



THE GHOST OF ELBER! Olympique Lyon's Brazilian striker Giovane Elber (R) is ecstatic after scoring the winner against his former club Bayern Munich at Munich on November 5.

Bayern hit by 'own' man



AFP, Munich

Giovane Elber returned to haunt former club Bayern Munich on Wednesday with a second-half strike which gave group A rivals Lyon a precious 2-1 win at the Olympic stadium.

Elber warned of a Bayern backlash before the game but the Brazilian marksman turned the tables on the club who promptly sold him after signing Dutchman Roy Makaay for 18.75-million-euros in the summer.

The Brazilian's goal means that Lyon now sit top of the group, with Celtic - who beat Anderlecht 3-1 in Glasgow - moving off the bottom to sit in second place.

Bayern are now third in the group and their ambition of reaching the quarter-finals of Europe's premier competition can no longer be taken for granted, especially as they have to play Celtic in Scotland in three weeks time.

"It was my first Champions League goal for Lyon and it was great for me to score here in Munich," beamed Elber, who said nonetheless he hoped Bayern would progress along with Lyon.

"I hope Bayern win in Glasgow," added Elber. "I don't want to see them go out at the first group stage."

Lyon got their campaign off to a

perfect start with Brazilian Juninho Pernambucano - a renowned dead-ball specialist who is among the French league's top scorers - beating Kahn with a stunning 35-yard strike after just six minutes.

Juninho's unstoppable free-kick smashed against Kahn's left-hand upright and the big international keeper could only watch as the ball fell into the net.

The goal acted as a wake-up call for Bayern and eight minutes later the hosts drew level through Makaay.

Ze Roberto raced down the left

wing and cut the ball back for the onrushing Makaay who netted his fourth Champions League goal in as many matches.

Argentine Martin Demichelis and German international Michael Ballack both went close to putting Bayern ahead as the half-time whistle approached but a goal-line clearance and some last ditch defending from Lyon kept the scores level.

Familiar foe Elber, who enjoyed six successful years at the German

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STANDINGS

European Champions League group stage standings after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group A					Group C									
Lyon	4	2	1	4	7	Monaco	4	3	0	11	4	9		
Celtic	4	2	0	2	6	4	Deportivo	4	2	1	1	7	9	
Bayern	4	1	2	1	5	5	PSV	4	2	0	2	4	6	
Anderlecht	4	1	1	2	3	5	Athens	4	0	1	3	1	8	
Group B					Group D									
Inter	4	2	1	1	6	5	Juventus	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Kiev	4	2	0	2	5	4	Sociedad	4	2	1	1	5	7	
Lokomotiv	4	1	2	1	4	3	Olympiakos	4	1	0	3	4	3	
Arsenal	4	1	1	2	2	5	Galatasaray	4	1	0	3	3	7	

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Champions League group phase results on Wednesday:

Group A
At Munich
Bayern Munich (GER) 1 (Makaay 14)
Lyon (FRA) 2 (Juninho 6, Elber 53)
At Glasgow
Celtic (SCO) 3 (Larsson 12, Miller 17, Sutton 29) Anderlecht (BEL) 1 (Aruna 77)

Group B
At London
Arsenal (ENG) 1 (Cole 89) Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 0
At Milan
Inter Milan (ITA) 1 (Recoba 14) Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS) 1 (Loskov 54)

Group C
At Monaco
Monaco (FRA) 8 (Rothen 3, Giuly 11, Prso 26, 30, 45, 49, Plasil 47, Cisse 68) Deportivo La Coruna (SPA) 3 (Tristan 39, 52, Scaloni 45)
At Eindhoven
PSV Eindhoven (NED) 2 (Bouma 51, Robben 63) AEK Athens (GRE) 0

Group D
At Athens
Olympiakos (GRE) 3 (Mavrogenidis 6, Castillo 34, Giovanni 90) Galatasaray (TUR) 0
At San Sebastian
Real Sociedad (SPA) 0 Juventus (ITA) 0

Juve can relax

AFP, San Sebastian

Double European champions Juventus overcame a lengthy injury list as well as relentless pressure to carve out a 0-0 draw with Real Sociedad and book their place in the knockout stages of the Champions League here on Wednesday.

