

# THE MANCHESTER UNITED OPUS

Midi Edition



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Midi Edition

*The Manchester United Opus* was the first Opus to celebrate a football team, a paragon of sport. It captures the soul of Manchester United, its electrifying spirit, enduring traditions, and rich heritage like never before.

Its 33cm by 33cm format that weighs 15 kg takes the reader on an intimate journey into the club's unique essence. From the thunderous chants of the Stretford End and the hallowed turf of Old Trafford, to its legendary players and iconic moments — every page invites you to explore and embrace the spirit of Manchester United.

As Manchester United strides boldly into the future, this Opus not only honours its storied past but also celebrates the vision and evolution shaping its next chapter.



UNITED





***The Manchester United Opus Midi Edition:***

- Over 500 pages, printed in high definition on luxury 200gsm silk paper
- 33 by 33 cm, weighing 15kg
- Hand-bound by master craftsmen in red buckram
- Presented in a bespoke hand-made clamshell case
- Adorned with the Man U badge embossed on the cover
- Price €299

## THE MANCHESTER UNITED OPUS

### The Midi Edition

Manchester United. The name alone evokes a cascade of memories and emotions: of roaring crowds at Old Trafford, red shirts billowing under floodlights, legendary goals, historic triumphs, and a legacy forged in grit, glory, and unwavering passion. But Manchester United is more than a football club; it is a global phenomenon, a symbol of resilience, ambition, and unity that has transcended generations and borders.

The Manchester United Opus was born from a conversation — a spark of inspiration that ignited the imagination of the Opus team. Collaborating with players past and present, club historians, managers, fans, curators, photographers, and designers, OPUS set out to create a work worthy of the club's towering legacy. Every contributor — from editors and researchers to archivists and stylists — poured their expertise into crafting a definitive tribute that would both educate and inspire.

Along the way, we uncovered forgotten photographic archives and lovingly restored them to their original brilliance. We unearthed rare memorabilia and iconic artefacts, reproduced in ultra-high definition to tell a story unlike any other — a story of triumph, tradition, and the unbreakable spirit of Manchester United.





## The most vibrant story telling through captivating photography

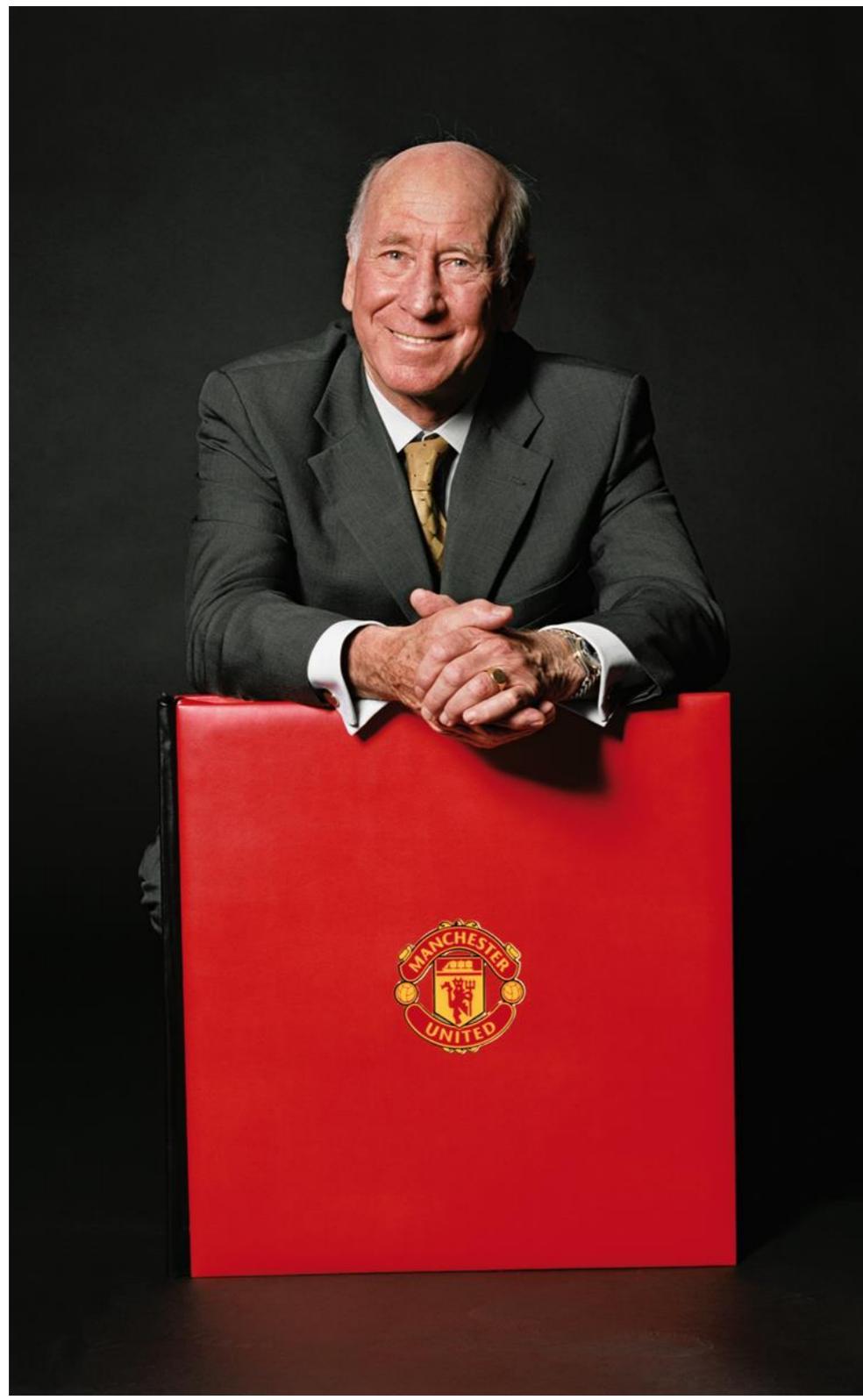
The magic of Manchester United is vividly captured through the lenses of the club's most gifted photographers. Each image in this book stands as a testament to their sharp eye for detail and profound connection to the spirit of United. Through their visionary perspectives, readers are transported to electrifying match days, behind-the-scenes moments, and the architectural majesty of Old Trafford — creating an experience like no other.

