

Sport

Three more

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brought on by her failed attempt at the long jump. "I'm so happy because of what had happened as Seville. I was obviously worried there might be a repeat after my long jump qualifying jump yesterday. I feel I can go out tomorrow now and perform to the standard needed to seal my third gold," said Jones.

For Davis-Thompson it was the perfect end to her career. "I feel 18 but I am still retiring," said the 34-year-old. "I knew something special was going to happen tonight because I was in lane five — my lucky number."

"I just decided to run after Marion. I knew it was hopeless but I wasn't running for gold. I was running for silver."

For Jayasinghe, it was a historic bronze medal. "I am so happy that after 52 years Sri Lanka has got another Olympic medal," she said.

Norway

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as early as the fifth minute when Hamra broke into the penalty area and cut the ball back for Milbrett to drive into an unguarded net.

Milbrett went close again before Julie Foudy headed Shannon McMillan's cross against the bar.

But Norway equalised with their first attempt on goal a minute before the interval.

Defender Gro Espechth climbed above Kato Soderro to plant a firm header in the net from Hegi Ruse's corner.

After the break the US piled forward and Nordby saved brilliantly from Milbrett and Hamra before Kristine Lilly spurned a great chance to put the Americans ahead midway through the half.

She fired at Nordby from point-blank range before hitting the rebound straight at Goeril Kringen, who was able to head the ball off the line.

Mullinix's blunder appeared to have gifted Norway victory but Milbrett pounced late to save the US before their tiring defenders were exposed by Mikkelsen.

Goalscorer Espeseth summed up the never-say-die attitude that kept the Norwegians in the game despite being thoroughly outplayed at times.

"When the US scored the first goal I thought not again," she said.

"Why should they win again?"

Earlier Germany secured the bronze medal with a 2-0 win over Brazil.

Dutch-Korean

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reans blocked six set-piece shots from Abbas and then struck gold with one of their own when Song Seung-Tae pushed home in the 57th minute.

"I was up till four in the morning watching Pakistan's games on video," Kim revealed. "It gave me an insight into their strategy and how Sohail takes his penalty corners."

We neutralised Sohail by charging into him and preventing him from scooping the ball," Kim said.

The dangerous Koran charge resulted in Lim Jung-Woo being carried off in a stretcher after he was hit on the face by a rising ball.

Abbas seven goals in the competition are second only behind Argentina's Jorge Lombi's tally of 12.

Pakistan, hoping to make their first final since winning their third gold at Los Angeles in 1984, were distraught after the defeat.

"It's all over for me and the team," said Pakistani manager Islauddin Siddiqui, hinting he may have made up his mind about quitting after the Olympics.

Galatasaray see off Rangers

ISTANBUL, Sept 28: UEFA Cup champions Galatasaray beat Glasgow Rangers 3-2 in European Champions League Group D here on Wednesday night to give them a good chance of making the second phase, reports AFP.

With the match at 0-0 at the break, Bulent Akin and Hakan Unsal put the home side firmly in the driving seat.

In the 70th minute Brazilian Mario Jardei put the game out of Rangers reach with a gloriously struck first-time effort from outside the area as he hit Unsal Davala's long ball on the volley.

To their credit Rangers repiled within two minutes when Andrei Kanchelski recorded a rare headed goal, converting Arthur Numan's cross.

Hasan Sash flashed a header over the bar as Rangers manager Dick Advocaat was left to ponder his tactics for the rematch in Glasgow which now becomes the group's most significant feature.

In the fourth minute of injury time van Bronckhorst rifled in a free-kick to make it 3-2 but that was virtually the last kick of the game.

Prague keep alive hopes

PRAGUE, Sept 28: Sparta Prague beat Shakhtar Donetsk 3-2 here on Wednesday night to keep up hopes of qualification to the second phase of the European Champions League from Group B, reports AFP.



