

# Match points: Man United v Tottenham

## Key battles



### Wayne Rooney v Toby Alderweireld

The departures of Robin van Persie and Radamel Falcao leave Rooney without any challengers for the status of United's main striker. He has the responsibility of proving prolific. Alderweireld was one of the division's best centre-backs for Southampton last season and should be the reliable partner Jan Vertonghen lacked last year.



### Morgan Schneiderlin v Ryan Mason

Had Schneiderlin signed for Spurs in 2014, perhaps Mason would have remained a fringe figure. Instead he is now an England international. Yet he does not shield a defence the way the Frenchman does and left Tottenham's back four exposed in the 3-0 defeat. United will try and drag him out of position again.



### Daley Blind v Harry Kane

Like United, Spurs look very reliant on one striker. Kane scored 31 times last season and, given a lack of other trustworthy forwards, the pressure is on him to repeat such extraordinary feats. The versatile Blind has been converted into a centre-back in pre-season. Now he faces a test if he can stop one of the top strikers.



## Key stats

### Memphis Depay's Dutch league goals at PSV Eindhoven

2011-14

17

2014-15

22

### United have lost their opening league in two of the last three seasons.

**LOST**  
2014-15

**1-2**  
at home to  
Swansea

Louis  
van Gaal

**WIN**  
2013-14

**4-1**  
at  
Swansea

David  
Moyes

**LOST**  
2012-13

**0-1**  
at  
Everton

Alex  
Ferguson

### Harry Kane

31

2014-15

Last season Kane became the first player to score 30 times in a season for Tottenham since Gary Lineker in 1991-92.

### Gary Lineker

35

1991-92

### Leaky backline

53

Last season Tottenham conceded 53 goals – two more than relegated Hull and the same number as Burnley, who also went down.