Their photographs do more than illustrate; they breathe life into the legacy of Manchester United, offering a visual symphony that enhances the rich narratives within. Their masterful composition and artistic flair invite readers to see the club not just as a team, but as a living, breathing legend.



The Book of Dreams - Inside The Manchester United Opus  
Soccerbible







MANCHESTER UNITED





# RONALDO

The United number seven that has developed a certain mythology over time. And no wonder. For nearly 20 years, only three men wore it: Bryan Robson, Eric Cantona and David Beckham, a succession as celebrated as any in football. Thus, when Beckham left Old Trafford for the Bernabeu in the summer of 2003 and the news leaked out that the number seven was to go to an 18-year-old who'd spent just one season in top-flight Portuguese football, there was a sense of trepidation among United's faithful. This seemed to be a risk, even for a manager as keen to promote youthful talent as Sir Alex Ferguson.

Within five minutes of his debut in August 2003, however, all such doubts about Cristiano Ronaldo evaporated. As he swooshed and danced his way past the Italian Wanderers defence, his feet moving so quickly that the opposition players wouldn't even have caught him if they'd had a slo-mo replay, Old Trafford knew it was witnessing the arrival of a natural heir to their most iconic shirt number. So enthralled were the fans with their new recruit, so enthralled were they by his tactics, that within seven months they'd voted him United's player of the season.

Named after Ronald Reagan, Cristiano Ronaldo das Santos Aveiro hails from the island of Madeira, a place so hilly that you have to be good at controlling a ball just to stop it rolling away into the sea. The academy moved to the Portuguese mainland when he was just 15 in exchange for a new kit for the island team, and by 17 he was flying down the wing for Sporting Lisbon. It was Carlos Queiroz who tipped off Alex Ferguson to a player of such rich potential, though the boy's dad was receiving phone calls from scouts almost as soon as he could walk. And after United played a friendly to inaugurate Sporting's new stadium (it had been built for Euro 2004), the clamour to sign him from other quarters within United became deafening.

"On the flight back from Portugal," Fergie remembers, "all the players were coming up to me and saying: 'Gaffer, you've got to sign that

kid, he was just incredible.'" So Ferguson did sign him, though not before Sporting had raised the asking price to £12.24 million. Not a bad return on a set of shirts.

