

## “David Beckham Netflix Series”



Weekly Learnings 42 / 2023

I have been a Manchester United fan for 25 years. I watched the Netflix series! Here are my learnings:

1. You are responsible for your career, don't depend on the company/ boss. David Beckham is a good example.
2. Early focus helps a career. Beckham's dad made him a footballer and aspired to play for Manchester United. That focus drove Beckham. He signed with Manchester United as a trainee at age 16 and Alex Ferguson took him under his wings and took him to the post-match dressing room meetings. This taught Beckham and the seniors would wonder why but knew if Ferguson got him to the meeting, he should be good. Having a good manager or mentor helps set standards.
3. Beckham had a spectacular goal from the half line against Wimbledon which made him an impact player. Having an early win in your career helps.
4. The first of many setbacks - Beckham kicks an Argentina player, gets a red card, is sent off and England loses and is eliminated from the World Cup. The manager, the media, and the fans make Beckham a scapegoat. He gets booed at every ground for the next 18 months but is resilient. He does what he knows best, play football. The Manchester United team protects him, and the press is off limits. The team helps him through this phase. You will be made a scapegoat in your career, and you will need emotional anchors, they tend to be family and friends.
5. Beckham started brand endorsements, and his marriage with Posh Spice made him bigger. This will happen to you if you have your own standing and stature. You could be bigger than your boss or company on social media and that will invite heartburn. You do what's good for you. Many MNCs and Indian companies are uncomfortable when their manager has a good public reputation. I argue that the company should leverage it. Beckham recognises his football career has a definite time span and hence builds his own brand.

6. As brand Beckham becomes bigger, his rifts with Alex Ferguson widen. The coaching staff feel that his football is being impacted. Ferguson decides to sell Beckham to Barcelona without a discussion. Beckham decides to move to Real Madrid, a club he adores. Companies are graceless when people leave them, they see it as a personal affront, which is silly.
7. Beckham joins Real Madrid, now in the company of superstars, Zidane, Figo, Ronaldo, and Roberto Carlos. For the first time, he feels an impostor. He vows to work hard and plays in a position that's unusual for him. He does his best. In your career you will get shunted, you might feel inadequate, and you might get second-string assignments. the trick is to do your very best in each situation.
8. Beckham gets sidelined when Real Madrid hears of his discussions with LA Galaxy. He continues to work hard, and his teammates ask the manager to play Beckham. They win when he comes back.
9. Beckham then moves to the USA and makes his mark as a player and administrator. Plan your career well.

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**David Beckham**  
A life in doing your  
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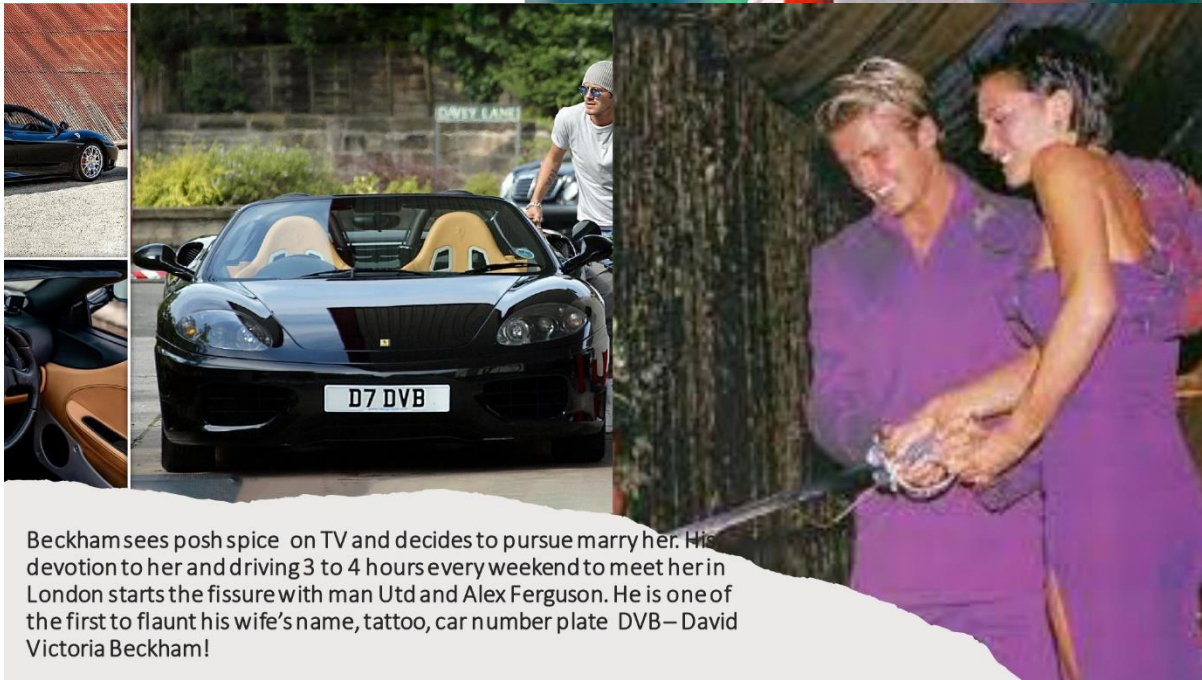


