

Night of the subs



AFP, Paris

Substitutes were to the fore in the Champions League on Tuesday as Manchester United replacements Ryan Giggs and Ruud van Nistelrooy scored all their goals in a record 3-0 home defeat for Juventus to seal their place in the last eight for the seventh successive season.

Holders Real Madrid also had a substitute to thank as Javier Portillo struck in injury time to earn a 1-1 draw with Borussia Dortmund - who beat Juventus in the 1997 final - and keep them a point ahead of the Germans in the second-phase Group C.

Both Real and Dortmund are playing for the runners-up spot as AC Milan progressed serenely through to the last eight for the first time since the 1994/95 season with a 1-0 win at Lokomotiv Moscow.

United like Milan have won all four of their second phase matches, but the fight for second place in the former's Group D involves all three of the teams as Deportivo La Coruna avenged their defeat to Basel last week by beating the Swiss side 1-0.

Diego Tristan's fourth goal in his last two matches was enough for the Spaniards to leapfrog Basel into third, where they trail Juventus on goal difference, and keep alive their hopes of reaching the quarter-finals for the third successive season.

If ever there was a fortuitous injury it came for United with the sixth minute departure of Diego Forlan and the arrival of Giggs. After Juve had twice hit the woodwork, the Welshman slotted home twice in the first-half - the second a brilliant individual effort - to virtually wrap up the game.

Giggs himself was then replaced by van Nistelrooy in the second half and the Dutchman put away the third to break his own record of scoring in seven successive Champions League matches and reignite memories of the last time United won in Turin when they went on to collect the trophy in 1999.

United coach Alex Ferguson was beaming after watching his side move a step closer to the final which will be contested at Old Trafford.

Ferguson said he had no intention of bringing Giggs on so early,



PHOTO: AFP

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? Serginho (behind) of AC Milan desperately trying to stop Bennett Mnguni (L) of Lokomotiv Moscow at Moscow on February 25.

with one eye on Sunday's League Cup final against Liverpool.

"Football can be a funny game - I didn't want to use Ryan tonight," Ferguson added.

"But we had to use him because of Diego's injury and he turned out to be the match winner."

Ferguson explained why he took Giggs off just after the break.

STANDINGS

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

Group C						
AC Milan	4	4	0	0	4	0
Real	4	1	2	1	5	5
Dortmund	4	1	1	2	4	5
Lokomotiv	4	0	1	3	3	6

Group D						
Man United	4	4	0	0	10	2
Juventus	4	1	1	2	7	7
Deportivo	4	1	1	2	3	5
Basel	4	1	0	3	2	8

"He picked up a knock and wasn't running freely," he said.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, who before the match said United's best performances are always away from home, blamed tiredness for his side's record home defeat in European competition.

"The main problem for us was physical," he said. "We didn't look as sharp as United and we were punished for our mistakes."

"Having said that every piece of fortune went United's way. These are not excuses, this is the truth."

United's victory, though, was nothing on the drama at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion.

Trailing at half-time to Jan Koller's 23rd minute strike, Real Madrid were heading for defeat until, two minutes into stoppage time, Zinedine Zidane rolled a pass across the area for Portillo to shoot past Jens Lehmann and into the corner of the net.

And Dortmund missed a gilt-edged chance to take a 2-0 lead when Brazilian striker Ewerthon headed wide from close-range midway through the second half.

Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer was furious his team had thrown away victory by losing the ball, allowing Zidane to penetrate into the penalty area to deliver his telling pass.

"The team played well, but this result makes me mad," said Sammer. "At this level, the slightest mistake is punished and it has cost us dear."

"Amoroso losing the ball is only a partial cause of the equaliser. It wasn't Billy Reina's job to come to cover him, he can do that himself."

"That meant there was a gap on the left wing. If Dede hadn't been substituted this wouldn't have happened."

AC Milan had Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo to thank for their

Real remain second in group C with five points to Dortmund's four and the Spanish giants next face AC Milan at home on March 12.

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Controlling Hector Berenguel's cross, he shot past Pascal Zuberbuhler to give the hosts the start they needed and it was to be the Swiss guardian who kept his side in the match making a succession of smart saves.

However even when Zuberbuhler was caught out the hosts couldn't seal the match as Luque, who had replaced Makaay midway through the second half, rounded the keeper but the goal gaping he slipped.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collected Champions League second group phase results on Tuesday:

Group C
At Dortmund, Germany
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1
(Koller 22) Real Madrid (Spa) 1
(Portillo 90)
At Moscow
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 0 AC
Milan (Ita) 1 (Rivaldo 34-pen)

Group D
At La Coruna, Spain
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 1
(Diego Tristan 4) Basel (Swi) 0
At Turin, Italy
Juventus (Ita) 0 Manchester
United (Eng) 3 (Giggs 15, 41,
Van Nistelrooy 63)

Education first

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Namibia's opening match against Zimbabwe, he is no respecter of reputations.

In Harare, in Namibia's first ever World Cup game, he announced himself to a startled Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak by lofting him over extra-cover for six.

"I don't plan to bat like that," he said. "It just comes naturally."

"I am a bit surprised at how well I have done but my main aim always is to go in positively and play the ball, not the man who is bowling it."

"I try not to hang back as I believe that, if someone bowls you a bad ball, you should hit it, no matter who the bowler is."