What the United manager got for his money was almost the complete article. Big, muscular and bristly, Ronaldo is built like a modern rugby union flanker. All that physique to the most minute feet outside of the Royal Ballet and you have some prospect, particularly as he's almost as good in the air as he is on the ground. What's more, he is brave and not remotely fazed by the close attentions of the Premiership's hard men; he never fails to want the ball, never hides when the going gets tough, never goes missing in terms of crisis.

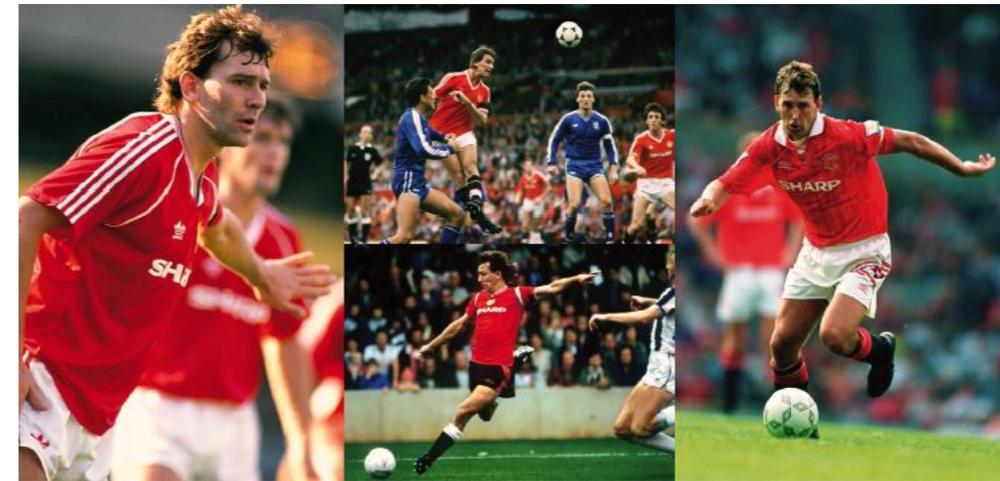
In short, Ronaldo is a man for the big occasion, as he proved in the FA Cup final at the end of his first year in Manchester, when he tormented Millwall with his extraordinary range of flamboyant skills, scoring twice and inspiring a slew of "David Villa?" T-shirts.

During that first term, the United management had to work hard to eradicate a youthful tendency to overindulge in his step-overs, not to mention a penchant for the theatrical whenever he was tackled anywhere near the opposition penalty box. But even though the English language and an understated dress sense have so far proved beyond him, on the football field he is a prodigious learner. In subsequent seasons at Old Trafford he has become more of a team player, a better crosser of the ball, more adept at bringing colleagues into play. And all this without for a moment forgetting how to do a variety of step-over that the former United manager Ron Atkinson christened the "lollipop".

Indeed, as the Portuguese winger has moved into his twenties, that number seven shirt is increasingly seen on the backs of a burgeoning fan base. And if he continues to show such single-minded dedication to improve his game, there are few who would argue with his compatriot Luis Figo's prediction that one day Ronaldo will be the finest player in the world.

