

Juve send Kiev out



AFP, Kiev

Italian champions Juventus earned their fourth win in this season's Champions' League campaign with a 2-1 win over Dynamo Kiev in their final first-phase Group E encounter here on Wednesday.

The result dashed Dynamo's hopes of qualifying for the second group stage, confining them to the third spot with seven points from six matches, two points behind English Premiership side Newcastle, who moved above them by defeating Dutch side Feyenoord 3-2.

Dynamo's goal came from their Uzbeki international marksman Maxim Shatskikh, while Chilean forward Marcelo Salas and his Uruguayan teammate Marcelo Danubio Zalayeta were on target for Juventus as they achieved their first away win in 19 Champions League matches.

Both teams started the match cautiously, but in the 18th minute Shatskikh narrowly failed to open the scoring as Juventus keeper Antonio Chimenti managed to

deflect both of his close-range attempts.

Nine minutes later the visitors' defender Salvatore Fresi missed a clear chance to put Juventus ahead, heading the ball against the crossbar from the edge of the six-yard box.

Dynamo, who needed to win the match to secure second spot, replied immediately and their Belarus halfback Valentin Blalkevich hit the far post with a low close-range shot just a minute later.

After the halftime break Dynamo threw caution to the wind and in the 50th minute Shatskikh beat the Juventus defence on a breakaway to fire the ball home after it rebounded off Chimenti's hand.

But Salas levelled at 1-1 just three minutes later, sliding the ball past Dynamo goalee Vitaly Reva after Gianluca Zambrotta fed him with a precise cross.

In the 61st minute Zalayeta beat Reva from close range, firing the ball inside the near post from five yards to snuff out Dynamo's hopes.

Dynamo went in search of an equaliser and created several opportunities, forcing Chimenti into a set of impressive saves, but failing to find the net.



Feyenoord's Patrick Paauwe (L) watches as Newcastle United's Craig Bellamy (C) scores past custodian Patrick Lodewijk at St. James' Park on November 13.

Lokomotiv safely through

AFP, Moscow

Lokomotiv Moscow cruised into the Champions League second group stage with a 2-0 victory over FC Bruges in their final Group H encounter here on Wednesday.

Lokomotiv's goals, which came from their Brazilian forward Julio Cesar and skipper Dmitry Loskov, lifted them into second spot in the group with seven points from six matches, two points ahead of third-placed Bruges.

The Russian side had gone into the match equal on points with Galatasaray but group winners Barcelona beat the Turkish side 3-1 to pave the way for Lokomotiv's qualification.

Both teams battled for the initiative right from the start at the snow-covered pitch of Moscow's Lokomotiv stadium.

Neither side created many chances almost until the break as the players struggled on the slippery turf.

However, Julio Cesar put his side 1-0 up with only a minute left before the break, beating Bruges keeper Dany Verlinden after sliding into the box between the visitors' defenders to receive Vadim Yevseyev's precise pass.

After the interval Bruges poured into attack, pinning Lokomotiv back in an attempt to pull the scores level but to no avail as the railroad-backed side defended stoutly, threatening on the counter-attacks and forcing Verlinden into several impressive saves.

Loskov increased his team's advantage when he beat Verlinden with a precise shot into the left-hand corner from the edge of the box to secure a well-deserved win.

Magpies fly with Bellamy



AFP, Paris

A last-minute goal by Craig Bellamy assured Premiership side Newcastle United of their first ever spot in the second phase of the Champions League as they beat Dutch outfit Feyenoord 3-2 in their Group E clash.

The hosts had fought back from 2-0 down but Bellamy repaid manager Bobby Robson's faith in rushing him back after knee trouble by wrapping up a splendid victory.

Newcastle became the first side to make the second round after losing their first three Champions League matches.

"What a finale," said Robson. "We had to believe in ourselves right to the end. I could feel we were going to do it - it's always like that in crazy matches like this, something always happens."

"I'm especially happy because at the start of the night we weren't in a strong position."

"Now we're continuing our journey in the competition and it's a great night for the club."

Bellamy, who had served a three-match suspension for headbutting a Dynamo Kiev player earlier in the competition, paid tribute to the physiotherapists who had got him fit.

"We've done it the hard way but we deserve it as we're a good team," said the 23-year-old Welsh international.

"The physios did a great job on my knee because they knew this

was the one I wanted to be back for. "All I tried to do at the end was make it on target and thankfully it went in."

