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Wednesday, May 26 4:28pm ET

# Man United stuns Bayern 2-1

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BARCELONA, Spain -- Two rapid-fire goals with the clock officially run out gave Manchester United the most prized title in European club soccer and a unique place in the sport's long history.

In an amazing finish, substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solksjaer scored in injury time as United beat Bayern Munich 2-1 Wednesday for the Champions League title.

"I can't believe it.," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "That's football. You never give in."

It was the first top European championship for the storied Reds from England since 1968, and left them the first team from soccer's birthplace to win the league, FA Cup and continental champions titles in one season.

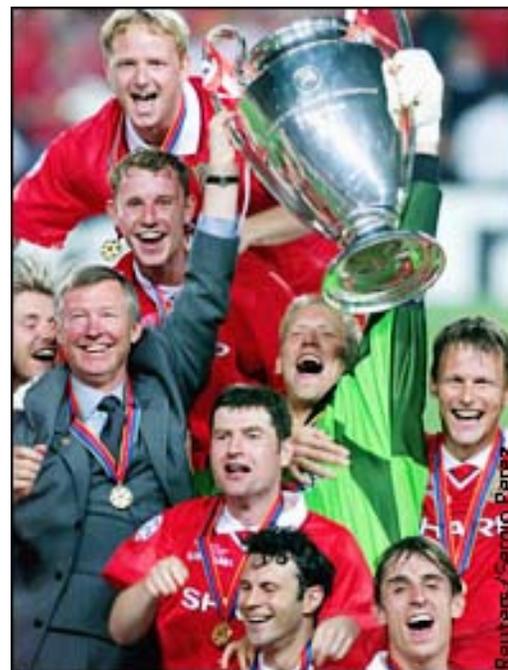
Only three other clubs -- Celtic Glasgow in 1967, Ajax Amsterdam in 1972 and PSV Eindhoven in 1988 -- have swept the triple crown.

Manchester also became the first non-champion to win the Champions Cup. United finished second in the English Premier League to Arsenal in 1998 but made the top-level European tournament this season when the field was expanded.

Bayern Munich, which also made the field through expansion before winning the Bundesliga this season, controlled most of the match after taking a 1-0 lead in the sixth minute on a free kick by Mario Basler.

But Sheringham and Solksjaer were inserted to try to turn the tide late in the game and they did just that, leaving Bayern players slumped and stunned on the field as the final whistle came moments after Solksjaer's winning goal.

Both Manchester goals came after corners by David Beckham, the high-profile



Manchester United goalie Peter Schmeichel and manager Alex Ferguson celebrate the historic win.

midfielder who had been the target of fan wrath following his ejection from a World Cup match last summer.

On the first, Ryan Giggs pounced on a weak Bayern clearance at the top of the penalty area and sent it toward the net, where it was met halfway by Sheringham. He twisted around to send the ball into the low corner, inside the left post and beyond the reach of Bayern goalie Oliver Kahn.

On the second, Solksjaer pounced on a ball headed toward him by a deft flick off the head of Sheringham. After quickly controlling it, Solksjaer kicked it into the net from close range with the toe of his right foot.

More than 30,000 United fans among the sellout crowd of 90,000 at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium sang in joy long after the final whistle as Manchester players went around the field, proudly displaying the coveted cup.

It was quiet a change from the sway the game started. Things could not have gone more wrong for Manchester.

Carsten Jancker, the burly Bayern striker, was brought down just outside the United penalty area by Denis Irwin and Ronny Johnsen after a fast counterattack.

From 17 yards out, Basler took the free kick, sending a swerving shot around the United wall and finding the blind side of goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, the United captain playing his final match before leaving the club.

Two Bayern players who stood at the edge of the United wall moved quickly away as the shot went past them. Schmeichel made no move to stop the ball.

The 34-year-old Schmeichel was the captain for the game as Roy Keane was suspended. After setting up the wall with a bad angle to allow the Bayern goal, he benefitted from a little luck to keep his club close.

In the 79th minute, Basler got behind the defense but his chip over the netminder hit the left goal post. Five minutes later, Carsten Jancker used a bicycle kick to beat Schmeichel, but the ball struck the crossbar.

The two teams were paired in Group D of the round-robin group stage of the Champions League, with Bayern edging Manchester United by one point. The teams played to a pair of draws -- 2-2 in Munich and 1-1 at Old Trafford.

Manchester was the first English team in the championship game since Liverpool in 1985 and the first to win since Liverpool the previous season.

Bayern was the second German team in the championship game this decade, joining 1997 winner Borussia Dortmund. Bayern Munich won the Champions League title from 1974-76 and lost in 1982.

Manchester United won the Premier League title for the fifth time in seven years earlier this month, topping Arsenal in the league table by one point. It captured the second leg Saturday by defeating Newcastle United for the FA Cup.

Bundesliga champion Bayern reached the final for the first time in 12 years by

eliminating Russian squad Dynamo Kiev. But 38-year-old defender Lothar Matthaus came up a loser again. He also played in Bayern's loss to Porto of Portugal in the 1987 final. Upon leaving the podium, Matthaus yanked off the medal he was given for runner-up.

Bayern will play Werder Bremen for the German Cup on June 12.



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Wednesday May 26, 9:31 PM

## Football-Manchester Utd stage astonishing last-gasp win

BARCELONA, May 26 - Injury-time strikes by substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer earned Manchester United an incredible 2-1 win in their European Cup final against Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

United, who had been trailing since the sixth minute when Mario Basler put Bayern ahead, pulled off the most dramatic of recoveries to leave the German side heartbroken.

Bayern bossed the midfield throughout the first half, with Stefan Effenberg immaculate and Jens Jeremies at his effervescent best, and took the lead when Basler drilled a free-kick past a badly-positioned United wall and in at the right-hand post.

United had a few half-chances to recover before the break but Bayern goalkeeper and captain Oliver Kahn had just one save to make, reacting quickly at his near-post to punch clear a shot from Andy Cole on 20 minutes.

United came back into the game in the second half and might have equalised through Jesper Blomqvist or Ronnie Johnsen, who both went close with headers.

Bayern hit the frame of the goal twice late on -- misses they were left to rue as United took the European Cup for the first time since 1968 in truly sensational style.

United coach Alex Ferguson said: ~I can't believe it. Football. Bloody hell.

~I'm so proud of my players.~

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Alex Ferguson described Manchester United's Champions' Cup final win over Bayern Munich as the "best moment of my life."

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### MIRACLE WIN FOR UNITED

MAY 26: Manchester United scored twice in injury-time to lift the European Cup in dramatic fashion. ([More](#))

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Manchester United celebrate at the Nou Camp.



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### MIRACLE WIN FOR UNITED

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Manchester United became the first English club to win the Treble of European Champions' Cup, Premier League title and FA Cup after scoring twice in injury-time to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in Barcelona.

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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.

That had 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, Ole Gunnar 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.

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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*Teddy Sheringham grabs the equaliser.*

### Manchester United 2 Bayern Munich 1

*By Mark Bradley, PA Sport Chief Soccer Writer*

Alex Ferguson always says his amazing Manchester United side like to do things the hard way but even he could not have predicted the simply incredible comeback which they produced in the Nou Camp to win the European Champions' Cup.

Any dreams of the Treble seemed firmly dead and buried when injury-time started in Barcelona with Bayern Munich 1-0 ahead and promising to extend the Germans' position as the nemesis of English football.

But 40 seconds into added time, with even goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel up for a corner in a desperate final move, Ryan

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Giggs played a half-clearance back into the penalty area and substitute Teddy Sheringham swept the ball home on the turn.

Time was suspended for a millisecond as all eyes turned to the linesman but he pointed to the centre-circle and United had come back from the dead.

However, if that was incredible, the winner was simply unbelievable.

Within a minute, another Beckham corner had been flicked on by Sheringham and there was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, on the pitch for just 10 minutes, to prod the ball home.

The Germans were simply devastated, falling to their knees in complete and utter dejection. Within 20 seconds, the final whistle had sounded and the most stunning comeback imaginable had been completed.

More than half of the capacity 90,000 crowd erupted with unrestrained euphoria, even Ferguson could hardly believe his eyes, but when the tears of joy had cleared, there was Schmeichel lifting the European Cup in his final appearance for the club.

The achievement of Sir Matt Busby in leading United to the trophy in 1968 had finally been matched, the historic Treble of League, FA Cup and European Cup had been achieved and the continent's biggest prize was back in England after an agonisingly long 15-year wait.

And it was entirely fitting that Ferguson's place in the pantheon of the greatest managers in the game should have been secured on what would have been Sir Matt's 90th birthday.

Perhaps we should never have doubted United, given the way they had already come back from 2-0 down within 11 minutes at Juventus to win 3-2 and from 1-0 down with two minutes to go to beat Liverpool in the FA Cup.

But oh, how they made us sweat.

Roy Keane may have been one of the proudest United players as he lifted the Cup in ecstasy but his loss through suspension was keenly felt for 65 minutes until finally Ferguson changed his tactics.

Until then, United may have two of the best wingers in the world but one of them, David Beckham, was leading a lonely creative battle in central midfield, while the other, Ryan Giggs,

was marooned out on the right flank, cutting inside all too predictably at every turn.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who had led Borussia Dortmund to victory against United in the semi-finals of the competition two years ago, appeared to have pulled off another tactical masterstroke as his side rode roughshod over Ferguson's team.

They even took the lead after six minutes as they gave United a rude awakening from which they almost never recovered.

Ronny Johnsen fouled Carsten Jancker on the edge of the penalty area as the striker burst forward and Mario Basler curled his free-kick low into the far corner.

Schmeichel was left helplessly rooted on his heels as the ball passed exactly through the gap left when Markus Babel had cleverly turned Nicky Butt on the edge of the wall.

United were being hustled out of their stride by a team who had clearly done their homework as Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke - both expertly marked - attempted to survive on emergency rations with their supply lines cut.

There was the glimpse of an opening just after the break, when Jesper Blomqvist beat keeper Oliver Kahn to a cross from Giggs but he could not keep his shot down at full stretch.

The crowd's calls for Sheringham were duly met with the striker's introduction with 24 minutes left for the hapless Blomqvist.

At last Beckham and Giggs were restored to their rightful places, with Yorke dropping deeper, and Cole mishit an overhead kick just after Stam had headed over.

The Germans countered by withdrawing Alexander Zickler for midfielder Mehmet Scholl, leaving Jancker up front on his own.

Steffen Effenberg then threatened with a long-range drive before only a giant leap by Schmeichel prevented the midfielder lobbing him as he broke clear.

It was almost completely over for United with 11 minutes left after Basler set up Scholl after a superb run and the substitute's chip over Schmeichel looked goalbound until it rebounded off the post back into the relieved keeper's arms.

Nicky Butt threatened at the other end but his hooked cross eluded his team-mates, while Solskjaer's header was clutched

by Kahn within a minute of him coming on for Cole.

The match was simply exploding into action by now, with Schmeichel diving full-length to deny Scholl and Jancker's overhead kick striking the underside of the bar as United sacrificed defence for attack.

Solskjaer back-heeled the ball to Sheringham but his shot was easily gathered by Kahn, Yorke completely missed his kick in the penalty area and Solskjaer's header was saved.

Memories of yet another German victory to match the 1990 World Cup and Euro 96 were flooding back but then came those two simple incredible late strikes.

It was a match which no one in the Nou Camp will ever forget.

United secured their places in the history books and, whisper it quietly, possibly even in the hearts of a nation as well.

## **Teams**

**Bayern Munich:** Khan, Babel, Kuffour, Matthaus (Fink 79), Effenberg, Basler (Salihamidzic 89), Jeremies, Tarnat, Jancker, Zickler (Scholl 70), Linke.

Subs Not Used: Dreher, Helmer, Strunz, Daei.

Booked: Effenberg.

Goals: Basler 6.

**Man Utd:** Schmeichel, G. Neville, Irwin, Johnsen, Stam, Beckham, Butt, Cole (Solskjaer 81), Giggs, Blomqvist (Sheringham 67), Yorke.

Subs Not Used: Van Der Gouw, May, P. Neville, Brown, Greening.

Goals: Sheringham 90, Solskjaer 90.

Att: 90,000

Ref: P Collina (Italy).

