

= 1998 ? 99 Manchester United F.C. season =

The 1998 ? 99 season was the most successful season in the history of Manchester United Football Club . After finishing the previous season without winning any titles , United won a treble of trophies (the Premier League , FA Cup and UEFA Champions League) , the first side in English football to achieve such a feat . During the campaign United lost only five times , including a one @-@ off Charity Shield fixture , in the League Cup against eventual winners Tottenham Hotspur and their only home defeat , a league match against Middlesbrough in December 1998 . A run of 33 games unbeaten in all competitions began on 26 December at home to Nottingham Forest .

Veteran players Brian McClair and Gary Pallister , along with a host of younger and less experienced players such as goalkeeper Kevin Pilkington and striker Graeme Tomlinson , had left the club before the season began . The big news of the pre @-@ season was the arrival of Dutch defender Jaap Stam for a club record fee of £ 10 @.@ 75 million . Other additions included striker Dwight Yorke and Swedish winger Jesper Blomqvist . Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel announced his intention to leave the club after eight years at Old Trafford , joining Sporting Clube de Portugal at the end of the season .

The team 's never @-@ say @-@ die attitude , instilled in previous seasons , was key to their success as the players often thrived in difficult situations . The highlight was United 's dramatic comeback in the Champions League final , when Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjær each scored in injury time to overturn Bayern Munich 's first @-@ half lead . David Beckham was runner up to Rivaldo for 1999 's European Footballer of the Year and FIFA World Player of the Year awards .

Fans and writers regard the treble haul as manager Alex Ferguson 's finest hour , although he dismissed that assertion in later years . Tens of thousands of fans lined the streets of Manchester to welcome the team as the season drew to a close . In recognition of his achievements Ferguson was awarded a knighthood , and handed the Freedom of the City of Glasgow in November 1999 .

By the end of the season Manchester United had become the world ? s richest football club , and the most valuable sporting brand worldwide . The club was also at the centre of a takeover bid by BSkyB , which was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in March 1999 .

= = Friendlies = =

In their pre @-@ season travels United lost and drew their first two matches , before winning three . A testimonial for Teddy Scott at Pittodrie against Aberdeen was scheduled in January ; United lost 7 ? 6 on penalties after a 1 ? 1 draw in 90 minutes .