

# Bayern hanging by a thread

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Milan

AC Milan advanced to the second phase of the Champions League at the expense of Bayern Munich, who need a miracle if they are to survive after losing 2-1 to the Italians here at the San Siro on Wednesday.

Bayern, crowned European champions at this same stadium in 2001, had to beat the Italian league leaders to keep alive their slim hopes of qualifying for the last 16, having taken just one point from their previous three matches.

However, with French side Lens coming from behind to beat Spain's Deportivo La Coruna 3-1 Bayern can still just overhaul that pair if they beat Deportivo away and also Lens at home.

Filippo Inzaghi scored a second-half winner - his eighth goal in four European matches - after Bayern veteran Michael Tarnat had cancelled out Serginho's early opener - to complete Milan's fourth victory on the trot.

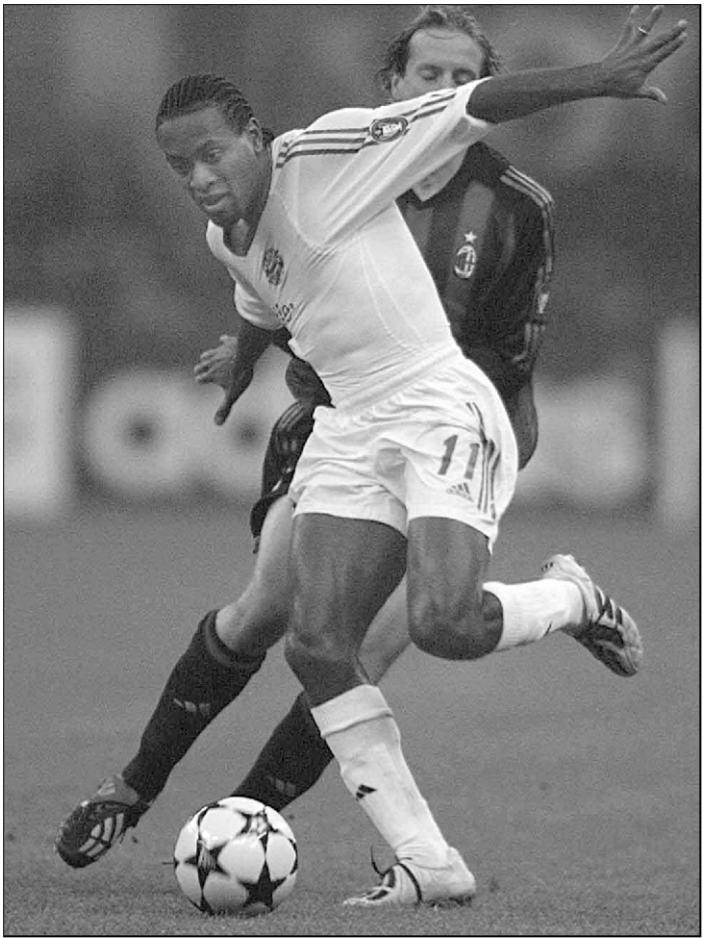
Inzaghi, who has also netted six times in the Italian first division this season, took plenty of satisfaction from beating the German champions to maintain Milan's 100 per cent record.

"To win all four matches in a difficult group shows what a force we can be," said the Milan hotshot.

"Tonight's result, against one of the best teams in Europe, is very satisfying for me and for the whole squad."

"We had to ride our luck at times as Bayern were pressing hard towards the end, but overall we were worthy winners."

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld



Bayern Munich's Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto (white) is chased by Massimo Ambrosini of AC Milan at the Giuseppe-Meazza stadium in Milan on October 23

said he believed his men had been unlucky.

"We played well and were their equals - we reacted well after their second goal. We even had more

chances than Milan," he said ruefully.

Milan started brightly and it was no surprise when they edged in front in the 11th minute following a mis-

take by Bayern's right-sided midfielder Hasan Salihamidzic.

The Bosnian international lost his footing 40 yards from goal and allowed Clarence Seedorf to take the ball off his toe and advance towards the German goal.

The burly Dutchman looked up and slotted the ball into the path of Serginho, who poked the ball low into the corner of the net beyond Oliver Kahn's outstretched right hand.

