

# Ji-Sung Park: Ferguson's Big Game Player



## 1) Discussion

- a) Who are some of the most underrated players in recent years?
  - b) Are there any players in your favourite team who are underrated?
  - c) Do you know any famous South Korean players?
- 

## 2) Vocabulary

### a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1) Illustrious (adjective) | a) The ability to adapt or be used in various ways, showing competence or skill in different areas or situations.                         |
| 2) Versatility (noun)      | b) Remaining steady, constant, or resolute in beliefs, principles, or actions.  |
| 3) To nullify (verb)       | c) To make something ineffective or cancel its effect, often by counteracting or neutralizing its impact.                                 |
| 4) To execute (verb)       | d) The pinnacle or highlight of a particular event, period, or achievement, representing the most significant or memorable point in time. |
| 5) Crowning moment (noun)  | e) Used to describe someone's remarkable achievements or reputation.  |
| 6) Unwavering (adjective)  | f) To carry out or perform a task, plan, or action with precision and effectiveness.  |
- 



**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Versatility

Crowning Moment

Unwavering

Nullify

Execute

Illustrious

- 1) Ryan Giggs' \_\_\_\_\_ career at Manchester United saw him winning numerous titles and breaking countless records.
- 2) Cristiano Ronaldo is known for his \_\_\_\_\_, having played effectively as a winger, forward, and even as a central striker throughout his career.
- 3) In a crucial match, a solid defence can \_\_\_\_\_ the opponent's attacking threats and secure a vital victory for the team.
- 4) Santi Cazorla's ability to \_\_\_\_\_ precise corners with both feet made him an asset to his team.
- 5) Winning the World Cup with Brazil in 2002 was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Ronaldo's career, marking the pinnacle of his achievements in international football.
- 6) Despite facing numerous challenges, Sergio Ramos' commitment to Real Madrid remained \_\_\_\_\_, earning him admiration from fans and teammates alike.



### 3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What qualities did Ji-Sung Park have?

---

#### **Ji Sung Park - Ferguson's Big Game Player**

Ji-Sung Park, the South Korean football sensation, left an indelible mark on the beautiful game during his illustrious career. Born on February 25, 1981, in Seoul, Park's journey to becoming one of Manchester United's most revered players is nothing short of inspiring.

Park's career began to blossom at the age of 18 when he joined Myongji University's football team. His exceptional skills caught the eye of scouts, leading to a move to Japan's Kyoto Purple Sanga in 2000. Park's stellar performances in the J-League garnered attention from European clubs, eventually earning him a transfer to PSV Eindhoven in 2003.

However, it was his move to Manchester United in 2005 that truly defined Park's legacy. Under the guidance of legendary manager Sir Alex Ferguson, Park became a vital player in United's midfield machinery. His versatility, work rate, and tactical intelligence made him a favourite for Ferguson in big matches, earning him the nickname "Three-Lungs Park" for his seemingly endless stamina.

Park's contribution to the team went beyond statistics. His ability to nullify opponents' threats, make crucial interceptions, and pop up with important goals in pivotal moments endeared him to the Old Trafford faithful. Whether it was shutting down midfield maestros or executing lightning-fast counterattacks, Park's presence was felt on the pitch.

Sir Alex Ferguson, renowned for his keen eye for talent, held Park in the highest regard. The legendary manager often praised Park's professionalism, dedication, and tactical intelligence, highlighting his importance to the team's success. Ferguson once described Park as "the ultimate professional" and lauded his ability to execute tactical instructions flawlessly.



Park's crowning moment at Manchester United came in the 2010-2011 season when he played a pivotal role in the club's record 19th Premier League title triumph. His performances in crucial matches, including memorable displays against Arsenal and Chelsea, further cemented his legacy as a Manchester United great.

In 2012, Park bid farewell to Manchester United, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, determination, and unwavering commitment. Although his time at the club had come to an end, Ji-Sung Park's impact on Manchester United and the Premier League will be remembered for generations to come, a testament to his status as one of Asia's greatest football exports.

---

#### **4) Read for Detail - Read the article again and answer these questions.**

- 1) Where did Ji-Sung Park begin his professional football career?
  - a) Vissel Kobe
  - b) Kyoto Purple Sanga
  - c) PSV Eindhoven
  - d) Myongji University
  
- 2) What nickname was Ji-Sung Park given by fans for his stamina?
  - a) The Korean Phenom
  - b) The Asian Dynamo
  - c) Three-Lungs Park
  - d) The Seoul Sprinter
  
- 3) Who was Ji-Sung Park's manager during his time at Manchester United?
  - a) David Moyes
  - b) Louis van Gaal
  - c) Sir Alex Ferguson
  - d) José Mourinho



- 4) What was one of Park's notable abilities on the field?
- a) Scoring long-range goals
  - b) Skillful dribbling
  - c) Making crucial interceptions
  - d) Captaining the team
- 5) In which season did Ji-Sung Park play a pivotal role in Manchester United's Premier League title triumph?
- a) 2008-2009
  - b) 2010-2011
  - c) 2012-2013
  - d) 2005-2006
- 

## 5) Discussion

- a) What do you think about Ji Sung Park's career?
- b) How much do you think Ji Sung Park would be worth in today's market?
- c) Can you think of any other players who are underrated in today's game?



**Answer Key**

2a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

- 1 - E
- 2 - A
- 3 - C
- 4 - F
- 5 - D
- 6 - B

2b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

- 1) illustrious
- 2) versatility
- 3) nullify
- 4) execute
- 5) pinnacle
- 6) unwavering

3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

a) He had versatility, work rate, tactical intelligence, professionalism and dedication.

4) Read for Detail - Read the article again and answer these questions.

- 1 - D
- 2 - C
- 3 - C
- 4 - C
- 5 - B

