

# Deportivo break MU's heart

## Barca go down, cheers for Celtic, Bayern



AFP, Paris

Manchester United's recent inability to turn domestic dominance into continental class returned to haunt them again in the Champions League on Tuesday as they threw away the lead to go down 2-1 at Spain's Deportivo La Coruna.

Paul Scholes' right-foot blast five minutes before the break briefly brought a hushed atmosphere to the Riazor Stadium after a neat move involving Ryan Giggs and Ruud van Nistelrooy.

United were less than five minutes away from breaking a 44-year hoodoo regarding winning a tie in Spain but then their discipline deserted them in the teeth of never-say-die Deportivo's late onslaught.

Substitute Walter Pandiani smacked home the equaliser in the 86th minute and Nourredine Naybet blasted the 90th-minute winner.

It was a classic case of deja-vu for United, as David Beckham had brought the three points with his last-gasp effort at Old Trafford against battling Lille last week.

Deportivo, held 2-2 at home by Olympiakos last week, now head Group G on four points with Lille's 3-1 win over the Greeks in France putting them ahead of United on goal difference.

United coach Alex Ferguson, who had said beforehand he expected the Spanish inquisition would prove United's toughest match in the group, was left dumb-founded by the late turnaround.

It was a disappointing finish - it's hard to believe," said Sir Alex. "You have to do it in all games, when 1-0 up - it only takes a second to score a goal."

Debutants Lille dominated their encounter as they beat Olympiakos 3-1 at Lens to score their first win in the competition with goals from Dagui Orphie Bakari, Bruno Cheyrou and Gregory Tafforeau.

Stylianos Giannakopoulos pulled a goal back for Olympiakos in the dying seconds but Lille showed passion and no mean amount of big match temperament as Vahid Halilhodzic's team showed they can pose a threat.

As United licked their wounds there was much better news for Scottish champions Celtic, who won their first match in Group E courtesy of Swedish striker Henrik Larsson's ninth goal of the season in the 36th minute to see off Portuguese side and 1987 European champions FC Porto at Parkhead.

Larsson missed a corner swung over by Bobby Petta. But the ball bounced off his English strike partner Chris Sutton and the Swede pounced on his second bite at the cherry.

The result erased much of the disappointment the Glaswegians felt following their unfortunate 3-2 loss through a disputed penalty at Juventus last week.

Now Celtic can look forward to next month's return match in Portugal with renewed confidence - although they thanked goalkeeper Rob Douglas for several fine stops in the second period.

Juventus dropped two points in a 1-1 draw at Norway's Rosenborg as they themselves, for once, were the victims of a penalty furore.

The Italians dominated the match, hitting the woodwork three times before Alessandro Del Piero finally scored what looked like a winner after 84 minutes.

Del Piero, one of the survivors of the team that won the 1995/96 European Cup Final in coach Marcello Lippi's previous stint in charge finished well to cap a fine



PHOTO: INTERNET

Deportivo la Coruna players are ecstatic after their win against Manchester United at Riazor's stadium in La Coruna on September 25.

individual performance.

But within four minutes the side from Trondheim squared the match when Bent Skammelsrud converted a penalty after goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon had committed a foul.

Juve still lead the table with four points, Celtic and Porto both have three and Rosenborg just one.

Reigning continental kings Bayern Munich, slammed for last week's goalless home draw with Sparta Prague, redeemed them-

selves with a fine 3-1 win at Spartak Moscow in Group H.

Bayern silenced the 52,000 crowd at the Luzhniki stadium with a composed performance despite the wet conditions as Brazilian forward Giovane Elber and Bosnian international Hasan Salihamidzic wreaked havoc with the Russian defence.

Salihamidzic headed home on 16 minutes and, having twice seen their crossbar rattled by Dmitry Ananko and Vladimir

Beschastnykh, Bayern then went in search of the kill.

Having ridden their luck, Bayern went two up on 41 minutes when Elber bamboozled 18-year-old home keeper Maxim Kabanov with a 35-yard screamer which precisely into the top left hand corner.

