



THE NEW HOPE OF UZBEKISTAN FOOTBALL - ABDUKODIR KHUSANOV AND HIS WAYS OF SUCCESS

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Abstract: This article explores the journey of Abdukodir Khusanov, who is introducing Uzbekistan's football to the world, particularly Europe. It examines his entry into the world of football, his achievements, successes, and significant role in the development of Uzbek football. Additionally, it highlights the key factors behind his success on the international stage through his playing technique.

Keywords: International level, conquering Europe, top leagues, top clubs, adaptation, and future prospects.

In recent years, Uzbek football has made significant strides in strengthening its position on the international stage and nurturing new talents. In this process, Abdukodir Khusanov holds a unique position. This young defender, born in 2004 and now 20 years old, has managed to make a name for himself not only in local but also in international football. Today, he plays as a main member of the French team "Lens" and is also considered a main player for the Uzbekistan national team.

The playing technique, tactical capabilities, and successful participation in team performances of Abdukodir Khusanov have been studied. Specifically, his statistical performance after joining the French team "Lens" in 2023, his appearances for the Uzbekistan national team, and his participation in international tournaments have been analyzed. Taking into account the opinions of the footballer's fans on social media, the thoughts of journalists, expert comments from football specialists, and sports-related journalistic articles, Abdukodir's position in the international arena and his future prospects were evaluated. His successes were compared with those of other young Uzbek footballers and foreign players, providing a deeper understanding of his uniqueness in the football world and his results in international tournaments.

Abdukodir Khusanov's career began at the "Bunyodkor" academy in Tashkent. From a young age, he stood out as a defender due to his excellent physical attributes and discipline on the field. In 2022, he transferred to the Belarusian club "Energetik-BGU Minsk," where he participated in 37 matches. Despite being a defender, he scored 4 goals and provided 4 assists, particularly excelling in long-range free kicks. In 2023, he caught the attention of the French club "Lens" and signed a four-year contract with them. The young Uzbek footballer now plays with the number 25 for "Lens." The club's official website describes him as "the first Uzbek footballer in Ligue 1 history" and "a unique talent from Asia."

During his time at "Lens," Abdukodir played in 25 official matches in the 2023-2024 season, starting 16 of them. He provided 1 assist and recorded an 88% accuracy rate in passing. In 2023, Abdukodir won the Asian Cup with the Uzbekistan U-20 national team. He also made his debut for the Uzbekistan national team in the 2024 Asian Cup and participated successfully in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. His participation helped increase the national team's victories and boosted their international ranking significantly.

Abdukodir's high speed, aerial dominance, and excellent positioning have helped him become a reliable defender for his team. He also plays an important role as a game controller, starting attacks by passing the

ball quickly and accurately from the defense. His physical strength and stamina enable him to maintain high performance even in the final minutes of a game. Over the course of more than a year, Abdukodir has displayed high-level technical skills, and today, Transfermarket values him at 12 million euros, the same as legendary footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

Abdukodir's success on the international stage serves as an inspiration for young footballers and has a positive impact on the development of Uzbek football. By showcasing the quality of the Uzbek football system, he has demonstrated that there are real opportunities for young players to reach a professional level and play in top leagues and top clubs.

Abdukodir Khusanov's career, which began at the "Bunyodkor" academy, highlights the potential of Uzbekistan's football system in developing talented young players. The discipline instilled at the academy, working with professional coaches, and continuous participation in competitions strengthened his technical skills and mental resilience. However, to take more young players to the international level, it is essential to further modernize the local football system and increase investments.

Abdukodir's transfer to the "Lens" team is undoubtedly the result of his talent and hard work. However, a crucial part of this success is his ability to adapt to a new cultural environment and quickly adjust to a high-level professional league. This process demonstrated not only his physical but also his psychological strength. For other Uzbek footballers, gaining such international experience is of great importance. According to a French publication, when Abdukodir joined the team, he spoke only Russian but quickly mastered French.

He has emphasized in interviews how important the support of his family and coaches has been. His technical skills, quick adaptation to new tactics, ability to make the right decisions on the field, coordinate movements, and control the ball have made him recognized on the international stage.

His hard work and discipline are also noteworthy. Regular training and focusing on self-improvement have elevated his technical abilities and physical fitness to a high level. Abdukodir's international success has provided a positive boost to the development of Uzbekistan football. His achievements inspire young footballers to strive for professional football, while also showing coaches that modern approaches can lead to success. At the same time, his successes have drawn the attention of international scouts to Uzbekistan football.

Abdukodir Khusanov is still young, and the results he can achieve during his career have great potential. Playing for top European clubs, participating successfully in the Asian Cup and World Cup qualifiers with the national team remain key goals for his future career.

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