


SIR ALEX



FERGUSON

1986-2013



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**THE GREATEST MANAGER
IN HIS OWN WORDS**



**EBURY
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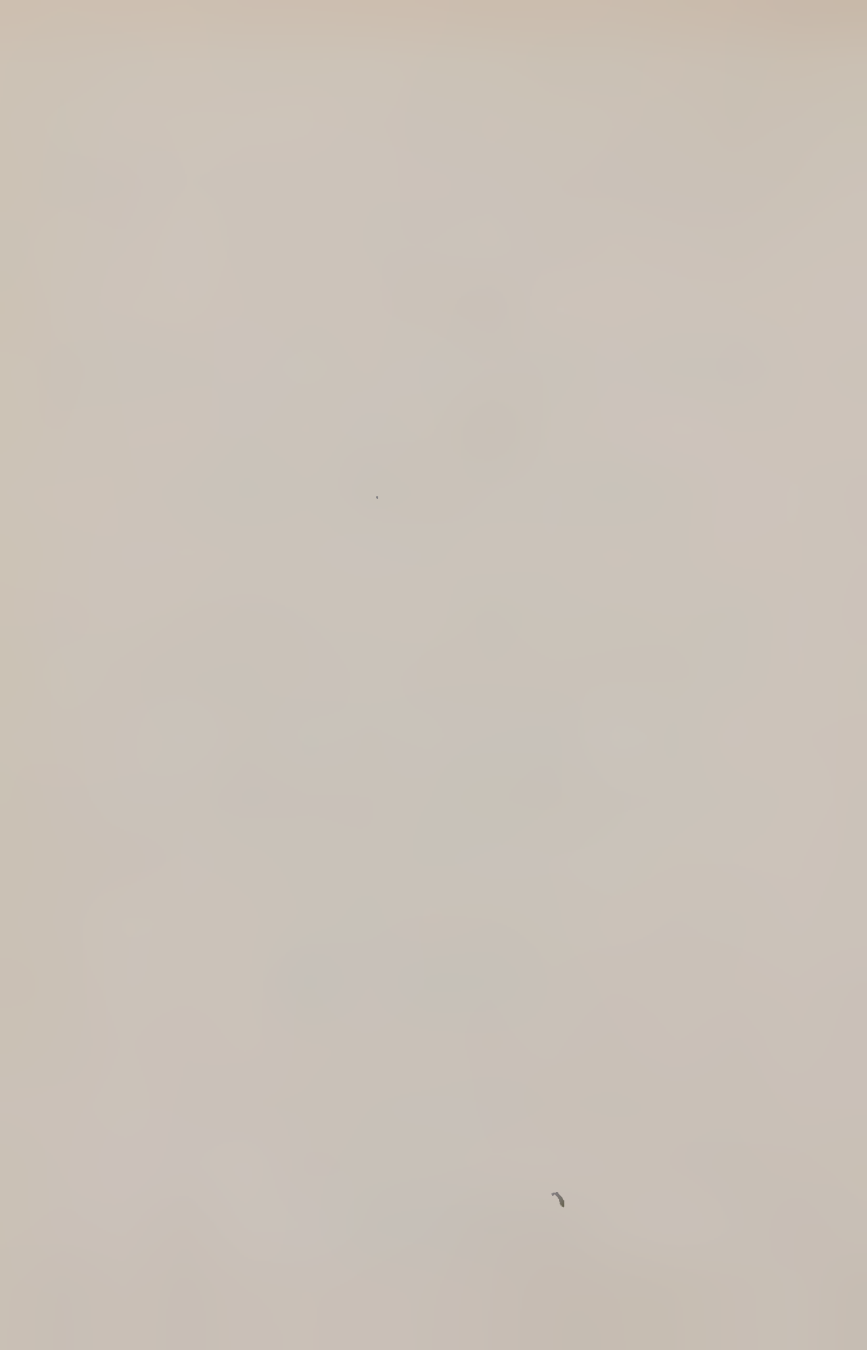


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**NAYSAYERS
UNITED**



**3 YEARS OF EXCUSES
AND IT'S STILL CRAP,
TA-RA FERGIE.**

Banner at Old Trafford, December 1989



**WHAT REALLY HURTS,
ALEX, IS THAT UNDER
YOU WE'VE HAD
SHIT FOOTBALL,
SHIT ATMOSPHERE,
SHIT BOARDROOM
SHENANIGANS AND
OUR SUPPORT IS
DRIFTING AWAY.**

Fanzine Red News editorial, December 1989



**OBE -
OUT BEFORE EASTER.**

*Emlyn Hughes awards Sir Alex
an alternative honour, 1990*



FERGIE, FERGIE, ON THE DOLE.

