

# Shevchenko downs Barca

  
**AFP, Milan**

Andriy Shevchenko's first half header gave AC Milan a 1-0 win over Barcelona in front of a 68,000 crowd here Wednesday and moved them a big step closer to the knock-out stages of the Champions League.

The prolific Ukraine international buried Marcos Cafu's cross for his 30th goal in 60 Champions League

Europe's most potent attacking forces and take three precious points from the Catalans.

"I am very happy as we controlled the match for an hour and 15 minutes," said Ancelotti.

"At this moment Barcelona are playing some of the best football in Europe and the fact that we didn't concede a goal is very significant.

"With a little more precision we would have a second goal and it was only in the last quarter of an hour that they gave us problems."

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard, returning to the stadium where he

goals and Gullit the flair during Milan's golden era, Rijkaard stiffened up the midfield and never shirked a tackle.

He won back-to-back European Cups with Milan in 1989 and 1990 before enjoying consecutive league title triumphs in 1992 - when he was voted the best player in the Italian league - and 1993.

The Dutchman said he was not unduly worried by his team's first defeat in the group.

"I was satisfied with the way we played even if the result wasn't positive, but you have to take into

footed shot blocked by the legs of Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes.

The home side made all the early running, but Xavi slowly asserted his authority in the centre of midfield and Barcelona started to tick.

With the Spain international pulling the strings and Milan continuing to squander possession, the visitors came within a few inches of taking the lead in the 19th minute.

Cameron international Samuel Eto'o surged forward and fed Larsson, who had peeled off into space, but the former Celtic striker's rising shot rattled the crossbar.

top with Ronaldinho showing some delightful touches on the left flank and Deco, a Champions League winner with Porto last season, making a nuisance of himself in and around Milan's penalty box.

Filippo Inzaghi, Shevchenko and Cafu spurned chances to increase Milan's advantage before Nelson Dida was called into action, diving low to to palm away Ronaldinho's vicious drive.

Milan appeared content to sit on their lead and their change of tack almost cost them dear.

Ronaldinho evaded a flurry of



PHOTO: AFP  
RUN SHEVA RUN! AC Milan's Ukrainian superstar Andriy Shenvchenko (L) leaves Barcelona players Xavi (C) and Carles Pujol in his wake at the San Siro stadium in Milan on October 20.

appearances to settle a fiercely-contested match that failed to live up to its billing, despite an abundance of attacking flair on both sides.

Barcelona can consider themselves unlucky not to have snatched a point with Henrik Larsson and Andres Iniesta both hitting the woodwork.

Milan's victory maintained their 100 per cent record and left them top of the group on nine points, three ahead of Barcelona.

Barcelona, who have a five-point lead at the top of the Spanish league, host Milan at the Nou Camp in a fortnight.

AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti was delighted to shut out one of

was once idolised while playing in the revered Milan team of the late 1980s and early 1990s alongside fellow Dutchmen Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit, admitted he had a lump in his throat when he walked to the dugout.

"It was a special feeling to hear the crowd singing my name," said the 42-year-old.

"I had a wonderful time here as a player and the reception I got made me feel very proud.

"I tried to put it at the back of the mind because now I am with Barcelona and I was concentrating on the match, but I couldn't help feeling a little emotional."

While van Basten provided the

account we were playing at the San Siro and that's never easy," said the Dutchman, who played in the revered Milan team of the late 1980s and early 1990s alongside compatriots Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit, as well as Ancelotti.

"We were under pressure at times, particularly at the start of the second half, but we can take plenty of confidence from the performance.

"We showed a strong mentality and with this attitude we have no reason to panic."

Milan, who have been crowned champions of Europe six times, were the first to threaten, Shevchenko's angled rasping right-

Milan, currently second in the Italian league, regained the momentum and after Andrea Pirlo had shot tamely into Valdes' arms they took the lead on the half hour.

Pinned close to the right flank and with little space to work in, Cafu delivered a curling cross towards the six-yard box and Shevchenko rose above his marker to plant a firm downward header past Valdes.

The Milan fans went wild, but there was an even bigger cheer moments later when Gennaro Gattuso, not the most technically-gifted footballer, stopped the tricky Ronaldinho in his tracks with a superb sliding tackle.

