



GOT 'EM NAPPING! Dynamo Kiev goalkeeper Oleksander Shovkovskiy is jubilant while his teammates celebrate the winning goal against Arsenal in Kiev on October 21.

Kiev punish Gunners



AFP, Kiev

Maxim Shatskikh's volleyed goal and a schoolboy error by Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann earned Dynamo Kiev a 2-1 Champions League victory here on Tuesday.

Shatskikh's 27th minute, opportunist goal, after the ball had cannoned into the air, was the first blow in a match which left the Gunners rock bottom of Group B, five points behind Kiev and Inter Milan and three points adrift of Lokomotiv Moscow.

German Lehmann, inexplicably trying to dribble the ball outside his box, finally lost possession to leave Valentin Belkovich an easy goal in the 64th minute.

Thierry Henry's tap-in from six yards in the 80th minute gave Arsenal hope but it proved too little, too late for the team who are top of the English Premiership but always struggle in this competition.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger refused to criticise Lehmann.

"I am not here to blame players who make mistakes as, of course, before that we had time to control the ball," said the Frenchman.

"It was very unfortunate but when you ask your players to play the ball out from the back, you must expect that they will occasionally make mistakes. It is part of the game."

"Jens is very down in the dressing room but all of the boys are down."

"In the last 20 minutes we had our chances but we just couldn't get the equaliser. The ball just wouldn't break for us," he told ITV.

Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-1 on Saturday to take top spot in the Premiership in a high point after the low of anticipated player suspensions following the ugly scenes against Manchester United last month.

This result meant a further dip in morale for Arsenal who have now not won in their last eight European fixtures.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger left captain Patrick Vieira and Swedish winger Fredrik Ljungberg on the substitutes bench, meaning Brazilians Gilberto and Edu started in midfield.

The midfield of Kiev coach Alexei Mikhailichenko was boosted with the return to fitness of Georgi Peev though Romanian international Florin Cernat had not recovered in time.

The first chance of the game came when Robert Pires headed Thierry Henry's ninth-minute corner on to the crossbar in an early scare for the Ukrainians.

Dynamo had not conceded a goal in their last five games in Europe and the rearguard was yet again proving tough to get past. Arsenal's forays forward kept floundering around the edge of the penalty area against an impressively solid backline.

Uzbek Shatskikh proved alert to the chance when Jerko Leko's initial

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Moscow mauling for Inter



AFP, Moscow

Russian champions Lokomotiv Moscow recorded their first win in this season's Champions' League campaign, thrashing visitors Inter Milan 3-0 in their Group B match on Tuesday.

Lokomotiv captain Dmitri Loskov, striker Mikhail Ashvietia and midfielder Dmitri Khokhlov were on target for the home side, lifting them into second spot in Group B.

Inter still remained on top of the group however with six points from three matches, two points ahead of second-placed Lokomotiv, though the situation could change after the other Group B match between Dynamo Kiev and Arsenal later on Tuesday.

No doubt Inter have been unsettled by the sacking of coach Hector Cuper on Sunday. The team were looked after in Moscow by interim coach Corrado Verdelli with Alberto

Zaccheroni taking the reins on Wednesday.

The hosts got off the mark after just two minutes when Loskov fired the ball into the top right hand corner from the edge of the six-yard box after Vadim Yevseyev's short pass from the right.

Inter replied positively, pinning Lokomotiv back and forcing their keeper Sergei Ovchinnikov into several impressive saves, but to no avail as the hosts defended well.

Inter skipper Javier Zanetti missed a clear chance to equalise when he stole the ball from Khokhlov and dribbled into Lokomotiv's box but could only fire the ball over the crossbar.

Lokomotiv had several scoring opportunities before the break and certainly kept the Inter keeper Francesco Toldo on his toes, but they failed to increase their lead by the half-time whistle.

After the break, Inter poured forward and their Argentinian

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Inter Milan defender Matias Almeyda (L) being checked by Marat Izmailov (R) of Lokomotiv Moscow at Moscow on October 21.

Juve masterclass



AFP, Turin

Juventus moved to the brink of the last 16 of the Champions League after defeating Real Sociedad 4-2 here on Tuesday to maintain their hundred per cent first phase record.

