

# THE LEADER

THE STORY OF THE LEADER, RADOI

ENGLISH | عربي

PREPARED AND WRITTEN BY:  
ABDULLAH AL-HAJERE



# MIREL RADOI

THE STORY OF MIREL MATI RADOI - ROMANIA



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**ABDULLAH ALHAJRE**

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## Dedication

I Dedicate this book to the one whose goal was always raising his club up  
The century club

To the one who made every effort he could just to make the blues supporters always  
happier

The one that brought a player who fully entertained us and given so much..  
The person who brought Mirel Radoi..

I Dedicate this book to his royal highness

Prince Abdulrahman Bin Masaad



## Thanks for

A Special Thank to **Mr.Hisham Al-kethery** who played a major role in creating this book .

Special thanks to my friend **Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi**

for his great contribution to present this book in the best possible way ...

And special thanks to the great designer **Mohammed Al-Shreef**

for his designs which added a touch of beauty to this book ...

And thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the book ...



## Initiation

### **Mirel Radoi**

#### **Zoro – Captain – The Symbol**

Any words about Radoi , the one can't say , even the hand  
can't write

Ideal person .. wonderful player

He wrote his name with letters of gold, its echo reached east  
and west , the best clubs in the world wanted him and above all  
he was and still is the captain his country.

How much we are happy now that he is in our country and in  
the club we support and love .

Here, we present a work that we hope it may even highlight a  
small part of the life of the always brilliant – Mirel Radoi



# **The Beginning**



## Introduction

### Mirel Radoi

Mirel Matei Radoi "titles: Zoro, the Leader, was born on 22 march 1981 in Drobeta Turnu Severin, midfielder who acts as a defender and also in the right wing. Now he plays in Al-Hilal Saudi, before that he was part of the Romanian team Steaua Bucharest in which he remains the symbol of the team over 9 years. In Steaua and Romania they always remember the numbers 7 and 10 because of the legends who are Haji and Nomaro Sasy, but certainly they shall always remember number 6.. Radoi is one of the Romanian Legends .

No doubt ..

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## The identity card



### **Radoi and The hard life**

Radoi lived a very hard life, Mirel Radoi who lived with his grandfather and grandmother in a simple apartment which led him to work hard and secure his life as a player. His family was poor and didn't have enough money. Matei, Radoi`s father, was a fisher and his mother was a housewife. Radoi was also helping his brother, Mehay, who faced many problems, while his sister, Alexandra, was also poor and she failed to start an independent life. All this represented a burden over Radoi who found his scope in football to become who he is right now. Radoi said that it was a motivation for him in the beginning to help his family by working hard and playing to gain money and then he can help his family as much as he could.

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### **Radoi's Beginning with Sport life**

Radoi said that his life from the beginning was hard because his family hadn't much money as in the present; this is the life of most young players now in Rumania. He said that he played football in the beginning of his life just for fun and not for money. He said: " while playing when you are young, you don't think about how you need to win in order to gain money,

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instead all what you think about is the ball and the fun you get by playing with friends. Thinking in adult manner usually starts after 16 when you think that when you play well you will be in one of the biggest clubs and you shall gain money for yourself and for your family, it is difficult, but if you like it you will give a lot. " Radoi started playing when he was 8 years old and his grandfather helped and directed him to football. In the beginning it wasn't his choice because he was young but after two or three months he liked it so much and continued playing. He started as a goal keeper, and lasted playing in this role for less than a month because of his skills that led him to play in the role of a defender. In Steaua Bucharest team he became later a midfielder. while his start as a real football player was in Drobeta Turnu Severin.

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### **Extensiv Craiova and the start of professionalism**

In Drobeta Turnu Severin club Radoi was spotted by Sorin Kartu - coach of Extensiv Craiova team - who brought Radoi in 1999. He payed the transfer fee using his own money because he believed in Radoi`s capabilities. He said that when he saw Radoi playing, he was immediately convinced with his skills and

capabilities which led him to recognize Radoi as a truly player so he talked to the club owners, the two brothers Niko and Yogen, and told them about his intentions. But unfortunately Niko and Yogen didn't agree to give him the needed money to sign Radoi so he was obliged to pay the fee, which was about 6000 dollars, from his own money in order not to lose the player. Kartio noticed that Radoi continued to play at high levels during the period he was playing with Extensiv Craiova. Radoi thinks that Sorin Kartio was an excellent coach. Radoi said that once the coach told him if he wanted to play, he should work hard, otherwise it is better for him to go home. Only 6 months after this incident Radoi was transferred to Steaua Bucharest.

Radoi started his professional life with Extensiv Craiova club when he signed his first professional contract on 4 march 2000. His first match was a defeat from Dinamo Bucharest..