Bayer Leverkusen's Joerg Reeb (L) heads the ball during their UEFA Champions' League fixture against Real Madrid at Leverkusen on September 27. -AFP photo

Real rule on Roberto Carlos



LEVERKUSEN, Germany, Sept 28: Reigning champions Real Madrid twice came from behind to see off German runners-up Bayer Leverkusen in a see-saw battle in Group A of the European Champions League here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Star Brazilian wing-back Roberto Carlos was instrumental in cancelling out an opening goal from Bernd Schneider with a free-kick special after Jens Nowotny committed a foul before grabbing the winner with 15 minutes to go after his side had again come back from 2-1 down.

It was a bitter blow for Leverkusen who took the lead for the second time just before half-time with a goal from Michael Ballack and should have maintained their lead at home before Carlos intervened.

"We had the chances to win, we led twice and then let loose our grip on the match with individual mistakes," said Ballack.

"After we went behind you could see we had run out of steam. Normally we can come back from things like that, but tonight (Wednesday) was the last two weeks have taken their toll."

The fact that it resulted in a goal makes it worse but it's happened now and we have to look forward and really work on things," he concluded. Madrid now top the Group with seven points with Russian side Spartak Moscow just behind on six.

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The two losers on another night of intriguing European action in Group A, Leverkusen and Sporting Lisbon remain on three and one points respectively with three games to play.

The same match-ups are set for the next round of matches with the venues reversed on October 17.

MONACO, Sept 28: Monaco's 31-year-old Italian striker Marco Simone raced to a first half hat-trick in their 5-0 Group D European Champions League victory over

Austrian side Sturm Graz here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

In a first half that Monaco dominated, stringing embarrassingly long chains of passes together the Austrians looked a different side to the one that hammered UEFA Cup holders

Galatasaray a week ago.

Simone opened his account on 12 minutes after picking up the ball outside the box and firing in a precise shot past Josef Sticklegruber after leaving the defence for dead.

Chris Nonda would have scored two on a better night before the Italian struck again in the first half despite some skilful Greek moves.

Olympiakos found out the Dutch defence attacking the wings more in the second half and Giovanni got the first of his brace nodding in a cross from the right delivered by his compatriot Luciano on 52 minutes.

Heerenveen again looked weak in the air as Giovanni rose to meet Par Zetterberg's corner on 69 minutes.

Xavier Gravelaine had a shot parried and Simone leapt onto the rebound but the Austrian keeper got in front of the ball again before Simone made sure with a fierce right foot shot.

Three minutes later Simone had his hat-trick, running onto an upfield ball. Sturm's keeper came off his line but Simone guided the ball round him after cutting inside Yugoslav defender Ranko Popovic.

Confident Monaco replaced in-form midfielder Ludovic Giuly early in the second half with striker Nicholas Bonnial and on 56 minutes hat-trick hero Simone left the pitch to a standing ovation making way for Croatian striker Dado Prso.

Though both had busy nights it was a third sub 20-year-old Swede Pontus Farnerud who bagged the fourth on 77 minutes having replaced captain Martin Djetojet only three minutes earlier.

Monaco's record signing Shabani Nonda got his second Champions League goal making it 5-0 after a mazy run into the box. The keeper parried his shot but the giant African was on the rebound on 84 minutes.

Poor Sturm Graz have now lost both their away games 5-0 having also been hammered by Rangers.

MONACO'S Marco Simone (R) and Ramiz Mamedov of Sturm Graz are in pursuit of the ball during their Champions' League encounter at Monaco on September 27. -Star photo

Valencia's three in three



VALENCIA, Spain, Sept 28: Last season's Champions League runners-up Valencia maintained their 100 percent record in this season's opening Group phase with a hard fought 1-0 win over French side Lyon here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Finding room on the edge of the box, last season's top scorer in France whipped in a left-foot shot but put it too close to the Valencia keeper and Jose Campane made a comfortable save.

