WHAT SANCHO’S ARRIVAL MEANS TO MAN UNITED

Mbappe tells Pochettino he wants to leave PSG

KANE POISED FOR £160M MAN CITY TRANSFER
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After weeks of speculations, Manchester United have finally signed England winger, Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund, the Premier League club announced Friday.

British media reports say Sancho had moved from Germany in a deal worth £73 million ($100 million) which would make him the second-most expensive English player of all time behind United team-mate Harry Maguire.

“I’ll always be grateful to Dortmund for giving me the opportunity to play first team football, although I always knew that I would return to England one day,” Sancho told manutd.com.

“The chance to join Manchester United is a dream come true and I just can’t wait to perform in the Premier League, “ the 21-year-old Sancho added.

His move to Old Trafford follows a year-long pursuit by United, who were reportedly put off at first by Dortmund’s £100m valuation of Sancho, a former Manchester City youth team player.

United finished second, 12 points behind rivals Manchester City, in last season’s Premier League. However, the Red Devils manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer expects his side to benefit from Sancho’s “untapped” talent as Sancho scored 50 goals and recorded 57 assists in his 137 appearances for Dortmund.

“Jadon epitomises the type of player I want to bring to the club, he is a forward player in the best traditions of Manchester United,” said Solskjaer.

“Sancho is blessed with quick feet, supreme balance and searing pace, Sancho unsettles defences and is a relentless attacking threat. Since the start of the 2018/19 campaign, Sancho has a combined goals and assists record of 78, which puts him in the top 10 across Europe’s leading divisions.

Sancho would supplement United’s attacking talents of Marcus Rashford, Edinson Cavani, Anthony Martial and Mason Greenwood. Ahead of Portuguese playmaker Bruno Fernandes, Sancho’s adaptability will offer United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer further flexibility in attacking areas, having shown his ability to perform numerous roles in the final third for Dortmund, where he has also played as a wing-back.

Sancho could easily have been content to patiently wait for his first-team chance at Manchester City. Instead, at the tender age of 17, the former Watford and City youngster ambitiously opted to move abroad and prove himself abroad.”

Here, we take a look at what qualities the 21-year-old will bring to Old Trafford.

Creativity

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Ambition

Sancho could easily have been content to patiently wait for his first-team chance at Manchester City. Instead, at the tender age of 17, the former Watford and City youngster ambitiously opted to move abroad and prove himself abroad. That drive has turned him into a Bundesliga star, England international and one of the most in-demand talents in world football.

Versatility

Man United already have plenty of potential in their ranks – it is sometimes easy to forget Rashford is himself only 23 and Greenwood still 19. Having turned 21 in March, time is very much on the side of Sancho to be a star performer at Old Trafford over the next decade.

Youthfulness

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When you look at Arsenal's immediate transfer priorities, a centre forward appears to be relatively low down the list.

In Alexandre Lacazette, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Eddie Nketiah, Folarin Balogun and Gabriel Martinelli the Gunners currently have five players capable of playing in the position.

Finding a central attacking midfielder to complement Emile Smith Rowe, a goalkeeper to play back up to Bernd Leno and an experienced central midfielder to bolster numbers in the middle of the park and replace Granit Xhaka would instead seem like more pressing concerns.

So why then are they reportedly considering a move for Chelsea’s Tammy Abraham?

The short answer is that Mikel Arteta doesn’t feel any of the aforementioned options are capable of meeting his requirements for the centre forward position.

In a press conference in May, Aubameyang elaborated a little on what exactly these are.

"As a centre forward I try to be more involved in the game because the coach is expecting from our number nine to give some solutions to play during the game," the 31-year-old said.

In other words the Spaniard wants a striker capable of dropping deep to link the play, creating space for his teammates around him to exploit.

If we look at Lacazette’s performances last season there is clear evidence of that.

The Frenchman played more games than anyone else as Arsenal’s ‘number nine’ so we can assume this is because Arteta feels he is best at interpreting this role.

Abraham is also a player who has shown himself to be capable of doing this. He is tall and has a decent physicality making him an ideal candidate to receive the ball facing the play.

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HERE ARE TOP 10 BIGGEST FOOTBALL AGENTS

Football has become more than just 22 men chasing after a ball on a pitch. With massive deals being signed and huge money in the game, clubs have been equipped with enormous amounts to invest in world class names.

Being a good football talent is not enough to strike a mega deal, until you have a good agent.

