

# THANK you

AFP, London

Alex Ferguson thanked Manchester United's supporters and urged them to stand behind his successor, David Moyes, after an emotional final home game as manager at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Ferguson, who announced his shock retirement earlier this week, addressed supporters directly during an unscripted on-pitch speech after a 2-1 win over Swansea City closed his 26-year association with the Old Trafford dug-out.

"You've been the most fantastic experience of my life," he said, as fans in the crowd of 75,572 fell silent to listen to the man who has brought 38 trophies to the club since arriving from Aberdeen in 1986.

"I've been very fortunate I've been able to manage some of the greatest players in the country, let alone Manchester United. All these players here today have represented the club the proper way and won the championship in fantastic fashion. Well done to the players."

"My retirement doesn't mean the end of my life with the club. I'll be able to enjoy watching them, rather than suffer with them."

"If you think about it, those last-minute goals, those comebacks, even the defeats, are all part of this great club of ours. It's been an unbelievable experience for all of us, so thank you for that."

"I also like to remind you that when we had bad times here, the club stood by me, all the staff stood by me, and the players stood by me. Your job now is to stand by our new manager."

Ferguson was later presented with the Premier League trophy, which United secured for an unprecedented 20th time three weeks ago, as the 13th title party of his Old Trafford tenure got underway.

## No record, but Juve crowned

REUTERS, Rome

Juventus were held to a 1-1 home draw by Cagliari in Serie A on Saturday, a result that means the champions can no longer eclipse their points record.

Mirko Vucinic came off the bench to save a point for Juve with an easy tap-in just after the hour after Victor Ibarbo had given the visitors a shock 12th-minute lead with a wonderful individual goal.

Antonio Conte's league leaders have 87 points with one game to go while Cagliari are 11th on 44 points.

Juve achieved their record tally of 91 points in the 2005-06 season. They won the league that year but were stripped of the title and relegated to Serie B following a match-fixing affair that ripped Italian football apart.

"I'm a bit annoyed we didn't win. With a bit more effort we could have written another important page in our history," said defender Giorgio Chiellini.

"Winning is always hard," said Conte. "You have to always work hard and never be satisfied because the moment you think you can rest because you've won two titles in a row you get a full stomach (and it is all over)."

"The players are always the stars of the show. They've done extraordinary things, showing constant desire to fight and improve," said Conte, who gave a special mention to Frenchman Paul Pogba after his summer move from Manchester United.

## RESULTS

Chievo 1 (Thereau 10) Torino 1 (Cerci 19)  
Fiorentina 1 (Toni 41) Palermo 0  
Genoa 0 Inter 0  
Juventus 1 (Vucinic 61) Cagliari 1 (Ibarbo 12)  
Catania 1 (Gomez) Pescara 0



Sir Alex Ferguson (2 from R) lifts the Premier League trophy, his 13th and the last as Manchester United manager, after his final home game at the emotionally charged Old Trafford yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## RESULTS

Everton 2 (Mirallas 6, 60) West Ham 0  
Fulham 1 (Berbatov 33) Liverpool 3 (Sturridge 36, 62, 85)  
Manchester Utd 2 (Hernandez 39, Ferdinand 87) Swansea 1 (Michu 49)  
Norwich 4 (Snodgrass 25, Holt 62, McAuley 65-og, Howson 90) West Brom 0  
QPR 1 (Remy 11-pen) Newcastle 2 (Ben Arfa 18-pen, Gouffran 35)  
Stoke 1 (Nzonzi 3) Tottenham 2 (Dempsey 20, Adebayor 83)  
Sunderland 1 (Bardsley 68)

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## 'No other side like us'

### RESULTS

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Hegeler 6, 60, Kiessling 28) Hannover 9 1 (Sobiech 71)  
Bayern Munich 3 (Mueller 69, Shaqiri 82, Luiz Gustavo 87) FC Augsburg 0  
Fortuna Duesseldorf 1 (Balitsch 9g-22) FC Nuremberg 2 (Mak 58, Plattenhardt 64)  
Greuther Fuerth 1 (Zimmermann 3) SC Freiburg 2 (Schmid 69, Kruse 78)  
Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 61) Hamburg SV 4 (Son 18, Aogo 35, Jiracek 60, Rudnevs 88)  
Mainz 0 2 (Parker 12, Ivenschitz pen-90) 2 Borussia Moenchengladbach 4 (Hrgota 39, 59, 80, Hanke 65)  
Schalke 04 1 (Ulreich 9g-90) VfB Stuttgart 2 (Ibisevic 24, 66)  
Wolfsburg 3 (Perisic 14, 22, Naldo 26) Borussia Dortmund 3 (Bender 5, Reus 84, 87)

AGENCIES, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes was filled with pride as his team lifted the Bundesliga trophy after yesterday's 3-0 win over Augsburg.

