



AS Roma's Francesco Totti (L) is about to score leaving Real Madrid's Claude Makelele (R) and Esteban Cambiasso (behind) helpless during their clash on October 30. PHOTO: AFP

## Totti guns Real down

by Roma defender Walter Samuel, but Scottish referee Kenneth Clark ruled otherwise.

AS Roma soaked up the pressure manfully, but not without a few heart stopping moments, not least when a corner fell at the feet of Ronaldo lurking in the box, only for the reportedly overweight World Cup winner to miscue and Francesco Antonioli easily saved.

After the break Ronaldo, not for the first time, found himself flagged for offside, but in the 53rd minute he foiled his ever attendant marker for a shot which was gathered up safely by the Roma stopper.

With Real on fire AS Roma were lucky to hold onto their slim lead as Antonioli's goal came under fire

from all quarters, yet Roma consistently looked dangerous on the break, as in the 63rd minute when Totti's sound effort was fisted into safety by Casillas.

Totti went close to netting a double in the 70th minute with a nicely weighted long range chip which went over Casillas' crossbar.

Gabriel Batistuta was called into service with less than half an hour to go in place of Montella, AS Roma coach Fabio Capello's first change.

With a dozen minutes to go a hobbling Zidane was taken off with a thigh problem, and Del Bosque also called in Ronaldo, but despite two fresh pairs of legs in Santiago Solari and Fernando Morientes Real were found wanting on the night.

Even with three Footballers of the Year - Luis Figo, missing like Raul from the 2-2 draw with AEK Athens, Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane, in their line-up Real were still unable to crack an Italian side that had turned up at the Bernabeu seeking to exact revenge for their opening match defeat.

Real will have considered themselves unfortunate not to score in this lively affair - it was certainly not for want of trying as their 15 corners to AS Roma's one testifies.

But hard as they tried they were unable to find the answer to Totti's 27th minute goal.

A shot from Vincenzo Montella being blocked with the rebound falling to the grateful 26-year-old who promptly blasting the ball first time past Real keeper Iker Casillas.

That came two minutes after a Real goal had been disallowed when Spanish international Raul was ruled offside.

Like a tiger riled Madrid went on the rampage, and on the half hour the Bernabeu faithful were calling for a penalty when Raul was felled

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE STANDING

AFP, Paris

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

GROUP A						
B Dortmund (Ger)	5	3	1	1	8	6
Arsenal (Eng)	5	3	0	2	9	4
PSV Eindhoven (Ned)	5	1	2	2	5	8
Auxerre (Fra)	5	1	1	3	3	7
GROUP B						
Valencia (Spa)	5	4	1	0	14	4
Liverpool (Eng)	5	2	1	2	9	5
Basel (Swi)	4	1	2	1	7	9
Spartak Mos (Rus)	4	0	0	4	1	13
GROUP C						
Real Madrid (Spa)	5	2	2	1	14	6
AS Roma (Ita)	5	2	2	1	2	3
AEK Athens (Gre)	5	0	5	0	6	6
Genk (Bel)	5	0	3	2	1	8
GROUP D						
Inter Milan (Ita)	5	2	2	1	10	7
Ajax (Ned)	5	2	2	1	5	3
Lyon (Fra)	5	2	1	2	11	8
Rosenborg (Nor)	5	0	3	2	3	11

## Reassuring Eriksson

AFP, London

England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson has no intention of resigning if Football Association chief executive Adam Crozier is forced out of his post, his agent insisted Wednesday.

There is continuing uncertainty over Crozier's future as leading FA figures gathered for a scheduled meeting of the international committee, which lasted several hours.

FA chairman Geoff Thompson, whose support is crucial to his chief executive, has not yet offered any outward backing or criticism of Crozier.

However, agent Athole Still again made it clear Eriksson is offering his public support to Crozier just when he needs it most amid considerable pressure.

Thompson has been spending this week evaluating the situation, which has arisen out of frustration among some FA figures at what they perceive to be Crozier's autocratic management style.

The issue has blown up out of conflict with the Premier League over their proposal for a new 'professional game board' to run their affairs, with Crozier becoming the target of most of the flak for standing in their way.

Still warned that Eriksson was "very concerned" at the developments affecting the man who appointed him.

He added: "The support he has always received from Adam has been a very significant factor in his ongoing commitment to the national team."

"This was taken by some to mean Eriksson was threatening to quit his post if Crozier was forced out, although Still insists this is not the case.

## Irresistible Inter

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan rose to the top of Group D in the Champions League after beating Norwegian Rosenborg 3-0 here at the San Siro on Wednesday.

Alvaro Recoba gave Inter a first-half lead before the unfortunate Janne Saarinen headed into his own net seven minutes after the interval.

