



# REUTERS

Man Utd beat Juventus 3-2 to reach final

By Gideon Long

TURIN, Italy, April 21 (Reuters) - Manchester United reached the European Cup final for the first time in 31 years when they came back from a two-goal deficit to beat Juventus 3-2 in a thrilling semifinal second leg on Wednesday.

Juventus, who held United to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford two weeks ago, raced into a 2-0 lead after only 11 minutes with two goals from striker Filippo Inzaghi.

But United equalised with headed goals from Roy Keane and Dwight Yorke and hit the winner six minutes from time when Andy Cole completed a 4-3 aggregate victory.

It was United's first ever competitive win in Italy and sets up a final against Bayern Munich in Barcelona on May 26.

The only bad news for United was that Keane and midfielder Paul Scholes will both miss the final after picking up their second yellow cards of the competition.

"The players were magnificent," said manager Alex Ferguson.

"We deserved to be there...This is the level we want to play at."

The victory looked a long way off when Juve raced into a 2-0 lead.

Inzaghi, who had already threatened in the opening exchanges, got ahead of Gary Neville at the far post to bundle in Angelo Di Livio's cross after six minutes.

Inzaghi doubled the lead in the 11th, somewhat fortunately, as his cross-shot deflected off Jaap Stam and ballooned over Peter Schmeichel into the net.

United looked stunned but immediately went on the offensive and pulled a goal back on 24 minutes when Roy Keane arrived at the near post to head in a corner.

On the half-hour Stam had to head the ball from under his own crossbar as Inzaghi sought his hat-trick after a rash punch by Peter Schmeichel but it was United having the best of the game.

The English side then got the vital second away goal in the 34th minute when Cole crossed for Yorke to score with a diving header.

Five minutes later Yorke hit the post with a firm shot from the edge of the box, the ball bouncing out to safety.

In the second half United continued to take the initiative even though it was Juve who needed to score.

After 55 minutes Cole missed a good chance when he failed to control a Beckham cross.

Paul Scholes came on for Jesper Blomqvist but almost immediately picked up his booking for a challenge on Didier Deschamps.

United hit the woodwork again after 71 minutes when left back Denis Irwin left the Juventus defence standing and beat Angelo Peruzzi.

United got their just reward when Yorke burst through the middle and was brought down by Peruzzi. With United appealing for a penalty the referee allowed play to continue and Cole swooped to score from a tight angle.

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