

Class act World Cup star Thuram receives honorary degree from Stirling Uni

O Legendary France international Lilian Thuram, one of the finest defenders of his generation, received an honorary degree from the University of Stirling yesterday in recognition of his achievements on and off the pitch.

Thuram, Les Bleus' most-capped player and a World Cup winner, received his doctorate during yesterday's graduation ceremonies for his outstanding contribution to football, as well as his commitment to tackling racism through education.

The 47-year-old, who starred for Barcelona, Juventus, Parma and Monaco during his illustrious club career, won 142 caps for France between 1994 and 2008, earning winners' medals from the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000.

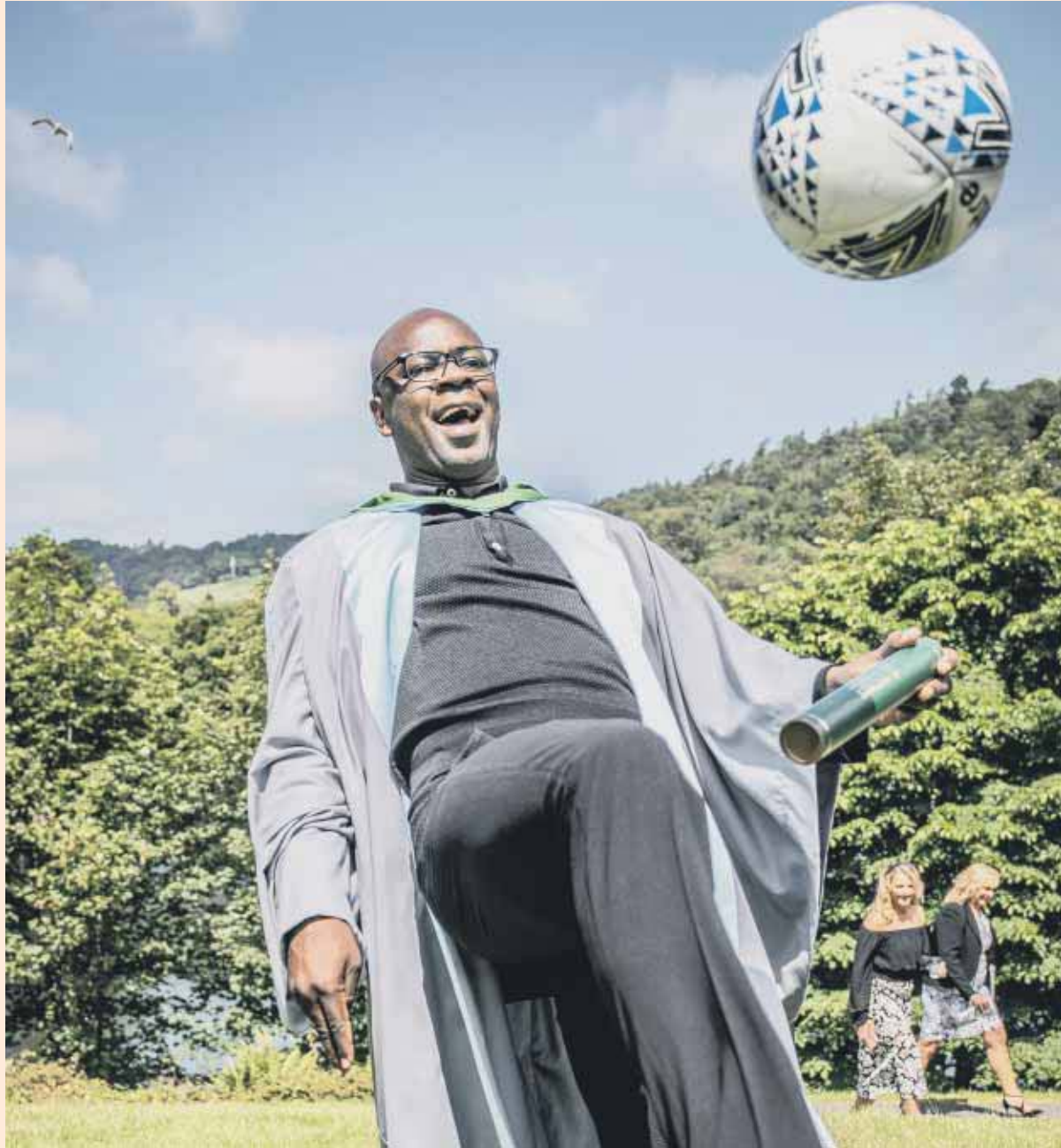
In 2008, at the end of his football career, Thuram – a Unicef ambassador – set up the Lilian Thuram Foundation, which educates against racism and promotes equality.

Speaking after receiving his honorary degree, Thuram said: "Sport – especially the world's number one sport, football – is a wonderful way of progressing equality.

"It helps us to come closer to each other because – whatever the colour of our skin, our sexuality, or our religion – we share the same emotions.

"I feel deeply honoured to receive this award."





PICTURE: ELAINE LIVINGSTONE

↑ Lilian Thuram shows he has not lost his touch as he plays keepie uppie after receiving his honorary doctorate yesterday.

