

FORWARDS

10. Wayne Rooney

Born Liverpool, England **Age** 27
Appearances 360(42) **Goals** 197

Wayne's pre-season never got going as a minor hamstring strain meant he was back in Blighty before his team-mates had even unpacked, depriving us of seeing him reprise his working relationship with David Moyes. A shoulder injury halted his scheduled return against AIK in Sweden, but an outing for England against Scotland put minutes on the clock and it will be hoped he hits the ground running when the season starts. He's three goals away from a double-ton in red, with only Jack Rowley, Denis Law and Sir Bobby Charlton ahead of him on the all-time scorers list. Records are there for the taking.

.49

Wayne's strike-rate of 0.49 goals per game ranks him sixth among the 20 United players to have scored more than 100 goals for the club

MEN
ON A
MISSION

FORWARDS

14. Javier Hernandez

Born Guadalajara, Mexico **Age** 25
Appearances 71(46) **Goals** 50

Chicharito was in decent nick for Mexico in the Confederations Cup in June – doing what he does best and sticking the ball in the back of the net. And whether he's starting games or coming off the bench, it's a racing certainty that he'll be doing the same in United colours in 2013/14. As much as the variety of his innate poaching skills (King Denis again springs to mind), it's the importance of his goals that marks him out as a rare talent. With late winners a speciality, United and Chicha are a perfect fit.

50

Chicha's half-century of United goals have propelled him to 50th in the Reds' all-time list – keep 'em coming, Little Pea!

19. Danny Welbeck

Born Manchester **Age** 22
Appearances 66(38) **Goals** 19

Young Danny – let's drop the 'young', in fact, as he passed 100 United appearances last term – has become an important player in the Reds' ranks. Sir Alex trusted him in the biggest games last term, and his performances against Real Madrid in the Champions League showed why. The local boy has grown into a fine physical specimen with pace and strength to add to his polished technique and tireless workrate. The final piece of the jigsaw is becoming a regular scorer. When that happens – which it will, and maybe this season – we'll have a monster on our hands. Go get 'em, Danny...

83%

Danny's pass-completion rate in the final third of the field last term was a lofty 83% – only beaten by Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge (89%)

30

Hard to look beyond the 30 goals scored by RvP in his first season as a Red, including two hat-tricks and *that* volley

20. Robin van Persie

Born Rotterdam, Netherlands **Age** 30
Appearances 41(8) **Goals** 32

Follow that! A 30-goal, title-winning season for starters sets a stratospherically high bar, even for someone with the range of ability of our new Dutch master. There's so much in his game to admire – the athleticism, the movement, the sheer unshakeability on the ball, exemplary link play, even defensive headers... The best that can be said about van Persie is that – like Eric Cantona – he raises the level of those around him by his example of excellence. The new man in charge has inherited a gem of a marksman and a truly creative force – the real joy for United fans is that RvP has only just got into his stride.

26. Shinji Kagawa

Born Kobe, Japan **Age** 24
Appearances 22(5) **Goals** 6

"Next season you'll see some player," purred Sir Alex after Kagawa's first term in red. That time is now. A league title-winner in each of his last three seasons, Shinji will want to maintain that streak. A nagging injury last autumn hampered his campaign, but we've seen enough – velcro control in tight spaces and nerveless finishing – to know how influential he might be in United's armoury. A big season awaits.

3

A third straight title win for Shinji, and he pointed United in the right direction with a superb hat-trick against Norwich