The early goal forced Bayern to attack and a swift raid which began in their own half paid dividends 12 minutes later.

Tarnat fed Giovane Elber, who was lurking just outside the Milan 18-yard box with his back to goal.

The Brazilian international held the ball up for a few seconds before returning it to the overlapping Tarnat and he unleashed a fierce left-foot drive, which flew past Dida into the roof of the net.

Bayern suffered a major blow six minutes into the second half when they lost their talismanic goalkeeper Kahn through injury.

The German international, who played such a major part when Bayern won the trophy in 2001, was replaced by Stefan Wessels between the posts.

Milan regained the advantage in the 65th minute thanks to Inzaghi, whose goal owed much to the quick thinking of Manuel Rui Costa.

The former Fiorentina star delivered a precision pass which split the Bayern defence wide open and Inzaghi flicked the ball past a stranded Wessels.

The Germans poured forward in search of further goals and were unfortunate to see Elber's effort rattle the crossbar.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

AFP, Paris

Collated European Champions League results on Wednesday:

Group E
At Newcastle, England
Newcastle (Eng) 1 (Griffin 62)
Juventus (Ita) 0
At Kiev
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 2
(Khatkevich 16, Bialkevich 47)
Feyenoord (Ned) 0
Group F
At Leverkusen, Germany
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 2
(Babic 45, Juan 67) Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 1 (Pralija 53)
At Athens
Olympiakos (Gre) 2 (Houtos 70, Djordjevic 74) Manchester United (Eng) 3 (Blanc 21, Veron 59, Scholes 84)
Group G
At Lens, France
Lens (Fra) 3 (Coulibaly 61, Moreira 79, Thomert 85)
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 1 (Makaay 15)
At Milan
AC Milan (Ita) 2 (Serginho 11, Inzaghi 65) Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Tarnat 23)
Group H
At Bruges, Belgium
FC Bruges (Bel) 3 (Martens 45, Verheyen 72, Saeternes 90)
Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Pinto 56)
At Barcelona
Barcelona (Spa) 1 (De Boer 76) Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 0

## Dynamo dump Feyenoord

AFP, Kiev

Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev seized second spot in the Champions' League Group E table with a 2-0 home win over the Dutch outfit Feyenoord here on Wednesday.

The hosts goals came from their Belarus international midfielders Alexander Khatskevich and Valentin Bialkevich.

The result lifted the Ukrainian side into second spot with seven points from four matches equal on points with the leaders Juventus and two points ahead of Feyenoord in third place.

Dynamo seized the initiative immediately from the kick-off, attempting to expose their rivals' weaknesses in defence, while the visitors began the match cautiously, searching for their chances on the counter-attack.

In the 16th minute, Dynamo's Brazilian striker Diogo Rincon closed in on the Feyenoord net, forcing goalkeeper Edwin Zoetebier to clear his close-range shot behind for a corner.

## Bruges slay Galatasaray

AFP, Bruges

FC Bruges put in a majestic performance to clinch a deserved 3-1 win over Galatasaray on Wednesday and keep alive their hopes of joining Group H winners Barcelona in the second round of the Champions League.

Goals from Sandy Martens, Gert Verheyen and Bengt Saeternes proved enough to give the Belgians the three points which takes them into second place with five points - one ahead of the Turks with two games left.

Bruges' more positive approach paid off on the stroke of half-time when Martens gave them the lead.

Galatasaray's Colombian goalkeeper Faryd Mondragon had pulled off a fine save to keep out veteran Verheyen's shot but as the ball was worked back in by Peter Van der Heyden, Martens was left in plenty of space and finished from the close range.

Martens and Van der Heyden had earlier combined for Bruges' best chance of the first half but Martens could only blaze his drive over the top with the goal begging.

Eleven minutes into the second half, Galatasaray, who had made a bright start, were level.

Bosnian international Elvir Baljic broke down the right hand side and his cross was perfectly weighted for Brazilian Fabio Pinto to slot the ball in for the equaliser.

After a lacklustre display in which Barcelona looked nothing like the side that had swept to the top of Group H with a perfect record, it was



Juventus' Pavel Nedved (C) walks away as Newcastle's Laurent Robert (R) celebrates with Andy Griffin (2nd R) after he scored during their Group E match at St. James's Park on October 23.