Newcastle had looked to be cruising to their first ever victory in the Netherlands through goals from Bellamy and Portuguese winger Hugo Viana.

However Feyenoord's introduction of journeyman Argentine striker Mariano Lombarda in the second-half changed matters as he scored in the 65th minute to end the Dutch

side's Champions League goal drought after 430 minutes.

Anthony Lurling hit home six minutes later to leave Newcastle reeling.

However some desperate Newcastle defending kept them in it and it paid off when the outstanding Keiron Dyer burst down the middle and though his shot was blocked by keeper Patrick Lodewijk, Bellamy followed up from a tight angle and his shot went in off the unfortunate guardian.

Bellamy's first goal came 10 seconds from the break when he latched on to Alan Shearer's flick-on from Shay Given's long kick upfield and shot it past Loedewijk into the far corner.

The game looked all but over four minutes into the second-half when Viana's beautifully struck shot from just inside the box - after Dyer had robbed Polish international Tomasz Rzsasa and passed it to him - beat Loedewijk.

Bellamy went close to ending any debate on who would take the three points when his fierce shot was turned over the bar by the hard-pressed keeper.

However just after Given had twice denied Feyenoord the Dutch side were back in it as Bombarda brought up a century of career goals when he nipped in between the Newcastle central defenders, latched on to Bonaventure Kalou's pass and slotted it past the Ireland keeper.

Bellamy was denied once again by a fantastic save from Loedewijk and virtually from the next attack Feyenoord were level as with Nicos Dabizas and Andy O'Brien once again asleep Lurling took his chance beautifully volleying right-footed from the edge of the area.

Newcastle were on the rack and were fortunate not to concede a penalty when Gary Speed brought down 30-year-old Bombarda while Lurling went close to giving the Dutch side the lead but his effort took a slight deflection to go for a corner.

The first half had seen little drama with Bellamy going closest to breaking the deadlock when one on one with Loedewijk, who blocked it and turned it away for a corner.

STANDINGS									
European Champions League tables after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):									
Group E									
Juventus (Ita)	6	4	1	1	12	3	13		
Newcastle (Eng)	6	3	0	3	6	8	9		
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)	6	2	1	3	6	9	7		
Feyenoord (Ned)	6	1	2	3	4	8	5		
Group F									
Man. United (Eng)	6	5	0	1	16	8	15		
Leverkusen (Ger)	6	3	0	3	9	11	9		
Maccabi Haifa (Isr)	6	2	1	3	12	12	7		
Olympiakos (Gre)	6	1	1	4	11	17	4		
Group G									
AC Milan (Ita)	6	4	0	2	12	7	12		
Deportivo (Spa)	6	4	0	2	11	12	12		
Lens (Fra)	6	2	2	2	11	11	8		
Bayern Munich (Ger)	6	0	2	4	9	13	2		
Group H									
Barcelona (Spa)	6	6	0	0	13	4	18		
Lokomotiv (Rus)	6	2	1	3	5	7	7		
FC Bruges (Bel)	6	1	2	3	5	7	5		
Galatasaray (Tur)	6	1	1	4	5	10	4		

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collated European Champions League results on Wednesday:

Group E

At Kiev

Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 (Shatskikh 50) Juventus (Ita) 2 (Salas 53, Zalayeta 61)

At Newcastle, England

Feyenoord (Ned) 2 (Bombarda 65, Lurling 71) Newcastle (Eng) 3 (Bellamy 45, 90, Viana 49)

Group F

At Athens

Olympiakos (Gre) 3 (Alexandris 37, Ninias 51, Antzas 79)

Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 3 (Badier 9, Ayegbeni 10, Katan 41)

At Manchester, England

Manchester United (Eng) 2 (Veron 42, Van Nistelrooy 69)

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 0

Group G

At Milan, Italy

AC Milan (Ita) 1 (Tomasson 34)

Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 2 (Tristan 58, Makaay 69)

At Munich, Germany

Bayern Munich (Ger) 3 (Kovac 6, Sallihamidzic 19, Feulner 87)

Lens (Fra) 3 (Fink 19-og, Bakari 54, Blanchard 90)

Group H

At Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Dani 10, Gerard 44, Geovanni 56)

Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Cihan 20)

At Moscow

Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 2 (Julio Cesar 44, Loskov 90)

FC Bruges (Bel) 0

A Veron show



AFP, Manchester

Juan Sebastian Veron scored one and made another as Manchester United beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 to march into the second phase of the Champions League on Wednesday.

