



Elliot Anderson: Manchester City's Â£116m Record Signing from Nottingham Forest

Description

Manchester City have confirmed they have reached agreement with Nottingham Forest to sign midfielder Elliot Anderson in a deal worth a reported Â£116 million, making the 23-year-old the most expensive English footballer in history and eclipsing the fee City previously paid Newcastle United for Alexander Isak.

Anderson is currently representing England at the FIFA World Cup 2026 in North America and has been in outstanding form for both club and country. The formalities of the move are expected to be completed on his return to England, with the midfielder having already undergone a successful medical in Kansas ahead of confirming his switch to the Etihad Stadium.



Anderson in the colours of Newcastle, Bristol Rovers, Nottingham Forest and England Â© Premier League

A Career Built on Hard Work

Anderson came through the academy at Newcastle United, earning admirers for his relentless pressing and technical quality â?? attributes that earned him the nickname â??Geordie Maradonaâ?• in his youth. After formative loan spells that hardened his game, he made the permanent move to Nottingham Forest in 2024 and immediately thrived in the East Midlands. His 2025/26 season was nothing short of extraordinary: Anderson recorded more touches (3,300), more possession won (306), and more duels won (297) than any other player in the Premier League. He also ranked in the top five for total passes

(2,383) and tackles (104), making him the engine of a Forest side that consistently punched above its weight.

Why Pep Guardiola Wanted Him

For Pep Guardiola, the appeal is clear. City's midfield has been in transition since the departure of key figures from their treble-winning era, and Anderson's combination of relentless work rate, clean passing and physical presence fills a pressing need. He led the Premier League in successful passes inside the opponent's half, ranked second for distance covered, and topped the charts for ball recoveries – in short, he does the unglamorous work that makes attacking football possible. At just 23, he fits City's model of signing players at the peak of their development curve, with years of elite performance still ahead of him. The record fee reflects both Anderson's quality and the reality of a market where top-tier English midfielders now command extraordinary sums.

The transfer also continues the intense summer spending across the Premier League's top clubs. [Tottenham Hotspur recently completed a £185m double signing of Sandro Tonali and Bruno Fernandes](#), underscoring the extraordinary premiums now demanded for elite midfield talent at the highest level.



Elliot Anderson, Manchester City midfielder © Premier League

From Kansas to the Etihad

The timing of the deal â?? concluded while Anderson is on World Cup duty in North America â?? speaks to the confidence both club and player have in the agreement. Anderson is integral to Thomas Tuchelâ??s England setup, and his performances at the tournament have only further underlined his elite credentials. With [England facing Norway in the World Cup quarter-final](#), Anderson will be fully focused on the Three Lions before linking up with his new teammates at the Etihad.

For Manchester City, the acquisition of Anderson signals renewed intent. After a period of transition, Guardiola appears to have found the midfield anchor to build around â?? a player who can control games, win possession relentlessly and still contribute in the final third. At Â£116m, it is a record-breaking outlay, but for a player of Andersonâ??s profile, age and upward trajectory, City will feel the investment is fully justified.

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