

Liverpool, Galatasaray through Nantes dump Lazio



AFP, Paris

Liverpool marched impressively into the Champions League second phase on Tuesday as struggling French side Nantes shredded the form book once again to secure their place in the lucrative next round.

Liverpool showed why they are being tipped to do well in Europe's top club competition this season with a clinical 2-0 victory over Borussia Dortmund at Anfield in Group B courtesy of goals from Vladimir Smicer and Stephen Wright.

The English Premiership side's manager Phil Thompson - standing in for Gerard Houllier who is recovering from emergency heart surgery - dedicated the victory to his convalescing boss.

"This one's for you tonight, we're still there," Thompson said. "I'm absolutely thrilled for him - he absolutely loves European football."

Thompson, a European Cup winner with Liverpool during their glory years of the 1970s and early 1980s, said helping guide the team into the next round ranked with his achievements as a player.

"I've had some great times, this is extra special. I'm thrilled for the football club."

"It's where this football club should be, it's every right to be there and the fans deserve it."

Dortmund were squeezed out of a place in the second phase on goal difference to Boavista of Portugal, who were beaten 1-0 away at Dynamo Kiev in the night's other Group B fixture.

Meanwhile French champions Nantes - bottom of their domestic league and early candidates for relegation - made sure of their place in Friday's second round draw by beating Serie A side Lazio 1-0 in Group D.

Raynald Denouex's 'Canaries' only needed a draw to advance but instead qualified as group winners in impressive fashion, outplaying the Italians in midfield and attack to claim a well-earned win.

Pierre-Yves Andre grabbed the priceless winner for Nantes, the striker meeting Nicolas Laspalle's firm cross from the right flank with a glancing header that looped over Angelo Peruzzi into the net on 73 minutes.

"We were delighted with the way the match went and frankly we expected to be put under more pressure," Nantes manager Denouex said afterwards. "At the start of the competition I thought we were 50/50 to qualify but we surprised ourselves to actually win the group."

"Every team we have met in the first round have had experience but tonight we made very few errors and that's a good sign for the future."

Lazio's best chance had come on 65 minutes, Argentine interna-



An airborne Stephen Wright (C) of Liverpool, scores his team's second goal against Borussia Dortmund at Anfield on October 30.

tional Hernan Crespo trapping Giuseppe Favalli's chip well with his chest before unleashing a rasping volley that had Nantes keeper Mickael Landreau scrambling to punch clear.

But the Italians could scarcely complain at the result and coach Alberto Zaccheroni was quick to acknowledge that his team had not deserved anything from a match they had needed to win to reach the second round.

"We were predictable when we were on the ball, our delivery on passes was poor, and our top players were far from their best form," Zaccheroni lamented.

"That explains our poor performance. Nantes were better than us and there is simply nothing more to

say," added Zaccheroni, who had been hired last month to replace Dino Zoff who was sacked after the Italians had lost their home fixture to Nantes 3-1 earlier in the group.

Turkish giants Galatasaray join Nantes in the next round after Group D after they completed a 2-0 win over Dutch outfit PSV Eindhoven in Istanbul thanks to goals from Sergen Yalcin and Arif Erdem.

The top two qualifiers had already been made known in Groups A and C, with Spanish giants Real Madrid assured of first place in Group A and AS Roma finishing as runners-up.

Accordingly, neither Real Madrid nor Roma were in any mood to take unnecessary risks

with their expensive star-studded squads and this was reflected in the results.

Real, who rested half their regular side, were beaten 2-0 by Lokomotiv Moscow while Roma were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Belgium's Anderlecht.

In Group C Greek side Panathinaikos crashed 1-0 at struggling Real Mallorca but the result was an irrelevance as they had already won their pool ahead of Arsenal.

The Gunners' dismal away form in Europe this season continued in Germany where they plunged 3-1 to Schalke 04. Ukrainian defender Oleg Luzhny made a miserable night for the London club even worse by getting himself sent off early as Arsene Wenger's experimental line-up were well beaten.

