

JOSE WHINE AT CI



by CHRIS WHEELER

JOSE MOURINHO used a comparison with oranges to accuse Manchester City of sour grapes over Alexis Sanchez yesterday — then insisted the Chile star's move to Old Trafford was not driven by money.

Sanchez could make his Manchester United debut in the FA Cup fourth round at Yeovil tonight after signing from Arsenal in a swap deal with Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

United are paying Sanchez a staggering £600,000 a week, including bonuses and image rights, after City claimed to have withdrawn from negotiations due to the player's financial demands.

Mourinho yesterday signed a contract extension — committing his future to United until at least 2020 — increasing his £13.8m-per-year terms to about £15m a year.

United manager says Pep's lot have got on his pip over Sanchez

He questioned City's reasoning, saying: 'I know that if other clubs did not get him, it's not a problem of money, for sure.'

'You go and analyse the numbers and Manchester City spent more money than us. Chelsea spent more money than us. Even Everton spent more money than us. I don't think that's the problem.'

'Alexis could go everywhere. He had lots of choices. He decided to come here and you have to ask him why.'

Asked if it was odd that Pep Guardiola's City have complained about the cost, Mourinho suggested his rivals used it as an excuse once they realised Sanchez was going to United instead.

'Alexis reminds me a little bit of a metaphor,' he said. 'When you see

the tree with amazing oranges at the top of the tree and cannot get there, you say, "Oh, I got the lower ones because I don't like the ones at the top".

'You like the ones at the top. They are so nice, so orange, so round, so full of juice, but you cannot get there so you say, "I don't want to go there" or "I didn't like it, I prefer the other one". It reminds me of that story.'

Sanchez has been accused of acting like a mercenary, but Mourinho pointed out that the 29-year-old was only demanding his market value and would have cost significantly more had he not been coming to the end of his contract at Arsenal.

'Honestly, I think it was fair,' said Mourinho.

'I cannot say that it was expensive because it wasn't. I cannot

IT'S GOOD NEWS FOR THE LOWRY HOTEL!

THE Lowry Hotel, where Jose Mourinho has been living since joining Manchester United, can cash in following his contract extension. Luxury suites cost £816 a night, so the hotel will have netted almost £1.2million if Mourinho stays until 2020!

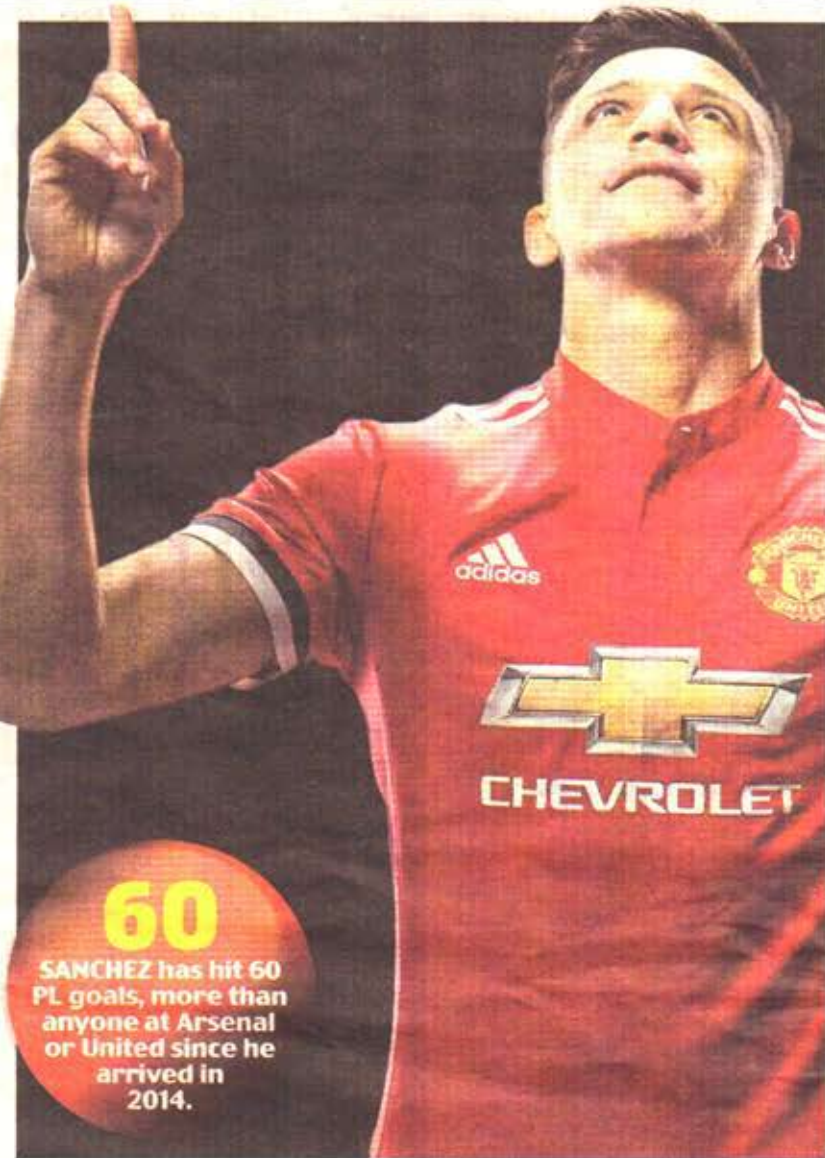
say it was cheap because if you add all the values of his contract, it's not also cheap.