The result gives them 10 points from four matches in Group D while the Spaniards have seven.

Olympiakos's win at home over Galatasaray ensured Juve, last year's runners-up, joined Real Madrid, who qualified Tuesday, as the first sides through to the last 16.

The Italians, who won the first match between the two sides 4-2 last month, were without Alessandro Del Piero, David Trezeguet, Lilian Thuram, Gianluca Zambrotta, Enzo Maresca and Salvatore Fresi with coach Marcello Lippi forced to make six changes from the team that won the first match.

By contrast, Sociedad coach Raynald Denoueix had a full strength side to choose from with Nihat Kahveci fit to partner Darko Kovacevic.

"We battled away and we had to endure plenty of pressure in the first half, but we stood firm and were well organised," said Lippi.

"We played the way I like to see us play away from home. Now we are mathematically through and that's a real blessing for us. We will have an advantage for the next month, above all from a psychological point of view.

"But we will be competitive in our remaining games as we need three more points to be sure of winning the group."

Juventus were under immense pressure throughout the first 45 minutes and they were indebted to the heroics of goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon who pulled off a string of fine saves to keep his team in the game.

Vieira out till December

AFP, London

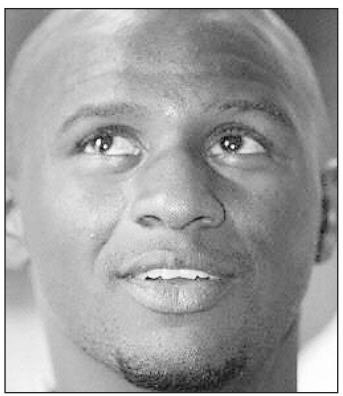
Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger revealed Wednesday that the English Premiership leader's French international midfielder Patrick Vieira is unlikely to return to action before December.

The 27-year-old Frenchman suffered a thigh injury during the game against Newcastle on September 26, and aggravated it during the Champions League match in Kiev on October 21.

His recovery along with the one-game suspension from the away match at Manchester United, may mean he will not be back until the League Cup tie with Wolverhampton on December 2.

"Patrick's injury just needs rest at the moment," Wenger told the club's website.

"However I would say that he is not likely to play until December. That's because after November 17 he is suspended for one game. Maybe he could be back for the Wolves game," added Wenger.



PATRICK VIEIRA

Cole keeps Gunners afloat



AFP, London

Ashley Cole provided the fireworks on Bonfire Night at Highbury, the England fullback's late winner against Dynamo Kiev ensuring Arsenal's Champions League campaign flickered back to life just as it seemed on the point of being snuffed out.

Substitute Sylvain Wiltord floated in a cross from the right, Thierry Henry flicked it on and Cole ghosted in at the back post with a diving header that, after 88 minutes of near misses and wasted chances, finally left Kiev's inspired goalkeeper Oleksander Shovkovskiy beaten.

It was a goal Gunners boss Arsene Wenger attributed to Cole's youthful career as a winger. "Ashley is a fighter and he knows where to go when he is in the box."

Cole himself admitted he thought the match was destined to end in a

draw. "The longer it went on we thought 'we've lost here,' but we dug deep and did what we had to."

After taking just one point and scoring only one goal in their opening three matches in the group, Arsenal went into Wednesday's encounter knowing nothing less than victory would suffice, a reality that was reflected in a performance that may have lacked composure but was certainly not short on commitment.

Although the London club remain bottom of group B, they could yet finish top, although that would probably require them to overcome Inter in Milan and then beat Lokomotiv Moscow at home.

"The group has great quality and is very tight," a relieved Wenger said afterwards. "Everybody has a chance to qualify."