*Nottingham Forest fans during FA Cup
third round match, January 1990.
If Manchester United had lost, Sir Alex's job
was reportedly on the line. They won 1-0*



**LET'S NOT GET
CARRIED AWAY. THE
DAYS ARE OVER
WHEN ONE CLUB CAN
DOMINATE OUR GAME.**

*George Graham, following
Alex Ferguson's first league title, 1993*



**YOU CAN'T WIN
ANYTHING WITH
KIDS ... THE TRICK
ABOUT WINNING THE
CHAMPIONSHIP IS TO
HAVE STRENGTH IN
DEPTH. THEY JUST
HAVEN'T GOT IT.**

*Match of the Day's Alan Hansen on the
new-look young Manchester United, 1995*



THE DAY THAT FERGUSON'S EMPIRE BEGAN TO CRUMBLE

*Headline in The Times, after
United's 2001 defeat by Liverpool*



BELIEFS



**I GREW UP IN A
VERY WORKING CLASS
AREA OF GLASGOW,
BELIEVING LABOUR
WAS THE PARTY OF THE
WORKING MAN, AND
I STILL BELIEVE THAT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



**I THINK GLASWEIGANS,
AND PEOPLE IN THE
WEST OF SCOTLAND,
GROW UP IN A
DIFFERENT CLIMATE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**THESE PEOPLE BUILT
THE BEST SHIPS IN THE
WORLD. YOU CAN OVER-
ROMANTICISE THESE
THINGS, BUT THEY DO
HAVE A REAL PART TO
PLAY IN FORGING A
PERSON'S CHARACTER.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson on working
in Fraserburgh, 2008*



**IT'S TRUE I'VE EARNED
A LOT OF MONEY. BUT
I'VE WORKED HARD,
PAID MY TAXES AND
PUT A LOT BACK IN
DIFFERENT WAYS.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



**THE REAL FRIEND IS
THE ONE WHO WALKS
THROUGH THE DOOR
WHEN THE OTHERS
ARE PUTTING ON THEIR
COATS TO LEAVE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



DO NOT COMPARE ME TO THAT WOMAN!

*Journalist foolishly suggests a comparison
between Sir Alex and Margaret Thatcher*



ON MANAGEMENT



**THE ONLY ADVICE I
CAN GIVE TO YOU IS
DON'T LET THE PLAYERS
TAKE THE MICKEY
OUT OF YOU.**

Advice to Paul Ince on being a manager



**I'VE MELLOWED.
I'VE GOT MORE
EXPERIENCE. I'VE GOT
MORE AUTHORITY. AND
THAT'S ALL BECAUSE
OF SUCCESS.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 1999



**IT'S ABOUT THE
TEAM. I CAN GIVE THE
LEADERSHIP AND THE
DIRECTION BUT THE
TEAM HAS TO GEL.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



**SOMETIMES YOU HAVE
TO FORCE PLAYERS INTO
BEING BETTER THAN
WHAT THEY THINK
THEY ARE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2012



**I THINK YOU CAN
LEARN SOMETHING
ABOUT YOUR OWN WORLD
FROM ANYONE ELSE'S.
I READ A LOT OF HISTORY
AND IN MOST HISTORY
BOOKS THERE WON'T BE
A MENTION OF SPORT,
BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS
INSIGHTS YOU CAN LEARN.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



**PART OF MY JOB IS TO
MAKE SURE THESE LADS
KEEP THEIR FEET ON
THE GROUND. I HAMMER
IT INTO THEM THAT THE
WORK ETHIC IS WHAT
GOT THEM THROUGH
THE DOOR IN THE FIRST
PLACE, AND THEY MUST
NEVER LOSE IT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



**CONTROL.
MANAGING CHANGE.
AND OBSERVATION.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson on the three qualities
needed for leadership, 2009*



**DON'T EVER THINK
YOU'RE ABOVE A
CHALLENGE. IT'S NOT
RIGHT. ARROGANCE IS
NOT A QUALITY, IT'S A
HINDRANCE TO SUCCESS.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2010



**YOU CAN'T EVER LOSE
CONTROL, NOT WHEN
YOU ARE DEALING WITH 30
TOP PROFESSIONALS WHO
ARE ALL MILLIONAIRES.
IF THEY MISBEHAVE, WE
FINE THEM, BUT WE KEEP
IT INDOORS. AND
IF ANYONE STEPS OUT
OF MY CONTROL,
THAT'S THEM DEAD.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, Harvard interview, 2012



**I REMEMBER GOING TO
SEE ANDREA BOCELLI,
THE OPERA SINGER.
I HAD NEVER BEEN TO
A CLASSICAL CONCERT
IN MY LIFE. BUT I AM
WATCHING THIS AND
THINKING ABOUT THE
CO-ORDINATION AND
THE TEAMWORK.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson on seeking
new inspiration, 2012*



**I SPEAK TO THE PLAYERS
I'VE LEFT OUT. I DO IT
PRIVATELY. IT'S NOT
EASY, BUT I DO THEM ALL
MYSELF ... I HAVE BEEN
DROPPED FROM A CUP
FINAL IN SCOTLAND AS
A PLAYER AT TEN PAST
TWO, SO I KNOW WHAT
IT FEELS LIKE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, Harvard interview 2012



YOU BASTARD!

