

# UEFA Cup Venomous Vieri

Football

REUTERS, London

Italian clubs turned on the style in the UEFA Cup on Thursday as Inter Milan hammered Ipswich Town 4-1, Parma won 3-0 at Brondby and AC Milan also reached the fourth round.

The fates of Scottish sides were settled by penalty shoot-outs, with Celtic losing 5-4 to Valencia in Glasgow and Rangers, for whom Ronald de Boer missed a spot-kick late in extra-time, edging out Paris St Germain 4-3.

Individual performance of the night came from Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, who scored a hat-trick the vital third goal coming in injury time as Lyon recovered sensationally from a 4-1 defeat at Club Brugge with a 3-0 win.

Inter's Christian Vieri also bagged a hat-trick as the Serie A leaders avenged their shock 1-0 defeat at Portman Road in the first leg two weeks ago.

Vieri took full advantage of two first-half free-kicks, heading home one and volleying in another before setting up the third for strike partner Mohammed Kallon just after the break.

He rounded Ipswich's Italian keeper Matteo Sereni before slotting home the fourth, while Alun Armstrong, who scored the winner a fortnight ago, converted a late consolation penalty for the Suffolk club.

"This is the Vieri we all want to see," said Inter coach Hector Cuper. "He had a brilliant match. As a striker, his finishing is top quality."

Ipswich manager George Burley agreed.

"That's why they paid 33 million pounds (\$46.90 million) for him," he said.

Parma, held 1-1 at home by Brondby and facing an embarrassing exit, tore the Danes to shreds in a one-sided game in Copenhagen, Patrick Mboma, Hidetoshi Nakata and Sabri Lamouchi getting the goals in a 3-0 victory.

AC Milan, 2-0 winners at the San Siro, left it late to snatch a 1-1 draw at Sporting Lisbon, Spanish striker Javi Moreno scoring in the fourth minute of extra time.

However, a fourth Italian team, Fiorentina, decimated by injuries, were beaten 2-0 by French club Lille to exit 3-0 on aggregate.

Valencia, Champions League finalists for the last two seasons and 1-0 winners in the first leg against Celtic, were rocked by Henrik Larsson's strike on Thursday.

Trailing at the start of the shootout, the Spaniards had goalkeeper Santiago Canizares to thank for their place in the last 16.

"Even when we missed penalties



PHOTO: AFP

Inter Milan's Italian ace Christian Vieri (L) goes on a run while a player of English club Ipswich Town tries to keep pace in their UEFA Cup encounter in Milan on December 6.

ourselves, I still thought we would go through," Valencia coach Rafael Benitez said.

Three and a half hours without a goal sent Rangers' match against PSG to penalties, the turning point coming when the French team's

Mauricio Pochettino sent his spot-kick over the top.

Leeds United were held to a 2-2 by Grasshoppers at Elland Road but eased through 4-3 on aggregate after their 2-1 win in Switzerland two weeks ago.



PHOTO: AFP

Valencia goalkeeper Santiago Canizares makes a smart save to deny Scottish champions Celtic during their UEFA Cup shootout on December 6. The Spanish side won 5-4 on penalties.

Australia's Harry Kewell opened the scoring for Leeds with a superb solo run that started in his own half.

Richard Nunez levelled for Grasshoppers, Robbie Keane restored the hosts' lead before the break but they were denied a win by Nunez's second goal of the night, a shot from 20 metres out.

Leeds manager David O'Leary was scathing of his side's display. "There were too many poor performances out there from my players. There was a poor standard from both sides and it was almost like a practice match."

Dutch fans had a good night as PSV Eindhoven overturned a 3-2 defeat to PAOK Salonika with a thumping 4-1 home win, including two goals from Jan Venegor of Hesselink. Feyenoord came from 2-0 down with goals from Pierre Van Hooijdonk and Leonardo Santiago to secure a 2-2 draw at SC Freiburg, having won 1-0 at home.

There was no escape, though, for Real Mallorca, who were knocked out of the Champions League and then beaten home and away by Czech outsiders Slovan Liberec to lose 5-2 on aggregate.

Servette of Switzerland went through after a 3-0 win over 10-man Hertha Berlin, who had Dick van Burik dismissed after only 18 minutes, while a 1-1 away draw was enough for AEK Athens to seal a 4-3 aggregate success over Litex Lovech of Bulgaria.