Two minutes later Anderson was at it again and should have done better after a mazy run opened space just outside the area but he repeated his earlier mistake and drove his shot straight at Cantantes.

Valencia gradually pulled themselves into the match and showed why they were last season's runners-up creating a penalty after 36 minutes.

Kily Gonzalez picked up the ball in midfield and played a precision pass to Juan Sanchez who cleverly flicked the ball into the path of the charging Zlatko Zivkovic.

The 29-year-old midfielder latched onto the ball and fired home a left-foot shot that Lyon goalkeeper Gregory Coupet could only grasp at as the ball crept into the bottom left-hand corner.

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STANDINGS

PARIS, Sept 28(AFP): European Champions League standings after Wednesday's matches (Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

GROUP A

Real Madrid 3 2 1 0 6 4 7

Spartak Moscow 3 2 0 1 5 2 6

Bayern Leverkusen 3 1 0 2 5 7 3

Sporting Lisbon 3 0 1 2 5 8 1

GROUP B

Arsenal 3 3 0 0 6 2 9

Lazio 3 2 0 1 6 2 6

Sparta Prague 3 1 0 2 3 6 3

Shakhtar Donetsk 3 0 0 3 4 6 0

GROUP C

Valencia 3 3 0 0 4 1 9

Olympiakos 3 2 0 1 5 3 6

Lyon 3 1 0 2 4 4 3

Heerenveen 3 0 0 3 1 6 0

GROUP D

Glasgow Rangers 3 2 0 1 8 3 6

Galatasaray 3 2 0 1 6 7 6

Monaco 3 1 0 2 7 4 3

Sturm Graz 3 1 0 2 3 10 3

Spartak down Sporting

MOSCOW, Sept 28: Russian champions Spartak Moscow earned their second home victory in Group A European Champions League action, defeating Portuguese giants Sporting Lisbon 3-1 here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Brazilian strikers Louis Robinson and Marcao combined for all three goals for Spartak, wiping out an opening goal from Portuguese forward Sa Pinto who found the mark after 24 minutes.

Spartak began the game at their Luzhniki stadium without their skipper Andrei Tikhonov, but got off to a lively start, while the visitors piled numbers in defence, limiting their chances to the odd counter-attack.

Spartak's Russian international keeper Alexander Filimonov gifted Lisbon an opening goal after Andre Cruz's decisive corner allowed Sa Pinto to give the Portuguese side the lead.

The goal sparked the Russian side into action as they pushed forward looking for an equalizer.

On the stroke of half-time Robinson fired home the equalizer, picking up a rebound after Danish keeper Peter Schmeichel failed to hold the initial shot.

After the break, Sporting seized the initiative and began to control the ball better, creating scoring opportunities, and it was substitute striker Marcao who put Spartak's second with a remarkable header from 11 metres in the 68th minute after Vasily Baranov's cross from the right.

Marcao scored a magnificent second and Spartak's third with eight minutes left, lobbing the ball into the net after he was put through one-on-one with Schmeichel, to secure a vital victory for the Russian side before 64,000 fans.

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ATHENS, Sept 28: Olympiakos' Brazilian star Giovanni bagged a second half brace to give his side three points in their 2-0 win over a gutsy Heerenveen in their European Champions League Group C match here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Neither side held possession well in a scrappy first half that Heerenveen, runners-up in the Dutch league last term, perhaps had the better of.

Johan Hansma marshalled the Heerenveen defence well and they never looked in danger in the first half despite some skilful Greek moves.

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MONACO'S Marco Simone (R) and Ramiz Mamedov of Sturm Graz are in pursuit of the ball during their Champions' League encounter at Monaco on September 27. -Star photo

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, Sept 28(AFP): European Champions League first phase results on Wednesday:

GROUP A

Moscow 3 (Robson 44, Marcao 68, 82) Sporting Lisbon (Por) 1 (Sa Pinto 44)

GROUP B