Barcelona finished the half on

tackles and found Juliano Belletti whose intelligent cutback fell perfectly for Iniesta, but the substitute lost his head and blasted high over the bar.

Belletti drilled wide from an acute angle as Barcelona poured forward in search of an equaliser, before Iniesta saw his effort come back off the bar on the stroke of full time.

## Beckham let off easy

**AFP, London**

David Beckham has escaped disciplinary action for his deliberate yellow card against Wales after the Football Association decided there was "insufficient evidence" to charge the England captain.

Beckham last week admitted his yellow card awarded for a foul on Ben Thatcher was intentional because he knew he would miss the next game through injury and wanted to wipe out his existing caution by serving a one-match suspension.

The FA demanded an explanation from Beckham and launched a disciplinary investigation but have concluded they cannot charge the Real Madrid midfielder with bringing the game into disrepute.

"However, David Beckham has been reminded of his responsibilities and the rules of conduct he is expected to adhere to both as an England player and as captain," the FA said in a statement.

## Henry hopes to be fit

**AFP, London**

Arsenal striker Thierry Henry insists he will throw off an ankle injury to play in Sunday's Premiership showdown with Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has an injury crisis with captain Patrick Vieira and World Cup winner Gilberto Silva already ruled out of the Gunners who attempt to extend their unbeaten run to 50 matches.

Henry picked up an ankle injury in Wednesday's disappointing 2-2 Champions League draw against Panathinaikos. French winger Robert Pires and Brazilian midfielder Edu also finished the game with ankle injuries which could force them out of the Old Trafford clash.

But Henry remained upbeat about his chances of playing.

"I will be fine. I will be there," he said.

Pires and Edu will have constant treatment over the next two days to get them fit.

# Chelsea prevail, Gunners struggle

  
**AFP, Paris**

Chelsea emerged from the Adrian Mutu drugs controversy to virtually assure their place in the next round of the Champions League on Wednesday while London rivals Arsenal saw their calamity-prone goalkeeper Jens Lehmann cost them a point.

Jose Mourinho's Chelsea earned their third win in three Group H games with a 2-0 dismissal of CSKA Moscow at Stamford Bridge.

In Athens, however, Arsene Wenger's Arsenal were twice pegged back and were held to a 2-2 draw by Panathinaikos after Lehmann was twice at fault for the Greek champions' equalisers.

The point also meant that the Gunners lost top spot in Group E to PSV Eindhoven who defeated Rosenborg 2-1.

Elsewhere, Celtic slumped to a 3-0 defeat and headed for the Champions League exit door losing 3-0 to Shakhtar Donetsk.

Defending champions Porto went down 2-0 to Paris St Germain to slip to the foot of Group H.

At Stamford Bridge, an early corner allowed John Terry to head home his third goal of the season and Eidur Gudjohnsen repeated the trick from Damien Duff's free-kick right on the stroke of half-time.

It was only the second goal of the season for the Icelandic striker but that will still have come as a relief for Mourinho, who has Didier Drogba out injured, Mutu facing a ban for cocaine use and Mateja Kezman still struggling to adapt to English football.

rose unopposed to head in a second equaliser with Lehmann again caught napping.

"It's difficult to make judgements just after the game but I will speak to Jens" said Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger.

"We will see what happened but if you make mistakes at the back, you will get punished."

Arsenal went in front in the 18th minute. Jose Antonio Reyes threaded a sweet left foot pass through a wall of defenders where Ljungberg was on hand to chip over the onrushing goalkeeper Konstantinos Chalkias.

Then in the 65th minute Lehmann came rushing out of his penalty area to head a long, hopeful ball clear which fell to Gonzalez who scored with a sensational lob from an acute angle from just inside the touchline with the German desperately back-pedalling.

But Lehmann will also have the fingers pointed at him for the second goal when Olisadebe rose unopposed to head in a corner with the German marooned in no-man's land eight minutes from time.

It was the third European match in which Lehmann had blundered.

Last season, he tried to dribble the ball out of his area against Dynamo Kiev, lost possession and handed the Ukrainians a 2-1 win.

Just weeks earlier, the big German blamed himself for two of the goals in a 3-0 defeat by Inter Milan.

