

A good omen for FC St. Gallen

Alex Tachie-Mensah played the position of striker for FC St. Gallen for many years. He now works for the Thurgau-based company kybun. The fact that this very company has the naming rights to the St. Gallen stadium was a pleasant surprise for the former professional footballer.

Mr Tachie-Mensah, how did you find out that your former football club's stadium will be named after your current employer, kybun?

Alex Tachie-Mensah: When I came into the office on Wednesday morning, I saw that I had received an e-mail inviting me to a meeting. This is where we were informed that kybun had won the naming rights to the stadium from the next season onwards.

What went through your head in this moment?

Tachie-Mensah: I thought it was great! It felt like a good omen for FC St. Gallen's upcoming season.

You played the position of striker for the Eastern Switzerland team for many years, so it must be a special feeling for you that the St. Gallen players will be playing in the kybunpark instead of the AFG Arena in the near future.

Tachie-Mensah: Absolutely. I will be watching football in a stadium named after the company I work for. It somehow feels strange, but in a nice way.

Do you regularly follow the FC St. Gallen home games?

Tachie-Mensah: I go to the stadium for most of our home games, yes.

Where might someone find you at one of these matches?

Tachie-Mensah: I'd rather not reveal that to thousands of people. Having said that, it is always nice when people recognise me and speak to me, and I am always happy for them to take a photo with me. But I prefer not to draw so much attention to myself when I go to the stadium with my wife, children or colleagues. I'd rather be able to enjoy the match like a regular fan.

There wasn't very much to celebrate recently, as FC St. Gallen performed poorly in the second half of the season once again. Do you ever feel an itch in your feet when you see your successors give up chance after chance?

Tachie-Mensah: No. Football has changed a lot since when I played. It has become more intense and the pace has become much faster. This is why I have so much respect for today's players. And besides, I myself gave up a lot of chances to score back in my day.

After AFG, kybun is now the second Thurgau-based company to sponsor the St. Gallen stadium. Perhaps this is an indication that FC St. Gallen is closer to being FC Eastern Switzerland?

Tachie-Mensah: Yes, definitely. FC St. Gallen is supported by fans from all over Eastern Switzerland. I am often approached by people from a wide range of regions in Eastern Switzerland – and sometimes even by people from abroad – about my time with the club. This is why I would like to see more support for players from Eastern Switzerland to come and play for FC St. Gallen.

You have been working for kybun for many years.

Tachie-Mensah: Yes. I work 90 per cent of the time here, in the logistics department. I prepare our company's appearances at trade fairs, among other things.

And what have you been up to in terms of football, ever since your experiences as a coach for the AS Calcio football club in Kreuzlingen?

Tachie-Mensah: I'm not currently on the coaching staff for any team, but I regularly play as part of the over-30s team at the Berg sports club.

I assume you are the most prolific scorer there?

Tachie-Mensah: I'm not so sure about that. My primary aim is to stay fit and have fun on the field. It's not important who scores how many goals.