Goals from Yuri Mulder, Sven Vermant and Andy Moller sealed the rout for Schalke with only Sylvain Wiltord responding with a consolation effort for Arsenal.

"We did not come here to lay down lightly; we wanted to try and win the game - but they probably deserved it on the night," stand-in Arsenal skipper Ray Parlour said.

"The players wanted to win tonight, and we are disappointed. If we want to get to the quarter-finals again like last year we have to improve on our away record definitely."

Wenger was more impressed with what he had seen from his largely second-string line-up.

"I thought we played well," he insisted. "In the first half, even with 10 men we had the best chances. I am very pleased with the boys - they did very well."

The remaining first phase games are played on Wednesday, with the draw for the second round taking place on Friday.

STANDINGS

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

Table with 4 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Groups A, B, C, D.

UEFA Cup preview Chelsea's unenviable task



AFP, Paris

Chelsea have a tough test to kickstart their UEFA Cup adventure on Thursday, trailing by a 2-0 margin to Israel's Hapoel Tel-Aviv after several leading players refused to travel to the troubled region for the second round first leg.

Fielding a weakened team after six of their players preferred to stay at home because of the worsening security situation in the region, Chelsea weathered the pressure and even survived the 53rd minute sending off of Mario Melchiot for kicking out at home skipper Shimon Gershon.

However, they couldn't hang on and conceded two late goals as the Israeli team gained a vital advantage ahead of the second leg.

Hapoel, who were due to arrive in England early Wednesday, have conceded only one goal in five games in the competition and no doubt will be relying on solid defending to go through.

Two of Hapoel's players, centre back Gershon and midfielder Yossi Abuksis, played for Israel against Austria on Saturday in their unsuccessful attempt to make the European World Cup play-offs.

A cheeky Hapoel fan may say their players have more to fear in making the trip to London than Chelsea's going to Israel.

Graeme Le Saux's ferocious two-footed tackle on Leeds' Danny Mills on the Sunday following the first leg was a potentially career-ending incident though Mills astonishingly avoided major injury.

The Chelsea defender clattered into the back of Mills on 45 minutes and sparked an outburst from Leeds manager David O'Leary, who branded the incident a disgrace, and was shown the red card

for his comments.

Leeds United had a setback in their preparation for their home match against French side Troyes. Leeds lead 4-2 from the first leg meaning qualification should be a formality.

However Leeds midfielder Lee Bowyer was poised to undergo surgery this week after breaking his nose during Saturday's 1-1 draw with Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Bowyer hurt himself following an aerial challenge with Nicky Butt, who accidentally caught the 24-year-old with an elbow.

Bowyer will miss the Hapoel game but is expected to return for their Premiership clash against Tottenham at Elland Road on Sunday.

Rangers new boy Michael Ball reckons his side are on course for a lengthy UEFA Cup campaign which will fulfil his ambition of playing on a bigger stage.

The England defender, who has been capped once for his country, left Everton for Ibrox in August with the prospect of European glory one of the main motivating factors in the switch.

The Glasgow giants were attempting to qualify for the Champions League at the time but have since had to make do with the lesser competition, having now reached the second round.

Dick Advocaat's team take a 3-1 first leg lead to Dynamo Moscow, where temperatures could dip below freezing for Thursday's deciding clash.

Rangers have not made it past Christmas in continental competition for eight years but Ball was confident that the current campaign could be extended into the new year.

He said: "I think we can go very far. Our squad is very strong and we have got players coming back from injuries at the moment. We have got strength in depth so I reckon we

can go a lot further."

AC Milan, who take a 2-0 lead to CSKA Sofia on Thursday, will have to do without striker Andrei Shevchenko and veteran defender Paolo Maldini.

Shevchenko was discharged from hospital Monday after undergoing an operation on a broken nose suffered during his team's 0-0 draw with Bologna at the weekend.

Shevchenko will not play for his club again until November 18 when Milan host Piacenza at the San Siro.

However, doctors say that he should be ready for action in seven to 10 days which would make him available for his country's double-headed World Cup qualifying play-off with Germany on November 10 and 14.

