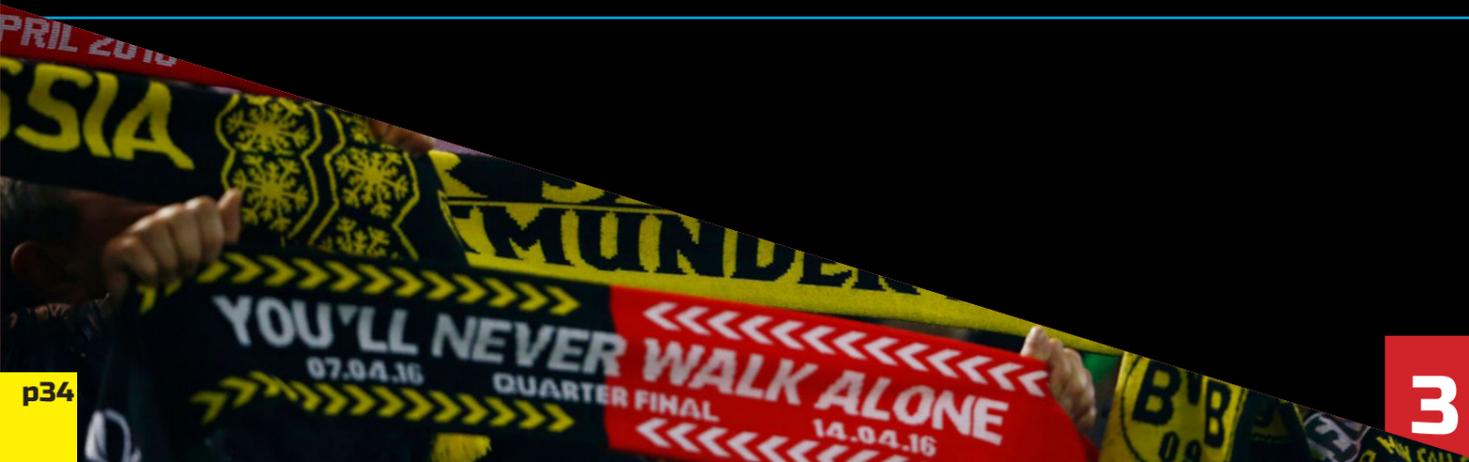
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UNION BERLIN

IN FOCUS



UNION BERLIN HEAD INTO THE FINAL MONTH OF THE YEAR TRAILING THE PROMOTION PLACES TO THE BUNDESLIGA BY A SINGLE POINT, A COMPLETE REVERSE OF EVENTS FROM 2004; WHEN THE CLUB WAS CLOSE TO BANKRUPTCY, AND FROM 2008 - WHEN THE CLUB WAS REQUIRED TO UPGRADE THEIR STADIUM TO AVOID EXPULSION FROM THE LEAGUE.

THIS IS THE STORY OF 1. FC UNION BERLIN

01. JULI 2004

A DAY THAT LIVES ON IN THE HISTORY OF 1. FC UNION BERLIN, BERLIN'S OTHER REPRESENTATIVE IN THE HIGHER DIVISIONS OF GERMAN FOOTBALL ASIDE FROM THEIR MORE ILLUSTRIOUS AND MORE RENOWNED CITY RIVALS - HERTHA BSC.

IT WAS ON THIS DAY IN THE SUMMER OF 2004, THAT A CLUB SEEMINGLY ON THE BRINK, ON IT'S KNEES, TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION, WERE REQUIRED TO RAISE ABOUT €1.4 MILLION EUROS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE RUNNING AS A CLUB, AN AMOUNT WHICH IS CONSIDERED PITTANCE IN TODAY'S MODERN GAME WHERE ASTRONOMICAL TRANSFER FEES AND PLAYER WAGES ARE THE NORM.

BUT FOR UNION, IT PROVED A DO OR DIE SITUATION.

IT WAS ONLY WHEN LIFELONG FAN DIRK ZINGLER STEPPED IN TO HAND OVER THE SUFFICIENT FUNDS THAT THE SITUATION WAS RESOLVED, KEEPING THE CLUB THAT HE FOLLOWED FROM AN EARLY AGE FROM THE TERRACES ALIVE.