After becoming a professional player, it made a difference for Radoi. He started to gain money as playing football was his official job. It was great for him as it was in the beginning playing just for fun, but later it became different

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because it became a job and commitment. After he was aware of this fact, he had to play to promote and to keep up his level, because if he doesn't keep working hard, he will certainly fall down

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### **Moving to Steaua Bucharest**

Radoi spoke about his transfer to Steaua Bucharest, and he said that deciding was very difficult for him. In his last stages with Extensive team he confronted Steaua Bucharest and he didn't play well in this match.

Then he played with the national team of youth in the league cup in Genesia. In the evening he and Daniel Balan were in the hotel, at this time the coach was Lon Moldvan, he was told that Steaua Bucharest officials would like to see him. During that period Dinamo Bucharest was also interested in signing Radoi so the coach told him to think well about it. But Radoi said that he would never play for Dinamo as he had already made his choice. Later he played two matches in the League cup. Radoi remembers FC National match very well, when Icof scored a wonderful goal but this wasn't the reason of remembering the mach instead after the match Radoi went to

the dressing room where he found Betorsa and Bawnseshio who asked him if he would like to move to Steaua. Radoi answered: " Why would I refuse ". Radoi didn't know what could happen if he didn't receive Steaua`s offer, in this case maybe he would play for Dinamo. But Radoi says that he is so proud of his choice about playing at Steaua and that he won't ever regret it .

And this is how his story started with Steaua Bucharest.



About his first day in the team when he entered the dressing room, Radoi couldn't believe that this is the place where players have made the history of Steaua. He always had respect for these players and that gave him also feeling to be proud of

wearing the shirt of the team. As it was common in Romania that Steaua is the top team. He was in the first and best club.

Radoi spoke about that and said: " It was like a positive shock for me, suddenly I became in the same place with players like Bolian Mio, Marius Baci, and also Miodrag Belodedici. With players I've always seen them in television, it was like a dream for me." This is what moving to Steaua represented to Radoi as it was a great moment for him.

While his transfer fee to Steaua Bucharest club was about 110,000 Euro.

When the new coach Mr. Vector Betorsa came to the team in 2000, who was earlier the coach of the Romanian National team, he chose Radoi to be a part of the first team to become later one of the most important players in the team.

He showed a great performance from the beginning as he scored a goal in his first match with Steaua at Genesia stadium with a high leveled performance. His goal was the equalizer as the result was (3-4) against Bakio. Radoi's goal was only 8 minutes after Bakio's.

Step by step Radoi became one of the most important players in Steaua Bucharest and that was the reason to reach the national team. Then he became the captain of the team which was considered the most important football club in Romania ..

Radoi thanks Belodedici and Baciú for assisting him to move to Steaua Bucharest as they taught him football, whereas Radoi says: "I like Belo, I learned not to throw the ball and put it into control, while Baciú told me to become more courageous along the play because I was the only one who went out with his nose broken by the end of the match.. Also Mr. Bety told me I was like a hero of a tale because of everything happened to me."

Radoi's great performance was with Steaua because of what the team possesses, although most of the players who came to Bucharest waste their time and nights in entertainment, but Radoi cared only for football. He says: " to success in football you need 3 things: work, skill and luck. and to give more to sport and training to have a happy life"

As I mentioned, Radoi imposed himself easily. Within a short period he became the defender and the team's captain.

Radoi said that when he received the captain's badge in 2003 after Marius Baciu he was very confused, he couldn't be stable, his legs were trembling.. Radoi thinks that it was one of the best things that happened to him in his sport life.

After a short period, Radoi won his first cup. When the team won the Romanian league in 2000-2001 season, Radoi talked about the wonderful atmosphere in the match with Argues Club. it was the first title Radoi won in Romania. Then he won the Romanian Super Cup..

His first European matches started fast, the captain's first European match was on 25 July 2001 in Steaua Stadium when he won 3-0 in front of the Macedonian, Sloga Gokomagnat.. His skills appeared also when he played in December 2000 his first match with the national team in a friendly match against Algeria.

After the cup he won in 2001 ... the team was at a dry stage, and it wasn't qualified even for the European championships..

## 2002 – 2003

Season 2002-2003 wasn't full of events ... the team achieved the second place in the Romanian league.. And what could be mentioned was Steaua's win against Dynamo and Rabida in home and away matches.

## 2003 - 2004

Returning to the European stage was in season 2003-2004 with his team. In the first round they met with the English team Southampton and managed to knock it out of the competition and Steaua reached the next round,,, but he played with another English team which was Liverpool that put the team hardly out by a single goal.. Radoi`s performance was great and newspapers wrote about it, one of the newspapers mentioned Fergusson's admiration of Radoi`s performance and the possibility of a transfer to Manchester United. While on national stage it was disappointing as they got the second place in Romanian league although it is a place qualifies them on the European level..

## 2004 - 2005

At the beginning of the season 2004-2005, the phoenix tried to rise again from its ashes. They began in the preliminary round with Zelenk Serbian team until the last qualifying match for the UEFA Cup with CSKA Sofia and the team was able to overcome it and qualify to the group stage .. In those matches, he was unable to play due to injury but he was close to the team in both matches and he was enjoying great enthusiasm and morale and talked about his nervous and anxious attitude and about how he could not rest. He said that he had the same feeling of coaches in the substitutes' bench. Radoi remembers they told him to stay and rest for the injury but he couldn't as he will be under hard pressure to see the players only through television. The players told him to come with them and so he did.