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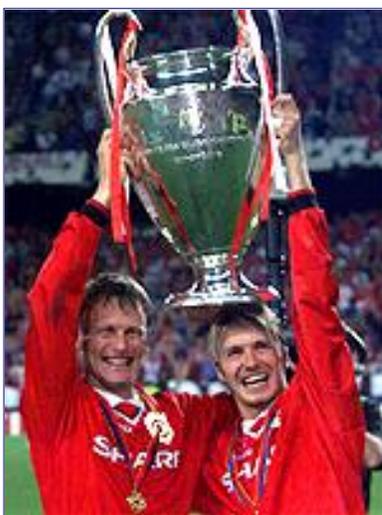
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Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham, left, and David Beckham celebrate with the trophy after winning the UEFA Champions Cup

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Man U looks for two

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An unprecedented venture is scheduled for Saturday when Ireland will meet Northern Ireland in the countries' first international friendly.



### ▶ Right at home

Ronald Cerritos scored in regulation and in the shootout as the San Jose Clash claimed the Dallas Burn as its latest shootout victim Saturday night.

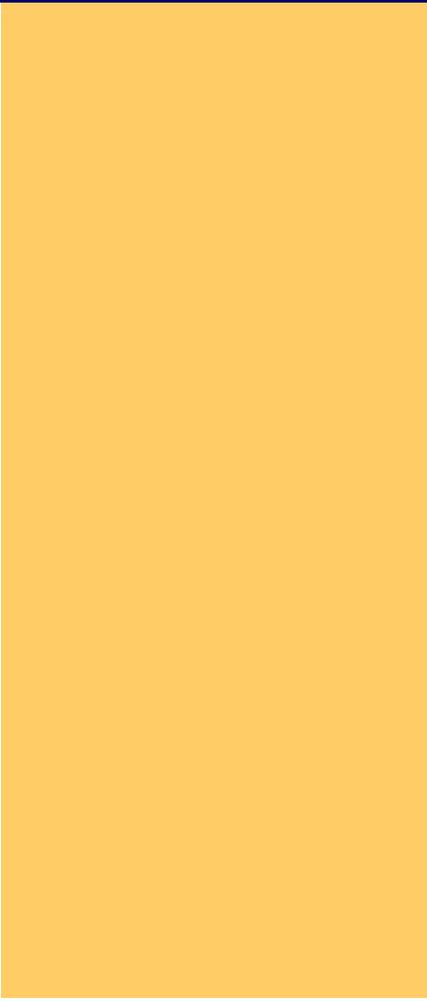
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Teddy Sheringham and David Beckham by Camay Sungu/AP  
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In a series against the Avalanche featuring some of the NHL's top players, Stars center Joe Nieuwendyk isn't any ordinary Joe.

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Joe Nieuwendyk may no longer be Dallas' secret weapon

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If you don't reside in the Bay Area, you may not know that the Giants are sitting atop the NL West. That's why they get today's No Respect Award.



#### Checketts in check

When Dave Checketts met with Phil Jackson, the Knicks were a .500 team with a \$65 million payroll. This means that talking to Jackson wasn't the problem —

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## ▶ Man U believe it?

Two rapid-fire goals with the clock officially run out gave Manchester United the most prized title in European club soccer and a unique place in the sport's long history.

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## ▶ Swiss bliss

Martina Hingis shrugged off the boos of the crowd at Roland Garros — who were reacting to her "half a man" comment about Amelie Mauresmo — and beat the Frenchwoman in straight sets.

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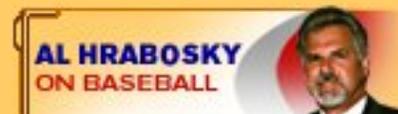
## ▶ Heating up

Sammy Sosa hit 20 home runs last June en route to his total of 66. With his favorite month approaching, he decided to get an early start, and the Marlins were his victims Wednesday.

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lying about it afterwards was.



## Needed: Quality starts

The starters need to get the job done so the Cardinals can effectively use one of their strengths — their bullpen.



## Diamonds in the rough

As in the case of Braves pitcher Bruce Chen, baseball scouts will try to get a jump on the competition in next week's amateur draft.

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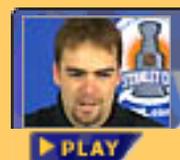
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## SOCCER

# Man U believe it? Manchester United edges Bayern Munich in wild finish at Champions Cup championship

May 26, 1999 5:39 p.m. ET

Associated Press

**BARCELONA, Spain —** Two rapid-fire goals with the clock officially run out gave Manchester United the most prized title in European club soccer and a unique place in the sport's long history.

In an amazing finish, substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solksjaer scored in injury time as United beat Bayern Munich 2-1 Wednesday for the Champions League title.

"I can't believe it.," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "That's football. You never give in."

It was the first top European championship for the storied Reds from England since 1968, and left them the first team from soccer's birthplace to win the league, FA Cup and continental champions titles in one season.

Only two other clubs — Celtic Glasgow in 1967 and Ajax Amsterdam in 1972



Phil Noble/AP

Teddy Sheringham

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— ever have swept the triple crown.

Manchester also became the first non-champion to win the Champions cup. It finished second in the English Premier League to Arsenal last season but made the top-level European tournament this season when the field was expanded.

Bayern Munich, which also made the field through expansion before winning the Bundesliga this season, controlled most of the match after taking a 1-0 lead in the sixth minute on a free kick by Mario Basler.

But Sheringham and Solksjaer were inserted to try to turn the tide late in the game and they did just that, leaving Bayern players slumped and stunned on the field as the final whistle came moments after Solksjaer's winning goal.

Both Manchester goals came after corners by David Beckham. On the first, Sheringham picked up a Bayern clearance at the edge of the penalty area and twisted around to send the ball into the low corner.

On the second, Solksjaer pounced on a ball headed towards the Bayern goal and kicked it into the net from close range. More than 30,000 United fans among the sellout crowd of 90,000 at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium sang in joy long after the final whistle as Manchester players went around the field, proudly displaying the coveted cup.

It was quiet a change from the sway the game started. Things could not have gone more wrong for Manchester.

Carsten Jancker, the burly Bayern

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striker, was brought down just outside the United penalty area by Denis Irwin and Ronny Johnsen after a fast counterattack.

From 17 yards out, Basler took the free kick, sending a swerving shot around the United wall and finding the blind side of goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, the United captain playing his final match before leaving the club.

Two Bayern players who stood at the edge of the United wall moved quickly away as the shot went past them. Schmeichel made no move to stop the ball.

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## SOCCER

### Final quirks Brits, Germans guzzle booze; Spaniards impressed

May 26, 1999 10:51 a.m. ET

REUTERS

BARCELONA — A European Cup final is never without its quirks. Here is a compilation of a few anecdotes collected before the match on Wednesday:

#### In the drink

Spaniards, fond of a good glass of "tinto" red wine or a beer with their tapas, seem fixated by the ability of German and English soccer fans to drink vast quantities of beer in one sitting.

Waiters in Barcelona watched in amazement as the fans, celebrating ahead of the match, consumed massive amounts of beer.

"There is one guy over there who has been sitting here since midday and has only been drinking beer," El Pais newspaper quoted a bemused waiter as saying. "He hasn't eaten anything."

But the pictures tell the story the best.

El Pais published one of a large man wearing nothing on top but a soccer scarf, toting a camera in his hand and a case of beer on his shoulder.

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The front page of El Periodico showed a man, wearing a Manchester United jersey, passed out on the sidewalk surrounded by cups of beer.

The caption: A hooligan, inseparable from his beers, sleeps in the middle of Las Ramblas in Barcelona."

Tickets, please

Tickets — one of the most worried-about aspects of Wednesday's match.

Elaborate plans to separate German and English fans by giving them different entry points to the stadium, separate sections and even diverging directions on how to arrive at Nou Camp appear to have been for nought.

Several thousand tickets earmarked for Barcelona football club supporters were thought to have been resold on the black market for huge profits as money won out over soccer.

As a result — United and Bayern fans will likely be mixed into the "neutral" zone meant to separate them.

Scalp the scalpers

Several would-be entrepreneurs hoping to earn some quick money scalping tickets have been thwarted this week by keen-eyed police patrolling the Nou Camp stadium who stopped sales of tickets going for as much as \$441.90 each.

Police also arrested several people for forging tickets and seized bunches of fake tickets at border crossings.

UEFA issued a warning to fans not to buy the obvious forgeries which included noticeable spelling mistakes and recognizable visual differences from the genuine tickets.

**But despite the warning, some people lost.**

**An English fan complained he was \$45,000 out of pocket after handing over the money on the promise he would get 116 tickets the next day. Not surprisingly, the tout never turned up with the goods.**

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## SPORTS

Wednesday, May 26 5:50pm ET

# Schmeichel goes out a winner

Reuters

BARCELONA, Spain -- Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's last ever match for Manchester United on Wednesday encapsulated his season -- a shaky start ending in a blaze of glory.

Schmeichel, 35, United's skipper for the European Cup final against Bayern Munich in the absence of the suspended Roy Keane, was a picture of abject misery after Bayern took the lead in the sixth minute with a direct free-kick from Mario Basler.

But after a nervous start in which his kicking was inaccurate and in which he had some lapses of concentration, Schmeichel made several important saves to keep his side in the match.

Then, almost at the final whistle, he came up for the corner which led to Teddy Sheringham's 90th minute equaliser.

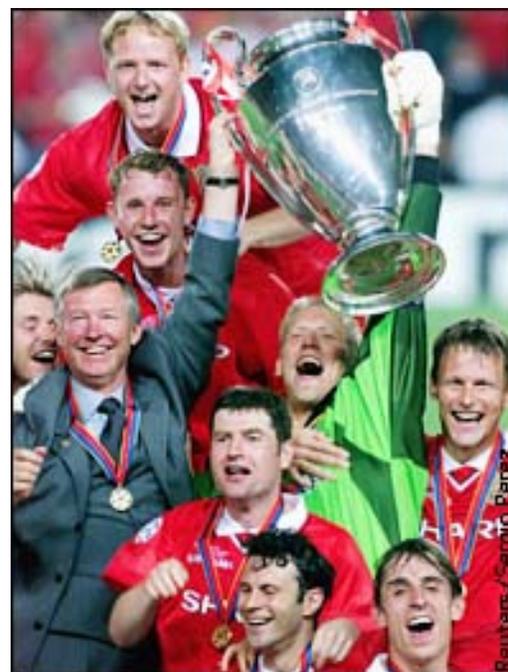
However, he stayed back 90 seconds later when Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored United's incredible winner to deprive Bayern not only of the chance to redeem themselves in extra time.

"Not even Hans Christian Andersson could have written a fairytale like that," said the Danish keeper who is leaving United after eight years and 398 appearances at Old Trafford.

"Of course you believe you have a chance until the final whistle goes and I never stopped believing we had a chance -- although I admit, not much of one.

"But the late goals exemplified our team spirit. One thing I have learnt throughout my time at United is that we never give up and we proved that tonight."

Schmeichel announced in November that he was quitting United at the end of the season and at the time it seemed like a sensible decision.



Manchester United goalie Peter Schmeichel and manager Alex Ferguson celebrate the historic win.

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He had made a poor start to the campaign by his own imperious standards and it seemed that perhaps the time to move on had arrived.

But he has been back to his best since Christmas, a vital part of the team that has ended the season unbeaten in 33 matches.

After making a nery start on Wednesday, he played better and better and made an outstanding save from Stefan Effenberg in the 72nd minute to deny Bayern a certain goal.

Manager Alex Ferguson said afterwards: "It is sad that he is leaving us but he could not go out in a better way. We wish him well -- he's the greatest goalkeeper Manchester United have ever had."

Schmeichel's final act as a United player was to lift the European Cup and he said afterwards: "This is absolutely fantastic for me and I just feel on top of the world.

"When I announced I was leaving at the end of the season I vowed to myself I would do all I could to help the club finish at the top -- and you cannot get higher than this."

Schmeichel has not said what his future plans are or where, if anywhere, he would be playing next year.

"I do not want to talk about other clubs now," he said. "Tonight is the night for Manchester United -- Manchester United and champagne."

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## SPORTS

Wednesday, May 26 5:49pm ET

# Sheringham again a savior

Reuters

BARCELONA, Spain -- Teddy Sheringham has made a mockery of his tag as the forgotten man of Manchester United with two dramatic substitute performances in the space of five days.

The former England and Tottenham Hotspur striker followed up his match-winning display against Newcastle United in the F.A. Cup final on Saturday with an even more valuable intervention on Wednesday.

