



**TACKLE
SOCCER
THIS WAY**
Duncan Edwards



Tackle Soccer This Way

Duncan Edwards
New Kelmescott Press,
£10

Learning from the best



Duncan Edwards is often mentioned in the same breath as the game's true legends – Sir Matt Busby called him “the greatest player of his age I have ever seen”. But whereas other players of his generation live on in the memory, Edwards' death in the 1958 Munich air disaster means his career is destined to remain grainy.

Edwards' legacy may not be preserved in YouTube clips, but in a pocket-sized manual he wrote just before his death. Commissioned to write ‘an instructional book on association football’, he handed the manuscript to publishers shortly before the fateful trip to Yugoslavia.

Tackle Soccer This Way was originally published in 1958, but has now been reprinted due to the efforts of one United fan who felt his collectors' item ebay purchase deserved a wider audience.

Part instruction manual, part autobiography, *Tackle Soccer* draws on personal anecdotes to illustrate the footballer's lot in the 1950s.

Edwards details his first meeting with Matt Busby, who visited his house at 2am on the day after his 16th birthday to persuade him to sign. There is advice on choosing boots (“As you get older, you discover the importance of being comfortable underfoot”) and team discipline (“Never, never, mob a referee. It only needs someone to forget his manners and you are down to ten men”).

The quaint language and sportsmanship makes it feel like a chat with a pensioner, not a young star of the day, but rather than being patronising or haughty, it is warm, informative and forthright.

The tactical analysis and on-field roles may have changed beyond recognition, but the basics haven't, and it remains full of sound, if dated, advice. And who better to learn from than one of the greatest?
Jon Crampin

Best Quote

**“Our football has the brightest future it has ever had, as long as youngsters keep playing the game and do not get bogged down in front of television sets.”
Edwards, ahead of his time.**