## Juve rue Buffon gaffe

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Newcastle

A rare mistake by the world's most expensive goalkeeper handed Newcastle a priceless Champions League lifeline here on Wednesday.

After producing a string of fantastic saves to keep his side in the match, Gianluigi Buffon cost Juventus the match when he deflected Newcastle fullback Andy Griffin's 62nd-minute cross over his own line for what was to prove the only goal of the night.

The unexpected win for Bobby Robson's side, who had failed to score a single goal in three previous defeats, gives them a fighting chance of advancing to the second stage with games at home to Dynamo Kiev next week and away to Feyenoord still to come. "It is still slim but we have given ourselves a chance," Newcastle skipper Alan Shearer said afterwards. "Now the objective is to go to Feyenoord with something to play for."

Robson was delighted with a battling display by his side.

"We showed big resolve and big tenacity tonight," he said. "We fought for every ball on the ground and in the air and worked until the last second."

"Every one of our players played to their potential."

"It would have been horrible if we'd not got anything. We're a

young side, we've some very good experienced players but to beat Juventus proves how good a game we've had here tonight.

"This is a big boost for us - Juventus are a very big scalp."

Newcastle, predictably, started the match in overdrive and they showed signs of unsettling the visitors in the opening minutes as Lomana LuaLua and Shearer almost got on the end of Laurent Robert's cross.

But it was Juventus who went closest to scoring in the early exchanges when Marco Di Vaio raced away from his marker Andy O'Brien and stabbed an effort just wide.

Newcastle had the advantage in terms of possession and were putting the Juve defence under territorial pressure.

But clear cut chances were few and far between, although Shearer will have been disappointed not to have hit the target when he was allowed a free header from Norberto Solano's corner.

Alessandro Del Piero showed similarly uncharacteristic profligacy to blast an enticing edge-of-the-area free-kick over the bar after 37 minutes, much to the relief of Steve Harper, making his first appearance in the Newcastle goal in nearly a year.

Newcastle's best chance of the opening period fell to Robert a minute before the break. Gary Speed made a good run into the box to get on the end of Solano's cross

with an intelligent flick to Robert but the French winger failed to hit the target from 14 yards and the chance was gone.

Juventus immediately struck back with a sweeping move that ended with Pavel Nedved's shot looping off a defender's leg and only just over the Newcastle bar.

Buffon produced the first of three world class saves in the space of ten minutes to deny Solano at point blank range in the 55th minute.

Six minutes later, he got down brilliantly to his right to block Shearer's fierce drive off Solano's short free kick.

But his luck ran out in the 62nd minute when Griffin stormed into the right hand side of the box and got in behind the Juve back four. The defender fired in a low cross that Buffon tried to intercept only to deflect into his own net.

Solano must have thought he had wrapped up the three points for Newcastle when he cut in from the left and unleashed a ferocious right-foot drive that looked headed straight for the top corner before Buffon flung himself to his left.

Newcastle lived dangerously at the end and they had first Harper, who produced a good block to deny Del Piero, and then the bar, which kept out Marcelo Zalayeta's shot, for maintaining their lead in the final ten minutes.

## Fergie gonna shop

AFP, London

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson has confirmed that he will be seeking to sign a new striker in January to boost the club's drive for glory in the Premiership and the Champions League.

A last-gasp 3-2 win over Olympiakos on Wednesday booked United's place in the second phase of the Champions League. But it also underlined how stretched their playing resources have become, particularly up front.

With Ruud van Nistelrooy out with his hamstring problem and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer suffering an ankle injury in training for the match, Ferguson was left with Diego Forlan as his sole fit striker.

The Uruguayan showed some nice touches and admirable industry. But there is no sign of him becoming a regular source of goals and Ferguson acknowledges he needs more cover in that department.

The problem is that most of Europe's top strikers have already played in this season's Champions League and would thus be ineligible to play for United in the current campaign.

For the first time however, Ferguson has admitted he may bring in a striker to play only in the Premiership, once the transfer window reopens in January.

"The only thing is to buy for the league alone because we are a bit light in that department," Ferguson told the club's website.