The group stage draw placed the team in a very tough group including Italian team Parma, Turkish team Paschktac, Spanish team Atletico Bilbao and Belgian team Standard Liege in addition to Steaua Bucharest.. But the team was able to cross to the 32nd round to play against the Spanish team Valencia (the champion) and the best team in 2004 ..

In the away match Steaua won 2-0 to equal the overall result of the game to accrue penalty shootout.. As known, the most difficult penalty shootout is the first and last. As usual, Radoi the leader and the captain of the team provide the first kick and scored. All supporters shouted his name and all the players gathered around him waiting for the final outcome which ended with a triumph for Radoi and his colleagues.. But of course the team was stopped in the next round by another Spanish team, which was Villarreal.. After what he did at the tournament, some spoke about offers presented to Radoi from Liverpool, Lazio and Marseille.. But Radoi said that he wanted to obtain more titles with Steaua.

In that season the team won the league title after the competition has intensified significantly with Dynamo Bucharest but Steaua won the title by one point difference to become the champion of Romania, and Radoi raised the cup.. Radoi said then that he was very happy and proud that he helped to bring this happiness to the public by achieving this title, but in the Super Cup the Romanian team didn't make it and took the second place..



2005 - 2006

In the 2005-2006 season, the team played the beginning of qualifying matches of the Champions League against Cilbroon and managed to overcome in the next round to face Rosenberg which was one of the worst moments to Radoi. In the home match the result was a draw (1-1) and in the away result was 2-0 for Rosenberg but Radoi scored an own goal to make the result 3 -0. Radoi scored a goal and his colleague Akub scored another goal but the mach ended by a result of 3-2 and the team got out of the ChampionsLeague group while the Norwegian team celebrated. Radoi and his companios were in a miserable condition as they shed tears and Protasov talked about Radoi saying: "What occurred from Radoi this evening had occurred from great players like him."

Radoi lately said, " Yes, I remember it well, regarding criticisms, I didn't receive much criticism from the public as my relationship with the public was very good but personally it was frustrating to me as it would have been my first time to reach the Champions league... "

The team played to be qualified to the UEFA Cup and it was remarkably wonderful for the team reaching the semi-final in the first round and beat Valerinja. At this mach Radoi scored the first goal and the team won by 3 goals and also won the away match to reach the group stage.

The team was able to conquer the teams to reach the round of 32 and continued its wins against the teams one after another until it reached the quarter-final in a historical match with Rapid Bucharest.. The away match ended with a 1-1 in Rapid stadium and the return match ended with 0-0 in a match which cannot be forgotten . The team coach Kosmin Olaroiu said: "It's the first time that we are happy and celebrating a draw". The team moved to the semi-finals to face Middlesbrough and despite winning 1-0 in the away match but the return match ended by 4-2 and the team lost as the final result was 4-3 despite that the team performance was quite

wonderful. Locally, the team won the league title for the second time in a row and Radoi captain the team held the cup. The team did not stop at that point but also obtained the Romanian Super Cup.

#### 2006 - 2007

In 2006-2007 season.. Radoi was injured several times, he was absent for 5 months and couldn't play matches. His first official match in that season was on the 12 November as the team won 6-0 against National Bucharest. It was surprising that Radoi scored a goal in the penalty at his first touch to the ball despite the his long absence. On the level of results the team achieved the second position in the league. At the European level after the impressive results last season, Radoi and his colleagues conquered Jurica and Standard Liege to reach the group stage in Europe Champions league for the first time in 10 years. As a result of Radoi's injury, he watched the game that qualified team from the hospital where he underwent an operation for his broken nose. Immediately after the end of the match, Radoi sent a message to President Becali to congratulate him for the victory, for achieving the dream and for

reaching the group stage. Becali replied immediately saying: "Bravo, you did it with the rest of the fighters". This was a transition to Radoi as a captain and to the team. Despite the injury occurred to him and prevented him from playing, he played in 4 matches only.. The draw placed Steaua in a group including Real Madrid, Lyon and the Ukrainian Dinamo kiev. Despite these teams, Radoi and his colleagues provided great performance and because of teams' experience the team could not reach the second round, but its status in the group made them qualify to the UEFA Cup. But they lost the game when they played against Sevilla, which won the title.

2007 – 2008



In 2007-2008 season Radoi was quite close to winning the Romanian championship title but his team lost

2 points in the match before the last match against Dynamo Bucharest and Cluj won the championship by one point difference .In the match against Dynamo Steaua lost with 2-1 and Radoi was injured but he refused to leave the stadium and stayed with the substitute players to support his colleagues and encouraging them as he was the captain of the team.. In the champions League matches, the team won and reached the group stage for the second time consecutively. The team played with strong teams. It played with Arsenal, Sevilla (the UEFA Cup champion) and Slavia Prague Norwegian. Then the team was knocked out in group stage.. Radoi played 7 matches in the Champions League..

