

## Viktor Gyokeres Explains Arsenal Move After £63.5m Transfer

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Arsenal's prolonged quest for a top-tier striker concluded on Saturday with the announcement of a £63.5 million transfer for Sporting CP's Viktor Gyokeres. The Swedish forward, who signed a five-year contract, could make his debut as early as next week when the Gunners face Tottenham in a pre-season clash in Hong Kong. Gyokeres' prolific record of 97 goals in 102 appearances for Sporting made him a prime target, but it was a

chastening 5-1 defeat to Arsenal in the Champions League last November that left a lasting impression on the 26-year-old.

In a recent interview, Gyokeres revealed that the thrashing by Arsenal in Lisbon shaped his decision to join the North London club. “Facing Arsenal last season, I saw firsthand their strength and cohesion,” he said. “They were relentless, a proper force on the pitch. That stuck with me and made me think this is a club where I can grow and compete at the highest level.” He also cited Arsenal’s storied history and passionate fanbase as key factors. “The club’s legacy, the atmosphere, the supporters—it’s something special. I knew this was the right move.”

The Gunners’ fans, long vocal in their desire for a clinical finisher, have already embraced Gyokeres. “The support I’ve seen online and in messages is unreal,” he said. “I can’t wait to pull on the kit, score in front of them, and feel that energy at the Emirates. It’s what football’s about.”

Gyokeres is no stranger to English football. His career began in the UK with stints at Coventry City and Swansea City before his move to Sporting in 2023. Reflecting on his return, he said, “England’s where it all started for me, but I’m a different player now—sharper, more experienced. I’m ready to prove myself and contribute to this team’s ambitions.”

His ambitions extend to Europe, where he aims to help Arsenal secure Champions League success. “I scored a few in the competition with Sporting, so I know I can perform on that stage,” he stated. “Joining a club of Arsenal’s stature, surrounded by top players, will only push me further. I’m here to score goals and win.”

Gyokeres’ arrival signals Arsenal’s intent to challenge for silverware, and his hunger to succeed could prove pivotal in their campaign. As the Premier League season looms, fans will be eager to see their new striker hit the ground running.