"If you look down the list of top strikers, they have all played European football."

United had been linked with Deportivo La Coruna's Spanish international Diego Tristan and AC Milan's Ukrainian forward Andriy Shevchenko. Neither of them has played in the Champions League this season because of injury or, in Shevchenko's case, strained relations with his current club.

## L'kusen stay in running

AFP, Leverkusen

Last season's finalists Bayer Leverkusen are still in the hunt in this season's Champions League after edging out Israel's Maccabi Haifa 2-1 on Wednesday to keep their chances alive in Group F.

With Manchester United dominating the group Leverkusen have to see off the Israelis and Olympiakos of Greece to claim second spot and Juan kept the dream flickering with the winner in the 67th minute, heading in from a neat cross by Zoltan Sebescen. Brazilian Juan was only just returning to the side after injury and had not appeared in his club's three previous matches in the competition - but made an immediate impact to become the toast of Leverkusen.

The Germans have struggled this term after losing midfield stars Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto to Bayern Munich in the summer.

And they had looked set for an embarrassing draw after Nenad Pralija scored on 53 minutes with a left-foot strike over keeper Jorg Butt, who flailed at the ball attempting to punch.

## Scholes seals MU's place

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Athens

Paul Scholes' goal with six minutes remaining propelled unbeaten Manchester United to a hard-fought 3-2 victory Wednesday over Olympiakos to secure a berth in the second phase of the Champions League.

The Greeks had managed to come from two goals down to level the scores midway through the second half.

But Scholes' intervention handed them their third straight loss which is set to end the Greeks' hopes prematurely.

Scholes took a back pass from Juan Sebastian Veron and blasted the ball past Olympiakos goalie Dimitris Eleftheropoulos at the 84th minute just four minutes after an earlier effort by the England midfielder came back off the post.

"I'd like to thank Paul Scholes for getting us out of trouble," said United boss Alex Ferguson.

"I thought we were superb until

that short period when we gave up the two goals. It was a bit careless on our part but thankfully Scholes gave us the win."

Olympiakos had shocked United on 74 minutes by levelling for 2-2 when Yugoslav midfielder Predrag Djordjevic dribbled past three defenders and fired past visiting keeper Fabien Barthez.

Only four minutes earlier Olympiakos had got back into the contest with a similar effort by substitute forward Lambros Houtos.

Frenchman Laurent Blanc opened the scoring midway through the first half and Veron added another tally on the hour as the English Premiership giants took a 2-0 lead going into the final 20 minutes.

Blanc, a defender scoring his 127th career goal, headed the ball home from a corner kick by Ryan Giggs past Eleftheropoulos in the 21st minute as the Greek defence left him unmarked.

Veron scored his third goal in four Champions League matches when Scholes found his colleague in space and the Argentine dispatched the ball past Eleftheropoulos'

despairing dive.

United controlled play in the first half and applied most of the pressure with the visitors having a 7-0 edge on corner kicks.

Eleftheropoulos was called on three early occasions to punch away a hard shot from Scholes, a header by Blanc and a drive from Phil Neville.

"When you come from 2-0 behind and level the score it is forbidden to come away with a loss," said new Olympiakos coach Yiannis Kollias who took over from Takis Lemonis who had been fired earlier this month.

"We should have earned something better. And when you give up three goals at home this is also a problem."

Olympiakos looked stale in the first half as the one-month suspension of Greek league play showed with sloppy play.

But after Djordjevic had seen an effort kicked away by defender Mikael Silvestre with Barthez beaten on the stroke of half time they stepped up their efforts. Veron's goal aside, only for Scholes to rob them of a point at the death.



Manchester United's Juan Veron (C) celebrates his goal against Olympiakos Piraeus with David Beckham (L) and Paul Scholes during their UEFA Champions League match in Athens on October 23

## Lens stun Deportivo

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Lens

A spirited performance by Lens kept their European dream flickering after a 3-1 win over Deportivo La Coruna here on Wednesday.

Lens went into this Group G match knowing they had to get a result or say au revoir to their Champions League campaign, and three second half goals from Adam Coulibaly, Daniel Moreira and Olivier Thomert did the business.

