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Charlie Buchan

born Plumstead, London, 22 September 1891
died Beaulieu Sur Mer, France, 25 June 1960;
ashes interred @ Golders Green cemetery

Sunderland Appearances:

Football League 379 appearances; 209 goals

FA Cup 32 appearances; 13 goals

Sunderland Debut

Spurs 1 v 1 Sunderland, White Hart Lane, 1 April 1911

Sunderland AFC Representative Number 212

Charlie Buchan was one of the all time Sunderland greats, and pre war perhaps the finest striker England produced. He stood an impressive 6ft tall and weighed in at 12st 3lbs.

Born at Plumstead in London he started his career with the Northfield club before moving to Leyton Orient having previously left Arsenal in a row over expenses. Signed by manager Bob Kyle for Sunderland on 21 March 1911 for £1,200, he was just 21 when he played in the 1913 FA Cup Final. He was also an all round sportsman and had played Cricket for Kent.

Having parents who were both Aberdonians he was asked to play for Scotland in 1912. He declined, as having been born in London he wanted to play for England.

His favoured position on the football field was inside right, and he gained representative honours with England, making his debut against the Irish, and twice played against the Scottish League. His England debut was in Belfast on 15 February 1913, and alongside him were his Sunderland colleagues Jackie Mordue and Frank Cuggy, the Sunderland Triangle.

Typically Buchan scored after 10 minutes, although the game was memorable for all the wrong reasons, Ireland's first victory over England in a full international 2 v 1.

At the end of the 1911/12 season Buchan went on holiday to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and whilst there was invited to play football for a local team. That he did, with a knotted handkerchief tied round his head to prevent sunstroke, and assisted them in reaching the final. But back home a photograph of Buchan in a distinctive yellow and black striped shirt reached Roker Park and he was carpeted by Manager Bob Kyle.

By the end of his Sunderland career, which had lasted some 15 years (4 years lost to the war), he was the only red and white to score 200 league goals. Having played some 379 league games he was transferred to Arsenal in July 1925. He had just opened up a sports outfitters business in the town when he was allowed to speak to the legendary Arsenal and ex Leeds City Manager Herbert Chapman, and much to his dismay he left.

Buchan somehow lived to tell a tale of 3 ferocious battles on The Western Front during ww1 but he eventually succumbed to meet his maker on 25 June 1960 following a heart attack whilst on holiday with his wife at Beaulieu Sur Mer in the South of France.

Charlie Buchan is a Sunderland AFC legend.

CHARLIE
BUCHAN