

# Feud for thought: five conflicts and a civil war

Arsenal meet Manchester United today in a fixture that in recent years has proved tasty in every sense, notably the Battle of the Buffet at Old Trafford in October 2004, when pizza was thrown in the players' tunnel



## Feb 15, 2003, FA Cup Manchester United 0 Arsenal 2

Sir Alex Ferguson, blaming David Beckham for contributing to an Arsenal goal, kicks a boot angrily at his player in the United changing-room. It strikes Beckham near an eyebrow, cutting him

Pizza topping: **Etna**



## Feb 16, 2008, FA Cup Manchester United 4 Arsenal 0

With United 4-0 up, Nani does a seven-touch keepy-uppy as a frustrated Justin Hoyte hacks at him from behind, to no avail. William Gallas then kicks the United player when the ball is 20 yards away. "Some of our guys were upset he [Nani] did that," says Gilberto Silva, and Arsène Wenger admits his players were "humiliated" by the experience

Pizza topping: **Diabolo**



## Apr 16, 2003, Premier League

### Arsenal 2 Manchester United 2

Sol Campbell is sent off after his arm strikes the face of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and the Arsenal defender later claims that Sir Alex Ferguson prevented the Norwegian from speaking up on Campbell's behalf, which might have helped him to avoid a suspension

Pizza topping: **Capricciosa**



## Feb 1, 2005, Premier League Arsenal 2 Manchester United 4

In the tunnel before the match, Patrick Vieira warns Gary Neville against rough tactics, prompting Roy Keane to intervene on behalf of his Manchester United team-mate by shouting at Vieira

Pizza topping: **Dominator** (with garlic bread)

## Oct 24, 2004, Premier League Manchester United 2 Arsenal 0

United's abrasive approach knocks Arsenal out of their stride and ends their 49-game unbeaten Premier League run. Members of the Arsenal party throw pizza and soup at Sir Alex Ferguson afterwards in the dressing-room area

Pizza topping: **Meat feast**



## Sep 21, 2003, Premier League

### Manchester United 0 Arsenal 0

Believing Ruud van Nistelrooy has overreacted to a kick by Patrick Vieira, which earns the Frenchman a red card, Arsenal players, led by the eye-bulging Martin Keown, taunt and shove the United striker after he misses a late penalty

Pizza topping: **Hot 'n' Spicy**



## The big four

The importance of today's game is underlined by four of the past five winners of the big four mini-league having become champions that season. The exceptions are Arsenal, who gained 11 points against Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool in 2006-07, but finished only fourth in the Premier League. Otherwise, each set of two tables look remarkably similar

### 2003-04

v Big four	Final table
1 Arsenal 14pts	Arsenal 90pts
2 Chelsea 7	Chelsea 79
3 Man Utd 6	Man Utd 75
4 Liverpool 6	Liverpool 60

### 2004-05

v Big four	Final table
1 Chelsea 14pts	Chelsea 95pts
2 Man Utd 12	Arsenal 83
3 Arsenal 5	Man Utd 77
4 Liverpool 3	Everton 61
5	Liverpool 58

### 2005-06

v Big four	Final table
1 Chelsea 12pts	Chelsea 91pts
2 Man Utd 11	Man Utd 83
3 Liverpool 4	Liverpool 82
4 Arsenal 4	Arsenal 67

### 2006-07

v Big four	Final table
1 Arsenal 11pts	Man Utd 89pts
2 Man Utd 8	Chelsea 83
3 Chelsea 7	Liverpool 68
4 Liverpool 6	Arsenal 68

### 2007-08

v Big four	Final table
1 Man Utd 13pts	Man Utd 87pts
2 Chelsea 8	Chelsea 85
3 Arsenal 6	Arsenal 83
4 Liverpool 4	Liverpool 76

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