



PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal's Swedish international Freddie Ljungberg (R) watches his shot go into the net past PSV keeper Ronald Waterreus and defender Wilfred Bouma (C) in Eindhoven on September 25.

# Gunners all guns blazing



AFP, Eindhoven

Free-scoring Arsenal banished their away-day Champions League blues Wednesday with an imperious 4-0 drubbing over their Dutch hosts PSV Eindhoven.

A double from the outstanding Thierry Henry and goals from Freddie Ljungberg and Brazilian Gilberto left Arsenal with maximum points after two games in Group A.

But the match was marred when Dutch fans hurled missiles and racist abuse at Henry who voiced hopes that UEFA would investigate the incident.

The English champions' French boss Arsene Wenger predicted after the match that the Gunners had finally broken their jinx away from home in Europe after registering just one draw and five defeats in last season's campaign.

"This result tonight convinces us that we can be as strong away from home as we are at home," Wenger told reporters.

"I never felt we had an away problem because in the (English) championship we did well away from home."

Wenger hailed his team for their "class and spirit" and said that the final score could have been even more comprehensive.

"In the second half it was all us... Every time we won the ball it looked like we could come out and score."

PSV boss Guus Hiddink also paid tribute to Arsenal, conceding that his team had been totally outclassed.

"In the second half it was not a match anymore. We tried to press but they were clever enough to dominate us in all areas of the team. They have world class players to make the final killing pass etc, etc."

The Gunners got off to a dream

start when Gilberto slotted home from six yards with just 29 seconds on the clock.

The Brazilian World Cup winner was on the end of a left-wing cross from Henry who had been fed by the veteran Dennis Bergkamp, who had ended his boycotting of away fixtures because of his fear of flying to drive over and help out his team.

Swedish winger Ljungberg then finished from an acute angle on the right-hand side in the 67th minute before Henry scored a killer third in the 78th minute and a fourth in the second minute of injury time.

Bergkamp was at the heart of many of Arsenal's best moves on his first European appearance outside Highbury since the 2000 UEFA Cup Final.

The 33-year-old had driven from London over the weekend and looked fresh and alert from the start.

The former Ajax star was roundly booed by the Eindhoven fans when the line-up was read out but he showed the kind of ice cold composure that he has demonstrated away from Highbury in the Premiership where Arsenal remain unbeaten on their travels since the 2000-01 season.

He nearly scored himself in the 72nd minute when he lifted the ball over goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus but was thwarted by a late intervention from right-back Andre Ooijer.

Wenger has spoken of his belief that Arsenal could finally make an impact in the Champions League this season after a string of disappointing campaigns.

He picked a typically attacking line-up with Bergkamp operating just behind Henry and fellow French international Sylvain Wiltord.

After taking their early lead, Arsenal were soon struggling to cope with the pace of the lively Yugoslav forward Mateja Kezman who twice had goals ruled out for offside.

PSV enjoyed the majority of the

possession in the first half but failed to convert their chances.

Kezman also put two flying headers just wide of David Seaman's right-hand post before the Arsenal keeper bravely denied him with his feet in the 24th minute.

Arsenal were forced to make an early change when Martin Keown was stretched off in the ninth minute but French replacement Pascal Cygan settled in quickly.

The Gunners however continued to probe Eindhoven's shaky right flank with the pace of Henry a constant threat.

They stepped up at least two gears in the second half and Gilberto should have scored a second a minute after Ljungberg's strike when set up in the box by Henry but pushed his shot just wide of Waterreus's right-hand post.

Henry was then rewarded for his constant running when he muscled his way past Kasper Bogeland after latching on to a through ball from Nwankwo Kanu who had come on just a minute earlier for Bergkamp.

He then completed the rout in the dying seconds when squeezing the ball between Waterreus and the Dutchman's right-hand post after being released by Wiltord.

Henry later revealed that Dutch fans had thrown coins and cigarette lighters at him as he tried to take a corner.

"They were throwing coins, lighters and other stuff," he told reporters.

"I do not want to talk about it because I just want to talk about football but it's a bit of a shame."

The Eindhoven fans are thought to have chanted racist abuse at the black striker who would only say that "obviously I have two ears but you did not hear me shout back".