Borussia Dortmund, Roda JC Kerkrade and Hapoel Tel Aviv reached the last 16 on Tuesday. The competition now takes a break until the fourth round in late February.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collated results of UEFA Cup third round second leg matches played Thursday:

At Paris  
Paris Saint Germain (Fra) 0  
Rangers (Sco) 0  
(after extra time, 0-0 on aggregate)

Rangers win 4-3 on penalties  
At Glasgow  
Celtic (Sco) 1 (Larsson 45)  
Valencia (Spa) 0  
(after extra time, 1-1 on aggregate)

Valencia win 5-4 on penalties  
At Lisbon  
Sporting Lisbon (Por) 1  
(Niculae 49) AC Milan (Ita) 1  
(Moreno 90)

AC Milan win 3-1 on aggregate  
At Palma, Spain  
Real Mallorca (Spa) 1 (Etoo 80-pen)  
Slovan Liberec (Cze) 2  
(Baffour 55, Stajner 68)  
Slovan Liberec win 5-2 on aggregate

At Freiburg, Germany  
SC Freiburg (Ger) 2 (Kehl 22, Kobiashvili 49) Feyenoord (Ned) 2  
(Van Hooijdonk 57, Santiago 86)  
Feyenoord win 3-2 on aggregate

At Milan, Italy  
Inter Milan (Ita) 4 (Vieri 19, 35, 70, Kallon 46) Ipswich Town (Eng) 1  
(Armstrong 79-pen)  
Inter win 4-2 on aggregate  
At Leeds, England  
Leeds United (Eng) 2 (Kewell 19, Keane 45) Grasshoppers (Swi) 2 (Nunez 45, 90)

Leeds win 4-3 on aggregate  
At Eindhoven, Netherlands  
PSV Eindhoven (Ned) 4  
(Venegor of Hesselink 2, 58, Gakhov 33, Van Bommel 90-pen)  
PAOK Salonika (Gre) 1 (Da Souza 59)

Eindhoven win 6-4 on aggregate  
At Lyon, France  
Lyon (Fra) 3 (Anderson 19, 23, 90) FC Brugge (Bel) 0  
Aggregate 4-4: Lyon win on away goals

At Copenhagen  
Brondby (Den) 0 Parma (Ita) 3  
(Mboma 43, Nakata 57, Di Vaio 71)

Parma win 4-1 on aggregate  
At Lille, France  
Lille (Fra) 2 (Br. Cheyrou 33, Sterjovski 79) Fiorentina (Ita) 0  
Lille win 3-0 on aggregate  
At Lovech, Bulgaria  
Lovech (Bul) 1 (Yurukov 90)

AEK Athens (Gre) 1 (Gamara 14)  
AEK Athens win 4-3 on aggregate  
At Berlin  
Hertha Berlin (Ger) 0 Servette Geneva (Swi) 3 (Hilton 17, Frei 49, Obradovic 70)

Servette win 3-0 on aggregate  
Played Tuesday:  
At Dortmund, Germany  
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1  
(Sorensen 89) FC Copenhagen (Den) 0

Dortmund qualify 2-0 on aggregate  
At Kerkrade, Netherlands  
Roda JC Kerkrade (Ned) 2  
(Anastasiou 57-pen, Lawal 65)  
Bordeaux (Fra) 0

Roda JC Kerkrade qualify 2-1  
At Ramenskoye, Russia  
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 0  
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 1 (Oster 48)  
Hapoel Tel Aviv qualify 3-1 on aggregate



PHOTO: AFP

German football legend Franz Beckenbauer (C), who is president of the 2006 World Cup organising committee, unveils a model of the restructured Dusseldorf Rhein Arena in Frankfurt on December 7.

## Serie A preview

# A clash of glamour

Football

AFP, Milan

Italian football's most glamorous fixture tops the bill in this weekend's Serie A programme and this time it's personal.

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has an old score to settle as his team hosts Juventus, the club that sacked him last season unfairly in the view of most observers.

Ancelotti, whose Juve team had been pipped to the title on the last day of the 1999-2000 season by Lazio, was informed last May that he would be removed and replaced by Marcello Lippi even though at that time Juve were very much in contention for the 2000-1 title.

He chose not to tell the players but in the end the news leaked out and despite a brave late rally by the Turin side AS Roma held out to win their first title for 18 years, meaning Ancelotti was denied the perfect parting shot.

But on Sunday he has a chance to settle the score in a fixture between the two greatest sides in Italian football. Juventus are the most successful side in Serie A history with no less than 25 Scudetti out of the 96 contested.

Next best are AC Milan with 16 titles. But the 'Rossoneri' (red and

blacks) have the edge over Juve in European competition with five European Cups compared to Juve's two. Only Real Madrid of Spain, with eight, have done better.

Ancelotti, renowned as one of football's nice guys, has studiously avoided wounding up Juve this week but no love will be lost at the San Siro which has already sold all 80,000 tickets on sale - a venomous atmosphere between the two eternal adversaries is guaranteed.

Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani admitted when Ancelotti joined the club last month in place of the sacked Fatih Terim that he would have offered the job to him last spring had he known Juve were intending to dispense with his services.

Ancelotti, revered as a member of the 'Grande Milan' team that was the best club side in the world in the late 1980s, has made a fine start since returning to the San Siro with Milan up in fourth, just two points ahead of Juve.

Victory over Lippi, whose Champions League campaign was compromised by defeat at the hands of Arsenal this week, would be the icing on the cake.

Meanwhile, Milan's other side Inter hope to cement their hold on the top spot they reclaimed from Chievo last week when they visit Brescia. But any slip-up there would

give Chievo the chance to return to the summit by beating Lecce in Verona.

Many would see that as natural justice as Chievo were the victims of dubious refereeing in their 3-2 defeat by AC Milan at the San Siro last week while Inter benefited from equally suspect decisions in the 4-2 victory over Atalanta that sealed their return to the top.

Both referees concerned were disciplined this week.

Champions AS Roma, joint second with Chievo, would also be potential beneficiaries of an Inter slip-up, assuming they beat crisis club Parma whose situation was alleviated this week by victory against Denmark's Brondby in the UEFA Cup.

Lazio, also very much in contention, host Fiorentina while bottom club Venezia aim for what would be a first win of the season at Perugia. Torino host Atalanta while Verona make the trip north to play Udinese.

Piacenza entertain Bologna on Saturday.

**Fixtures (14:00 GMT unless stated) Saturday:** Piacenza v Bologna (19:30 GMT)

**Sunday:** Brescia v Inter Milan, Chievo v Lecce, Lazio v Fiorentina, Parma v AS Roma, Perugia v Venezia, Torino v Atalanta, Udinese v Verona, AC Milan v Juventus (19:30 GMT)

## Primera Liga preview

# Anxious Alaves

Football

AFP, Madrid

Alaves are eager to ensure that they do not suffer from vertigo now that they have finally made it to the top of the Spanish first division for the first time in nearly 71 years.

The Basques face a tricky trip to Real Zaragoza on Sunday, where they have never won in the league.

"It's games like this that make me a bit wary about being here in the first place. I prefer anonymity, because that is the way it has always been," joked Alaves' inspirational coach Mane Ensal.

Since Mane arrived at Alaves in the summer of 1997, he has guided the modest club - which has a budget approximately one tenth that of Spanish giants Real Madrid - to promotion from the Spanish second division and also last season's UEFA Cup final.

Despite the euphoria of their most recent achievement, Mane has been keen to remind his players to keep this week's celebrations muted as there are still another 23 games to go before they can consider themselves champions.

They lead the league with 27 points from 15 games, but are only ahead of Real Betis on goal differ-

ence. Mane has also been honest enough to acknowledge that the club has only risen to their elevated position because clubs such as Deportivo La Coruna, Celta Vigo and Valencia have squandered chances against notationally weaker opponents.

Many players paid tribute to Mane this week, as the man responsible for getting them to the top.

Alaves are expected to make two changes to the side that beat Barcelona 2-0 last Saturday.

Central midfielder Magno Mocellin is banned and should be replaced by either Lon Mara or Richard Witschge while former Spanish international defender Delfi Geli might be rested, giving Christopher Kanu an opportunity to start a game.

Real Betis will look to keep up the pressure on Alaves with a good result at relegation-threatened Real Sociedad, where the job of Welsh coach John Toshack is in jeopardy.

Betis were less than impressive in finishing off Tenerife 1-0, who ended last Sunday's game with only eight men, and their coach Juande Ramos may alter his attack with Argentine striker Gabriel Amato coming in for his lacklustre Portuguese counterpart Joao Tomas.

Tenerife will miss four regular starters for the visit of Real Madrid

after the debacle against Betis.

The Argentine duo of Federico Basavilbaso and Bruno Marioni are banned, after getting sent off, while Bichi Fuentes and Samuel Slovak are injured.

With the depth of their squad, Real Madrid have no real worries and are the team in form after winning their last three league matches, and five of their last six.

The defending champions have risen from 11th place to fifth in the last month and, in a congested top half of the table, are now only two points behind Alaves.

English midfielder Steve McManaman is doubtful with continued back problems and French international Claude Makelele had a bout of flu during the week, so Madrid are expected to field a similar side to that which beat Panathinaikos 3-0 in the European Champions League on Tuesday.

**Saturday (kick off 15:00 GMT unless noted)** Tenerife v Real Madrid (20:00), Sevilla v Athletic Bilbao (19:30)

**Sunday:** Deportivo La Coruna v Valencia, Real Mallorca v Malaga, Osasuna v Valladolid, Rayo Vallecano v Las Palmas, Real Sociedad v Real Betis, Villarreal v Espanyol, Real Zaragoza v Alaves, Barcelona v Celta Vigo (18:00)

## Bad boy Barthez

AFP, London

Fabien Barthez will receive a written warning from the Football Association (FA) after he gestured to Arsenal fans during Manchester United's 3-1 English Premiership defeat at Highbury last month.

