

## Sadio Mane named African footballer of the year

10th January, 2020



Senegal's Sadio Mane has been named as the Confederation of African Football's Player of the Year. Nigeria and Barcelona forward Asisat Oshoala was named the African Women's Player of the Year. Mane, 27, edged out his Liverpool teammate Mohamed

Salah to scoop the award. Mane was key in helping his team Liverpool win the Champions League in 2019 and finish runners-up in England's Premier League. He was prolific in attack and scored 30 goals in all competitions during the 2018-19 season. Mane was also the co-winner of last season's Premier League Golden Boot, which is awarded to the league's top goalscorer. He shared this award with Salah and Arsenal's striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Mane was ecstatic at winning the award. He had finished second and third in the previous two seasons and it is the fourth time he has been shortlisted for the accolade. He told football journalists at the awards ceremony in Egypt: "I'm really happy and proud to win this. Football is my job. I love it. I would like to thank my family, my national team, staff, the federation and Liverpool Football Club." He added: "I would like to thank all of the Senegalese who supported me during my journey....They will be glad watching me win this award, especially the people in my village whom I promised I would win Player of the Year. I cannot describe my feelings after winning this award and these emotions which surround me in Egypt."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [goal.com](http://goal.com) / [africanews.com](http://africanews.com)

### Writing

England's Premier League is the best place to play football in the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

football / forward / teammate / scoop / award / runners-up / prolific / season / boot / ecstatic / previous / shortlisted / ceremony / proud / journey / feelings / emotions

### True / False

- a) A Barcelona player won the African Women's Player of the Year. T / F
- b) Sadio Mane beat Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to win the award. T / F
- c) Liverpool finished second in the Premier League in 2019. T / F
- d) Sadio Mane won the Premier League Silver Boot in 2019. T / F
- e) Sadio Mane said he felt elastic about winning the award. T / F
- f) Mane had been shortlisted four times for this award. T / F
- g) The awards ceremony was held in Lagos, Nigeria. T / F
- h) Sadio Mane described his feelings about winning for over an hour. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>named</b>     | a. prize      |
| 2. <b>scoop</b>     | b. backed     |
| 3. <b>prolific</b>  | c. split      |
| 4. <b>awarded</b>   | d. elated     |
| 5. <b>shared</b>    | e. win        |
| 6. <b>ecstatic</b>  | f. productive |
| 7. <b>accolade</b>  | g. feelings   |
| 8. <b>proud</b>     | h. given      |
| 9. <b>supported</b> | i. pleased    |
| 10. <b>emotions</b> | j. selected   |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of football?
- b) Which country has the best football league?
- c) Which country's players are the best to watch?
- d) Have you ever won an award?
- e) Who is the most prolific sports star ever?
- f) How beneficial is playing football?
- g) Is football or American football better?
- h) What skills do you need to be good at football?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mane, 27, edged out            | a. during my journey            |
| 2. Mane was key                   | b. shortlisted for the accolade |
| 3. He was prolific in attack      | c. winner                       |
| 4. Mane was also the co-          | d. his Liverpool teammate       |
| 5. awarded to the league's top.   | e. team                         |
| 6. Mane was ecstatic              | f. and scored 30 goals          |
| 7. the fourth time he has been    | g. after winning this award     |
| 8. national                       | h. in helping his team          |
| 9. supported me                   | i. goalscorer                   |
| 10. I cannot describe my feelings | j. at winning the award         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why is football so popular?
- When was the last time you were ecstatic?
- What is the better word, football or soccer?
- At what sport would you like to represent your country?
- What would it be like to be a world-class football player?
- How good is your national football team?
- What questions would you like to ask Sadio Mane?

## Spelling

- the odreCfinateon of African Football
- opcos the award
- finish uspur-rnne
- He was cilroifp in attack
- last season's iemerPr League
- Arsenal's ikrster
- Mane was aitetccs at winning
- shortlisted for the accelaod
- at the awards nemroyce
- of the Senegalese who pprseudot me
- I cannot icbeesdr my feelings
- urnursod me in Egypt

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. e	3. f	4. h	5. c
6. d	7. a	8. i	9. b	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Striker

You think striker is the best position to play at in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their roles. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goalkeeper, midfielder or coach.

### Role B – Goalkeeper

You think goalkeeper is the best position to play at in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their roles. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): striker, midfielder or coach.

### Role C – Midfielder

You think midfielder is the best position to play at in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their roles. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goalkeeper, striker or coach.

### Role D – Coach

You think coach is the best position to play at in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their roles. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): goalkeeper, midfielder or striker.

## Speaking – Positions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best soccer positions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| • midfielder           | • striker    |
| • defensive midfielder | • goalkeeper |
| • left back            | • winger     |
| • central defender     | • coach      |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.