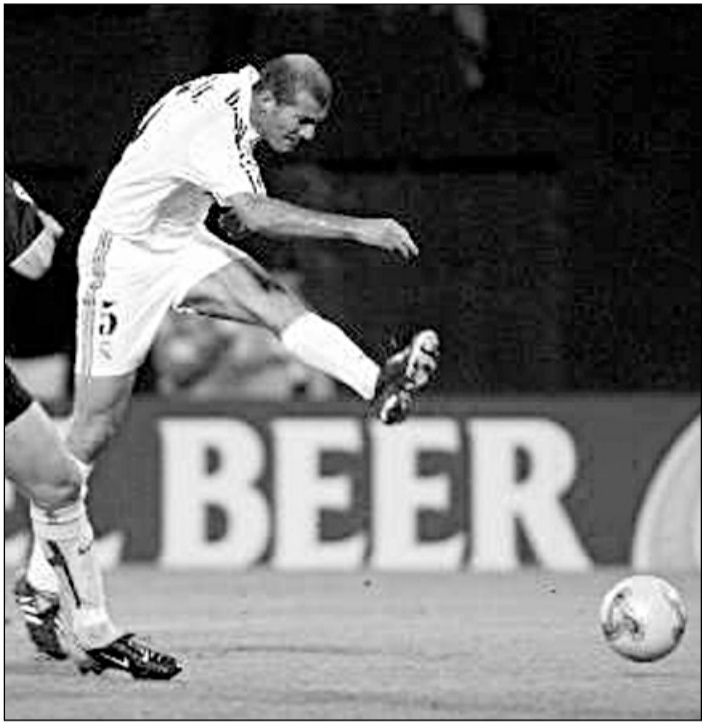


AEK a Real match



AEK Athens have given Real Madrid their first real test of this season's Champions League...



Real Madrid superstar Zinedine Zidane (R) shoots for his team's first goal against AEK Athens at the Nikos Goumas stadium in Athens on October 2.

"It was a beautiful spectacle, there were a lot of chances," he said. "We dominated the game but AEK had the superior attack..."

Bajevic declared Roma favourites to follow Madrid into the second phase. "As with the other games we had the chances but we have only three points..."

Roma's first victory

AS Roma needed a late goal to beat 10-man Genk 1-0 on Wednesday...

Substitute Antonio Cassano headed in a loose ball in the 81st minute after the Belgian defence failed to clear.

"It's hard, especially to lose with a goal like that," dejected Genk midfielder Bernd Thijs told Club RTL TV. "It's really disappointing."

Dortmund on course

Borussia Dortmund took a big step towards the second stage of the Champions League...

It was the German champions' first away win in the competition since 1997, the year they lifted the trophy for the only time in their history.



Gilberto Silva is delighted after scoring for Arsenal against Auxerre at Abbe Deschamps stadium in Auxerre on October 2.

Same old Diego!



Argentine captain, who also appeared in the 1990 World Cup final defeat to the then West Germany and was thrown out of the 1994 finals after failing a drugs test.

Humble Del Piero



Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero refused to take all the plaudits for his side's 2-0 Champions League win over Newcastle...

FA cautions Di Canio

West Ham's charismatic Italian striker Paolo di Canio escaped with just a warning from the Football Association (FA)...

But things haven't always been rosy for Del Piero who played poorly for Juventus in the first half of last season and scored just once for Italy at this summer's World Cup...

Fernandez protecting Ronaldinho



Paris St Germain have left for a UEFA Cup first round second leg game against Ujpest in Hungary without injured Brazilian Ronaldinho.

Patience the key with Ronaldo

Ronaldo will take time to find the sort of form that helped Brazil to World Cup glory earlier this year, Real Madrid's sporting director Jorge Valdano has warned.

After a series of minor injuries, expectation is mounting that he could finally make his Real debut against Alaves on Sunday, but Valdano is being careful to play down expectations.

Valencia lesson for Basel



Valencia struck four times inside the opening half-hour to set up a devastating 6-2 victory over Basel and continue their impeccable progress in Champions League group B.

John Carew opened the scoring on 10 minutes and added a second three minutes later before turning provider for Brazilian fullback Fabio Aurelio to add a third, still with only 17 minutes on the clock.



John Carew (L) of Valencia sneaks the ball past FC Basel goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbuehel to score at Valencia's Mestalla stadium on October 2.

Red hot Liverpool



Liverpool finally kick-started their faltering Champions League campaign with a comprehensive 5-0 victory over Russian champions Spartak Moscow at Anfield.

Goals from Emile Heskey, Bruno Cheyrou and Sami Hyypia in the opening half hour effectively sealed the English premier league side's first victory in group B to put them joint second with Basel on four points behind runaway leaders Valencia.

Senegalese defender Salif Diao, on as a late substitute, headed his first goal for the club on 81 minutes and Heskey's last strike sealed a totally one-sided encounter.

The class of 2002 arrived at Anfield without a point and looking for their first win in 14 Champions League games, dating back to a victory over English side Arsenal in November 2000.

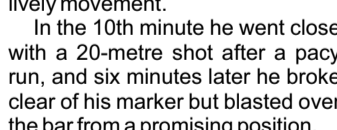
Steven Gerrard, whose low, goalbound drive was blocked by Maksym Kalynychenko. But on seven minutes, the hopelessly flat-footed Spartak defence was cruelly exposed as Heskey raced on to Rise's long ball to fire the opening goal past exposed Russian keeper Stanislav Cherchessov.

That was Liverpool's first goal at Anfield against Russian opponents - and they had to wait just seven minutes to double that tally.



Liverpool's Senegal international Salif Diao celebrates his strike against Spartak Moscow at Anfield on October 2.

Lyon end Inter run



Goals from Sidney Govou and Sonny Anderson gave impressive Olympique Lyon a 2-1 victory over Inter Milan in Champions League group D at the San Siro stadium.

It was a fully deserved victory for Paul Le Guen's well-organised side who played some attractive football and took advantage of the space afforded them by Inter who never found their shape or rhythm.

The break did little to interrupt the pattern of the game with Inter continuing to struggle and Lyon content to keep possession in midfield and catch the Italians with an incisive break.

Two minutes later, though, Lyon doubled their lead in spectacular fashion when Anderson burst towards the Inter area and unleashed a thundering drive that crashed into the top right-hand corner of Toldo's net.

It was from another set-piece seven minutes later that Inter brought themselves back into the game, with Fabio Cannavaro rising at the near post to head in a Recoba corner.

That prompted some noise from a disappointing 31,448 crowd and a late lurch forward from Inter, but while the effort re-emerged the craft did not, and Cuper was left with some thinking to do before the return match in France in three weeks time.