DIBU MARTÍNEZ

THE WALL OF ARGENTINA

Emiliano "Dibu" Martínez was born on September 2, 1992, in Mar del Plata, Argentina. He grew up in a humble family and loved football from a very young age. He started playing in local clubs and dreamed of becoming a professional goalkeeper.

In 2010, Dibu joined Independiente, one of the biggest clubs in Argentina. He worked very hard, but he didn't get many opportunities in the first team. In 2012, he decided to go to England to try his luck.

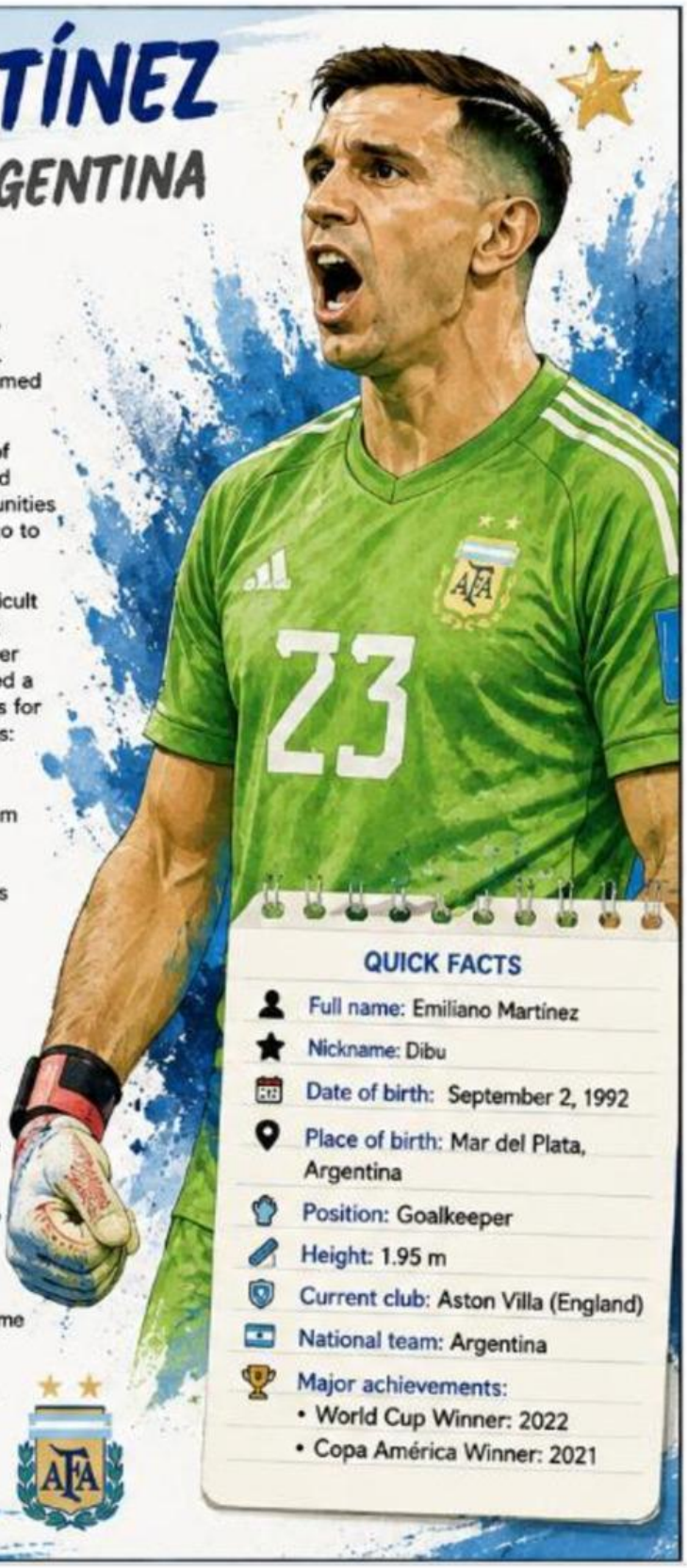
He signed for Arsenal. At first, it was difficult for him because he was young and didn't speak English very well. However, he never gave up. He trained every day and learned a lot. Although he didn't play many matches for Arsenal, he went on loan to different clubs: Oxford United, Sheffield Wednesday, Rotherham United and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Those experiences helped him grow as a player.

In 2020, he moved to Aston Villa. That was a turning point in his career. He played regularly and became one of the best goalkeepers in the Premier League. The fans loved him and he felt important and confident.

His biggest success came with the Argentina national team. In 2021, he won the Copa América. He made crucial saves during the tournament and helped Argentina win the title after 28 years.

In 2022, he played a key role in the World Cup in Qatar. He saved two penalties in the quarter-final against the Netherlands and another one in the final against France. Argentina won the World Cup and Dibu became a national hero.

Dibu Martínez showed that with hard work, patience and belief, dreams come true.



QUICK FACTS

- Full name: Emiliano Martínez
- Nickname: Dibu
- Date of birth: September 2, 1992
- Place of birth: Mar del Plata, Argentina
- Position: Goalkeeper
- Height: 1.95 m
- Current club: Aston Villa (England)
- National team: Argentina
- Major achievements:
  - World Cup Winner: 2022
  - Copa América Winner: 2021

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ACTIVITIES

1 TRUE OR FALSE

Read the sentences and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Dibu Martínez was born in Buenos Aires. _____
2. He started his career in Independiente. _____
3. He moved to England in 2012. _____
4. He played many matches for Arsenal's first team. _____
5. He went on loan to several clubs in England. _____
6. He joined Aston Villa in 2020. _____
7. He won the Copa América in 2021. _____
8. He saved penalties in the World Cup final. _____

2 ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Answer the questions with full sentences.

1. Where and when was Dibu Martínez born? _____
2. Why did he go to England? _____
3. What difficulties did he have at the beginning in England? _____
4. Which clubs did he play for on loan? _____
5. What made 2020 a turning point in his career? _____
6. What did he achieve with the Argentina national team? _____

3 COMPLETE THE TEXT

Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Dibu Martínez _____ (be) born on September 2, 1992.
2. He _____ (start) playing football in local clubs.
3. In 2012, he _____ (decide) to go to England.
4. He _____ (sign) for Arsenal.
5. He _____ (go) on loan to different clubs.
6. In 2020, he _____ (move) to Aston Villa.
7. He _____ (win) the Copa América in 2021.
8. He _____ (save) penalties in the World Cup.

4 CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION

Circle the correct option.

1. Dibu Martínez grew up in a _____ family.
   a) rich b) famous c) humble
2. He didn't get many opportunities in the first team because he was _____.
   a) very young b) injured c) retired
3. He didn't speak English very well when he arrived in England because he _____.
   a) studied a lot b) was young c) was lazy
4. Aston Villa was a _____ point in his career.
   a) difficult b) turning c) boring
5. Argentina won the Copa América after _____ years.
   a) 18 b) 28 c) 38
6. Dibu became a national hero because he _____.
   a) scored goals b) saved important penalties c) stopped playing

5 PUT THE EVENTS IN ORDER

Number the events from 1 (first) to 8 (last).

- ☐ He joined Independiente.
- ☐ He won the Copa América.
- ☐ He moved to Aston Villa.
- ☐ He was born in Mar del Plata.
- ☐ He went to England.
- ☐ He played on loan in different clubs.
- ☐ He won the World Cup.
- ☐ He signed for Arsenal.

6 WRITING

Write a paragraph (80–100 words) about Dibu Martínez's life and career. Use information from the text and your own ideas.

_____

_____

_____

_____

THANK YOU DIBU!

LIVEWORKSHEETS