French striker David Trezeguet and Italy international Marco Di Vaio both scored twice as last season's losing finalists punished the woeful defending of their Spanish visitors.

Juve took their foot off the pedal after their four-goal blitz and allowed the Basque side to bring some respectability to the scoreline with two goals in the last 23 minutes.

Croat defender Igor Tudor put through his own net in the 67th minute before Francisco De Pedro rifled home a free-kick to complete the scoring at the Delle Alpi stadium.

Juventus' victory saw them open up a three-point lead at the top of Group D and take a giant step towards the second round.

The reigning Italian champions and current league leaders have nine points from their three matches, three more than Sociedad and six more than third-placed Galatasaray.

"We have real quality throughout

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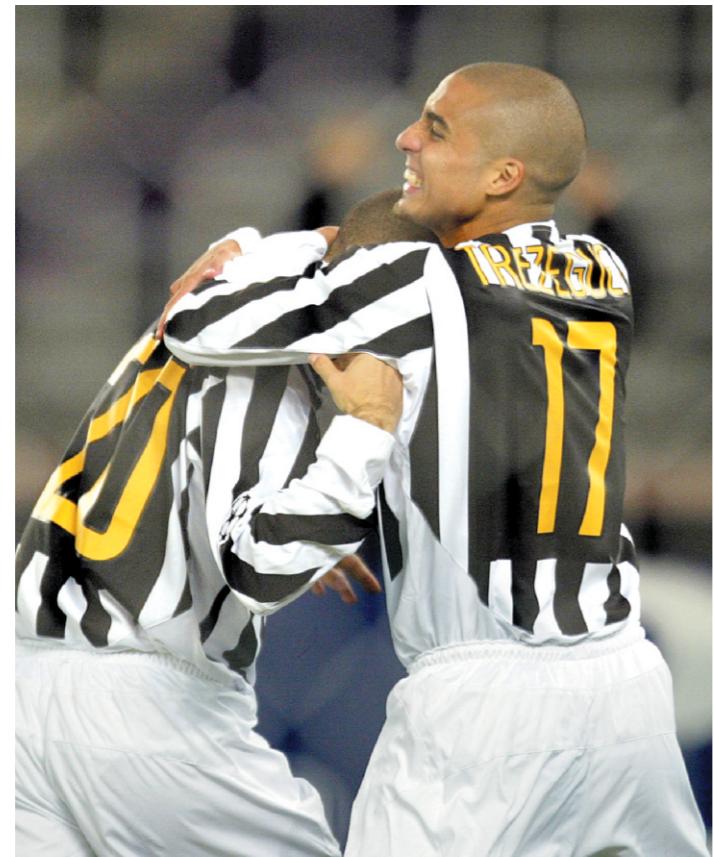


PHOTO: AFP

Juventus French international striker David Trezeguet (R) congratulating teammate Marco Di Vaio on scoring against Real Sociedad at the Delle Alpi stadium in Turin on October 21.

Premiership Shearer stars

AFP, London

Former England skipper Alan Shearer scored twice and set up another as Newcastle came back from 2-0 down to beat Fulham 3-2 at Loftus Road in the English Premiership on Tuesday.

Fulham were two goals ahead in the first seven minutes, with goals from St James' Park old boy Lee Clark and Louis Saha, but 33-year-old Shearer was the hero for the Geordies as Newcastle, who endured a miserable start to the season, pulled off their fourth win in a row.

Clark, who spent seven seasons at Newcastle, hit a superb angled drive for his first goal of the season after five minutes and, just two minutes later, Chris Coleman's men went 2-0 up through Saha's drilled shot into the far corner.

But Bobby Robson's men reduced the arrears to a single goal on the quarter hour.

Shola Ameobi crossed from the right, Laurent Robert and Shearer played a one-two and the Frenchman drove home a half-volley from 10 yards.

Shearer then levelled with a 50th-minute penalty when Alain Goma felled Shola Ameobi and the veteran striker completed Newcastle's comeback with the 56th-minute winner with his eighth goal of the season.

It was food for thought for watching England coach Sven Goran Eriksson.

Shearer, who has now retired from international football, is joint top scorer in the Premiership.

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