Spartak's Belarus international halfback Vasily Baranov finally managed to reduce the arrears with a well-struck freekick from 20 metres on 64 minutes but 10 minutes later Elber restored his team's two-goal advantage sweeping the ball home from close range.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld praised his squad. "We made up for the poor showing against Prague. We made space for ourselves well and controlled the game," Hitzfeld said.

Sparta Prague are joint top with Bayern on four points after hammering Feyenoord of the Netherlands 4-0.

Bayer Leverkusen made it a good night for Germany as they came from behind to score a thrilling 2-1 success over Barcelona which moves the Germans top of Group F.

The Catalan club, competition winners in 1992, took the lead in the 22nd minute with a superb individual finish from Luis Enrique.

The Germans then missed a gilt-edged chance to go level when keeper Hans-Jorg Butt stroked a penalty wide, the kick awarded for a Patrick Andersson foul on Michael Ballack.

But after the interval Leverkusen stepped up their tempo and Yildiray Basturk, only on as a substitute for Zoltan Sebescen five minutes earlier, levelled on 52 minutes with a confident strike.

Oliver Neuville then poached the winner for Klaus Toppmoller's side with 21 minutes left and Barca were by then a spent force.

Leverkusen won in Lyon last week and look well-placed already for a place in the second phase.

Lyon bounced back to stay in contention with an 89th-minute goal from Christophe Delmotte at Turkish club Fenerbahce.

## Results at a glance

Collated Champions League results on Tuesday:

**Group E**  
At Glasgow

Celtic (Soc) 1 (Larsson 36) FC

Porto (Por) 0

At Trondheim, Norway  
Rosenborg (Nor) 1 (Skammelsrud 88-pen) Juventus (Ita) 1 (Del Piero 84)

**Group F**  
At Leverkusen, Germany

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 2

(Basturk 52, Neuville 69) Barce-

lona (Spa) 1 (Luis Enrique 22)

At Istanbul

Fenerbahce (Tur) 0 Lyon (Fra) 1

(Delmotte 89)

**Group G**  
At La Coruna, Spain

Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 2

(Pandiani 86, Naybet 90) Man-

chester United (Eng) 1 (Scholes 40)

At Lens, France

Lille (Fra) 3 (Bakari 33, Br Cheyrou 44, Tafforeau 79) 1 Olympiakos

(Gre) 1 (Giannakopoulos 90)

**Group H**  
At Prague

Sparta Prague (Cze) 4 (Hartig 24,

Labant 38-pen, Kincil 71, Michalik 74) Feyernoord (Ned) 0

At Moscow

Spartak Moscow (Rus) 1 (Baranov 64) Bayern Munich (Ger) 3

(Salihamidzic 16, Elber 41, 74)

## United fans held for sexual harassment

AFP, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Four Manchester United fans including one woman have been arrested here in connection with sexually harassing three young women, police said on Wednesday.

The four were arrested ahead of United's 2-1 Champions League defeat to Deportivo La Coruna on Tuesday.

Police said they were part of a group of around 20 drunken hooligans who vandalised parts of Santiago de Compostela, a town near La Coruna on the northwest tip of Spain.

The four fans, including the woman, were due to appear in court on Wednesday to face charges of sexually harassing the girls.

Around 500 United fans attended the match at the Riazor stadium.

## Simone back to Milan

AFP, Milan

Monaco's Italian striker Marco Simone has returned to his former club AC Milan, the *Serie A* outfit announced Wednesday.

Simone, 32, has signed on loan until the end of the season with a view to a permanent deal.

It marks a return to the San Siro for Simone, a member of the 'Grande Milan' team that was the best club side in the world in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

After learning his trade at nearby Como Simone proved a great success at Milan.

In his first stint (1989-97) with the 'Rossoneri' (red and blacks) he won four Italian First Division titles, two Champions Leagues and an Intercontinental Cup as well as other domestic titles in *Serie A*, scoring 74 goals in 245 matches.

After an unsuccessful stint at Paris St Germain he also enjoyed success with Monaco winning the French title in the 1999-2000 campaign but he has fallen out with the principality club's new coach Didier Deschamps.