THE 1ST OF JULY SIGNALLED THE START OF ZINGLER'S ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB, A DAY THAT MAY PROVE SIGNIFICANT FOR UNION IN THE LONG-TERM. A DAY THAT HAS ALREADY PROVEN MOMENTOUS, GIVEN THE ROLLERCOASTER RIDE THAT THE BERLIN SIDE HAS GONE THROUGH IN THE PAST 12 YEARS.

IF QUESTIONS OVER THE CLUB'S FUTURE WERE THOUGHT TO BE DISPELLED FOLLOWING ZINGLER'S GESTURE TO TAKE THE CLUB FORWARD AND PREVENT UNION FROM BANKRUPTCY, THIS NOTION WAS WRONGLY FELT, AS IN 2008, THE CLUB WERE ORDERED TO MODERNISE THE STADIUM UNDER DFB REGULATION FOR STADIUMS IN 2. BUNDESLIGA, AN INSTRUCTION WHICH AT ANY OTHER CLUB COULD HAVE LED TO THE END OF THE LINE.

BUT NOT UNION BERLIN.

FOLLOWING ZINGLER'S PLEA FOR HELP IN CARRYING OUT A MAJOR RENOVATION OF THE STADIUM, THE RESPONSE HE RECEIVED WAS ENORMOUS, WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND DIE-HARD FANS COMMITTING TO THE CAUSE IN REBUILDING THE STADIUM AN DER ALTEN FÖRSTEREI. VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY PAY, THOUSANDS OF HOURS AND 300 DAYS A WORK IN PROGRESS, THE STADIUM WAS REBUILT TO FIT THE REQUIRED STANDARDS. ALL OF THIS COMPLETELY OUT OF A SHARED LOVE FOR THE CLUB.

IRON UNION. EISERN UNION.

FULL REDEVELOPMENTS OF THE STADIUM WERE STARTED IN 2012 AND COMPLETED IN SUMMER 2013, SIGNALLING AN INCREDIBLE TURNAROUND OF EVENTS IN EAST BERLIN FROM THE LOW EBB THAT EISERN UNION WERE AT JUST NINE YEARS PREVIOUSLY.

FROM RELEGATION TO THE OBERLIGA - THE FOURTH TIER OF GERMAN FOOTBALL, EARLY IN ZINGLER'S REIGN AS PRESIDENT, FOLLOWED BY AN INSTANT PROMOTION BACK TO THE THIRD TIER, BEFORE A RETURN TO THE 2. BUNDESLIGA IN 2009, LIFE AS A UNION BERLIN FAN HAS BEEN FAR FROM BORING IN THE YEARS SINCE 2004.

WITH MID-TABLE CONSOLIDATION SECURED FOR THE INITIAL SEASONS BACK IN THE SECOND TIER, UNION BERLIN HAVE SLOWLY BUT SURELY BEGAN TO STRENGTHEN IN STATURE AS A CLUB, NOW BEING ABLE TO CONSOLIDATE ITSELF IN THE TRANSFER MARKET TO BUY PLAYERS, THEIR MOST NOTABLE PURCHASE THIS SUMMER BEING THE BROTHER OF NATIONAL TEAM STAR AND WORLD CUP WINNER TONI KROOS, FELIX, WHO ARRIVED FROM WERDER BREMEN FOLLOWING AN IMPRESSIVE LOAN SPELL.

FORMER SCHALKE 04 BOSS JENS KELLER TOOK THE MANAGERIAL REIGNS AT THE CLUB ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZINGLER'S PRESIDENCY, AND FOLLOWING BERLIN'S 6TH PLACED FINISH LAST SEASON, THEIR HIGHEST SINCE THEIR RETURN TO THE SECOND DIVISION, THERE IS EVERY HOPE IN BERLIN THAT THE CLUB WHO HAVE BEEN EVERPRESENT IN THE SHADOWS CAN FINALLY REACH UNPRECEDENTED TERRITORY IN PLAYING IN THE BUNDESLIGA NEXT SEASON.

IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT REWARD FOR MANY OF THE DIE-HARD UNIONER'S WHO STUCK BY THEIR CLUB THROUGH SOME OF THE DARKEST DAYS IN THEIR HISTORY, LITERALLY PUTTING BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS INTO KEEPING THEIR CLUB IN THE SECOND DIVISION WITH THE STADIUM RENOVATION. AND FOR ZINGLER? THE BITTERSWEET CULMINATION OF YEARS OF WORK AND STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE CLUB AFLOAT AND THE VISION AND DRIVE INVESTED TO MOVE THE CLUB FORWARD IN A NEW, POSITIVE DIRECTION, A PROGRESSION WHICH SHOWS NO SIGN OF SLOWING JUST YET. ▶

INTERVIEW WITH UNION IN ENGLISCH

TOR SAT DOWN WITH UK BASED FAN GROUP 'UNION IN ENGLISCH' RECENTLY TO DISCUSS ALL THINGS UNION, HOW THE FAN GROUP STARTED, THEIR OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB, AND HOW THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF FOLLOWING AND SUPPORTING A TEAM WHILST LIVING ABROAD CAME ABOUT IN THE FIRST PLACE

Interviews: Tony Maloney

Hi Connor, thanks for arranging to speak to us, first things first, we've got to ask, how long have you been following Union for?

CB: No problem at all. In all honesty it feels like I've been following this club for a lifetime, when in actual fact I've been a supporter for the best part of eight years now. So much has happened at the club during that time that I have every right to feel as if it's been longer than eight years!



COLIN QUANER NETS A BRACE IN AUGUST'S 2-2 THRILLER WITH DYNAMO DRESDEN AT STADION AN DER ALTEN FÖRSTEREI

Excellent commitment if we do say so ourselves, how much have things changed at the club since then?

CB: The changes at the club have been extraordinary. Shortly after my first game, the club decided to completely renovate the stadium, meaning Union had to play elsewhere whilst the



Interesting stuff. So how on earth did the concept of supporting Union Berlin, a team playing in the capital in East Germany over 600 miles away from Birmingham, whilst living in the Midlands ever come about?

CB: It's funny you should bring it up, I ask myself that same question all of the time! For me personally, it came about through a friend of mine who visited Berlin and attended one of Union's games. When he came back he pleaded that I go to experience it for myself, that's how big an impact the club had on him from a one-off visit. I did exactly that, in 2008 I saw Union play 1. FC Magdeburg in the 3. Liga and I haven't looked back since.

work at Stadion An Der Alten Försterei was ongoing. The work the fans did was incredible, 300 days of solid work, unpaid too, it just shows you how much this club means to Unioners.

How important have the stadium updates been for Union Berlin?

CB: The second renovation was completed in 2013, it's a fantastic place to be on a matchday, nothing else compares. To think that the stadium only holds just over 22,000 fans, yet recreates better atmospheres than some 50/60,000 stadiums in Europe is incredible. It's given Union's amazing fans an identity at long last, one that's now finally getting recognition.

When did 'Union in Englisch' first establish and what were its aims when you started?

CB: Union in Englisch was set up in 2012 after meeting several other British people who were doing likewise in attending Union's games from home. The idea to set up the group was mainly to help attract more UK based fans to come and experience a Union Berlin game and provide a place where help can be provided by native English speakers when coming to Köpenick for the first time.

Great idea, how many members does the group now have four years on and what kind of experience have you had in being a part of the group?

CB: We've attracted a few hundred members so far but many more Union fans have benefitted from the 'Union in Englisch' website and social media, which is fantastic to hear. I can only speak positively of the people I've met who are also members, some now live in Berlin as a result. That just shows how homely the Union experience is to British fans who visit.

Where can you see Union Berlin five years from now?

CB: I believe we can definitely achieve promotion to the Bundesliga, and there's a great possibility it could happen this season. Jens Keller has done a great job so far and I would love it if he could take us into the promotion places come May. If we don't go up this season, I think the likelihood in the next three years is very likely.

A club very much on the up. Connor, many thanks for speaking to us, where can people find more information about 'Union in Englisch'?

CB: My pleasure! People can find us at union-berlin.com and by our Facebook and Twitter pages under Union in Englisch.

Many thanks to Connor Brennan from Union in Englisch for speaking to us



THE TWO BIGGEST CLUBS IN GERMANY SHARE AN INTENSE DERBY WHICH HAS SPANNED 113 TIMES GAMES IN ITS HISTORY, INCREASING IN PROMINENCE SINCE THE SUCCESS OF BOTH SIDES SINCE THE 1990S, SEEING 343 GOALS SCORED IN ALL AND 52 WINS FOR BAYERN TO DORTMUND'S 28.



