# David Beckham’s struggle with fame revealed by Ruud Gullit as star nears 50



David Beckham, the former England football captain renowned for his illustrious career, continues to exemplify global fame, albeit with significant challenges associated with such notoriety. Beckham is set to celebrate his 50th birthday on Friday, marking nearly three decades in the public eye. His career, celebrated for incredible achievements, has not been without its darker facets, particularly during his time at LA Galaxy.

Ruud Gullit, Beckham’s former manager at LA Galaxy, recently shared insights into the difficulties Beckham faced due to his celebrity status. In a discussion on the podcast "Stick To Football," Gullit reflected on their time together, noting the intensity of Beckham's fame. He recounted how they used to converse about the pressures of being in the limelight. "I said, 'David, I don't want to trade [lives] with you' - I've been there, done that," Gullit explained. "I said: 'I can't live like that, how can you do that?' and he just [sighed] and said 'Yeah'."

Gullit elaborated on the constraints imposed by Beckham’s fame, mentioning, "I said: 'Can't you just go in your own car?' he said: 'No, Ruud I can't. Because people chase me all the time.'" This reflects the invasive nature of celebrity culture, where the demand for Beckham’s presence often resulted in a need for constant protection. Gullit expressed admiration for Beckham’s ability to manage the duality of his life, balancing his dedication to football with the overwhelming attention he receives.

Despite retiring from professional football in 2013, Beckham's influence remains potent. Beyond his playing days, he has taken on significant roles in football administration, including being the president and co-owner of Inter Miami and also a co-owner of Salford City. His previous accomplishments on the pitch—a record that includes six league titles and two FA Cups with Manchester United, as well as league titles with Real Madrid and PSG—have solidified his status as a football icon.

On the international stage, Beckham represented England with pride, earning 115 caps and scoring 17 goals throughout his career. His marriage to Victoria Beckham, a prominent member of the Spice Girls, further amplified his global appeal, intertwining pop culture with sports fame.

In addition to his sport-related ventures, Beckham has secured numerous lucrative brand deals, including a noteworthy lifetime contract with Adidas. His celebrity status has also been instrumental in raising the profile of football in the United States, especially following his high-profile move to LA Galaxy in 2007.

As the Beckhams navigate celebrity events, they frequently find themselves at the centre of public attention. Beckham's life, punctuated by an impressive array of achievements and fraught with the complexities of fame, continues to be a compelling narrative in the world of sports and beyond.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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4. <https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/episodes/7DrhBfT/> - This episode of the 'Stick to Football' podcast features David Beckham discussing his career, including his time at LA Galaxy and the challenges of his celebrity status.
5. <https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/episodes/7DrhBfT/> - In this podcast episode, David Beckham reflects on his career and the pressures of fame, corroborating the article's mention of his challenges during his time at LA Galaxy.
6. <https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/episodes/7DrhBfT/> - This podcast episode features David Beckham discussing his experiences with fame and the pressures he faced, aligning with the article's mention of his challenges during his time at LA Galaxy.
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