

## What the Players Say...

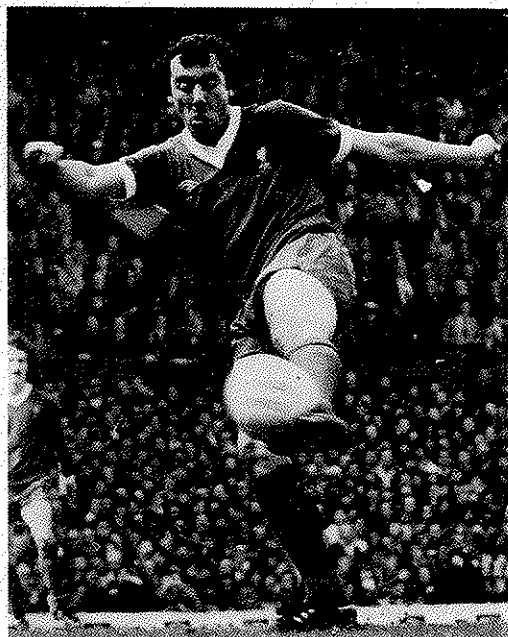


**NORMAN HUNTER** (*Bristol City*)

"Len is a very good player. He had an excellent game against us recently and it was a pity for him, Albion were in the doldrums when he was younger and played for the England Under 23 side. Had Albion been as strong as they are now, he would have had a great chance of full international honours".

**JOHN McGOVERN** (*Nottingham Forest*)

"He will always give a team 100 per cent effort and total commitment. Just the player to have in your side if it is a back-against-the-wall job".



**RAY KENNEDY** (*Liverpool*)

"Len and I are old friends from when we both played in the England Under 23 team. He is a good competitor and a player who I knew would blossom out in an attractive, attacking team — as is being proved now with Albion".

# LEN CANTELLO



**LEN CANTELLO TESTIMONIAL MATCH. DONATION 15p.**

**WEST BROMWICH ALBION XI v CYRILLE REGIS & LAURIE CUNNINGHAM XI**

At THE HAWTHORNS — Tuesday 15th May, 1979 — Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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LEN CANTELLO

# CAREER NOTES

- September 11th, 1951** — born Leonard CANTELLO, at Newton Heath, near Manchester, Lancs.
- August, 1965** — starts to play regularly for his school team, the Albert Memorial School, Manchester.
- September, 1966** — Whilst playing for Newton School, Manchester, he is selected to represent the Manchester & Lancashire Boys. And goes on to win six schoolboy international caps for England.
- July 24th, 1967** — Joins West Bromwich Albion Football Club as an apprentice.
- August 19th, 1967** — Plays his first game in Albion colours—at inside-left versus Birmingham City, at Spring Road, in a Midland Intermediate League game — and he scores in a 2-0 Albion win.
- September 30th, 1967** — Plays his first Central League game for Albion — in the home match versus Barnsley. He wears the number 10 shirt in a line-up which reads: Pollard; D. Clarke; Fairfax; Treacy; Potter; Campbell; Foggo; Hartford; Krzywicki; Cantello; Martin. Albion win convincingly by 5-1, and Len does very well, indeed.
- May, 1967** — Len finishes his first full season with Albion and he tots up a total of nine Central League appearances.
- October 4th, 1968** — Signs full-time professional forms with Albion
- December 7th, 1968** — Len makes his League debut for Albion — coming on as substitute for the injured Tony Brown at Ipswich Town (Albion lost 1-4).
- March 10th, 1969** — Len makes his first full League appearance for Albion — away at Sunderland. Albion win 1-0 with a Tony Brown goal.
- April 28th, 1969** — Albion 3, Sunderland 0, First Leg FA Youth Cup Final — and Len's hopes are high after this first leg.
- May 5th, 1969** — Sunderland 6, Albion 0 — FA Youth Cup Final 2nd Leg. And Len and his colleagues are down-hearted with the outcome of the two games.
- May, 1969** — Tours America and Canada with Albion, playing in four games. In the fixture against Edmonton All Stars on May 27th, a game which Albion won 12-0, Len scores his first goal for the senior side.
- October 15th, 1969** — Len plays in his first Football League Cup Tie for Albion — and celebrates the occasion by scoring one of the goals in Albion's 4-0 win.
- March 7th, 1970** — With only 14 first team appearances behind him, Len plays for Albion in the League Cup Final versus Manchester City at Wembley. It was a great occasion for young Len, although Albion lost in extra time by two goals to one.
- March 10th, 1970** — A disappointing Len Cantello leaves the Hillsborough pitch after being sent-off in a League game between Sheffield Wednesday and Albion.
- January 2nd, 1971** — Len gets his first game for Albion in an FA Cup tie — and has to mark a certain Kevin Keegan as Albion draw 0-0 with 4th Division Scunthorpe United in a 3rd round match at The Hawthorns.
- January 14th, 1970** — Len wins his first England Youth Cap — playing at centre-forward against the Republic of Ireland Youth XI in Dublin. England win 4-1, and Len scores twice.
- February 4th, 1970** — Youth cap number two for Len, and two more goals, as England beat the Republic of Ireland side again — this time by 10 goals to nil at Luton. Three weeks later on February 21st, Len plays his third Youth International for England — in the 0-0 draw with Wales at Newport.

