

# Barthez bloopers costs MU dear



AFP, London

Manchester United's defensive woes flared up again as a series of blunders handed Champions League rivals Deportivo La Coruna a 3-2 victory in a thrilling Group G clash here Wednesday.

On a night United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez will want to forget, the Spanish visitors had the hosts chasing shadows for long periods with quick movement and slick passing.

Barthez put further pressure on his team by playing a part in two of Deportivo's three goals.

An early strike by Dutch international Ruud van Nistelrooy gave United the lead after a dazzling run by Ryan Giggs, but the Spaniards came storming back with goals in the 37th and 39th minute.

Sergio cashed in on a mix-up between Wes Brown and Barthez to tap home the equaliser and then Diego Tristan's looping header put Deportivo 2-1 in front.

Their joy was short-lived, however, with van Nistelrooy's exquisite chip from an acute angle levelling the scores five minutes from the break.

United, who lost 2-1 away to Deportivo in September, fell behind once again on the hour when Barthez needlessly came running out of his goal, allowing Tristan to tuck away the winning goal.

Ferguson said Barthez's error for the second goal was costly.

"The mistake gave them a great advantage," he told ITV. Despite losing, Ferguson said the game was a joy to watch.

"I enjoyed it - it was football of the highest quality, a true test," he added.

The defeat saw Deportivo go two points clear at the top of the group, with United still on course for a place in the next phase in second spot.

United had looked set for victory after getting off to the best possible start with a goal after just six min-



A desolate Manchester United custodian Fabien Barthez (R) leaves the pitch while an unidentified Deportivo La Coruna player celebrates after their match at Old Trafford on October 17.

utes.

Welsh wing wizard Giggs weaved his way past three defenders before slipping the ball through to van Nistelrooy, lurking in the the Spaniards' penalty area.

The Dutchman calmly slotted the ball past Deportivo goalkeeper Jose Molina for his first goal in the

Champions League this season. A minute later Ronny Johnsen limped off with an injury and was replaced by Brown.

Led by tricky forward Tristan, Deportivo rallied and a curling right foot shot from Jose Amavisca was only inches away from restoring parity.

Deportivo were awarded a free-kick after 25 minutes which was tapped to Argentine Aldo Duscher's and his dipping shot forced an athletic save from Barthez.

The writing was on the wall for United and it was no surprise when Deportivo drew level on 37 minutes.

Brown was preparing to boot the ball to safely inside his own penalty area when Barthez came rushing from his line and got in the young defender's way.

Both of them missed the ball allowing Sergio to slot the ball into an empty net.

Two minutes later United were left shellshocked as Tristan headed home Victor's teasing cross at the far post.

United must have had visions of the match in Spain when the Galicians also scored twice late on to turn the game on its head.

But at least this time Sir Alex Ferguson's team had more time to react.

Juan Veron and David Beckham combined down the right wing and fed van Nistelrooy who was running into the visitors' area.

Despite being forced wide, the former PSV forward chipped the ball wide of Molina and into the far corner.

Molina was replaced by Nuno in the Deportivo goal at half-time after complaining of a knee injury.

Only a world class save from Barthez stopped Deportivo taking a 3-2 lead when Juan Carlos Valeron's goalbound effort was palmed over the bar by the Frenchman.

Valeron and Tristan were causing United all sorts of problems and the latter handed Deportivo a deserved lead on the hour.

A rush of blood to Barthez's head gave Tristan the whole goal to aim at and he tucked away his second goal of the night in style.

Giggs almost got United back on level terms against the run of play but his low shot was superbly smothered by Nuno's valiant dive.

Substitute Walter Pandiani should have increased Deportivo's lead five minutes from time before Andy Cole, on for the ineffectual Paul Scholes, headed wide of an open goal.

