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**Trebles
all round**
United score
two goals in
injury time to
beat Bayern
Munich and
win the
Champions
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final



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Champions League final

Bayern Munich 1 - 2 Man Utd

Manchester United sealed a historic Treble last night. That was predicted. But what could not have been foreseen was the manner of their victory. Two goals in injury-time by substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer handed them a victory every bit as remarkable as their first European Cup at Wembley win 31 years earlier. Martin Thorpe reports.

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All the action as it happened.

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the Champions final.

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The countdown to Big Cup ends here; another broadcasting coup for MUTV; and Tony Adams gets his excuses in early.

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Strathclyde's Chief Constable John Orr yesterday threw his considerable weight behind moves to ensure that the television cameras from around the world gathering for Saturday's Scottish Cup final would not be recording pictures to suggest that Glasgow remains a mean city.

[Adams to miss Euro 2000 ties](#)

Tony Adams has told the England manager Kevin Keegan that he is not available for next month's Euro 2000 qualifying matches against Sweden at Wembley and Bulgaria in Sofia.

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[Valderrama leads the revolution](#)

At the age of 37 Carlos Valderrama, Colombia's former World Cup star might be expected to have outgrown his nickname of El Pibé - The Kid. But it seems as deeply-rooted as that extraordinary Mr Pastry hairstyle which, for hirsute eccentricity, is matched in sport only by Don King's. Roy Collins on the Colombian enigma now making waves in American Major League Soccer.



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European Cup final
Bayern Munich 1 - 2 Manchester United

Solskjaer takes Treble chance

United shatter Bayern with double strike in injury-time

By Martin Thorpe
Wednesday May 26, 1999

Manchester United sealed a historic Treble last night. That was predicted. But what could not have been foreseen was the manner of their victory. Two goals in injury-time by substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer handed them a victory every bit as remarkable as their first European Cup at Wembley win 31 years earlier.

Yet the start for United could hardly have been worse. The game was merely heading towards the fifth minute when Bayern's giant striker Carsten Jancker burst towards the opposing penalty area only to be unceremoniously brought down by Ronny Johnsen's tackle some 19 yards out on the left.

As the Germans loitered over the free-kick, United arranged a long wall into which Markus Babel infiltrated.

As Mario Basler hammered his shot towards the crimson sentries, Babel appeared to peel off backwards, taking the end of the wall with him and the ball fizzed around the defensive line with Peter Schmeichel, in his final game for United, left angrily rooted to the spot as it hit the net.

Neither the United players nor the fans could

believe they were losing. After all the hope they had invested in this tie, was defeat going to be the reality? About half the giant bowl of the 90,000 capacity Nou Camp wallpapered red by United supporters, a colourful backdrop made even bolder by Alex Ferguson's starting line-up.

In the absence of the suspended Roy Keane and Paul Scholes, the United manager took a huge gamble in this, without doubt the most important game of his life, by risking David Beckham alongside Nicky Butt in midfield.

The player constantly praised as the best crosser of the ball in Europe and prior to the game rated by Pele as currently the third best player in the world behind Rivaldo and Zinedine Zidane, has filled this central role hardly at all in his career and just once this season - in last Saturday's FA Cup final.

But the move did not entail just one risk. To accommodate Beckham's switch, Ryan Giggs was relocated to an equally unfamiliar position on the right wing, and the squad player Jesper Blomqvist brought in on the left.

Going a goal behind so early offered an even stiffer test of the effectiveness of Ferguson's brave redesign. But slowly, as they have done so many times before, United worked their way into the game.

Andy Cole bundled a shot under pressure just wide and Dwight Yorke met Beckham's ball to the near post with a turn and shot which the Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn rushed to punch away. But the difficulty of United's task was frequently exposed. Beckham is great going forward but when, on 29 minutes he was naively dispossessed by Jens Jeremies just inside the Bayern half, the ensuing counter-attack ended with Alexander Zickler shooting just wide of Schmeichel's goal.

Johnsen, preferred in central defence to midfield, proved an unexpectedly wobbly compatriot for Jaap Stam, while Blomqvist was also fitting uneasily into the United reshuffle, not only leaving the left side virtually a cross-free zone but directing too many passes to players in grey.

But Ferguson's team were pressing for the equaliser even if they were not getting very far. The closest to a chance early on in the second half fell, actually, to Blomqvist, whose outstretched foot directed a deep cross from the right over the bar.

But Bayern's well-organised and quick-witted side

always remained a danger as United pushed forward. Not for the first time Jancker ran uninterrupted into the area only to see his acute-angled shot shovelled away by Schmeichel and then Basler nearly chipped the keeper from the halfway line before Stefan Effenberg blasted just wide from 25 yards and forced Schmeichel to tip over from close range shortly after.

A United change was inevitable and on 67 minutes the ineffective Blomqvist made way for Saturday's man of the match Sheringham. And twice Bayern could have stretched their lead as shots rebounded from the United woodwork. Bayern would regret those misses as they missed a chance of their own Treble.

Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; G Neville, Johnsen, Stam, Irwin; Giggs, Beckham, Butt, Blomqvist (Sheringham, 67min); Cole (Solskjaer, 81), Yorke.

Bayern Munich (3-4-1-2) : Kahn; Linke, Matthaus (Fink, 80), Kuffour; Babel, Jeremies, Effenberg, Tarnat; Basler (Salihamidzic, 88); Jancker, Zickler (Scholl, 71).

Referee: P Collina (Italy).



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United claim the Treble

From the Press Association
Wednesday May 26, 1999

Manchester United became the first English club to win the Treble after scoring twice in injury-time to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the European Champions' Cup.

United trailed for nearly the entire game after falling behind to Mario Basler's sixth-minute free-kick.

But the most amazing finish in the competition's history, United levelled through substitute Teddy Sheringham when he shot on the turn from eight yards, then Ole Gunnar Solskjaer netted the winner moments later.

Sheringham goal seemed enough to take the match into extra-time and a possible golden goal finish - but United were not finished.

David Beckham's corner was flicked on by Sheringham and the other substitute, Solskjaer rifled the ball into the roof of the net to spark incredible scenes among around 40,000 United fans in the Nou Camp.

