



PHOTO: AFP

Anderlecht defenders Bertrand Crasson (L) and Yves Vanderhaeghe blocking the way for Real Madrid superstars Raul (extreme left) and Luis Figo (rear right) at Brussels on October 17.

Real promptly through



AFP, Brussels

Real Madrid booked their place in the second phase of the Champions League here Tuesday with a comfortable 2-0 victory away at Group A opponents Anderlecht.

Brazil's Roberto Carlos found the net in the 17th minute and Englishman Steve McManaman added a second 10 minutes before the break to give Vicente Del Bosque's men, just 16th in the Spanish League table, some cheer.

With four wins out of four, Madrid are mathematically assured of finishing in the top two of Group A to move through into the second phase.

Del Bosque said afterwards: "We saw a very efficient Real side tonight through Anderlecht played a lot better in the second half meaning our chances dried up. We now hope we can repeat this form in Spain."

The opening goal could have been given to Raul for a deflection but Roberto Carlos deserved the credit after a fine run and shot set up the goal.

The Brazilian left back received the ball from a corner and he drove in one of his trademark ferocious left foot shots.

The ball appeared to come off Raul to wrong-foot keeper Filip de Wilde, who was unable to prevent the ball going into the net.

Madrid's territorial domination paid off with a second goal. In a great move going forward, Raul displayed a clever piece of skill to feed Michel Salgado on the right and his shot was deflected across the area.

An alert McManaman on the left of the box was quick to see the opportunity and hit a first-time shot into the top right-hand corner leaving de Wilde no chance.

In the second half, Anderlecht's Egyptian Tarek Said came on for Walter Basaggio in a midfield change to herald a brighter spell for Anderlecht after their first half disappointment.

They failed to get in a clear-cut chance however and whistles came from the disappointed home crowd in their poor attempts to find the net.

Roberto Carlos nearly made it three for Madrid after the ball cannoned to him in the area but his shot hit a defender.

Madrid keeper Cesar did well to sprint out of his goal to clear the danger from under the nose of Anderlecht's Ivica Mornar of Croatia.

Anderlecht won a freekick on the edge of the box but the chance went begging bringing further disappointment for the home fans.

McManaman and Roberto Carlos linked well once more on the left but the Brazilian's cross was not exploited by striker Jose Maria Gutierrez.

Del Bosque brought on strikers Fernando Morientes and Savio for Guti and McManaman in the final spell and Madrid easily hung on to ensure qualification.

Anderlecht coach Aime Anthuenis said afterwards: "I asked my players not to sit back but they did not do that in the first half and Madrid scored twice."

"When we first knew the draw with AS Roma and Madrid, we knew it would be difficult against such big clubs. We can still dream of going through but the gulf in class was too wide."

STANDINGS

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

GROUP A							
Real Madrid	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
AS Roma	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Anderlecht	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
Lokomotiv Moscow	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
GROUP B							
Liverpool	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Boavista	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Borussia Dortmund	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Dynamo Kiev	4	0	1	3	4	8	1
GROUP C							
Panathinaikos	4	3	0	1	6	2	9
Arsenal	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Real Mallorca	4	2	0	2	2	6	6
Schalke 04	4	4	1	0	3	6	6
GROUP D							
Nantes	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Galatasaray	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
PSV Eindhoven	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
Lazio	4	1	0	3	3	6	3

Henry keeps Gunners alive



AFP, London

A double strike from France international Thierry Henry helped Arsenal revive their faltering Champions League campaign with a 2-1 win over Panathinaikos at Highbury on Tuesday.

It was only the English Premiership side's second victory in four Group C matches and atoned for their 1-0 defeat by Panathinaikos in Athens last month.

But the result also owed much to Arsenal's Richard Wright, deputising for injured England goalkeeper David Seaman, who saved a first-half penalty, and another magnificent midfield display from Patrick Vieira.

Wright, one of Seaman's international deputies as well as his club back-up, received plenty of praise from Wenger.