Meanwhile, Milan's defender Cyril Domoraud, who hails from the Ivory Coast but has spent most of his career in France, will join Monaco at the end of this season.

## PSG feel deprived

AFP, Bucharest

A furious Paris Saint Germain prepared to fly home late Tuesday after the floodlights twice went out during their UEFA Cup first round, second leg match against Rapid Bucharest.

Club president Laurent Perpere said his squad would fly back to France as scheduled after officials ruled the match would have to be replayed Wednesday following a delay of almost an hour and a half.

UEFA rules stipulate the home side should be penalised and the visitors awarded the game if the lights do not come on within 45 minutes of a power cut - but Bucharest officials protested the problem was not related to the stadium but their district of the city.

There remained five minutes to play of extra time when the lights went down for good.

The 90 minutes had brought no goals - the first match in France also finished scoreless - but Brazilian striker Aloisio had scored a precious away goal to put PSG in front three minutes into the extra half hour.

"We have complained to UEFA," Perpere stormed. "We cannot replay the match as that would affect the wellbeing of my players after they played a long match tonight. We are going back to Paris."

With PSG going home, they face seeing the match awarded to their opponents.

## Guardiola Serie A bound

AFP, Brescia

Brescia say they have agreed a deal to bring former Spanish international midfielder Josep Guardiola to Italy, ANSA news agency reported Tuesday.

The Italian First Division club's transfer supremo Gianluca Nani said late Tuesday evening that the 30-year-old Guardiola, who parted company with Catalan giants Barcelona in the summer, has agreed to a deal and would arrive in the northern town to complete formalities including a medical on Wednesday.

Nani added that the player known as 'Pep', would sign a one-year deal with an option for a second year.

Nani sounded a good deal more enthusiastic than the club's veteran coach Carlo Mazzone had earlier in the day.

"Guardiola is a great player, the best in the world in his position," said 64-year-old Mazzone, who is renowned for his frank speaking.

"But in his position we are already sorted out. I told the president so but if he buys him I have no problems training him and getting him in condition to play."



PHOTO: INTERNET

Brescia's superstar Roberto Baggio (R), obliging a fan at the Clubs training ground on September 25.

## Baggio eyeing WC 2002



REUTERS, Milan

Former European Footballer of the Year Roberto Baggio says he could retire from the game at the end of this season.

"There is a good chance I could close my career at the end of this season," the former Italy international said in comments reported by Italian media on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old former Juventus, AC Milan and Inter striker is currently in the second season of a two-year contract with *Serie A* club Brescia and has repeatedly said that he hopes to make the Italy squad for next year's World Cup finals.

Italy need a point from their final group game against Hungary in Parma on Oct. 6 to ensure a spot in the finals.

Asked about his chances of making Giovanni Trapattoni's final 22-man squad, Baggio, who has not appeared for Italy since March 1999 said: "I am not saying anything else about that. My views are well known -- let's see what happens in the end."

Baggio has played for Italy in three World Cups -- in 1990, 1994 and 1998 and he missed a penalty in the shootout against Brazil in the 1994 final.

Trapattoni has so far resisted calls for Baggio to return to the Italy squad, but has left the door open, saying that his performances will be monitored.

Nicknamed the "Divine ponytail,"

Baggio began his career with his local side Vicenza before making his name with Fiorentina.

His move to Juventus in 1990 began the most successful period of his career where he won the UEFA Cup and was named European Player of the Year in 1993. He won the Italian title with the Turin club in 1995.

Baggio then spent two largely unhappy seasons with AC Milan before he made a surprise switch to Bologna where he won back his place in the Italy squad for the 1998 finals.

A move to Inter Milan followed but he found his opportunities limited at the San Siro and he moved to unfashionable Brescia at the start of last season after turning down a number of offers from high-profile foreign clubs

## Rivaldo fit for action



AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil and Barcelona star Rivaldo has recovered from an injury to his left knee and has a good chance of playing for his country in the World Cup qualifier against Chile on October 7, Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) sources said Tuesday.

Rivaldo is expected to fly back to Barcelona after a spell having treatment in his homeland and the Catalan giants will expect him back in action for them before he dons international colours again.

