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## Yeovil Town FC Sport



Connor Smith looks to get a shot away under the pressure of Josh Kay



Chilean superstar Alexis Sanchez signs his Manchester United contract on Monday and is now set to make his debut in tomorrow night's FA Cup fourth round clash against Yeovil Town at Huish Park Picture by Manchester United/Man Utd via Getty Images

# Khan apologies after Chesterfield red card

YEOVIL Town star Otis Khan will be suspended for the club's FA Cup fourth round tie with Manchester United after he was sent off for shoulder barging the referee.

Khan sprinted up to referee Kevin Johnson after Chesterfield's Kristian Dennis scored an injury-time winner and barged him, having been left furious by the official's failure to award a free-kick after his shirt was pulled in the build-up to the goal.

His dismissal left Khan's hopes of facing his boyhood club in tatters as he was handed a five-match ban by the Football Association.

Since the sending off, Khan has issued a public apology on Twitter, saying: "To everyone, I would like to apologise for yesterday."

"I know the golden rule of football is to play to the whistle. As you can see from the picture, I felt I was fouled, and I honestly thought the referee was going to blow his whistle.

"That's why I stopped playing. I ran towards the referee and upon doing so I tripped and fell towards him, making contact.

"There was absolutely no intention to make contact with Kevin Johnson. Mr Johnson, I am deeply sorry for falling into you. In all my time playing football I have always had the utmost respect for referees and officials so once again Mr Johnson, I'm sorry for falling into you."

Khan says he has been left "heartbroken" by the dismissal as he contemplates the prospect of missing out on the visit of Jose Mourinho's side

and pleaded for the incident to be looked at again.

He added: "I hope this incident can be analysed again so you can clearly see it wasn't intentional and some form of leniency can be given as I am absolutely heartbroken at this time, because my dreams of playing against my boyhood team are in doubt.

"It's the worst time of my life at this moment. Thank you for your support."

Khan's actions though were condemned on BBC One's Final Score programme as reporter Mark Clemmit called the 22-year-old winger a "silly boy".

He said: "Otis Khan of Yeovil. Not only did your team lose in the last knockings but what a silly boy you are.

"He has scored an absolute shedload of goals, ten down there. He's made ten. He's a former Manchester United player.

"He barged the referee in the 90th minute, was sent off and will miss the Manchester United FA Cup game, live on BBC One on Friday night.

"Silly, silly boy."

Khan's absence against the Red Devils will come as a severe blow to a Glovers side who now face the prospect of taking on Jose Mourinho's side without their most creative player.

The future of the 22-year-old at Huish Park is uncertain, with at least six clubs chasing his signature and an unnamed side having triggered his release clause earlier in the week.

It means there is a very real possibility that Khan's last

action on the pitch as a Yeovil Town player could have been his dismissal.

■ AT least six clubs have registered an interest in Yeovil Town winger Otis Khan.

The *Western Gazette* understands that Wigan Athletic, Bradford City and Luton Town are all among the sides monitoring 22-year-old winger.

Bristol Rovers, Swindon Town and Peterborough United have also been keeping tabs on the former Manchester United youngster, who has had a release clause in his contract activated by an unnamed club.

Yeovil manager Darren Way said: "We've taken a substantial offer on Otis Khan from another club and we cannot stand in his way because of clauses.

"Otis ultimately will have a decision to make and out of all the players, he's worked extremely hard.

"I think he deserves to have the interest that he's attracted and again that's me doing my job for what I brought him to the football club to do."

With significant levels of interest in him, it would be a surprise if he remains at Huish Park beyond the end of this month.

Way added: "Everyone will be doing their best to speak to Otis and ultimately he'll make the final decision.

"There's been interest in Omar [Sowumni]. I've had dealings with his agent in perhaps not the way that I wanted it to be, so I'll have to see how that develops.

"Ultimately the team is more important than any individual so I'll have to deal with that."

## Sanchez arrival could see star departures

THE arrival of Alexis Sanchez at Manchester United could now mean that one star will possibly miss out on a starting berth or place on the bench ahead of the FA Cup clash with Yeovil Town tomorrow.

What became arguably the transfer saga of the January transfer window, the signing of Sanchez will now likely see the Chilean make his debut at Huish Park. Whilst that is likely to excite many fans of Manchester United and Yeovil Town alike, it will mean that one of the Red Devils' stars will now potentially be missing out.

With Henrikh Mkhitaryan now an Arsenal player, as part of the Sanchez deal, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Eric Bailly and Michael Carrick still out with

injuries, Juan Mata is seemingly the most likely to be the fall guy from Sanchez's arrival. Several newspapers have commented saying that not only could Mata now only have a place on the bench on Friday on his return to Huish Park, from when Manchester United beat Yeovil 2-0 in the FA Cup third round in 2015, but he might even be on his way out of Old Trafford altogether, with Valencia being lined up as potential suitors. The Spaniard is out of contract in the Summer and Manchester United have yet to release the year extension that is on offer to them.

Another name being mentioned to be replaced by Sanchez could be Jesse Lingard.

Playing in a similar role to

Sanchez, Lingard's rise to prominence might now hit a snag, despite scoring seven goals in 20 appearances in the Premier League this season, and scoring the winning goal in extra time in the FA Cup triumph over Crystal Palace in 2016.

Although with Sanchez a more left-sided player, it could push Anthony Martial out, even though he too has been in good form this season with 11 goals.

One thing is for sure though, manager Jose Mourinho is likely to play a strong side at Huish Park with Joel Pereira, Scott McTominay and Axel Tuanzebe the only young names to feature on a United matchday squad sheet this season.

# C'MON YOU GLOVERS!

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