

CLOSE CONTROL

Thierry Henry is one of the most mercurial players of his generation, or any other. Here's what his combination of modern preparation and timeless genius can do

Golden Boot When Pél  names you as one of the greatest footballers of all time, you know you've made it. But when, like Gillette Champion Thierry Henry, that accolade is merely one among many including a European Golden Boot, a World Cup winner's medal and a European Championship winner's medal, then you know you're fit to rub shoulders with the Brazilian great himself. As international football comes once again to the fore, Henry has yet another chance to prove himself an all-time great.

World XI Would Henry find a place in an all-time XI? Or has his genius been flattered by all the gifts of modernity denied to the likes of P l , Maradona and the greats of previous generations? "Even in the last 10-15 years, there have been a huge number of technological advances in football," says Barry Drust of the Research Institute for Sports and Exercise Science at Liverpool John Moores University. "With lighter balls and boots, better fitness and nutrition, and improved coaching and practice, the game has become quicker and the players are more athletic to meet the different requirements on them. But a great player is a great player whatever the era."

Mission to succeed But though football has undoubtedly been improved by advances in technology, it's Henry's dedication to preparation that has been the hallmark of his genius. Henry's personal mission to reinvent himself after his indifferent spell at Juventus to become one of the greatest forwards of the modern age has become part of footballing legend. By closely focussing on his preparation in training, he transformed his game, all the while maintaining his blistering pace and close control, which have lit up stadiums around the world. Even in a game where technology flatters the most ordinary players, there's no mistaking Thierry Henry as the natural heir to P l  and Maradona. All hail the King!

Thierry's tips

- Put family first: "I learned to shave by watching my father first. It seemed like such a cool thing to do."
- Practice, practice, practice: "When I started shaving it took me ages to get the hang of it. Like many things in life it took practice."
- Do everything in life to the same high standard: "I'd say I'm about as good at shaving now as I am at football!"

Preparation means having the right tools for the job, whether that's on the fairway or in the locker room.

1 PREPARE
Use Gillette Fusion HydraGel to help prepare and soften your hair before you shave

2 PERFORM
Gillette Fusion has 5 blades to provide extraordinary comfort

3 PERFECT
Soothe your skin post-shave with the non-greasy, alcohol-free Gillette Fusion HydraSoothe Balm

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