

Sánchez sets up two goals

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Yeovil Town

0

Manchester United

4

Rashford 41, Herrera 61, Lingard 65, Lukaku 90+1

Fourth round

José Mourinho celebrated his 55th birthday, his 100th game in charge of Manchester United, and the arrival of a new force in Alexis Sánchez, who showed the fluidity and urgency he can bring to his new employers.

Sánchez, legs pumping like pistons, carrying him all over Huish Park, created six chances, and was heavily involved in the goals for Marcus Rashford and Ander Herrera. Also uplifting for Mourinho was Michael Carrick bringing composure and vision to central midfield, and a thrilling late cameo from Angel Gomes against Yeovil Town, who lacked nothing in heart but were simply outclassed.

For 40 minutes, League Two had resisted Premier League. For 40 minutes, Sánchez's influence was kept at bay but his persistence brought reward, creating Rashford's goal, quietening Yeovil's passionate fans for the first time. Linen cupboards had clearly been raided by Yeovil fans, sheets requisitioned and transformed into banners hanging by the entrance to Huish Park beseeching Darren Way and his players to "do us proud, lads", "go out there and do something remarkable" and "dare to dream".

Yeovil had certainly started as if they believed an upset was possible, tearing into the visiting team, and they were so close to parity at half-time until Sánchez's pass, and Rashford's goal in front of the Thatchers Gold stand terrace. The locals arrived early and loudly, filling that end 90 minutes before kick-off as the FA Cup came to town. Outside, kids hung around the broadcast trucks, looking to get selfies with Gary Lineker and Jermaine Jenas. The night's narrative was enhanced further when the 2,176 Manchester United fans filtering into the Copse Road End saw Sánchez emerging to make his debut and Carrick returning after his heart scare.

"It's Carrick you know, it's hard to believe it's not Scholes," they sang, giving him the ultimate in praise. For United's last game, at Turf Moor, Carrick had been in with the away fans. Now he was captaining the side on his 461st club appearance, taking him level with Bryan Robson and only nine games behind George Best.

Making his first appearance since September 20, Carrick settled back in, calmly chesting the ball down and popping it off left to Luke Shaw but he was a rare unhurried figure as United were placed under frequent pressure. Marcos Rojo writhed on the ground after a late challenge from Francois Zoko, earning the Yeovil captain a booking. Sánchez was being hounded by the Yeovil players, and the target of pantomime booing from the home fans. "A proper Somerset reception," Yeovil tweeted.

Jordan Green's pace was troubling United, especially Matteo Darmian, and the winger soon cut in from the left, and only Sergio Romero's positioning, and save with his legs, rescued Mourinho's side. United resisted the early storm and began threatening, especially when the ball was at the busy feet of Sánchez. Starting on the left, the Chilean clearly had a licence to roam, occasionally drifting right to link with Juan Mata and Herrera as they plotted a

path to release Rashford, the lone striker. It was to work just before the break.

As the tie passed the 20th minute, United moved up a gear. Mata and Sánchez combined and Rashford sped down the inside-left corridor but Artur Krysiak, the Polish goalkeeper, saw out the danger. Mata and Sánchez then hooked up promisingly again, and Krysiak did superbly to push away Scott McTominay's strike.

Sánchez's class was beginning to show and Yeovil resorted to forceful measures to halt him. Nathan Smith took Sánchez out with a challenge that was agricultural with added subsidies. It takes more than an old-school reducer to silence Sánchez. United's new No7 took the free kick, but it lacked sufficient pace to trouble the excellent Krysiak. Yeovil then had a far more menacing free kick, after a Carrick foul. Tom James, breaking off from trying to patrol Sánchez, took the free kick, forcing Romero to a punched save.

Yeovil were four minutes from the break, with their fans reflecting on their defensive security. But then they dithered, fatally against such elite attackers as Sánchez and Rashford. United broke quickly through the middle, Rashford passing to Sánchez, and then continuing his run. Sánchez's hunger for the ball had been one of the main features of the first half, even when he lost it, he chased it back. His pass back to Rashford invited the England international to run at the heart of Yeovil's backpedalling defence.

James and Smith appeared to have the situation under control, shepherding the ball back towards Krysiak, but for some reason James paused, and that split second was all a livewire like Rashford required. He latched on to the ball and lifted it over Krysiak.

Sánchez continued to be targeted by Yeovil, and Omar Sowunmi was booked for a dangerous challenge. Way tried to provide United a test, sending on Rhys Browne for Jared Bird, but the visitors were in control. Mata swung a marvellous pass from right to left, Herrera did some neat juggling and this confidence was soon reflected by the scoreboard.

Just after the hour mark, United again broke swiftly, Mata playing the catalyst before Sánchez guided Herrera down the inside-left channel and the Spaniard finished with a firm drive past Krysiak. Herrera celebrated with a knee slide towards the United fans, marking his 150th appearance for United in style.

If Yeovil expected United to ease up, they can hardly have been overjoyed to see a merciless Mourinho sending on Romelu Lukaku to replace Mata. Signs of United's class were seen time and again. Carrick swept the ball first time 50 yards to Sánchez on the left. Sánchez then picked out Rashford with a backheel. "If Sánchez scores, we're on the pitch," chorused the United fans. But Sánchez was withdrawn with 20 minutes remaining, warmly applauded by the visiting supporters for a fine debut. Jesse Lingard came on. And made it 3-0 at the death, charging through and finishing in style, before Lukaku added the fourth.

Yeovil Town (4-4-2): A Krysiak — R Dickson, O Sowunmi, N Smith, T James — J Green (sub: A Fisher 69min), L Wing (sub: C Smith 83), J Bird (sub: R Browne 56), J Gray — F Zoko, S Surridge. **Substitutes not used:** J Maddison, C Whelan, O Goben, A Santos. **Booked:** Zoko, Smith, Sowunmi.
Manchester United (4-3-3): S Romero — M Darmian, V Lindelof, M Rojo, L Shaw — M Carrick, A Herrera, S McTominay — J Mata (sub: R Lukaku 65), M Rashford (sub: A Gomes 88), A Sánchez (sub: J Lingard 72). **Substitutes not used:** J Pereira, C Smalling, N Matic, A Young. **Booked:** McTominay.
Referee: P Tierney.
Attendance: 9,195.

How new signing's night unfolded

6.45pm
Centre of attention as he leaves the team bus



31min
Clattered by late challenge from Yeovil's Nathan Smith



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Chilean facing strike on record after missing drug test when sealing transfer

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Alexis Sánchez is facing a "missed-test strike" despite Arsène Wenger's admission that Arsenal were at fault for their former player being absent when drug-testers visited their training ground.

The 29-year-old missed the arrival of doping control officers on Monday because he was completing his transfer to Manchester United.

However, Sánchez still had a respon-

sibility to inform the FA of his whereabouts. It is understood that he has been contacted and asked for his observations and he could receive a strike on his record — two more of those within the space of a year and he would be liable to a minimum 12-month ban.

The FA would have to decide if the saga surrounding his move to United — and having a medical on that day — is sufficient excuse for not registering his location. Its rules, however, are quite