BAYERN 5-1 DORTMUND

- Former Dortmund stars Robert Lewandowski and Mario Götze both found the scoresheet against their former side as the Bavarians ran riot at the Allianz Arena in October 2015.
- Thomas Müller netted a brace against Bayern's biggest rivals in a thoroughly one-sided and humiliating defeat for Thomas Tuchel's Dortmund, his first Der Klassiker in charge of BVB.
- It proved to be a significant point early on in the season as Bayern extended their lead over Dortmund to seven points, a lead they would not squander en route to a third successive Bundesliga title.

- A sensational semi-final in the 2014/15 DFB Pokal went all the way to penalties to decide who would progress to the final to face either VfL Wolfsburg or Arminia Bielefeld in Berlin.
- Robert Lewandowski once again netted against his former side, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang equalising for the away side.
- Kevin Kampl saw red in extra-time, as neither side broke the deadlock.
- Bayern's penalty takers missed all four spotkicks, Sebastian Kehl and Ilkay Gundogan converted to send BVB to the final.
- A stunning win for Jürgen Klopp in his final Der Klassiker as Dortmund boss.



BAYERN 1-1 DORTMUND (0-2 PENS)

THE HISTORY OF DER KLASSIKER



BAYERN 0-0 DORTMUND (AET 4-3 PENS)

- A goalless 120 minutes led to a penalty shootout to decide the DFB Pokal champion for 2016, in what was Pep Guardiola's final match in charge of Bayern.
- The 2015/16 DFB Pokal title was Guardiola's fifth and final piece of silverware whilst with the Bavarians.
- Sven Bender and Sokratis were the unfortunate players to miss in the shootout for Dortmund.
- Proved to be Dortmund's third consecutive loss in the German Cup final, having lost to VfL Wolfsburg in 2015 and Bayern again in the 2014 showpiece.
- Douglas Costa's winning penalty ensured Thomas Tuchel ended his first season as BVB manager trophyless.

- A Robert Lewandowski hat-trick set BVB on their way to a first DFB Pokal victory in 23 years with an emphatic 5-2 drubbing of arch-rivals Bayern Munich in 2012.
- The victory at the Olympiastadion sealed Dortmund's first ever domestic double, having clinched the Bundesliga title against their fellow cup finalists Bayern, who finished runners up that season.
- Bayern would finish runners-up in all three competitions that season, losing the Champions League final shortly after to Chelsea.
- Shinji Kagawa opened the scoring early on, Arjen Robben levelling the scores, before Dortmund took a 3-1 advantage going into half-time, Mats Hummels heading Dortmund's second.



DORTMUND 5-2 BAYERN



BAYERN 2-1 DORTMUND

- An all German affair in the Champions League final in 2013 saw Bayern reign supreme at Wembley as they sealed a historic treble in 2012/13.
- Jürgen Klopp's Dortmund felt the full wrath of Bayern that season, as the Bavarians got the perfect revenge for BVB's two seasons of success by storming past them to the title and beating them in the showpiece Champions League final.
- Mario Mandzukic opened the scoring in the second-half, before Ilkay Gundogan's penalty levelled it.
- Arjen Robben was slipped through on goal and delicately knocked the ball past Roman Weidenfeller to win Bayern's fifth Champions League title.

THE HISTORY OF DER KLASSIKER



BAYERN 1-0 DORTMUND

- Having failed to defeat Dortmund in both the league and cup since 2010, Bayern finally emerged victors over their arch rivals in a dominant victory that wasn't fully represented in the scoreline.
- Arjen Robben got the only goal of the game which proved to be the winner, a huge relief for the Dutchman considering the torment that had been caused to him by BVB in both the Bundesliga and DFB Pokal, being part of the Bayern side that had failed to defeat Jürgen Klopp's side in six games against them in domestic competitions.
- The win was a defining point in Bayern's season, later clinching the DFB Pokal in the final over Stuttgart and adding the Bundesliga title and Champions League to the trophy cabinet for that season.