#### 2008 - 2009

In 2008-2009 season.. Radoi played only half of the season matches with Steaua Bucharest before moving to Al-Hilal .. In the league he played in 17 matches.. He won in 7 matches, drawn on 8 and lost in two. On European level Radoi played 6 matches in the Champions league. The team reached the groups stage for the third consecutive time. This was an achievement made by Radoi and his colleagues although they hoped to reach the advanced stages. In the group stage the

team played with Italian Fiorentina, French Lyon and Bayern Munich the German team. It was a very difficult group to play with. The team got nothing. It lost 5 matches and obtained one tie against Fiorentina. Then Radoi moved to Al-Hilal to complete the season there with the Saudi club..

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### Radoi and Becali



The first meeting between Radoi and Becali was in 2001 in Steaua although he moved to Steaua before that date but he met him later on. He was an excellent man that gave a lot to Radoi. He was the chairman of the club at that time. Despite his good personal relationship with Radoi but it has nothing to do with their professional relationship as a club chairman and as a player, Becali never intervened with the coach choices regarding Radoi. Anyhow the relation between the two men was excellent. Becali played an important role in the marriage of

Radoi. He insisted on Radoi staying at the club year after a year until he completed 9 years as Radoi was significant in the team. At sometime Kuzmin said that one of the reasons of he coming to train Steaua was the existence of Radoi.

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### Radoi and professional offers

Since Radoi's transfer to Steaua Bucharest and his success there, he received several offers. Since 2002 many teams such as Arsenal, A. C. Milan, Inter Milan, Manchester United and Bayern Munich sent offers to this famous player of amounts ranged between 2 and 20 million Euros.

In 2002, Sporting Lisbon was interested in Radoi and he welcomed the opportunity as he's got interest in playing abroad. and working with Lisbon would certainly be a turning point for him especially for working with Lisalo Poloni and Marios Nichola. Radoi was hesitant as he was not sure whether time is suitable for that and he was interested in playing with Steaua Bucharest longer time as only two years elapsed since he started playing with this team.

In 2005 season he received several offers from European clubs for exchange but Gigi Becali refused all of these offers. He received a 2 million Euro offer from the Italian club Palermo.

After that there was a possibility for his transfer to Valencia. And there was talking about offers from a number of very famous clubs like Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Totingham, and Portsmouth who were interested in Radoi's service. Gigi Becali refused offers ranged between 10- 15 million Euro as he was not willing to accept any offer regardless it's amount. And the most strange thing was club officials not talking about the clubs asked to sign Radoi.

Chelsea also expressed its interest in Radoi but his injury hampered the offer. Becali said "a team came from England to see Radoi in the Netherlands but unfortunately he was injured. It could have been a suitable offer. We made some discussions with them".

Then Radoi refused several offers. When Becali expressed his surprise, Radoi spoke respectfully. He said that the team needs him now and he cannot leave. This speech had a good effect on Becali.

An offer appeared from the Italian club A.C. Milan as they are interested in Radoi when they failed to obtain Chievo from Roma.

The media also spoke about offers from Bayern Munich and from Borussia Dortmund to Radoi. Becali mentioned once that he refused a 6 million Euro offer from the German club.

In October 2006 during the match between Steaua Bucharest and Real Madrid in the Champions League, Bikali said that he talked with the chairman of Real Madrid Calderon but he didn't receive any reply from him.

Also in 2006 Portsmouth tried to convince the player again in playing at the Premier League but they failed to do so.

At the beginning of 2007 Radoi was about to agree with Roma club who was in need of a player in the middle defense but the Club agreed with Steven Rado for 5.4 million Euro.

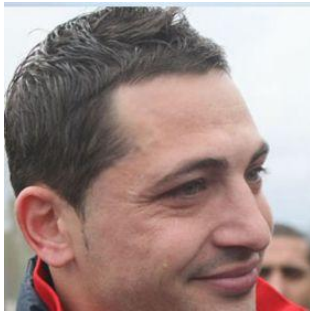
When Jose Mourinho came last summer he submitted to the player an offer of about 13 millions Euro. Then Mourinho confirmed that. At last Radoi transferred to Saudi Al-hilal for 6 million Euro.

## Moving to Al-Hilal and waving goodbyes after 9 years



The news about Radoi's transfer was not easy for the supporters of Steaua Bucharest after 9 years with the team as he remained the captain for more than 7 years. Lots of people not supporting his transfer wrote on newspapers. Becali said at that time, " Radoi's move outside Europe is surprising, but he found his goal there".. The coach Kuzmin who trained the player in his new club was criticized because of his influence on the player's move to Al-Hilal, he said "The transfer of Radoi is not a step backward, but on the contrary it is a step forward. Al-Hilal team has 7 players in the Saudi national team and have a professional player worth 10 million Euros. Does any Romanian club possess that?".. In his last statements Radoi said: 'It is difficult to wait for the European offers to come. There are no much years still remaining in my professional life. Its good to play in my country but you cannot realize all you hope for. I will give all my efforts with my new club.'" Those were his last words

there. Then he had to say farewell to his supporters who will not forget him and move to the new club.