Playing with a verve that had been missing in their previous appearances in the group, Wenger's men could and should have killed the match long before Cole scored the most important goal yet of his Highbury career.

But Wenger insisted he had never given up hope of a goal. "I kept believing because the boys were so committed. They gave it everything."

"There was a lot of frustration when we did not get the opening and sometimes we tried too much for the perfect ball," Wenger admitted. "That is when the nerves can take over."

Prior to Cole's crucial strike, the closest Arsenal had come to opening the scoring was in the seventh minute, when Freddie Ljungberg connected with Robert Pires's low cross only to be denied by the outstretched boot of Shovkovskiy.

A minute earlier it had taken a superb last-ditch tackle from Sol Campbell to nip the ball off the toes of Maksim Shatskikh on the edge of the Arsenal six-yard box.

That was to prove the visitors' only moment of genuine menace in the opening period. Arsenal, in contrast, were spoiling themselves

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Ashley Cole (L) of Arsenal heads the ball away from Dynamo Kyiv's Oleh Husev at Highbury on November 5

PHOTO: AFP

Kadhafi caught for nandrolone use

AFP, Rome

Perugia midfielder Saadi Kadhafi, son of the Libyan leader Moamer, has tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone, the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) said on Wednesday.

He is the third Serie A footballer to fail a random drugs test this year.

CONI, Italy's sporting watchdog, said the test was taken after Perugia's home match against Reggina on October 5. Kadhafi junior was a non-playing substitute in a 0-0 draw.

Should a second test prove conclusive, he can expect a ban of anything up to two years.

Perugia's flamboyant president Luciano Gaucci, who has been accused of bringing Kadhafi to the club as a publicity stunt, said he was confident Saadi Kadhafi was innocent of any wrongdoing and suggested the way he was singled out for the test was suspicious.

"He was chosen for a test on the first occasion that he sat on the substitutes' bench," said Gaucci. "We named him as a substitute to reward him for his efforts, and how can anyone think that a player is taking drugs when he isn't even going to come on to the field? There are so many things... I am stunned."

Perugia captain Giovanni Tedesco refused to rule out his side boycotting Serie A matches unless the Italian football authorities review their policy on banned substances.

"We have already discussed the problem and it was suggested that we stop playing for one or two weeks to think things over and fully understand the problems we are faced with," said Tedesco.

"We are convinced that he has never taken any prohibited substance and we are sticking by him. He may have played little since he has been here, but he is an important member of the group."

A Libya international and vice-president of his national sports federation, Saadi Kadhafi has not yet started a Serie A match for the Italian first division side since signing a one-year contract in the summer.

The 30-year-old former Al Itihad player employed disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson as his personal trainer in Libya three years ago.

Johnson was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal for testing positive for stanolozol - also a banned steroid - at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Eagles won't hire Robson

AFP, Lagos

Nigeria have dropped plans to hire former England captain Bryan Robson as their coach, officials told AFP on Wednesday.

Robson had been expected to arrive in Nigeria on Monday to sign a contract but his arrival was delayed when a problem arose over his proposed 300,000 dollar salary for six months work.

He was asked to delay his trip as the Nigeria Football Association had failed to secure approval to pay him from the government sports ministry.

Robson was being lined up to prepare the Super Eagles for next year's African Nations Cup.



LET'S GO GOAL-CRAZY! AS Monaco's Jerome Rothen (L) Dado Prso (R) and Patrice Evra (Top) celebrate one of Prso's four goals against Deportivo la Coruna at the Louis II stadium in Monaco on November 5.

PHOTO: AFP

Deportivo drown in goal glut



AFP, Monaco

Champions League history was made here on Wednesday when a rampant Monaco savaged Deportivo La Coruna 8-3 to post the highest ever win in the history of the competition.

Monaco striker Dado Prso celebrated his 29th birthday with a sparkling four-goal haul, with captain Ludovic Giuly, Jerome Rothen,

Jaroslav Plasil, and Edouard Cisse completing a remarkable night's work.

