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Celebration Match 50 Years in Europe & 50 Years of Europe

Carragher and Gerrard to join Beckham in the UEFA Team at Old Trafford

With David Beckham's name the first to appear on the squad list, Liverpool FC have confirmed that English internationals Jamie Carragher and Steven Gerrard have accepted the invitation to take part in the European celebration match between Manchester United FC and an all-star Europe XI to be played on Tuesday 13 March at Old Trafford, Manchester, kicking-off at 20.00 local time.

The match will mark two jubilees: the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, which laid the foundations for a united Europe; and Manchester United FC's half-century of involvement in European competitions. It is being staged by the Manchester United Foundation and UEFA, with support from the European Union. All the proceeds from the celebration match will go to charity.

David Beckham was the first to confirm his presence at the match and, prior to his reappearance in the Real Madrid CF line-up in San Sebastián last Saturday, he commented:

"I'm happy to know I'm going to play on March 13th. It will be something special to go back to Old Trafford, and I'm really looking forward to it."

He will be joined by his former England team-mates Jamie Carragher and Steven Gerrard, also named in the all-star European squad selected by Italy's world champion Marcello Lippi, who will be head coach of the Europe XI at Old Trafford, with UEFA's Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh, acting as assistant coach.

"It is an honour for our club that two of our players have been selected to represent Europe," the Liverpool FC manager Rafael Benítez commented. "I know that they feel very privileged to be in the team and that they will enjoy playing alongside the top players from other clubs. It will be a nice experience for them and one that I am sure they will remember with pleasure in years to come."

"I feel proud that a coach like Marcello Lippi has selected me for the European team," Jamie Carragher commented. "It's a real honour."

"I'm looking forward to the match," Steven Gerrard added. "It's a pleasure to play alongside the top players – especially if the match earns some money for charity."

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