The farewell was very emotional. As Radoi returned to Bucharest to farewell the public, they received him in large numbers of supporters, children and media with love and tears... They expressed their great sorrow for Radoi leaving their team.

The team also gave Radoi a T-shirt of Steaua Bucharest showing signatures of all supporters as a gift. It was a wonderful gift. No doubt at that.



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### Radoi is the most expensive player in Romania

Radoi is considered the most expensive player in Romania. The amount of 7.2 million Euro to the Romanian club is not a small amount. It was another challenge for the Romanian star. So Radoi preceded famous and legendary Romania players such as:

Stevan Radio- 5400000 Euro by his transfer to Lazio  
Ayonet Mazilo- 3500000 Euro by his transfer to Deniber  
Haji- 4300000 Euro by his transfer to Real Madrid  
Daniel Nichola - 3300000 Euro by transfer to Oxair  
George Ojararo- 3000000 Euro by transfer to Ajax.

Radoi says: "I think that the figure is very close to the figure of one of Porto. For me, it is not important who is the most expensive. I didn't sign the contract for money only. Legends like Haji are different. He played for Real Madrid and Barcelona. He is always a great player".

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### **Al-Hilal Club and the First season**

In January 2009, Al-Hilal Saudi signed a contract with the Romanian Radoi for 11.400.000 million Euros annual salary for three years. This equals 4.200.000 million Euros in total for the player and 7.200.000 million Euros for Steaua Bucharest club.

When Radoi came to Al-Hilal, Al-Hilal was the first place in the championship standings. Al-Hilal was also playing in the AFC Champions League. Radoi played the first derby match with Al-Hilal against with Alnasr and he provided a wonderful

performance in his first match with the new team and scored one goal under the leadership of his former coach at Steaua Bucharest Olăroiu Kuzmin. Al-Hilal won the Crown Prince Cup "cup" after they defeated the other team by one goal in the lead in extra time. So Radoi got his first championship with his new team as a first achievement.

In the last round in Saudi league the team lost the title after they were very near from winning it but they faced some conditions as a result of dismissing the coach Olaroiu Kuzmin. In King's Cup Alshabab club kicked Al-Hilal from the semi final stage. In the AFC Champions League, the team triumphed in the round of the groups and achieved the first position to play in the next round against the team of Umm Salal. Then the team lost and got out of the Asian Champions round. This was the end of the first season for Radoi with Al-Hilal.. The season was special to Radoi who quickly became one of the pillars of the team and indispensable to the coach. The public in Saudi Arabia liked Radoi a lot.

### Kuzmin's dismissal, and Radoi's decision



After Al-Hilal won the Crown Prince's Cup, the problem stirred by Kuzmin's throwing of a T-shirt bearing an image of the Crown Prince. after the matter was magnified it appeared that Kuzmin will not continue under any circumstances whether right or wrong.. It is well known that one of the most important factors of Radoi's coming to Al-Hilal was the existence of Kuzmin... Radoi was in a critical situation.

Some said that Kuzmin will take Radoi with him to a Gulf club of which he became a coach after that.. Radoi said at the time: "The place was like a dream, everything was wonderful: the players, the coach and the management ...

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and suddenly everything turned to a nightmare. I will lose a lot with his absence as he is my first assistant"... Despite that Radoi confirmed he will complete his contract with the team. It is true that Radoi was affected by this incidence as the other members of the team but he quickly returned to radiance as before.

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### Al-Hilal .. Asia's Club of the Century



During this period , it seems that Radoi has been like a Good Luck Charm on the blue team , because Al-Hilal has been elected as Asia's Club of the Century , this trophy is presented to the most successful club based on the Titles and results provided on the all levels .

Al-Hilal is considered the most successful and the most worthy of this title because it's the only team who had six Continental titles :

Asian Champion Club Tournament-Asian Club Championship ,  
AFC Cup Winners' Cup and AFC Super Cup two times each .

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### The Second season , The most Successful

In Radoi's second season with Al-Hilal , The team hired the well known Belgian Trainer Eric Gerets , and without any doubts Radoi was one of the important players in the team and Gerets counted on him in the midfield area .Radoi and his teammates played one of the best seasons in Al-Hilal's history . They won the Saudi league three rounds before it ends and they won the crown prince cup , but the team lost the last competition in Saudi Arabia "The King Cup" but they lost it in penalty kicks.



In the AFC Champions League Al-Hilal reached the quarter Final and The competition will continue in The next Season .

In the Saudi League Radoi played 19 matches and scored two goals against Al-fateh and Najran , and as usual Radoi's performance was impressive and because of that he was nominated as one of the best players in the season , and he won the best player of many rounds in sometimes he took the second place .



