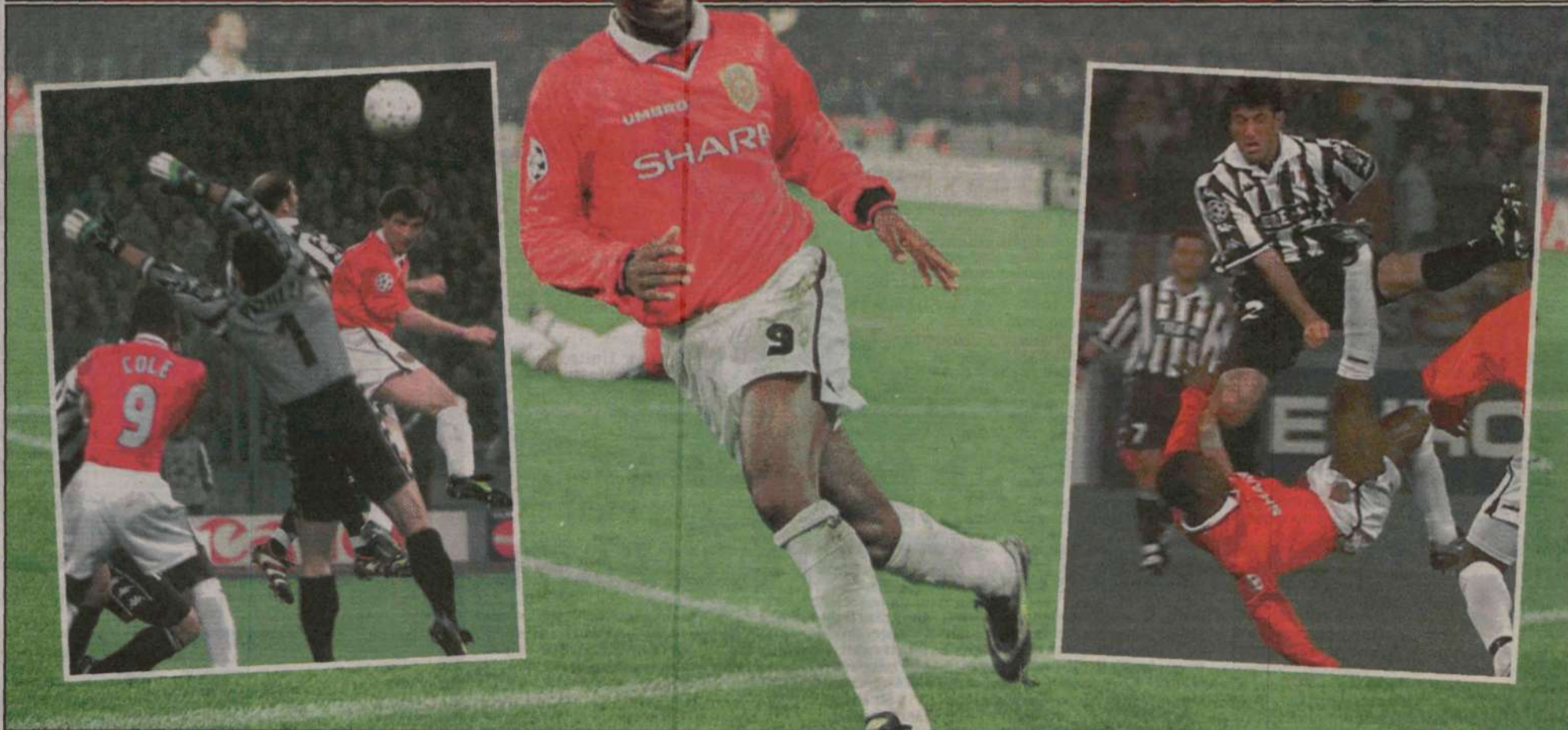




# FERGIE DREAMS



COLE-DEN WONDER: United's stars mob striker Andy Cole after his strike — United's third — sealed a stunning victory (top). He was delighted with his finish after going close with an over-track to a memorable success — and the chance to emulate the class of '68 head kick early on (inset right). But it needed Roy Keane's header (inset left) to get Fergie's heroes back on



# COMETRIUE

## Cole strike earns Nou Camp date

**Juventus 2**  
**Man Utd 3**

(United win 4-3 on aggregate)

from HARRY HARRIS in Turin

IT WAS the finest night of Alex Ferguson's life. It was also one of the greatest victories by an English club on foreign soil.