The Argentinian midfielder had been one of the scapegoats for United's derby humiliation at the hands of Manchester City at the weekend.

But unlike Fabien Barthez and Gary Neville - both dropped by United boss Alex Ferguson - Veron at least managed to keep his place in the starting line-up.

And he repaid the manager's

faith in him with two pieces of creative ingenuity to secure United's fifth win out of six matches in group F.

Ferguson declared himself satisfied with his players' response to the public lambasting they received from him in the wake of the City defeat.

"There was a hunger about them which was good to see. I was quite pleased with the performance," he said.

Veron's first decisive contribution came three minutes before the break when he started a sweeping move that finished with Ruud Van Nistelrooy laying the ball off to him on the edge of the area.

Veron flicked the ball up with his first touch and dispatched it into the corner of the net with his second.

Twenty minutes from the end, he repaid his team-mate with a superb first-time pass that, with the help of a Paul Scholes flick, left Van Nistelrooy with only Leverkusen keeper Hans-Jorg Butt to beat for his 10th goal of the season.

Veron might have added another minutes later after a powerful run and dive enabled him to get his head to Scholes' cross but Butt did well to produce a reflex save to deny him.

Leverkusen, who were already assured of their place in the second phase, had left some of their biggest names at home - Oliver Neuville, Lucio and Diego Placente to name but three.

But the match might have had a very different complexion had their Czech midfielder Jan Simak not blasted a 17th-minute penalty wildly

over the bar.

Barthez's replacement Ricardo had been responsible for the spot-kick, mistiming his dive at the feet of Thomas Brdaric, who had been sent clear by Dimitar Berbatov's fine pass.

Ferguson admitted that Simak's miss had been a fortunate let off. "It would have changed things but I think we could have responded," he said.

Leverkusen boss Klaus Toppmoller justified his decision to field a virtual second-string team, and declared himself pleased with the way they had acquitted themselves.

"We were qualified for the second phase and we have a lot of injured players and a lot of players who have been playing every Wednesday and Saturday for a year and a half," he said.

"You can see they (United) have had some troubles in recent games and if we had scored that penalty I would liked to see how they came back."

United had started brightly with Van Nistelrooy fastening on to Zoltan Sebescen's imprudent backpass to force Jorg Butt to save with his feet inside the first two minutes.

Leverkusen failed to clear the resulting corner and Van Nistelrooy wasted another chance by failing to connect with a volley from only five yards out.

After the let-off from Simak, United again began to apply the pressure and Mikael Silvestre got on the end of a David Beckham free kick with a stooping header that bounced off the post.

But Leverkusen were by no means on the rack and Ricardo made up for his penalty blunder by holding a long range effort from Simak and then producing a good block from Boris Zivkovic.

The Spanish keeper was called upon one more time, with another good save to keep out a powerful Simak drive four minutes before Van Nistelrooy killed off the match.

Typical Deportivo



AFP, Milan

AC Milan were joined in the last 16 of the Champions League by Spanish side Deportivo La Coruna whose spirited second-half fightback earned them a 2-1 victory over the Italians here at the San Siro on Wednesday.

Deportivo, needing a win to be certain of progressing to the second phase along with the group win-

QUALIFIERS

Full list of qualifiers for the second phase of the European Champions League following Wednesday's matches:

QUALIFIERS

Group A: Borussia Dortmund (Ger), Arsenal (Eng)

Group B: Valencia (Spa), FC Basel (Swi)

Group C: Real Madrid (Spa), AS Roma (Ita)

Group D: Inter Milan (Ita), Ajax (Ned)

Group E: Juventus (Ita), Newcastle (Eng)

Group F: Manchester United (Eng), Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)

Group G: AC Milan (Ita), Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)

Group H: Barcelona (Spa), Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)

QUALIFIED FOR UEFA CUP

Group A: Auxerre (Fra)

Group B: Liverpool (Eng)

Group C: AEK Athens (Gre)

Group D: Lyon (Fra)

Group E: Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)

Group F: Maccabi Haifa (Isr)

Group G: Lens (Fra)

Group H: Bruges (Bel)

ELIMINATED

Group A: PSV Eindhoven (Ned)

Group B: Spartak Moscow (Rus)

Group C: Genk (Bel)

Group D: Rosenborg (Nor)

Group E: Feyenoord (Ned)

Group F: Olympiakos (Gre)

Group G: Bayern Munich (Ger)

Group H: Galatasaray (Tur)

ners, won the tie thanks to Dutchman Roy Makaay's superb 69th minute strike.