His dad Ted Beckham trained him to be a footballer from day 1. Ted Beckham wanted David to play only for Man Utd.



Beckham signs as trainee for Man Utd in 1991, at age 16. Alex Ferguson takes David to the Man Utd senior dressing room after all matches. This mentorship gives him a peek into what's possible.

In 1996, Beckham scores a goal from the half line against Wimbledon, a feat tried by Pele without success. The press hail him as the new superstar.



Beckham sees posh spice on TV and decides to pursue marry her. His devotion to her and driving 3 to 4 hours every weekend to meet her in London starts the fissure with man Utd and Alex Ferguson. He is one of the first to flaunt his wife's name, tattoo, car number plate DVB—David Victoria Beckham!



1998 world cup , Beckham gets a red card and sent off vs Argentina, England lose and Beckham is blamed and is targeted by fans at every ground for the next 18 months mercilessly. Gets death threats.



Beckham always looked ahead at commercial interests, he flaunted different hairstyles which didn't go well with Alex Ferguson, this path led to his benching many times. He signed many sponsorships, was the first real football superstar.

Man Utd winning the treble in 1999 salvaged Beckham, he took the corners that led to the winning goals. Most people felt that Beckham had grown from a boy to a man with that victory.



Becomes England Captain in 2000.

Beckham was becoming bigger than Man Utd by 2003 and Alex Ferguson decided to sell him to Barcelona without a discussion. Beckham liked Real Madrid and Zidane had asked him if he wanted to come to Real Madrid, so he moved to Real Madrid, a team full of superstars (for the first time he feels he is not in the same league but decides to work hard to belong there) and his position on the pitch already taken by Figo. Beckham played deeper for the first time in his career.



LA Galaxy approaches Beckham to come to America. This news gets to Real Madrid and they decided not to play him for the next six months. He was asked to train alone. His team mates go to the manager and request that Beckham be allowed to train and play, The Real Madrid team changes umpteen coaches and players, Beckham comes back to play and takes them to a championship win in his last match. Madrid ask him to stay, but he leaves for LA Galaxy.





The LA Galaxy experience is mixed, the pitches are bad, the dressing room atmosphere not so friendly, Beckham is seen as an outsider.



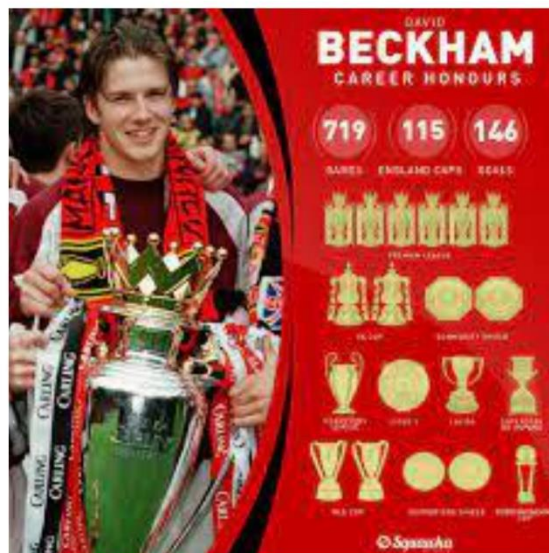
The England coach specifies that Beckham must play for a European club to qualify for the England team. Beckham tries to move to AC Milan but the LA galaxy team throws the contract at him and he has to stay at LA galaxy.





Wins MLS

His impressive stats, captained England in 59 of the 115 matches he played, won for every club he played



New role at Inter  
Miami, gets Messi  
to Inter Miami in  
2023 !!