Bayern were presented with their first trophy in three years at the conclusion of



BUNDESLIGA

their penultimate league match of the season, having clinched the title weeks ago.

"No team in the history of the Bundesliga has ever played football the way we have this year," said Heynckes, who will be replaced by Pep Guardiola at the end of the season. "We played at a consistently high level and that fills me with pride."

As he took to the balcony of Munich's City Hall to greet an estimated 20,000 fans, Heynckes saw what the title meant to a club without a major success since their league and cup double of 2010.

"Your excitement tells me that you were starved and that you've been waiting for what feels like a decade to be back here," he told supporters. "We'll now do all we can to ensure we get what we are all dreaming about on 25 May."

That is the date of the UEFA Champions League final, when Bayern will hope to complete the second part of their treble bid with victory over Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund at Wembley.



## Alonso wins Spanish GP

AFP, Barcelona

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso thrilled a massive 95,000 flag-waving home crowd on Sunday when he drove his Ferrari to a dominant victory at the Spanish Grand Prix.

It was the Spaniard's second win of the season, in five races, and the 32nd win of his career - a triumph that endorsed his challenge for a third drivers' title on an afternoon of Spanish supremacy at the Circuit de Catalunya.

Driving with great aplomb, Alonso delivered a beautifully-judged performance to win a tactical contest dominated by tyre-wear management, finishing 9.338 seconds ahead of second placed Finn Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus.

Alonso said: "What a fantastic feeling, you feel the support from everybody, we wanted to do well here in front of our fans, so many people supporting Ferrari."

## Serena keeps Madrid crown

AP, Madrid

Defending champion Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-4 in the final of the Madrid Open Sunday to retain her No. 1 ranking and collect her 50th career title.

With the top ranking at stake, Williams stormed out to an early lead as Sharapova struggled with her serve.

The second-ranked Russian briefly recovered her poise in the second set, but Williams' form never wavered as she eased to the title.

"I'm very happy, many thanks," Williams told the Caja Magica crowd in Spanish before being hoisted aloft by the ball boys to celebrate the trophy.

Williams improved her record against Sharapova to 13-2, with both losses coming in 2004.

It was Sharapova's first loss in a red clay final after winning seven in a row.

The 31-year-old Williams, playing in her first red clay final since 2002, dominated Sharapova from the start.

Sharapova committed five double faults in her first three service games, dropping the first two as Williams easily won the first set. Her shaky serve let Williams gear up and land several winning drives before closing out the set with a floating return that clipped the line.

Sharapova broke serve to open the set and went ahead 3-1. But her serve would again betray her as she hit another double fault to give back the break.

Williams closed out the match after Sharapova recorded her eighth double fault, then hit the ball long on the final point.

## Varane out for season

AGENCIES, Madrid

Real Madrid central defender Raphael Varane suffered a knee injury in Saturday's 1-1 La Liga draw at Espanyol and looks set to miss the rest of the season.

The 20-year-old France international, who has burst into Real's team this season, fell awkwardly after a tackle in the 19th minute and had to be substituted.

"His meniscus is affected. We will see what the scans say in the morning," club director Emilio Butragueno told Canal Plus television.

In the post-match news conference, coach Jose Mourinho added: "I don't want to speak ahead of the doctors, but it looks relatively serious and it is likely he will miss the Cup final and the two or three remaining games we have."

Varane has been one of Real's outstanding performers in recent weeks but Mourinho sought to play down the significance of losing the player.

## Scholes retires, for good

Paul Scholes will quit playing at the end of the Premier League season, the Manchester United midfielder said on Saturday. The former England international first announced his retirement at the end of the 2010-11 season but returned in January 2012 to extend his one-club career to 19 years and 716 appearances.

"Yes, I am finally hanging up my boots for good,"

he told United's website (www.mufc.com). "Playing football is all I have ever wanted to do and so to have had such a long and successful career at Manchester United, under the greatest manager of all time (Alex Ferguson), has been an honour."



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PHOTO: AFP

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