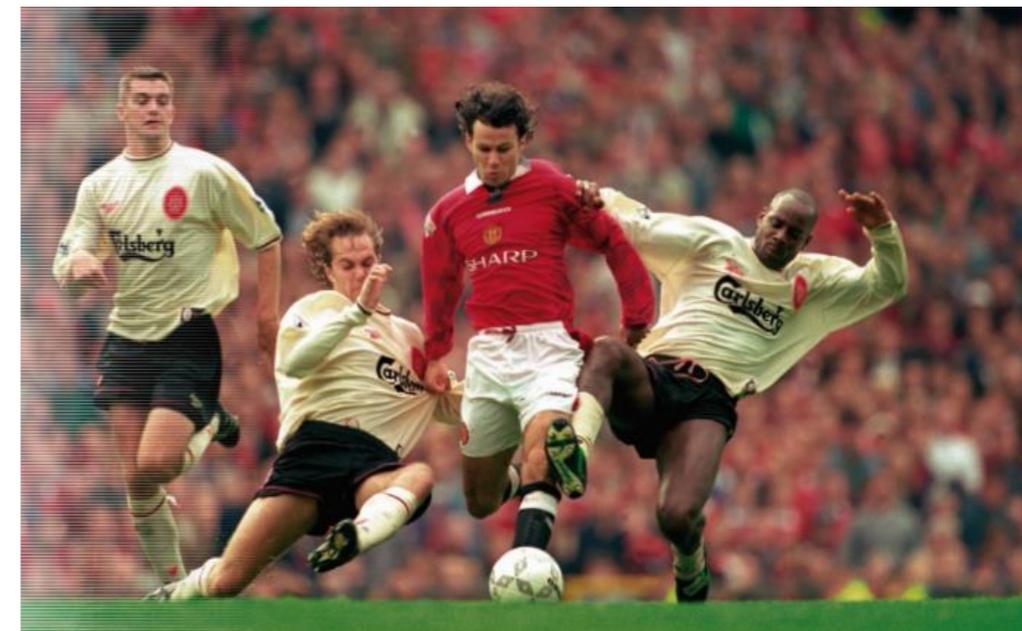


*"There are few who can argue with his compatriot Luis Figo's prediction that one day he will be the finest player in the world"*

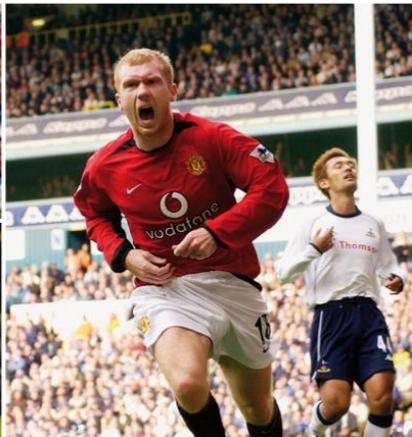


*"The Official United Opus is the biggest football book ever produced, but it is way more than just a book. It is a celebration of a football club established by a group of railway workers in 1878 and their incredible journey to the top of world football. It is the ultimate tribute to Manchester United."*

Soccerbible







# SCHOLES

It's not often that a man is so fit as Scholes. In fact, he's so fit that he's been called the 'Fittest Man in Football' by the Daily Mail. Scholes is a natural athlete, and his fitness is a key part of his success. He's been called the 'Fittest Man in Football' by the Daily Mail. Scholes is a natural athlete, and his fitness is a key part of his success. He's been called the 'Fittest Man in Football' by the Daily Mail. Scholes is a natural athlete, and his fitness is a key part of his success.

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# 10

"Scholes has got superb vision, he's blessed with wonderful feet, he passes like a dream and he's terrific in the air"

John Doolan



When you think of a man to be the best in the world, you think of a man who is not just a player but a legend. Beckham is a legend. He's a man who has made his name in the world of football. He's a man who has made his name in the world of football. He's a man who has made his name in the world of football.

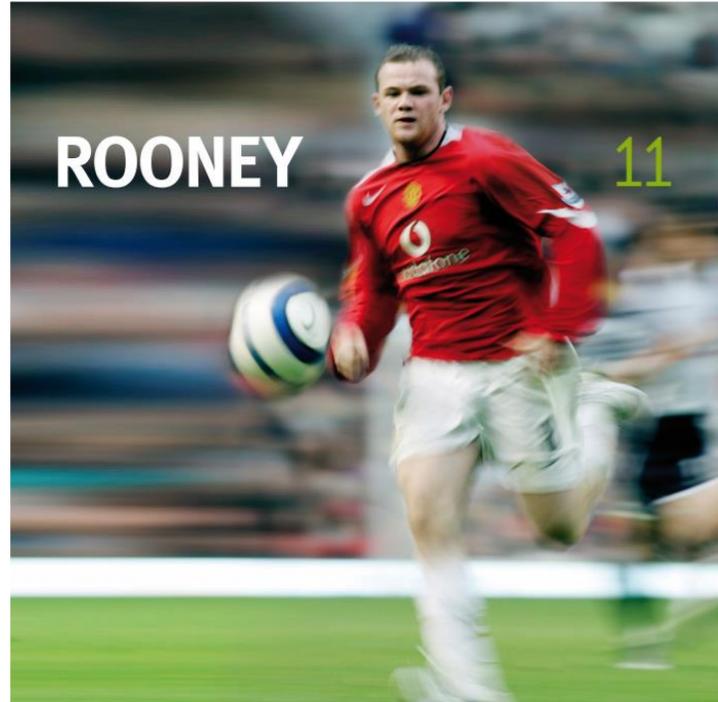
# BECKHAM

"Nobody in the history of United could cross a dead ball like Beckham"



# ROONEY

# 11



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"Wayne Rooney is a phenomenal talent. He has almost unlimited possibilities"

