

Whelan wants to put one over derby rivals

FOR Corey Whelan, the opportunity to play for Yeovil Town against Manchester United in the FA Cup will be a special moment for more than one reason.

Not only does it promise to be the biggest game of the 20-year-old's career so far, but as a Liverpool youngster on loan at Huish Park, he has the opportunity to get one over on his parent club's most bitter rivals.

Whelan arrived at Yeovil Town just 24 hours before the Glovers beat Bradford City 2-0 in the third round of the FA Cup to set up a meeting with Jose Mourinho's side, but the versatile defender has already shown in his brief time in Somerset that he has a big part to play over the rest of the season.

And the Manchester United tie has generated a buzz around his new club.

Whelan said: "It's good for everyone because the club deserve it.

"I think the run in the FA Cup proves that we do deserve a chance to play against such a

good club but we're not here as tourists. We think we can do a job and it's the FA Cup so anything can happen.

"They're a rival club for my parent club so to beat United here in front of the fans would be great for the club but obviously it would be a great thing for myself as well, especially if I could get involved and be in contention to play in the game."

Whelan added: "It's been a great buzz. The lads are obviously excited and everyone's talking about it so it is a big talking point."

With his loan spell set to run until the end of the season, Whelan knows he has an opportunity to impress and transfer the credentials that saw him named captain of Liverpool's under-23s side to senior football.

For a player who has been at Anfield since the age of ten, Whelan hopes that success at Huish Park will help him realise his dream of forcing his way into Jurgen Klopp's plans.

He said: "It is my first loan so I've come here with pretty

much an open book so I'm expecting everything.

"Liverpool have just told me to be myself, be confident and come across the way I am as a human being. I'm a grounded human being and I can get along with anybody.

"They've just told me to go in and introduce myself to the lads and just hit the ground running and play as many games as possible."

He added: "The manager at Liverpool has proved already in recent games this season and even last season that he is prepared to throw youngsters in.

"I think he believes that it's not an age thing. If you're good enough then you'll get your chance, so it is positive that we have got a manager at Liverpool who is willing to do that.

"For me coming away here, I've got to prove that I can mix it with senior player before he decides to maybe throw me in or take me on a pre-season tour or something of the sort, so I'm just here to play games and test myself, so we'll see what happens."

Glovers duo find target more than Pogba

FRANCOIS Zoko and AFC Bournemouth loanee Sam Surridge have not only scored more than £90m Paul Pogba so far this season, they also have a better minutes per goal ratio and a better shots on target percentage.

Meaning, given the chance, that two of the top three goalscorers for Yeovil Town this season are likely to be more potent when Manchester United visit Huish Park tomorrow than the French international megastar.

Well, we can dream, right?

Despite not scoring as many goals or assisting as many as £75m striker Romelu Lukaku, ex-Blackpool player Zoko also has a better shots on target percentage than the Belgian, proving that if the Glovers get a sight at goal, they will at least know where the target is.

In fact out of the two sides, it is only Marouane Fellaini who has a higher shots on target percentage, 80, to Zoko's 72.

Although loan signing Marcus Barnes is currently on 100 per cent after featuring twice since his arrival from Southampton, that will continue to be the case after the youngster was ruled out for up to six weeks after sustaining an ankle injury in training prior to the Chesterfield match.

Pogba's is a mere 37 per cent

which means even Yeovil centre-back Omar Sowunmi, at 42, would have been more likely to hit the target than the Manchester United maestro, before his place was put in doubt as illness prompted precautionary cardiac screening.

Having only scored three times this season to Zoko's ten and Surridge's five, Pogba's minutes per goal currently stands at 378.

Surridge is on 280 with Zoko 231. But both Yeovil stars struggle to compete with Anthony Martial's 158 minutes per goal, Lukaku's 155 or Jesse Lingard's 116.

So Yeovil's main problem under the bright lights at Huish Park might not be how to stop Pogba, but how to stifle

Martial, Lukaku and Lingard, should all start in the FA Cup tie.

But the statistics do seem to say that if the Glovers can break and find an opportunity on goal, they are likely to find the target and with Sergio Romero usually preferred to David de Gea in goal in cup competitions, who is renowned for his punching rather than catching tactic, Yeovil could just be able to cause a massive upset in the magic of the cup.

What Yeovil must not do though however is allow James Bailey to have a strike as his one goal this season has come in 2,032 minutes of playing and his shots on target percentage of just 17 is the worst out of the two sides.



Sam Surridge holding off Chesterfield's Andy Kellett on Saturday Pictures by Gareth Davies/PPAUK



Marouane Fellaini, pictured up against Jamie Hanson of Derby County in the FA Cup third round, has the best shots on target percentage out of all the Manchester United and Yeovil Town players this season, left, Manchester United's Paul Pogba reacts after missing a chance in the same game Above picture by Matthew Peters/ Man Utd via Getty Images, left picture by Lindsey Parnaby/AFP/Getty Images

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