Sir Alex Ferguson on being told by Dunfermline manager Bill Cunningham he wasn't playing in the Scottish Cup Final, 1965



TEACUPS AND HAIRDRYERS



**THROWING TEACUPS?
THAT ONLY HAPPENED
ONCE OR TWICE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**MYTHS GROW ALL
THE TIME. IF I WAS TO
LISTEN TO THE NUMBER
OF TIMES I'VE THROWN
TEACUPS THEN WE'VE
GONE THROUGH SOME
CROCKERY IN THIS
PLACE. IT'S COMPLETELY
EXAGGERATED.**

Sir Alex Ferguson



**IF A PLAYER ANSWERED
ME BACK, I WOULD HEAD
STRAIGHT FOR THEM,
THIS IS WHERE THE
HAIRDRYER TREATMENT
COMES IN. I DIDN'T
ALLOW A PLAYER
TO BEAT ME IN AN
ARGUMENT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2012



**THERE'S NOTHING
WRONG WITH LOSING
YOUR TEMPER, IF IT
IS FOR THE RIGHT
REASONS.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2012



**I CAME IN, THERE WAS
THIS BIG TEA URN AND I
WENT IN TO SMASH IT -
AND I'M NOT KIDDING YOU,
I NEARLY BROKE MY ARM.
I KICKED THE TRAY SO
HARD THE CUPS WENT UP
OVER THE WALL. ARCHIE
KNOX, MY ASSISTANT, WAS
SITTING THERE WITH TEA
RUNNING DOWN THE BACK
OF HIS TRACKSUIT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**THAT WAS MARK
HUGHES WHO INVENTED
THAT PHRASE. AFTER HE
LEFT ME, OF COURSE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on the hairdryer, 2008



WHERE'S F**KING BARNES?

*Sir Alex Ferguson on the warpath after losing to
Wimbledon, 1986. Winger Peter Barnes was
hiding in an ice cold bath to avoid him*



I SAT THERE. I TOOK
THE HAIRDRYER ON THE
CHIN, IN MY FACE, IN MY
EYES, EVERYTHING CAME
OUT OF HIS MOUTH. HE
SPAT AT ME. HE SHOUTED
AT ME. I WENT OUT IN
THE SECOND HALF
AND SCORED.

Dion Dublin on getting the hairdryer treatment



I DID THINK IT WAS
WEIRD, THE FIRST TIME
HE ATTACKED PAUL
MCGRATH WITH THE
HAIRDRYER. YOU JUST
HAD TO HIDE YOUR
HEAD BECAUSE YOU'D
START LAUGHING THAT
IT WASN'T YOU.

Bryan Robson on the hairdryer treatment



**I'M A PUSSYCAT NOW,
TOO OLD TO LOSE
MY TEMPER.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**ARSENE
WENGER**



**HE'S A NOVICE.
HE SHOULD KEEP
HIS OPINIONS TO
JAPANESE FOOTBALL.**

An opening salvo on Arsene Wenger, 1996



**HE'S AT A BIG CLUB,
WELL, THEY USED TO
BE A BIG CLUB ... HE
SHOULD KEEP
HIS MOUTH SHUT,
FIRMLY SHUT.**

On Arsene Wenger, 1997



**THEY SAY HE'S AN
INTELLIGENT MAN,
RIGHT? SPEAKS FIVE
LANGUAGES! I'VE GOT A
FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY
FROM THE IVORY COAST
WHO SPEAKS FIVE
LANGUAGES.**

On Arsene Wenger, 2003



**IT'S GETTING TICKLY
NOW - SQUEAKY-BUM
TIME, I CALL IT.**

*Sir Alex's coins his now legendary phrase during
the 2003 title run-in against Arsenal*



**IN THE TUNNEL WENGER
WAS CRITICISING MY
PLAYERS, CALLING THEM
CHEATS, SO I TOLD HIM
TO LEAVE THEM ALONE
AND BEHAVE HIMSELF.
HE RAN AT ME WITH
HIS HANDS RAISED
SAYING 'WHAT DO YOU
WANT TO DO ABOUT
IT?' TO NOT APOLOGISE**