Maldini is out for six weeks with a thigh injury, also from the match against Bologna, and will also miss Italy's friendly against Japan on November 7.

Paris Saint Germain meet Rapid Vienna in the Austrian capital with a 4-0 lead and even without their injured keeper Lionel Letizi, Luis Fernandez' men should be confident having won their last two matches in the French League for the first time in a year.

The fixture is a repeat of the 1996 European Cup Winners Cup final won by the Parc des Princes outfit.

PSG's French rivals Bordeaux travel to Belgian club Standard Liege with a 2-0 advantage and theoretically are also on course to go through.

Spanish side Valencia, runner-up the last two seasons in the Champions League, host Legia Warsaw having managed a 1-1 draw in Poland and hence are favourites to qualify.

Italian rivals Parma have an even easier task with a 3-1 lead over Dutch side Utrecht with the home leg to come.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collated Champions League results on Tuesday:

Table with columns: Group, Team, Opponent, Score, Goalscorers.

UEFA Cup No Ronaldo as Inter advance

AFP, Krakow, Poland

A Ronaldo-less Inter Milan advanced to the third round of the UEFA Cup here Tuesday despite losing their second round return leg tie to Wisla Krakow 1-0.

Inter, who had won the first leg 2-0 in Italy two weeks ago, were beaten by a fourth-minute Marciel Zurawski strike in the second leg.

Ronaldo, FIFA World Footballer of the Year in 1996 and 1997, had to leave the pitch in the first round match against Romanian side Brasov, only his second match back since a serious right knee injury on April 12 2000.

WI come to

FROM PAGE 13

Tobago, ruled himself out of ever leading West Indies again and been written off as a man past his best by former Caribbean great Everton Weekes.

The West Indies selectors have bent over backwards to accommodate the flawed genius. This, though, could prove his last chance.

West Indies will have to hope that their younger generation of batsmen -- Chris Gayle, Daren Ganga, Marlon Samuels and Ramnaresh Sarwan -- start coming through.

There are even more concerns about the inexperience of the bowling attack, with none of the pacemen having yet played in 20 Tests.

Reon King and Mervyn Dillon are the most experienced, with 44 wickets from 14 Tests and 57 wickets from 16 respectively, but neither has ever fully convinced.

They will be backed up by Colin Stuart, Pedro Collins and Marlon Black, with a lone specialist spinner in Dinanath Ramnarine.

Sri Lanka have yet to win a Test against West Indies. The two teams have only played three times, the inaugural game in 1993 followed by a two-match series in 1996-97.

Squad

Carl Hooper (captain), Ridley Jacobs (vice-captain), Chris Gayle, Daren Ganga, Brian Lara, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Marlon Samuels, Wavell Hinds, Leon Garrick, Neil McGarrell, Dinanath Ramnarine, Colin Stuart, Mervyn Dillon, Marlon Black, Reon King, Pedro Collins.

SCHEDULE

Schedule of matches for the forthcoming West Indies cricket tour of Sri Lanka:

- SRI LANKA VS WEST INDIES Nov 1: West Indies arrive Nov 4-6: 3-day warm-up match, Colombo Nov 9-11: 3-day warm-up match, Matara Nov 14-18: 1st Test, Galle Nov 23-27: 2nd Test, Kandy Dec 1-5: 3rd Test, Colombo

TRI-SERIES

- Dec 8: SL v WI, Colombo Dec 9: WI v Zim, Colombo Dec 11: SL v Zim, Colombo Dec 14: SL v WI, Colombo Dec 15: SL v Zim, Colombo Dec 16: WI v Zim, Colombo Dec 19: Final, Colombo Dec 21: West Indies depart

SL send Zim

FROM PAGE 13

Brent 3-32, D Marillier 2-42) ZIMBABWE

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like G Flower, V Vaas, Gripper, Arnold, Lyanage, Carlisle, etc.

Result: Sri Lanka won by 79 runs. Man-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardena.

BCCI wants

FROM PAGE 13

England is scheduled to play three Tests in India in December and fly home for Christmas. It will visit India again in January to play five one-day internationals.