United, without the suspended Roy Keane and Paul Scholes, played Beckham through the middle with Ryan Giggs on the right flank and Jesper Blomqvist surprisingly given a start on the left.

But the ploy seemed to backfire after Basler's free-kick gave the German champions the lead and United were dominated for most of the game by a physical Bayern side, with the 38-year-old Lothar Matthaus directing things from the back.

Everything United tried seemed to end in frustration but Alex Ferguson refused to bring on fresh legs until 23 minutes from time when Sheringham came on for Blomqvist.

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Bayern could have wrapped the game up when firstly substitute Mehmet Scholl hit the post and then giant striker Carsten Jancker saw the ball bounce back off the bar from an audacious overhead kick.

But the goal United had been so frantically searching for came 40 seconds into stoppage time when Sheringham turned home substitute Solskjaer's shot. Then, unbelievably, two minutes later United went ahead when Sheringham flicked on Beckham's free-kick for Solskjaer to crash the ball home. It left the disbelieving Germans slumped on the floor - and within seconds of the restart, Italian referee Pierluigi Collina blew the final whistle and United had won their second European Cup.





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Last updated: 11:42 pm

Fergie delight at Euro triumph

From the Press Association
Wednesday May 26, 1999

Manchester United's amazing late fightback to steal the Champions' Cup from Bayern Munich left Alex Ferguson lost for words.

Substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with two last-gasp goals.

Bayern had led through Mario Basler's early free-kick and the trophy Ferguson has longed for appeared to be slipping away from the United boss.

But United's super subs turned the game on its head leaving an emotional Ferguson to admit: "I can't believe it. They never give in. It was fantastic and I'm so proud of my players."

Solskjaer savoured his winning goal deep into injury time and insisted United deserved to get back into the final.

"We had to score some goals after the pressure we had," he said.

"It's unbelievable and it's very difficult to describe how I feel just now but if anyone still wonders why I stayed at Man United they can see here why.

"The team spirit is just unbelievable. Everyone works together and is in this together."

Ferguson was in a state of stunned disbelief following the dramatic win.



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Tributes pour in for magnificent United

From the Press Association
Wednesday May 26, 1999

Jimmy Armfield admitted that fortune had played a great part in Manchester United's European Champions' Cup success in Barcelona.

The former Leeds United manager, who suffered European Cup final defeat to Bayern Munich in 1975, said: "It was incredible.

"I felt all along that their name has been on it and if they got one goal they would win it.

"Everything just happened for them in the space of 10 minutes. They had a bit of fortune when Bayern hit the woodwork twice in a few minutes.

"But United got a break and that was what they needed. The changes Bayern made - taking Basler off - backfired on them.

"But I felt all along that United's name was on the trophy. It just showed how strong they are."

League Managers Association chief executive John Barnwell praised Alex Ferguson for his achievements in guiding United to the Treble.

"It was absolutely breathtaking," Barnwell said.

"I am delighted for Alex and it was one of the greatest sporting achievements.

"They showed resilience and two inspirational substitutions. Alex must have the golden finger."



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Things can only get better - Giggs

From the Press Association
Thursday May 27, 1999

Ryan Giggs reckons Manchester United are the best team in English soccer history, and he issued this warning to the chasing pack: "We can only get better."

Giggs emerged from the euphoric dressing rooms in the Nou Camp stadium in the early hours of the morning after United had beaten Bayern Munich 2-1 with his European Champions' League medal around his neck and superlatives tumbling from his lips.

"I always said we would never be judged as a great team until we had won the Champions' League," said Giggs.

"We've done that now and I think we deserve to be ranked along with the Liverpool teams of the Eighties. Hopefully this is just a stepping stone and we can go on and dominate like they did.

"We've dominated over the last seven seasons in the league. We had to take that next step in Europe and now we have done."

And Giggs, one of the home-grown stars who has blended with manager Alex Ferguson's big buys to produce a squad unrivalled in British soccer, believes the present mix can become an even more lethal cocktail.

"We've got everything in our favour," said the 25-year-old winger.

"We've got experience, we've definitely got the youth in the team and now in winning this we've got the confidence that we can go on doing it.

"I think we can only get better. For key players like

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Jesper, Yorkey and Jaap Stam it's their first season, so hopefully they can go on and get better. We've definitely got the spirit and the ability."





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Self-belief clinches Treble for United

From the Press Association
Thursday May 27, 1999

Jaap Stam claims Manchester United's indomitable spirit was the key to their sensational Champions' Cup victory.

Dutch defender Stam revealed that the players' incredible self-belief kept them going in the Nou Camp even though all seemed lost as 90 minutes elapsed with United trailing Bayern Munich 1-0 in the final.

They never gave up and got their reward when substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored in stoppage time to turn the game on its head and clinch a fantastic Treble.

"We have scored a lot of late goals at the end of games this season. We did it against Liverpool and we've done it here. I just think there's no better spirit than this," said Stam.

"We didn't think it was too much, although as the minutes passed by and you get to the end you think it's going to be difficult to get the equaliser.

"At the end we had to give everything to get the chance. We got the corner and everybody just went up and tried to get the goal and we managed to get it in the 90th minute.

"We scored that goal and straight afterwards we still felt there was a chance for another one. We went for it again and we scored again, which was a tremendous feeling.

"We knew when we scored the equaliser that the 90 minutes had been played so we knew we would have extra time, but this is far better than that.

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"We still have our unbeaten record of 33 matches and we will try to keep that going next season as well."





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United victory "the pinnacle" - Ferguson

From the Press Association
Thursday May 27, 1999

Alex Ferguson admitted nothing can top the Treble after Manchester United won a sensational Champions' Cup Final to make football history.

United scored twice in stoppage time to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the Nou Camp in one of the most dramatic finishes to a game of football.

United are the first English side to win the Champions' Cup, Premiership and FA Cup in one season and boss Ferguson admitted they will never better this achievement.

However, Ferguson dismissed any notion that their hunger for success had been satisfied.

"You can't top this because this is the pinnacle," he said. "You can equal it and we can try to maintain our high standards.

"There is always going to be a question mark over the team and me when you win a trophy like this. A lot will be written saying that we'll be taking it easy.

