

# MANCHESTER UNITED 4

RASHFORD 41; HERRERA 61; LINGARD 89; LUKAKU 90



# RIGHT NOTE

By **DAVE KIDD**

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER



**THE concert pianist against The Wurzels, the footballer from the private-jet set running amok in the land of the combine harvester.**

This FA Cup fourth-round tie against League Two Yeovil was a major mismatch – a gentle strutting stroll for Alexis Sanchez on his maiden Manchester United appearance.

And the most richly rewarded player in English football history produced two assists and hit the bar in a polished performance to send Jose Mourinho's men into the last 16. Sanchez teed up Marcus Rashford before half-time and Ander Herrera after the break as United made light work of the League Two strugglers from Somerset.

There will be far tougher tests than this, not least Tottenham at Wembley on Wednesday. But when he made way for Jesse Lingard 18 minutes from time, Sanchez had clearly been welcomed into the bosom of the United family, according to the warm reception he received from the visiting fans.

Not surprisingly, he did not come in for the same level of affection from the locals.

They were excited enough by the visit of United but their curiosity was roused by the debut for Sanchez.

Here in their midst was the Premier League's first £25million-a-year footballer and also the most famous dog owner to play for Manchester United since Roy Keane was in his furious pomp. The Chilean's arrival certainly improved Mourinho's mood.

The United manager's future looked precarious a couple of weeks ago but the Old Trafford hierarchy were clearly minded to indulge the old rascal.

So last night, the United boss was celebrating his 55th birthday with an extended contract, a pay rise to £15m a year and Sanchez, the "juiciest orange on the tree" according to a Portuguese metaphor he used to taunt Manchester City.

Huish Park, the newest home of Yeovil's legendary FA Cup

## Perfect birthday present for boss as Sanchez boosts United

giant-slayers, was a world away from the soft-focus social-media video used to announce the forward's arrival from Arsenal.

In that, Sanchez was seen supposedly tickling the ivories, playing Glory Glory Man United.

Here, the Chilean Richard Claydeman was getting up close and personal with some uncompromising West

Country centre-halves out to bring him down a peg or two.

United had scraped through here 2-0 under

Louis van Gaal just three years ago,

back when Angel Di Maria was the club's glamorous South American new boy.

He did not last long and Sanchez, at 29, might turn out to be a Robin van Persie-style short-term solution rather than an enduring favourite.

Either way, it was significant that

United had got him and that he was here in the red No7 shirt of George Best, Eric Cantona, Bryan Robson and David Beckham.

This was his first football for 16 days, while it was more than three weeks since his last start.

Mourinho made ten changes to the side which saw off Burnley 1-0 at Turf Moor last weekend – and Sanchez started off on the left of a front three.

Now on a Hollywood salary, the new man looked intent on playing Hollywood passes, twice failing to complete crossfield efforts in the early stages.

But there was no inferiority complex about the hosts who began with the whiff of red meat in their nostrils.

Jordan Green forced Sergio Romero to save with his legs but midway through the first half Sanchez went on a weaving run and teed up Scott McTominay, whose shot was turned wide by Glovers keeper Artur Krysiak.

The former Arsenal man was

beginning to turn it on now – darting, scurrying, eager to please – and giving the matador treatment to one defender.

When he was booted up in the air to earn Nathan Smith a booking, Sanchez dusted himself down to seize free-kick duty.

But his curling effort was comfortably saved before he screwed a shot wide from a Juan Mata pass. Four minutes before the break, came the first significant contribution of Sanchez's United career.

He flicked a pass through for Rashford to score, thanks to some fatal hesitation from defender Tom James.

Soon after the break, Omar Sowunmi became the second Yeovil man to receive a yellow card for fouling Sanchez.

Then Rashford had a shot deflected wide and from the resulting corner, Sanchez hooked a volley on to the top of the bar.

When Yeovil forced a corner of their own, it turned out to be the worst thing they could have done.

Luke Shaw cleared to Juan Mata who fed Sanchez for a saucy reverse pass to Herrera, the Spanish midfielder drilling through Krysiak into the far corner on 61 minutes.

Sanchez took a whack on the ankle soon after but ran it off before Mourinho hooked him to a great ovation.

His replacement Lingard made it three in the 89th minute, capping off a superb solo run by firing low into the bottom corner.

Fellow sub Romelu Lukaku swept home from close range to make it four deep into injury-time.

*Twitter @davekidd\_*

### DREAM TEAM RATINGS

**YEovil:** Krysiak 6, James 5, Sowunmi 5, N Smith 6, Dickson 6, Green 6 (Fisher 69, 6), Wing 6 (C Smith 83, 5), Bird 6 (Browne 56, 5), Gray 5, Zoko 5, Surridge 6. Subs not used: Maddison, Gohern, Whelan, Santos. Booked: Zoko, N Smith, Sowunmi.  
**MAN UTD:** Romero 7, Darmian 7, Lindelof 7, Rojo 8, Shaw 7, STAR MAN HERRERA 8, Carrick 7, McTominay 7, Mata 6 (Lukaku 65, 6), Rashford 8 (Gomes 88, 6), Sanchez 7 (Lingard 72, 7). Subs not used: Smalling, Young, Matic, J Pereira. Booked: McTominay.  
(Ratings supplied by whoscored.com)



**HURTY SANCHEZ...** Alexis got a couple of whacks off Yeovil defenders



**TOP...** McTominay hails Sanchez's assist for No2

## ROMP

From Back Page

players want to play with good players and he is a fantastic player.

"The question is always which one is going to be left out but it's not about that for us.

"We have a fantastic group of attacking players and he is another one with more maturity, experience and class.

"I was happy with his performance."

United midfielder Ander Herrera — who ran on to Sanchez's pass to grab the second goal — said: "A player like him is a star.

"It's amazing to have him with us, we are going to enjoy him, the fans are going to enjoy him.

"He can play anywhere, he's a fantastic player."

Mourinho was keen to throw former Arsenal star Sanchez straight into his starting line-up despite a lack of match-fitness, saying: "He loves to play.

"He wants to play — no doubts about it.

"We think the best way for him to adapt to us and the best way to recover his normal fitness is to play.

"He had a couple of training sessions with us but, of course, he is not in his best condition because last week, for him, he didn't train and didn't play."

The Chilean ace came in for some rough treatment from the League Two hosts and limped off in the 72nd minute.

But not before setting up Herrera, having also played a part in Marcus Rashford's opener.

SunSport columnist Alan Shearer was impressed with the new man's display, saying: "Sanchez looked like United's best player. He was quick, sharp and was their best attacking outlet.

"He is very difficult to pick up with the way he runs, strong, quick, direct, it makes him so difficult to knock off the ball."