

PSG stumble in Rosenborg

ROSENBOORG, Norway, Sept 14: Norwegian champions Rosenborg came from a goal behind to pick up three valuable points and beat French runners-up Paris Saint Germain 3-1 in a hard fought Group F Champions League clash here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

PSG opened the scoring after just seven minutes when Laurent Robert broke down the left and crossed perfectly into the path of French international Nicolas Anelka.

Anelka saw his shot blocked by the Rosenborg 'keeper Arni Arason but Brazilian Christian was perfectly positioned to tuck home the rebound and give the Parisian's a well deserved lead.

Then on 18 minutes a cross from the left into the PSG area caused panic leading to a flick on header from centre forward Frode Johnsen which Orjan Berg headed goalward.

PSG keeper Lionel Letizi flew to his left and got a hand to the ball but could not prevent it going in off the right-hand post for the Norwegian equaliser.

Rosenborg got their winner with just under half an hour to go, when Jan Derek Sorensen got past PSG defender Frederic Dehu with a beautiful flick move to break into the box.

His cross was inadvertently flicked on by Moroccan Tafal El Karkouri right into the path of Johnsen who made no mistake with his header with the PSG goal wide open and unguarded.

Deep into injury time, the Norwegian's wrapped up the points with a penalty.

PSG defender Sylvain Distin clunkily brought down Sorensen giving the referee no other option than to point to the spot.

Bent Skammelsrud made no mistake sending Letizi into the wrong way to wrap up the scoring and continue the Parisian's dismal away form.

Soccer goes

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JAPAN - 2, S AFRICA - 1

In the other match in the pool Japan came from behind to defeat South Africa 2-1.

Naohiro Takahara's double cancelled out Siyabonga Nomvethe's opener to give the Japanese, managed by former South Africa coach Philippe Troussier, a perfect start.

CHILE - 4, MOROCCO - 1

In Pool B Inter Milan striker Zamorano won the individual plaudits as he killed the game with three clinical strikes after 36, 45 and 55 minutes including a penalty before winning another spot-kick and unselfishly allowing Reinaldo Navia to get his name on the scoresheet after 72 minutes.

Moroccan substitute El Houssaine Ouchala then grabbed a consolation seven minutes later.

The North Africans had been handicapped for almost all the match when they were reduced to 10 men in the opening minutes.

Defender Abel Chbouki committed a crude tackle from behind that left David Pizarro needing treatment on the touchline for several minutes.

Kuwaiti referee Saad Kameel Mane brandished the red card as players from both teams squared up to each other in anger.

Chile took the lead out of the blue after 36 minutes when Pizarro floated a long ball into the box and Navia headed the ball across to an unmarked Zamorano who headed home.

In first-half injury time that margin was doubled when Zamorano converted a penalty after Mohamed Kharbouch committed an infringement in the box.

Zamorano completed his hat-trick after 55 minutes.

Again it was Navia who was the instigator, outpacing the Moroccan defence before cutting the ball back to the Inter Milan man who could hardly miss.

The fourth goal was another embarrassment for the defence with Navia playing in Zamorano who was unceremoniously bundled over by Moroccan substitute Ottmane Ellassas.

This time Zamorano stood aside and let Navia take the penalty and the baby-faced youngster converted with aplomb.

Zamorano then departed the scene, replaced by Sebastian Gonzalez.

Belated Morocco produced their best football with Elhousbaki just missing the target after a scintillating run before Ouchala scored, heading home a Safrí freekick.

SPAIN - 3, S KOREA - 0

Spain were equally emphatic in the other Group B match with a first-half goal blitz which saw their opponent's defence slashed to ribbons.

Captain Toni Vilanova of Espanyol opened the rout on 10 minutes, controlling a ball on his head before unleashing a ferocious 25-yard volley into Korean keeper Kim Yong-Dae's net.

Buoyed by the early strike the Spaniards kept up the attacking tempo and on 26 minutes the Korean defence was breached again.

Jose Mari cut inside from the left-flank, wrong-footed defender Park Dong-Hyun and thumped in a thunderous shot from eight yards out to make it 2-0.

Xavi completed the first half scoring on 37 minutes after good work by Real Mallorca's Raul Tamudo on the left wing.

Tamudo ran to the byline and deflected off an upright into the path of Xavi, who smashed a rising strike into the roof of the net for 3-0.

Man United drub Anderlecht



MANCHESTER, England, Sept 14: Manchester United of England easily beat Anderlecht of Belgium 5-1 in their opening Group G Champions League match here on Wednesday with international striker Andy Cole bagging a hat-trick, reports AFP.

As soon as the 1999 Champions League winners took the lead through Cole in the 15th minute the result was never in doubt and they were 3-0 up at half-time.