In the crown prince competition Radoi played the first match against Al-Faysaly and helped the team to go past them to the quarter finales where they faced Al-Nasser in the big derby in Riyadh , and as always Radoi shines in the derby matches and led the team to a great win but at the end of the match Radoi got a red card because he thought that the referee ended the match and kicked the ball away while he was only whistling for a foul so Radoi got his second yellow card and got sent off to miss the Semi-Final , but Al-Hilal made it to the final

against Al-Ahli , although they were losing by one goal in the first half , Al-Hilal managed to turn the table around and scored two goals to win the second big competition in Saudi Arabia which is a big achievement but of course Radoi and his teammates didn't stop winning .

In the local champions cup (The King Cup) Al-Hilal competed with the best teams in Saudi Arabia and they were able to win the home and away matches against Al-Fateh with a total of 8 goals to reach the semi-final against Al-Nasser , and Radoi played really great in both matches (Home&Away) and the local press was impressed with his performance and all of them agreed that he is the biggest reason why Al-Hilal won both matches with a total of six goals . In The Final Al-Hilal played against Al-Ittihad but they didn't win the match although they played very well and lost in penalty shootout .

In the AFC champions League , the main objective to the blue team which they have been after for a long time , but in this year the competition was never like before because he team was providing great performances along with the impressive results . In the primary rounds Radoi played 5 matches and rested in the last one because the team booked it's place in the

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second round . In the second Round Al-Hilal had to play versus the Uzbek football club FC Bunyodkor in King Fahad Stadium in Riyadh and Al-Hilal was able to win with three goals to reach the quarter Final .

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### **Radoi's first experience outside Romania**

At the beginning Radoi's transfer from Romania to Al-Hilal was very difficult. He was lucky from the beginning. The weather was good at that time. But after two months he started to know the real weather in Saudi Arabia. it was a risk but he knew that his duty was to work hard and play. After the elapse of 8 months he became more comfortable. He started to know about the culture and the religion of the country. Life became easier for him compared to his first days. He described the group who assisted him as a good group that helped him to stay and to do his work as it should be.

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### Radoi and Riyadh the capital

Radoi spoke about the first time he came to Riyadh. He didn't know where to go if he wanted to know about this big crowded city. He started to go here and there and he tried to know the highways, streets, hotels and restaurants but the crowds of people caused some difficulties to him. He said, "I don't know how can you live in this crowded city, particularly when you fail to find a parking for your car ... incredible situation". As the public like their team players, this caused some disturbance to Radoi when he gets out for leisure time. He said, "I don't find problems. I stop to take photos with them. It is good for a football player. You enjoy taking photos with people in another country. You gain money from playing. All this makes you enjoy life. It is true that you do not stay longer with your family but life is good".

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### Radoi and derby matches

No one can speak about the derby matches better than Radoi himself. After 9 years of living derby matches between Steaua Bucharest and Dynamo Bucharest, Radoi is now living in the Riyadh derby between Al-Hilal and Alnasr. Radoi said about that: " The derby in Romania Between Steaua and Dinamo is the same as The derby here between Al-Hilal and Al-Naser. But somehow there is a difference regarding the number of public supporters, it is not large in Bucharest as it is in Riyadh. In Romania the number of supporters will not exceed 25-26 thousands. But here in Riyadh the number reached 54 thousands in the first derby I played, it's nearly the double compared to that in Romania. The derby was great and the atmosphere in the stadium was wonderful. It is true that I don't understand supporters' cheers but their behavior made me understand that they were quite happy as they sang, the supporters here are respectful. " and when we speak about Radoi's first derby we can say that it was great as it was the first match for him with Al-Hilal against the rival and he scored a great goal which decided the match with his team winning.

## Romania

Radoi's start with the Romanian National team was long time ago, Specifically with the U-21 National team, as he played with them 3 matches between 1998 and 2000.

Radoi played for the first team 64 matches, and he scored two goals , the first one was against Luxemburg when Romania won 7-0 in 2002 and The other one was against Al-Honduras before world cup 2010 .

The first official international match with the Romanian team was in December 2000 in the World Cup qualifiers, it was the first competitive match for him, against Italy when the team lost 2-0, but after that they won in four games that followed in the playoffs.. He also played 8 matches in the Euro 2004 qualifiers.

In 2005 Radoi was suspended from the representing the Romanian national team by coach Victor Pithorsa due to his absence from the team without an excuse before meeting the Netherlands and Armenia. He was allowed to return later in February of 2006, after he went out and apologized for what happened from him and that caused him to play with the team's tour in Cyprus at that time..

He also participated with Romania in Euro 2008, and was badly injured in the head against Italy due to collision with team mate Razvan Rat, who got out intact, and later it was revealed that Radoi needed an eye surgery and he also suffered broken nose as a result of the incident.