"That's true and I will take it easy - until we lose the first game! The players are made of something special and you saw that tonight. They will go on because I want them to go on.

"I just want to relish the evening - I want to let it sink in and understand what has happened out there. I haven't said anything to them yet and I was just hugging them and kissing them and slobbering all over them."





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Champagne, Champagne and Shanks pain

Thursday May 27, 1999

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"Football... bloody hell!" - Alex Ferguson, 26th May 1999.

BIG CUP, BIG FUTURE

Thanks to the kind of finale the Fiver hasn't witnessed since Granny Fiver put a stop to its subscription of 'Roy of the Rovers', [Manchester United](#) have at last got their hands on the trophy they wanted the most, the European Broadcasting Union's Big Cup.

And who can deny them their success? They've romped through the competition, matching and bettering all that the combined might of Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Internazionale, Juventus, and LKS Lodz could throw at them. After thirteen years, Alex Ferguson had finally achieved his holy grail: you couldn't stop him emoting, and let's face it, who would want to?

Fergie's first nod was to United's founding father. "Tonight it is Matt Busby's birthday and I am thinking of him," began Sir Alex. "He will be doing a lot of kicking up there."

Suspended captain [Roy Keane](#) then received a little love. "I felt for him," Lord Ferguson said. "I

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watched him and it was tough for him."

"You can't top this because this is the pinnacle," continued an impassioned Fergster MBE. "You can equal it and we can try to maintain our high standards. A lot will be written saying that we'll be taking it easy. That's true and I will take it easy - until we lose the first game!"

But Fergie couldn't keep up the tough talk for long before his heart melted once again. "The players are made of something special," announced King Lord Sir Alex Ferguson CBE MBE OBE, with a promise of more honours to come (but for who?). "They will go on because I want them to go on. I haven't said anything to them yet and I was just hugging them and kissing them and slobbering all over them." Let's just hope nobody gave him a glass of champagne, or goodness knows what might have happened.

"United can win this if they equalise" - Big Ron Atkinson, with 88 minutes gone in the Nou Camp.

BIG CUP, BIG VIEWING FIGURES

Oh to have been in Barcelona last night. Or Manchester. Or Munich (tee hee). What memories you would have this morning. Thanks to the wonder of television however, at least 15 million of us watched the match, thus ensuring that [Ole Gunnar Solskjaer](#)'s toe-poke takes its place in the national consciousness alongside umpteen miserable penalty shoot-out defeats.

Less likely to enter the pantheon is the sight of Micky Thomas pouring champagne over his own head, live on MUTV's frankly inspired programme 'We're Watching the Match'.

As detailed in yesterday's Fiver, 'We're Watching the Match' brought the drama of Barcelona to the living room by broadcasting a full-frame graphic of the score, and cutting to presenter Mark Pearson whenever anything interesting happened. Pearson was watching the match on ITV (you see where the name comes from now), in the company of 1968 European Cup-winner David Sadler, United legend Stuart Pearson (no relation), and the aforementioned Thomas.

According to Mark Pearson, things got "quite unbelievable" in those 'interesting' two minutes at the end of the game. Take it away Pears-o...

"It was unbelievable. The phone lines went crazy, it was a complete celebration for us. When [Teddy](#) scored we were expecting extra-time, but then Ole

popped up and scored to win it." (Thus saving the world from another 30 minutes of that graphic.) "Micky poured champagne on his head, it was crazy."

But do you think you conveyed the drama of the match to those people who decided not to watch the match but chose instead to watch 'We're Watching the Match'?

"Absolutely, we always convey our passion for football, and [Man Utd](#) in particular, here at MUTV." Right. "It was unbelievable." You mentioned that. The highlight of your broadcasting career perhaps? "Absolutely."

BIG CUP, BIG DISASTER

Obviously, the Fiver offers heartfelt congratulations to His Imperial Majesty Alex Ferguson, [Manchester United](#) and all of their fans. However, we can't go about pretending that everybody will have been happy watching their all-conquering antics - that'd be just daft. And it would be completely remiss of us not to try to cheer up that particular breed of surly fan who secretly (or maybe openly) wanted Bayern to win.

So we've come up with a little scheme.

You would think that every single member of the Old Trafford legion will today be floating on cloud nine. But surely, statistically, one or two of you United fans will be in deep despair.

Maybe you spent the duration of the final stuck on the hard shoulder of a motorway waiting for a breakdown truck which was never going to arrive.

You could have missed the whole thing by falling unconscious after imbibing one cold drink too many. Or your friendly neighbourhood bobby may have slung you in the cooler after spotting you partaking in 'high spirits' just before kick-off.

Perhaps you nipped off to the toilet just before the end, only to re-emerge to find that [Teddy Sheringham](#) and [Ole Gunnar Solskjaer](#) have struck, it's all over, and you had spent the most dramatic and euphoric two minutes of your team's history staring at the word 'Shanks'.

Are you that fan? Or do you know of a United supporter whose Big Cup moment was sullied forever? Email the.boss@guardian.co.uk with your tale of woe and console a curmudgeon today!

NEWS IN BRIEF

[West Ham's Ian Wright](#) has been banned for three matches and fined £17,500 for damage caused to the referee's room following his dismissal against Leeds on May 1.

Dave Bassett is the new manager of [Barnsley](#). "The ambition is to get promotion - that's got to be the first objective," said the 54-year-old former [Wimbledon](#), [Watford](#), [Sheffield United](#), [Crystal Palace](#) and [Nottingham Forest](#) boss.

Dutch international goalkeeper Edwin van Der Saar has signed for Juventus. The Ajax keeper, who had been linked with [Manchester United](#) and [Liverpool](#), will replace Internazionale-bound Angelo Peruzzi.

[Everton](#) goalkeeper Thomas Myhre has broken his right leg in training and faces a fight to be fit for the start of next season.

[Southampton](#) striker James Beattie will this week undergo surgery on a long-term hernia injury.

TONIGHT'S TV AND RADIO

Sky Sports 1: Spanish Football (7.30pm, repeated 1am)
Real Madrid? Yesterday's men.

Sky Sports 2: Futbol Mundial (7pm, repeated 11.45pm on Sky Sports 1)
World football? What's that?