The result leaves PSV's hopes of advancing hanging by a thread but

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collated Champions League results on Wednesday:

**GROUP A**  
At Eindhoven, Netherlands  
PSV Eindhoven (Ned) 0 Arsenal (Eng) 4 (Silva 1, Ljungberg 66, Henry 82, 90)

At Dortmund, Germany  
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 2 (Koller 6, Amoroso 78) Auxerre (Fra) 1 (Benjani 83)

**GROUP B**  
At Liverpool England  
Liverpool (Eng) 1 (Baros 34) FC Basel (Swi) 1 (Rossi 43)

At Moscow  
Spartak Moscow (Rus) 0 Valencia (Spa) 3 (Angulo 6, Mista 71, Sanchez 85)

**GROUP C**  
At Athens  
AEK Athens (Gre) 0 AS Roma (Ita) 0

At Madrid  
Real Madrid (Spa) 6 (Zokora 44-og, Salgado 45, Figo 55-pen, Guti 64, Celades 74, Raul 76) Genk (Bel) 0

**GROUP D**  
At Milan  
Inter Milan (Ita) 1 (Crespo 74) Ajax (Ned) 0

At Lyon, France  
Lyon (Fra) 5 (Carriere 6, Vairelles 25, 45, Anderson 34, Luyindula 75) Rosenborg (Nor) 0

## Rayo rope in Mrs. Ronaldo

AFP, Madrid

Ronaldo's wife Milene Domingues has joined the woman's team at Rayo Vallecano, the Madrid club revealed on Wednesday.

She is due to line up for her new team on Thursday night for the game against Atletico Madrid two days before her World Cup winning husband has been slated for his debut for the European champions.

Domingues is a keen footballer, and during her time in Italy when her husband was with Inter Milan she played for Monza.

Her male counterparts at Rayo Vallecano are due to play her husband's Real Madrid side in the Spanish league on November 10.

## Bebeto comes to Saudi Arabia

AFP, Riyadh

Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning star Bebeto arrived here Thursday to join his new Saudi club Al-Ittihad with whom he has signed a one-year deal worth 1.1 million dollars.

Some 3,000 fans greeted the 38-year-old player on his arrival at the King Abdul Aziz airport in Jeddah.

"I'm proud of this first experience in an Arab country," said the Brazilian. "I'm expecting to have a successful experience with Al-Ittihad. My age will not impede my football but it's a bit of a shame."

The Eindhoven fans are thought to have chanted racist abuse at the black striker who would only say that "obviously I have two ears but you did not hear me shout back".

The result leaves PSV's hopes of advancing hanging by a thread but

# Ronaldo breaks silence



AFP/REUTERS, Rome

Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo claimed Thursday that he was forced to leave Italian outfit Inter Milan because coach Hector Cuper wanted to destroy him.

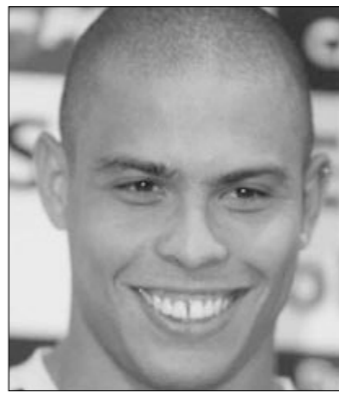
Ronaldo, who signed for Real Madrid this summer for 45 million euros (44.1m dollars) after a lengthy transfer wrangle with Inter Milan, claimed he was forced to leave because of the Argentine's unacceptable behaviour.

"I left Inter because of Cuper," Ronaldo claimed in a lengthy interview with Gazzetta dello Sport. "I told him so to his face. I told him that I didn't believe in his work and that he wasn't sincere with me."

"Because of him I ran risks for my career. I hurt myself four or five times because he didn't follow the advice of doctors. And he knew that he made a mistake, that's why I talk of bad faith."

"He didn't play me when I was fit, and he made me train or kept me on the pitch when I wasn't," he added.

The Brazilian star had previously refused to reveal the reasons behind his transfer from Inter to



RONALDO

Real, but said he had changed his mind after personal attacks by Italian fans.

No-one was immediately available for comment at Inter.

Ronaldo spent most of last season injured or on the bench and was substituted by Cuper in Inter's final match of the season, when his side agonisingly let the Serie A title slip through their fingers, losing 4-2 to Lazio in Rome.