Sheringham came off the bench after 67 minutes of the European Cup final at the Nou Camp with his side on the brink of defeat, trailing Bayern Munich by Mario Basler's early goal.

But he managed to re-ignite Manchester United's treble hopes as he struck a right-footed equaliser in the 90th minute.

And with extra-time approaching he rose at the near post to get a head to a David Beckham corner to set up Ole Gunnar Solskjaer for a stunning victory in the closing seconds.

Those two heroic performances were in stark contrast to what has been a hugely disappointing season for Sheringham.

Injured at the start of the year, he was left in the shadows as Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole turned in a string of brilliant displays.

That fact was acknowledged by Sheringham after the game, as he proudly sported his gold winner's medal.

"I'm enjoying playing again -- that's the most important thing," he said.

"It's just great to be involved after so long out. We've won the treble and that's why I came to Manchester United -- to win things. I'm a contented man."

Things began to pick up for Sheringham in April in United's semifinal first leg against Juventus.

United, outplayed for much of the game, began to find time and space following the introduction of Sheringham and his extra touch of class helped create the opportunity for Ryan Giggs to lash home the equaliser.

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A disappointing first half performance in the English title-clinching game against his former club Tottenham seemed set to see him fade out of the spotlight once again until an injury to Roy Keane gave him an unexpected chance to shine in the Cup final.

The Irish skipper went off after nine minutes with an ankle injury and it was Sheringham that Alex Ferguson called on, saying he needed to maximise his goalscoring opportunities.

The 33-year-old Londoner obliged in quick fashion, scoring United's opener after just 96 seconds on the pitch and then teeing up the second goal for Paul Scholes after 53 minutes.

Ferguson, clearly convinced that here was a man to turn to in a moment of crisis, gave him the nod again on Wednesday.

"I knew I had a proven goalscorer on the bench," said Ferguson. "It was a risk but we had to take a risk. He has a great touch."

Kevin Keegan thinks so too and Sheringham's England career which appeared to be over could now be re-activated with a call-up to the squad for the Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria next month.



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Wednesday, May 26 5:49pm ET

# Bayern left stunned by defeat

Reuters

BARCELONA, Spain -- Bayern Munich's European Cup campaign ended as it had begun on Wednesday with defeat snatched from the jaws of what had seemed certain victory in the final.

The German side, who came so close to a fourth European Cup victory as they led Manchester United 1-0 going into the final minute at the Nou Camp stadium, had suffered a defeat almost as dramatic -- but nothing like as painful -- back in September.

So there must have been a familiar feeling when United substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer popped up at the death to lay to rest Bayern hopes.

Ottmar Hitzfeld's team, leading Brondby in the opening match of the Champions League on September 16, conceded goals in the 88th and 90th minutes to go down 2-1.

The irony for the German champions on Wednesday is that since that Brondby setback it was they who had become the acknowledged masters of the late, late comeback.

At home to United two weeks later, they took advantage of a mistake from Peter Schmeichel in the dying seconds to earn a 2-2 draw, Brazilian striker Elber scoring his second goal of the game.

In November, once again at the Nou Camp -- a further irony that -- they secured an unlikely win against a superior Barcelona side thanks to a goal from Hasan Salihamidzic with three minutes to go.

And in a pulsating semifinal first leg against Dynamo Kiev they came back from 3-1 down, when, with 12 minutes left on the clock, Stefan Effenberg and Carsten Jancker, with two minutes to go, securing a vital away draw.

United's success in turning the tables late on had a precedent in Europe this season too. In their semifinal first leg against Juventus, Ryan Giggs struck in the final minute to earn a 1-1 draw.

Alex Ferguson's side went on to beat the Italians in stunning style 3-2 in Turin, again coming from behind thanks to goals from Roy Keane, Dwight Yorke and

## Andy Cole.

The goals at the Nou Camp on Wednesday came much later, though -- and left Bayern attempting to lift their spirits when they must have thought they would have been lifting the European Cup.

The defeat must have made Bayern's 38-year-old Lothar Mattheaus believe he was reliving one of his worst nightmares.

In 1987, he was Bayern's skipper when they played Porto in the European Cup final in Vienna and were leading 1-0 with 10 minutes to play. Porto then struck twice in the dying minutes to win 2-1.

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## SPORTS

Wednesday, May 26 5:50pm ET

# Basler shines in Bayern defeat

Reuters

BARCELONA, Spain -- Mario Basler, Bayern Munich's goalscoring hero and maverick midfielder, shone with his strength and skill on Wednesday, but it was his opposite number David Beckham who carried the European Cup out of the Nou Camp stadium.

Basler, 30-year-old anti-hero in the 'Club Hollywood' system, proved he belongs among the best.

His passing, his powerful running, the range and sense of his passing and his shooting skills put him apart from the scramble about him as the German champions swept Manchester United aside for more than an hour.

His goal, a well-struck free-kick around the wall after 14 minutes, put Bayern on top and looked certain to bring them victory -- until United's dramatic two-goal late comeback.

Indeed, Basler was so confident of a Bavarian triumph that he waved his arms to orchestrate the German fans as they went through their celebratory anthems before the final whistle.

And it was this single act which helped spur the English team, and Teddy Sheringham in particular, to take swift revenge.

"I saw what he was doing and it wound me up," admitted Sheringham.

Basler's power had given him the edge in midfield for most of the game as Bayern closed down United and killed off the contest. Unfortunately for them, they could not find the second goal they needed to put the result beyond reach.

Beckham, by contrast, struggled to find his own part in the rhythm of the game until United's second-half introductions of Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer allowed him to revert to a freer midfield role.

But in the final 23 minutes, following Sheringham's arrival and Ryan Giggs' switch back to the left, Beckham flourished and found the extra energy to help swing the game and the result United's way.

Basler was already off the field and waving to the fans when Beckham sold an outrageous dummy and helped win the left-wing corner from which his cross

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created Sheringham's equaliser.

And it was Beckham's corner 90 seconds later which, with the aid of a Sheringham flick, provided Solksjaer, the Manchester team's 'baby-faced assassin', with the winner.

All of which left Basler, the old gunslinger with a reputation, standing on the touchline in stunned disbelief, when the final whistle went and Beckham led United's youthful celebrations.

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## SPORTS

Wednesday, May 26 5:50pm ET

# Ferguson remembers Sir Busby

Reuters

BARCELONA, Spain -- Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson took time out from his European Cup final celebrations on Wednesday to spare a thought for three men who missed out on an incredible 2-1 win over Bayern Munich.

Ferguson's side staged one of the most remarkable comebacks in soccer history as injury time goals from Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer saw them recover from Mario Basler's sixth minute strike.

Ferguson became the first manager to guide United to European Cup final glory since the late Sir Matt Busby in 1968, when the Red Devils beat Benfica 4-1 after extra time.

The Scottish coach, beaming from ear to ear, described the victory as fantastic as he dedicated the win to Sir Matt, who would have been celebrating his 90th birthday on Wednesday.

"I was starting to believe we were going to lose. I was telling myself to keep my dignity and thinking that this just wasn't my year again.

"But it's a fairy tale really, coming on Sir Matt's birthday. I think he was doing a bit of kicking for us up there."

Ferguson was also careful to include club captain Roy Keane and forward Paul Scholes -- both suspended for the final -- as he handed out plaudits.

"I saw Roy Keane earlier on and he was gutted," said Ferguson. "He's pleased for the players but to be playing out there was something special."

Ferguson contrasted Keane's case with that of Jonathan Greening, a United youngster included on the list of substitutes.

"Greening has never played a European game but he's got a European Cup winner's medal. He's a very lucky boy.

"But this was a great night for us all. It's not about individuals.

"This win belongs to the whole team, as much to Paul Scholes and Roy Keane as much as to Peter Schmeichel."

Ferguson admitted his side had made a "terrible" start.

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But he insisted: "We deserved to win this game. Bayern tried to shut up shop after the goal, like they did in the semifinal against Dynamo Kiev.

"But we had a much better mental strength than Kiev...and shutting up shop is a very dangerous game to play."

As to the future, Ferguson said he would be tempted to take a slightly more relaxed approach to the game.

"You'll all be saying now that I'll want to take it easy now, and I will, maybe I will. But only until we lose our first game.

"We can't top this -- it's the pinnacle. But we can equal it if we maintain our pride.

"And the players will continue because I want them to continue."

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ISSUE 1463

Friday 28 May 1999

# 400,000 join the carnival as glory boys return

By Nigel Bunyan

MATT

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MORE than 400,000 people converged on Manchester last night to give a carnival-style welcome to [the conquering heroes of the European Cup Final](#).

Manchester United had long laid claim to being [the world's most popular football team](#). Yesterday, as they flew home to parade their three trophies, only the most cynical could have any doubts. The greeting they received on their seven-mile "glory parade" was tumultuous. Thousands of fans, bedecked in red and festooned with flags and favours, lined every street.

Greater Manchester police estimated that 150,000 fans were in the city centre to greet the team and at least another 250,000 lined the rest of the route. Many had begun the party the day before. By the time the Class of '99 touched down at Manchester Airport, with goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel first to hold aloft the European Cup, they were running on adrenalin.

Scores of companies allowed their employees to leave early: in part to avoid the congestion but also because many would leave anyway. The march on the city centre began hours before Alex Ferguson's team had left Barcelona. Sounding their horns, hundreds of cars formed a chaotic cavalcade through the streets. Fans hung out of windows or poked their heads through sunroofs. Some of those on foot clung from traffic lights, others climbed on top of telephone boxes or leaned out from the windows of buildings.

A deafening roar greeted the players as United's open-top bus pulled into Manchester Arena, where 17,500 fans watched the team parade their trophies. In



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## Man United's triple crown sparks debate

The debate is on. After Manchester United's [stunning 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich](#) on Wednesday, a win that made the Reds the first English club to clinch the triple crown, some say [Man United is the greatest English club of all time](#). Can life get any better for Alex Ferguson & Co.? Sure. [Ferguson is being touted for knighthood](#) and [half a million fans welcomed the Reds home](#).



Ferguson could soon become "Sir Alex."

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The Glasgow stadium, once the world's largest, welcomes back the crowds Saturday after three years of rebuilding.

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Thursday, May 27 11:19am ET

# Mighty Manchester

Associated Press

LONDON -- Manchester United has lifted English soccer back to the summit of Europe after a long, hard climb. And with their historic triple crown season, the Reds are being hailed as possibly the greatest English team ever.

United etched its place in English soccer folklore by beating Bayern Munich 2-1 in Barcelona on Wednesday night to win the European Champions Cup -- the world's most prestigious club title.

In one of the most dramatic finishes in cup history, United came from behind to win with two goals in the final 90 seconds of injury time by substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

The victory completed an unprecedented sweep by an English club of the domestic league, F.A. Cup and European Cup titles in the same season -- something that even the great Liverpool teams of the late 1970s and early '80s never accomplished.

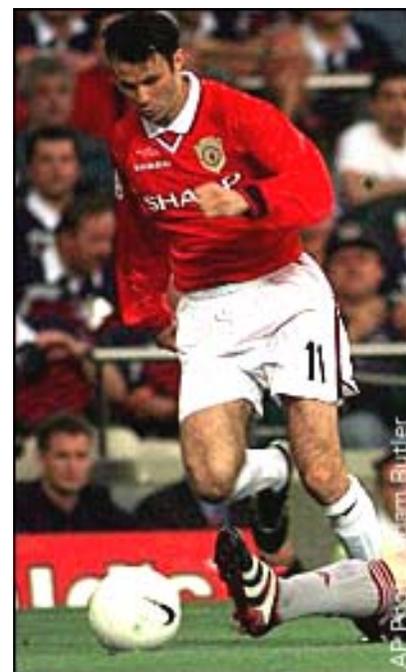
British newspapers hailed the win as one of the greatest moments in English soccer history, with the Daily Mirror headline even calling it "The Greatest 2 Minutes in the History of Sport."

Thousands of fans poured into the streets of Manchester to celebrate -- and half a million were expected to turn out to salute the players Thursday evening when they rode through the city in an open-top bus.

Fans waved banners and scarves and they arrived at the airport, many still in disbelief.

Police in Manchester described their resources as "stretched to the limit" as convoys of cars with flags flying filed around the city beeping their horns as thousands of people spilled out of bars and pubs to congratulate each other.

Alex Ferguson's team became the first United club to lift the European trophy since since 1968, when Matt Busby was manager and George Best and Bobby Charlton were the stars.



