



News

Embargoed until 17:15 - Friday 19th October 2007

GUNNERS DUO CELEBRATE AWARDS DOUBLE

- Wenger and Fabregas scoop monthly Barclays Awards -

Arsene Wenger and Cesc Fabregas have become the first Arsenal pairing to pick up the Barclays Manager of the Month and Barclays Player of the Month Awards since August 2004, after the Gunners soared to the top of the Barclays Premier League with four wins out of four during September.

Fabregas collects his second Barclays Player of the Month Award of 2007, having won the prize in January, following a series of inspirational performances at the heart of Arsenal's midfield. The Spaniard scored in the three consecutive victories against Portsmouth (3-1), Tottenham (3-1) and Derby County (5-0) before guiding the team to another three points at West Ham (1-0).

This is the ninth time that Wenger has collected the Barclays Manager of the Month Award, and marks an impressive start to the 2007/8 Barclays Premier League campaign, which has seen the team remain unbeaten and push forward their challenge as early title contenders.

The decision was made by the Barclays Awards Panel, which includes representatives from football's governing bodies, the media and fans.

ARSENE WENGER: BARCLAYS MANAGER OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER:

- Arsene Wenger OBE was born on 22nd October 1949 in Strasbourg, France.
- He was appointed First Team Manager of Arsenal FC on 28th September, 1996, following spells in club management at AS Monaco and the Japanese J League team Nagoya Grampus Eight.
- In 11 years at Arsenal he has amassed three Premier League

titles, four FA Cups and four Charity/Community Shields, including League and Cup 'doubles' in 1998 and 2002.

- He is the only Gunners manager to have won the FA Cup more than once and the only manager to take the Club to a Champions League Final, while he was also the first manager in English league history to complete an entire 38-game season unbeaten in 2003/04.
- This is the ninth time he has won the Barclays Manager of the Month award , and the first time he has collected the accolade since August 2004.

CESC FABREGAS: BARCLAYS PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

- Francesc Fabregas Soler was born on 4th May 1987 in Arenys Del Mar, Spain.
- After starting out at Barcelona, Fabregas was signed by Arsene Wenger in October 2003.
- He became Arsenal's youngest ever first-team player at 16 years 177 days when he played against Rotherham in the League Cup in 2003. He later went on to become the club's youngest goalscorer at 16 years 212 days when he netted in a 5-1 win over Wolves in the next round.
- After stepping in for the injured Patrick Vieira during the 2004/05 season, Fabregas started to establish himself as a first-team regular, scoring his first Barclays Premier League goal against Blackburn Rovers.
- He made his international debut for Spain in March 2006 at the age of 18, becoming their youngest cap for 70 years.
- This is the second time that he has won the Barclays Player of the Month award, having picked up his first prize in January 2007.
- Cesc Fabregas has made a total of eight appearances in the Barclays Premier League this season, scoring four goals and five assists.

-ENDS-

A COPYRIGHT FREE PICTURE OF WENGER AND FABREGAS WITH
THEIR AWARDS WILL BE SENT TO ALL PICTURE DESKS THIS AFTERNOON

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE PRESS

OFFICE:

CHRIS SOULT - 020 7908 6475

STEVE STAMMERS - 020 7908 6439