# Michelle Agyemang’s rise from Arsenal hopeful to Euro 2025 young star amid Royal Family photo row



Michelle Agyemang has emerged as a breakout star during England’s triumphant campaign at the UEFA Women’s Euro 2025, earning widespread acclaim for her pivotal contributions to the Lionesses' success. At just 19 years old, Agyemang was the youngest player in Sarina Wiegman’s squad as the team sought to blend experienced players with fresh talent following their Euro 2022 victory. Despite limited senior international experience prior to the tournament, having only one England cap, the Arsenal striker made a significant impact, scoring vital equalising goals in both the quarter-final against Sweden and the semi-final versus Italy. For her performances, she was deservedly named the Young Player of the Tournament, an accolade recognizing her decisive influence and maturity on the pitch.

Agyemang’s journey to this high point is remarkable. Beginning as a ball girl at Wembley, she progressed through Arsenal’s academy ranks, making her senior club debut at 16. Although initially playing limited minutes behind established stars, loan spells at Watford and Brighton helped her develop, with the latter seeing her contribute to Brighton’s best-ever Women’s Super League finish. Her senior England debut in April 2025 was marked by an immediate impact, scoring just 41 seconds into the match against Belgium. This flair for performing in crucial moments was on full display during the Euros, where her timely goals revived England’s tournament hopes and underscored her fearless and powerful playing style. Her teammates and coach have praised not only her physicality but also her mental strength and footballing intelligence.

Off the pitch, Agyemang has spoken warmly about the support and camaraderie within the England squad, describing how the team took her “under their wing” during the tournament. She highlighted the inclusive and caring atmosphere fostered by the players and backroom staff alike, which she credits as a key factor in the team's cohesive performances and celebrations. The young striker expressed profound gratitude for the journey, reflecting on the emotional highs and lows of the tournament and the surreal experience of lifting the trophy. Agyemang’s story is one of rapid progression, team unity, and personal resilience—qualities that resonate widely within the sport.

Agyemang’s contributions to the team have not gone unnoticed beyond sport. However, after England’s semi-final victory, which she helped secure with a stoppage-time goal, there was controversy when she was omitted from a Royal Family social media post celebrating the team’s progress to the final. The omission sparked criticism and accusations of erasure, particularly because Agyemang is a Black woman who played a crucial role in the campaign. England coach Sarina Wiegman later clarified that the exclusion was unintentional and emphasised the full support from the Royal Family for the entire squad. The incident highlighted ongoing discussions about representation and recognition in women's football.