Man U's Ryan Giggs says his team should be ranked with the Liverpool teams of the '80s.

That triumph came 10 years after the Munich air crash which killed eight players of the United team known as the "Busby Babes."

In a powerful piece of symbolism, United's triumph Wednesday came on what would have been Busby's 90th birthday.

Charlton, who survived the Munich crash and is now a senior director of the club, wiped away tears as he watched the team's celebrations Wednesday night from the stands of the Camp Nou stadium.

The victory also helped erase some of the memories of another dark chapter in English soccer history. In 1985, 39 people died when English hooligans rioted before the Liverpool-Juventus European Cup final at Brussels' Heysel stadium.

The tragedy resulted in English clubs being banned from European competition for five years. Since the ban was lifted, Manchester United (1991), Arsenal (1994) and Chelsea (1998) won the Cup Winners Cup.

But, until this season, no English club had managed to progress to the Champions Cup final. The win over Bayern means English clubs are now tied with Italian sides with the most European Cup victories (nine).

"English football has been in the wilderness for a long time and now we're back on the world stage," Charlton said. "It's been all right saying English football is the healthiest and the best to watch, but you really need to have something to show for it and to win the Champions League, there's nothing bigger in world club football."

Debate is already raging on whether this Manchester United team, which has won the Premier League title in five of the past seven seasons, is the greatest English club of all time.

Comparisons are being made to the 1958 and 1968 United teams and to the Liverpool teams which won the European Cup four times (1977, 1978, 1981 and 1984). Bob Paisley was the Liverpool manager during that era and his star players included Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness.

"I always said we would never be judged as a great team until we had won the Champions League," winger Ryan Giggs said. "We've done that now and I think we deserve to be ranked along with the Liverpool teams of the 80s."

Much of the credit goes to Ferguson, the 57-year-old Scot whose achievements rank alongside those of Paisley, Busby, Bill Shankly and Jock Stein.

Ferguson has claimed 12 major trophies since taking over at United in 1986 -- five league championships, four F.A. Cups, one league Cup, one Champions Cup and one Cup Winners Cup.

That total puts Ferguson only one behind Paisley, who won 13 trophies at Liverpool. Ferguson also won 10 major trophies with Aberdeen, bringing his career total to 22.

Ferguson may soon become "Sir Alex." It's now widely expected that he will

receive a knighthood -- an honor that also went to Busby.

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## SPORTS

Thursday, May 27 8:12am ET

# England celebrates 'miracle'

ESPN.com news service

LONDON -- Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson deserves a knighthood after the English club's triumphant treble-winning season, British sports minister Tony Banks said on Thursday.

"If anyone asks my opinion ... yes, he most certainly should," Banks told BBC radio when asked whether Ferguson should be awarded a knighthood for winning the European Cup like one of his predecessors at the club, Sir Matt Busby.

At least one fan is pulling for Ferguson to get the honor.

Alex Wallace from Glasgow bet five pounds (\$8) on United winning 2-1 and doubled it up with a knighthood for Ferguson.

At combined odds of 500-1 he stands to win 2,500 pounds (\$4,000) if knighthood is bestowed.

Meanwhile, the city of Manchester braced itself for a 500,000-strong victory parade on Thursday to welcome home its European Cup-winning side.

Wednesday's all-night revelling in the center of the city was expected to follow through well into Friday as Manchester United supporters celebrated the team's 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich in Barcelona, Spain to take the cup for only the second time in its history.

One local Manchester disc jockey tore off his clothes to go on air in the nude in celebration, living up to a vow to bare all if the team won.

In the city, thousands of Manchester United fans chanted slogans through to the early hours after the club's treble-clinching win and convoys of cars circled around, sounding their horns. Other supporters climbed monuments, waving banners and singing.

Some 4,000 people gathered around the club's empty Old Trafford Stadium.

"This city is absolutely buzzing," said Paul Horrocks, a local journalist. "It has never seen anything like this euphoria."

The United squad were travelling a seven-mile (11 km) route through the center of Manchester later on Thursday in an open-topped double-decker bus.

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The British press called the victory a miracle after Man U's improbable comeback in which substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored in second-half injury time.

"The tabloid Daily Mail termed it "football's equivalent of turning water into wine" and judged the game "the most dramatic night ever for British football."

There was no shortage of hyperbole as another tabloid, The Daily Mirror, went so far as to describe the Wednesday triumph in a banner front-page headline as "The greatest 2 minutes in the history of sport."

The tabloids also put a predictable anti-German, jingoistic spin on several headlines, conjuring up images from World War II that always seem to surface when England plays Germany in any match.

"Our Subs Sink Germans" bellowed The Sun.

The Daily Telegraph called the victory before 90,000 in Spain "one of the most astonishing finales in European football."

The Guardian summed it up this way.

"It was an astonishing setting to host the astonishing climax to an astounding season. Barcelona's (stadium) ... reduces the most resolute of spines to jelly. And that was before the kickoff."



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Thursday, May 27 3:21pm ET

# Man United welcomed home by half a million fans

Reuters

MANCHESTER, England -- Half a million ecstatic fans packed the streets of Manchester on Thursday to welcome back Manchester United from their spectacular European Cup victory in Barcelona.

Jubilant supporters converged on the city centre to reinforce the faithful handful who had been there since Wednesday night's epic injury time victory over Bayern Munich.

Along the team's seven-mile (11.27 km) parade route on an open-topped bus, thousands upon thousands of red-shirted fans sang terrace anthems above an orchestra of whistles and klaxons.

A handful of amused businessmen and women struggled through the throng -- others better prepared swigged bottles of beer from office windows or waved scarves from high-rise balconies.

Rows of baton-wielding police seemed unsure whether to hold the crowd back or join in the party. Several lost their uniform caps and a couple briefly sported felt top hats in red and white team colors.

A little blonde girl in a red dress, face crumpled with the effort, blew a whistle with all her might as she sat on the shoulders of her shirtless father who chanted, "United ...United... " with pint in hand.

Across the street, six schoolboys soaked up the atmosphere on top of a bus shelter waving three silver trophy-shaped balloons.

Further down the road, another bus shelter collapsed under the weight of three fully-grown supporters trying to dance on its roof arm in arm.

The bus carrying the United squad was preceded by 10 minutes of stupendous roaring from the crowd. The European Cup was perched on the front above the route number plate of the vehicle, which showed 2-1, the result of the final.

The squad, wearing dark blazers, held their fists in the air as armfuls of office paper fluttered down from windows high above.

Players and manager Alex Ferguson took turns holding the cup. Departing goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel seemed reluctant to release it.

The team went on to join 17,500 fans at a ticket-only party in an indoor arena in central Manchester.

The vast crowd left outside looked set to see in the dawn in recognition of United's first European Cup victory for 31 years.

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## SOCCER

# Triumphant return Half-million fans welcome United home

May 27, 1999 8:09 p.m. ET  
Will Hardie  
REUTERS

MANCHESTER, England — Half a million ecstatic fans packed the streets of Manchester on Thursday to welcome back Manchester United from their spectacular European Cup victory in Barcelona.

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team colours.

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## SOCCER

# Kings of Europe Latest win puts United in position to lay claim to greatest-ever mantle

May 27, 1999 7:10 p.m. ET  
By Stephen Wilson  
Associated Press

LONDON — Manchester United has lifted English soccer back to the summit of Europe after a long, hard climb. And with their historic triple crown season, the Reds are being hailed as possibly the greatest English team ever.

United etched its place in English soccer folklore by beating Bayern Munich 2-1 in Barcelona on Wednesday night to win the European Champions Cup — the world's most prestigious club title.

In one of the most dramatic finishes in cup history, United came from behind to win with two goals in the final 90 seconds of injury time by substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

The victory completed an unprecedented sweep by an English club of the domestic league, F.A. Cup and European Cup titles in the same season — something that even the great Liverpool teams of the late 1970s and early '80s never accomplished.

British newspapers hailed the win as

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one of the greatest moments in English soccer history, with the Daily Mirror headline even calling it "The Greatest 2 Minutes in the History of Sport."

Thousands of fans poured into the streets of Manchester to celebrate Wednesday night, and the city was turned into a sea of red — the team's color — Thursday night as men, women and children turned out to greet their heroes.

Fans climbed lamp-posts and any available vantage points along the route to get a better view as manager Alex Ferguson and his players rode through the city in an open-top double-decker bus.

It took nearly four hours for the bus to wind its way through the masses on its seven-mile route from the outskirts of the city to the downtown Manchester indoor arena.

Car horns, whistles and the "Glory Glory Man United" anthem filled the air.

The size of the crowd was estimated at anywhere from 400,000 to 750,000.

Ferguson and the players stood atop the bus, waving to the crowds and holding up the three trophies. The European Cup was propped up front like a huge hood ornament.

By the time the bus neared the city center, the route of the parade along the shopping street of Deansgate was packed. So many red-shirted supporters were waiting to welcome the team that police appealed for fans to stay away from the center.

Ferguson's team became the first United club to lift the European trophy since since 1968, when Matt Busby was

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manager and George Best and Bobby Charlton were the stars.

That triumph came 10 years after the Munich air crash which killed eight players of the United team known as the "Busby Babes."

In a powerful piece of symbolism, United's triumph Wednesday came on what would have been Busby's 90th birthday.

Charlton, who survived the Munich crash and is now a senior director of the club, wiped away tears as he watched the team's celebrations Wednesday night from the stands of the Camp Nou stadium.

The victory also helped erase some of the memories of another dark chapter in English soccer history. In 1985, 39 people died when English hooligans rioted before the Liverpool-Juventus European Cup final at Brussels' Heysel stadium.

The tragedy resulted in English clubs being banned from European competition for five years. Since the ban was lifted, Manchester United (1991), Arsenal (1994) and Chelsea (1998) won the Cup Winners Cup.

But, until this season, no English club had managed to progress to the Champions Cup final. The win over Bayern means English clubs are now tied with Italian sides with the most European Cup victories (9).

"English football has been in the wilderness for a long time and now we're back on the world stage," Charlton said. "It's been all right saying English football is the healthiest and the best to watch, but you really need to have something to show for it and to

win the Champions League, there's nothing bigger in world club football."

Debate is already raging on whether this Manchester United team, which has won the Premier League title in five of the past seven seasons, is the greatest English club of all time.

Comparisons are being made to the 1958 and 1968 United teams and to the Liverpool teams which won the European Cup four times (1977, 1978, 1981 and 1984). Bob Paisley was the Liverpool manager during that era and his star players included Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness.

"I always said we would never be judged as a great team until we had won the Champions League," winger Ryan Giggs said. "We've done that now and I think we deserve to be ranked along with the Liverpool teams of the 80s."

Much of the credit goes to Ferguson, the 57-year-old Scot whose achievements rank alongside those of Paisley, Busby, Bill Shankly and Jock Stein.

Ferguson has claimed 12 major trophies since taking over at United in 1986 — five league championships, four F.A. Cups, one league Cup, one Champions Cup and one Cup Winners Cup.

That total puts Ferguson only one behind Paisley, who won 13 trophies at Liverpool. Ferguson also won 10 major trophies with Aberdeen, bringing his career total to 22.

Ferguson may soon become "Sir Alex." It's now widely expected that he will receive a knighthood — an honor that also went to Busby.

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## SOCCER

# Redemption song United's win end long spell for England in European limbo

May 27, 1999 1:44 p.m. ET  
Mike Collett  
REUTERS

BARCELONA — Manchester United not only ended its 31-year wait to win the European Cup on Wednesday night, it also ended England's long wait for glory after the nightmare of the Heysel Stadium disaster.

For Manchester United, beating Bayern Munich 2-1 with two injury-time goals to become European champion for the first time since 1968 ensured the players their everlasting niche in the club's history.

On a wider level, the victory also re-established an English club as European champion for the first time since 1984 when Liverpool beat AS Roma on penalties in Rome.

The following year, a riot by Liverpool supporters caused the deaths of 39 Italian fans at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels before the European Cup final against Juventus.

Despite the deaths the match went ahead, Juventus beat Liverpool 1-0 and until Wednesday no English side had played in the European Cup final again.

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The repercussions of the disaster were immense in terms of both human tragedy and England's prestige around the world.

In soccer terms, it led to a five-year ban from European competition — but a six-year ban from the European Cup.

Liverpool was handed an extra year in exile and was not allowed to compete in the 1990-91 competition despite qualifying for it as 1990 English champion.