Burger's presence at the World Cup is all the more remarkable because he never expected to be playing the game after the age of 16. Brought up in Pretoria, the 16-

year-old JB moved with his father to Namibia, where he thought his cricketing dreams would die as he believed the game was not played in the south-west African country.

But, discovering that the opposite was true, he worked his way into the Namibia side that took part against provincial teams in South Africa's domestic Bowl competition.

Burger impressed sufficiently to gain a place at the Free State cricket academy in 2000, before returning to Namibia to ensure he qualified to represent the country at the World Cup.

Burger had been the highlight of my life, with England the biggest highlight of all," he said.

"That innings against them is my foremost memory of the tournament so far, but facing Wasim Akram, who is probably the best bowler of all time, was also brilliant."

Next in line for the flashing blade of Burger are world champions Australia on Thursday, when his attitude will remain as positive as ever.

"I'm very excited and it is a dream come true to play against them," he said. "I have only ever seen them on television and I have never seen them play live."

"Watching them over the last couple of years I hope I know what to expect. We will try our best and all I will focus on is batting as long as I can and trying not to concentrate on who is bowling at me."

"I don't plan to change anything in the way I have been batting, as it has worked for me in the World Cup so far."

they have got players that can beat, and now have beaten, the best sides and Port Elizabeth is their conditions with a low bouncing wicket and a small ground.

"So there are a lot of things that suggest they are a good side for us to play, as it will show us how well we are playing and where we are at that particular stage of the tournament."

Australia complete the tourna-

ment's first phase with matches against Namibia in Potchefstroom on Thursday and England on Sunday. Although Buchanan is content with his side's progress so far, he still believes there is room for improvement.

"We are travelling nicely at the moment but we are still short of where we can be, as was shown against Zimbabwe," he said, referring to Australia's seven-wicket win

in their last cup outing.

"Defensively we let them in a few times (with Andy) Blignaut and (Heath) Streak, we missed a couple of run outs and there were some errors in the field. But we will tighten those things up."

"Everyone is in good shape and having put the off-field controversies behind us, it is now down to cricket business," he added.

Juninho can't wait

AFP, London

Brazilian World Cup star Juninho has said he is ready to return to first team action with Middlesbrough after a long battle against injury.

The popular little midfielder attracted a crowd of 20,000 to watch him stretch his legs Tuesday night for the first time in weeks with a reserve team fixture against Bradford City.

The club decided to move the match to the Riverside Stadium after it was confirmed that the World Cup winner and fit-again defender Ugo Ehiogu would play.

That proved to be a wise decision as 19,450 spectators arrived to watch the Brazilian score in a 9-0 romp to prove to manager Steve McClaren that he is almost ready to be thrown back in at the deep end.

"I have no words to express my feelings about last night," Juninho admitted.

"It's difficult to explain my relationship with the Middlesbrough supporters.

"It's been wonderful since my first time here." Juninho continued: "That's why I made the decision to come back to the club, and that's why I have the ambition to win something for Middlesbrough to remember for the rest of my life."

Juninho was hailed as a conquering hero when he agreed to join the Teessiders for the third time in a move from Atletico Madrid last summer.

But disaster struck just days before the start of the new season when the man who had a few weeks earlier confirmed his return to top form by helping his country lift the World Cup for the fifth time suffered knee ligament damage during a pre-season trip to Italy.

ACU upset

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defeat has obviously caught its attention.

Sri Lanka, who romped through their first three matches, were shot out for 157 off 45 overs after chasing Kenya's modest 210 for nine.

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Kenya's Test

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but it was also marred by sub-standard bowling and fielding.

Canada's Australian recruit John Davison exposed the frailty of the West Indies attack by blasting a century off just 67 balls, the fastest ever World Cup hundred.

Davison only bats at nine in Australia's domestic competition and a major concern for captain Kevin Pietersen is that his team have to contain Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, one of the world's most explosive opening batsman.

"The (the Canada game) forced us

Giggs is Giggs



AFP, Turin

Any prospective buyers hoping to get Ryan Giggs on the cheap will probably have to dig a lot deeper into their pockets after the Manchester United winger tore Juventus apart here on Tuesday.

Giggs was close to leaving United earlier this season after he became a target for the Old Trafford boos boys having struggled to find his form.

But the Welsh wing wizard showed he still has plenty to offer after a stunning display at the Delle Alpi stadium.

The Welshman came off the bench for Diego Forlan in the eighth minute to inspire United to a 3-0 win that clinched a place in the last eight of the Champions League for the 1999 European champions.

Giggs scored twice - his second goal a brilliant example of wing play - before a thigh injury forced him to leave the pitch early in the second-

half.

Ruud van Nistelrooy, who came on for Giggs, scored United's third goal.

United boss Alex Ferguson hinted Giggs still has a bright future at United, despite plenty of interest from Juventus' Serie A rivals Inter Milan.

"Ryan has excelled on many occasions and tonight was one of them," he said.

"He has such wonderful balance and goes past defenders as if they weren't there."

"He's a special talent."

One man proved right about the Giggs was Welsh boss and former United star Mark Hughes, who last month said it was only a matter before he was back to his best.

"It is fair to say that Ryan has had a little dip in confidence but that happens to everybody," Hughes said.

"Every player has experienced that. But the secret is that the old adage is true that form is temporary and class is permanent."

"It will only be a matter of time

before Ryan is fine again."

Giggs made his mark four minutes after coming on against the Italians