**FOR THE BEHAVIOUR
OF THE PLAYERS TO
ANOTHER MANAGER IS
UNTHINKABLE. IT'S A
DISGRACE, BUT I DON'T
EXPECT WENGER TO
EVER APOLOGISE, HE'S
THAT TYPE OF PERSON.**

*After the 'Battle of the Buffet'
at Arsenal, 2005*



**EVERYONE THINKS THEY
HAVE THE PRETTIEST
WIFE AT HOME.**

*Arsene Wenger, on Sir Alex's suggestion that
Manchester United played more attractive
football than Arsenal.*



LIVERPOOL



**A LOT OF MANAGERS
HAVE TO LEAVE HERE
CHOKING ON THEIR
OWN SICK, BITING THEIR
TONGUE, AFRAID TO
TELL THE TRUTH.**

*Furious about refereeing decisions at Anfield
after a 3-3 draw, 1988*



**YOU MIGHT AS WELL
TALK TO MY DAUGHTER,
YOU'LL GET MORE
SENSE OUT OF HER.**

*Kenny Dalglish offers his baby daughter
Lauren to respond to Sir Alex's claims
of referee bias at Anfield, 1988*



I THINK HE WAS AN
ANGRY MAN. HE MUST
HAVE BEEN DISTURBED
FOR SOME REASON. I
THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO
CUT THROUGH THE VENOM
OF IT AND HOPEFULLY
HE'LL REFLECT AND
UNDERSTAND WHAT HE
SAID WAS ABSOLUTELY
RIDICULOUS.

*Sir Alex's reaction to Rafael Benítez's
infamous 'facts' rant, 2009*



**WEIRD. I REALLY DON'T
KNOW WHAT HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT. HE'D
OBVIOUSLY WORKED
HIMSELF UP INTO
SOMETHING, BECAUSE
HE WAS READING IT OUT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on the Benitez 'facts' rant again



**I WOULD NEED TO
READ MORE OF FREUD
BEFORE I COULD REALLY
UNDERSTAND ALL THAT.**

More reaction to the 'facts' rant



**NOW YOU KNOW,
IT'S US AGAINST
THE WORLD BOYS.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson to the team after losing at
Liverpool, ending their chances of winning
the 1991/92. The Liverpool fans had
asked for the players' autographs and
torn them up in front of them*



**MY GREATEST
CHALLENGE IS NOT
WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT THE MOMENT, MY
GREATEST CHALLENGE
WAS KNOCKING
LIVERPOOL OFF THEIR
F**KING PERCH.**

Sir Alex on the 2002/03 title race



MIND GAMES



**WHEN WE WON THE
LEAGUE I CAME OUT OF
THE DRESSING ROOM
AND I SAID, 'I'VE WRITTEN
THREE NAMES PUT THEM
IN AN ENVELOPE - THOSE
ARE THE THREE PLAYERS
WHO ARE GOING TO LET
US DOWN NEXT SEASON.'**

*Mind games with his new
Premiership champions, 1993*



**BLACKBURN WILL
HAVE TO FINISH LIKE
DEVON LOCH TO GIVE
US ANY CHANCE.**

Sir Alex on the 1994/95 title race



**WHEN YOUR FORM GOES
AT THIS LATE STAGE OF
THE SEASON, YOU CAN'T
DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
... THE FACT WE ARE NOW
JUST TWO POINTS BEHIND
THEM IS ALSO GOING TO
MAKE IT ALL THE HARDER
PSYCHOLOGICALLY.**

*Sir Alex offers Blackburn some helpful
advice in the 1994/95 title race*



**I COULD NOT BE
WHOLLY SATISFIED
WITH WINNING THE
PREMIERSHIP IF MY
TEAM HAD PLAYED LIKE
BLACKBURN ROVERS
THIS SEASON.**

*Ferguson on Blackburn, who beat
Manchester United to the 1994/95 title*



**THEY RAISED THEIR
GAME BECAUSE
THEY WERE PLAYING
MANCHESTER UNITED. IT
WAS PATHETIC. I THINK
WE CAN ACCEPT ANY
CLUB COMING HERE AND
TRYING THEIR HARDEST
SO LONG AS THEY DO
IT EVERY WEEK.**

*Sir Alex on Leeds United, whose next opponents
were Keegan's Newcastle, 1996*



I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING,
HE WENT DOWN IN MY
ESTIMATION WHEN HE
SAID THAT. WE HAVE NOT
RESORTED TO THAT. BUT
I'LL TELL HIM NOW IF
HE'S WATCHING IT. WE'RE
STILL FIGHTING FOR THIS
TITLE ... AND I'LL TELL YOU
SOMETHING - I WILL LOVE IT
IF WE BEAT THEM, LOVE IT.