The striker has been working closely with Brazilian team doctor Jose Luiz Runco, who said Rivaldo

was no longer feeling the ligament strain in his knee which he injured in the September 5 defeat by Argentina.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari



RIVALDO

is keeping his fingers crossed that Rivaldo makes the Chile date as the four-times world champions' chances of making next summer's finals in South Korea and Japan still hang in the balance.

Chile won the home match between the two sides 3-0.

Brazil have also called up fit again Inter Milan star Ronaldo for the match in Curitiba after his own recovery from serious knee problems which have brighted his career over the past two years.

Barca coach Carles Rexach had originally not been counting on Rivaldo for the October 3 Spanish league match against Real Mallorca but insists that the club have an agreement with the Brazilians that he should appear for his club before his country when he returns to action.

## Forget Owen for now



AFP, London

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier admitted Tuesday that his team need to adjust quickly to being without England striker Michael Owen.

Speaking ahead of Wednesday's Champions League match against Ukrainian side Dynamo Kiev, Houllier said: "I'm not going to say that we don't miss him because we do."

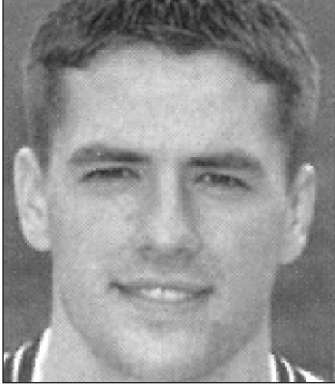
"We miss him in training, we miss him everywhere because he's a very joyful and enthusiastic character and I'd like to have Michael around the place all the time."

"It grieves me that with the number of games we have we are definitely going to miss him."

"The last time he had this type of injury was October 2000. His spirit is fine, the boy is trying to keep his

head up. "But we have to live on without him and that's why the squad has to be even stronger. If you want to go for the big trophies you have to be big yourself and overcome this sort of thing."

Houllier must now decide between Finland international Jari



MICHAEL OWEN

Litmanen and hometown hero Robbie Fowler for a place in the starting line-up although both seem certain to feature in the match at some stage.

The French boss added: "Our defensive play is better and up to the level of the competition. Obviously now we have to put away our chances."

"What we have learned is that you must take Bs Mdhonc's because you don't get many of them. We have to sharpen our skills in this department."

Houllier also paid tribute to 62-year-old Kiev coach Valeriy Lobanovskiy.

"He was the Russian manager when they went to the European Championships final of '88 before losing to a very good Dutch side," said Houllier.

"He is a great thinker on the game, I know his philosophy well and his style is based on quick movement, quick attacking football."

## 'Pitbull' stars all-star ban!



AFP, Turin

Juventus' Dutch international midfielder Edgar Davids was one of seven Italian First Division players handed bans here Tuesday by football disciplinary chiefs, three of them punished because of television evidence.

Davids, known as the 'Pitbull', was joined on the sidelines by AS Roma's Brazilian defender Antonio Zago, who was banned for three matches after videos showed him elbowing Paolo Vanoli of Fiorentina during Roma's 2-1 victory Sunday.

Davids, who last week returned to action from a four-month ban for alleged doping offences, was

suspended for his role in a brawl at the end of a 0-0 draw between Lecce and Juve.

The 28-year-old Dutch star, his Uruguayan team-mate Paolo Montero and Lecce's David Balleri



EDGAR DAVIDS

and Alberto Savino were all handed two-match bans.

Referee Massimo De Santis had seen Montero's confrontation with Savino and sent off both but Balleri and Davids were both seen by TV viewers throwing punches behind the back of the official as he sought to part the warring parties.

Davids is also suspended from Tuesday night's Champions League match with Rosenborg in Norway because of the red card he received in his comeback match last week when Juventus defeated Celtic of Scotland 3-2.

Also banned were Italian international defender Daniele Bonera of Brescia, sent off in the 1-0 defeat by Parma, and Giampiero Pinzi of Udinese, who got his marching orders in his side's 2-1 victory over Perugia.