He compared his stop-start season in Italy with his explosive - and injury-free - performances at the World Cup, where he scored eight goals.

"I injured muscles four or five

times (at Inter)," he told La Gazzetta. "They were serious problems, not little ones. While at the World Cup you saw that if I'm working well I don't have problems."

The World Cup's top scorer also hit out at club president Massimo Moratti whom he said had failed to listen to his concerns about Cuper.

"I explained my reasons well to him (Moratti)," said Ronaldo. "He replied that he didn't really understand and that he thought that it was just a play by my agent to get more money."

"In fact I just wanted him to get rid of Cuper. Then Moratti told me 'try to put up with him a little longer, coaches change'. But I couldn't put up with him any more," explained Ronaldo.

"I had enough of him acting the boss. With Cuper you just have to obey. And as well he never laughs, never talks to anyone."

Ronaldo said that he had been disappointed by Moratti who stood by him during his long fight back to fitness after two career-threatening leg operations.

"I always had a marvellous relationship with him (Moratti) but this time he disappointed me because after five years during which I received a lot but also gave a lot to Inter he no longer believed in

me and preferred a man who never won anything and who forced me to leave."

Ronaldo claimed that "60 percent of the team, maybe more, hate Cuper."

His former club have made a good start this season, winning both Serie A games and beating classy Dutch side Ajax in the Champions League on Wednesday.

According to Ronaldo their success masks deep divisions between players and coach.

He identified former strike partner Christian Vieri as one of the players who frequently came into conflict with the Argentine coach.

Asked whether he believed the current Inter squad was capable of winning the Serie A title, he said: "It's a team that will go all the way to the wire in the race for the title. But to win, you have to know how to win."

During the interview Ronaldo had praise for just two players - Italian Vieri and Frenchman Zinedine Zidane.

The Brazilian said former Inter teammate Vieri was one of the few people who understood him and he hoped he would join him at Real Madrid, while he praised Real teammate Zidane for being the only person to visit him when he underwent knee surgery in Paris.

# Real's six appeal



AFP, Madrid

Imperious Real Madrid thrashed cannon-fodder Genk in a record equalling 6-0 victory in the European Champions League on Wednesday as they further confirmed their status as favourites to win their 10th title this season.

Madrid won 3-0 at AS Roma in their opening Group C clash last week and have started the defence of their crown with gusto as they have managed to both win and win well in their opening two fixtures.

Madrid's rout of Genk equalled those of Marseille, who won 6-0 against CSKA Moscow in March 1993, and Leeds United who inflicted the same margin on Turkish outfit Besiktas two years ago.

Even without key players Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Claude Makalele, the Madrid squad's galaxy of stars yet again earned an overwhelming European victory in front of their 60,000, success-hungry fans at the Santiago-Bernabeu.

It was a lukewarm start for the hosts however as Genk looked comfortable on the ball in the early stages though the class of Vicente Del Bosque's men eventually held sway.

An own goal by Ivory Coast's Didier Zokora in the 44th minute, a further strike by Michel Salgado in first-half injury time, and then a Luis Figo penalty 10 minutes after the break opened the scoring floodgates.

Goals from Guti on 64 minutes, Albert Celades 10 minutes later and then Raul in the 76th minute finished off the rout.

Though minnows Genk started



PHOTO: AFP

THAT'S ANOTHER ONE FOR YOU! Real Madrid superstar Raul Gonzalez kisses his ring after scoring against Genk at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on September 25.

# Basel baffle Liverpool



AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool's Champions League campaign suffered another setback here on Wednesday as they were held to a 1-1 draw by FC Basel in their Group B clash.

Czech striker Milan Baros capped a superb all-round performance with a first half goal to take his tally for the season to four goals from three starts and set Gerrard Hoollier's men on their way to what looked like being a comfortable victory.

But Argentinian striker Julio Rossi snatched an equaliser two minutes before the interval, totally against the run of play, and Liverpool were unable to turn their overwhelming dominance into a winner.

It was an intensely frustrating night for Gerrard Hoollier's men, who struck the woodwork three times, were denied twice by superb saves from Pascal Zuberbuhler in the Basel goal and also might have had a second half penalty when Christian Gimenez handled in the area.

