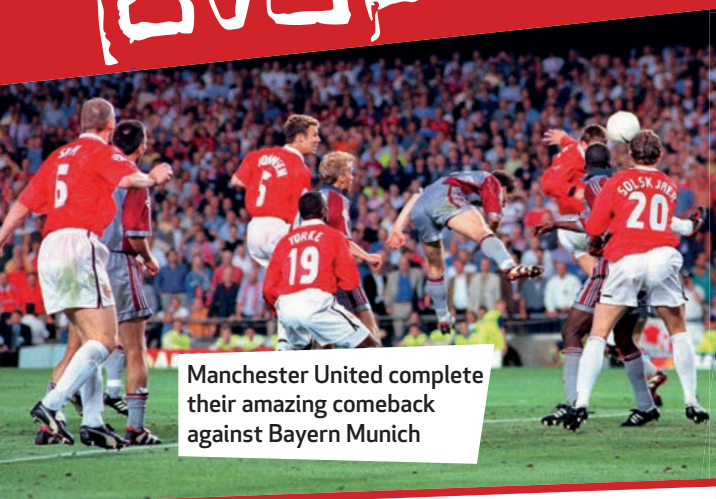


PREMIER LEAGUE 1998-99

THE SEASON WHEN...

MANCHESTER UNITED



Manchester United complete their amazing comeback against Bayern Munich

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Manchester United	38	22	13	3	80	37	+43	79
2 Arsenal	38	22	12	4	59	17	+42	78
3 Chelsea	38	20	15	3	57	30	+27	75
4 Leeds United	38	18	13	7	62	34	+28	67
5 West Ham United	38	16	9	13	46	53	-7	57
6 Aston Villa	38	15	10	13	51	46	+5	55
7 Liverpool	38	15	9	14	68	49	+19	54
8 Derby County	38	13	13	12	40	45	-5	52
9 Middlesbrough	38	12	15	11	48	54	-6	51
10 Tottenham Hotspur	38	12	13	13	40	46	-6	49
12 Sheffield Wednesday	38	11	14	14	47	50	-3	47
13 Newcastle United	38	13	7	7	41	42	-1	46
14 Everton	38	11	13	13	48	54	-6	46
15 Coventry City	38	11	10	10	42	47	-5	43
16 Wimbledon	38	11	9	18	39	51	-12	42
17 Southampton	38	10	12	16	40	63	-23	42
18 Charlton Athletic	38	11	8	19	37	64	-27	41
19 Blackburn Rovers	38	8	12	18	41	56	-15	36
20 Nottingham Forest	38	7	14	17	38	52	-14	35
		7	22	22	35	69	-34	30

THE STORY OF THE SEASON

The Premier League came down to a straight contest between Manchester United and Arsenal. With two games left Arsenal crucially lost 1-0 at Leeds. A draw for United in their next game meant they were one point ahead on the final day. At Old Trafford, visitors Tottenham took an early lead but United came back to win 2-1 with goals from David Beckham and Andrew Cole. Arsenal won their last game too but it didn't matter – United were League champions by a single point!

United had a tough run in the FA Cup, having to beat Liverpool, Chelsea and Arsenal before facing Newcastle in the final, where they had a comfortable 2-0 win.

Four days later United had to face Bayern Munich in the Champions League final. The semi-final against Juventus had been dramatic – after a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Manchester, Juventus were 2-0 up in ten minutes before United bounced back to win 3-2.

In the final Bayern went ahead after just six minutes and they held on until injury time. Then United scored twice, through Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, in a crazy final three minutes. It was an incredible ending to a major final!