President of BCCI Jagmohan Dalmiya, who Monday set England a November 5 deadline to name its final squad, said he was awaiting official communication from the ECB.

"I'm still to hear from the ECB about today's developments," Dalmiya said.

Dalmiya said Monday that ECB should announce its "final" squad soon as India "cannot wait forever."

He said the announcement of the squad would put a final full-stop on whether the tour was on or not.

Dalmiya, a former chief of the International Cricket Council, threatened to cancel India's tour of England next summer if the English did not make the trip to India this year.

Shah said the Indian government had given its assurance on security while sanctioning the home series against England.

All international sporting events in India have to be approved by the federal government.

Shah said two ECB officials, John Carr and Tim O'Gorman, would be visiting India to discuss security and other administrative matters with the Indian cricket board.

"Indian cricket board members will accompany the two ECB representatives to a meeting with sports ministry officials," Shah said.

"They want to convince themselves that the security arrangements will be in place," he said.

Aussies keep Ashes side



AFP, Sydney

Australia's cricket selectors Wednesday named the same 11 players who won the fifth Ashes Test in August plus Queensland fast bowler Andy Bichel as 12th man for the first Test against New Zealand at Brisbane's Gabba ground from November 8.

However, captain Steve Waugh, who has been suffering from deep vein thrombosis in a leg, has to prove his fitness in a Sydney club game this weekend.

Waugh said he and fast bowler Brett Lee would not have been selected unless fully fit for the first Test of the three-match series.

"You wouldn't be picked unless you were ready to go at full pace," Waugh said Wednesday.

"Brett did well last game, I'm looking forward to a good hit-out this weekend in a club match and I won't be holding anything back.

"I've done a lot of work this week and I feel confident.

"I'll have a hit this afternoon, I've got a club game on the weekend and I'm ready for the Test match."

The selectors had an easy task with all Australia's Test players

showing form in recent State matches.

The only real concern had been for the 12th man place.

Opener Justin Langer and Brett Lee have risen to the challenge and retained the only two berths that were in real doubt.

Lee's 5-56 second innings effort for New South Wales against South Australia last week proved he was over his side injury and his extra pace will be useful against the Kiwis, despite his mediocre Ashes performances against England.

"Certainly in the first (innings), I was 85-90 percent," Lee said Wednesday of the SA match.

"In the second, it felt about 100 percent, it felt very good.

"The ball was really slipping into the 'keeper's hands and I felt very confident out there."

Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie, Lee and Shane Warne form the attack with Bichel 12th man.

Waugh said there had been no reason to make changes after the first two rounds of the domestic season.

"We played well at The Oval (in the last Ashes Test) and all the guys since they got back to Australia have done very well," he said.

"All the batsmen have scored hundreds and the bowlers are coming into form at the right time

so there wasn't any real surprises expected there.

"Brett Lee was the one the selectors probably wanted to see get some wickets and some bowling and he did well last game, so he came through well," Waugh said.

"We all know he's a match-winner, he's done very well in Test match cricket and the five bowlers we've got there are all top-class performers."

Now that he is thinking about destroying batting line-ups again, rather than regaining form, Lee can focus on renewing his duel with Kiwi batsman Chris Cairns.

The big-hitting New Zealander smashed a six off Lee the last time they met and the quick bowler feels he owes Cairns one.

"I have the utmost respect for Chris Cairns, he's a fantastic cricketer and we've had a few duels over the last couple of years," Lee said.

"He hit me for a massive six the last time we played them, so I'm after a bit of revenge this time."

SQUAD

Steve Waugh (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vice-captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Brett Lee, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel.

Yet to work Magic



AFP, New York

A slightly heavier, slower and off target Michael Jordan returned Tuesday, and couldn't quite work the magic for the Washington Wizards against his old foes, the New York Knicks.

The 38-year-old Jordan, who has destroyed the Knicks many times in the past with late-game heroics, missed a 3-pointer to level the score with only 18 seconds left to play in the last quarter.

