

Jan Koller

[Czech top scorer]

Jan Koller (born 30 March 1973) is a former Czech footballer who played as a striker. He was noted for his height, strong physique, and heading ability.

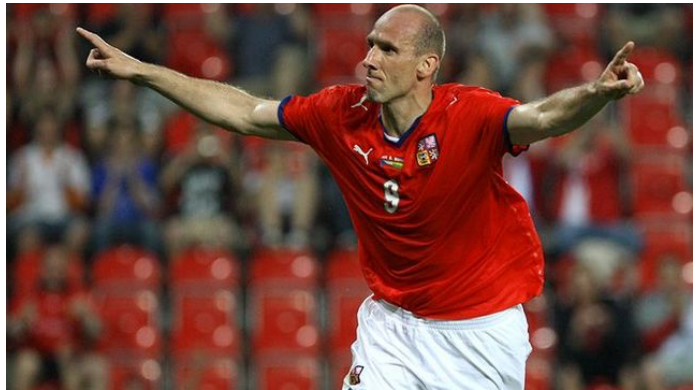
Koller is the all-time top scorer for the Czech Republic national team, with 55 goals in 91 appearances in a decade-long career starting in 1999. He represented the nation at three UEFA European Championships and the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

Early career

Koller started his football training as a goalkeeper, but was converted to striker by the time he started his professional career with Czech giants Sparta Prague. He made his debut for Sparta in the spring of 1995 in a match against Benešov, coming on as a substitute with 20 minutes of the game remaining.

He began his career at Sparta Prague, then moved to Belgium, where he became the Belgian First Division top scorer with Lokeren. He won the league championship twice with Anderlecht and the Belgian Golden Shoe. In 2001, he joined Borussia Dortmund, where he won the Bundesliga title in his first season and scored 73 goals in 167 official games over five campaigns. He moved frequently in his later career, with stops in France, Germany and Russia.

Koller made his debut for the Czech Republic in a friendly away to Belgium at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels on 9 February 1999, and netted the only goal of the game in the 73rd minute. He scored six goals in six games in UEFA Euro 2000 qualifying as the Czechs topped their group.



[Style of play]

Koller was particularly noted for his height, strong physique, and heading ability, being referred to as a "towering forward", and even a "human lighthouse". Due to his stature, he was often nicknamed *Dino* throughout his career.