*Kevin Keegan responds to the mind games
live on Sky, 1996*



**FERGUSON
AGAINST THE
REST OF THE
WORLD**



**YOU SCUMBAG,
YOU RATBAG,
YOU DIRTY BASTARD!**

*Sir Alex Ferguson let's Feyenoord's
Paul Bosvelt knows what he thinks
of his tackle on Denis Irwin, 1997*



**I WOULD NOT
SELL THEM A VIRUS.**

*Sir Alex's reaction to the question was he selling
Cristiano Ronaldo to Real Madrid, 2008*



**I READ THAT SCOLARI
IS MORE EXPERIENCED
THAN ME. WHAT HAVE
I BEEN DOING FOR
THE LAST 34 YEARS?
I MUST HAVE MISSED
SOMETHING OR BEEN
ASLEEP SOMEWHERE.**

Taking Big Phil down a notch at Chelsea, 2008



**I ALWAYS REMEMBER THE
LOCAL MP COMPLAINING
ABOUT IT IN THE HOUSE
OF COMMONS. HE SAID
THE POTTERIES PUBLIC
WERE BEING DENIED THE
CHANCE TO SEE GREAT
PLAYERS.**

*Parliamentary questions about Sir Alex picking
'kids' for a 1994 League Cup tie v Port Vale.
The 'kids' in question were David Beckham,
Paul Scholes, Gary Neville and Nicky Butt*



**WE WILL NOT LET THIS
MAN DENY US THE TITLE.**

*On referee David Elleray sending
Denis Irwin off against Liverpool, 1999*



**THEY GOT HIM SENT OFF,
EVERYONE SPRINTED
TOWARDS THE REFEREE,
TYPICAL GERMANS.**

*On Rafael's sending against Bayern Munich
in the 2010 Champions League*



**WHEN AN ITALIAN SAYS
IT'S PASTA I CHECK
UNDER THE SAUCE TO
MAKE SURE. THEY ARE
INNOVATORS OF THE
SMOKESCREEN.**

Sir Alex before playing Inter Milan, 1999



**ALEX ACTED WITHIN
HOURS. IT WAS LIKE
FOUR TYRES BEING
PUNCTURED ON
THE SAME CAR.**

*Preston chairman Maurice Lindsay sacks
Sir Alex's son Darren as manager; Sir Alex
recalls his Manchester United loanees in response*



**JOSE IS VERY
INTELLIGENT, HE HAS
CHARISMA, HIS PLAYERS
PLAY FOR HIM, AND HE IS
A GOOD LOOKING GUY.
I THINK I HAVE MOST
OF THOSE THINGS,
TOO, APART FROM
HIS GOOD LOOKS.**

*On José Mourinho, talk to
Harvard Students 2012*



NOISY NEIGHBOURS



**THEY ARE A SMALL
CLUB, WITH A SMALL
MENTALITY. ALL THEY
CAN TALK ABOUT IS
MANCHESTER UNITED.**

On Manchester City, 2009



**SOMETIMES YOU HAVE A
NOISY NEIGHBOUR. YOU
CANNOT DO ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT. THEY WILL
ALWAYS BE NOISY. YOU
JUST HAVE TO GET ON
WITH YOUR LIFE, PUT
YOUR TELEVISION ON
AND TURN IT UP A
BIT LOUDER.**

On Manchester City, 2009



**THEY COULD BUY EVERY
PLAYER IN THE WORLD,
BUT CAN THEY BUY A
TEAM, CAN THEY BUY
A MANCHESTER UNITED
SPIRIT? ... THE PROBLEM
WITH ALL THAT MONEY
IS THAT YOU BUY
INDISCRIMINATELY.**



**SUNDERLAND IN THE
1950S, THE BANK
OF ENGLAND TEAM;
RELEGATED.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on Manchester City, 2010



MEDIA RELATIONS



**ON YOU GO. I'M NO
F**KING TALKING TO
YOU. HE'S A F**KING
GREAT PLAYER. YOUS
ARE F**KING IDIOTS.**

*Losing it in a press conference over criticisms
of Juan Sebastián Verón, 2002*



**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR
FIXTURES LIST? IF YOU
HAD, YOU WOULDN'T
EVEN ASK THAT
QUESTION. YOU HAVE NO
IDEA. NO IDEA AT ALL.
THAT'S IT, IT'S ALL OVER.
YOU CAN ALL F**K OFF,
THE LOT OF YOU.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson asked at a press conference why
he couldn't field a youth team in the FA Cup,
rather than withdrawing to play in the World
Club Competition, 1999*



