

Lily Parr Celebrated By Football Museum

Who was Lily Parr?

- Lily Parr was a professional footballer who played for over 30 years.
- She scored 986 goals in her career and was the first woman to be featured in the Football Hall of Fame.

Lily Parr, the superstar footballer, will be honoured with her own gallery in the National Football Museum in Manchester.

You might not have heard the name of Lily Parr but without groundbreaking athletes like her, football today would look very different.

She was one of the first female professional footballers, playing between 1919 and 1951 and scoring a massive 986 goals in her **career**. That's more than Ronaldo or Messi!

She even played in the first ever recognised women's international match between England and France in 1920. Her football team, Dick, Kerr Ladies FC, represented England and beat the French team 4-0!

Women's football was more popular than men's at the time. A whopping 53,000 people went to see her team play in 1920.

However, the sport faced serious challenges. The **FA** banned women from playing on their pitches in 1921 because they didn't think football was suitable for them. This meant they had to play on much smaller pitches. That ban wasn't lifted until 1971!

There are 110 statues of male players but, despite the amazing success of players like Lily Parr, there wasn't one of a female footballer until last year when a statue of her was created.

Lily Parr's statue will be part of a whole new gallery about Lily's life and career. It will celebrate her **influence** on football as well as the



Illustration: Lily Parr scored 986 goals in her career.

challenges women footballers have had to face and overcome.

Belinda Scarlett, the **curator** of the gallery, said that Lily's influence, "is highly significant and under-represented."

Hopefully, shining a light on Lily and her amazing achievements could inspire the next football superstar of the future.

Glossary

career	A job or occupation taken for a significant amount of time.
FA	Football Association, the body which governs the rules of football in England.
influence	To be able to inspire others to act the same.
curator	A person who is in charge of what goes in a gallery in a museum.

Questions

1. Why do you think the author uses the word 'groundbreaking' to describe athletes like Lily Parr?

2. What will the new gallery at the National Football Museum be about?

3. Attendance for women's football games dropped after 1921. Use the news story to explain why you think this was.

4. Why do you think the National football museum have created a gallery about Lily's life?

5. Number these events in Lily Parr's career in the order in which they occurred. One has been done for you.

- The FA banned women from playing on their pitches.
- A gallery about her life was created.
- 1 She began her career.
- She took part in the first recognised international women's football match.

6. Summarise this news story in 15 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Why do you think the author uses the word 'groundbreaking' to describe athletes like Lily Parr?
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the news story, e.g. The author uses the phrase 'groundbreaking' to describe Lily Parr because she was among the first professional female footballers.
2. What will the new gallery at the National Football Museum be about?
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the gallery being about Lilly Parr's Life, e.g. The new exhibit at the National Football Museum will be about Lily Parr and her influence on football.
3. Attendance for women's football games dropped after 1921. Use the news story to explain why you think this was.
Accept any answer that refers to the FA banning women from playing on their pitches in 1921, e.g. I think attendance for women's football games dropped after 1921 because they weren't allowed to use the FA's football pitches.
4. Why do you think the National football museum have created a gallery about Lily's life?
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to how Lily's career is inspirational, e.g. I think the museum decided to create a gallery about Lily's life because she was an amazing footballer who should be more well known.
5. Number these events in Lily Parr's career in the order in which they occurred. One has been done for you.
 - 3** The FA banned women from playing on their pitches.
 - 4** A gallery about her life was created.
 - 1** She began her career.
 - 2** She took part in the first recognised international women's football match.
6. Summarise this news story in 15 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable summary which is 15 words or fewer, e.g. Lily Parr, a famous footballer, has been given a gallery at the National Football Museum.