

@boch_cruz1

DORVI KENNEDY

- Football player Ghana under-21 national team
- Played in AS Villa Luganese – Switzerland, Hanoi Expat FC, FC Giao Duc, FC Lao Cai, FC Redwolfs
- Match Reporter/Statistician

FOOTBALL IS A GREAT WAY FOR ME TO CHALLENGE MYSELF

Good afternoon, Dorvi Kennedy! The editors of the glossy magazine SANSARA are glad to welcome you. Let's start from the very beginning. What chance brought you into the sports industry, and why did you choose football? Was it a deliberate decision and the next step in a systematic development, or did some turning point happen that became a starting point for you?

I developed a passion for sports and tried as much as possible to engage in any sports-related activities around me from an early age. I participated in various sports such as Hand ball, Volleyball, Athletics, Gymnastics and Football. Growing up in a football-loving country (Ghana), I

deliberately chose football because it is a highly competitive and exciting sport that brings many people together. It allows me to connect, as well as interact with a large group of people with different backgrounds and experiences. The physical nature of football gives me a great workout every time I step onto the field, and since it is a team sport, I have the opportunity to learn and grow with my teammates. Football is a great way for me to challenge myself, while having fun and making good connections with people.

Based on your experience, what skills are considered the most important for success in professional football and for distinguishing an outstanding player? List the values that you believe are ideal. And what advice would you give impassioned football players who aspire to a successful professional career?

From my perspective, to become an outstanding football player, it requires a combination of physical and mental skills. Both skills are essential for success, including

agility, speed, stamina, tactical awareness, decision-making, and discipline. Then we have technical skills like ball control, passing, shooting, and dribbling. Values such as commitment, resilience, and teamwork are equally important in achieving success.

Finally, emotional skills such as dedication and teamwork are crucial. All these skills and values are essential for success in professional football and are the foundation for any successful team.

EACH POSITION IN FOOTBALL CONTRIBUTES UNIQUELY TO THE TEAM'S SUCCESS

Today, you are a well-known football analyst and have left behind the career of a football player. Do you often remember the period when you played on the field? At that time, which position in the team did you consider the most important? And what is your most memorable football match?

I often miss the time I used to play on the pitch and all the memories I had with my teammates and opponents because those were very special moments for all of us.

Some might argue that the defender or the striker positions are the most crucial due to their impact on scoring and preventing goals. However, I believe each role has its own unique contribution to the team's success. Goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders, wingers and strikers all perform equally important tasks throughout the game and that's why it's a team sport.

My most memorable football match was a final game between Ghana and Brazil at the Afro-American Nations Cup Hanoi 2021, where so many emotions were involved but we were able to overcome them to eventually lift the trophy after such an intense match. That was basically my last professional game as I had a severe knee injury and got substituted in the second half. But I was still excited because we won the tournament for the very first time.

Share with our readers how your previous experience as a football team player prepared you for what you are doing now? Why did you choose to be a football analyst and not a coach?

My experience as a football player provided me with valuable insights and practical knowledge that come in handy to becoming a good football analyst and statistician. As a player, I developed a deep understanding of the game's dynamics, strategies and techniques. This first-hand knowledge allows me to analyze the game, player movements and team tactics from a unique perspective. However, the profession also requires strong analytical skills and research abilities.

I chose to be a football analyst/statistician because of my analytical skills and my ability to delve into problems and explore options to find solutions. That being said, football analysts and coaches somehow work hand in hand, so I am open to that as well.



CHALLENGES IN LIFE AND CAREER ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO PARALYZE YOU

What are the most exciting trends in modern football for you as an analyst? What statistics and analytical data do you use to predict and evaluate teams' performance? And what is your opinion on the impact of technology and video replays on refereeing and match results?

I think there are many exciting trends in modern football that make the game more interesting such as the VAR (Video Assistant Referee), Data Analytics, Tactical Evolution, Sports Science, and Global Fan Engagement. All these trends have changed football in a very positive way and enhanced the viewing experience for fans.

I often use Opta data for my analyses and predictions due to its accuracy, speed, and effectiveness.

The impact of technology and VAR in football has helped improve the accuracy and fairness of refereeing decisions and optimize player performance.

Every successful person faces setbacks and failures sooner or later. After that, a dead end seemed not far off, and there is no way out. But this is only at first glance... If you do not give up and take action, you may be able to claim your place under the sun. Tell us what difficulties you have faced in life and career and what you have done to turn things in your favor.

Challenges in life and career are things we cannot avoid, and these challenges actually provide opportunities to grow, to be resilient and to overcome obstacles and make us stronger as individuals. In my career journey, I had faced racism and discrimination from opponents and sometimes even teammates trying to demoralize me, but I didn't allow this to distract me from my purpose. Instead, it gave me a reason to work even harder to prove my worth. I also believe challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they are meant to help you discover who you are.