In the years leading up to the tragedy, English clubs had dominated the competition with seven victories in the previous eight seasons.

Liverpool (1977, 1978, 1982 and 1984), Nottingham Forest (1979 and 1980) and Aston Villa (1982) had all been crowned European champion and Liverpool went into the 1985 final against Juventus believing it was about to retain its trophy and win the cup for a fifth time.

The fates intervened and, for English soccer, the wilderness years began — pariahs in the game it had given the world.

Inevitably, it was Manchester United who took the first tentative steps back.

In 1956 Matt Busby had defied the English F.A. which objected to his club taking part in the new-fangled European Cup.

Unlike Chelsea the year before, he ignored the F.A., led United into Europe for the first time and kindled a passion for the competition that has burned deep inside the soul of United ever since.

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In 1990, the English F.A. was only too delighted to see Manchester United lead the way back into Europe in a Cup Winners' Cup first-round tie against Hungarians Pecs Munkas. United won that first game 2-0 and went all the way to the final in Rotterdam, where it beat Barcelona, 2-1.

Manager Alex Ferguson celebrated in style — but always had his eye on the big prize — the European Cup.

Since the lifting of the ban England has gradually re-established itself as a force in European club soccer.

Arsenal (1994) and Chelsea (1998) both won the Cup Winners' Cup, while United finally made an important breakthrough in the European Cup in 1997.

In five seasons from 1991-92 until 1995-96, no English team succeeded in getting into the quarterfinals as Arsenal, Leeds United, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United (twice) were all outplayed by clubs who advanced in terms of technique and ability while the ban was on.

But in 1997, United reached the semifinals, only to lose narrowly to eventual winner Borussia Dortmund. The following year, United reached the quarterfinals, where it lost on away goals to Monaco — but Ferguson knew he was within touching distance of his dream.

"I knew a year ago what I had to do, where I had to strengthen the team and where we could learn from our mistakes and I was lucky enough to be able to do it," he said earlier this week.

It might not have looked like that for much of Wednesday's final — but in the

end, his Midas touch returned and United went on to glory with two goals in injury time from substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Its victory re-establishes England alongside Italy at the top of the European honors league with 26 trophies each — and with nine European Cup wins each.

Although the Heysel tragedy will never be forgotten, perhaps now its final sad ripples are receding from the touchlines of the English game.

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## SOCCER

# Legacy of success Manchester's Ferguson adds soccer's biggest club prize to impressive resume

May 27, 1999 1:23 p.m. ET  
 Timothy Collings  
 REUTERS 

**BARCELONA** — It was typical of Alex Ferguson that in the hour of his greatest and most emotional triumph his first thoughts turned to his family, his friends and his predecessors.

He has always turned to them for inspiration and support.

"They are the people I am thinking of. I am so proud — of my heritage, the club, my players and my family and all that they have given me. This is the greatest night of my life," he said after Manchester United's tumultuous European Cup win over Bayern Munich.

"Tonight it is Matt Busby's birthday and I am thinking of him," Ferguson said, reflecting on his late predecessor who lifted the same cup in 1968. "He will be doing a lot of kicking up there."

The 57-year-old Scot danced with his players, hugged and kissed each member of his squad and waved to the crowds, reveling in the fulfilment of his fervent ambitions on a warm Catalan night.

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And he made sure suspended captain Roy Keane was not left out, bringing him on to the pitch to join the team's celebrations after lifting the giant trophy.

"I felt for him," Ferguson said. "I watched him and it was tough for him. To play in a night like that is something very, very special."

Manchester United's heart-stopping, last-gasp, 2-1 victory over Bayern put Ferguson alongside the legendary Busby, architect of the club's only previous win the competition, and confirmed his status as the outstanding — and luckiest — manager in European and world club soccer.

Yet Ferguson was not ready even to consider his own position in soccer's hall of fame.

Instead he wanted to reflect on the others who meant so much to him: the family that raised him and gave him his fiercely-protected sense of values, his humility in deference to Busby's inheritance at Old Trafford and his ferocious sense of loyalty to his players, friends and staff at Manchester United.

Proud, single-minded almost to the point of rudeness, ruthlessly ambitious, yet charming and mild-mannered away from his desk or the training ground, Ferguson is the archetypal successful manager — a combination of humble family man, driven perfectionist, team orchestrator and benevolent dictator — who has now collected 28 major trophies as a coach since he began his career with Aberdeen in 1978.

With Aberdeen, a club he transformed from mediocrity to champion, he won three Scottish league titles, four

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Scottish F.A. Cups, one League Cup, one European Cup Winners' Cup and one European Super Cup.

Since arriving at Old Trafford to revitalize an ailing Manchester United in 1986, he endured four unsuccessful seasons before breaking through in 1990.

Five league titles have followed, four F.A. Cup triumphs, one League Cup win, five domestic Charity Shield successes, one European Cup Winners' Cup win and one European Super Cup win before Wednesday's tumult in the Nou Camp.

Proud as he is of his achievements, he carries his wealth and success lightly — apart from a passion for horse racing — along with the gritty determination inherent in his Glaswegian nature.

"My inner drive has always been to stay in the game I love and to try and succeed in the proper manner. I have been so lucky to work in something I love so much," he said. "I always tell my players to enjoy every minute of it as if it will not last. That is how it is.

"I have grown up to be that way. To work and to graft for everything, but to do it all in the right way."

As a player, Ferguson was no more than ordinary. He was a striker for eight Scottish clubs, including Glasgow Rangers, but never enjoyed the success that has come since he hung up his boots.

But that sense of unfulfilled ambition has fired him since and been transferred into the bellies of his players, as they demonstrated Wednesday night.

"When I left Aberdeen and came to Manchester United I didn't really change myself. I wanted to work hard, to win, to do well and to stay in the game and enjoy some success. That feeling has never changed," he said.

"It's not down to me, it's down to the players. They have been fantastic this season. And it is the whole club, all the staff, who do the work, not just me. But now we have come this far, we are prepared to go on and do the rest."

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## SOCCER

# Party like its 1999 Manchester set for massive United victory parade

May 27, 1999 1:55 p.m. ET

REUTERS

MANCHESTER, England — The city of Manchester braced itself for a 500,000-strong victory parade Thursday to welcome home its European Cup-winning side.

Wednesday's all-night reveling in the center of the city was expected to follow through well into Friday as Manchester United supporters celebrated the team's 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich in Barcelona to take the cup for only the second time in its history.

One local Manchester disc jockey tore off his clothes to go on air in the nude in celebration, living up to a vow to bare all if the team won.

In the city, thousands of Manchester United fans chanted slogans through to the early hours after the club's treble-clinching win and convoys of cars circled around, sounding their horns. Other supporters climbed monuments, waving banners and singing.

Some 4,000 people gathered around the club's empty Old Trafford Stadium.

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"This city is absolutely buzzing," said Paul Horrocks, a local journalist. "It has never seen anything like this euphoria."

The United squad was traveling a seven-mile (11 km) route through the center of Manchester later Thursday in an open-topped double-decker bus.

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## SOCCER

# Better than a miracle English press toasts United's crowning moment

May 27, 1999 1:28 p.m. ET  
By Stephen Wade  
Associated Press

LONDON — A miracle? That's how at least one British newspaper described Manchester United's improbable 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich in the final of the European Cup.

The tabloid Daily Mail termed it "football's equivalent of turning water into wine" and judged the game "the most dramatic night ever for British football" as substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored in second-half injury time.

There was no shortage of hyperbole as another tabloid, The Daily Mirror, went so far as to describe the Wednesday triumph in a banner front-page headline as "The greatest 2 minutes in the history of sport."

"Football? Bloody Hell" read a headline in The Sun, quoting the first words from United coach Alex Ferguson — being touted for knighthood — after the team's first European Cup title in 31 years.

"King of Europe" said The Express, calling the victory the "most dramatic comeback in football history."

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The quick-to-attack tabloids have been the fiercest critics of English soccer's recent lack of success.

The game went into decline after all English clubs were banned from European soccer for five years when 39 people — mostly Italian — died in 1985 at Heysel Stadium in Brussels in rioting caused by English hooligans.

On Thursday, the same tabloids declared English soccer the best in Europe. The French sports daily L'Equipe added, "God is English."

In large type, the Daily Mail set off a quote from Sir Bobby Charlton, the hero of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team and the leader of the last Man United team to win the European Cup in 1968.

"After so long in the wilderness, we have something to show for being the best," Charlton said.

The newspaper also summed up the Germans' fate: "Bayern simply fell apart."

The tabloids also put a predictable anti-German, jingoistic spin on several headlines, conjuring up images from World War II that always seem to surface when England plays Germany in any match.

"Our Subs Sink Germans" bellowed The Sun.

"Two subs sent on, torpedoes away," added the Daily Mail.

Not to be outdone, the Daily Star's front page blared "Hunbelievable." Inside, the newspaper added: "Super-Subs Sink Krauts."

"Manchester United and Alex Ferguson last night found their Holy Grail," began

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## The Times' Page 1 story.

The Daily Telegraph called the victory before 90,000 in Spain "one of the most astonishing finales in European football."

The Guardian summed it up this way.

"It was an astonishing setting to host the astonishing climax to an astounding season. Barcelona's [stadium] ... reduces the most resolute of spines to jelly. And that was before the kickoff."

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## SOCCER

# Raising the bar Manchester United sets new standard for European clubs to chase

May 27, 1999 1:21 p.m. ET  
Mike Collett  
REUTERS

BARCELONA — Manchester United has set glittering new standards that few clubs could ever hope to equal by clinching the European Cup and winning an incredible treble of honors.

And no team, surely, will ever match the style of United's success with two goals securing victory in the final minute of the last match of the season.

Its 2-1 win over Bayern Munich in Wednesday's astonishing European Cup final in the Nou Camp stadium meant it became only the fourth side in history to win both its domestic league and cup competitions and Europe's premier club tournament in the same season.

Only Celtic (1967), Ajax Amsterdam (1972) and PSV Eindhoven (1988) have ever done that, but the English league is far, far tougher to win than the Scottish or Dutch.

In England, United is now in a league of its own having won three cup and league doubles in six seasons since 1994.

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A measure of the achievement is to remember that until 1994, the feat had only been achieved five times in 105 years of league soccer — and only three times this century, by Tottenham Hotspur (1961), Arsenal (1971) and Liverpool (1986).

Now that United has finally lifted the burden of a 31-year wait to emulate Sir Matt Busby's 1968 European Cup winning side, there is no telling how far it can go.

Of 62 competitive games this season, United won 36, drew 22 and lost only four — three matches in the league to Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday and Middlesbrough, and one in the English League Cup when it fielded a largely reserve team and lost to Spurs. In all matches, United scored 128 goals, conceding 60.

Wednesday's victory was its 33rd game without defeat — a run that began after they lost 3-2 at Old Trafford to Middlesbrough on Dec. 19 — its only home setback of the season.

United remained unbeaten in all 13 European matches, winning six and drawing seven and its 31 European goals put it joint-level second in the all-time scoring list in a season, behind AC Milan who notched 33 in 1962-63.

The soccer that produced those startling figures has at times been glorious to watch and, although some questions still remain about the way the defense works and the profligacy of the attack, there can be no arguments over its will-to-win, self-belief and team spirit.

Wednesday's last-gasp win was not the first time this season United has scored late goals to save what appeared to hopeless situations.

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On Jan. 24, United was losing 1-0 at home to Liverpool in an F.A. Cup fourth-round tie with two minutes to go. Two goals in the last two minutes from Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer gave United a 2-1 win and kept it on the path to Wembley.

On April 7 United was losing 1-0 at home to Juventus in the first leg of the European Cup semifinal, when, with a minute to go, Ryan Giggs equalized to give it hope in the return in Turin.

That second-leg match started terribly for United which was 2-0 down after only 11 minutes and facing certain elimination. But United won 3-2 to clinch a place in the final.

It was that same determination that brought United victory against Arsenal in England's match of the season — the F.A. Cup semifinal replay — at Villa Park on April 14.

Despite having skipper Roy Keane sent off, United overcame that with an outstanding winning goal from Giggs in extra time — and a Peter Schmeichel penalty save from Dennis Bergkamp with almost the last kick of normal time.

There have been great English teams in the past who have re-written the record books and set new standards of excellence — Wolves in the 1950s, Tottenham in the early 1960s, Liverpool in the 1970s and early 1980s.