Looking ahead, the Lionesses are set to continue their momentum with upcoming fixtures, including a friendly against China at Wembley as they begin preparations for the 2027 Women’s World Cup. Michelle Agyemang’s rapid rise and impactful performances position her as a key figure for England and Arsenal alike, with ambitions for further trophies and milestones firmly in her sights. Her blend of youthful exuberance and determined professionalism has already made her a national sensation and a beacon for young players aspiring to follow in her footsteps.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/michelle-agyemang-england-lionesses-euro-2025-b2800308.html), [[2]](https://www.uefa.com/womenseuro/news/029b-1e5699639bbd-b9250cd60afe-1000--michelle-agyemang-named-uefa-women-s-euro-2025-young-play/), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-teammates-sing-praises-young-saviour-agyemang-2025-07-23/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.fourfourtwo.com/features/michelle-agyemang-from-ball-girl-at-wembley-to-tournament-saving-goal), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/football/agyemang-england-arsenal-fc-euro-2025-b1240249.html), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-teammates-sing-praises-young-saviour-agyemang-2025-07-23/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/michelle-agyemang-england-lionesses-euro-2025-b2800308.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-fans-upset-agyemang-omitted-royal-family-photo-2025-07-26/), [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/michelle-agyemang-england-lionesses-euro-2025-b2800308.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/michelle-agyemang-england-lionesses-euro-2025-b2800308.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/football/agyemang-england-arsenal-fc-euro-2025-b1240249.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/michelle-agyemang-england-lionesses-euro-2025-b2800308.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.uefa.com/womenseuro/news/029b-1e5699639bbd-b9250cd60afe-1000--michelle-agyemang-named-uefa-women-s-euro-2025-young-play/> - Michelle Agyemang, a 19-year-old forward for England, was named the Young Player of the Tournament at UEFA Women's EURO 2025. She scored crucial equalising goals against Sweden in the quarter-final and Italy in the semi-final, contributing significantly to England's success. UEFA's Technical Observers praised her impact, noting her decisive goals that helped England advance. Agyemang's statistics include 138 minutes played, 2 goals, and a passing accuracy of 77.5%. The previous winner of this award was Lena Oberdorf from Germany in 2022. ([uefa.com](https://www.uefa.com/womenseuro/news/029b-1e5699639bbd-b9250cd60afe-1000--michelle-agyemang-named-uefa-women-s-euro-2025-young-play/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/football/agyemang-england-arsenal-fc-euro-2025-b1240249.html> - After her breakthrough at Euro 2025, Michelle Agyemang is aiming for more trophies with both England and Arsenal. The 19-year-old made her England debut in April, scoring just 41 seconds into the match. She was part of Sarina Wiegman's squad for the Euros, where she played a pivotal role as a substitute, scoring equalising goals in both the quarter-finals and semi-finals. Agyemang expressed gratitude for her teammates and coaches, highlighting the team's unity and support. She is now focused on continuing her development and contributing to future successes. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/football/agyemang-england-arsenal-fc-euro-2025-b1240249.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.fourfourtwo.com/features/michelle-agyemang-from-ball-girl-at-wembley-to-tournament-saving-goal> - Michelle Agyemang's journey from a ball girl at Wembley to a key player in England's UEFA Women's Euro 2025 campaign is remarkable. Initially part of Arsenal's academy, she made her senior debut at 16 in 2022 and scored her first goal for the club in 2023. Despite limited playing time due to established stars, Agyemang gained experience on loan at Watford and Brighton, contributing to Brighton's best-ever WSL finish. Her strong performances earned her a call-up to the England national team, where she scored just 41 seconds into her debut against Belgium. At Euro 2025, she played a pivotal substitute role, scoring equalising goals in both the quarter-final against Sweden and the semi-final against Italy, leading to England's victory. ([fourfourtwo.com](https://www.fourfourtwo.com/features/michelle-agyemang-from-ball-girl-at-wembley-to-tournament-saving-goal?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.englandfootball.com/articles/2025/Jul/22/michelle-agyemang-england-women-italy-euro-2025-semi-final-reaction-interview-20252207> - Michelle Agyemang's stoppage-time goal in the semi-final against Italy was crucial in sending England to the UEFA Women's EURO 2025 Final. The 19-year-old striker came off the bench to score the equaliser, demonstrating the team's resilience and character. Agyemang expressed pride in the team's effort and highlighted the importance of their collective strength in reaching the final. She also reflected on her journey from being a ball girl at Wembley to becoming an integral part of the national team. ([englandfootball.com](https://www.englandfootball.com/articles/2025/Jul/22/michelle-agyemang-england-women-italy-euro-2025-semi-final-reaction-interview-20252207?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-teammates-sing-praises-young-saviour-agyemang-2025-07-23/> - Michelle Agyemang, a 19-year-old striker for England's women's national team, has become a national sensation after scoring a critical last-minute equaliser in the semi-final against Italy, helping England secure a 2-1 extra-time victory. Her goal prevented the defending champions from elimination and marked the second match in a row where she delivered a crucial goal to keep England's tournament hopes alive. Only three months into her senior international career and four years after serving as a ball girl for the team, Agyemang has scored three goals in four appearances. Her powerful and fearless playing style has drawn praise from teammates and coach Sarina Wiegman, who described her as a mature and special talent. Chloe Kelly and Lucy Bronze lauded her impact, noting defenders are intimidated by her. Agyemang nearly scored again in extra time with a precise lob that hit the crossbar. With England now set to face either Spain or Germany in Sunday's final, fans are hoping to see more of Agyemang, who has quickly become an indispensable part of the team. Coach Wiegman is also poised to reach her fifth consecutive final, a historic feat in football. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-teammates-sing-praises-young-saviour-agyemang-2025-07-23/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-fans-upset-agyemang-omitted-royal-family-photo-2025-07-26/> - Fans of England's women's national football team, the Lionesses, have expressed frustration after rising star Michelle Agyemang was left out of a Royal Family social media post celebrating the team's advancement to the Euro final. The 19-year-old, who is Black, has played a pivotal role in England's success, scoring crucial late goals in both the quarter-final against Sweden and the semi-final against Italy. The Royal Family's message, posted across social media platforms, praised the team’s skill, determination, and inspiration to young girls and women. However, the accompanying photos, which included the starting 11 and action shots of several players, did not feature Agyemang, prompting accusations of erasure and sparking criticism on social media. Activist Miriam Walker-Khan notably commented, "Black women aren't invisible. Let's stop erasing them." England coach Sarina Wiegman addressed the omission, affirming it was unintentional and that the Royal Family fully supports the team. The Royal Family has yet to comment on the backlash. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/england-fans-upset-agyemang-omitted-royal-family-photo-2025-07-26/?utm_source=openai))