'But I think it's a very good deal for us and the player has a fantastic contract. It's a contract according to his qualities as a player and according to the situation — no transfer fee.'

'How much would Alexis Sanchez cost in normal transfer, club to club, as a player with two or three years on his contract? We look at the numbers now and I would say roughly between £100-150m.'

'So you put things in perspective. You go to the numbers that the club didn't pay on the transfer.'

'I know he has a big passion for football. I know he wanted to



60

SANCHEZ has hit 60 PL goals, more than anyone at Arsenal or United since he arrived in 2014.

play in a different club — for his reasons, he wanted to leave Arsenal. Obviously, he wanted to be paid according to his quality.'

Mourinho is half way through a three-year deal that was due to run out next year but United yesterday announced that the Portuguese — 55 today — has agreed a one-year extension with the option to stay even longer.

Mourinho, who won three trophies in his first season at Old Trafford, said: 'I am really honoured and proud to be Manchester United manager.'

'I would like to say a big thank you to the owners and to (executive vice-chairman) Mr (Ed) Woodward for the recognition of my hard work and dedication. I am delighted they feel and trust that I am the right manager for

this great club for the foreseeable future.'

'We have set very high standards — winning three trophies in one season — but those are the standards I expect my teams to aim for. We are creating the conditions for a brilliant future for Manchester United.'

'My thanks, of course, go to my staff and to my players, without their empathy and friendship this wouldn't be possible. I love my players.'

'I cannot finish without thanking the fans for their support and for making me feel at home so.'

Mourinho played down speculation that United could re-sign Cristiano Ronaldo from Real Madrid.

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Way lays on cider for Mourinho

By JACK GAUGHAN

YEOVIL manager Darren Way has sourced both red wine and Somerset cider for Jose Mourinho to plug tonight. 'It's important he's privy to what we drink,' said Way as the FA Cup's lowest-ranked team geared up to host the world's largest club.

The pair will speak, they will perhaps share a cider on Mourinho's 55th birthday and the United boss will politely answer questions. Maybe he will give Way some advice on how to turn around Yeovil's fortunes, because they

languish 21st in League Two and could be in the relegation zone by tomorrow evening. Tumbling out of the Football League, where they have competed since 2003, does not bear thinking about. Way, who played in midfield for the Glovers and was on the coaching staff in 2013 when they reached the Championship, did not duck the issues yesterday. The money has gone. Attendances have dipped. Yeovil are sinking. 'I'm

a little bit disappointed, I can't lie,' said Way, who has issues with a section of the club's fans. 'One or two are trying to set up little conspiracies against us. That's unfortunate. My message to them would be, "Live in the moment". 'We're probably going to have 9,000 at Huish Park against United and this could be one of the club's biggest achievements. 'Being a Yeovil fan, you may never get this opportunity again. Get behind the team, get behind the manager and feel