But, without doubt, United is the team of the century — in the last year of the century.

Perfect timing — just as it has been all season for Alex Ferguson's all-conquering heroes.

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## SOCCER

# Filling the big shoes United's Ferguson continues to parallel the legend of Sir Busby

May 27, 1999 1:53 p.m. ET  
Timothy Collings  
REUTERS

BARCELONA — Their triumphs may be separated by three decades and a professional revolution in the sport, but Matt Busby and Alex Ferguson are now entwined by far more than the thread of European Cup successes which they brought to Manchester United.

Both were born in Scotland, moved to England to gain worldwide international recognition, spoke with honesty and freedom when they wanted, set ferocious levels of commitment and desire and never wavered from a shared dream of bringing the most treasured trophy in European club soccer back to Old Trafford.

And both, according to a man who was part of the two tumultuous and victorious occasions in 1968 and 1999, understood the sense of style and destiny which drove their teams to hard-earned and dramatic successes.

In short, according to Jim Ryan, both Busby and Ferguson have embodied the values of a dynasty started in the 1950s when Busby embarked with the first United team into Europe, always

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placing the onus on attacking play, flair and heart.

Ryan was George Best's deputy, played in the quarterfinal of United's run to the 1968 final, was a member of its Wembley final squad against Benfica and is now a senior coach on the United staff.

He said Wednesday's 2-1 win over Bayern Munich was the culmination, for Ferguson, of years of Busby-like toil and dedication.

Ryan, 54, a Scot like the two managers, has shared dressing rooms with both men — as a player under Busby and as a coach under Ferguson.

He was also the only man in Barcelona on the United staff, apart from director and 1968 hero Bobby Charlton, to have won a European Cup medal with the club 31 years before.

"I think the one thing that you could really say that they have in common is that they could both see a big picture, a big goal, and that they were single-minded in aiming for it.

"Busby took the European Cup without the English FA's blessing in the first place and eventually, having come through the Munich air tragedy in 1958, came out and won it.

"I think there is a real parallel with our manager now, in as much as he looked at that prize when he came here and he has worked to get it. He has had his own setbacks and problems along the way too but he has done it.

"He never wavered. In the end he did the same thing. He refused to give up. And they have played the same kind of way, the same kind of football. The only

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thing, perhaps, that you could say is that the game now is far more tactical than it was then — in my day or Matt Busby's day...

"Matt was very quiet, spoke quietly and softly, but underneath he had the same drive. They both had it. They had the same vision too...

"Alex is not quiet like Matt was but they had the same objective and the same sense of style in mind. Both wanted to see the team playing really nice football but also working very hard.

"You could tell, we on the staff here could tell, that Fergie wanted to win it. He wanted to win the first thing, then the next. He was on the road. He wanted to go up the ladder and do it all. The world club championship will be next.

"It took him a long time to win the title, you remember, and it was not easy in those early years for Alex at Old Trafford. But he has worked through it all, just like Matt Busby did. They both had the same ideals and the same ambitions for the club."

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## SOCCER

# In the money United's latest success leaves war chest brimming with cash

May 27, 1999 1:47 p.m. ET

Keith Weir  
REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United's status as the world's richest soccer club will be reinforced by the European Cup final win over Bayern Munich, financial analysts say, though there was no great change in the share prices Thursday.

Toward 1100 GMT, they had gone up just 3p to 190p, valuing the club at some 500 million pounds (\$797 million).

But the dramatic style of the victory, with two goals in stoppage time, can only add to the appeal of a club with millions of fans in Britain and around the world.

"It was an absolutely fantastic result for Man United on the pitch and long-term perhaps an equally fantastic result for them financially," said Nick Batram, an analyst who follows soccer club stocks at brokerage Greig Middleton.

"Today in football, it's all about brand development not just in Britain but around the globe," added Batram, noting that the benefits from spin-offs such as souvenir videos and shirts plus added appeal for sponsors were hard to

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quantify.

Analysts said the gains would not come through immediately as much of the prize money for winning the European Cup would be swallowed up by bonuses paid to players for a remarkable treble — also lifting the domestic F.A. Cup and Premier League titles.

The shares have languished since the British government last month blew the whistle on a planned billion-dollar takeover by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB (BSY.L) pay TV company.

Wednesday's match was beamed to an estimated 200 countries and wrote another page in the rich history of the club.

The victory sparked huge demand for tickets in Australia where United will play two matches on tour in July.

The company has set up a new subsidiary to develop its merchandising in the Far East, Middle East and Scandinavia, tapping into its huge fan base in those regions.

It also opened its first store at Dublin Airport last October and is in talks with potential retail partners in several other countries.

Robert Elstone, a soccer industry expert with accountancy and consulting group Deloitte & Touche, said United would benefit from the countless youngsters who idolize stars such as David Beckham.

"Any kid growing up in the 1990s will only support one team, unless there's a very good reason," he said.

"Those bonds tend to last for life," he added.

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## SOCCER

# It can't be Germany left in tearful disbelief after Munich's collapse

May 27, 1999 2:38 p.m. ET

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — "Oh No!" That was the headline in Germany's mass circulation Bild newspaper Thursday after Bayern Munich's 2-1 loss to Manchester United in the European Cup soccer game in Barcelona.

"That was bitter! Just unbelievable!" the Hamburg-based Bild screamed.

The report carried a front-page photo of Munich team captain Stefan Effenberg dejectedly sitting on the ground with his arms around his knees, his head bowed, glaring at the ground.

"Ninety minutes party: and then the tears poured," the headline in Munich's tz daily tabloid said.

"It's a catastrophe. I have never seen such stupidity in my whole life," tz quoted actor Peter Bond as saying. "How can a top team let two goals in at the end?"

Another Munich fan, Uschi Daemmrich, told tz: "It was the game of the century. A criminal thriller — How one can have the game in the bag and then

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lose it? I'm a nervous wreck and my son is crying."

Bayern had taken the lead on a sixth-minute goal from a free kick by Mario Basler and appeared in control most of the game until a late Manchester surge that left Bayern players devastated on the field.

Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solksjaer fired in Manchester's goals in the last 120 seconds of play, for its first triumph in Europe's most prestigious club competition since 1968.

According to RTL television, an average of 13.59 million people in Germany watched the entire game late Wednesday, a 48.4 percent share of the viewer market.

The station said that it was the second largest TV audience to watch an event, topped only by the Champions' League final between Borussia Dortmund and Juventus Turin on May 28, 1997, when an average of 15.28 million, or 51.5 percent of the market watched.

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## SOCCER

# The agony of defeat Munich players left to ponder lost opportunities in wake of crushing defeat

May 27, 1999 1:48 p.m. ET

Kevin Fylan  
REUTERS

**BARCELONA** — Heartbroken Bayern Munich defender Lothar Matthaeus summed up the feelings of his players on Thursday with a terse: "The best team didn't win."

The hopes of the 38-year-old Matthaeus of winning the one major medal missing from his collection were dashed in one incredible injury-time minute at the Nou Camp on Wednesday when Manchester United came from a goal down to clinch a 2-1 victory and the European Cup for only the second time in its history.

Bayern players slumped to their knees in disbelief at the final whistle.

Carsten Jancker, the giant center forward who had bullied the United defense all night, held his head in his hands and wept, while Ghanaian defender Sammy Kuffour — another immense presence for Bayern — had to be consoled by referee Pierluigi Collina.

According to Matthaeus, United simply had the greater share of luck, the factor he and his teammates had highlighted as crucial going into the game.

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"You can only really understand it when you've slept on it a few nights," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

"Above all I'm really sorry for the team. Everyone fought superbly, we played a great game and were so close. But it was just not to be. In the end we did not have the luck either."

But how exactly did Bayern Munich lose a game that was all but secured, a win that would have been fully justified after 90 minutes of sterling commitment and no little skill? Was it only luck?

"Perhaps we made one mistake too many," Hitzfeld said. "But I will not and cannot reproach the team. Perhaps we were also a little at the end of our strengths."

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson highlighted his side's will to win, an attitude that had seen it come back from the dead once already this season, when it turned a 1-0 defeat into a 2-1 win against Liverpool in the dying seconds of an F.A. Cup match.

"Maybe that desire was the crucial thing," Ferguson mused after the match. "These players are made of something special. You saw that in this game."

In a more tactical analysis, Ferguson revealed: "I expected them to man-mark Teddy Sheringham when he came on in the second half.

"I thought Markus Babbel would move back to do that job. The fact that he didn't maybe played into our hands a little — gave us more space to work with."

Certainly the tactical switch late in the second half, which saw Ryan Giggs

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move to the left, David Beckham to the right and Sheringham, Solskjaer and Dwight Yorke all queueing up in the middle, offered United more options.

But that was really just a last roll of the dice for Ferguson, who had no other alternative but to throw everyone forward.

And the simple fact is that Bayern could have had victory secured by the time Solskjaer came on for Andy Cole with 10 minutes to go.

Twice in the second half, Bayern hit the frame of the goal, another two shots were brilliantly saved by Peter Schmeichel.

Bayern just could not put United away with goals that would have made the dying minutes a leisurely stroll to victory.

"Mehmet Scholl and Carsten Jancker [who both hit the woodwork] had a lot of bad luck in their finishing. That would have decided it. When you're so close to it you really have to take the chance," Hitzfeld said.

"Manchester never gave up. But nonetheless I didn't reckon that we would leave the pitch as losers. That was tragic," he added, recalling the extraordinary reversal of fortune in injury time.

Then again, perhaps Bayern was just fated not to win. Ferguson reckoned the late Sir Matt Busby — the last United manager to win the European Cup — was kicking a few balls for his team from "up there," while Spanish sports newspaper Marca put the Reds' victory down to the work of the Lord.

With God and Sir Matt on its side, there was clearly no way United could have lost.

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## SOCCER

# United they stand United's link to fans helped win the day

May 27, 1999 1:53 p.m. ET  
Timothy Collings  
REUTERS

BARCELONA — As the second half of Wednesday's European Cup final began at the Nou Camp stadium, Gary Neville trotted toward the Manchester United fans, gritted his teeth and raised both fists.

The English champion was trailing 1-0 to Bayern Munich, but in that one action the international defender exemplified the spirit and the bond between fans and team which was to carry them through to one of the most dramatic victories in the competition's history.

Like teammates David Beckham, Nicky Butt and Ryan Giggs, Neville — and his younger brother Phil Neville, who was a substitute — understood the depth of feeling of the supporters who helped to lift United to its second European Cup triumph 31 years after its first.

But even he was dumbfounded by the finale which delivered two goals in added time to turn the boys who have come through the Old Trafford ranks into men to rank alongside the former greats like George Best, Denis Law and

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## Bobby Charlton.

Neville said: "Call it destiny, if you like. But we just refused to lose. We have done it before this season in a lot of games, scored goals and won when it did not look possible.

"But tonight we did it in the greatest game, on the greatest stage and in the greatest competition. It shows the heart we have and the spirit of the players, something we all feel."

He added: "I just had a feeling about it. When the first goal, for us, went in I had a sense that something was happening. And it happened. It was almost supernatural in a way. It was like nothing I have ever experienced before in football."

Then he warned: "I know now that people will say that we've done it and we've reached a peak, but I think we know we've got to come back again next season and do it all over again.

But he acknowledged: "I know it is not easy, but that is what we have to do. There are a lot of great sides all over Europe now. We can't sit back and think we have done it. We have got to carry on."

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**SOCCER**

# Center stage Spain rejoices in its place as stage for European Cup history

May 27, 1999 2:01 p.m. ET  
 Kevin Fylan  
 REUTERS 

BARCELONA — Spanish newspapers on Thursday were convinced Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium had staged one of the all-time great games in soccer history.

Manchester United's heroic last-minute comeback, when goals from Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer earned it a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich and the second European Cup victory of its history, defied rational explanation for most of the popular press.

"God saved Manchester United," was the headline in sports daily Marca, which also noted: "How great is our game."

Sport, the Barcelona-based daily, led with a more simple "What a final!" and concluded on pages two and three: "The Red Devils: from the inferno to glory."

Sport devoted the first 23 pages of Thursday's edition to an incredible final made all the better for its setting, the magnificent 90,000-capacity Nou Camp.

"The Nou Camp, for all its majesty and

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the fact that this was the last European Cup final of the millennium, deserved an historic final," Sport editor Josep Casanovas wrote. "And how we got it!"

