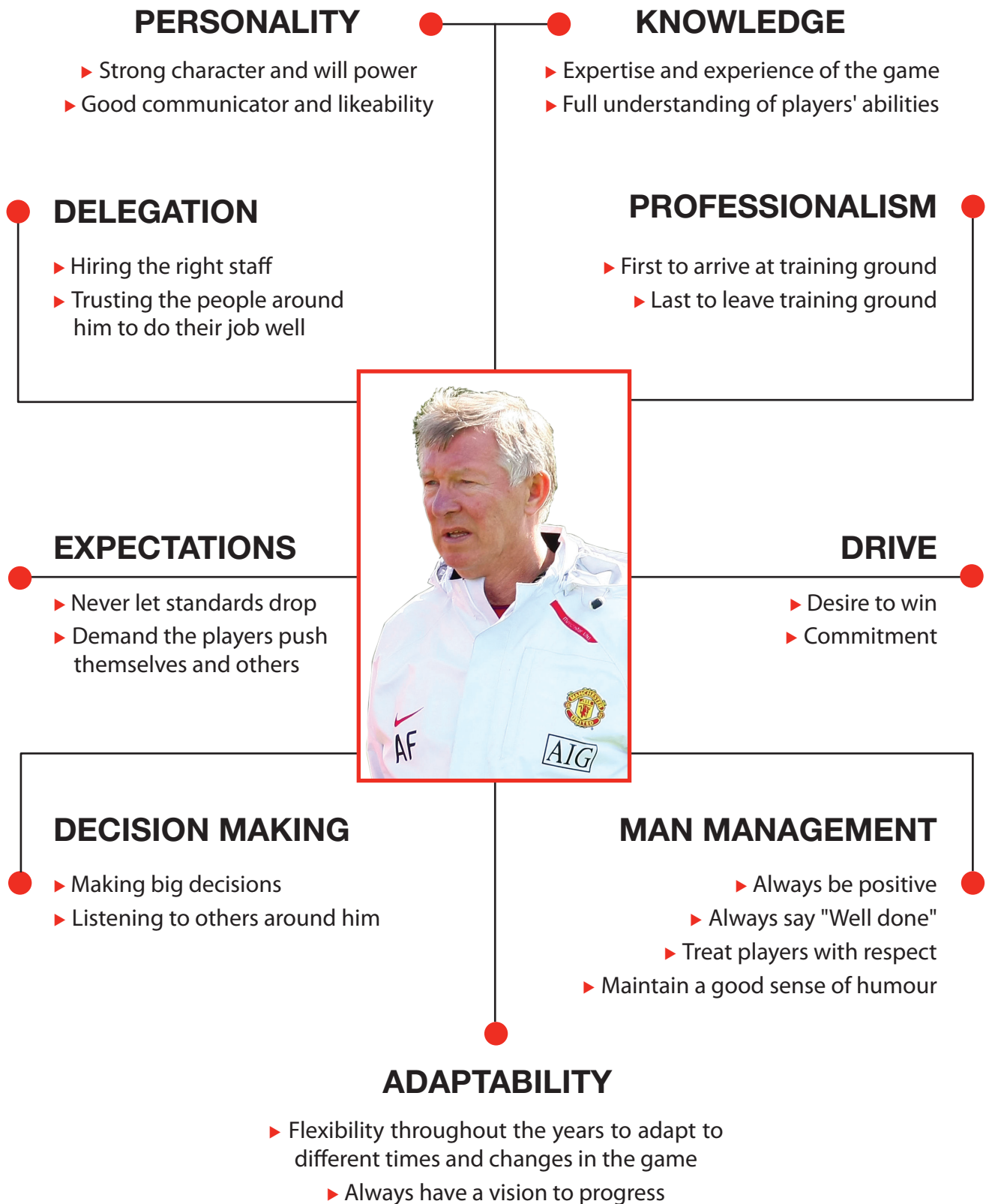

CHAPTER 2

SIR ALEX FERGUSON'S MANAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP AND TACTICS



SIR ALEX FERGUSON: LEADERSHIP



SIR ALEX FERGUSON: **MAN MANAGEMENT**

"Sir Alex Ferguson knew exactly how to man manage every individual player. Whenever standards dropped or expectations weren't met, that's when Sir Alex stepped in. It was done only when necessary and was therefore more impactful and understood when it did happen."



