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Miguel Delaney

This is Fred, Manchester United's newest star with «balls of steel» and the tools to bring out the best in Paul Pogba

Це Фред, нова зірка «Манчестер Юнайтед» з «кулями зі сталі» і технікою, які покажуть чи він кращий за Поля Погбу

Англійський футбольний клуб «Манчестер Юнайтед» офіційно повідомив, що домовився із «Шахтарем» (Донецьк) щодо трансферу бразильського півзахисника Фреда.

Фред є вихованцем Інтернасьйонала з Порту-Алегрі. За «Шахтар» він виступає з літа 2013 р. і провів у складі «гірників» 156 матчів у всіх турнірах, у яких забив 14 м'ячів. Фред розповів, що в Україні йому доводилося грати у поганих умовах, зокрема на снігу, натомість погодні умови не позначились на його технічних навиках і він був досить ефективним. Крім того останні кілька років українська ліга не була досить успішною але матчі за участю Фреда завжди позначалися голами.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/transfers/manchester-united-transfer-news-fred-signs-confirmed-fee-latest-profile-paul-pogba-a8384606.html>

When Fred finally gets to meet up with the Manchester United squad after the World Cup, many of his new teammates might make the easy mistake that those from Shakhtar Donetsk did when he first arrived in Ukraine in 2013 – that he's quite small, that he might be easy to knock off the ball.

It is an easy mistake given that slight five-foot-six-inch frame – but could lead to a few difficult moments in training. As former Shakhtar assistant Miguel Cardoso tells The Independent, Fred has “balls of steel”.

“He's very brave and, in challenges, so strong.”

The 25-year-old will likely add more than steel to United, though. Fred will also add that high-grade oil, to make them a much slicker, free-moving side. That is another of his strengths – and he has many of those that Jose Mourinho most specifically wants this summer.

How Manchester United could line up

How could Manchester United line up next season?

GK: David De Gea

RB Diogo Dalot

CB: Chris Smalling

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The United boss has been primarily concerned with bolstering his midfield in this window, and particularly wants a player to create a more fluid link between Nemanja Matic and Paul Pogba. That necessitates fine positional sense, strong tackling and quick passing, all under Mourinho's wider demand that any new players signed be "warriors", who follow his tactical instructions like soldiers.

Cardoso, however, feels Fred is "perfect" for this.

"He is perfect, perfect," the Portuguese coach enthuses, having worked at Shakhtar for Fred's first four years there before moving on to become the much-admired coach of Rio Ave. "If Fred needs to fight, he'll fight. When he needs to play, he plays. He's very brave, very brave.

"He's a player with great ambition, that doesn't have a fear of playing in any situation, any context. He is the type of player that, when things are going badly,

you can give the ball to him. He has balls of steel - to use the expression. He has such a strong nerve.

fred.jpg

Fred is expected to star for Brazil at this summer's World Cup (Getty)

“His technical capacity is enormous. And in challenges, as I say, even though he's small, he's strong. But the real positive to him being small is that he doesn't have a problem playing in tight spaces, and coming out with the ball to drive play.

“He's also excellent box to box, has that energy, and is so good tactically. He has a deep understanding. When Paolo [Fonseca] arrived at Shakhtar, he liked him a lot.

“So, whatever Jose will ask of him, he will try to do it well. He's also decisive, that I think Mourinho will like. He plays for the team. If he has to do something on the pitch, he'll do it. If they ask him to make that connection between Matic and Pogba, I'm sure he'll do it well.

“He has all the ingredients required to take his Shakhtar game to United, a player with extreme quality.”

There's also the wider issue of how he takes to the Premier League and the pressures of a club like United, but Cardoso doesn't foresee that being any kind of complication.

Premier League summer transfer targets

Gareth Bale (Real Madrid to Manchester United)

Fred (Shakhtar Donetsk to Manchester United)

Jorginho (Napoli to Manchester City)

Toby Alderweireld (Tottenham to Manchester United)

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“In Ukraine, they play in bad conditions, with the snow, with very bad pitches, but his technical quality meant he was even more effective.

“Fred has a lot of Champions League and Europa League experience. In the last few years, the Ukrainian league hasn’t been as strong but Fred played in it when there was a lot of fight, and could be physical. He succeeded.”

Given that Mourinho has expressed frustrations with some of the trappings of the modern professional – with a few veiled criticisms of Pogba in that regard – this is another area where Fred could be “perfect” for his new boss.

“He knows very well what it means to be a professional,” Cardoso explains. “First of all, they’re going to get a lad who is a great man, lovely to be around. He has a way about him that everyone will love. He’s not only humble, he’s always very happy, very relaxed. Everyone will like him.

He’s a boy who’s not going to create a single problem. “Fred is a family guy. He has his girlfriend. You don’t see him out much, he’s a lovely guy. Very relaxed life.

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“He is always trying to get better. At the end of training, he would always be one of the ones staying behind to work on technical aspects of his game, free-kicks

- like that goal against Roma in the Champions League. He's always looking to be better."

It seems he has all the qualities required to make United - and Pogba - better.