

Match2Match 1967/68

and in preparation brought him back into the side for the final two League games of the season.

<i>Playing record 1967/68</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>FA Cup</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Appearances</i>	13	-	3	1
<i>Goals</i>	1	-	-	-

Francis BURNS

Burns had joined United in June 1964, signing professional forms in October 1965 on his seventeenth birthday. He established himself as a first team regular after his senior début at West Ham in September, when he had replaced Shay Brennan at full back. Quick and strong in the tackle, his frequent overlapping runs down the left flank added a new dimension to United's attack.

A pulled calf muscle ended his run of forty two consecutive games in the first team, almost all at left back although he had made four appearances in midfield deputising for the suspended John Fitzpatrick.

The injury, and perhaps his relative inexperience, persuaded Busby to recall Brennan for the final four games of the season, which left the young Scotsman watching the European Cup Final from the stands rather than playing in it. His first Scottish Under-23 cap may have been a small consolation.

<i>Playing record 1967/68</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>FA Cup</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Appearances</i>	36	2	7	-
<i>Goals</i>	2	-	-	-

Noel CANTWELL

United's former captain had been short listed for the vacant Assistant Manager's position at Aston Villa before accepting the post as Manager of Coventry City in October. His first game in charge was coincidentally at Old Trafford.

Bobby CHARLTON

Charlton's selection for England on the same afternoon United were at Highbury blemished an otherwise perfect appearance record. Indeed this was the first time since September 17th 1966 that he had missed a game, a run of 86 consecutive matches.

He had another exceptional season in United's midfield and contributed twenty goals, his best return since 1960/61. Of course there were several trademark thunderbolts amongst this total, most notably his strikes against Coventry and Southampton, and the brace against Tottenham in the Charity Shield.

Charlton was placed 2nd in the *Ballon D'Or* behind Eusébio, and also passed several career milestones during the course of the season; he made his 400th League appearance on January 6th against West Ham, his 500th senior game for United against Fulham on Good Friday and set a new England goal scoring record with his 46th international goal against Sweden.

Undoubtedly his personal highlight would have been lifting the European Cup at Wembley; the first of his two goals that night was his 200th for the club.

<i>Playing record 1967/68</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>FA Cup</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Appearances</i>	41	2	9	1
<i>Goals</i>	15	1	2	2

Pat CRERAND

Crerand was outstanding in the pivotal midfield role for United proving again that when he played well so did United. He was tough and determined in the tackle and inspired when

Player Pen Pictures

instigating attacks. He seldom gave away the ball and his long, accurate passes were particularly devastating when launching swift counter attacks. He had never been a prolific goal scorer for United but his solitary goal, scored against Burnley deep in injury time, helped maintain United's unbeaten home record.

Like Bobby Charlton, his midfield partner, Crerand missed just one game in the campaign, the home draw with Leicester at the end of August. It is not fanciful to suggest that a fit Crerand in the team that afternoon would have provided the edge United lacked.

Crerand made his 200th League appearance for United at Leicester on December 23rd.

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<i>Appearances</i>	41	2	9	1
<i>Goals</i>	1	-	-	-

Tony DUNNE

This was Dunne's seventh season as a regular in the first team and he made his 300th competitive appearance for United on November 11th against Southampton. Equally happy at either right or left back, Dunne was seldom eclipsed by the opposing winger. He possessed natural pace which combined with his quick tackling and innate positional sense, made him one of the club's greatest full backs.

He scored only his second goal for the club at St James' Park, although he is likely to remember it more for the slice of luck that brought the goal rather than the point it earned United. Dunne picked up a knee injury in Poland against Górnik that left him a virtual passenger for most of the second half. He missed the following four games but returned for the climax to the season.

<i>Playing record 1967/68</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>FA Cup</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Appearances</i>	37	2	9	1
<i>Goals</i>	1	-	-	-

John FITZPATRICK

Fitzpatrick proved a more than adequate deputy for Nobby Stiles and his displays at Leeds and at Liverpool, where he marked Ian St John almost completely out of the game, hinted that he was developing into a good player.

He would have made more appearances but for a poor disciplinary record. He was suspended for two weeks after being sent off in a reserve game at Anfield and lost his place to David Sadler.

<i>Playing record 1967/68</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>FA Cup</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Appearances</i>	14 (3)	2	2	-
<i>Goals</i>	-	-	-	-

Bill FOULKES

Foulkes' season was disrupted by two lengthy absences through injury to such a degree that he made fewer appearances than in any other season since breaking into the first team in 1953/54.

He damaged a shoulder in United's European Cup tie in Malta and missed all of United's games in October as a consequence. Having returned to the side, he twisted ligaments in his knee in the game at Molineux in December and missed a further two months of the season.

Although he began building his match fitness with the Reserves in early March, Foulkes was not chosen for the first team until Good Friday.

He returned for the final two League games of the season, scored a magnificent goal in the