Argentina international striker Hernan Crespo, who joined the club from Lazio in the summer, rounded off a comfortable night by netting a third 19 minutes from time.

The Serie A league leaders now face a nail-biting final first phase match against second-placed Ajax in Holland next week, who along with the Italians and French champions Lyon are vying for the top two berths and a place in the last 16.

Inter have eight points from five matches, the same as Ajax who have an inferior goal difference.

Lyon drop to third after losing 2-0 at home to the Dutch giants.

Inter coach Hector Cuper defended his decision to play three strikers - Recoba, Crespo and Christian Vieri.

"There is always a certain amount of risk when you play three forwards together, but it was a calculated one," said the chain-smoking Argentine after the match.

"We looked dangerous going forward and with Recoba controlling the pace of the game from deep positions, we made it difficult for the opposition."

Looking ahead to next week's crunch match against Ajax, Cuper replied: "We need the points and will

be going all out for the win."

Inter, who welcomed back central defender Fabio Cannavaro from injury, dominated the early stages but despite their superiority almost fell behind to a slick counter-attack in the 19th minute.

A cross from the right found Rosenborg striker Harald Brattbakk on the edge of the penalty box, and although his firm header looped over Inter goalkeeper Francesco Toldo towards goal, the ball rolled agonisingly wide.

Inter responded by throwing more men forward and this tactic paid dividends just after the half hour mark.

Portuguese winger Sergio Conceicao cut in from the left flank and evaded two desperate challenges before picking out Recoba in space.

The toothy South American looked up and drilled a low, fierce shot beyond visiting goalkeeper Arni Arason's outstretched hand.

Straight from the restart Rosenborg gave the home side another scare, Frode Johnsen flashing a towering header inches wide of Toldo's left-hand post.

Inter increased their advantage in the 52nd minute when Saarinen, attempting to clear Conceicao's dangerous cross, headed past a helpless Arason.

Rosenborg poured forward to try to force their way back into the match, but they shot themselves in the foot with another defensive error to gift Inter a third goal in the 72nd minute.

Conceicao, whose crosses gave the visitors huge problems, delivered another superb centre which Roar Strand miscued into the path of Crespo who made no mistake from close range.

## IN AND OUT

AFP, Paris

Qualifiers for second round of Champions League following Tuesday and Wednesday matches:

- QUALIFIERS**
- Group A: Borussia Dortmund (Ger), Arsenal (Eng)
  - Group B: Valencia (Spa)
  - Group C: Real Madrid (Spa)
  - Group E: Juventus (Ita)
  - Group F: Manchester United (Eng), Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
  - Group G: AC Milan (Ita)
  - Group H: Barcelona (Spa)

- ELIMINATED**
- Group A: PSV Eindhoven (Ned), Auxerre (Fra)
  - Group B: Spartak Moscow (Rus)
  - Group C: Genk (Bel)
  - Group D: Rosenborg (Nor)
  - Group F: Maccabi Haifa (Isr)

## Hitzfeld not in danger

AFP, Munich

Ottmar Hitzfeld's position as manager of Bayern Munich is safe despite the German giants' humiliating exit from the Champions League, Franz Beckenbauer said on Wednesday.

Bayern's 2-1 defeat at Deportivo La Coruna Tuesday left the four-time European champions footing their group with no chance of making it to the last 16 for the first time in their history.

Their lowly standing does not even allow them the compensation of a pass to the UEFA Cup.

All that raised an inevitable question mark over Hitzfeld's future, but Bayern president Beckenbauer assured FM Radio Network: "Ottmar Hitzfeld's position at Bayern Munich is not in doubt."

The dual World Cup winner, who had nominated this team at the beginning of the season as the greatest of all time, spoke of his "shame" at Bayern's lame showing, and then criticised Hitzfeld's multi-million dollar team.

"The side lacked life. We don't communicate much with each other. Sometimes you have to have open discussions, but privately, between our four walls, not in public."

Beckenbauer feels the surprise reverse for the 2001 champions which will cost them dear in lost revenue will hit next season's recruitment of new players.

"I imagine that next year when it comes to hiring, our management will have to go around with a basket for the collection."

## Genk gone

AFP, Athens

Belgian side Genk bowed out of the Champions League here Wednesday after drawing 1-1 with AEK Athens, who have been held in all four of their previous matches.

Genk had stunned the hosts when they took the lead through Belgian international striker Wesley Sonck, who notched their first goal in the competition this season.

AEK deservedly equalised through Vasiliios Lakis, but must now beat AS Roma in Rome in a fortnight to progress at the Italian's expense.

Sonck scored Genk's maiden goal - the second longest goal drought in the competition's history - after Japanese World Cup star Takayuki Suzuki had set him up with a great pass inside the box in the 22nd minute.