DORTMUND 4-2 BAYERN

- A repeat of the Wembley final just three months earlier saw a six goal thriller in Der Klassiker as BVB enacted some revenge on Bayern for their Champions League final defeat.
- Marco Reus stole the show with two goals, and although Arjen Robben repeated his Wembley antics in scoring against Dortmund once again with a brace, a Daniel Van Buyten own goal and an Ilkay Gundogan strike meant that Pep Guardiola's first unofficial match in charge of Bayern ended in defeat.
- Current Bayern star Thiago Alcantara appeared for his debut in red and white but was unable to change proceedings as Dortmund celebrated winning the season curtain raiser for the 2013/14 campaign.



DORTMUND 1-0 BAYERN

- Borussia Dortmund took a huge stride towards a second consecutive Bundesliga title in 2012 when Robert Lewandowski's flicked finish deceived Manuel Neuer with just over ten minutes remaining, proving the decisive winner.
- There was even more drama late on when Arjen Robben earned a penalty in the final ten minutes, but saw Roman Weidenfeller save his spotkick to shut the Dutchman out, prompting Neven Subotic to goad the Bayern player following his miss.
- The win gave Dortmund a six point advantage, one that would eventually grow to eight points as the 'Deutsche Meisterschale' resided in Dortmund for another year.
- Their title victory in 2012 remains their latest, Bayern Munich hitting back to win four titles in a row.

- Borussia Dortmund delivered a killer blow in their surprising title charge in the season of 2010/11 at the Allianz Arena in February 2011, defeating the hosts 3-1, effectively ending 'die Roten's chances of another Bundesliga title that year.
- The win put BVB 16 points ahead of Bayern as they emphatically raced to the club's first league title in nine years with one of Europe's youngest and most exciting squads at the time, with Jürgen Klopp masterminding the whole process.
- It was Dortmund's first win at Bayern in 20 years and their first at the Allianz Arena since it's opening, this victory proving to the doubters that there was plenty of substance to Dortmund's title challenge.



BAYERN 1-3 DORTMUND



DORTMUND 0-3 BAYERN

- Former Dortmund man Mario Götze scored the opening goal and winner on his return to Signal Iduna Park, coming off the bench to haunt his former side.
- The man who would win the World Cup for Germany less than a year later drew a hushed silence from the crowd upon scoring against the club where he first emerged onto the scene as a promising talent.
- Arjen Robben and Thomas Müller added to the scoring late on to complete the rout in Pep Guardiola's first Klassiker in the Bundesliga, moving Bayern seven points clear of BVB in the title race in November 2013.

THE GREATEST GERMAN KITS OF ALL TIME

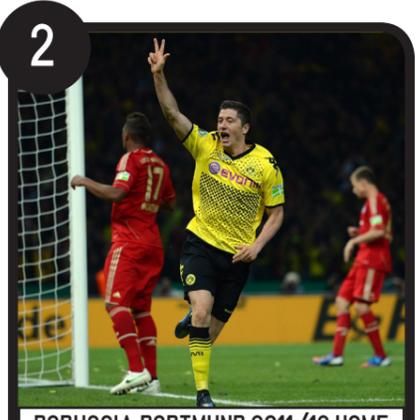
THE GERMAN BUNDESLIGA, LOWER DIVISIONS AND THE GERMAN NATIONAL TEAM HAVE SHOWCASED SOME OF THE MOST ICONIC AND MEMORABLE FOOTBALL STRIPS OF ALL TIME, CREATING MANY PRIZED POSSESSIONS FOR AVID KIT COLLECTORS AND LIKEWISE MANY DESIRED RELICS IN EQUAL MEASURE AFTER 53 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL IN GERMANY

WE AT TOR DECIDED TO TAKE IT UPON OURSELVES TO ROUND-UP THE 12 KITS THAT MADE THE BIGGEST STATEMENTS ON THE PITCH, HELPED CREATE FOOTBALL FOLKLORE AND DEFINE EVERYTHING THAT'S RIGHT ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL GAME IN GERMANY.



1 GERMANY 1990 WORLD CUP HOME

Iconic, bold, timeless - Germany's striking home kit for the 1990 World Cup in Italy proves as memorable to football kit fanatics as their third World Cup win does to the German public even to this day, standing the true test of time and inspiring many Adidas retro collections ever since. Germany's kits have gone close, but none have yet managed to top this classic.



2 BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2011/12 HOME

A season to remember for Dortmund fans, and a kit to savour each memory of the 2011/12 league and cup winning campaign. Dismantling Bayern and notching a second straight title under Jürgen Klopp, many Dortmund heroes shone in this striking yellow and black gradient kit, with Polish striker Robert Lewandowski notably rising to prominence during this time.