"Richard Wright had a great Champions League debut. He was calm, intelligent and read the game well," his French boss enthused.

"Now I have two first choice goalkeepers and I will make a decision about their futures here when I have to make a decision."

Arsenal were a goal ahead at half-time but were pegged back five minutes after the break.

England centre-back Sol Campbell back-headed a cross that fell to striker Emmanuele Olisadebe on the left edge of the box.

He turned Lauren inside out before his shot surprisingly beat Wright at the near post, although the ball was deflected by Campbell.

But barely two minutes later Arsenal were back in front. Sylvain Wiltord burst into the area and the striker was shoved to the ground by Panathinaikos' Sotiris Kirgiakovs.

Swiss referee Urs Meier immediately awarded a penalty and Henry calmly steered the ball past Greece goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis.

But Panathinaikos refused to lie

down and in the 56th minute they almost had their second equaliser when Olisadebe's 20 yard strike hit the crossbar with Wright well beaten.

Arsenal took the lead in the 23rd minute, with a goal created and finished by two of their France internationals.

Vieira won a loose ball in midfield from Aggelos Bassinas and his quick, slide-rule pass found Henry in space.

The striker outplayed the covering defence before coolly beating Nikopolidis, who went down too early.

It was sweet revenge for Henry who, after the defeat in Athens, accused Panathinaikos players of diving.

But five minutes later Panathinaikos could have been level when they won a penalty.

Olisadebe was brought down in the box by Arsenal centre-back Matthew Upson and Meier's decision was never in doubt.

Aggelos Bassinas took the kick but Wright guessed correctly and dived to his right to make a fine save.

In the eighth minute, a fixture that was bound to be fiery after the teams' match in Athens, started to become bad-tempered once again.

Panathinaikos' Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa went to contest an aerial ball with Vieira.

The challenge seemed harmless enough but Sousa collapsed to the ground and was stretched off to the vocal disgust of the Highbury crowd before returning to the fray.

Arsenal might have gone into half-time 2-0 rather than 1-0 up when, following a Giovanni van Bronckhorst free-kick on the left, the ball came out to Campbell who was just inside the box.

But the former Tottenham lynch pin's powerful shot shaved the left post with Nikopolidis motionless.

In the end his miss was not costly and Arsenal, after enduring a nervous last 20 minutes, held on.

Liverpool move atop



AFP, Kiev

Liverpool gave ailing boss Gerard Houllier the perfect get-well present here Tuesday with a battling 2-1 victory against Dynamo Kiev to go to the top of Champions League Group B.

The English Premiership side - left stunned after French manager Houllier underwent emergency heart surgery on Saturday -

shrugged off the turmoil of the past 72 hours to earn a priceless win.

Goals from midfielders Danny Murphy and England international Steven Gerrard sealed the points for the Merseysiders, who were guided by Phil Thompson in the absence of Houllier.

The win leaves Liverpool with eight points after four matches, one point ahead of Portugal's Boavista, who suffered a 2-1 defeat against Germany's Borussia Dortmund in the group's other game Tuesday.

The result left hosts Dynamo bottom of the Group B table with just

one point, effectively dashing their faint hopes of a place in the second phase.

Kiev, needing a win to have any chance of a place in the second group stage, got off to a lively start, pinning Liverpool back and creating a series of opportunities.

Ukrainian international forward Alexander Melashchenko and his teammates Alexander Khatskevich and Valentin Bialkevich all had chances to score in the opening 20 minutes, but missed them.

The guests' attack, weakened by the absence of English international striker Michael Owen, failed to disturb Dynamo keeper Vitaly Reva until the 43rd minute, when Murphy stunned the hosts with an opener.

Gerrard sliced Dynamo's defence with a razor-sharp pass from the right into the box to Murphy, who drove the ball home from nine metres past helpless Reva.

After the break Dynamo poured forward in attack, searching for an equaliser and in the 59th minute their midfielder Tiberiu Ghioane pulled the scores level at 1-1, sweeping the ball home after Bialkevich's cross from the left.

