

The Emirates FA Cup Semi-Final

SF

**BACK TO
THE FUTURE**

BRYAN ROBSON, GARY BAILEY
AND ARTHUR ALBISTON ON
BEATING BRIGHTON IN '83

EXCLUSIVE

MARCEL
SABITZER

THE MIDFIELD DYNAMO
BRINGING A CONFIDENT
MINDSET TO THE
'HOME OF FOOTBALL'

+

ten HAG

IN PURSUIT OF A FIRST
DOMESTIC CUP DOUBLE

manchester
united

£5

16:30, SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023
WEMBLEY STADIUM, CONNECTED BY EE

WEMBLEY
CONNECTED BY EE



YOU'VE GOT SOME GOOD MEMORIES FROM YOUR LAST VISIT TO WEMBLEY STADIUM, WINNING THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL. ARE YOU EXCITED TO RETURN?

Oh yes. Of course. It was very special. The last time we were here we won the League Cup. It was a good moment for me, coming here winning my first trophy with the club. So, I'm excited to come back.

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT PLAYING AT WEMBLEY?

I think it's the home of football. It's a special stadium. When it's full there are about 90,000 people. It has a good atmosphere so it's a very social place for a footballer. I enjoy it every time.

DO YOU THINK YOU'VE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THAT VICTORY OVER NEWCASTLE IN THE EFL CUP THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THE EMIRATES FA CUP SEMI-FINAL?

You know, in knockout games or finals, it's very important to be on point and to get the first goal and to have a good mentality on the pitch. And yes, we will try to do the same. Bring our strengths on the pitch, and I'm confident we can go through.

AS YOU KNOW, THE LEAGUE CUP WAS THE CLUB'S FIRST TROPHY IN SIX YEARS, DO YOU THINK THAT ADDING AN FA CUP WOULD CONSTITUTE A SUCCESSFUL SEASON?

Yes, I think so. Manchester United have won it many times. So, I know how





important that is for the club and the supporters. We're in a good position now to bring it back to Manchester and to give everything to bring it home.

THE CLUB HAS 12 FA CUPS TO ITS NAME. THE ONLY TEAM THAT HAS MORE IS ARSENAL WITH 14. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS COMPETITION HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEART OF MANCHESTER UNITED?

Yes. You know, in Germany as well, the cup is very special and important for every club. So, I can imagine here is the same, and I have heard from the guys. And, when you look at the history of the club it's important. So, I know about the meaning, and I'm ready for it.

YOU SCORED YOUR FIRST GOAL AT OLD TRAFFORD AGAINST FULHAM EARLIER IN THE COMPETITION. HOW DID IT FEEL?

Very emotional. It was a special feeling. Scoring in front of the Stretford End is very special and it was my first goal for this massive club so I was very emotional after.

WILL YOU BE LOOKING TO ADD ANOTHER GOAL TO YOUR TALLY AT WEMBLEY?

That would be cool. I will try to. My hope is that I will get the trust from the manager based on the pitch. When I score it feels nice to help the team, but I think the most important thing is to succeed as a team.

AUSTRIAN
MIDFIELDER
MARCEL SABITZER
IS A WINNER,
AND HE WANTS
TO ENSURE THAT
MENTALITY HELPS
UNITED START
STRONG AND GET
PAST BRIGHTON
THIS AFTERNOON

“I WANT
TO WIN
EVERY
GAME”

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND TO BE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE FROM YOUR TIME IN GERMANY TO NOW PLAYING IN ENGLAND?

It's different. The style and the way of the league. You know, it's more physical, more intense, and more open. In Germany, you have more tactical games. Here, it's what I like the most, that's the way I want to play.

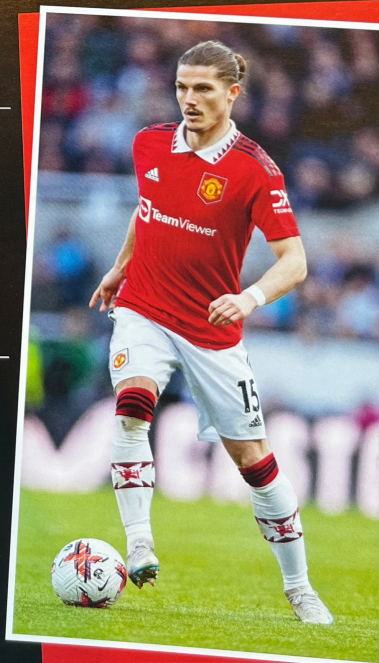
WHO HAS BEEN HELPING YOU SETTLE IN?

The whole club, the guys, all the players helped me a lot. So I felt very comfortable from the first minute. As I said before, I'm very happy to be here and I'm enjoying my time here.

WHAT IS IT LIKE PLAYING UNDER ERIK TEN HAG?

He is a very detailed coach so he gives everything for the game plan, for the

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training sessions. He is especially a good guy and he gives us a good game plan and gives us confidence. And he's clear in his mind, you know. There is a good mix of having a bit of fun, but when you're on the pitch, you have to be 100 per cent focused. And you feel that in every moment. We're very happy that he's our manager.

THERE IS A LOT OF COMPETITION IN THAT MIDFIELD. IS THE PRESSURE THAT COMES WITH THIS SOMETHING YOU RELISH?

Yes, when you're with a big club, like Manchester United, where there is always competition, you have the best players from around the world. So that's nothing I'm hiding from. I'm ready for the competition. I try to give my best when I'm on the pitch. Yes, I want to have game time and I will do everything for it.

EN ROUTE TO THE SEMI-FINAL, YOU'VE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH NOT ONLY A 3-1 SCORELINE BUT A COMEBACK VICTORY. THE WIN AGAINST FULHAM MARKED THE TENTH TIME THIS SEASON THAT YOU HAVE COME FROM BEHIND TO WIN. CAN YOU TAKE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR BOUNCEBACKABILITY?

We have to be focused and 100 per cent on point when the

game starts, but on the other side, you can see a big mentality, and that's in our squad. But it's even better when you start the game right.

YOU'VE GOT USED TO WINNING DURING YOUR TIME AT BAYERN MUNICH. DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WILL BE IMPORTANT TODAY?

Experience is very important in football. When you have a lot of players with a lot of experience that helps the team. You need a good mix of experience and youth players. And here we have that in our squad. I'm used to winning. I want to win every game, and when I'm losing, I'm very upset so I try to give all I have in every game to win.



"IT'S EVEN BETTER WHEN YOU START THE GAME RIGHT"