3 VFL BOCHUM 1997/99 AWAY

Trawl through retro German football memorabilia websites and you will undoubtedly find this 90s cult classic featuring prominently throughout - the much lauded VfL Bochum away strip, which just happened to feature the same rainbow half-and-half design on all three of their shirts between 1997 to 1999, proving a centrepiece item for all shirt collections.



4 HAMBURGER SV 1982/83 HOME

If one thing stands above all in making sure a shirt is considered a true great, it's silverware. Hamburg's historic maiden victory in the 1983 European Cup final over Juventus subsequently preserved its place in German football folklore, the sharp but simple red and white strip perfectly symbolises the greatest period in HSV's 129 year history.



5 GERMANY 2014 WORLD CUP AWAY

Germany's fourth World Cup victory in 2014 was fitting considering the quality of the two kits they adorned in Brazil, Germany's away kit only getting the nod due to their infamous 7-1 humbling of the host nation in this red and black hooped strip. Thomas Müller, Toni Kroos, Sami Khedira, Andre Schürrle and Miroslav Klose all netted en route to the final.



6 BAYERN MUNICH 2010/11 HOME

Bayern combined their historic past with a modern day twist in their 2010/11 home kit, debuting it in their 2010 Champions League final defeat to Inter Milan. Despite not being a stellar campaign by the Bavarian's high standards, the kit remains one of the most iconic that has been worn by Germany's most successful club.



7 BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2000/02 HOME

The early noughties were a very promising time for the North Rhine club, but failed to result in any silverware to show for their best efforts, finishing runners up in the league, cup and Champions League in the 2001/02 season. Stars Michael Ballack, Zé Roberto and Dimitar Berbatov all starred for Leverkusen during this spell in the club's history.



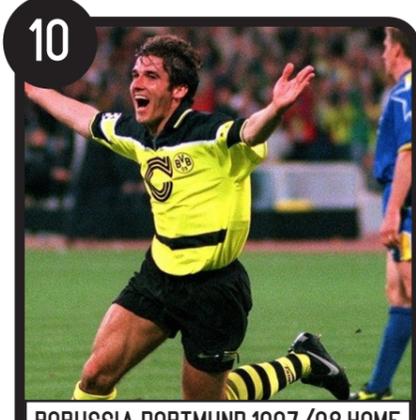
8 VFL WOLFSBURG 2014/16 THIRD

The combination of the illumious Wolfsburg green and white in an X shaped graphic on their third shirt made this kit an instant favourite to make the list, but it is perhaps most infamous for its use in the rollercoaster ride that was Bayer Leverkusen 4-5 Wolfsburg in 2015, a match that saw Bas Dost hit a four goal salvo to single-handedly win the game.



9 BAYERN MUNICH 2014/15 HOME

Bayern are renowned for having stand-out kits every season, this pick from 2014/15 being no exception. The kit was a throwback to a couple of their 90s strips which featured blue and red stripes, bringing back the design in Pep Guardiola's second season in Munich which resulted in their retaining of the Bundesliga title and a run to the Champions League semi-finals.



10 BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1997/98 HOME

Debuted in the 1997 Champions League final, Borussia Dortmund secured their first Champions League title with an emphatic 3-1 victory over Juventus in Munich to culminate a successful six-year period under departing manager Ottmar Hitzfeld, who stepped down after the final. Karl-Heinz Riedel with two goals and Lars Ricken with the other handed BVB the European crown.



11 WERDER BREMEN 2010/11 HOME

Whilst the 2010/11 season proved a turgid one for Bremen, who would lose their star man Mesut Özil following the World Cup, it was their kit designed by Nike which grabbed the attention of the Bremen faithful at the Weser Stadion. Featuring a prominent zig-zag design across the chest and the offsetting shades of Bremen green, it made for one of the club's most popular shirts.



12 FC AUGSBURG 2013/14 HOME

Having successfully retained their status in consecutive seasons in the Bundesliga, Augsburg were to progress to their best ever finish in the league in 8th whilst wearing this green number with red and white details, the design of the kit referencing heavily towards the Augsburg coat of arms, remaining their slickest kit to date as a top-flight club.