

Kerry Davis – Case Study

Kerry Davis is a footballing legend, her achievements as a player speak for themselves but it's important to know that the road to success was not easy for women, there were no million-pound salaries and like many other women in the game she juggled work, education, and training to pursue her football dream.

Showing great resilience through a passion for the sport she loves, Kerry Davis has made an outstanding contribution to woman's football. During her career Kerry represented England 82 times and scored an incredible 44 goals.

“For me there's nothing like football, it just ticks all the boxes. The most important thing is to enjoy it, if you love football and it's your passion it will make you a better player.” Kerry Davies, 2023

Kerry was the first player of dual heritage to play in women's football, her mother being from Stoke-on-Trent and her father from the Caribbean, coming to England with family and friends as part of the Windrush generation. She first started playing football at a young age when her brother had a ball given to him as a birthday present. She would spend hours playing football with her brother and father in the garden and with local boys at the park, there weren't any opportunities for girls to play football at school, so Kerry spent all her spare time playing the game.

It just so happened that Kerry's brother knew a girl who played for ERF Sandbach, about a 25-minute car journey from where she lived. ERF manufactured trucks and had sports facilities, which the women's team used and were based.

At only 10 years old this talented young girl held her own playing against adult women in their inaugural game against Foden FC. She was delighted to score the first goal but unfortunately, they went on to lose 10-1. She continued playing with Sambach until she was 16 years old.

While still only a teenager, Kerry was approached by manager John Fleet to join Crewe Women and it was here that she was able to develop her incredible talent. In 1982 Kerry made her debut for the England team playing her first match against Northern Ireland, the very first competition that UFEA held for women's football. England Women reached the semi-final in 1987 losing to Sweden on penalties, and Kerry went on to play in three more European Championships.

Kerry stayed with Crewe Women until the age of 23, at which point she was also playing regularly for the England, travelling to Mundialito usually at her own expense. On her return to the UK, she received a call from Anna O'Brien who was playing for the Italian team Lazio, and they invited her over to find out more, that visit shaped the next stage of Kerry's career and she went on to spend four years playing in Italy.



Kerry also represented England in the 1995 World Cup, playing her last game for the team against Germany in 1998. Continuing her career in Italy Kerry played with Lazio for a year before moving on to Trani and Napoli. After her impressive stint in Italy Kerry returned to the UK joining her old teammates at Crewe Women.

Being an ambitious and competitive woman, when Knowsley FC came calling Kerry was ready to move to take on the best players in the game. Kerry Played for Knowsley (which went on to become Liverpool) under Liz Deighan, and then Croydon Women with whom she won two championships and one FA Women's Cup, finally joining Millwall before retiring from the game. Kerry Davis has been inducted into Manchester's National Football Museum Hall of Fame, taking her rightful place amongst the greatest players of both the women's and men's football. The skilled ex-forward has had an incredible football career and is a pioneer for the women's sport.

