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England boys' football star is ze full Monty



Montgomery Gimpel, from Hanover, is the star of the England independent schools' under-16 team (Andrew Hasson)

Jack Grimston

ENGLAND fans may be looking forward to renewing their greatest rivalry in this summer's World Cup. But in one schoolboy team representing the country, Anglo-German harmony reigns.

The independent schools' under-16 England player of the year award has gone to a centre-back from Germany called Monty. Montgomery Gimpel, from Hanover, is a pupil at Ardingly college in West Sussex and is the only foreigner in the team, whose former stars include Frank Lampard, the Chelsea and England midfielder.

"My family are very proud and my father has come over to support me," Gimpel said. "It's a great opportunity to play football at such a high standard."

Nick Tester, head of football at Ardingly, said: "After five minutes of seeing Monty play, I knew we had one of the best players I had seen on the schools' circuit."

Gimpel has endured good-natured ribbing from team-mates. "They always bring it back to the world war," said Gimpel, who was named after his father Andreas's favourite brand of underwear. His talents have been spotted by Leeds Utd, who have offered him training.