Sky Sports 3: Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (10pm)
Ah, that's better.

MUTV: Red Hot News: Barcelona Special (6pm, repeated ad infinitum)
Actually, that's enough [Manchester United](#) for one day.



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'Cocky' Germans fired us up - Sheringham

From the Press Association
Thursday May 27, 1999

Teddy Sheringham revealed the anger which swept Manchester United to their historic European Cup triumph.

England striker Sheringham, who came off the bench to score one of the most important goals in the club's history, admitted it was the sight of the Bayern Munich players arrogantly waving to their fans with 25 minutes to go which fuelled the resolve for United's late onslaught.

And he also insisted that United's victory was down to a passionate half-time speech in the Nou Camp dressing room by United manager Alex Ferguson, who sent his players out for the second-half with the words "don't come back here if you haven't given your all" ringing in their ears.

But it was the arrogant wave of German striker Mario Basler which really got under the skin of United's players and fired them up to fight on when it seemed their unique treble was lost. That was United's true motivation.

"I saw Basler walking over to take a corner waving to his fans," said Sheringham, with a sneer which even more displayed his true feelings for the smug Germans.

"The Germans were getting very flash and a bit cocky and it was only 1-0. I was sub at the time and I wasn't best pleased with Basler.

"It wasn't enjoyable watching that and it gives you more of an incentive to try and change it round. Thankfully, it just makes it all the better for us."

It was a sentiment shared by United's £10million

Dutch defender Jaap Stam, who said: "I couldn't believe it when I saw them a couple of minutes from the end and they were all waving to the crowd like they felt they had won it already. Of course when you see that you want to do everything to get the equaliser."

Now Sheringham believes United can go on to dominate European football and said: "If you look around there are outstanding players all over the pitch who are number ones in their own countries. That's what makes a great team."





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East Stirling hail champion Ferguson

From the Press Association
Thursday May 27, 1999

The club that gave Alex Ferguson his first managerial job has joined in the chorus of praise for the man who masterminded Manchester United's Champions' Cup success.

It is almost 24 years since Ferguson was appointed manager of the Scottish club, then in the old Second Division and now in the third flight.

Despite only staying three months in the post before moving to St Mirren, Ferguson has retained connections with the 'Shire' and is set to send a team to Firs Park for a friendly sometime next season.

It will mark East Stirling's last season before they ground share with Stenhousemuir at Ochilview.

East Stirling chairman George Ronald said: "Everyone at the club is very proud to be associated with Alex and his achievement in winning the European Cup.

"East Stirling gave him his first chance in management because the people at the time thought he was a guy with a lot of get up and go.

"He was and still is very dynamic and full of good ideas, a class act.

"We were struggling near the foot of the old Second Division when Alex arrived, but he took us up the table and gave us respectability, which was a remarkable achievement in itself.

"St Mirren spotted his potential and reluctantly we agreed to let him go. It has always been this club's policy that if a player or a coach gets a chance to better himself, we won't stand in their way."

East Stirling chairman George Ronald said: "We have been speaking to Manchester United in the last 48 hours and the signals we are getting is that Alex will bring a team here midway through next season."





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Never say die
David Lacey on why United won



An island's finest son
How Dwight's mum took it all in her stride

New Peter Fergie lines up Bosnich as Schmeichel's successor

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Martin Thorpe reports from the Nou Camp.

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All the action as it happened.

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Manchester United have won all that they have because, to the last, their hunters' instincts never deserted them, says David Lacey. All the while they could scent a kill, Alex Ferguson's team were never beaten.

[Germans find defeat hard to swallow](#)

The city of Munich and the fans of Bayern Munich awoke yesterday from a bad Barcelona dream and struggled to put the bitter scenes of the previous

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night behind them.

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How does Grace Yorke, mother on the most famous Tobagonian, feel after a night of high drama on Wednesday?

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A television audience of 15.5 million tuned in to watch Manchester United's last-gasp European Cup triumph over Bayern Munich.

[**Ferguson savours night of drama**](#)

Vivek Chaudhary hears Alex Ferguson's reaction to an astonishing match.

[**Beckham runs for glory**](#)

Martin Walker on United's man-of-the-match, David Beckham.

[**Drama at the death as United make history**](#)

Jim White struggles to get his head round United's late winner.

[**Fans spill out to dance at the feet of Sir Matt**](#)

Thousands of jubilant supporters turned the centre of Manchester into a huge street party amid a sea of emotion last night.

[**Germany's reaction to United's late, late show**](#)

What the German papers are saying about Bayern Munich's failure.

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If you didn't cash in on Manchester United's glamour treble, there's still money to be made from the play-off finals, writes Mike Hodgkinson.

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[**United set for £60m windfall**](#)

In one way, Manchester United have won the European Cup a year early. Next season, with a new format and financing, the victors could earn up to £60 million, which would help with the Old Trafford balance sheet, under strain at the moment despite their reputation as the world's richest club.

[**Wright off lightly with short ban**](#)

Ian Wright yesterday escaped with a three-match ban and a £17,500 fine after his latest appearance in the Football Association dock.

[**Leeds ready to bid £5m for Dyer**](#)

Leeds are believed to be ready to smash their record transfer fee to sign Ipswich's highly-rated wing-back



Kieron Dyer.

People

Valderrama leads the revolution

At the age of 37 Carlos Valderrama, Colombia's former World Cup star might be expected to have outgrown his nickname of El Pibé - The Kid. But it seems as deeply-rooted as that extraordinary Mr Pastry hairstyle which, for hirsute eccentricity, is matched in sport only by Don King's. Roy Collins on the Colombian enigma now making waves in American Major League Soccer.



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No substitute for a killer instinct

Analysis: Fighting spirit enabled United to snatch historic win

By David Lacey
Friday May 28, 1999

Manchester United have won all that they have because, to the last, their hunters' instincts never deserted them. All the while they could scent a kill, Alex Ferguson's team were never beaten.

At Nou Camp on Wednesday night Bayern Munich thought they had put the European Cup beyond the range of United's shooting party. The 12-bores looked empty, it was surely time to send the beaters home. That was Bayern's little mistake. One last rustle in the bushes, one final burst of fire, and history had been made in seconds, having been reduced to a distant hypothesis over the previous hour-and-a-half.