## STANDINGS

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

GROUP E						
Juventus	4	2	2	0	5	38
Porto	4	2	1	1	5	27
Celtic	4	2	0	2	4	6
Rosenborg	4	0	1	3	2	1

GROUP F						
Barcelona	4	3	0	1	8	9
Leverkusen	4	3	0	1	6	9
Lyon	4	2	0	2	4	6
Fenerbahce	4	0	0	4	2	0

GROUP G						
Deportivo	4	2	2	0	8	8
Man United	4	2	0	2	6	6
Lille	4	1	1	2	5	4
Olympiakos	4	1	1	2	5	4

GROUP H						
Sparta Prague	4	3	1	0	8	10
Bayern Munich	4	2	2	0	10	8
Feyenoord	4	0	2	2	4	2
Spartak	4	0	1	3	4	1

# Olympiakos stay afloat



AFP, Athens

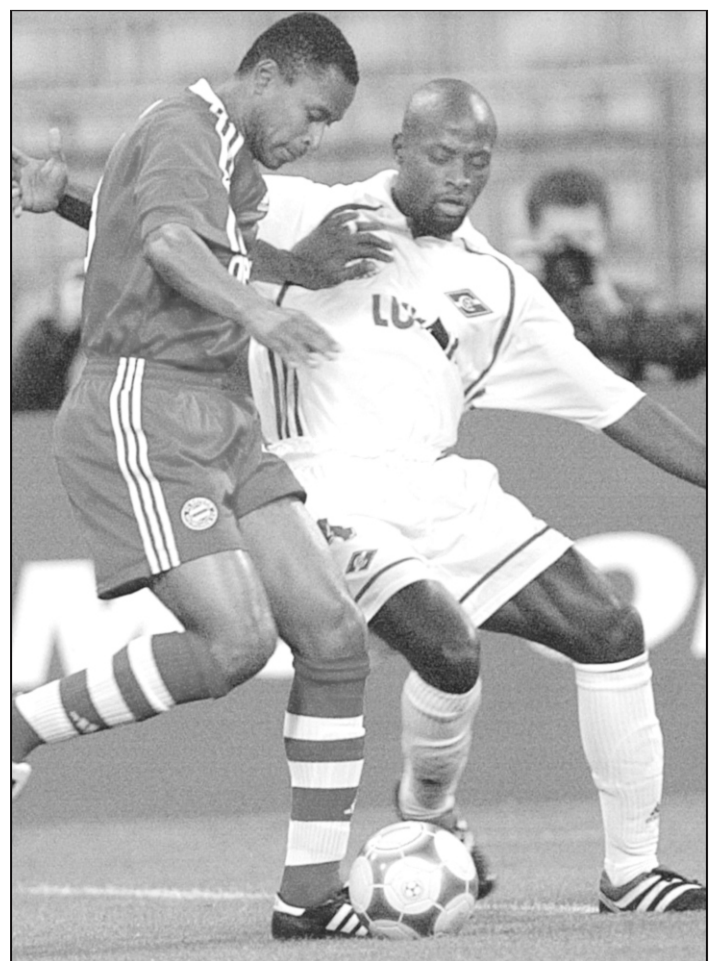
Olympiakos now have four points, the same as Lille, with table toppers Deportivo La Coruna, 3-2 winners of Manchester United, topping the pool with eight points ahead of United on six.

Lille looked the better side for much of the match and when Moroccan Salaheddine Bassir scored in the 38th minute, coach Vahid Halilhodzic must have thought a win was on the cards.

Defensive lapses cost Lille dear in the second half however with first Alexis Alexandris in the 53rd minute and then Niniadis in the 64th making the most of their chances.

Substitute Andreas Niniadis hit the winner for Olympiakos in a 2-1 victory over Lille here on Wednesday night to salvage home side's faint hopes of moving into the Champions League second round.

The Greeks had to win to give themselves an outside chance of going through and the victory at the Spiros Louis stadium duly came to shift them up a place from bottom spot in Group G.



Paulo Sergio (L), Bayern Munich's Brazilian recruit, vies with Spartak Moscow's Robson at Munich on October 17.

# Bayern blitz Spartak



AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich took an emphatic step towards qualifying for the Champions League second round with a 5-1 thrashing of Spartak Moscow at the Olympic stadium here on Wednesday night.

Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro and Brazilian Giovane Elber were both twice on target and Alexander Zickler hit a late fifth for the defending champions. Vladimir Beschastnykh scored a consolation for Oleg Romantsev's men in the second half.

Bayern remain second in Group H with eight points, two points behind Sparta Prague, who were 2-0 winners at Dutch side Feyenoord.

The hosts, 3-1 winners in Russia, took the initiative right from the start in this return fixture.