### **Radoi dreams to reach the world cup**

Radoi was disappointed for not reaching the world cup as he mentioned. It is the dream of each player to represent his country in this prestigious competition and he later would label himself as a player who participated in the world cup.

In Korea and Japan 2002 world cup qualifiers, Radoi played with the Romanian team in the Group H. Romania obtained the 2nd place after Italy. So Romania was qualified to play against Slovenia. In the match in Slovenia in November 2001 the Romanian team lost with a 2-1 result and in the next match in Bucharest the two teams drew (1-1), with this result the Romanian team lost the opportunity to be qualified to the world cup although they were very close to it.

In Germany 2006 world cup qualifiers, Romania played in group A in the European qualifying matches, but lost the opportunity to reach the world cup by two points difference. Netherlands obtained the 1st place while Czech republic obtained the 2nd place.

In the South Africa 2010 qualifiers the Romanian team participated in group G with Serbia, France, Austria, Lithuania and Faro Islands but the Romanian team lost a number of points which prevented them from reaching the world cup or the playoff.

Nobody knows if Radoi will be in the Romanian team in the matches leading to the world cup 2014 to realize the dream.

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### **Radoi and play in multi centers**

During his professional life Radoi used to move from role to another between midline and the center of defense with Steaua, the National team and Al-Hilal. Radoi said this movement from a role to another was difficult. But after 10 years of experience Radoi considers this easy and he mastered it. Radoi carries out what the coach orders him to do.

But once he confronted a problem when Haji was the coach of Steaua in one of the matches against Cluj as he made him play in the midfield rather than defense line as Becali wanted. And as the match go on, the defender was expelled by getting a red card so the team was forced to play with only ten men on field. Later, Becali was mad and he criticized Haji and talked about how he would sack him if he insists on playing Radoi on centerfield. After all, talking after matches was a common thing and what happened could happen in any time.

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### **Personal achievements**

- Radoi was selected in the list of best Romania's players several times: in 2002 he was in the 5th place, 2003 in the 4th place, in 2004 in the 3rd place and finally in 2005 he was the second best player in Romania and this is a great sign of Radoi's level development year after year.
- in a survey made by the romanian TV in 2006 Radoi was chosen in the 21st place as one of the greatest romanian players of all time.

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- Steaua consider Radoi one of the club legends and he made his name seen beside names of players like Iordanescu , Haji and other players who made Steaua's history.
- He played more than 200 matches with Steaua Bucharest, and he celebrated his 200 match against Unirea Urziceni ....
- He continued to be the Steaua team's captain for more than 7 years.
- He's got a personal achievement as he participated in to the UEFA Cup semi-final with Steaua Bucharest in 2006.
- He played in at UEFA ChampionsLeague group stage 3 times: in 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and in 2008-2009 season.

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### Radoi's future

Speaking about his future Radoi said that after losing in the Asian Champions League last season, it is necessary to him and his team to win the title this year. But on the personal level Radoi plans to become a coach and he is working on it.

### Spending time

When he was in Romania, Radoi said that he didn't wake up from sleep before 10 o'clock although his children usually do not allow him to do so. When he's got two training sessions, he arrives to the stadium before lunch to come back home later to eat and relax. Then he goes back to work again, after that he goes back home in the evening to spend time with his wife and children in the parks or entertainment places or for dining out in a restaurant.

But when he came to Riyadh with Al-Hilal, he found a different conditions as his family spent little time with him in Riyadh, before they left due to travel matters and arrangements. Radoi talked about spending his time when he is alone. he spends most of the time at home watching TV and DVDs but not to watch films, he watch games even if he's not interested in that team or the league he's watching. the most important thing it is a football match, whether they are former players or not. Radoi says that he plans in the future to be a coach after he finishes his career as a player so he is preparing from now to this job and to what it requires.

### Radoi's Personality

Some talked about Radoi especially when he got the captain's badge, some said in television and newspapers that he is a cruel and arrogant player although he is completely not. Sometimes he becomes angry fastly but he is always forgiving. While who completely know Radoi, especially the people from Sefren, tell about Radoi's morals and respect, even Radoi's teachers when he was eleven years old at school, they all spoke about this sensitive child who was crying whenever someone insults him.

Radoi faced some troubles which seem just aiming at deforming his reputation. in 2001 he was accused of two things. first, that he hit one of Sefren`s habitants, he made a complaint and it appeared that he was innocent and that Radoi wasn't actually the one who did it. The other thing was when one of the motorcycle riders' accident was attributed to Radoi`s Porsche, and nothing happened as well. As I mentioned earlier, these were attempts to harm Captain Radoi's reputation. People who had seen Radoi and had spoken to him shall recognize his good behavior and how humble he is in terms of

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dealing with others with respect. This can't be seen in any but in a great player as Radoi.

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### Family life

- Radoi married Viviana in 2001, a girl from the same hometown Severin, initially they stayed with each others for 3 years in 1999. And after he became a star, Radoi lived with her in an apartment in Bucharest, and after 6 months they decided to get married. They now have a son and daughter Dennis and Ingrid, and Radoi made a lovely gesture by making Gigi Becali a "godfather" to him when he got married...

