

# Deportivo break MU's heart

Barca go down, cheers for Celtic, Bayern

## UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

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 déjà-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 dumbfounded 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 swing 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.

Deportivo 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



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 Kabanova 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 left with 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.



PHOTO: INTERNET

Bayern Munich's Brazilian international Giovane Elber celebrates one of his two goals against Spartak Moscow at Moscow.

## STANDINGS

Champions League tables after Tuesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Group E							
Juventus	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Celtic	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
FC Porto	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Rosenborg	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

  

Group F							
Leverkusen	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Barcelona	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Lyon	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Fenerbahce	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

  

Group G							
Deportivo	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Lille	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Man United	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Olympiakos	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

  

Group H							
Sparta	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Bayern	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Spartak	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Feyenoord	2	0	1	1	2	6	1

## Results at a glance

Collated Champions League results on Tuesday:

**Group E**  
At Glasgow  
Celtic (Sco) 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) Barcelona (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) Manchester United (Eng) 1 (Scholes 40)

At Lens, France  
Lille (Fra) 3 (Bakari 33, Br Cheyrou 44, Tafforeau 79) 1 Olympiacos (Gre) 1 (Giannakopoulos 90)

**Group H**  
At Prague  
Sparta Prague (Cze) 4 (Hartig 24, Labant 38-pen, Kincl 71, Michalik 74) Feyenoord (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.

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

In his first 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.

Bayern's Brazilian international Giovane Elber celebrates one of his two goals against Spartak Moscow at Moscow.

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

## Guardiola Serie A bound

AFP, Brescia