Milan, who had already booked their place in round two having won four of their previous five first round games, took a first-half lead through Danish international Jon Dahl Tomasson.

But the Spanish visitors clawed their way back when Diego Tristan levelled the scores with a spectacular long-range strike close to the hour mark.

Despite suggestions that Milan would field a weakened side, the Italians made just three changes to the team that lost 2-1 at French side Lens a fortnight ago.

Alessandro Costacurta, Martin Laursen and Massimo Ambrosini made way for Dario Simic, Rui Costa and Kakha Kaladze.

Milan's Dutch international Clarence Seedorf was suspended.

Deportivo were without Nourredine Naybet and Cesar through injury while Victor Sanchez was dropped to the bench.

In came Tristan, Alberto Luque and Hector Berenguel as coach Javier Irureta opted for an attacking line-up to snatch the all-important victory.

Deportivo made all the running in an entertaining first-half but found themselves a goal down against the run of play in the 34th minute.

Kaladze went surging down the left wing and delivered an inviting cross for Tomasson who rose high to direct a firm header wide of the outstretched hand of Deportivo goalkeeper Juan Juanmi.

Deportivo came out fired up for the second-half and restored parity in the 58th minute.

With the Milan defence in retreat as Deportivo broke swiftly on the counter-attack, Tristan took the ball deep into the Milan half and unleashed a venomous 30-yard drive which Christian Abbiati could only get a fingertip to as it flew into the top corner.

Deportivo then underlined their dominance by completing a superb fightback through Makaay who after latching onto Jose Emilio Amavisca's clever through-ball beat Abbiati with a low 20-yard shot.

Second phase draw Spanish clubs dominate seeding



AFP, Geneva

Manchester United will join three Spanish sides as top seeds for Friday's European Champions League second phase draw, UEFA announced.

With Real Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia also top seeds, Manchester United know they will draw Deportivo La Coruna, renewing a rivalry that saw the sides meet four times in last year's Champions League.

Four teams from Italy and Spain have advanced to the second group stage, meaning one from each country will be placed in each group. Clubs from the same country cannot play each other in the second group stage, nor can sides seeded in the same pool.

English champions Arsenal, therefore, also have one opponent already determined: AS Roma. The Gunners are second seeds alongside the three other Italian clubs, Juventus, Inter Milan and AC Milan. One of those three Italian sides

will join United and Deportivo, while a top-seeded Spanish club will be drawn with Arsenal and Roma.

Newcastle United, the third English representative, will face one of the two Milan sides, as it already faced Juventus in the first group stage.

Deportivo and Roma join German clubs Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund as third seeds. Newcastle is seeded fourth along with Lokomotiv Moscow, Ajax and FC Basel.

The eight group winners from the first phase concluded Wednesday have been placed in the top two pots, with teams then seeded according to the UEFA club coefficient rankings.

Friday's draw will divide the 16 teams into four groups of four, with the top two in each group advancing to the quarterfinals.

- Pot 1:** Real Madrid, Manchester United, Barcelona, Valencia
- Pot 2:** Juventus, Arsenal, Inter Milan, AC Milan
- Pot 3:** Deportivo La Coruna, Bayer Leverkusen, AS Roma, Borussia Dortmund
- Pot 4:** Lokomotiv Moscow, Ajax, Newcastle United, FC Basel

Barca too strong anyway



AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona fielded virtually a second-string team but still beat Galatasaray 3-1 here on Wednesday to end the first phase of the Champions League as the only side with a 100 per cent record.

The defeat completed a miserable campaign for the cash-strapped 2000 UEFA Cup champions, who finish bottom of Group H with just four points after Lokomotiv Moscow defeated FC Bruges 2-0.

Coming hot on the heels of a 6-0 defeat to city rivals Fenerbahce at the weekend, Galatasaray coach Fatih Terim could soon be looking for a new job.

The Turks were left regretting chances to take the lead before the Catalan giants hit their stride to cement their position as group winners.

Barcelona opened the scoring after ten minutes when Dani col-

lected a pass from Brazilian striker Geovanni before beating two Turkish defenders and slipping the ball past goalkeeper Faryd Mondragon.

Galatasaray struck back with a goal from Cihan Haspolatli when he outjumped central defenders Frank De Boer and Carlos Puyol.

The Turks' chance to take the advantage came when De Boer stepped on the ball, leaving Elvir Balic one-on-one with Barcelona keeper Robert Enke but the Bosnian striker fired over the bar.