

DEAR FOOTBALL FANS

BY DFF STUDIO / THE BEAUTIFUL GAME. THE UGLY DRAMA. THE GLORIOUS BANTER.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE / MATCHDAY 3 / THE ROUNDUP

NEW MANAGER. SAME MACHINE.

Dear Football Fans, Mourinho left the receipts. Carrick inherited the repair bill. Como charged United four. Another rebuild, another demolition: at what point does the project need a manager - and at what point does the manager need rescuing?

Mourinho's 2018 football heritage speech concerned what a manager inherits. Eight years later, United's past still looks better than their present. Is Carrick fixing the machine, or just standing beside it while it prints apologies?



02 / COMO / MANCHESTER UNITED

ALL THAT TALK. NO GUARD.

Como 4-1 Manchester United. Nico Paz scored twice; Douvikas and Ramon joined in. Zirkzee's stoppage-time goal was less a comeback than proof of attendance.

United brought a museum brochure to a boxing match. Four punches later, the badge was still doing more work than the team. Carrick cannot coach the trophy cabinet onto the pitch. Where is the improvement?

03 / PARIS / LIVERPOOL

PARIS PARTY. ANFIELD PANIC.

PSG 4-2 Barcelona. Paris supplied the reality check; Barca supplied enough defensive space for a second duty-free shop.

Liverpool 4-3 Villarreal. Mac Allister scored twice. Liverpool treat clean sheets like terms and conditions: available, rarely read.

04 / ARSENAL / INTER

RICE SPOILS THE RECEIPT.

Bayern 2-2 Arsenal. Rice equalised in the 82nd minute after Kane's penalty had put Bayern ahead. The victory speech went back into drafts.

Inter 1-0 Shakhtar. Bastoni saw red; Carlos Augusto then scored. Ten men, three points. United might want to borrow the manual.

05 / MADRID / CITY / MORE

MADRID FOUR. CITY FIVE.

Real Madrid 4-1 Leipzig: Madrid handed out four; United collected four. Same competition, different departments.

City 5-1 AEK: Foden's hat-trick, Haaland unused. The goals department has excellent holiday cover.

Dortmund won 2-1 at Sabah; Stuttgart and Atletico drew 1-1.

NEXT UP / THE GROUP CHAT IS OPEN.

FAN COURT: Carrick in or Carrick out? If you are backing him, name the improvement. If you want him gone, name the replacement. 'Anyone' is not a manager; it is a cry for help.

Jade Cole's verdict: Criticise the football, test the plan, demand evidence. United cannot keep paying for tomorrow while getting embarrassed today.