Pizarro had a good chance from a long range shot early on but it was parried by Moscow keeper Maxime Levitsky. Moments later in the seventh minute, after being set up by Elber, Pizarro left the keeper no chance from 12 metres.

The Russians showed enterprise from then on but had trouble getting things together to seriously threaten Oliver Kahn's goal.

Pizarro once more got on the

scoresheet in the 22nd minute to put Bayern firmly in control. From a cross by Frenchman Willy Sagnol, Pizarro headed the ball home from six metres for his second of the night and second in the competition.

Bayern were content to sit back and hit on the counterattack. The tactic paid dividends when Munich surged forward and Bosnian Hasan Salihamidzic crossed for Elber to knock the ball home with his left foot in the 33rd minute for his fifth goal of the tournament.

After the break, Ottmar Hitzfeld's men continued where they had left off - with a goal. A quick foray upfield by Bayern was crowned by a second goal for Elber, once again well served by Salihamidzic, in the 52nd minute.

Spartak showed their mettle to not let their heads drop and six minutes later Vladimir Beschastnykh, with just Kahn to beat, earned them a consolation goal.

Further occasions came from Beschastnykh, Victor Bulatov, Yegor Titov and Vassil Baranov but they lacked precision at the crucial moment.

Bayern's last counterattack brought a fifth goal. Zickler, who came on 12 minutes before the end for Brazilian Paulo Sergio, scored in injury time to complete their goal spree.



Barcelona superstar Rivaldo (R) blasts a shot past Bayer Leverkusen's Carsten Ramelow at the Nou Camp on October 17.

# Barca down Leverkusen



AFP, Barcelona

Spanish giants Barcelona put one foot in the door of the Champions League second phase here Wednesday with a hard-earned 2-1 victory over German side Bayer Leverkusen.

First-half goals from Dutch international Patrick Kluivert and

Spanish attacker Luis Enrique sealed the points for the Catalans, who now lead Leverkusen on goal difference at the top of Group F.

Fielding a bold attacking formation spearheaded by a triple-pronged strike force of Kluivert, Rivaldo and Javier Saviola, Barcelona started strongly and took the lead after 12 minutes.

Argentinian summer-signing Saviola was the architect, sliding a lovely ball through to Kluivert to score past advancing Leverkusen

'keeper Hans-Jorg Butt with ease. Carsten Ramelow silenced the Nou Camp crowd midway through the half however, slotting a fine strike to level the scores on 32 minutes.

But Barcelona, who had been beaten 2-1 by Leverkusen in the away fixture between the sides earlier in the campaign, were back in front after just six minutes, Luis Enrique blasting home from close range.

## Mallorca fire coach

AFP, Palma de Mallorca

Real Mallorca on Wednesday sacked coach Bernd Krauss in the wake of the Spanish side's 4-0 hammering by bottom-table Schalke 04 in their Champions League Group C tie.

Mallorca president Mateo Alemany said they were parting company with the 44-year-old German because of the club's poor showing both in the Champions League and in the Primera Liga where they are in 18th place.

Tuesday's loss put the Balearic side in third position on six points in their Group C behind second-placed Arsenal, also on six, who moved into second following their 2-1 home win over leaders Panathinaikos of Greece.

Krauss previously coached Spanish side Real Sociedad from 1997 to 1999 and Germany's Borussia Dortmund for the 1999-2000 season before his arrival in Mallorca at the beginning of the season.

# Porto floor Celtic



AFP, Oporto

Porto dealt a blow to Celtic's hopes of advancing to the second phase of the Champions League here Wednesday, outclassing the Scottish league leaders 3-0 in a one-sided Group E match.

Two goals from Brazilian striker Clayton either side of a Mario Silva strike sealed the points for Porto, who desperately needed a win to get back on track after a slow start to their campaign.

The win sees them leapfrog over Celtic into second place, a point ahead of the Scots. Italian giants Juventus now lead the group after beating Norwegian side Rosenborg 1-0 in Wednesday's other Group E game.

The loss will be a bitter disappointment to Celtic, who had impressed going into the game during their first ever Champions League campaign.

They were given no time to settle

at Porto's Das Antas stadium, with the home side stunning Martin O'Neill's men with a goal in the opening seconds.

Mercurial Brazilian Capucho crossed from the right flank and when Celtic defender Dianbobo Balde failed to judge the flight of the ball correctly Clayton was on hand to nod past keeper Rob Douglas.