"It is the kind of night that is extremely frustrating for the players," Hoollier said.

"We played some wonderful football and we must have had six or eight chances to score. Nobody would have complained if we had won. And it was a blatant penalty."

After their defeat in Valencia last week, Liverpool now face a tough battle for survival.

With Valencia defeating Spartak Moscow in Russia earlier in the day, the trip to Basel in November looks deciding which team will join them in the second phase.

But Hoollier denied the Swiss had obtained a crucial edge.

"It is still very open. The next two

games will be decisive but I'm confident that if we keep that style of play, the results will come."

Basel coach Christian Gross admitted his side had enjoyed some luck. But he added: "Sometimes you deserve a bit of luck and I think we did. We were under a lot of pressure but we never looked that nervous."

"Mentally it was a very good performance and we are going back home stronger than we came here."

Hoollier was adamant that Liverpool should have had a penalty when Gimenez handled. But Gross, who had an unhappy spell with Spurs, said his player had told him he had been pushed just before his hand made contact with the ball.

A draw was certainly not an outcome anyone would have predicted as Liverpool started the match at a breakneck pace.

Norway international John Arne Riise was denied twice by the bar inside the first ten minutes and the match was 20 minutes old before Basel had a shot on goal. Hakan Yakin's overhead kick flying just wide.

Michael Owen's current lack of confidence was underlined in the 25th minute after a Bruno Cheyrou pass found him in the kind of one-on-one situation he normally revels in.

The England striker showed no trouble finding a yard of space but, as so often this season, the shot was sliced wide of the target.

Baros though was more than making up for his team-mate's lacklustre form and he had gone close twice before he finally got his reward in the 33rd minute.

A slack pass from Antonio Esposito across the half-way line was intercepted by Emile Heskey who fed Baros and sprinted into the box to meet his return pass.

The England international might have shot himself but opted to cut the ball back for the Czech to smash an unstoppable low shot past

Zuberbuhler.

A minute later a Cheyrou free-kick grazed the top of the bar after the irrepressible Baros was pulled down on the edge of the area.

At that stage it looked as if Basel might crumble and it took a fantastic save from Zuberbuhler to keep Baros from scoring his second with a glancing header that was headed straight for the top corner five minutes before the break.

Three minutes later Esposito made amends for his earlier error with a sublime little chip into the Liverpool box that caught Stephane Henchoz on his heels.

Rossi nipped in behind the big Swiss defender, pulled the ball down and fired a left foot shot through Dudek's legs.

Baros was desperately unlucky again a minute before the break. Fastening on to a mishit shot from Gerrard, he managed to turn and get in a shot that struck the inside of the post and rebounded across the face of the goal.

Liverpool picked up where they left off immediately after the break with the industrious Heskey testing Zuberbuhler with a fierce low drive. Baros was denied again just after the hour mark, this time by the boot of the lunging Murat Yakin.

Liverpool boss brought El Hadji Diouf on for Heskey and the Senegal World Cup star made an immediate impact, cutting in from the left and unleashing a 20-yard drive that Zuberbuhler did fantastically well to reach and palm over.

Diouf should have won the match for Liverpool ten minutes from time when he rose the Swiss defence to meet Gerrard's free-kick from the right only to head straight into the arms of the relieved Zuberbuhler.

It was to prove Liverpool's last chance of the night - and one that could herald the death of this year's campaign on Europe's biggest stage.

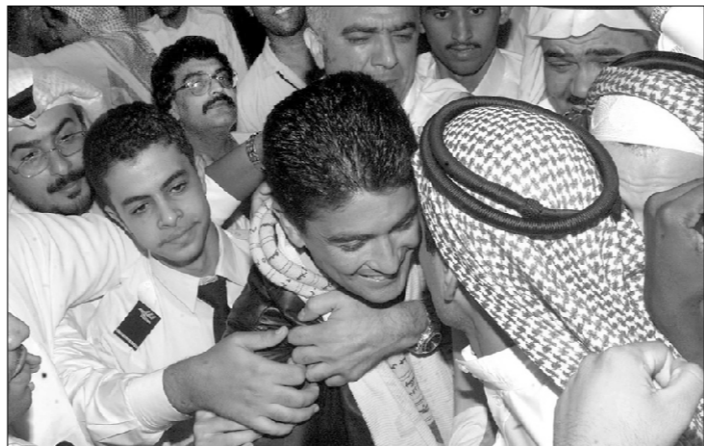


PHOTO: AFP

AHLAN WA SAHLAN! Former Brazilian star Bebeto is received by Saudi fans upon his arrival at King Abdul Aziz airport in Jeddah on September 25. The 1994 World Cup winner has signed a one-season contract with Saudi club Al-Ittihad.