However the lead didn't last long as AEK hit back eight minutes later, Lakis levelling the match with a fine goal lobbing the keeper and with two defenders on the line.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

AFP, Paris

Collated European Champions League first round results on Wednesday:

**GROUP A**

At Eindhoven, The Netherlands  
PSV Eindhoven (Ned) 3 (Bruggink 34, Rommedhal 48, Robben 64) Auxerre (Fra) 0

At Dortmund, Germany  
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 2 (Gilberto 37-og, Rosicky 62-pen) Arsenal (Eng) 1 (Henry 18)

**GROUP B**

At Liverpool, England  
Liverpool (Eng) 0 Valencia (Spa) 1 (Rufete 34)

Spartak Moscow (Rus) v FC Basel (Swi) - postponed till November 6 as a mark of respect to victims of the Moscow hostage crisis

**GROUP C**

At Athens  
AEK Athens (Gre) 1 (Lakis 30) Genk (Bel) 1 (Sonck 22)

At Madrid  
Real Madrid (Spa) 0 AS Roma (Ita) 1 (Totti 27)

**GROUP D**

At Lyon, France  
Lyon (Fra) 0 Ajax (Ned) 2 (Pienaar 7, Van der Vaart 90)

At Milan, Italy  
Inter Milan (Ita) 3 (Recoba 31, Saarinen-og 52, Crespo 71) Rosenborg (Nor) 0

## Valencia's 'Liverpool' delight



AFP, Liverpool

Valencia, the only side to beat Liverpool this season, repeated the trick here on Wednesday with a 1-0 win that took the Spanish champions into the second phase of the Champions League with a game to spare.

A 34th-minute deflected shot from midfielder Rufete was enough for Rafael Benites side to become the first visiting side to win at Anfield this season, six weeks after they had comprehensively outplayed Liverpool in a 2-0 win at their own Mestalla stadium.

Liverpool, who could now be left needing to win their final match against FC Basel in Switzerland next month, will rue the golden chances spurned by both Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen.

But even their manager Gerard Houllier acknowledged they could have little complaint about the result as Valencia again underlined why Spain's La Liga is currently considered the dominant league in Europe.

"When you lose to a good side you have to put your hands up and say well done and that is what I'm doing today," Houllier said.

"Once they took the lead I knew it would be difficult because of the quality they have in their passing and the pressing game they play, although we had three or four chances, especially one in the first half for Gerrard and one in the second half for Michael (Owen)."

"But that happens in football. When you play a good team you have to pick up your chances and if you don't you get punished."

Benites, a keen student of the English game, dismissed any suggestion that Valencia had ridden their luck, despite the Liverpool misses and the deflection on his side's goal.

"You can always put a lot of things down to luck in football but when you look at the game overall, Valencia had a lot of the ball, controlled the game in large parts and had several chances to score on the counter attack."

"I was not surprised by the way they pressed and pushed forward



VICTORY DANCE: A delighted Rufete (L) of Valencia is joined by his teammates after scoring against Liverpool at Anfield. PHOTO: AFP

minutes later as Diao robbed David Albelda and played him in on the left of the box.

Ruben Baraja squandered a glorious chance to put Valencia ahead in the 29th minute after Carew got on the end of a corner.

His header fell to Aimar who chested the ball down perfectly for Baraja on the six-yard line but the midfielder snatched at his shot and the ball flew over.

Liverpool's relief was short-lived. Five minutes later Carew laid the ball back for Rufete whose shot took a wicked deflection off Hyypia to leave Dudek helpless.

At this stage, Valencia were running the show but Liverpool should still have equalised five minutes before the break when Owen ran on to an Emile Heskey flick and squared the ball to Gerrard, who side-footed tamely straight at Canizares.

At the other end, Dudek had to make a good save to push Carew's cross shot away and prevent

all the time. I knew what we had to do to combat their style and I think we did it quite effectively."

The opening exchanges were surprisingly scrappy for an encounter between the Spanish champions and the leaders of the English Premiership.

But it was Liverpool who made the marginally brighter start, with Owen spurring an early half-chance after Mauricio Pellegrino failed to clear and Salif Diao twice threatening from Gerrard crosses.

But it was Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek who suffered the first real scare when he misjudged Kily Gonzalez's cross and was relieved to see it come off the bar.

With Valencia starting to look more dangerous, Liverpool had a double let off when John Carew was body-checked by Sami Hyypia on the edge of the box.

The Liverpool skipper escaped a yellow card and Pablo Aimar blasted the free-kick over the bar. Owen was similarly profligate

Valencia going in at half-time two goals up.

Another Liverpool opportunity went begging three minutes after the restart, Owen firing a gilt-edged chance created by Heskey straight at a grateful Canizares from 12 yards.

Heskey created more panic in the Valencia defence when he flicked a Gerrard corner towards the far corner, where Dietmar Hamman was only inches away from connecting.