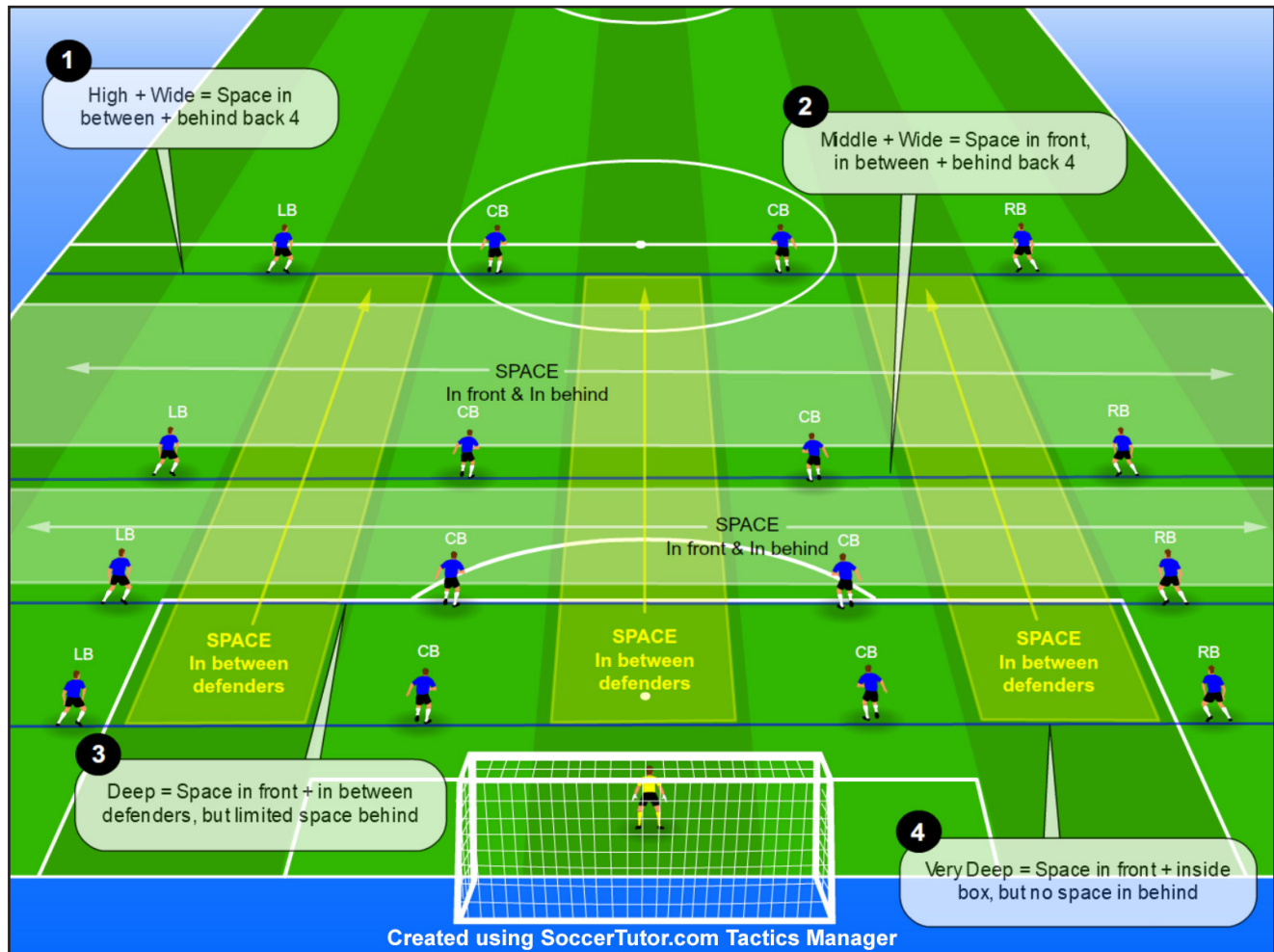
"It's all about meeting expectations."

SIR ALEX FERGUSON



MANCHESTER UNITED'S ATTACKING TACTICS AGAINST DIFFERENT DEFENSIVE LINES

MANCHESTER UNITED TACTICS: POSITIONING OF THE OPPOSITION'S WIDE DEFENSIVE LINE



1. Opposition's Defensive Line High and Wide

- Space in between the defenders.
- Space in behind the defensive line.
- Attacking aim = Play balls in between defender or over the top, with the whole of the opposition's half to run into.

2. Opposition's Defensive Line Middle and Wide

- Space in between the defenders.
- Space in front (between the lines).
- Space in behind the defensive line.

3. Opposition's Defensive Line Deep and Wide

- Space in between the defenders.
- Space in front (between the lines).
- Limited space in behind the defensive line.

4. Opposition's Defensive Line Very Deep and Wide (in Box)

- Space in front for shots.
- No space in behind.
- Space to exploit/attack inside the penalty area.

ATTACKING AGAINST A DEEP AND WIDE DEFENSIVE LINE - PATTERN OF PLAY EXAMPLE 7



The reds are in a 4-3-3 formation. There are 4 mannequins representing the opposition's defensive line, 4 opposing blue midfielders and 2 blue forwards (passive).

Practice Objective: One central midfielder rotates out to create a back 3 and the other central midfielders look to receive and play in behind.

Practice Description

1. The central midfielder **Carrick** has rotated out to create a back 3 for the build-up and this is where we start. Both full backs push on and the other central midfielders look to receive in the centre. **Carrick** either passes back to centre back **Ferdinand** (red arrow) or forward to central midfielder **Scholes** (yellow arrow).
2. Following the **yellow arrows**, central midfielder **Scholes** looks to play in behind right away, either for the run of right winger **Ronaldo** or the striker **Rooney**. As we continue with the **red arrows**, **Ferdinand** passes to centre back partner **Vidic**.
3. **Vidic** passes to **Nani**, who has moved back to receive in between the lines.
4. **Nani** passes back to **Giggs**, who is free in space.
5. **Giggs** passes out wide for the forward run of the left back **Evra**, who is able to exploit the space left by **Nani's** movement. The team is now in behind the defensive line with a good chance of creating a goal scoring chance. This is the same if **Ronaldo** receives from **Scholes** on the right side.

SOURCE: René Meulensteen's Manchester United training sessions at Carrington Training Ground, Manchester - 2007-2013