Radoi talked about his marriage and its impact upon him, where he said it could be considered one of the reasons of his success, as before marriage when he was young, all what he can think about is playing, resting and enjoying the day, but after marriage he's got a wife and children and the things become different.

Radoi spoke earlier that sport do not affect his family life as he give his family the care and time needed, but since he moved to Saudi Arabia there is no doubt that he's got less time, but he has always showed his care.

He also talked about his son Dennis, Radoi insists that he allowed him in case he wanted to become a football player, although he was interested in Tennis more and wants to become like Nadal.. The most important thing for Radoi is his son interested in sport as he thinks sport is a very important thing in life.

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### Radoi and media

Radoi is cooperative with journalists and media but several times he received severe criticism from them without reasons. Sometimes they considered him the pampered son of Gigi Becali, and that he is favored by Olario Kuzmin in Steaua Bucharest. But Radoi was self confident. He said " I am the captain of Steaua Bucharest, I play for the national team. What can he does to me? I don't know .. Maybe he wants to make me a coach ! ".

When criticism became more severe in some period, Radoi said " I read an article but I didn't understand. Why do they do that? Maybe someone ordered them to write that.

Maybe, I don't know. I thought that I should be quite and within time everything will be repaired. Some people told me that I will weep when I read those article. But I didn't and I will not weep in future. On the contrary this will motivate me".

It is known that Radoi is not interested in coming out in newspapers and to be pictured on the covers of the magazines without a reason. Newspapers can control players' popularity and contribute in it's increase or decrease.

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### **Radoi and entertaining children**

Radoi has several charity works. He participated in the project of "football for life" with a number of famous players. The purpose of the match was to collect 21000 euros for Provita Charity to be given to those whose fathers left them and to contribute in supporting children. Players donated their shirts and balls bearing their signatures to be together against poverty, disability, abortion and sickness.

Radoi Says: " A lot of youth in Romania, as in any country, has no money. they suffer from illnesses so we should do something to help them and bring happiness to them and put them in better situation. I can bring money and give it to them but I'm trying to give my utmost so I can help them to be in better conditions. "

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## Statistics

### Extensiv Craiova

Radoi played with Extensive Craiova team in 1999-2000. He played 14 matches in the national league and didn't score any goal but he appeared as an excellent player, the fact that caused his transfer to Steaua later.

### Steaua Bucharest

2000-2001 Season: this is the first season for Radoi in Steaua in which he played 25 matches in the national league. It is an excellent figure as a first season.

2001-2002 Season: Radoi played 25 matches 22 of it was in the national league and 3 matches in the European Champions League. He scored one goal in the national league.

2002-2003 Season: he played 25 matches in the national league and scored one goal while he played two matches in the cup.

2003-2004 season: Radoi played in 37 matches and scored 3 goals: 29 of the matches was in the national

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league in which he scored 2 goals and he played 2 matches in the cup and scored one goal. He played 6 matches in the UEFA cup and didn't score any goal.

2004-2005 season: Radoi played 28 matches: 20 matches in the league in which he scored one goal, and 8 matches in the UEFA cup and got no goal.

2005-2006 season: Radoi played 42 matches: 24 matches in the national league in which he scored 4 goals. He played one match in the Cup, and 17 matches for the UEFA cup and scored 3 goals.

2006-2007 Season: Radoi played in 19 matches: 14 in the national league in which he scored one goal. He played one match in the cup and 4 matches in the Champions League.

2008-2009 Season: this is the last season with Steaua. He played 20 matches: 13 matches in national league in which he scored one goal, and he played 7 matches in Champions League.

### **Saudi Al-Hilal**

In 2008-2009 season he played 22 matches, 5 matches in the national league in which he scored 2 goals. 12 matches in other national competitions. on the Asian level Radoi played in 5 matches in the AFC Champions League in which he scored 3 goals.

In 2009-2010 season Radoi played 28 matches with Al-Hilal , 19 of them were in the Saudi League , 5 In the AFC Champions League , 3 in the crown prince cup and 4 games in the King cup .

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### **Radoi participations in Europe**

2001-2002 season: 3 matches in Champions League.

2003-2004 season: 6 matches in UEFA Cup.

2004-2005 season: 8 matches in UEFA Cup.

2005-2006 season: 4 matches in Champions League.

2005-2006 season: 13 matches in UEFA Cup.

2006-2007 season: 2 matches in Champions League.

2006-2007 season: 2 matches in UEFA Cup.

2007-2008 season: 6 matches in Champions League.

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### **Radoi's injuries during his sporting life**

In 2004 he was injured in his right knee

In 2005 he was injured also in his right knee

In 2006 he underwent surgery in his right knee.

In 2007 Radoi was injured in his right knee ligament and his left knee which made him stay out of the pitch for 5 months.

In June 2008 during Champions League he was injured with a fracture in his nose and an injury in his eye.

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