But Valencia looked just as dangerous on the break. As the match entered the final quarter hour, Baraja fired just inches wide and it took a 25-yard effort from Aimar's replacement Miguel Angel Angulo.

Houllier threw on Milan Baros for the last 20 minutes and it took a good stop from Canizares to stop the Czech striker from snatching a draw with two minutes of regulation time left.

## Gunners disarmed



AFP, Dortmund

English champions Arsenal were outclassed and outgated as they slumped to a 2-1 Champions League defeat at the hands of Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday but they still managed to sneak into the next stage.

With PSV Eindhoven beating Auxerre 3-0, the result here was academic as both Arsenal and Dortmund go through to the second round but the English side will not have taken much heart from that given their fourth successive defeat equalled their previous worst sequence of 19 years ago.

Despite Frenchman Thierry Henry giving them a first half lead, it was an own goal by Brazilian defender Gilberto off Czech international Tomas Rosicky's freekick, and then a controversial penalty by the Czech just after the hour which gave Dortmund their thoroughly deserved win.

It could have been even more comprehensive had the woodwork not denied them on two occasions, but Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger was determined to put a positive spin on the evening.

"We feel badly done by tonight," said Wenger.

"They had two chances in the first half while we had lots of chances but lacked the belief to take them."

"At 1-1, we controlled the game and I felt that Borussia Dortmund had given a lot and we had made it difficult for them. They had nothing left after the break."

Wenger's league and cup double winners of last season were a team

interval when Koller was chopped down and Rosicky's free-kick took a wicked deflection off Gilberto leaving Seaman to scamper across the goaline in vain.

It was the same story after the break but it was a controversial penalty decision just after the hour mark that gave the German side their advantage.

Seaman was adjudged to have fouled Koller who was clean through on goal and despite protests that the Czech had dived over the England goalkeeper, referee Manuel Gonzalez pointed to the spot and Rosicky converted the kick.

"The referee scored a good goal and I hope he's happy," said Wenger.

"It was a good dive by Koller. But we knew Auxerre were losing, otherwise it would have been very frustrating to lose like that."

Pires proved to be a luxury the Gunners could not afford as he struggled through the match and it was no surprise when he was replaced by Kolo Toure as Arsenal made no impression on Lehmann's goal despite Henry's best efforts.

Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer praised his team for the way they battled back from a goal down.

"We kept our nerve and hit back. It was a tremendous performance especially as we had hit the post twice," said Sammer whose team have lost just once this season, ironically to Arsenal earlier in the competition.

"Against a team like Arsenal, you have to stay concentrated. We played strongly and I knew that if we kept that up, we would be successful."

The German side got their just reward eight minutes from the

## Ajax stay afloat

AFP, Lyon

Dutch giants Ajax kept alive their hopes of making the second round of the Champions League here Wednesday beating Lyon 2-0 despite playing for most of the second half with 10-men after captain Cristian Chivu was sent-off.

Lyon, though, can seal their place in the second phase should they beat Norwegian side Rosenborg away in a fortnight while Inter Milan and Ajax, who are both ahead of them by a point, face-off in Amsterdam.

The hosts could count themselves to be very unlucky not to have gone in at half-time level at 1-1 when a perfectly good goal by Brazilian Sonny Anderson was mistakenly adjudged by the Greek referee Kyros Vassaras not to have crossed the line.

While they will hope FIFA's recommendation of a referee behind the goal will arrive quickly they only had themselves to blame in the second-half wasting a succession of chances and being hit with a sucker punch by Rafael Van der Vaart to add to the first-half goal by South African Steven Pienaar.

However the match was overshadowed by the goal that never was as Brazilian Anderson's header clearly went over the line before being hacked clear by Chivu with the referee waving play on to the fury of the players and the home fans.

## PSV amerce Auxerre

AFP, Eindhoven

Auxerre, on a high after beating Arsenal last week, were brought back to earth with a bump here Wednesday, Guy Roux's side losing 3-0 to PSV Eindhoven.

Goals from Arnold Bruggink, Dennis Rommedhal and Arjen Robben were Auxerre's undoing on a night they will want to file under 'forget'.

More so as they had two men sent off - Philippe Mexes in the 26th minute and Olivier Kapo in the 51st.

The result left the French league leaders footing Group A and chasing a fight off against PSV for a consolation prize entry into the UEFA Cup.

Veteran coach Roux was dignified in defeat.

"In a career as a manager, especially when it's a long one, you experience a lot of emotions. You also have to put up with nights like this."

"I'm very sorry for the football that the fans saw out there tonight." Mexes was sent packing after picking up his second yellow card for obstructing Robben.



WAIT BEFORE FLEXING: Arsenal's French striker Thierry Henry shows off for the cameras on October 30. PHOTO: AFP