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Premiership Highs and Lows – Manchester United Football Club

By Chris Towland

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Most fans of English football and the Premiership in particular would agree that Manchester United have certainly had their share of 'Highs' in the twelve seasons since the Premiership began and what would be considered a 'Low' by Utd fans (such as finishing third behind Arsenal and Chelsea) would in fact be considered a significant 'High' by most other clubs!

Here are what I consider to be some of Manchester United's major highs and lows since the inaugural Premiership season kicked off in 1992:

***** Highs *****

Out of a total of just twelve seasons, Man. United have lifted the Premiership trophy no less than eight times and a particular high was taking the title in the very first Premiership season.

United have achieved the Premiership and F.A. Cup 'double' three times in 1994, 1996 and in 1999.

They have won more Premiership games, won more points and suffered less defeats than any other team in the league.

Manchester United have scored the greatest number of goals overall since the Premiership began and in fact also hold the record for the most goals scored in a single season: 97 scored in 1999–2000.

United also hold the record for the highest number of goals in a Premiership game which they achieved in March 1995 with a 9–0 victory against Ipswich a game where Andy Cole scored five of the goals.

***** Lows *****

One recent major low for Manchester United came at the end of the 2003–2004 season when they not only finished outside of the top two (a full fifteen points behind the winners Arsenal) but also equaled their lowest ever points total for a season.

How many can forget Frenchman Eric Cantona's infamous flying kung fu attack on a fan at Crystal palace in 1995? His kick may have looked at home in a Bruce Lee film but it earned him an eight month suspension which many consider was a major factor in United losing the title that season to Blackburn Rovers.

In 2003 there were two major lows for Manchester United:

The first was David Beckham leaving to join Real Madrid. His £25 million transfer fee was good for the United coffers but not so good for the team as there was no suitable replacement waiting to step into

his shoes.

The second was defender Rio Ferdinand, the record £30 million signing from Leeds United, being banned for eight months for missing a routine drugs test.

For anyone interested in a very detailed, month by month view of Manchester United's twelve years in the Premiership, I fully recommend 'The Breedon Book of Premiership Records' by Breedon Books which is available from their website at:

<http://www.breedonbooks.co.uk/publications/1859834191.html>

Chris Towland

Chris is the webmaster of www.football-nut.co.uk where he challenges you to prove your football knowledge and win prizes in the free monthly football quiz and prize draw. The Football–Nut website also contains up–to–the–minute news for all of the major UK football clubs.

Did you know?? – Arsenal Football Club

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Everyone with an interest in English football knows that this season's UK Premiership winners were Arsenal Football Club but how many know how the club started or what it was first called?

When it was originally formed in 1886, the club had very humble beginnings as a departmental team at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich. Most of the players were workers in a department

at the Royal Arsenal called 'Dial Square' and so they decided on an appropriate name for themselves which was 'Dial Square FC'.

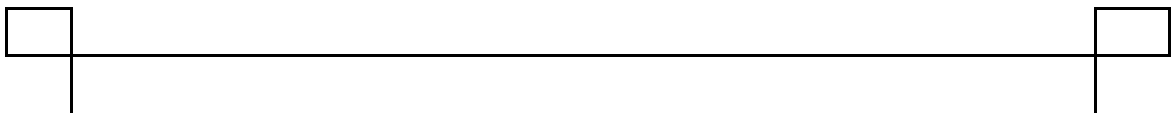
They later changed their name to Royal Armoury and eventually, just before World War One, when they moved to their current home at Highbury, the name was changed simply to Arsenal which is how we know the great team of today.

For anyone who is interested in learning more about the incredible history of The Gunners I would recommend a book called 'The Arsenal Collection' which is available direct from it's publisher Breedon Books at:
<http://www.breedonbooks.co.uk/publications/185983390X.html>

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