# CAREER NOTES

- March 18th, 1970** — Len's fourth youth cap for England — but he's on the losing side this time as Wales upset the odds by pipping England 2-1 at Leyton.
- February 19th, 1972** — at last a league goal for Len — for Albion against Southampton at The Hawthorns as Albion win 3-2. It's Len's 73rd league game.
- May, 1972** — Len ends his fifth season as an Albion player by appearing in 38 league games out of a possible 42 — his best tally in a season so far. Len wins the first of his eight England Under 23 Caps when he plays right half (number 4) against East Germany at Bristol. England go down 0-1.
- November 29th, 1972** — Under 23 cap number 2 for Len — England 3, Wales 0 at Swansea.
- December 23rd, 1972** — Len plays his 100th league game for Albion — and funnily enough it's against Ipswich Town at home. Remember that it was against Ipswich, four years earlier, then Len played his first league game for Albion.
- January 2nd, 1973** — Another Under 23 cap — England 3, Holland 1 at Highbury Stadium.
- January 29th, 1973** — It's Len's first FA Cup goal — against Nottingham Forest, in a 3rd round, 2nd replay, at neutral Leicester, Albion win 3-1
- April 28th, 1973** — Albion, with Len in the side at number 4, lose 3-2 at Birmingham in what is their last First Division game for three seasons.
- May 24th, 1973** — Len's 4th Under 23 cap — England 1, Denmark 1 at Naestved.
- May 29th, 1973** — Len's 5th Under 23 cap — England 0, Holland 1 in Maastricht.
- June 1st, 1973** — Len's 6th Under 23 cap — England 0, Czechoslovakia 3 in Bratislava.
- October 16th, 1973** — Len's 7th Under 23 cap — England 0, Poland 0 at Home Park, Plymouth.
- November 13th, 1973** — Len's 8th Under 23 cap — England 1, Denmark 1 at Fratton Park, Portsmouth.
- December 15th, 1973** — Len scores Albion's only goal versus Portsmouth (home) — his first in the Second Division of the Football League.
- January 1st, 1974** — Len opens 1974 by appearing in his 150th league game for Albion in the away game at Crystal Palace.
- September, 1974** — Len scores in a league game versus Oxford United and then in a League Cup tie versus Millwall, and in January, 1975 he nets a goal in the FA Cup competition (versus Bolton) and thus takes the honour of a goal in the three major domestic competitions in England.
- April 8th, 1975** — Len plays in his 200th League game for Albion versus Bolton (home) 0-1.
- August 20th, 1975** — Len is sent-off for the second time in a league game — dismissed for a 'dust up' with Bill Garner of Chelsea in a league game at The Hawthorns which ends goal less.
- April 24th, 1976** — Len, as Albion's right-half (no. 4) helps his side win promotion back to the First Division. (Albion 1, Oldham 0).
- December 11th, 1976** — Len's 250th League outing for Albion — versus Leicester (home) 2-2.
- April 12th, 1978** — Len bounces back into Albion's League side after a long injury lay-off and his presence in the side helps finalise a place in the UEFA Cup for season 1978/9.
- May/June, 1978** — pops over to America where he assists Dallas Tornados in the American Soccer League. Returns to West Bromwich Albion a very fit player.
- August, 1978** — in Albion's League side at the outset of a new season, and is immediately a key factor in manager Ron Atkinson's plans.