As money has infiltrated the world game, agents have become more and more influential, helping their players earn big-money contracts and moves.

Here, we rank the biggest football agents in 2021.

**Jorge Mendes**

Jorge Mendes is the most powerful football agent in football right now. He manages some of the biggest football players and coaches.

His net worth is said to be over $1 billion. Mendes has overseen most of the most expensive transfers in the premier league. He manages coach Jose Mourinho, who is also this fellow countryman. Mendes is the soccer agent for many of Portugal’s top soccer stars too.


Coaches Managed: Nuno Espirito Santo, and Jose Mourinho.

**Jonathan Barnett**

Jonathan Barnett, an Englishman and top soccer agent has managed the careers of most of England’s biggest football names. He is known for negotiating top deals and record-breaking transfers. Barnett was responsible for the ‘Pogback’ deal which saw Paul Pogba return to Manchester United for hundreds of millions of pounds. He constantly moves his players to big clubs in Europe. He was responsible for Romelu Lukaku’s move to Inter Milan from United.

Players Managed: Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Paul Pogba, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Mario Balotelli, Romelu Lukaku, Xavi Simons, Erling Haaland, Matthijs de Ligt, Marco Verratti, Jesse Lingard, Blaise Matuidi, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Moise Kean, Lorenzo Insigne, and Donny Malen.

**Paul Stretford**

Paul Stretford is a top English football agent. He is known to have discovered Wayne Rooney and is also his stepfather. Paul Stratford’s career has been full of controversy and embroiled with legal issues. He is popular for having represented Andy Cole and Wayne Rooney. He now represents Harry Maguire.

**Volker Struth**

Volker Struth is a top German soccer agent associated with Sportsotal football agency. He is a respect-
Pere Guardiola

Pere Guardiola is a brother to Manchester City's head coach Pep Guardiola. He is a co-owner of Media Base Sports Agency.

In 2017, it was reported that Pere Guardiola had purchased part ownership of Spanish Club FC Girona, along with Manchester City.

Pere Guardiola is distinguished as one of the best football agents in the world. He brokered the transfer of Luis Suarez to Barcelona. He also manages his brother's coaching career.

Players Managed: Luis Suarez, Isaac Cuénta, Hector Bellerín, Andres Iniesta and Thiago Alcântara.

Jose Otin

Jose Otin is the founder and president of Spanish football agency Bahía International. Jose Otin is responsible for the transfers of many Spanish players to the Premier League.

Players Managed: Daniel Pacheco, Fernando Torres, Pedro, Javi Martínez, and Jesus Navas.

Giuliano Bertolucci

Giuliano Bertolucci is the agent who manages many Brazilian players; he has brokered the deals involving so Brazilian football players. He was responsible for the signing of most of the Brazilian players who signed for Chelsea football club, including Lucas Piazon, Ramires, Oscar, Willian, Nathan, David Luiz (twice). He is associated with a company called Euro Export Assessoria e Propaganda Ltd. He usually works with Kiah Joorabchian.

Players Managed: Paulinho, Marquinhos, David Luiz, Oscar, Willian, Juan Jesus.

Simon Bayliff

Simon Bayliff is a top football agent that has managed many of England's greatest soccer stars.

Players Managed: David Beckham, Michael Owen, and Jack Wilshere.

Pinhas Zahavi

Pinhas Zahavi, a top Israeli football agent. Zahavi is known for his ties with Chelsea football club. He was the agent responsible for the sale of Chelsea to current owner Roman Abramovich in 2003 and the sale of Portsmouth to Alexandre Gaydamak in 2006.

Zahavi was also the agent who was in charge of record-breaking transfer of Rio Ferdinand from Leeds United to Manchester United for £30 million. He also played a role in Neymar's move to PSG.

Players Managed: Javier Mascherano, Carlos Tevez, Rio Ferdinand, Yakubu Aiyegbeni, and recently Robert Lewandowski.
New Manchester United signing, Jadon Sancho, says he wants to help bring trophies back to Old Trafford after joining the English football giants from Germany’s Borussia Dortmund in a deal worth a reported £73 million ($100 million).

The 21-year-old England international, a former Manchester City youth player, has signed a five-year contract, with the option of a further year.

United have not won a trophy since the 2017 Europa League, with their last Premier League title success in celebrated manager Alex Ferguson’s final season before retirement eight years ago.

“It’s an honour,” Sancho told manutd.com of joining the Red Devils.