The result left them on four points, with Deportivo on six, both sides fighting to go through behind

already qualified AC Milan.

Lens started brightly in this do-or-die encounter with Thomert doing some sterling work on the left wing but the French defence soon found itself under heavy pressure and on the quarter hour it was Deportivo who opened the scoring.

Roy Makaay picked up the ball in the box and the Dutchman then shimmying past Lens keeper Guillaume Warmuz to fire an accurately-angled shot in from the right.

Deportivo managed to stifle the predictable Lens' onslaught, with Moroccan defender Nourredine Naybet proving a particular thorn in the side of the French.

The hosts finally won a corner

for their troubles in the 38th minute but Moreira's attempt was punched away by Deportivo's third-choice keeper Juanmi Garcia.

They then had a lucky escape on half-time when Deportivo almost doubled their tally - a shot from the left being deflected off Lens' Rigobert Song towards goal, the ball rebounding off the post.

Only lightning reaction from Garcia denied Lens a 46th minute equaliser as the Deportivo stopper pushed Pape Bouba Diop's shot over for a corner, which came to nothing.

Garcia was soon called into action again. Lens midfielder Antonie Sibierski crossed from the left, picking up Coulibaly but his

header is pushed over the bar by Garcia's outstretched right hand.

Despite those heroics the stand-in for cancer treatment patient Jose Molina was unable to keep out Coulibaly's shot from 25 yards in the 61st minute, the ball being deflected off two defenders on its way into the left hand side of the goal.

With just over 10 minutes left Lens went ahead, courtesy of a finely taken free-kick which striker Moreira blasted through the Spanish wall.

Then Thomert completed an excellent night's work, his shot from inside the box slipping through Garcia's hands with six minutes to go.

## Barca owe De Boer

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Barcelona

Veteran Dutch defender Frank De Boer was the toast of Barcelona here on Wednesday when his second half goal gave the Spanish giants a 1-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow and a place in the second phase of the Champions League.

After a lacklustre display in which Barcelona looked nothing like the side that had swept to the top of Group H with a perfect record, it was

because of a knee injury.

The Russians went into the match needing to get at least a point out of the encounter to keep their hopes of qualifying alive and they were content to keep a tight rein on the Spanish dangermen.

Barcelona made most of the running in the first half and the Russians were hanging on grimly and it became clear that they could be under the cosh when Oleg Pashinin was booked after just three minutes.

For Lokomotiv, Julio Cesar probed and teased while Patrick Kluijver had a half chance comfortably dealt with by goalkeeper Sergei Ovchinnikov.

Xavi and Javier Saviola proved real handfuls for the Russian defenders but, overall, Barca looked curiously lethargic as they chased the win which would guarantee their place in the next round.

It was the Russians who had the better openings in the second half and they were unlucky not to have taken the lead in the 57th minute when their Nigerian striker James Obiorah hit a fierce volley from Russian Pimenov's cross against the crossbar with Barcelona goalkeeper Roberto Bonano stranded.

However, De Boer's timely intervention gave Barca the three points they needed and a perfect total of 12 points from four matches enabled them to progress while Lokomotiv were left rooted to the bottom with just one point to their name.

## STANDINGS

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

Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H				
Juventus (Ita)	4	2	1	1	8	2	7
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)	4	2	1	1	4	4	5
Feyenoord (Ned)	4	1	2	1	2	3	5
Newcastle (Eng)	4	1	0	3	1	5	3
Group F	Man United (Eng)	4	4	0	0	14	5
B Leverkusen (Ger)	4	2	0	2	7	9	
Maccabi Haifa (Isr)	4	1	0	3	6	9	
Olympiakos (Gre)	4	1	0	3	8	13	
Group G	AC Milan (Ita)	4	4	0	0	10	3
Dep La Coruna (Spa)	4	2	0	2	7	10	
Lens (Fra)	4	1	1	2	6	7	
B Munich (Ger)	4	0	1	3	5	8	
Group H	Barcelona (Spa)	4	4	0	0	9	3
FC Bruges (Bel)	4	1	2	1	5	4	
Galatasaray (Tur)	4	1	1	2	3	5	
Lokomotiv (Rus)	4	0	1	3	1	6	