# Len Cantello Writes...

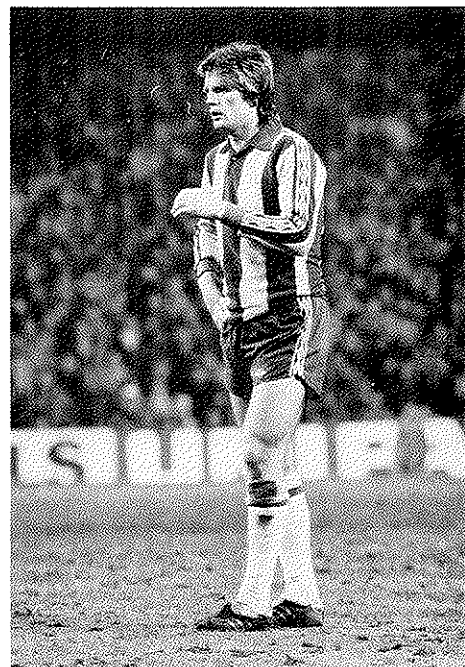


Photo Bob Collier.

I feel like the person who penned the Scaffold hit of a few years ago "Thank U very much".

These are the people on my committee who I know have given up a great deal of their spare time to help organise the various functions in my testimonial year.

It all seems a far cry from that day I set off from my home in Manchester to join Albion as an apprentice professional. True, there have been bad times as well as the good but taken as a whole my 10 years as a professional footballer at the Hawthorns have been very enjoyable.

No one, of course, can say what the future holds but at the moment I am concerned about the present — and tonight's match.

As you will have read, my testimonial match looked as though it would have to be put on ice because of the fixture congestion but thanks to the club and the players, it will still be the highlight of my testimonial period.

Tonight's main match is one that has been applauded by many people and I do not intend to be drawn into the political arena regarding the finer points.

It has, and always has been, nothing more than a football match and I am sure you the fans will enjoy every moment.

Finally, a big thank you to the Albionsupporters, who have supported my testimonial committee in all their functions, to my team colleagues at Albion who have been ready to lend their support and to the players for making tonight one I will always remember.

Thanks to you all

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# LINE UP

## PRE MATCH ENTERTAINMENT

### Ron Atkinson Albion XI v Local Press & T.V. Personalities XI

KICK-OFF 7.00 p.m.

#### RON ATKINSON ALBION XI

John Osborne  
 Jim Edwards  
 Brian Whitehouse  
 Bobby Hope  
 Colin Addison  
 Ray Barlow  
 Albert McPherson  
 Ron Atkinson  
 Graham Lovett  
 Tony Matthews  
 Jeff Astle  
 Derek Kevan  
 Ken Hodgkinson

#### LOCAL PRESS & TV PERSONALITIES XI

Bob Downing (*Sandwell Mail*)  
 Bob Mills (*BRMB*)  
 Tim Russon (*Radio Birmingham*)  
 Pat Foley (*Beacon Radio*)  
 Trevor East (*A. T. V.*)  
 Nick Owen (*A. T. V.*)  
 John Killeen (*A. T. V.*)  
 Neil Harman (*Sports Argus*)  
 Joe Melling (*Daily Express*)  
 Hugh Jameson (*Sun*)  
 David Moore (*Daily Mirror*)  
 Gary Newbon (*A. T. V.*)

### WEST BROMWICH ALBION XI v Cyrille Regis & Laurie Cunningham XI

KICK-OFF 7.30 p.m.