“Growing up, Manchester United was one of the biggest clubs that everyone knows, and of course there are also all the trophies they have won.

“That’s one of the reasons why I came to Manchester, because I can see the development that’s going on here and I want to be a part of it, especially because it’s such an iconic club and being part of it is a dream come true.”

Unlike many young English players, Sancho decided to advance his career by moving abroad, joining Dortmund as a 17-year-old after failing to break into Manchester City’s first team.

And the gifted forward was in no doubt about the impact four years in the Bundesliga, which also included playing in the Champions League, had had on his development.

“It helped me grow as a player and I had the experience of playing in the Champions League and getting the feel of big games,” Sancho said.

“I feel like I did well in those big games and now I’m ready for a new challenge and a bigger step.

“I’m eager to win and determined to get trophies. Goals and assists and skills here and there,” he added.

Sancho’s move to Old Trafford follows a lengthy pursuit by United, who were reportedly put off by Dortmund’s initial £100m valuation.

The deal was announced just weeks after Sancho, together with new United teammate Marcus Rashford and Bukayo Saka, received racist abuse following the trio’s penalty shoot-out misses in England’s Euro 2020 final loss to Italy at Wembley.

Man United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, describing Sancho as an “untapped talent,” was delighted to have got his man.

“We’ve followed him for a long time and decided to go for him and finally we made the breakthrough and got the deal done,” he said.

“We think his qualities will fit right in here at Man United. There is some untapped talent there I am sure, and coming into this environment will help him improve as well.”

“Jadon is a signing that we expect to stay at Man United for many, many years, so it’s also that part of it that we have a young, up-and-coming forward line.”

Solskjaer, himself a former United striker, guided the club to a second-place finish in last season’s Premier League, a huge 12 points behind champions Manchester City.

However, the Norwegian believes Sancho can help bring silverware back to Old Trafford.

“He’s got that DNA of exciting fans and entertaining and he’s also a winner,” Solskjaer said.

“He wants to win and that’s the next step for us. We need to take the next step, we want to take the next step and we feel that he can help us do that.”
The AS Roma Academy, Abuja has appointed former Golden Eagles and Flying Eagles of Nigeria’s coach, John Obuh as Technical Director.

The academy made this known, in a statement on Monday in Ilorin, by its Country Manager, Robinson Adakosa.

AS Roma is an Italian professional football club based in Rome. It was founded in 1927 and has since participated in the top-tier Italian football for all of its existence, except for the 1951–52 Season.

Roma won Serie A titles in 1941–42, 1982–83 and 2000–01 seasons, as well as nine Coppa Italia titles and two Supercoppa Italiana titles.

In European competitions, Roma won the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1960–61 Season and were runners-up in the 1983–84 European Cup and the 1990–91 UEFA Cup.

Adakosa said the academy was delighted to start a new chapter with Obuh because of his wealth of experience.

“It was easy for us to pick Obuh among numerous candidates for the job because we believe he possessed the quality to drive the vision of our academy.

“The kids and other staff will have a lot to learn from him because we believe that he has seen it all as far as football is concerned, not only in Nigeria but globally.

“We believe that this new step is a bold statement that AS Roma Academy, Abuja, is here to source for young football talents,” Adakosa said.

Adakosa said AS Roma Academy, Abuja was currently open for trials as well as enrollment into the academy.

Obuh, born in Ohafia Local Government area of Abia State, has more than 20 years coaching experience.

He was the coach of the Flying Eagles of Nigeria between 2010 and 2013.

He nurtured the Golden Eagles to win the FIFA Fair Play Award at the 2009 U-17 World Cup, where Nigeria finished 2nd behind Switzerland.

Obuh won the 2010 WAFU Club Championship with Sharks FC of Port Harcourt.

The former Kwara United FC of Ilorin gaffer, also managed Akwa United FC of Uyo, Niger Tornadoes FC of Minna and Enugu Rangers in Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL), among others.

He had stints with Abiola Babes, Julius Berger, Enyimba International FC of Aba, Udoji United, among others, as a player.

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Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has signed a new contract with the club until 2024, with the option of a further year.

Solskjaer, former Man United striker initially stepped in as caretaker boss at Old Trafford in December 2018, replacing Jose Mourinho.

After leading United to 14 wins from 19 matches, Solskjaer was rewarded with a three-year contract in 2019, which was set to expire at the end of the 2021/22 season.