"The denouement of Manchester United-Barcelona has no comparison. Never was a loser more of a loser; never was a winner so fortunate.

"From glory to misery in a minute."

Spain's more serious newspapers were scarcely any more reserved as they reflected on a night made all the more satisfying for the good behavior of both sets of fans.

"Manchester touched glory in one minute," was the headline in El Mundo. "A magical final in a magical setting."

El Pais, echoing those sentiments, said the final minute of the match was "maybe the most dramatic ever seen in the history of the European Cup."

And in a touching nod to the last European Cup winning United manager, who would have been celebrating his 90th birthday on Wednesday, El Pais simply said: "Happy Birthday, Sir Matt."

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### TODAY'S TOP STORY

## 'FOOTBALL... BLOODY HELL!'

Alex Ferguson's astonished exclamation following his team's last-gasp win against Bayern Munich last night said it all, as Man United combined true grit with a large dose of luck to complete their unprecedented treble

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## Subs' Standard Prove United's Class

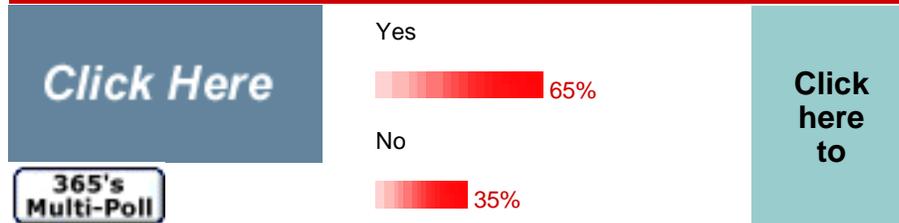
365 brings you news of all the heart-stopping action from the Nou Camp as inspired substitutions Sheringham and Solskjaer send the European Cup back to Old Trafford

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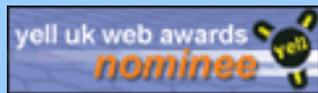
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# 'FOOTBALL... BLOODY HELL!'

FERGUSON CAN HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EYES AS UNITED CLINCH LAST-GASP VICTORY

By Ian Cruise

TEN days ago, after Manchester United clinched their fifth Premiership trophy in seven years, manager Alex Ferguson referred to his players as "gods." Well, last night in Barcelona, his troops certainly had **some** gods on their side as they clinched the Treble in sensational style.

Ferguson won his 12th trophy as Manchester United boss last night. He has seen it all in 13 years at Old Trafford... or at least he thought he had. However, nothing could have prepared the normally taciturn Scot for the events that unfolded before his eyes in the last three minutes at the Nou Camp as his side snatched the trophy from Bayern Munich's grasp in surely the most astonishing finish to any European final.

"Football... bloody hell," spluttered Ferguson into a radio microphone just seconds after substitute Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had sealed victory for the Red Devils, only three minutes after Teddy Sheringham - another second half replacement - had hauled them back into the match with a goal seconds into injury time.



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It was an incredible finale to complete an incredible season for the men from Old Trafford, but Ferguson didn't need telling that his side enjoyed the lion's share of the good fortune in Spain yesterday evening. "We rode our luck," he admitted. "But we never gave in, that's what won it for us."

No-one could deny that truth, nor truthfully, could anyone deny that, in fact, off-colour United probably deserved to lose to less individually talented but hard working Bayern. For long periods, the Germans were in control and twice in the last ten minutes they left goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel helpless as they sent efforts against the woodwork.

Those footballing gods, though, both the ones in red and those elsewhere, had decided that it was to be Ferguson's hour. The European Cup, his Holy Grail, was finally his as Manchester United's season of Treble triumph came down to three heart-stopping minutes in which Fergie's team proved they not only have the skill to win big matches, but also the stomach to scrap for the result when things are going against them.

Gods? Maybe not, but someone was smiling on them last night.

**What did you think of United's win last night? Did they deserve their victory? Are they the greatest ever British club side? E-mail your views to [theeditor@football365.co.uk](mailto:theeditor@football365.co.uk) and we'll publish the best.**

**And don't forget to tell us whether or not you're glad United won last night by voting in our Quick Poll on the front page of our website: [www.football365.co.uk](http://www.football365.co.uk)**

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## SUBS' STANDARD PROVES UNITED'S CLASS

Bench Boys Sheringham And Solskjaer Seal Heart-Stopping Treble Clincher

By Ian Cruise

MANCHESTER UNITED 2 BAYERN MUNICH 1

Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole have made the headlines all season. When it mattered most though, it was two of Old Trafford's bit-part players who stole the glory in the most dramatic finish ever to a European Cup Final.

With the clock ticking into injury time, substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Old Gunnar Solskjaer wrote their names indelibly into the Manchester United history books. They may have suffered long spells of frustration on the sidelines this season, but it all came good for them in two unforgettable minutes in Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium.

With the German players and fans getting set to celebrate Bayern's first European Cup triumph since 1976, United snatched the giant trophy out of their grasp. With the clock already showing 90 minutes, goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel raced upfield for a corner which David Beckham swung into the box. The big Dane's presence may or not have had an effect but, either way, Yorke's ball back into the danger zone found its way to Ryan Giggs on the edge of the area and his volley was turned into the bottom corner by Sheringham.

That though, was merely the start of the drama...

As the players began to prepare for extra time and the Golden Goal, United once again ripped up the script as they clinched a thrilling victory in a sensational climax. Yet again a Beckham corner caused the damage and Sheringham's header was prodded into the roof of the net by Solskjaer to spark wild scenes, both on the pitch and on the terraces (and in the Football365 office, frankly).

For the Germans, though, there was disbelief. Bayern's players collapsed to the turf in tears unable to comprehend the turn of events that left them broken-hearted, having led from the sixth minute and having hit the post and the crossbar in the previous ten minutes. Ultimately, though, there was nothing but pain for the Bundesliga champions.

However, while the end of the match was a dream for the team in red, the beginning was more like a nightmare. Manchester United started nervously

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and struggled to find the fluency which has been a hallmark of their play in recent weeks. They have, for the most part, been slow starters in Europe this season but have proved, as they did against Juventus in the second leg of their memorable semi-final in Italy, that they are capable of overcoming their sluggishness and going on to success.

However, although they captured the nation's imagination with that stunning comeback in Turin last month, Alex Ferguson would have been hoping for a better start in the Nou Camp, but what transpired certainly would not have been in any pre-written United script.

With just five minutes gone, Ronny Johnsen was penalised for a foul on Carsten Jancker just a couple of yards outside the United penalty area and Schmeichel, playing his last game for the Reds, and as captain in place of the suspended Roy Keane, was rooted to the spot as Mario Basler curled the ball around the wall and past the stranded Dane.

It was the worst possible start for Ferguson's Treble chasers and it could have been a lot worse just three minutes later when Alexander Zickler got in front of Jaap Stam at the near post to meet Basler's right-wing centre. Fortunately for United, the German striker was unable to steer the ball on target and shot harmlessly wide of the post.

A second goal then could have spelled the end of United's dreams but they slowly began to impose themselves on the game, although still they were struggling to create clear-cut goalscoring opportunities.

Their first half chance came in the 14th minute when Gary Neville's long throw was headed on by Stam towards Andy Cole, but the striker could not get a clean strike on the ball and the German defence was able to clear, off the Old Trafford marksman, and behind for a goal kick.

Six minutes later, Yorke came the closest to opening the scoring for the Premiership champions when he met Beckham's cross at the near post and helped the ball on towards the top corner. However, Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn, while not looking altogether comfortable, was able to half punch and half flap the ball away from the danger.

Beckham, by now, was becoming more and more instrumental in the unfamiliar central midfield slot which he has coveted for so long and last night he was handed the responsibility in the absence of the suspended Keane and Paul Scholes. His range of passing was causing problems for the German defence and, from one raking 40-yard cross-field ball, he offered an opportunity to Cole.

The striker took the ball cleanly with his first touch - something which isn't always the case - but he scuffed his first shot, left-footed, at two defenders closing him down and then, when looking for attack partner Yorke at the far post, succeeding only in crossing the ball against another of the Bayern rearguard.

United continued to probe with no hint of panic setting in, but there would have been a few nervous flutters when Zickler took aim from 25 yards out and sent his low shot skidding just narrowly wide of Schmeichel's right post. But although the Red Devils appeared in little danger of conceding a second goal, equally they never really looked like scoring an equaliser in the opening period.

They were struggling to create chances from the flanks, maybe missing Beckham's crossing ability from wide on the right. Although Giggs, playing Beckham's usual role, saw plenty of the ball in the first half his final pass was largely disappointing, while Jesper Blomqvist, on the left flank, was enormously ineffective.

However, although he must have been tempted to make changes at half-time, Ferguson sent out the same XI after the interval but, once again, they began in lucklustre fashion and were almost made to pay in the very first minute of the second half when Jancker's strong run took him into the danger area. Johnsen recovered well to make a saving, sliding tackle and, although the German striker was able to get a half-hit shot on target, it lacked power and Schmeichel was able to parry comfortably.

Eight minutes later, though, the Dane would surely have been helpless had Markus Babbel - a former United transfer target - connected with a free header just six yards out. Basler's right-wing corner caught Fergie's side asleep but the German defender, who stole in completely unmarked, failed to get his head to the ball cleanly.

How United would have reacted to that setback we will never know, but they did respond well to the near-miss. Giggs, who had been struggling all night to deliver the required service into the middle, produced a better quality ball deep into the penalty box where Blomqvist sneaked in on the wrong side of Babbel but could only scoop his shot over the bar.

Still, though, they struggled to open up a well-organised Bayern defence and the growing confidence in the German ranks was emphasised when Basler almost embarrassed Schmeichel with an audacious effort from 50 yards which was reminiscent of the goal that launched Beckham's career against Wimbledon almost three years ago. Fortunately for Schmeichel, and United, the shot cleared the bar.

With a little under 25 minutes remaining, Ferguson played his first card when he took off the hapless Blomqvist and replaced him with Saturday's FA Cup Final man of the match Sheringham. It was Cole, though, who was the recipient of United's next opening when he found some space in the area but could only send his attempted overhead kick, from Giggs' cross, well wide of the post.

By contrast, Bayern had more of a threat about them whenever they ventured forward. Steffen Effenberg was narrowly wide with a 30-yarder in the 72nd minute, and two minutes later he forced the save of the match from Schmeichel. Jancker headed a great ball down into Effenberg's path and the midfielder lofted the ball towards goal but the United keeper leapt superbly to claw his effort over the bar with his fingertips. Had the veteran keeper been only 6-foot-2, rather than 6-foot-4, the match would have been over.

But five minutes later not even the great Dane could do anything about a sublime effort from substitute Mehmet Scholl. A storming run from Basler, half the length of the field, created confusion in the United defence and, when he fed Scholl, the midfielder cut back across the front of the defenders before sending a glorious chip over Schmeichel but, agonisingly for the Germans, against the post.

However, as the game entered its final ten minutes, the gaps began to appear and the chances came thick and fast. Nicky Butt lifted a good centre across the face of the goal but there was no-one in a red shirt on hand to provide the simplest of finishes. Then substitute Solskjaer, who had been on the pitch just a matter of seconds after replacing Cole, sent a flashing header towards goal which was gratefully clutched by Kahn at full stretch.

But as United surged forward, so the danger posed by Bayern on the break became ever more apparent. Scholl forced Schmeichel into another splendid diving save in the 82nd, before Jancker was denied by a coat of paint when his overhead kick crashed against the underside of the bar.

Still the Red devils surged forward and Sheringham and Solskjaer both forced Kahn into saves, although on neither occasion was the German keeper seriously tested. Yorke wasted a great chance when he completely missed his kick from Neville's cross and it appeared then that United's chance had gone.

However, no-one could guess at the drama that was to follow in the last three minutes...

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## WHAT THEY SAID AFTER THE MATCH & MUCH MORE

Reaction From The United & Bayern Camps, Plus: Yorke And Beckham Clockwatch, The Fergie Trophy Cabinet And United's Other Great European Nights

Alex Ferguson: "They never gave in and you always expect they can do something like that. It's fantastic and those players are incredible human beings. You can talk about tactics but it was spirit that won that match. We got off to a bad start but they kept at them and got their reward. We were fortunate in the last 20 minutes when they caught us on the counter-attack but at that stage we had to gamble. I don't think we've played as well as we have done but Teddy's come on and then Ole, and they've repaid the faith I showed in them."