France goalkeeper Barthez, whose two mistakes in the game handed Arsenal victory, signalled behind his back to some of the home supporters.

## Premiership preview

# MU hope to carry on

Football

AFP, London

Reigning Premiership champions Manchester United will be looking to revive their ailing league form when they face lowly Londoners West Ham at Old Trafford on Saturday. Alex Ferguson's United are

currently eighth in the table with the Scot, in his final season in charge, having already said they cannot win the title after five losses during the campaign already.

However, they responded to last Saturday's 3-0 defeat by Premiership rivals Chelsea with an equally convincing victory by the same scoreline over Portuguese titleholders Boavista on Wednesday in the Champions League.

Ferguson said the midweek win showed "what we're capable of".

But he added: "I think we all knew what we were capable of anyway."

"But we can put things to bed until February 20 (when the Champions League resumes) and go and try and regain some form in the league. That is important."

On the downside for United is that they will be without central defender Wes Brown.

He missed the Boavista match after injuring himself in training on Monday and Ferguson said: "It's his medial ligaments and I think he will be out for six weeks to two months." Brown's absence appears to leave United short of defensive options as Laurent Blanc broke his nose against Boavista, full-back Gary Neville injured his groin and central defenders Ronny Johnsen and David May are already on the sidelines.

The good news though is that England captain David Beckham should be back in United's midfield after missing the Boavista match, although Ferguson insisted he had not dropped his under-performing playmaker but rested him instead.

"I think he's had a long season and I think that can take its toll," said the United manager.

"He has been bothered with a back injury and sometimes we have to arrest that before it gets any worse."

After a shaky start, under new manager Glenn Roeder, West Ham have been clawing their way up the table and are currently fifth from bottom, six points out of the relegation zone.

An equaliser, deep into stoppage time, against high-flying Aston Villa saw them gain a 1-1 draw on Wednesday.

The one slight concern for Roeder was that regular penalty-taker and resident creative genius Paolo Di Canio saw his spot-kick saved by Villa's Peter Enckelman.

## Bundesliga preview

# L'kusen title-hungry

Football

AFP, Berlin

The old saying that a week is a long time in football - and not just politics - was clearer than ever in Germany

over the past week as Bayer Leverkusen clung onto top spot at Bayern Munich's expense.

Leverkusen are desperate to break their title duck after several near misses in recent seasons and go into Saturday's game at home to Nuremberg with a two-point lead over Dortmund and four ahead of Bayern.

Last weekend saw Leverkusen go down to their first league defeat - at Werder Bremen - just two days after they opened their Champions League second phase with a 4-0 hiding at Juventus.

But Bayern's loss at Hertha Berlin which followed, coupled with Bayer's 3-0 waltz on Wednesday against Spain's Deportivo La Coruna, has put a spring in the step

of Leverkusen's coach Klaus Topmoller.

"If you hammer a top Spanish side 3-0 it's almost time to clink your glasses and wish yourselves a Merry Christmas," joked Topmoller - though he added he wouldn't do so for a few days yet.

Nuremberg are mulling whether to play their new signing from Leverkusen Paulo Rink, signed three weeks ago for 500,000 marks (230,000 dollars) but whose contract includes a clause that if he faces his old club, the fee will be doubled.

**FIXTURES**

**Saturday:** Bayern Munich v VfL Wolfsburg, VfB Stuttgart v 1860 Munich, Energie Cottbus v FC Kaiserslautern, Borussia Dortmund v SV Hamburg, Sankt Pauli v Werder Bremen, Bayer Leverkusen FC Nuremberg, Borussia Monchengladbach v Hansa Rostock.

**Sunday:** SC Freiburg v Cologne, Schalke 04 v Hertha Berlin.

## Dogged Sino diplomat

AFP, Seoul

China's Ambassador to Seoul Li Bin on Friday threw his weight behind Koreans eating dog meat, an age-old practice that has come under the spotlight ahead of next year's World Cup, which South Korea will co-host with Japan.

"Cuisine is part of culture. You must not apply one standard to all countries in the world," Li Bin told a group of South Korean newspaper editors and broadcasters.

"The world we are living in is a place of variety and abundance," he said.

The World Cup has been seized upon by animal rights activists as the focus for a new campaign to get the South Korean authorities to clamp down on the mistreatment of dogs being prepared for consumption.

Football's international governing body FIFA has added its voice to the protests.