However, eight minutes later Gerrard silenced the 60,000 home crowd at Kiev's Olympic stadium netting his squad's second into the far post after he dribbled into the Dynamo's box from the right.

Dynamo created more chances but Liverpool's defence, well-marshalled by Poland international goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek, managed to hang on to their advantage.

The hosts saw a goal in injury time disallowed for off-side and Liverpool were left to celebrate.

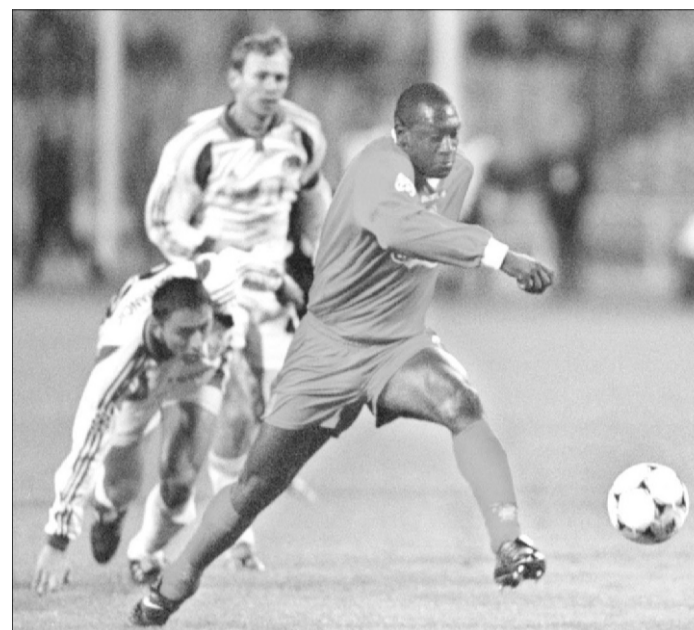


PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool striker Emile Heskey (R) powers ahead against Dynamo Kiev at Kiev on October 16.

Lazio stay in the hunt



AFP, Paris

Italy's Lazio defeated PSV Eindhoven of Holland 2-1 here Tuesday in Champions League Group D to keep their slender hopes of a place in the second phase alive.

Goals either side of half-time from Stefano Fiore and Claudio Lopez put Lazio in command but

Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni said: "The result was all important. It means we can carry on hoping but also I was pleased that we played with more tranquility. My only complaint is that we let PSV get back in the game immediately with a goal as soon as we went 2-0 up."

Club president Sergio Cragnotti said: "The boys knew it was make-or-break and they responded. I have to give a special word to Fiore and (Gaizka) Mendietta who were superb."

since joining Lazio from Udinese in the summer, with the Italian international midfielder frequently involved.

When PSV's Wilfried Bouma fell in the Lazio penalty area the Olympic Stadium crowd held its breath but Spanish referee Antonio Lopez Nieto shook his head.

Lazio were beginning to dominate but poor defending by their Dutch defender Jaap Stam allowed PSV's Yugoslav forward Kezman to try his luck but Lazio keeper Angelo Peruzzi saved.

And finally after 38 minutes the hosts got their reward with their two much-maligned midfielders responsible for the goal.

Spaniard Gaizka Mendietta, anonymous since joining from Valencia for 41 million dollars in the summer, found Fiore, who side-stepped a challenge before firing past Lodewijks.

Fiore's finish was quality, Mendietta's pass sublime.

The teams went in at half-time with the score 1-0 to the hosts and the Lazio fans in good voice.

PSV's Belgian coach Eric Gerets made one change at the break, replacing John De Jong with Theo Lucius.

Mendietta, a team-mate of Lopez in the Valencia side that lost the 2000 final 3-0 in Paris to Real Madrid, went close as Lazio stepped up the pace in search of a second and it duly came when PSV's Russian defender Yuri Nikiforov fouled Simone Inzaghi and Lopez converted the penalty.

But almost immediately PSV hit back through Kezman, who brought the score back to 2-1 after eluding Stam who was playing against his former club.