Deportivo's goals came from a Diego Tristan brace and Lionel Scaloni.

Monaco's electric performance, which left them heading Group C and set fair for the knock-out stages, surpassed Paris Saint Germain's previous record 7-2 win over Norwegian side Rosenborg three years ago.

Prso, who joins Marco van Basten and Simone Inzaghi as the only play-

ers to notch up Champions League four-timers, was only playing after Fernando Morientes failed a late fitness test.

He said: "I'm thrilled - I really wanted to play against Deportivo. The manager told me he'd give me a surprise for my birthday. Thank you!"

A stadium black-out before kick-off failed to unsettle the French league leaders who raced into a lightning lead with Rothen's third

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Celtic up to the task



AFP, Glasgow

Celtic gave a massive boost to their chances of qualifying for the lucrative knockout phase of the Champions League after a gutsy 3-1 win over group Arivals Anderlecht on Wednesday.

Celtic went down to a 1-0 defeat to ten-man Anderlecht two weeks ago but turned up the tempo at Celtic Park by shell-shocking Hugo Broos's Belgian league leaders with three goals inside the first half hour.

Prolific Swedish striker Henrik Larsson opened the scoring with a well-

taken header before Ireland under-21 striker Liam Miller - on his first full Champions League start - added a second before Chris Sutton headed home in the 29th minute.

The win means Celtic are unbeaten at home in 62 matches - their last defeat of any kind being to Dutch masters Ajax over two years ago in the third qualifying round of the competition.

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill will now feel a little more confident ahead of the visit of Bayern Munich in three weeks' time.

After the match the northern Irishman was quick to single Miller out for special praise.

"They knew what they had to do out

there and we were just sensational," beamed O'Neill.

"We scored three, we could have scored five and for the remainder of the match we were in control of the game, except for the penalty in the second half."

"Liam Miller was wonderful. Everything he did out there was very positive," added O'Neill, who was delighted with Lyon's 2-1 win in Munich.

"It was a combination of everything, wonderful football and some great support. And I've just heard the result of the Lyon game so it means it's still a very tight group."

After a scrappy start, Larsson's opener provided some welcome breathing space.

John Hartson's holding up of the ball caused major problems for the Anderlecht defence throughout the night, and when the big Welshman laid the ball off to Didier Agathe the little Frenchman crossed for an unmarked Larsson at the near post, the Swede sending a dipping header past Anderlecht keeper Daniel Zitka.

Celtic immediately kicked into life and only five minutes later Miller repaid O'Neill's confidence in his abilities with a well-drilled second goal.

Again, Hartson's headed lay-off - as he fought off two defenders - gave Miller a perfect scoring chance, and he smashed a left-foot shot past Zitka.

Celtic continued to dominate and Anderlecht simply had no reply as the hosts' front men ran riot.

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Inter held



AFP, Milan

Inter Milan remain on course for a place in the last 16 of the Champions League despite being held to a disappointing 1-1 draw against Group B rivals Lokomotiv Moscow here on Wednesday.

Uruguayan international Alvaro Recoba gave the Italians an early lead with a fierce left-foot shot, but the visitors salvaged a point when Dmitry Loskov's shot took a wicked deflection off Marco Materazzi to wrongfoot

pletely mishit his shot from a couple of yards out.

Yuri Syomin's side were to rue that miss five minutes later when Inter took the lead. Cristiano played a neat pass for Christian Vieri whose dummy completely fooled his marker and gave Recoba a clear sight of goal. The tricky South American moved the ball from roght foot to left and shot high into the net beyond Sergey Ovchinnikov.

Inter should have increased their advantage eight minutes later, but Vieri fired wildly over the bar after Kily Gonzalez had teed up the 30-year-old Italy international with a

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Bangladesh Army's Rashid (No 10) is under pressure from Arambagh's Arman during their Tibet 19th Federation Cup Football Tournament clash at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: S