Manchester United's completion of a unique Treble owes much to the recent rationalisation of football's timekeeping. In a final of few interruptions nobody could have quibbled had Pierluigi Collina ended the match 30 seconds after the 90th minute, but the fourth official decreed that three minutes remained and it is hard to believe that any team has ever made such good use of stoppage time in such momentous circumstances.

Ferguson may well be knighted, just as Matt Busby was after United won the European Cup in 1968. Old Trafford supporters may feel it equally appropriate should Her Majesty be moved to declare: "Arise, Sir Edward" when the day of investiture arrives.

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Barely a year ago Teddy Sheringham was being talked out of England's World Cup team by critical opinion keen to see Michael Owen brought into Glenn Hoddle's attack. Sheringham, it was argued, was too one-paced. His time had come and gone. So much for critical opinion. The facts are that in two cup finals in the space of five days Sheringham has come off the Manchester United bench to score a goal, set one up, score another and set up another.

Roy Keane's injury had brought on Sheringham early against Newcastle at Wembley and within 80 seconds he had scored. The need to reorganise and end the misery of Jesper Blomqvist on the left wing saw Sheringham recalled for the last 25 minutes at Nou Camp and from the moment he came on Bayern were presented with problems they had not encountered up to that point.

In the matter of substitutions Ferguson has acquired the habits of a poker player enjoying a run of straights. Andy Cole came on to score the goal against Tottenham which won the Premiership, Sheringham was the FA Cup final's man-of-the-match, and within a minute of him scoring in Barcelona Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who had replaced Cole late in the game, had flicked Sheringham's header into the roof of the Bayern net.

This was a triumph of opportunism not tactics, team spirit rather than teamwork which, for once, had found United below par. While the victory was the ultimate vindication of Ferguson's policy of rotating his side from a strong squad, there was a point on Wednesday night when it all appeared to have gone horribly wrong.

The success Beckham enjoyed at Wembley once he had moved to central midfield after Keane's departure persuaded Ferguson to keep him there against Bayern. While Beckham's passing was often immaculate, the grip on Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole quickly established by Samuel Kuffour and Thomas Linke meant that much of it was wasted.

A situation was reached in which United had Beckham, one of the modern game's most consistent crossers and who ultimately supplied the corners which led to the goals, making little headway through the middle while the full benefit of Ryan Giggs's natural left foot had been lost once the Welshman had started the game on the right. All this compounded, rather than compensated for, the loss of Keane and Paul Scholes.



Had the shots from Mehmet Scholl and Carsten Jancker found the United net instead of hitting post and bar, Ferguson might now be the subject of a post-mortem rather than an object of acclaim. For once, his faith in Yorke and Cole was not born out, it was the spirit he has imbued in the United team overall which came to his rescue.

Bayern believed they could grind out a narrow victory once Mario Basler's free-kick had given them an early lead. That they came so close was due primarily to superbly disciplined defending. Kuffour was entitled to his inconsolable tears at the end.

Lothar Matthäus, watching from the bench as his one remaining ambition disappeared, wore the look of a man seeing his house slip into the sea. For years the Germans had won prizes with substitutes, now they had been beaten at their own game just when they thought it was all over. There have been better European Cup finals than this one, but never a better finish.



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Celebrating an island's finest son

Back home Yorke helps give rum tale its happy ending

By Alex Bellos in Tobago
Friday May 28, 1999

One might expect that being the mother of the most famous Tobagonian of all time entitles you to the odd flurry of excitement, but Grace Yorke is not that type of woman.

While Dwight's brothers and friends were celebrating his team's victory in the European Cup, Mrs Yorke was more restrained, sitting in her kitchen and offering her own commentary. "A few of the boys even cried," she said solemnly. Did she? "No," and she laughed, as if it were somehow silly to take football that seriously.

Mrs Yorke still lives in the modest bungalow in Robert Street, Canaan, where Dwight grew up and the day of the most important match in Tobago's prodigal son's career started no differently from any other, with the only sign of football frenzy in the village being a Rastafarian sat by the barber shop wearing a Manchester United shirt with the number 19 on the back. The man was Chun, one of Dwight's best friends, who was given the strip as a present. He guaranteed that the whole island was hyped up for the match, even if it didn't look like it. "We are a Third World country. We are a relaxed people," he said.

Only family and a few friends were invited to watch the final at the Yorkes. His other school friends went to Gymbuck's house a block away. Gymbuck was an ornithology student at Warwick University when Dwight was at Aston Villa.

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After a beer and rum infused start, the atmosphere sunk when Bayern scored in the sixth minute and things didn't improve until Teddy Sheringham equalised 84 minutes later. They were still jumping up and down and throwing beer over each other when Ole Gunnar Solskjaer sealed the result - which prompted a horn beeping, two-car convoy over to the Yorkes' place.

Champagne was popped open in Robert Street as friends and family hugged each other and slapped palms. "This is the greatest moment. It's unbelievable to have a home boy playing European soccer. We only have 40,000 people living on this island. I still can't believe it," said Bevan, a contemporary of Dwight's at Bon Accord Primary School. "Dwight's the best thing that has ever come out of Tobago," said Darren, another school friend. "He's the best striker in the world right now."

In Canaan, Tobago, few people would disagree.



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Rapturous homecoming for United

From the Press Association

Friday May 28, 1999

Manchester United's history makers received a tumultuous welcome when they paraded their three trophies on their homecoming from Barcelona.

Supporters lined the streets from the airport to the MEN Arena in Manchester city centre as the Treble winners showed off the European Cup, Premier League trophy and FA Cup.

The four-hour-long victory parade ended at the Arena where the United players, management, backroom staff and directors received an ear-splitting ovation from the 17,000 fans inside.

Manager Alex Ferguson strode into the Arena holding aloft the European Cup, while Peter Schmeichel followed carrying the Premier League trophy and skipper Roy Keane brought in the FA Cup.

Ferguson said: "It's slowly beginning to hit home with everyone and were all very emotional.

"We've had a terrific reception right from Sale through the streets to here.

"It's just been a marvellous day and we have the best fans in the world and an absolutely fantastic bunch of players."