Teddy Sheringham and David Beckham lift the Champions League trophy

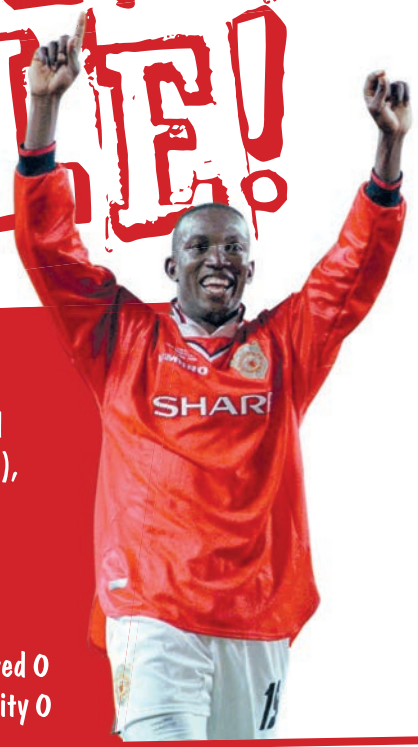
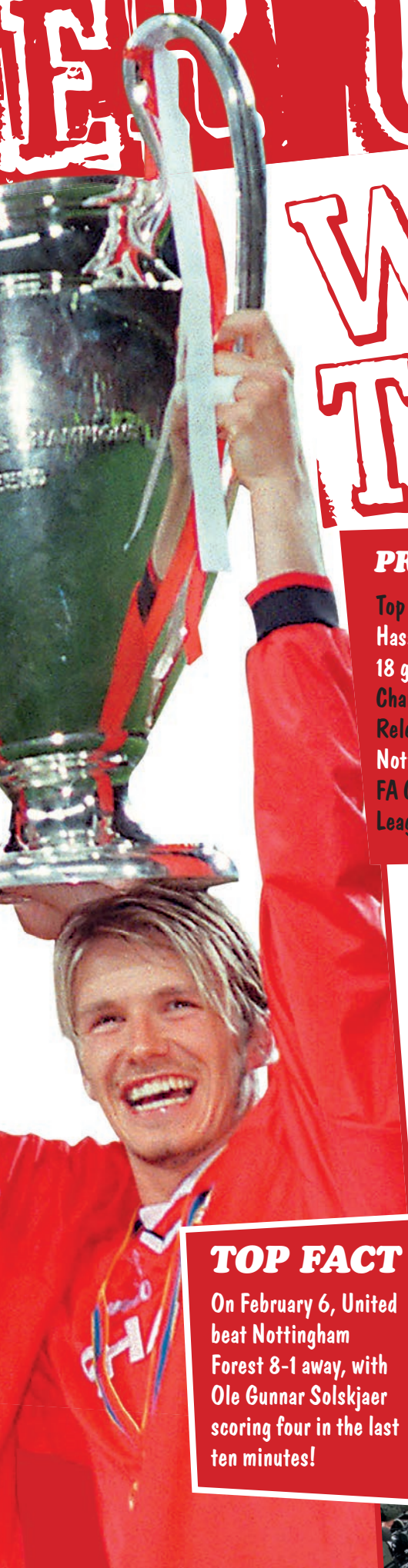


Deadly strike duo Dwight Yorke and Andrew Cole

WHY IT MATTERED

This was Man Utd's best-ever season! The previous year, United had won nothing and some people were saying that the team would take time to rebuild. Instead they won three trophies – the Premier League, the FA Cup and the Champions League. No men's team has done that since in England!

MANCHESTER UNITED WON THE TREBLE!



PREMIER LEAGUE 1998-99

Top scorers Dwight Yorke (Man Utd), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Leeds) and Michael Owen (Liverpool), 18 goals

Champions Manchester United

Relegated Charlton Athletic, Blackburn Rovers, Nottingham Forest

FA Cup final Manchester United 2 Newcastle United 0

League Cup final Tottenham Hotspur 1 Leicester City 0

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

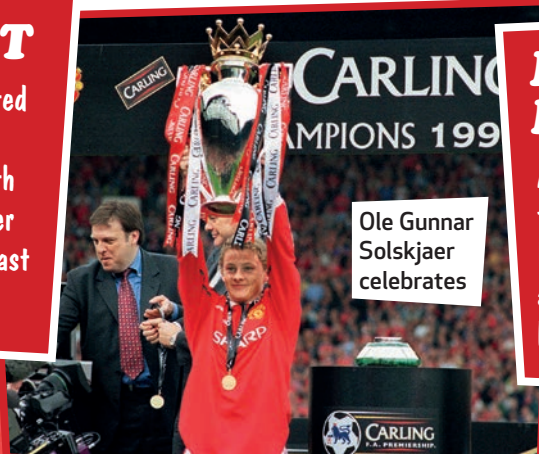
Manchester United were Premier League champions again the next season, but it was much easier for them. They finished 18 points ahead of second-placed Arsenal.

United didn't get a chance to defend their FA Cup because they were controversially asked by the FA to withdraw from the competition so they could take part in the first World Club Championship, held in Brazil in January 2000. The FA believed that this would help England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup. But it didn't do much good at all – hardly anyone voted for England and the tournament was staged by Germany.

United didn't do well in Brazil either, getting knocked out at the group stage. They made some progress in the Champions League but were beaten 3-2 on aggregate by Real Madrid in the quarter-finals.

TOP FACT

On February 6, United beat Nottingham Forest 8-1 away, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scoring four in the last ten minutes!



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer celebrates

DID YOU KNOW?

At the end of this year, Alex Ferguson was given a knighthood and became Sir Alex!