For so long our sides have flattered to deceive on the biggest stage and have been left floundering when the crunch came.

But United last night lit up the sky like a fire-cracker, producing a wondrous night of fantasy football in the Stadio delle Alpi.

To come from two down after just 10 minutes against an Italian side as highly-rated as Juventus, and to score three remarkable away goals, will be cherished by United almost as highly as their victory in the competition in 1968.

Ferguson, missing the talents of Ryan Giggs, masterminded a team effort of the highest order rather than any individual match-winning display.

And for the experts who endlessly listed the reasons why United couldn't progress in Turin, it was as sweet as it was unexpected.

For every cheer of joy there were moments of sadness. Yellow cards for captain Roy Keane and Paul Scholes deprive them of participating in United's first European Cup final for 31 years.

The inspirational Keane was booked in only the 33rd minute for a foul on Zinedine Zidane but there was no discernible change in his determination or commitment to lead his team to the Nou Camp final on May 26, where he will be forced to hand over



HE STOOPS TO CONQUER: Dwight Yorke heads home and Manchester United pull it back to 2-2

JUVENTUS v MAN UTD		
4	SHOTS ON TARGET	7
1	SHOTS OFF TARGET	7
3	CORNERS	4
1	YELLOW CARDS	2
0	RED CARDS	0

the captain's arm band and sit it out. Scholes's entry as a second half substitute was a tactical necessity as Giggs's replacement Jesper Blomqvist was tiring on the left.

Scholes lunged into a 75th minute challenge on Didier Deschamps, along with Zidane a World Cup winner, and instantly knew the anguish Keane had been feeling as he joined his skipper in the referee's book.

There was more than a measure of compensation for both players as goals from Keane, Dwight Yorke and, decisively, from Andy Cole sent United's few thousand travelling fans into wild celebrations.

They know that the incredible treble is so close.

Top of the Premiership, a date with Newcastle in the FA Cup final four days before the journey to Barcelona to meet Bayern Munich. Who can doubt

their destiny. Not Peter Schmeichel in goal, nor Jaap Stam in front of him and not the strike partnership of Yorke and Cole that has now yielded 49 goals this season.

Yet, it all seemed so unlikely as Juventus forged into a two-goal lead so early in the game.

When David Beckham conceded a corner in the sixth minute, Zidane was allowed to whip over a far post cross that mesmerised the United defence.

Inzaghi reacted first to get goal-side of Gary Neville and knock the ball home from close range.

### Stranded

Cole responded with an overhead kick straight at goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi as United tried to even up the contest.

But Zidane found huge spaces to create, and after ten minutes he received a pass from Davids and threaded the ball through for Inzaghi, whose shot was deflected to loop over the stranded Schmeichel.

The enormous talent in Ferguson's squad is supplemented by competitors and that was shown as United clawed their way

back. Trailing 3-1 on aggregate and seemingly out of the competition, they won a corner and the first chink of light appeared.

A well-delivered Beckham cross and Keane surged into the box, met it at the near post and flicked his header just inside the far upright.

The entertainment levels were virtually unsurpassed as this tussle turned into a classic, both sides full of invention and with so much emphasis on attack defences were bound to creak.

Next it was the turn of United to wobble on the half-hour as Zidane delivered a cross that tempted Schmeichel, but on this rare occasion Antonio Conte beat him in the air. The ball floated towards the top of his goal, but Stam recovered to head of the line.

Keane refused to be handicapped by his caution and United went ahead for the first time over the two legs, albeit on the away goal, when Beckham found Cole and instinctively his cross sought out Yorke whose header completed the comeback.

It seemed either team would score next; a Cole

shot was saved, Inzaghi's effort blocked, Yorke's shot struck the upright.

Juventus made a couple of changes for the start of the second half but their attempts to catch United cold again were thwarted by Schmeichel's legs, another unorthodox save from an Inzaghi shot.

Davids suffered the Keane syndrome of a yellow card after a foul on Beckham and he too knew he would be out of any final should, indeed, they have made it. Cole couldn't quite control Beckham's cross and Inzaghi's celebrations for his hat-trick were cut short when he was correctly ruled off-side.

