Sir Alex Ferguson has labelled Cristiano Ronaldo as the "special footballer" of his generation.

Ronaldo, watched by Ferguson, finally broke his trophy duck on the international stage, helping Portugal win Euro 2016 last Sunday.

The Real Madrid forward, , only lasted 25 minutes of the final, coming off injured following a strong challenge but re-appeared on the sidelines during extra-time to help rally his team-mates as they beat France 1-0 at the Stade de France.

And Ferguson, who brought Ronaldo to Old Trafford in 2003, insists it is the 31-year-old's desire to that makes him the best of his generation.

Sir Alex Ferguson insists Cristiano Ronaldo's desire sets him out from his contemporaries

"He has an incredible desire for football, Cristiano is looking forward to each workout," Ferguson told Bild. "He always wants to be better, to win. He especially loves these big games.

"During my time at Manchester United, Cristiano was the player who developed the most. Through much hard work.

"He constantly worked on his shooting technique, with the right, left, his heading ability, his bounce. His performance improvement is incredible. And what is remarkable, today's football is so athletic, so fast.