**SOME OF THE EX-
PLAYER, EX-MANAGER
PUNDITS ARE THE
WORST. IT'S A DISGRACE
THE WAY THEY SIT
THERE CRITICISING GUYS
THEY USED TO PLAY
WITH, JUST TO MAKE
A BIT OF IMPACT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2009



YOU WANT A FKING
STORY AS USUAL ...
YOUR F**KING STUFF
IS A DISGRACE TO
JOURNALISM AND
YOU ARE. THE STUFF
YOU F**KING COME
OUT WITH ...**

*Sir Alex Ferguson takes a tabloid
journalist to task, 2002*



**I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I THINK THAT'LL DO
US THERE.**

*A brave talkSPORT journalist asks Sir Alex
Ferguson that if he puts the fear of God into
players, what scares him, 2009*



FERGUSON AND THE BBC



**JIMMY HILL IS VERBAL
WHEN IT SUITS HIM. IF
THERE'S A PRAT GOING
ABOUT IN THIS WORLD,
HE IS THE PRAT. HE
WRITES US OFF IN THE
WARM-UP, THAT'S HOW
MUCH HE KNOWS
ABOUT THE GAME.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson after Jimmy Hill
had criticised Eric Cantona, 1994*



**THE BBC ARE DYING FOR
US TO LOSE. EVERYONE
IS FROM LIVERPOOL
WITH A SUPPORTER'S
BADGE. THEY WILL BE
AT OUR GAMES EVERY
WEEK UNTIL WE LOSE,
THAT MOB, BOB, BARRY,
HANSEN - THE LOT
OF THEM.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on the BBC, 1994



**YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO
ASK ME THAT QUESTION
JOHN. YOU'RE OUT OF
ORDER ... YOU KNOW
FINE WELL MY RULING
ON THAT. RIGHT,
THAT'S THE INTERVIEW
FINISHED ... I'M GOING
TO CANCEL THAT
INTERVIEW, THE WHOLE
F**KING LOT OF IT.**



**CANCEL IT, RIGHT?
F**KING MAKE SURE
THAT DOES NOT
GO OUT, JOHN.**

*John Motson gets the hairdryer treatment after
asking a question Ferguson doesn't like, 1995*



**WHAT I'M DOING
WITH THE BBC ISN'T A
GRUDGE. IT'S A STANCE.**

On BBC dispute, 2008



PLAYERS



**IF HE WAS AN INCH
TALLER HE'D BE THE
BEST CENTRE-HALF IN
BRITAIN. HIS FATHER IS
6FT 2IN - I'D CHECK
THE MILKMAN.**

On Gary Neville



**I REMEMBER THE
FIRST TIME I SAW HIM.
HE WAS 13 AND JUST
FLOATED OVER THE
GROUND LIKE A COCKER
SPANIEL CHASING A
PIECE OF SILVER PAPER
IN THE WIND.**

On Ryan Giggs



**THAT LAD MUST HAVE
BEEN BORN OFFSIDE.**

On Filippo Inzaghi



**HE COULD START A ROW
IN AN EMPTY HOUSE.**

On Dennis Wise



**IT WAS AN INCIDENT
WHICH WAS FREAKISH.
IF I TRIED IT A HUNDRED
OR A MILLION TIMES IT
COULD NOT HAPPEN
AGAIN. IF I COULD,
I WOULD HAVE
CARRIED ON PLAYING.**

On the David Beckham boot incident, 2003



**YOU KNOW, HE TRIED
IT ABOUT TEN MINUTES
BEFORE HE SCORED AND
I SAID TO MY ASSISTANT
BRIAN KIDD, 'IF HE TRIES
THAT AGAIN, HE'S OFF'.**

On the Beckham wondergoal, 2008



**HIS LIFE CHANGED
WHEN HE MET HIS WIFE.
SHE'S IN POP AND DAVID
GOT ANOTHER IMAGE.
HE'D DEVELOPED THIS
'FASHION THING'.**

*Sir Alex on Victoria Beckham's
influence on her husband, 2003*



**HE LOOKED LIKE A
MANCHESTER UNITED
PLAYER AS SOON
AS I SAW HIM.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on Roy Keane, 1999



**IF THERE WAS EVER A
PLAYER IN THIS WORLD
WHO WAS MADE FOR
MANCHESTER UNITED,
IT WAS CANTONA.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**COURAGE IN FOOTBALL,
AS IN LIFE, COMES IN
MANY FORMS. THE
COURAGE TO CONTINUE,
NO MATTER HOW MANY
TIMES HE IS GOING TO
BE KICKED, IDENTIFIES
RONALDO.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



LETTING GO OF JAAP STAM. NO QUESTION.