Keane took the microphone and he said: "I think we deserved to win all three trophies because we have played some great football."

Departing goalkeeper Schmeichel, whose last act for the club was to hoist aloft the European Cup after United's sensational 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich, said: "I've played for the best team in the

world and I'll always remember you. Thank you very much."





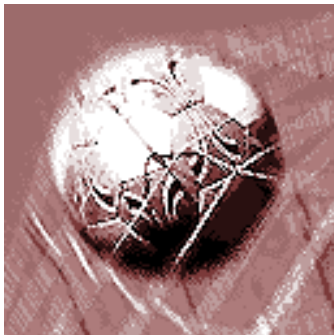
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Television: One in four watch United

Friday May 28, 1999

A television audience of 15.5 million tuned in to watch Manchester United's last-gasp European Cup triumph over Bayern Munich.

The figures, equivalent to one in four of the population, peaked at 18.8 million at 9.30pm - just as Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored two injury-time goals to hand their side the Treble.

An ITV spokeswoman said: "It was a phenomenal success, by far the highest viewing figures for a sporting event this year. Many people obviously tuned in for the result and they got that tremendous grand finale as well."

The figures do not match the biggest-ever British audience for a football match - that record still belongs to England's World Cup second-round defeat on penalties last year against Argentina which was seen by 23 million people.

Bookmakers throughout Britain, who offered 100-1 against United doing the Treble at the start of the season, face an estimated pay-out of £10m.

Comparing it to the great Frankie Dettori disaster, a spokesman for William Hill said yesterday: "At a time like this you just have to lie back and think of England."

Undeterred, the bookies are already offering 66-1 against United repeating the Treble next season.

The United manager Alex Ferguson, 50-1 to be given a knighthood a year ago, is now down to 2-1.

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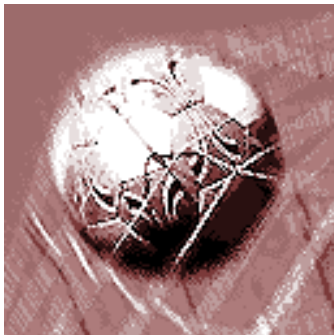
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Germans find defeat hard to swallow

Reaction: Munich awakes from Barcelona nightmare

By Ian Traynor in Munich
Friday May 28, 1999

Stunned, tearful, and incredulous at the extraordinary Nou Camp finale, the city of Munich and the fans of Bayern Munich awoke yesterday from a bad Barcelona dream and struggled to put the bitter scenes of the previous night behind them.

"OH NO," was the banner headline in English spread across the front page of the bestselling Bild tabloid, one of the few German newspapers to hold their front and sports pages late enough to get the match reports into yesterday's editions.

"Simply unbelievable. Football can be so cruel," said Bild beside a picture of the crestfallen Bayern midfielder Stefan Effenberg.

Bayern fans who packed Munich's Olympic Stadium on Wednesday night to watch the game on giant screens wept openly after Manchester United's two substitutes dealt the lethal injury-time blow.

Germany's greatest ever footballer, Franz Beckenbauer, who is also the Bayern club president and the country's roving World Cup ambassador, described the result as the "cruellest defeat of my life. I've never experienced an unhappier defeat."

He later sought to put things into perspective: "We haven't lost a fight, we haven't lost a battle, we

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haven't lost a life. We've lost a match."

Beckenbauer's former national team-mate who is now the most eloquent football pundit in Germany, Günther Netzer, said: "In all the time I've been watching football, I've never seen anything so terrible. This will stay in the heads of these players for ever."

Bayern have already secured the Bundesliga and go for the German Double in the national cup final in Berlin in a fortnight. But naturally they had their hearts set on the Treble and none more so than Lothar Matthäus the veteran libero, who was the only Bayern player in the 1987 European Cup final lost to Porto, also by 2-1.

The Champions Cup is the sole medal missing from Matthäus's impressive collection and at 38 he looks unlikely to get another chance.

Although he was one of the few Bayern players to applaud United as they received the trophy, he immediately tore off his runner's-up medal and was inconsolable, according to Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Bayern coach.

Hitzfeld, who won the European Cup with Borussia Dortmund two years ago and looked set for a glorious first season in Munich, said he felt drained, but remained gracious rather than embittered. "Manchester deserved the victory just as much as we did."

With four minutes to go on Wednesday night, the match commentator on German television offered the following verdict on decades of Anglo-German footballing rivalry: "Yet again in the crucial game the English team has proven inferior to the German team."

A few minutes later he was spluttering as Sheringham got the equaliser, and 103 seconds later he was struck dumb.



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Ferguson savours night of drama

Manager of the decade lets his emotions do the talking

Vivek Chaudhary in Barcelona
Thursday May 27, 1999

The history maker strolled in with a gentle smile on his face, a gold medal proudly hanging over a sombre grey waistcoat, and appeared as stunned as the rest of us at what had just passed.

Alex Ferguson, the manager of the decade, stared at the scores of journalists assembled before him and for once was a man of reflective rather than fiery words.

"It's hard for me to take it all in," he said, winking at a journalist he recognised and giving him a clenched fist salute.

"It's hard to take in what's happened," he repeated. "But I'm very proud tonight, of my players, of my family and my heritage, for what they have given me. It's the greatest moment in my life tonight."

If the match itself was not for faint hearts, then Ferguson's post-match press conference was not for the hard-hearted. It was difficult not to feel the emotion gushing through his words and the sense of pride beaming from his face was almost infectious.

On reaching the 90-minute mark of the match, with the score at 1-0, Ferguson said: "I was stunned, I was starting to adjust to losing the game, I kept saying to myself keep your dignity and that it's not going to be your year.

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"It's a fairy tale really, on Sir Matt Busby's birthday. Perhaps he's doing a little kicking for us," said Ferguson, giving a quick glance up to the sky.

Like the rest of us in Nou Camp, Ferguson said he had few words to describe how he felt when the final whistle sounded. "I just could not take it in. It happened so quickly."

The man who last night made history confessed that as his players danced around Nou Camp he was completely lost for words for the red sentries who clinched the unique treble.

"I have not said anything to anyone. I have just hugged and kissed them. They know my feelings, they know what I feel for them.

