



The worst Premier League seasons in Manchester United history as Red Devils stare down new record

There's been some new lows for the Red Devils of late.

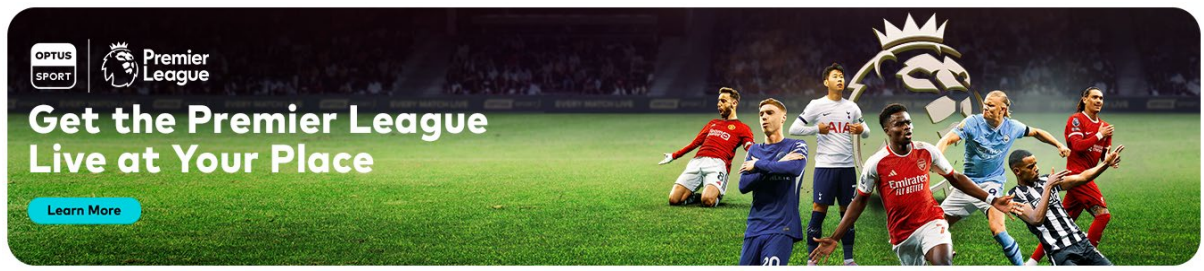
By Kristy Williams
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Regardless of their results for the rest of the season, Manchester United are about to record their worst season in the Premier League era - such is the level the once-proud club has sunk to.

The Red Devils are currently a long way from the club that won 13 Premier League titles under Sir Alex Ferguson; they sit 16th after 37 games on 39 points, a truly staggering season considering they have reached the Europa League final!

They have struggled significantly since he retired and left the club, rotating through managers like a regulation substitution.

Here are the worst Manchester United seasons in the Premier League era...



2024/25 - Season from hell on and off the pitch

- Position: 15th
- Points: 42
- Goal difference: -10
- Leading scorer: Amad Diallo/Bruno Fernandes (8)

Erik Ten Hag only lasted until October, as he was sacked after a defeat to West Ham.

By that time, Manchester United had only won three games, and they won just 11 overall as they shattered all of the wrong records in a season from hell.

Ruben Amorim came in, but struggled greatly to implement his philosophy on a squad that was ill suited to his style of play.

Off the field, Sir Jim Ratcliffe came more unpopular as he took cost cutting measures to help the financial situation of the club, and fan discontent reached its peak towards the end of the season, as the once proud club slumped to new depths.

2021/22 - Ronaldo can't rescue Red Devils

- Position: 6th
- Points: 58
- Goal difference: 0
- Leading scorer: Cristiano Ronaldo (18)

A season that saw three managers spend time at the helm, this became Manchester United's fifth trophy-less season in a row; the longest run without one since 1974.

Cristiano Ronaldo re-joined the club from Juventus in the summer transfer window for AU\$26.8 million, while an astonishing AU\$150m was shelled out for Dortmund's Jadon Sancho - a move that is still hurting the club. A further AU\$80m was also spent for Raphael Varane to come over from Real Madrid.

The Red Devils got off to a disastrous start under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, with the club legend sacked in November after the club slipped to seventh, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea, winning just one of their last seven games.

It didn't get any better from there under interim manager Ralf Rangnick, with the prevailing sentiment from many fans simply relief the worst season in the club's history was over - at great transfer expense, too.

Just which United team would turn up on a given day was a mystery to every fan, but the lowlight undoubtedly came in 5-0 and 4-0 losses to Liverpool, when the Red Devils were humbled and Jurgen Klopp's side looked like they were running a training drill.

Ronaldo, despite scoring a team-high 18 goals, spent much of the season unhappy, or on the bench (or both), with current captain Bruno Fernandes the only other consistent threat in attack as Sancho, Marcus Rashford, Paul Pogba and Fred lacked any sort of cohesion.

Until now, this was the lowest the club had sunk in the Premier League era, and many fans could not imagine it could get any worse.

2023/24 - Wheels fall off under Ten Hag

- Position: 8th
- Points: 69
- Goal difference: -1
- Leading scorer: Rasmus Hojlund/Bruno Fernandes (10)

The lowest United had finished since 1990; injuries, expensive transfer mistakes and a lack of any clear style or identity under Erik ten Hag made this the darkest time many Red Devils fans had ever experienced.

Losses to Crystal Palace, Brighton, Spurs, Arsenal and City came in the opening two months of the season, with former United striker Danny Welbeck's winning goal for the Seagulls at Old Trafford a particular low-point.

That strike ended a 31-game unbeaten run at Old Trafford, and it's a home dominance that hasn't returned since.

Ten Hag insisted he wanted his side to go more direct, and it was a calamitous decision as the midfield and forward lines failed to ever really get on the same page; though in fairness injury did ravage the squad for much of the season.

The fact no player scored more than 10 goals in the league showed just how disjointed Ten Hag's side was in attack, and the fact United ended the season with the second-most shots conceded highlight how the wide-open midfield left their defence far too exposed.

Once again Manchester United fans thought it couldn't get any worse. Sadly, they were wrong.

2013/14 - The first season without Ferguson

- Position: 7th

- Points: 64
- Goal difference: +21
- Leading scorer: Wayne Rooney (17)

The most storied period in the club's history was over, with David Moyes handed the keys to the United Ferrari after 27 brilliant years under Sir Alex Ferguson.

In many ways the only way Moyes could have possibly got the tick of approval from fans was winning the league or multiple cups; but what followed was the club's worst finish in the Premier League era (at the time).

Juan Mata (AU\$74m) and Marouane Fellaini (AU\$55m) joined the club in the summer transfer window, while the curtain came down on Ryan Giggs' incredible 672-game, 35-trophy career at Old Trafford following this season, a ignominious end of sorts given all he achieved.

The season got off to a bad start when United failed to sign almost all of the players linked to them in the transfer window, and that was then compounded by losses to Liverpool, Manchester City and West Bromw in the opening month of the season.

The defence, led by ageing captain Nemanja Vidic, just could not hold on long enough in some games to take advantage of a Wayne Rooney-led attack, with losses to teams like Stoke, Sunderland, Everton and Spurs highlighting just how far the club had fallen.

The one shining light was the season of wonder kid Adnan Januzaj, though his career has never kicked on since looking like one of the world's brightest talents.

If the league wasn't bad enough, United were knocked out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle by Swansea, before being bundled out of the League Cup by Sunderland.

Moyes was sacked in April, thus securing the record for what was then the shortest managerial stint in the club's history.