Sir Alex Ferguson on his biggest mistake, 2009



**NOT GETTING GAZZA.
HE WAS A FABULOUS
FOOTBALLER AND HE
WOULD HAVE DONE
BRILLIANTLY HERE.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson on his
biggest disappointment, 2009*



**HE'S A ONE-OFF IN
TERMS OF THE MODERN
TYPE OF FRAGILE
PLAYER WE'RE GETTING
TODAY, COCOONED
BY THEIR AGENTS,
MOTHERS AND FATHERS,
PSYCHOLOGISTS,
WELFARE OFFICERS ...
HE'S A THROWBACK.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on Wayne Rooney, 2010



**I GOT A TEXT FROM
HIM LAST WEEK SAYING
'I MISS YOU SO MUCH'.
I'D TEXTED HIM TO SAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.**

Sir Alex Ferguson on Ronaldo, 2010



**HE SAID, 'GARTH
CROOKS AND I HAVE
AN UNDERSTANDING.'
I SAID, 'HAVE YOU?
AYE, IT'S A GOOD ONE.
HE'S SCORING GOALS
AND YOU'RE MESSING
AROUND IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE PARK.'**

*Sir Alex remembering giving
Steve Archibald it straight, 2010*



**I CAN JUST IMAGINE
HIM NOW, SITTING AT HIS
DESK WITH A MAP OF
GREATER MANCHESTER,
PLOTING OUR DRINKING
ROUTE, PUTTING IN PINS
WHEREVER WE'VE
BEEN SPOTTED.**

*Paul McGrath, News of the World interview
on leaving Manchester United*



**YOU AND WILLIE MILLER
ARE BLEEDING THE
CLUB DRY. I'LL GIVE YOU
ANOTHER FIVER A WEEK.**

*Alex McLeish attempts and fails to leave
Aberdeen for Tottenham, 1984*



**WE GOT A GREAT PIECE
OF LUCK WHEN WE
TOOK RYAN GIGGS FROM
MANCHESTER CITY ...
WE WERE UP AT RYAN'S
DOOR EVERY NIGHT
UNTIL HE SIGNED.**

Sir Alex Ferguson



**IT WAS ANIMAL
INSTINCT. I SMELLED
DANGER AFTER THE
FIRST WEMBLEY GAME.
I KNEW JIM HAD TO
BE DROPPED.**

*Replacing Jim Leighton with Les Sealey
for the 1990 FA Cup Final replay*



**SOMETIMES YOU LOOK
IN A FIELD AND YOU SEE
A COW AND THINK IT'S
A BETTER COW THAN
THE ONE YOU'VE GOT
IN YOUR OWN FIELD. IT
NEVER REALLY WORKS
OUT THAT WAY.**

Sir Alex on Wayne Rooney asking for a transfer



HE'S A F**KING
BIG-TIME CHARLIE.

Sir Alex on Phil Sney, 1998



**I OPENED SHARPEY'S
DOOR. I WAS HOLDING
A BECKS AND THERE
WAS NO ESCAPE.**

*Ryan Giggs on being caught red-handed
in party mode by Sir Alex Ferguson*



**OF ALL THE MANY
QUALITIES A GOOD
TEAM MUST POSSESS,
THE SUPREME ESSENTIAL
FOR ME IS PENETRATION.
AND ERIC BROUGHT
THE CAN-OPENER.**

On Eric Cantona



IF I WAS PUTTING
ROY KEANE OUT
THERE TO REPRESENT
MANCHESTER UNITED
ON A ONE AGAINST
ONE, WE'D WIN THE
DERBY, THE NATIONAL,
THE BOAT RACE AND
ANYTHING ELSE.

On Roy Keane



WINNING THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



**DEEP DOWN, I KNOW IT
WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
TO WIN THE LEAGUE,
THE CHAMPIONS' CUP
AND THE FA CUP.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 1997



**IF YOU LOSE, YOU'LL GO
UP TO COLLECT LOSERS'
MEDALS AND YOU'LL BE
SIX FEET AWAY FROM
THE EUROPEAN CUP.
BUT YOU WON'T BE
ABLE TO TOUCH IT.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson's half time team talk,
European Cup Final 1999*



CAN YOU FKING BELIEVE HIM!**

*On Peter Schmeichel as he went up for the
stoppage time corner in Barcelona, 1999*



**I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
FOOTBALL,
BLOODY HELL.**

*His now famous post-match interview after
the Champions League victory in 1999*



ON FERGUSON



**I HONESTLY THINK HE
WOULD GET UP IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
AND GO 300 MILES IN
THE CAR IF HE THOUGHT
THERE WAS A PLAYER
WORTH WATCHING,
SOMEONE HE COULD
SIGN FOR THE CLUB.**

Sir Bobby Charlton



THAT WAS THE ONE THING
ABOUT THE BOSS; IF WE
WERE DRAWING HE WAS
NOT HAPPY AND WOULD
MAKE A CHANGE TO TRY
AND WIN THE GAME. HE
WOULD NEVER SETTLE FOR
A POINT AND BECAUSE OF
THAT THE UNITED FANS
HAVE BECOME USED
TO WINNING.