Zaccheroni responded by bringing Argentinian Hernan Crespo, back after a month out injured, into the action for Inzaghi while Gerets introduced Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink for Nikiforov.

PSV now produced their best football of the match with Peruzzi called into action several times, notably to deny Kezman who was giving Stam a stern examination and Zaccheroni made a defensive move, bringing on Paolo Negro for Czech winger Karel Poborsky.

Mendietta was denied by a fine save from Lodewijks as the Italians searched for a third before Fiore was withdrawn to a standing ovation with Dino Baggio coming on.

Gerets, meanwhile, replaced Jan Heintze with Arnold Bruggink.



PHOTO: AFP

Miteja Kezman (L), PSV Eindhoven's Yugoslav star, fighting for possession with Lazio's Giuliano Giannicchedda (R) at Rome on October 16.

Miteja Kezman hit back for the 1988 champions to set up a tense finish.

"I have more faith now - the road is still a long one but now it is a little less difficult."

Lopez was in the thick of things with the Argentinian striker first firing just wide and then stinging the fingers of PSV goalkeeper Patrick Lodewijks.

There was also an impressive opening by Fiore, much criticised

Roma owe Cafu one



AFP, Moscow

A deflected goal from Brazilian international Cafu catapulted Italian giants AS Roma to the brink of the Champions League second phase with a 1-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow here Tuesday.

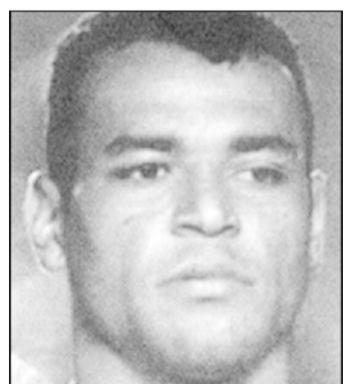
Cafu's 78th minute effort saw Roma tighten their grip on second spot in Group A, with Anderlecht, who play Real Madrid later Tuesday, five points behind in third.

The defeat ended Lokomotiv's chances of qualifying for the second phase. Lokomotiv are bottom of the group with just one point from four matches.

In a game billed as a must-win tie for both sides, both Lokomotiv and Roma started ultra-cautiously, engaging in a dour battle for midfield supremacy and doing nothing to risk conceding a goal.

Few chances were created before the break, with the only efforts coming from corners and freekicks as both team's defences dominated.

After the interval Lokomotiv moved up a gear and created a set of opportunities, which were cleared by Roma's keeper Francesco



CAFU

Antonoli.

The visitors replied with a dangerous freekick by their Argentinian marksman Gabriel Batistuta, which was stopped by Ruslan Nigmatullin.

However, he was unable to save his net in the 78th minute, when Roma's right back Cafu fired home the rebound from 20 metres with a help of a ricochet from the hosts defender Igor Cherevchenko.

The hosts launched a furious late assault on the Roma goal in search of an equaliser. Midfielder Dmitry Loskov had a chance to save a day for his squad but Antonoli performed a remarkable save to see Roma hang on for all three points.

Results at a glance

Collated Champions League results on Tuesday:

Group A

At Brussels
Anderlecht (Bel) 0 Real Madrid (Spa) 2 (Roberto Carlos 17, McManaman 35)

At Moscow

Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 0 AS Roma (Ita) 1 (Cafu 78)

Group B

At Dortmund, Germany
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 2 (Ricken 50, Koller 68) Boavista (Por) 1 (Gouart 32)

At Kiev

Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 (Ghioane 59) Liverpool (Eng) 2 (Murphy 43, Gerrard 67)

Group C

At London
Arsenal (Eng) 2 (Henry 23, 52-pen) Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 (Olisadebe 50)

At Palma de Mallorca, Spain
Real Mallorca (Spa) 0 Schalke 04 (Ger) 4 (van Hoogdalem 15, Hajto 21-pen, Asamoah 77, Sand 84)

Group D

At Rome
Lazio (Ita) 2 (Fiore 38, Lopez 54-pen) PSV Eindhoven (Ned) 1 (Kezman 55)

At Istanbul

Galatasaray (Tur) 0 Nantes (Fra) 0

Galatasaray, Nantes share spoils



AFP, Istanbul

Turkish side Galatasaray and French champions Nantes fought out a goalless draw to leave both sides' chances of progressing to the Champions League second phase finely balanced here Tuesday.

