

Star with a nation's dream on his shoulders

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Triumphant: 20-year-old Jude Bellingham scored England's only goal in their opening match against Serbia.

Is personality more important than talent? 20-year-old football prodigy Jude Bellingham has taken the world by storm. But some say we should take care that his personality does not overshadow his playing.

What's happening?

"Take a sad song and make it better," the sad tune accompanies images of depressed Brits. With England's history of humiliating defeats at the Euros, the *Adidas* advertisement paints a picture of a sad nation.

That is, until Jude Bellingham makes his entrance, scoring a goal to the tune of *Hey Jude*'s lively and happy chorus. He squares up to the camera solemnly as text reads "YOU GOT THIS."

Marketing became reality on Sunday, as fans sang the song to Bellingham after he scored the only goal in England's match against Serbia.

Find out more

The message is clear: England needs hope. But is Jude Bellingham that hope? At just 20 years old he was named the world's best footballer in the Top Trumps rankings.

Stories abound of Bellingham's natural charm and kindness. He once found a blanket for a shivering ballboy, and he used to help load laundry after matches.

In this year's Euros, 24 teams will compete for the 2024 title. The final is due to take place on the 14th July.

Some say that Bellingham is just what we need to rekindle England's love for football. After all, the beautiful game is about more than just scoring points. It is about shared values, pride, love. But some worry that the media storm over Bellingham is a gimmick.

Is personality more important than talent?

Some say

Yes: You need more than just skills and training to win a match. You need team spirit, encouragement from your supporters, and hope – all of which players like Jude Bellingham provide.

Others think

No: Ultimately, football is about winning – and doing it consistently. Personality can score points with the crowd, but it cannot score points on the pitch.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

"Talent without working hard is nothing."

Cristiano Ronaldo (1985 –), Portuguese professional footballer

What do you think?

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Who do you think is the best football player of all time?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: What other examples are there of hyped players who did not live up to expectations?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot know for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Imagine that you are Jude Bellingham's manager. What advice would you give him ahead of his next match?

5. Express

What do others believe? - In small groups, design the ideal national football team for your country. Describe who you would want for each position and why.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - It is 2030, and football has been banned for encouraging nations to fight each other. Write a letter arguing that football unites us, rather than dividing us.