The early goal was a taste of things to come for Celtic, with the two Brazilians Capucho and Clayton combining beautifully whenever Porto ventured upfield.

In time added on at end of the first half Porto got the second goal

their positive play deserved. Balde could only clear a Capucho corner as far as Mario Silva, who drilled in an unstoppable shot to make it 2-0.

Porto started the second half in the way they finished the first. Clayton again had Celtic hearts fluttering, going close with a fierce low shot.

In the 60th minute Clayton made it 3-0 with his second of the match, playing an artful one-two with Deco before racing into the area and hammering an unstoppable shot past Thompson.

# Juve sail on Trezeguet



AFP, Turin

Italy's Juventus took a big step towards qualification for the second phase of the Champions League Wednesday, defeating Norway's Rosenborg 1-0 to go top of Group E.

A first-half goal from David Trezeguet separated the teams but that was scant justice to the side from Turin who dominated throughout although Rosenborg nearly snatched a draw late on when Roar Strand forced a fine save from Gianluigi Buffon.

But three points was the main priority for Juve, seeking a third win in this competition, as Marcello Lippi's side finally tasted victory again for the first time in six matches.

"We managed to win again which is the main thing," Lippi told Italia One TV channel. "We spoke about Sunday's debacle (when Juve drew 3-3 after leading Torino 3-0) and we were much tighter tonight."

"I would have been happier with a second goal but on the whole we were good tonight."

Juventus created the first chance of the match. Croatian defender Igor Tudor hit a long ball to Alessandro Del Piero who held the ball up before feeding Pavel Nedved, whose shot was tipped over by Rosenborg goalkeeper Arni Arason.

Rosenborg's first effort came from Harald Brattbakk whose speculative shot looped off Juve's French defender Lilian Thuram but only at the expense of a corner.

Former Celtic player Brattbakk then sprung the Juve offside trap but delayed too long with his shot, allowing Tudor to get in a timely tackle.

And after 25 minutes Juve punished the Norwegians by taking the lead through Trezeguet.

The credit for the goal was down to Del Piero who turned his man inside and out before curling in a cross for the French striker who thrust himself at the ball to head it past Arason.

Minutes later Trezeguet almost struck again. Del Piero, with Gianluca Possotto one of two survivors of Lippi's side that won this tournament in 1996, fed the overlapping Gianluca Zambrotta who found



Alessandro del Piero (R), the Juventus superstar, controls the ball while Rosenborg's Berg prepares to intercept at Turin on October 17.

the Frenchman. Trezeguet's shot bounced off the inside of the post to safety.

Then Del Piero fell in the penalty area under a challenge from Christer Basma but English referee Graham Poll waved away appeals for a penalty.

Poll further incurred the wrath of the Stadio Delle Alpi when he ruled out a Trezeguet goal when the French striker rounded Arason and scored, deciding that the forward had been offside when Del Piero played him in.

For the second half Rosenborg coach Nils Arne Eggen introduced Dagfinn Enerly for the ineffectual Hassan El Fakiri but again it was Juve to show first when their midfielder Enzo Maresca forced a fine save from Arason.

Juve continued to dominate and then Del Piero's header was tipped over by Arason.

Eggen made another change with Christer George replacing playmaker Orjan Berg while Lippi made a defensive change with Mark Juliano replacing Maresca.

The side from Trondheim was making little headway with Bent Skammelsrud forcing a rare save from Gianluigi Buffon.

Then Del Piero's freekick was headed off the line by Skammelsrud. Rosenborg finally began to show with Enerly's freekick headed over by Sigurd Rushfeldt but then Arason made a brilliant save from Del Piero who had been set up by Czech Nedved, playing his first European game in Juve colours and the keeper shone again when he denied

Trezeguet.

Juliano missed the best chance yet when he missed an open goal after Arason had saved a Nedved shot that deflected off Erik Hoftun.

Frode Johnsen entered for Rushfeldt as Eggen tried a last throw of the dice.

After 83 minutes Juventus finally carved out a good chance with their best move of the match. Skammelsrud fed Strand whose shot was brilliantly saved by Buffon at the expense of a corner.

Juve made another change when Michele Paramatti replaced Nedved and then Chilean Marcelo Salas came on for Del Piero in the closing seconds.