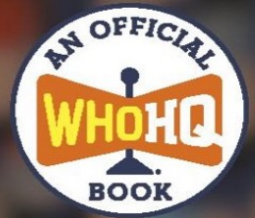


The #1 New York Times Best-Selling Series



# Who Is David Beckham?



by Ellen Labrecque





# Who Is David Beckham?



by Ellen Labrecque  
illustrated by John Hinderliter

Penguin Workshop

For Ethan and Brady Cosgrove—EL

To Niko, a Plum boy who loves to be on the soccer field—

JH

PENGUIN WORKSHOP  
An Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, New York



Penguin supports copyright. Copyright fuels creativity, encourages diverse voices, promotes free speech, and creates a vibrant culture. Thank you for buying an authorized edition of this book and for complying with copyright laws by not reproducing, scanning, or distributing any part of it in any form without permission. You are supporting writers and allowing Penguin to continue to publish books for every reader.

Copyright © 2020 by Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved. Published by Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, New York. PENGUIN and PENGUIN WORKSHOP are trademarks of Penguin Books Ltd. WHO HQ & Design is a registered trademark of Penguin Random House LLC.

Visit us online at [www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com).

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019054585

ISBN 9780399544040 (paperback)  
ISBN 9780399544064 (library binding)  
ISBN 9780399544057 (ebook)

pid\_prh\_5.5.0\_co\_ro

# Contents

[Who Is David Beckham?](#)

[Born to Play Soccer](#)

[Getting Noticed](#)

[Leaving Home](#)

[A Pro at Last](#)

[The Making of a Star](#)

[The Spice of His Life](#)

[The Villain](#)

[United Behind David](#)

[Forgiven](#)

[United No More](#)

[Hola! \(Hello!\) and Adios! \(Goodbye!\).](#)

[Welcome to the United States](#)

[Mission Accomplished?](#)

[Timelines](#)

[Bibliography](#)







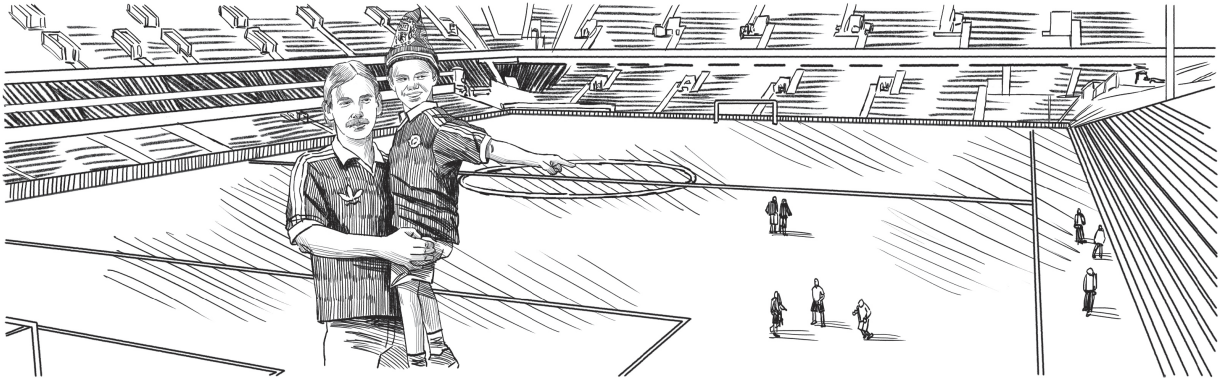
---

## Who Is David Beckham?

---

Five-year-old David Beckham was as excited as if it were Christmas morning! It was September 6, 1980, and his dad, Ted, was taking him to watch his first professional soccer game. They were going to see Manchester United—one of the most popular sports teams in the world. United was playing Tottenham Hotspur. The two were teams in the English Premier League—the top professional soccer league in England. David and his dad drove to Tottenham’s stadium, about twenty-five minutes from their home in Chingford. David wore his favorite red United jersey. When they entered the giant stadium, David gripped his dad’s hand tightly. They were both so excited for the game, they had arrived very early. They were two of the first fans there.





Their seats were high above the field, far from the action, but David didn't care. He loved every minute of the game. He loved the loud cheering of the fans, and the way the soccer ball moved quickly from player to player. The game ended in a 0–0 tie. David didn't get to see any goals, but he had the time of his young life.

"I'd never seen him more thrilled," Ted said about his son. "To see his face light up had been worth the price of the tickets alone."

As they left the game, Ted carried his son down the steep stadium stairs. David turned to his father and said, "Dad, one day I am going to play for Manchester United." Ted laughed and responded, "I'll come and watch you."

When David said this, his dad didn't really believe him. After all, only the very best players play professional soccer—and only the best of the best play for Manchester United. But David meant it. And from that day on, he worked as hard as he could to make it happen. Growing up, he spent almost every hour he

could practicing soccer. Every day, every year, he got better and better.

David Beckham became one of the best and most famous soccer players ever. He played eleven seasons for Manchester United, four seasons for Real Madrid in Spain, six seasons for the Los Angeles Galaxy in California, and one season for Paris Saint-Germain in France. He also played for fourteen years on England's national team.



David became a multimillionaire, married a pop star, and became famous for his cool clothes, good looks, and hip hairstyles. But before *any* of these things happened, David was just a little kid who held his dad's hand during the matches. He loved soccer more than anything else in the world.