



Spurs Break the Bank Twice: Tonali and Fernandes in Â£185m Summer Blitz

Description

Tottenham Hotspur have shattered their own club transfer record not once but twice in the space of a single week, completing the summer signings of Mateus Fernandes and Sandro Tonali for a combined outlay of Â£185 million. Under head coach Roberto De Zerbi, Spurs are sending an unmistakable message: the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium era is about to get very serious indeed.

Fernandes First: The Portuguese Prodigy Arrives at N17

The first bombshell landed on 2 July 2026, when Tottenham confirmed the signing of Mateus Fernandes from West Ham United for a club-record Â£85 million. The 21-year-old Portugal international had been one of the standout performers in the Premier League over the past two seasons, catching the eye of every major club in England after successive campaigns at Southampton and West Ham.

Manchester United had also been keen on the midfielder, but Spurs moved decisively and the player's own words made clear why Tottenham won the race. "I'm very excited for this next step," Fernandes said upon signing. "When we spoke, it was very special. We look at football in the same way going onto the pitch as a strong team, with fight and energy, to try and win every game."



Source: Tottenham Hotspur official website (tottenhamhotspur.com)

A product of Sporting CP's academy, Fernandes made his Premier League debut at Southampton at just 20 years old and ranked in the top ten for duels won across the entire division during his debut campaign. He then moved to West Ham, where he was equally impressive – finishing joint-fifth for tackles in the league and winning the Hammers' Goal of the Season award. At 21, with two full Premier League seasons already behind him, the young Portuguese looks tailor-made for what De Zerbi wants to build at Spurs.

Tonali Tops It: The £100m Midfield Monster from Newcastle

Four days after Fernandes put pen to paper, Tottenham outdid themselves. On 6 July, the club announced the signing of Sandro Tonali from Newcastle United for a fee understood to be worth up to £100 million – eclipsing the Fernandes deal before the ink had even dried. The Italian international joins after three years at St James' Park, during which he made 110 appearances and played a key role in Newcastle's 2025 Carabao Cup triumph.

The De Zerbi connection here is particularly compelling. The head coach and Tonali share a bond that stretches back to Brescia, the Italian club where De Zerbi was manager and where Tonali first made his name. "I spoke to the Head Coach for close to two hours about the Club, the fans, the stadium and our football," Tonali said. "It was like magic because I knew immediately that I had to sign for Tottenham."



Source: Tottenham Hotspur official website ([tottenhamhotspur.com](https://www.tottenhamhotspur.com))

Tonali's pedigree is remarkable. He was a key figure in AC Milan's 2022 Serie A title triumph and their first in eleven years and made successive Champions League appearances before his move to the Premier League. He has 32 senior caps for Italy and brings exactly the kind of technical intelligence, tenacity, and big-game experience that Tottenham have historically lacked in the centre of the park.

De Zerbi's Vision Taking Shape

Together, Fernandes and Tonali give De Zerbi a midfield that is the envy of much of the Premier League. Fernandes offers relentless pressing, box-to-box energy, and the ability to progress the ball in tight spaces. Tonali adds vision, leadership, and a proven winning mentality at the highest level of European football. The two complement each other beautifully on paper, and the early signs suggest De Zerbi's rebuild at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium is happening faster than even the most optimistic Spurs fan dared hope.

It has been a summer of serious intent from Tottenham, who finished the 2025/26 Premier League campaign with renewed ambition after [Arsenal clinched the title on the final day](#). De Zerbi arrived at the club determined to build a squad capable of challenging at the top of the table, and the Fernandes and Tonali signings are the clearest signal yet that Tottenham mean business. The summer window is not even half done, and Spurs have already made the statement of the season.

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Date Created

10/07/2026

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