Giant Czech striker Jan Koller managed a consolation strike for Anderlecht. He rounded Barthez but the keeper dived to block the shot only to

deflect it into the net in the 50th minute.

It was the first goal Barthez had conceded at Old Trafford but was soon forgotten by the fans as Cole completed his hat-trick.

From Beckham's cross the ex-Newcastle star looped a header over De Wilde in the 72nd minute to seal a convincing win.

United's first goal was a model of simplicity. Wales international Ryan Giggs crossed from the left and Cole timed his run perfectly to head past Belgian international goalkeeper Filip De Wilde with Anderlecht defenders appealing for a non-existent offside decision.

Cole's goal, his 15th in the competition, saw him overtake Scotland great Denis Law as United's leading European Cup scorer.

Giggs was causing the Anderlecht defence plenty of problems with his direct runs down the left-hand side. It was just such a break that led to United's second. Giggs' run into the box ended only when defender Patrick van Dienen brought him down.

From the inevitable penalty Republic of Ireland defender Denis Irwin scored in the 32nd minute, although De Wilde got a hand to the shot as he dived to his left. It was United's 200th European Cup goal.

Then three minutes before the break England forward Teddy Sheringham added United's third.

Beckham crossed from the right and the unmarked Sheringham's first-time shot was well-saved by the diving De Wilde but the unlucky goalkeeper could do nothing about the follow-up.

Anderlecht did produce the occasional chance. Didier Drogba's 25-yard free-kick forced Fabien Barthez to make an uncomfortable save.

United's French World Cup and Euro 2000 star was then in action just before the interval saving from Tomasz Radzinski

Manchester United's Andy Cole (R) is locked in an aerial tussle with Anderlecht's Walter Baseggio during Champions' League fixture at Old Trafford on September 13. —AFP photo

penalty.

"I have no idea where anyone would get the idea to pull an opponent's shirt in that kind of situation. I will have to have a few words with him."

Barbarez's recklessness cost the Germans a historic victory but it took nothing away from their gutsy showing. They were very much Juventus' equals and astounding in their forward drive, refusing to say even when things were running against them on the scoreboard.

The Italian visitors took an early lead when Juventus defender Igor Tudor scored with a header on six minutes but Tony Yelboull equalised just 10 minutes later when he was left totally unmarked during a Roldo Cardoso free kick.

Mid-long passages of high speed and entertaining football with a plethora of chances on both sides star Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi appeared to kill of Hamburg when he struck twice in the 36th and 52nd minutes to give them a 3-1 lead.

"It was totally unnecessary, the rules are very clear. We have no reason to complain," Frank Pangelsdorf said after the match.

I am both happy and annoyed. It is of course a great performance to turn a 1-3 into a 4-3 against Juventus and totally dominate the game. I am totally annoyed though by the

penalty.

Juventus tired though and the home side, fired on by a sold-out 48,500 crowd, pulled themselves back into the match with aggressive drives forward. Rarely does a side get as many obvious chances to score against Juventus but Hamburg were sloppy in converting them.

Their reward finally came in the 65th minute when Iranian forward Mehdi Mahdavikia pushed home the ball from a metre out while on his hands and knees and then was chopped down in the area five minutes later.

Goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt, famous in the Bundesliga for never missing a spot kick, converted.

Encouraged by Juventus' failing fitness Hamburg delivered what seemed to be a death blow when Mahdavikia fired a low cross into a crowd of players in front of the goal.

The ball travelled straight to Nico Kovac who swatted what could have been the winner. It ought to have been until Sergej Barbarez's colossal shirt-pulling blunder and Inzaghi's equaliser.

It was clear the South African international was in trouble as he lay motionless for several minutes before eventually coming off with a brace around his neck. It was a sad end to a bitter experience for Leeds.

Before the match David O'Leary had told BBC radio five he felt that his team could well be in for a hiding at the Nou Camp.

Brazilian World player of the year added to the brace he bagged at the weekend on 10 minutes having dummied Leeds keeper Martyn.

Frank De Boer hit Barcelona's second ten minutes later with a 30m free kick to confirm O'Leary's worst fears.

The scoreline could have been worse for Leeds who played a defensive line up with only one man up front but suffered continual Barcelona pressure, scrambling away several Barcelona chances.

Despite Kuffour's absence — Ciriac Sforza moved back into defence to plug the hole — Bayern extended their lead to 3-0 after the break through Hasan Salhamidzic (48th) and Carsten Jancker (55th).

Oliver Kahn left the field after 66 minutes because of a thigh injury incurred when Alvaro Santos slid into him and was replaced by reserve keeper Stefan Wessels.

Wessels let through Helsingborg's lone goal of the evening through Johnsen in injury time.

They only got into trouble twice more before the break when Bjorn Johnsen's 32nd minute header narrowly went to the right and Thorsten Fink blocked an Santos shot six

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