

Semifinal 2nd leg BAYER LEVERKUSEN v MANCHESTER UNITED

# Still everything to play for



AFP, London

Alex Ferguson plans to make Bayer Leverkusen pay for their premature celebrations as Manchester United aim to defy the odds and clinch a place in the Champions League final on Tuesday.

The United manager believes Leverkusen may be overly confident, judging by their reactions after their 2-2 draw at Old Trafford last Wednesday.

The Leverkusen players hugged each other and went over to celebrate with their fans as if they had won the final itself, rather than just drawn the first-leg of the semi-final.

"They were celebrating at the end of the first game and that gives you a little bit of hope," Ferguson said. "Because it's my belief in life that you don't take things for granted."

"Everyone saw that and I think they may be in for a fight themselves come Tuesday."

Ferguson is confident his team will score in Germany to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for their

second Champions League final in four seasons.

United have netted in their last nine away games in Europe and the Scotsman believes his side will find the target at the BayArena, where Liverpool, Barcelona, Juventus and Deportivo La Coruna have all been beaten this season.

"Away from home this season we have been terrific in European games," Ferguson added. "We're talking about one game of football and Manchester United are definitely capable of doing that."

"Away goals count, they really do. It does have an impact when you score and we will score over there."

"We have to do it the hard way, which I suppose is the Manchester United way, but it's the semi-final and we're only one kick away from the final."

"We will play better on Tuesday and I think we have a smashing chance."

Ferguson hopes to cash in on Leverkusen's misery after the Germans conceded first place in the Bundesliga to Borussia Dortmund with just one league game to go.

The defeat of Leverkusen and Dortmund's away victory threw the

German league title race wide open, setting up a nail-biting final weekend title-decider.

The championship has swung Dortmund's way after Leverkusen, who have never won the title in their 98-year history, fell 1-0 at Nuremberg and Dortmund had a 4-3 victory at SV Hamburg.

Dortmund top the table with 67 points, one ahead of Leverkusen.

Leverkusen coach Klaus Topmoller said the best way for his players to respond to Saturday's crushing defeat was to beat United and book their place in the final.

"We've got to bounce back. We don't want to fall down a hole on Tuesday night against United," he said.

Michael Ballack has a minor foot injury after blocking a shot against Nuremberg but is not believed to be serious.

Jens Nowotny also has a back problem but is expected to be fit.

The German international, who will have his hands full marking Ruud van Nistelrooy on Tuesday night, insisted Leverkusen can recover from Saturday's bitter blow by topping the 1999 European champions.

"We've great hopes for the

second leg. Anything is possible for us now," Nowotny said.

Manchester United talisman Roy Keane is expected to start after suffering no reaction to his hamstring in Saturday's 1-0 Premiership win at Ipswich.

Keane, who returned from injury after three weeks out was outstanding in a victory which ensured second-placed United kept the pressure on Premiership leaders and title favourites Arsenal.

Ferguson paid tribute to Keane for his amazing powers of recovery, assisted by time spent in an oxygen tent.

"It's remarkable that Roy is back for us in three weeks. It was a tear in his hamstring and we all thought that was the finish of him for this season," Ferguson said.

"But Roy has been flying in training and working like a beast. His recovery has been helped by oxidation treatment, in which he places himself in a cylinder for four-and-a-half hours a day."

"He did that in separate 90-minute sessions for three consecutive days before having a week's break, then going through it again."

## Serie A 5-star rivals keep pressure on Inter



REUTERS, Milan

Hat tricks from Vincenzo Montella and David Trezeguet gave AS Roma and Juventus 5-0 wins in Serie A on Sunday, but leaders Inter Milan go into the final game a point clear after defeating Piacenza 3-1.

All three teams remained in the title race, with Inter leading on 69 points from Juventus on 68 and Roma on 67.

If Inter win at Lazio next Sunday they will secure their first title in 13 years -- but a slip up could let in Juventus, who are at lowly Udinese or Roma, who travel to midtable Torino.

Juventus pushed Roberto Baggio's Brescia into the relegation zone with a stunning second half display while Roma damaged Chievo's Champions League hopes with a convincing performance in the capital.

Inter were struggling at 1-1 against Piacenza until superb free-kicks from Alvaro Recoba and Ronaldo secured victory. Piacenza ended the game with nine men after they had Vincenzo Sönmes and Francelino Matuzalem sent off.

Hector Cuper's side began the day knowing that they could be crowned champions if Roma and Juve stumbled and they got off to the perfect start when Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba poked the ball in the seventh minute after a goalmouth scramble from a corner.

But the capacity 80,000 San Siro crowd was stunned in the 36th minute when Piacenza striker Dario Hubner set up Brazilian Matuzalem who beat Francesco Toldo with a well-placed finish.

Inter piled on the pressure after the break with Ronaldo having a shot cleared off the line by Vittorio Toso.

Piacenza's resistance weakened when Sönmes was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 69th minute and a minute later Inter were in front when Uruguayan Recoba curled a free-kick from 25



PHOTO: INTERNET

ON SONG: Inter Milan superstar Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Piacenza at Milan on April 28. This was Ronaldo's fourth goal in his last four matches.

Ronaldo then sealed victory with his fourth goal in as many games, thumping a free-kick past Piacenza 'keeper Paolo Orlandoni.

Any nerves Juventus had for the

return of Baggio and his battling Brescia were eased in the eighth minute when Trezeguet put them in front with a thundering header from a Del Piero corner.

Brescia had defender Daniele

### Serie A's top six

		After Sunday's matches (Played, Won, Drawn, Lost, Goals for, Goals against Points)					
1	Inter	33	20	9	4	60	31 69
2	Juventus	33	19	11	3	62	23 68
3	Roma	33	18	13	2	57	24 67
4	Milan	33	13	13	7	44	33 52
5	Bologna	33	15	7	11	40	37 52
6	Chievo	33	13	12	8	55	51 51

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Garbage

5 Put

9 Ally

12 New

13 Stage

14 Glass of

15 Diplomacy

16 Authentic

17 Contral

18 A util.

19 Pac.

20 Labyrinth

21 Store-

22 Solution time: 28 mins.

23 Clean-air

24 Org.

25 Regatta

setting

26 Eye

part

32 Kind of

candle or

nose

33 Thespian

34 Rouse

35 Plot

DOWN

20 Marriage

21 Location

22 Get

23 Height of

24 Indigent

25 Needle-

26 Reunion

27 attendee

28 Reagan

29 Silver

30 Hawaiian

31 Stage

32 Tourist

33 Area

34 Credit

35 Counter-

36 Limit

37 Ram's

38 Height

39 Indigent

40 Fish

41 Field

42 Reunion

43 Craftsmen

44 Craft

45 Swamp

46 Felony

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