

# CARLO

## The M

### football



**W**elcome to Manchester? Carlos Tevez was there, swapping the red corner for the blue one last summer. He had changed sides and his 'noisy neighbours' were making their joy known with a highly inflammatory poster.

It was brilliant marketing, a clever message that was a bit of a spot. Sir Alex Ferguson, across the way, was not so sure. Nor, fascinatingly, was Tevez.

'I never understood the intention of that poster, but I don't like it today. What was the point? Tell me. Was it to welcome me to Manchester City, or was it to anger Manchester City? Nobody ever told me.

'I'm indifferent towards it, but it is important you know I had nothing to do with the poster. I'd have preferred to not have been there. I have respect for all the clubs I've played for. That was not showing respect, was it?'

Carlos Tevez plays like a man who doesn't like to be on the ride. He enjoys a tear-up, right? So let's put him on the same ride. You've played with Messi, Rooney and Ronaldo. Would you play alongside you in your dream team?

'OK ... let me think ... Wayne Rooney is the best player in the world. It was a privilege to play with him, I will always have that way towards him. When we played together with Cristiano Ronaldo, the three of us, this was a great moment in my career.

Rooney is better than Messi? 'In his position, Rooney is the best. Messi is the No 1 in his position. He is too much for me now. The ball sticks to his feet, who can take it from him?'

But you can only pick one of them.

'It's my interview, I want to pick both of them in my dream selection. OK, I play Rooney and Messi, with Cristiano Ronaldo. Of course. In a 4-3-3. We would score some goals together.

No Ronaldo? 'Well, we can't all play in the same team, can we?'

He is worried for Rooney and wonders if his own injury would have played with an injection against Bayern Munich in the Champions League second leg. 'Like Fabregas and I too would want to play for my team with an injury. It creates a false health. I prefer to play without injections, then you can feel if the pain is there or not.'

Tevez watched Barcelona beat Arsenal 4-1 in the Champions League. 'They pass, pass, pass, pass. How do you stop them? They are the No 1 team, for sure.'

Then he watched the last English team, United, get beaten by Bayern. Did he think he could have made a difference by appearing in successive Champions League finals for Manchester City? 'I didn't think about what I could have done. I am a Manchester City player now. I just watched the game.'

He hopes to be back in the competition with his teammates next season.

This Saturday it's City v United again. The team sponsored by Nike against the player who has been signed to their brand since he was 13. He is now 26.

So it's Tevez v United. Tevez v Ferguson. Possibly Tevez v Neville. 'That was a passing moment with Gary, but their public spat during the Carling Cup semi-final was a bit of a mess. The former team-mates exchanged insults and gestures. It's gone now, I don't have a problem with Gary.'

And Ferguson? 'Not for this interview,' he says with a smile. 'So what of this fixture, this Manchester classico?'