United struck the upright for the second time when Denis Irwin forged into the box to hit an angled drive.

It was cut and thrust right until the 83rd minute when Yorke picked up a poor defensive clearance and the momentum of his dribble, including a fortunate ricochet, took him past two defenders.

As he tried to dance around Peruzzi, the keeper brought him down but Cole finished it off without the need of a penalty. The last act of an epic night.

## HOW THEY RATED

Compiled by JOHN CROSS

### 9 Peter SCHMEICHEL

The great Dane was helpless for both Juve's early goals but quickly became a United hero with a brave save at the feet of Filippo Inzaghi.

### Gary NEVILLE 8

His month of miserable form continued early on. Neville completely lost Inzaghi at the back post as Juventus took advantage of slack marking. Grew stronger.

### 8 Denis IRWIN

Dependable Irwin was as reliable as ever. So unlucky to see a shot come back off a post and then his follow-up hit the side netting. Deserved a goal.

### Ronny JOHNSEN 8

Solid as a rock. The Norwegian and his fellow defenders overcame their rocky start to keep dangerman Inzaghi in check. Made vital clearances and tackles.

### 9 Jaap STAM

A defensive colossus. The Dutchman was unlucky as Inzaghi's second goal took a deflection off him. Made amends with a dramatic clearance.

### Nicky BUTT 8

Put up a sterling show and never let Juventus stars Zinedine Zidane and Edgar Davids run the midfield show as they did in the first leg at Old Trafford.

### 9 Roy KEANE

Cruel night of mixed emotions. His header got United back in the tie. But a second yellow puts him out of the final. Played on with great spirit.

### David BECKHAM 8

Delivered another "Beckham boomerang" to unlock the Juventus defence. His wicked corner set up Keane's brilliant header to put United back in the thrilling tie.

### 7 Jesper BLOMQVIST

The flying Swede had a tough task filling injured Giggs' boots. But he was solid down the left wing although he rarely threatened the Juve defence.

### Andy COLE 9

Cole was sharp, lively and dangerous. The England forward was unlucky not to be on the scoresheet in the first half but his strike put United into the final.

### 9 Dwight YORKE

Made amends for his bad first leg at Old Trafford. He linked up brilliantly with Cole and broke Juve's hearts with a superb diving header. Always lively and threatening.

### SUBSTITUTES

Amoroso (Birindelli 45) Montero (Iuliano 45) Scholes (Blomqvist 67)

### JUVENTUS

Peruzzi, Birindelli, Ferrara, Iuliano, Pessotto, Conte, Deschamps, Davids, Di Livio, Zidane, Inzaghi

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL ODDS: Man Utd 8/13, Bayern Munich 5/4, United 9/4 for the treble

## BEST IS STILL TO COME, SAYS ALEX

ALEX Ferguson last night saluted his Manchester United bravehearts and said: "I hope my greatest night is still to come."

The United boss believes that night will be on May 26, the date of the European Cup final showdown with Bayern Munich in Barcelona.

Goals from Roy Keane, Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole gave United their first ever win on Italian soil and Fergie called it "a famous victory" over Juventus. "We have come here and beaten

From STEVE MILLAR

the best club side of the last decade," he said. "And that's after giving them a two-goal start. That's quite phenomenal."

After the two-goal blitz in the first 10 minutes from Filippo Inzaghi, Fergie said: "I thought it was just going to be another case of suicide."

"Over the years we have done that but the difference in this team is the composure they have. In the first 45

minutes they were absolutely outstanding. Every one of them showed the courage and ability to play.

"Our first goal gave us the optimism and hope. And from that moment Juventus were very nervous.

"We were the better team tonight. We played with great tempo and rhythm and they found it difficult to get the ball from us, particularly in the first half.

"It became more difficult for Juventus to find the energy to come back at us.

They'd relied on some inspirational things from Zinedine Zidane or someone like that."

But victorious Ferguson still mourned the loss of skipper Roy Keane and Paul Scholes, who will both miss the final. The pair were booked again after picking up cautions in the quarter-final against Inter Milan and now face automatic suspension.

Peter Schmeichel is likely to wear the captain's armband in the final in what will be his last game for the club.



DWIGHT ON: Yorke's happy