"This is the best moment of my life. I'm really proud of my players, proud of my heritage and my family for what they have given me and this is the greatest moment of my life. I simply don't know where to begin but you can't deny people with this spirit we have and that's why we have won this trophy. I was stunned when they scored.

"I was starting to adjust to losing the game and I kept saying to myself keep your dignity and accept that it's not your year. But football is such a funny game and it's a fairytale really. It's the anniversary of Sir Matt Busby's birthday and I think he was doing a lot of kicking up there. I just could not take it in and it happened so quickly. When it went to 1-1 Steve McClaren said to me we should regroup back to a 4-4-2 for extra-time but I said this game isn't finished - and it wasn't. I just felt that with Sheringham and Solskjaer coming on fresh that they are always liable to score goals. You can't top that because that's the pinnacle but you cannot equal it."

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer: "It's unbelievable. It's so difficult to describe. The team spirit at the club is unbelievable and everybody works for everybody else. After all the pressure we had, someone had to do it! We had to score goals. Someone had to do it, fortunately it was me. Some people wonder why I have stayed at the club but tonight is the answer."

Sir Bobby Charlton: "This has been a sensational season. It's been marvellous for the fans - in the FA Cup, the Champions League and in our own championship the players have just been great. I'm really proud of them. English football has been in the wilderness for a long time and now we're back on the world stage. It's been all right saying English football is the healthiest and the best to watch, but you really need to have

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something to show for it and to win the Champions League, there's nothing bigger in world club football. I might even have a couple of drinks tonight now."

Ottmar Hitzfeld: "I feel so sorry for my team because they were so close to winning this match but they have lost. It's really difficult to digest and this is inconceivable for us but then this is what football is all about. Normally when the opposition equalise you are expecting extra-time and it was a shock to our team when they scored the winner two minutes later. It could take days or even weeks to recover from this but I must say that Manchester are great champions. They have played great this season and their football has been excellent. I think they have deserved to win the Champions League."

Lothar Matthaus: "Tonight it was not the best team that won but the luckiest. But we must not blame anyone. Especially in normal time. To lose a final is always hard, especially this way."

Stefan Effenberg: "I don't have the words to describe such a sickening moment. It is too brutal."

Jens Jeremies: "It's unimaginable. We need several days to recover. In the last seconds we made individual mistakes we should have never made. Everyone should have marked his player."

#### CLOCKWATCH: HOW THE KEY BATTLES WERE WON AND LOST

##### YORKE v MATTHAUS

4 minutes: Yorke claims Gary Neville's long throw inside the Bayern penalty area but is hustled out of it by Michael Tarnat and Samuel Kuffour.

6 mins: Yorke throws himself at Jesper Blomqvist's cross on the six-yard line after linking well with Andy Cole but is penalised for a foul on Kuffour.

9 mins: Yorke tries to manoeuvre himself into a shooting position but is robbed by Jens Jeremies.

13 mins: Matthaus helps Stefan Effenberg's free-kick on toward Carsten Jancker but his ball is too strong.

21 mins: Yorke gets on the end of Ryan Giggs' near-post cross but cannot hook the ball over keeper Oliver Kahn as Cole closes.

28 mins: Matthaus breaks forward from midfield and lays the ball in to Jancker, whose back-heel allows Alexander Zickler to shoot wide of Peter Schmeichel's left post.

31 mins: Yorke gets into a good shooting position from Giggs' pass, but Matthaus blocks his effort.

32 mins: Matthaus joins the attack again but fires a right-foot shot way over from 25 yards.

38 mins: Yorke links well with Cole to put Giggs away on the right, but Blomqvist cannot make the most of the Welshman's cross at the far post.

42 mins: Yorke's pass to Cole almost allows Giggs in as Kahn races from his line.

43 mins: Giggs plays a one-two with Yorke on the edge of the box but his shot is blocked by Kuffour.

53 mins: Matthaus runs onto Effenberg's pass out of defence to put Mario Basler away, but his cross is blocked.

58 mins: Matthaus gives the ball away to Giggs but Thomas Linke produces a strong challenge to keep United out.

67 mins: Matthaus gets in an important block to prevent David Beckham's

cross from reaching Yorke.

68 mins: Yorke is pushed back into midfield as Teddy Sheringham replaces Blomqvist.

69 mins: Yorke's header gives Cole a chance to attempt a spectacular overhead effort, but he fails to make a good contact.

77 mins: Matthaus felled by Beckham's challenge and left with a painful reminder of his night in Barcelona.

79 mins: Matthaus replaced by Thorsten Fink.

87 mins: Yorke gets his head to Beckham's long ball but cannot drop it into Sheringham's path.

88 mins: Yorke miskicks in front of goal as the seconds tick away.

90 mins: Sheringham equalises 40 seconds into extra time.

92 mins: Beckham's left-wing corner is helped on by Sheringham at the near post for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to guide the ball into the roof of the net for the winner.

#### BECKHAM v EFFENBERG

7 minutes: Beckham plays a raking long ball towards Ryan Giggs, who wins a corner off defender Michael Tarnat.

13 mins: Effenberg plays a short free-kick to Lothar Matthaus, but his ball towards Carsten Jancker is overhit.

16 mins: Effenberg's teasing ball over the top allows Alexander Zickler to break through the United defence but his header is too weak to trouble Peter Schmeichel.

23 mins: Beckham picks out Andy Cole wide on the left with a long ball, but the striker cannot find a teammate in the middle under intense pressure.

26 mins: Beckham's inswinging corner is punched off Cole's head by Oliver Kahn.

30 mins: Another Beckham corner scorches across the box but no-one can get a meaningful touch.

40 mins: Beckham's 30-yard free-kick falls wide of Kahn's right post.

42 mins: Beckham plays the ball into Yorke. Cole's presence as he tries to retrieve his partner's pass almost allows Giggs in.

43 mins: Beckham's right-wing corner is collected by Kahn at his feet almost on his line.

51 mins: Beckham picks out Ronny Johnsen with a right-wing corner, but his header flies high and wide.

53 mins: Effenberg's neat flick allows Matthaus to feed Mario Basler on the right, but his cross is deflected out for a corner.

54 mins: Kuffour meets Effenberg's cross with a header but cannot direct it on goal.

60 mins: Effenberg booked for a tackle from behind on Giggs as the winger breaks from his own half.

67 mins: Cole lays the ball out to Beckham on the right and his cross is blocked by Matthaus as Yorke prepares to pounce.

67 mins: Jaap Stam heads Beckham's corner over the bar.

72 mins: Effenberg rasps a 25-yard shot just wide of Schmeichel's left post.

73 mins: Schmeichel pulls off a vital save to keep out Effenberg's hooked shot and preserve his side's hopes of a comeback.

77 mins: Beckham catches Matthaus late but escapes unpunished.

79 mins: Effenberg sets Basler free on the right and he feeds substitute Mehmet Scholl, who sees his chipped shot beat Schmeichel but come back off the post.

87 mins: Beckham's pinpoint pass is headed down by Yorke, but he cannot find Sheringham.

90 mins: Effenberg puts Gary Neville's deflected cross out for the corner from which United eventually equalise.

#### HOW FERGIE COMPARES TO THE GREATS

Manchester United's European Cup success, which has completed an historic Treble, confirms Alex Ferguson's standing as a living legend. The United boss is now just one trophy behind Liverpool's Bob Paisley in the all-time standings. Here's how he compares to English club football's other greats...

**Bob Paisley (Liverpool) - League championship: 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983. League Cup: 1981, 1982, 1983. European Cup: 1977, 1978, 1981. UEFA Cup: 1976.**

**Alex Ferguson (Manchester United) - League championship: 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999. FA Cup: 1990, 1994, 1996, 1999. League Cup: 1992. European Cup: 1999. Cup Winners' Cup: 1991.**

**Sir Matt Busby (Manchester United) - League championship: 1952, 1956, 1957, 1965, 1967. FA Cup: 1948, 1963. European Cup: 1968.**

**Brian Clough (Derby County and Nottingham Forest) - League championship: 1972, 1978. League Cup: 1978, 1979, 1989, 1990. European Cup: 1979, 1980.**

**Bill Nicholson (Tottenham Hotspur) - League championship: 1961. FA Cup: 1961, 1962, 1967. League Cup: 1971, 1973. Cup Winners' Cup: 1963. UEFA Cup: 1972.**

**Frank Watt (Newcastle United) - League championship: 1905, 1907, 1909, 1927. FA Cup: 1910, 1924, 1932.**

**George Graham (Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur) - League championship: 1989, 1991. FA Cup: 1993. League Cup: 1987, 1993, 1999. Cup Winners' Cup: 1994.**

**Herbert Chapman (Huddersfield Town and Arsenal) - League championship: 1924, 1925, 1931, 1933. FA Cup: 1922, 1930.**

**Bill Shankly (Liverpool) - League championship: 1964, 1966, 1973. FA Cup: 1965, 1974. UEFA Cup: 1973.**

**Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers) - League championship: 1986, 1988, 1990, 1995. FA Cup: 1986, 1989.**

**Don Revie (Leeds United) League championship: 1969, 1974. FA Cup: 1972. League Cup: 1968. European Fairs Cup: 1968, 1971.**

#### UNITED'S OTHER MEMORABLE EUROPEAN NIGHTS

26 September, 1956: Manchester United 10 Anderlecht 0  
 United's home debut in Europe - at Maine Road. "One of the most perfect exhibitions my side has ever given," said Matt Busby. Inspired by David

Pegg, who set up eight goals, including four for Dennis Viollet and a hat-trick for Tommy Taylor.

6 February, 1957: Manchester United 3 Athletic Bilbao 0  
The first of United's great comebacks after losing 5-3 in Spain. Viollet, Johnny Berry and, in the final seconds, Taylor squeezed them through before losing to the great Real Madrid in the semi-finals.

10 December, 1963: Manchester United 4 Tottenham Hotspur 1  
Trailing 2-0 to the great Spurs side of Dave Mackay and Co in the second round of the Cup Winners' Cup, United steamrolled the Londoners in the return, with David Herd and Bobby Charlton both scoring twice.

9 March, 1966: Benfica 1 Manchester United 5  
United's finest performance on foreign soil. Just one goal to the good from the European Cup second round, first leg, they slaughtered the Eagles. George Best scored twice while John Connolly, Paddy Crerand and Charlton completed the rout of the Portuguese champions.

15 May, 1968: Real Madrid 3 Manchester United 3  
Defending a 1-0 lead from the first leg, United were on their way out at 3-1 down at half-time. But they fought back to clinch a place in the final with goals from David Sadler and Bill Foulkes' late header.

29 May, 1968: Manchester United 4 Benfica 1  
United became the first English club to be crowned champions of Europe, fittingly at Wembley on a night dominated by Best and Charlton while Denis Law watched from his hospital bed. After 1-1 at full time (Charlton header), Best, Brian Kidd and Sir Combover again completed an emotional night.

21 March, 1984: Manchester United 3 Barcelona 0  
United looked on their way out of the Cup Winners' Cup after Diego Maradona's Spaniards had taken a 2-0 lead in the first leg of this third round tie. But England skipper Bryan Robson scored twice and Frank Stapleton got the other as 58,547 fans roared United through only to lose to Juventus in the semi-finals.

15 May, 1991: Barcelona 1 Manchester United 2  
Fergie guided United to their first European trophy for 23 years in the Rotterdam final of the Cup Winners' Cup, Mark Hughes scoring two superb second half goals before Ronald Koeman's late free-kick.

5 March, 1997: Manchester United 4 Porto 0  
"A performance to match Barcelona in 1984", said chairman Martin Edwards after the previously all-conquering Portuguese were hammered into the ground. David May, Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs and Andy Cole gave United an overwhelming advantage for the second leg, which finished 0-0, before defeat to eventual champions Borussia Dortmund in the semi-finals.

1 October, 1997: Manchester United 3 Juventus 2  
United hit back from conceding a goal after just 24 seconds of this Champions League match, going 3-1 up through Teddy Sheringham, Paul Scholes and Giggs. A last-gasp free-kick by the Italians merely gave the scoreline respectability.

21 April, 1999: Juventus 2 Manchester United 3

After going two goals down within the first 11 minutes, United looked to be on their way out of this year's European Cup at the semi-final stage after a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford. But two goals before halftime, from Roy Keane and Dwight Yorke, brought them level and an Andy Cole clincher six minutes from time booked their place in last night's final.

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