"I feel for Roy Keane, I have watched him walking around, he was gutted."

Ferguson said that in the end his team deserved the victory but he never quite expected it to be achieved in that way.

He added: "I was prepared to risk. If you risk you deserve to succeed in football. I felt with Sheringham and Solskjaer they were always liable to score goals. They are goalscorers, that's what their job is. We rode our luck in the last 15 minutes but that was a lot to do with the way we were playing."

When asked if he could ever top last night's achievement, Ferguson replied candidly: "You can't top that, it's the pinnacle. You can equal it, you can maintain your standards and pride, but you can't top that."

The fiery Scot even had a smile and a few words for a Manchester United fan who had managed to sneak into the press conference. Describing the team's followers as fantastic, Ferguson gave a thumbs-up salute to the fan and said: "This guy is unbelievable. How do you do it? Well, you deserve it."

On the game in general Ferguson said: "We never really created the chances that we normally create but we did try to win it. I thought that Bayern Munich, once they scored, tried to shut the shop up. That's a dangerous game to play."

As United's fans made their way out of Nou Camp and the players returned to the dressing room to begin the post-match celebrations, Ferguson confessed that he still had not decided how he



would mark the historic occasion.

He said: "I don't know how I'm going to celebrate. I just want to relish the evening. I want to let it sink in and understand what happened out there. I am enjoying what is happening."

With a gentle smile he clinched his medal and rose from his chair thanking those present for their support. Some journalists rushed forward to shake his hand while others applauded as Ferguson left the press room to join his players. The sense of history was felt by all those present, and the man who had just made it had left his mark on those who had heard him.

If Ferguson appeared stunned by the events, then spare a thought for his German rival of the night. Ottmar Hitzfeld, manager of Bayern Munich, said after the match: "I think I will be able to understand this after I have slept a couple of days.

"It's really difficult to digest this kind of blow but we can be proud because we have performed. We were totally surprised, it was inconceivable for us but this is football and things like this happen. The future will show how quickly we can recover."

As the two managers rejoined their players, one was left feeling that it was not a night for words but just pure emotion.



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Beckham runs for glory

Lap of honour for the long-distance sprinter

By Michael Walker

Thursday May 27, 1999

At the end he ran and he ran and he ran. If, as Manchester United's assistant manager Steve McClaren calculated, David Beckham covered nine miles of the Stadio Delle Alpi in the semi-final against Juventus in Turin, then how much ground did he cover last night in the vastness of Nou Camp? Only this week Beckham revealed that he was the Essex 1500m champion four years running at school, but football, especially at this level, requires sprint after sprint after sprint.

And yet no matter what part of the pitch Beckham filled - the centre circle, his area, the Bayern penalty box, the right-wing and all four corners - no United player seemed to be on his wavelength.

Then Teddy Sheringham appeared. The mood shifted, Beckham shifted. In injury-time he turned up on the left wing, rounded a silver grey shirt and flicked the ball to Denis Irwin, whose cross was booted out for a corner, probably a last corner.

All those years of practice, all those extra hours in training when Alex Ferguson had to drag Beckham away from The Cliff, were boiling down to this. A poor corner and the trophy was Bayern's. But it was not poor, it was typically fast and accurate, Peter Schmeichel's not so jolly green

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giant presence told and suddenly, a couple of half-hit shots from Ryan Giggs and Sheringham later, the ball was in the Munich net.

That was one thing, but then to have a near repeat with injury-time transforming into extra-time was astonishing. Then again, though, Beckham was demonstrating the archer's art of the corner kick and under the most intense scrutiny. Now Sheringham met this one almost as thrillingly as Roy Keane met another Beckham corner in the semi-finals. Sheringham's header did not billow the net as Keane's did but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's volley did.

The Germans had said that they feared Beckham's crossing. How realistic those fears proved as Sammy Kuffour, the only non-German in the team, was left showing Teutonic angst as he pummelled the Nou Camp turf. Kuffour, in particular, was deserving of his distress because he, along with Bayern's caveman of a midfielder, Jens Jeremies, did most to nullify the Beckham threat.

Jeremies was his shadow for long spells but then for 67 minutes, until the introduction of Sheringham, so were a few of Beckham's team-mates. Beckham may have displayed the emotional maturity and natural ability to dictate a European Cup final, but that does not mean he is a replica Roy Keane. Far from it, in fact. But he does complement Keane in a way that Nicky Butt did not complement Beckham last night.

That was a symptom of United's problems: a domino effect caused by Keane's suspension. Beckham may be the genuine article as a top-class playmaker but Giggs is no replacement for him on the right. On the opposite flank Jesper Blomqvist is no Giggs and in the 67 minutes United maintained this formation there was little of the fluid attacking that has characterised their season.

Instead there was frustration typified on the half-hour when a swerving Beckham corner from the right evaded four static red shirts when surely Keane would have met the ball on the run. Beckham was left cursing the Barcelona night air just as earlier he had cursed Ronny Johnsen for not anticipating aninwinging free-kick.

When Kuffour and Jeremies headed away second-half corners Beckham must have sworn again. But at last Sheringham came on to give Beck ham's passes a point and to change the night.

If only the footballers and journalists of England could make a similar change. Both put pen to



ballot paper for the respective player of the year awards when the season's silverware issues are yet to be settled and the denouement is often far from clear. A sudden glorious run from Christmas to Easter can clinch them for one player over another who has shown regular excellence since August. Hence David Ginola.

But, put all the players and writers in a room last night at the end of the 44-week marathon and a show of hands would have revealed a sizeable majority for David Robert Beckham. It is 331 days since his red card in St Etienne and he has played in all United's 29 away games. He has taken the abuse; now he should be given the glory.



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Drama at the death as United make history

By Jim White

Thursday May 27, 1999

How do you begin to describe this football match? How, in the crazy last few seconds, can it be comprehended? How, when every certainty is overturned, every paragraph about German superiority made suddenly redundant, can you quantify the incredible drama that sport alone can throw up?