Bryan Robson



**A FATHER FIGURE TO
ME FROM THE MOMENT
I ARRIVED AT THE CLUB
AT THE AGE OF 11 UNTIL
THE DAY I LEFT.**

David Beckham



**THAT WAS NOT A
FOOTBALL TEAM
WE MET. IT WAS AN
UNSTOPPABLE SPIRIT.**

*Alfredo Di Stéfano, manager of Real Madrid,
beaten by Ferguson's Aberdeen in the 1983
Cup Winners' Cup Final*



**THIS IS ONLY THE START.
HAVE YOU SEEN THEIR
YOUTH TEAM?**

David Pleat on Manchester United, 1992



DON'T YOU THINK HE'S WON ENOUGH ALREADY?

*Cathy Ferguson, on being asked by Alastair
Campbell about her husband being knighted*



ON FOOTBALL



**FOOTBALL IS LIKE
A DRUG WHICH IS
DIFFICULT TO GIVE UP.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**WINNING A TROPHY
DOESN'T REALLY MEAN
ANYTHING TO ME AFTER
IT'S GONE. AT THE
TIME IT'S THE MOST
TREASURED THING. BUT
AS SOON AS IT'S OVER,
IT'S SOON FORGOTTEN.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 1999



**FOOTBALL IS A HARD
GAME; THERE'S NO
DENYING IT. IT'S A GAME
THAT CAN BRING OUT
THE WORST IN YOU.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**THE LIST OF GENTLE,
NATURALLY RETIRING
MEN WHO HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR
ATTEMPTS AT RUNNING
CLUBS ISN'T A LONG
ONE, IS IT?**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



PELE, DI STEFANO, MARADONA, CRUYFF.

*Sir Alex Ferguson on the best players
he ever saw, 2009*



**WHEN I WENT TO
RANGERS, THE THOUGHT
IN MY MIND WAS,
'I AM GOING TO WIN
SOMETHING HERE ...'
I DIDN'T WIN A SAUSAGE.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2008



**PLAYERS THESE DAYS
HAVE LIVED MORE
SHELTERED LIVES, SO
THEY ARE MUCH MORE
FRAGILE NOW THAN
25 YEARS AGO.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, 2012



**THE WORST CRIME
IN THE GAME. IT'S
A COWARD'S WAY
OF PLAYING.**

On the use of elbows, 2002



THE END



RETIREMENT IS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Sir Alex Ferguson



**EVERY SINGLE ONE
OF US LOVES ALEX
FERGUSON.**

*On news of Alex Ferguson saying he was
retiring in 2001, United fans chanted this for
31 minutes during the match against Spurs*



**I WILL BE LEAVING
MANCHESTER UNITED
AT THE END OF THE
SEASON AND THAT IS IT.**

Sir Alex Ferguson, adamant in 2002



WE'VE DECIDED YOU'RE NOT RETIRING.

*Cathy Ferguson and her sons have a quiet family
chat with Sir Alex, 2002*



**EVERY SINGLE ONE
OF US LOVES CATHY
FERGUSON.**

*United fans on the news Sir Alex had decided
not to retire after all, chanting during
match against Charlton, 2002*



**IT WAS IMPORTANT
TO ME TO LEAVE AN
ORGANISATION IN THE
STRONGEST POSSIBLE
SHAPE AND I BELIEVE
I HAVE DONE SO.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson, announces
his retirement, 8 May 2013*



**TO THE FANS, THANK
YOU. IT HAS BEEN
AN HONOUR AND AN
ENORMOUS PRIVILEGE.**

*Sir Alex Ferguson, announces
his retirement, 8 May 2013*



**I DON'T KNOW HOW
WE ARE GOING TO MOVE
FORWARD. I'M 28, THAT'S
ALL I'VE KNOW ALL
MY LIFE - FERGIE. MY
BOSS SENT ME HOME,
I'M THAT BAD.**

*Troubled fan on radio phone-in, the day
Sir Alex announced his retirement*



**TWENTY-THREE YEARS
OF SILVER AND WE'RE
STILL TOP. TA-RA FERGIE**

Banner at Old Trafford, 12 May 2013

“FOOTBALL. BLOODY HELL.”

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