Nantes, looking to avenge the 1-0 home defeat they suffered to Galatasaray in the last round of Group D fixtures, started well but ended up having to withstand a late assault by the Turks before escap-

ing with a point.

Galatasaray could have grabbed a dramatic late winner just three minutes from time, but Sergen Yalcin failed to find the target after a superb run and cross from Hakan Unsal.

Sergen's effort came at the end of a lively second half where both teams created openings.

The result leaves Galatasaray and Nantes each with seven points after four matches in the group. PSV Eindhoven, beaten 2-1 by Italian side Lazio in the group's other game Tuesday, are third with five points. Lazio are fourth on three points.

UEFA Cup 2nd round 1st leg preview

Chelsea lose six for Tel Aviv



AFP, Paris

A severely depleted Chelsea will face Israel's Hapoel Tel Aviv after six star players withdrew over security fears as the UEFA Cup second round gets underway in earnest on Thursday.

Chelsea had earned praise from UEFA for agreeing to go ahead with the match against Hapoel despite heightened tensions in the wake of the September 11 terror attacks.

But although Chelsea vowed to press ahead with the fixture, the cosmopolitan London club left their players free to choose on whether they felt like making the journey to Israel.

Six - captain Marcel Desailly,

Emmanuel Petit, Eidur Gudjohnsen, Graeme Le Saux, William Gallas, and Albert Ferrer - have now declined to make the trip.

"We gave the players the choice and the end of the day we respect the decision they have taken," Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said.

"We have not forced any player to go and we are now looking forward to the match."

"UEFA insisted that the game must go ahead and wrote to us as recently as Saturday with their instructions."

Hutchinson said although the club understood the decision by the players, seeking to have the match cancelled or played at a different venue was not an option. The players involved would not be disciplined, he added.

"We understand the concern of

the players but we have an obligation that if we want to continue in this competition we have to play this match."

"We are not disappointed at the choice made by these individual players and no disciplinary action will be taken against them."

"We tried to explain to them that the West Bank and Gaza Strip were a different world to where we were going but some people were under pressure from their families."

UEFA chief spokesman Mike Lee on Tuesday issued a message of appreciation to Chelsea for going ahead with the game.

"The attitude of the club has been exemplary. These are not easy times but it is important that football is played throughout Europe and in the right spirit," Lee said.

Chelsea's French international

midfielder Petit had initially said he would travel, but admitted he felt uncomfortable in the wake of the terror attacks and recent air disasters in Italy and the Black Sea.

In other UEFA Cup matches Thursday, under-achieving French side Paris St Germain will be missing playmaker Jay-Jay Okocha and defender Didier Domi through injury when they face Rapid Vienna at the Parc des Princes.

Meanwhile PSG striker Nicolas Anelka has scotched rumours of a bust-up with boss Luis Fernandez after he was axed from the squad following a row with the coach.

English Premiership leaders Leeds meanwhile host French club Troyes on Thursday, although expected new signing Seth Johnson of Derby will play no part.

Elsewhere AC Milan's Turkish coach Fatih Terim has been

assured that his job at the San Siro is safe, just two days before their home match against CSKA Sofia.

Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani gave his vote of confidence to Terim via the club's website after Terim had been carpentered by Milan's director general Ariedo Braida.

Other big fixtures include Italian clubs Fiorentina, Parma and Inter Milan, who play FC Tirol of Austria, Utrecht of The Netherlands and Wisla Krakow of Poland.

Valencia, runners-up in the Champions League the last two seasons, travel to Legia Warsaw and England's Ipswich entertain Swedish club Helsingborgs.

The second leg matches are scheduled for October 30 or November 1.