#### WEST BROMWICH ALBION XI

Tony Godden  
 Paddy Mulligan  
 Derek Statham  
 Tony Brown  
 John Wile  
 Bryan Robson  
 Johnny Giles  
 John Trewick  
 Alistair Brown  
 Len Cantello  
 David Mills  
 David Stewart  
 Martyn Bennett  
 Kevin Summerfield

#### CYRILLE REGIS & LAURIE CUNNINGHAM XI

Derek Richardson  
 Brendon Batson  
 Bob Hazell  
 George Berry  
 Larry May  
 Garth Crooks  
 Laurie Cunningham  
 Remi Moses  
 Winston White  
 Cyrille Regis  
 Roger Palmer (*subject to availability*)  
 Vernon Hodgson

Referee: Mr. J. D. HOUGH, Macclesfield

John started refereeing in Macclesfield and then Mid-Cheshire and Cheshire County Leagues to the Football League list.

He runs his own plumbing and property repair business, his hobbies include squash and gardening.

LINESMEN TO BE ANNOUNCED

### LEN CANTELLO. Appearance and goal scoring record with Albion.

	League	F.A. Cup	F.L. Cup	UEFA Cup	Texaco & Watney Cups	Tennent Caledonian	Anglo Scottish Cup	Anglo Italian Cup	Others	Goals (1968/79)
1968/69	2 + 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 + 2	12
1969/70	15 + 2	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	1	3
1970/71	23 + 1	1	2	—	1	—	—	2	3 + 2	3
1971/72	38	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	7	3
1972/73	37	5	2	—	2	—	—	—	6	1
1973/74	35	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
1974/75	37	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	2 + 1	3
1975/76	34	3	2	—	—	—	3	—	6	3
1976/77	21	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	3	23
1977/78	23	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	
1978/79	29	3	2	7	—	—	—	—	3	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>294 + 4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37 + 5</b>	

\* Len has also appeared in a total of 85 Central League games for Albion scoring 10 goals. His overall total of first XI appearances (all games) is 408, including nine as substitute.

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## What the Writers Say...

**RAY MATTS**  
*(Chief Soccer Writer,  
Birmingham Evening Mail)*

"Feeling just a trifle homesick when I was a few thousand miles from base in America last year, it was a nice touch of England to bump into Len Cantello in the corridor of a Detroit hotel. A chat about the Baggies, a dose of Lennie's Mancunian accent and I was ready to face another week or so of my assignment in the States. Apart from the temptation to let everyone know that Ray Matts really is a trans-Atlantic jet-setter, I mention this incident to highlight the fact that Cantello has a habit of popping up in the right place at the right time. It has certainly been the case during his long career at The Hawthorns. A succession of managers have had cause to thank their lucky stars that in Cantello they have had a man of many parts — defender, midfield general and striker. Some may be inclined to say that Len has been a jack of all trades — and master of most! He defended with diligence at right and left-back, created with culture in all the midfield roles, and scored some pretty spectacular goals for good measure. At times like these, it is easy to fall into the trap of being a sycophant, praising a player's good points to the exclusion of his faults. Len is only human — and there have been spells during his career when he has failed to fulfil all his potential. I have fumed with the rest at times when he has not performed to the maximum. I have thought it tragic when so much talent has been wasted for one reason or another. But, in the final analysis, he has more than justified West Bromwich Albion's wage bill in terms of length of service and quality of performance over a decade. Like Tony Brown he was home-bred in the club's nursery. Like Tony Brown he has been virtually a trouble-free character with only isolated exhibitions of discontent. Players of this type of worth their weight in gold. Oh, and by the way, if he was put on the market tomorrow he would probably fetch the equivalent of a few gold ingots! In a sense this, his latest season for the club has mirrored his whole career. There have been times when he has been brilliant, occasions when he has been almost anonymous. But I've always rated Albion's success chances as greater when he has been in the side. Len, as they say, will do for me."