Jordan's inaccurate jumper let the Knicks off the hook to win 93-91 before a sellout crowd of 19,763 at Madison Square Garden, one of 12 games

scheduled on the opening night of the season.

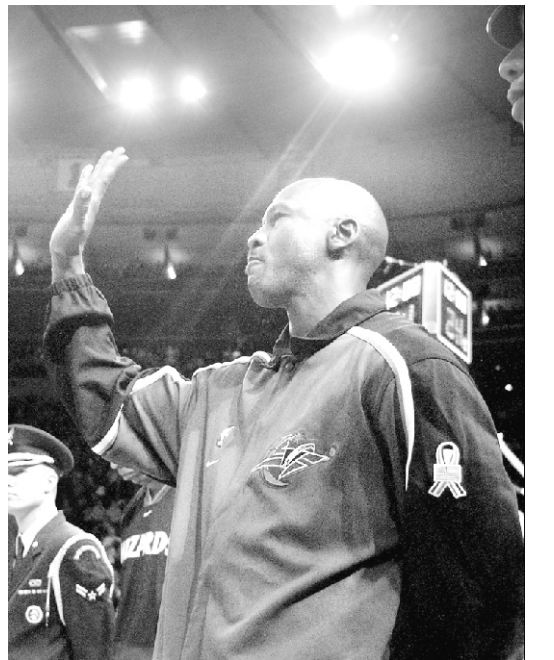
Jordan finished the game with 19 points, shooting 7-of-21 in 37 minutes work, which included four steals, five rebounds and six assists.

New York's Latrell Sprewell said he expected Jordan to sink the three-pointer.

"It's just the first game of the season. I'm sure as we get along here and he gets in better condition and gets a better feel for the game, those shots will go down," he said.

A few seconds later Kurt Thomas made two free throws to give the Knicks an insurmountable 93-88 lead.

If Jordan's first night of Act Three of his illustrious career after a three-year



Washington Wizards' Michael Jordan waves to the crowd before the start of his comeback game against New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden on October 30.

Gustavo sails, Lleyton fails



AFP, Paris

Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten took a huge stride towards retaining his year-end world number one spot with a comfortable win in the Paris Masters here Tuesday as closest rival Lleyton Hewitt crashed out.

Kuerten, who came into the 2.95-million-dollar tournament here in the worst form of his life having lost five successive matches, put a stop to the rot with a 6-2, 6-4 win over hopelessly outclassed Czech Bohdan Ulihrach.

The 53-minute win tasted even sweeter for the triple French Open champion as it followed world number two Hewitt's 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 defeat at the hands of Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti.

Kuerten, who had a 34-point lead in the rankings over US Open winner Hewitt going into Paris, revealed that he had sought help from the Australian to cure his wretched recent form.

"I have been practicing with Lleyton and others like Tommy Haas. They are men who have been

in the best form. I wanted see if they could help my preparation for matches."

It seemed to work for the Brazilian who looked nothing like a man in poor form as he employed his fierce and accurate groundstrokes to destroy Ulihrach.

Suitably, Kuerten finished off what amounted to an exhibition match with an ace.

"It was such an important win for me. It feels like it has been such a long time since I felt this good. I am very proud to be winning again."

Hewitt, 20, complained of suffering from stomach pains in the aftermath of his 2hr 20min defeat.

"I wasn't 100 percent out there. I didn't feel great from the middle of the second set and it got worse as the match went on," said Hewitt who had won the opening set in 38 minutes.

"It was the same sort of trouble I had at the end of last year - the problem that meant I couldn't play in Paris then."

"But I'm not taking anything away from Lapentti - he played very well. He served really well and didn't give me many opportunities. He pressured me when it mattered."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

HCURUXOCQZGC TGQY YFZUNHAFJUYFN YUHX PGXOQPNGYJ. OG TGQ RUAF YUH ZYGUO NHFJ? Saturday's Cryptoquip: FOR MAKING DINNER DO YOU THINK PEOPLE OF THE HIMALAYAS USE MOUNTAIN RANGES? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T