Early Life and Discovery: Born on May 22, 1946, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, George Best grew up in the Cregagh area of the city. He was discovered by Manchester United scout Bob Bishop at the age of 15. Bishop was so impressed with Best's talent that he reportedly sent a telegram to Manchester United manager Matt Busby, declaring, "I think I've found you a genius."

Debut and Rise to Fame: Best made his first-team debut for Manchester United in 1963 at the age of 17 against West Bromwich Albion. He quickly made a name for himself with his dribbling ability, balance, and poise on the ball, earning the nickname "El Beatle" in 1966 after a stellar performance against Benfica in Lisbon.

European Success: Best was instrumental in Manchester United's European Cup victory in 1968, scoring a crucial goal in the final against Benfica. United won the game 4-1 after extra time, with Best being named the European Footballer of the Year later that year.

Style of Play: Best was known for his exceptional skill, particularly his close ball control, dribbling, and ability to beat defenders. He was a forward who could create and score goals with a style that combined creativity, confidence, and flair, often compared to that of modern players like Cristiano Ronaldo.

Pop Culture Icon: Off the pitch, Best became one of the first footballers to enjoy the lifestyle of a pop culture icon. His good looks and fashionable style made him a favorite with the media and the public, contributing to the "swinging London" scene of the 1960s.

International Career: Despite his success at the club level, Best's international career with Northern Ireland was less illustrious. Northern Ireland had a relatively weak team during his time, and thus, Best never had the opportunity to showcase his talents at a World Cup.

Personal Life and Battles: Best's career was also marked by his struggles with alcoholism, which affected his playing career and personal life. His health issues related to drinking started to become a significant problem by the early 1970s, and despite attempts at rehabilitation, they would plague him for the rest of his life.

Short-lived Retirements and Comebacks: Best retired from Manchester United in 1974 at the age of 27 but continued to play football for various clubs around the world, including a brief stint in the North American Soccer League (NASL). His post-Manchester United career was marked by frequent transfers and short-lived retirements.

Legacy: George Best's impact on football is profound; he is often cited as one of the most naturally gifted players of all time. After his death in 2005, the airport in his hometown of Belfast was renamed George Best Belfast City Airport in his honor.

Documentaries and Biographies: Best's life and career have been the subject of several documentaries and biographies, which highlight both his football genius and his turbulent personal life. His talent and charisma combined with his ultimately tragic life story continue to fascinate fans and the public at large.