**DENIS SUNLEY**  
*(Express and Star  
Black Lake,  
West Bromwich)*

"Len Cantello is something of a mystery man as far as I'm concerned. Because I have not been following Albion all that long — and during that period Len has missed quite a number of matches due to his allergy rash — I've not seen him play many matches. But I must say that what I have seen has impressed me. He is the sort of player who is never satisfied unless he's involved in the action — and what better type of player can there be? His passion to get in the game was never more evident than in the Derby clash with Birmingham at St. Andrew's this season. Although Len was suffering from a recurrence of the rash which has dogged him all season, he played his heart out and battled away to get involved, even though he admitted afterwards that the allergy had caused his one eye to partially close. If that's the sort of performance he puts up when he can only see half of the game — what can he do when he's a two-eyed player? That's a question a lot of people are more qualified to answer than myself. The other thing that has impressed me about Len — apart from his obvious playing abilities — is his easy-going nature which makes him so popular around the dressing rooms. No matter how busy, he is always prepared to share a joke with the lads. And that's why there is such a good turnout by his fellow professionals tonight. They know a good pro when they see one, and they certainly see one when they look at Len."





Dear Sir:  
 During the 1978 North American Soccer League season we were pleased to obtain Len Cantello from West Bromwich Albion. We were delighted to get Len on loan and to say the least he lived up to all our expectations.

Len is a tremendous professional who I believe could play for any club in the world. He is the type of player who always had consistency in his effort and overall performance. He was respected very well by his team mates and by our supporters.

The game has benefited by Len Cantello's contributions in England and America. I am pleased that Len represented our club and want to wish him and his family every success in life as well as in football.

Sincerely yours,

Al Miller  
 Head Coach

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## What the Players Say...

**JOHN WILE**  
*(Albion skipper)*

— "It is amazing to find Len having his testimonial — it appears to have come so early. Usually, a player is coming to the end of his career when he has a testimonial but in his case, he has so much more to offer the game.

The more games he has had, the more mature player on the field he has become especially over the last two years. He has the capacity to a game himself, the ability to control a match and these qualities will only get stronger.

He has, I believe, a great deal to look forward to because he has this tremendous ability. When I first came to the Hawthorns, Len and Asa Hartford were attracting a great deal of publicity but I always felt that Lennie had more to offer.

Perhaps Asa matured more quickly as a player, but over the last two years, he has exploited and fulfilled the talent he has. Speaking as skipper of the side, I have never had a moment's problem with him on the field. He is always ready to accept responsibility and make decisions himself."

**JOHN RICHARDS**  
*(Wolves)*

— "He did extremely well to come back after such a long injury and if anything it helped his overall game. He had always been an accomplished footballer and fearless in the tackle and he is a better player for it."

**JOE GALLAGHER**  
*(Birmingham City)*

— "Len is one of the most talented players in the country and I am surprised he has not been more involved at International level. Players of his ability are rare. Some players have to work hard at their game, others have a gift and Len is one of the latter group."

**BOBBY McDONALD** —  
*(Coventry)*

"Len has been a great servant to his club and I rate him very highly as a mid field player. I hope he gets the support of his testimonial as he deserves."

**BRIAN LITTLE**  
*(Villa)*

— "I have always regarded Len's great vision on the ball and his passing ability as his strong points. He never stops running and is a real 100 per center."

**BRUCE RIOCH**  
*(Derby)*

— "Len is the type of player who never shirks responsibility. He is very competitive and wants to win every ball. I find it amazing he has not been capped a full England level. From the times I have seen him play, he has been a vital part of the mid field machinery and this season he has played exceptionally well. I wish him well, he deserves it."