Solskjaer led the club to a third-place Premier League finish in his first full season in charge. United finished second in the table last season and also reached the final of the Europa League, where they were beaten on penalties by La Liga side Villarreal.

Solskjaer, who spent 11 seasons as a Manchester United player, said the club would go from strength to strength under his stewardship.

"Everyone knows the feeling I have for this club, and I am delighted to have signed this new contract," he said.

"It is an exciting time for Manchester United, we have built a squad with a good balance of youth and experienced players that are hungry for success.

"I have a fantastic coaching team around me, and we are all ready to take that next step on our journey. Manchester United wants to be winning the biggest and best trophies and that’s what we are all striving for. We have improved, both on and off the pitch, and that will continue over the coming seasons.

"I can’t wait to get out in front of a packed Old Trafford and get this campaign started."

United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward added: "Ole and his staff have worked tirelessly putting the foundations in place for long-term success on the pitch.

"The results of that have become increasingly visible over the past two seasons and we are all looking forward to seeing this exciting team develop further in the years ahead.

"What is especially pleasing is the way this progress has been achieved with a blend of young, homegrown talent and top-class recruits, playing attacking football in the best traditions of Manchester United. We are more confident than ever that, under Ole’s leadership, we are heading in the right direction."

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Kylian Mbappe has told Mauricio Pochettino that he has no desire to extend his Paris Saint-Germain contract beyond the end of this season, according to reports. The 22-year-old has just one year left on his deal at the Parc des Princes having scored 132 goals in 171 appearances since moving to the French capital from Monaco in 2017.

Mbappe has only just returned from pre-season having been handed an extended break following his international exploits with France at Euro 2020 this summer. But according to Spanish news outlet Marca, the forward has informed his manager Pochettino that he does not want to extend his contract with the club, though Mbappe will not force a move away from PSG.

The report adds that Real Madrid are waiting in the wings to find the perfect opportunity to sign Mbappe, after their patience paid off in snapping up David Alaba on a free transfer from Bayern Munich this summer.

PSG now face a dilemma regarding whether to hang onto Mbappe this season and risk losing him free next year, or simply cash in on the player in the current transfer window.

The French club have been trying to build a world-class squad around Mbappe this summer, adding the likes of Sergio Ramos, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Achraf Hakimi and Georginio Wijnaldum to the Ligue 1 giants' squad.

Pochettino and Co were boosted when Brazilian talisman Neymar signed a new three-year contract at the beginning of May and were confident that Mbappe could join his fellow attacker in penning a new extension. But Mbappe revealed before the Euro 2020 campaign with France, which saw him miss a penalty in the last-16 shootout defeat to Switzerland which signalled Les Bleus' exit from the competition, that he was undecided on his future.

When asked about his club future at the beginning of June, the 22-year-old said: "I don't necessarily need to go fast. I have to make the right decision, which is difficult, and give myself every chance to make up my mind. "I am in a place where I like myself, where I feel good. But is this the best place for me? I don't have the answer yet. I know that a project with or without me is not quite the same for the club. "But PSG understand my feelings. Probably also because they know that I will not sneak."

Meanwhile, new PSG defender Ramos - who moved on a free transfer from the Spanish giants earlier this summer - revealed he wants Mbappe to stay in the French capital, though maintained he needs to join Real Madrid one day.

Barcelona and Neymar settle legal battle over PSG move

FC Barcelona has announced that they have settled the legal case with former player Neymar out of court. The Brazilian winger left Barcelona in the summer of 2017 on a record-breaking €222 million transfer.

After leaving the club in 2017, Neymar claimed that he owed an unpaid signing bonus from Barcelona. However, now the case is settled out of court in an amicable fashion.

Barcelona said in a statement "it has ended out of court in amicable fashion the various labor and civil litigation cases that were open with the Brazilian player." The club did not release details, saying only that the settlement involved three labor disputes and a civil case.

The two parties had sued each other over matters related to his contract. Spanish media said the club were demanding more than 16 million euros ($19 million) from the player, while Neymar wanted Barcelona to pay him nearly 50 million euros ($59 million).

The club said "a transactional agreement between the club and the player has been signed" to end the legal cases.


The shock move to the French club from the Catalan giants sparked a legal dispute over his contract, which he had renewed just a year before jumping over to Ligue 1. He had been contracted with Barcelona until 2021.

Neymar filed a lawsuit of his own demanding his contract renewal bonus, which the club withheld due to his departure.

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