Chris Venables



# 18 NEVILLE

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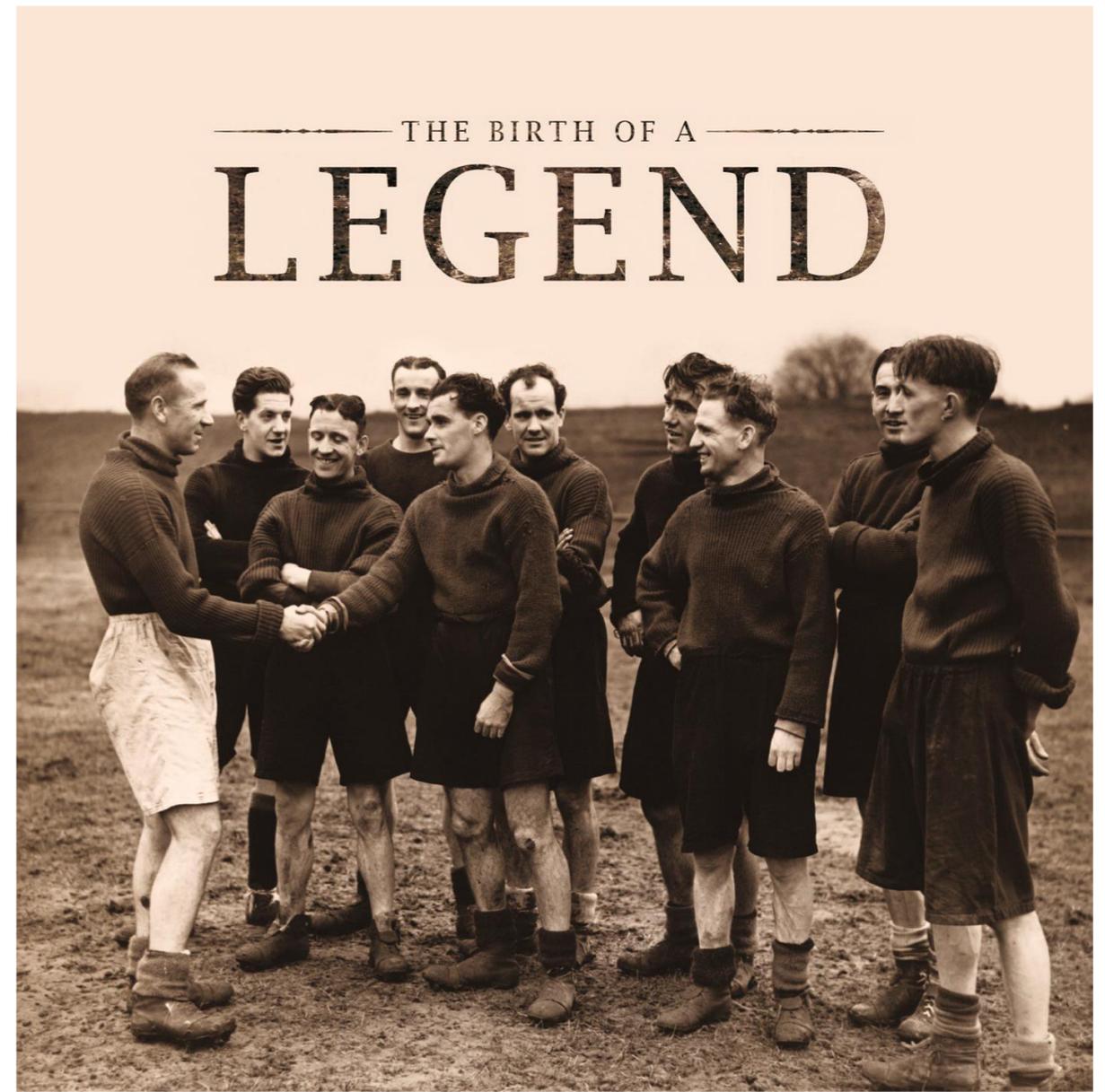
"You imagine that as a baby, instead of a romper suit he wore a miniature blazer with a United crest on the breast pocket"

Chris Venables











CUP

M U F C

M U F C  
ROCHDALE

YOU WILL NEVER  
OWN ME

M U F C

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CUP

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CUP

TheFA  
RED ARMY

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AREA



PIRES  
7

VIEIRA  
4

GILBERTO  
19

BERGKAMP  
10

REYES  
9



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