The bald facts are these: Last night Manchester United last night became the first English side in history to win the treble, beating Bayern Munich 2-1 in Barcelona to win the European Champions' League. But the manner of their victory was such that no one, not their manager Alex Ferguson, nor the thousands of delirious English supporters, not even the scriptwriters of Roy of the Rovers would dare to suggest. With the stadium clock showing 90 minutes, United scored not once but twice to wipe out an early goal scored by Bayern Munich and take home the European Cup, the largest piece of silverware in world football.

For most of the match they had been behind after Bayern scored from a free-kick and outclassed United, hitting the woodwork twice.

It was not until injury time that substitute Teddy Sheringham scored the equaliser after a scramble following a corner.

Another corner led to the winner from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, with virtually the last kick of the match.

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United manager Alex Ferguson said: "We never gave in. It's fantastic. I'm so proud of my players."

It was an astonishing setting to host the astonishing climax to an astonishing season. Barcelona's Nou Camp, its stand steeping up into the gloaming, oozed the kind of atmosphere that can reduce the most resolute of spines to jelly. And that was before the kick-off.

History was in the air all right: Bayern Munich and Manchester United were both striving to become the first football club from their countries to win the treble of domestic league and cup and the senior European trophy.

But to walk through Barcelona before the game was to assume only one team was in it. All day the city had been turned into a suburb of Manchester. Tens of thousands of English fans had descended on the place, many without tickets, just wanting to be there, to marinade in the sun and beer, to be close to history.

Everywhere in the Spanish city, Bayern Munich were outnumbered, out-sung, out-enthused by their English counterparts. Except, that is, on the pitch. There it was the German players who made the first claim for history, Mario Basler scoring with a free kick in the fifth minute.

Despite the setback, United, being the team they are, never stopped trying: David Beckham's long legs galloped through the mid field, Ryan Giggs jinked and dashed, Andy Cole gave his all.

But German football teams are made of sterner stuff than the sides United are used to playing in England. Bayern's steel grey shirts seemed to reflect their determination. Until that is Ferguson sent on Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to provide the climax no one could believe.

So where does this leave United? Ferguson has always believed that a club's standing is measured solely by the accumulation of trophies.

By that measure, his team found a unique place in Catalonia. But those who have been privileged to see Ferguson's side this season, who witnessed their European triumphs in Italy, believe they have been watching the greatest English team ever. Perhaps not the greatest individual players, but a group of men enthused with a spirit that lifts them beyond the ordinary, a team infected by their manager with a drive which will never say die.

And there is something else about them too. Back



in 1968, when United last won the European Cup, it was the culmination of their manager Matt Busby's dream, it was about exorcising the ghosts of a team that died in the pursuit of the trophy, about completing a task curtailed 10 years previously at Munich airport. They all went home after that triumph sensing it was over, the job done.

But for their successors this victory is just the start. Ferguson has not strived for over a decade to stop here. So for poor Colin Shindler, who had a bestseller telling the world that Manchester United ruined his life, there is more misery to come. For the thousands who loathe United, the future will consist of nothing but standing up and hating Man U.

While he will have loved riding round the Nou Camp on the shoulders of his players, next season it will be back to the old routine for Ferguson.



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Fans spill out to dance at the feet of Sir Matt

By Daniel Taylor

Thursday May 27, 1999

Thousands of jubilant supporters turned the centre of Manchester into a huge street party amid a sea of emotion last night.

The remarkable finale to Manchester United's unprecedented Treble sparked scenes of mass delirium with the realisation that the 31-year quest for the European Cup had finally been fulfilled.

Fans poured out of pubs and clubs to converge on the city centre for a carnival more accustomed to Rio than Rusholme. During the match the streets had been deserted.

Traffic was brought to a standstill as fans young and old danced in the streets to the unrelenting accompaniment of sounding car horns.

The most innovative street vendors were selling the first merchandise bearing the words "European Cup Winners - 1999".

At Old Trafford the poignancy of the occasion was not lost as supporters draped their assorted paraphernalia over the statue of Sir Matt Busby, who was born 90 years ago to the day.

Police were forced to close off the surrounding streets as the hordes made the Theatre of Dreams the focal point for their celebrations, queues of traffic stretching for miles around.

"It's been the most amazing night of my lifetime,"

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said Simon Clementson, a restaurateur and lifelong fan, who could not get his hands on a cherished ticket for Stretford-on-Sea 2,000 miles away.

"I've never seen celebrations like it but then again I've never seen a match end like that."

Later today the scenes will be repeated when the United team parade all three trophies on an open-top bus parade organised at short notice after initially being cancelled because of safety concerns.

An estimated 500,000 people are expected to continue the party.



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'Can football really be so brutal?'

German reaction to Manchester United's late, late show

Thursday May 27, 1999

Rheinische Post

"Can football really be so brutal? I cannot find the words.. I find it hard to describe." Steffen Effenberg was speechless after Bayern Munich's 2-1 defeat by Manchester United in the Champions League Final. So were his team-mates.

Up to the 90th minute, Bayern had done the job and their dream was almost a reality... Then came what had to come: Manchester United created the incomprehensible and turned it around in injury time. Within 102 seconds, Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer destroyed Bayern's dreams. Whilst the English rejoiced, the Bayern players were distraught and in tears.

Suddeutsche Zeitung

Franz Beckenbauer, usually so optimistic, said that the shock of this 1-2 defeat would not evaporate on Thursday: "The worst day," said Beckenbauer, "is the day after." It was written all over the players' faces, as if they had received an enormous blow: their trophy taken away.

"Football can be so cruel. I did not experience such a cruel defeat ever. The game was almost over, the Cup was almost ours."

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld reflected on missed chances: " Had we not twice hit the post, we would have gone home as winners from the

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stadium. Manchester earned the victory exactly like Bayern. We can leave with our heads raised high from the stadium. But I am bitterly disappointed."

Bundesliga (TV Today)

Approximately 40,000 fans of Bayern were left speechless and shocked in the streets of Munich, after the defeat of their team in the last minute of the Champions League Final in Barcelona. With free beer and almost cloudless evening sky on Wednesday, the Bayern fans had watched the game on the big screen at the Olympic Stadium.

The fans witnessed Manchester United score two injury-time goals. "That was unfair", was the unanimous tenor. Numerous fans had tears in their eyes or struck their hands on their faces.



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