## STANDINGS

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

GROUP A						
Arsenal (Eng)	2	2	0	0	6	0 6
Borussia Dortmund (Ger)	2	1	0	1	2	3 3
Auxerre (Fra)	2	0	1	1	1	2 1
PSV Eindhoven (Ned)	2	0	1	1	0	4 1

GROUP B						
Valencia (Spa)	2	2	0	0	5	0 6
Basel (Swi)	2	1	1	0	3	1 4
Liverpool (Eng)	2	0	1	1	1	3 1
Spartak Moscow (Rus)	2	0	0	2	0	5 0

GROUP C						
Real Madrid (Spa)	2	2	0	0	9	0 6
AEK Athens (Gre)	2	0	2	0	0	0 2
AS Roma (Ita)	2	0	1	1	0	3 1
Genk (Bel)	2	0	1	1	0	6 1

GROUP D						
Inter Milan (Ita)	2	1	1	0	3	2 4
Lyon (Fra)	2	1	0	1	6	2 3
Ajax (Ned)	2	1	0	1	2	2 3
Rosenborg (Nor)	2	0	1	1	2	7 1

# Crespo Inter's hero



AFP, Milan

Argentine star striker Hernan Crespo showed that Brazilian World Cup hero Ronaldo would not be missed here Wednesday as he scored the only goal for Inter Milan in their 1-0 victory over Ajax in the Champions League Group D clash.

The 25-year-old, who scored both goals in the 2-2 draw with Norwegian outfit Rosenborg last week, produced a superb volley in the 74th minute to send the Italians to the top of their Group and inflict the first defeat of any kind on their Dutch opponents this term.

His flash of goalscoring brilliance was not in keeping with a relatively dreary clash between two of the European giants, whose only previous meeting in this competition had seen Ajax take the trophy back in 1972.

Crespo latched onto compatriot Mattias Almeyda's right wing cross to send the ball crashing past reserve goalkeeper Henk Timmer,

who had replaced Maarten Stekelenburg in the first-half. Prior to that Ajax had gone closest to taking the three points with a cheeky 67th minute effort from Andy van der Meide, whose 25 yard chip had the keeper Francesco Toldo beaten but crept over the crossbar.

The first-half had seen Stekelenburg first into action as he reacted sharply in the fifth minute and threw himself at Crespo's feet after Christian Vieri had knocked the ball down to him.

His Italian counterpart Toldo earned his money when he was equal to Victor Sikora's header 11 minutes later as Ajax operated on the counter-attack and a minute later pushed round the post fiery Swedish international striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic's shot.

Ajax suffered a blow halfway through the first period when Stekelenburg was forced off with a high injury and was replaced by Timmer.

However Inter too had their injury woes as one of their two Turkish World Cup heroes Emre Belozoglu went off seven minutes into the second-half with what appeared to be a thigh injury.

# Roma's first point

AFP, Athens

Italian giants AS Roma won their first point of any kind this season here Wednesday but the 0-0 draw with Greek outfit AEK Athens in their Group C Champions League clash will have provided little comfort to coach Fabio Capello.

While the home team dominated most of the match and created a number of scoring opportunities, it was Roma - who are pointless after two matches in the Italian championship and lost 3-0 to Real Madrid last week - which nearly stole the points in the dying seconds of the match.

A blistering free kick from just outside the penalty box by Italian international defender Christian Panucci in the last action of the match whizzed by AEK goalkeeper Dionysios Chiotis and smacked the left post.

It was the best chance that Roma had of scoring in the match as the Greeks controlled most of the play in the very humid weather which drained the efforts of both sides.

# England, SA to make history



AFP, London

England will play their first international football match in South Africa next year, the Football Association (FA) announced Wednesday.

Following a long-standing request from former South Africa