While Chelsea and Arsenal can still dream of the knockout stages, Celtic were left pinning their hopes on the consolation prize of a place in the UEFA Cup after a third successive defeat.

Brazilian midfielder Matuzalem hit two with compatriot Brandao adding the third for Shakhtar Donetsk.

In Paris, Paris Saint Germain's misfiring Champions League campaign finally got off the ground with a stunning acrobatic strike from Charles-Edouard Coridon inspiring them to a 2-0 win over titleholders FC Porto.

Pauleta, back from injury, increased PSG's lead seconds later leaving Porto in danger of becoming the first defending champions in the history of the tournament not to make the next stage.

  
**AFP, Valencia**

Inter Milan continued their stunning start to the season and top Champions League Group G with a perfect record after cruising to a 5-1 victory over Spanish champions Valencia here Wednesday.

A scintillating second half with goals from Dejan Stankovic, Christian Vieri Andy Van der Meyde,

Adriano, a constant threat down both wings and through the centre, darted down the right flank and his cross took a deflection off Valencia defender Curro Torres before falling to Vieri's feet.

Valencia didn't throw in the towel and got one back after 73 minutes when their Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar finished off a move by Marco Di Vaio.

However, Valencia's goal just prompted Inter to hit another gear.

Dutch midfielder Andy Van der

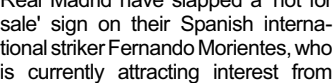
Rufete.

"I think we played as well as we could but there was no stopping Inter in the second half," said Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri who was celebrating his 53rd birthday on Wednesday.

The other 5-1 home defeat in continental competition was also coincidentally also inflicted by an Italian club, Napoli in the 1993 UEFA Cup.

Until Inter's two quick-fire strikes after the break, the game had been evenly poised during

# Morientes not for sale

  
**AFP, Madrid**

Real Madrid have slapped a 'not for sale' sign on their Spanish international striker Fernando Morientes, who is currently attracting interest from Liverpool.

Morientes only returned to the Bernabeu in August after a loan spell at Monaco, last season's Champions League finalists, but has complained of not being given enough playing time.

Liverpool are keen on signing the reportedly unsettled striker to supplement misfiring strike duo Djibril Cisse and Milan Baros.

However Real have upped the ante ahead of any transfer by saying he's going nowhere.

"In the face of certain press speculation which suggests the possibility of Fernando Morientes leaving Real Madrid, the club would like to state that the player is not for sale," a statement said on www.realmadrid.com.

The Guardian reported in England Thursday that Liverpool are continuing to have regular discussions with Real Madrid, according to the newspaper, are willing to sell but the possible stumbling block is Liverpool's lack of transfer funds, meaning they may have to look for a loan deal or postpone a permanent transfer until the end of the season.

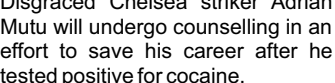
But Morientes is keen on a move.

"He is not happy because he is not playing," said his agent Gines Carvajal, who was in the stands for Liverpool's 0-0 draw with Deportivo La Coruna on Tuesday.

"He accepted the fact that he didn't particularly have a big chance of being in the starting XI every week, but he did expect to play now and again.

In a reference to Owen, who scored Real's winner against Dynamo Kiev on his European debut, Carvajal added: "It's easier to give an opportunity to someone from outside than it is to someone who is already at the club."

# Counselling for Mutu

  
**AFP, London**

Disgraced Chelsea striker Adrian Mutu will undergo counselling in an effort to save his career after he tested positive for cocaine.

"Mutu will start a programme of psychological counselling in London, probably on Friday. This programme will be for one hour daily," said his agent Victor Becali.

"He has understood what has happened to him and he is very co-operative. Mutu seems to be getting

his normal attitude back after spending some very bad days."

Romanian international Mutu, 25, has agreed to seek professional help after watching his career hit the rocks within 12 months.

A year ago, the Romanian international arrived at Stamford Bridge in a 15.8-million-pound switch from Parma and scored in his opening three games.

However, his two-year marriage to TV presenter Alexandra Dimu ended acrimoniously and this was compounded when she was awarded custody of their young son.

STANDINGS										
AFP, Paris										
Group E-H tables after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Group E										
PSV	3	2	0	1	3	2	6			
Arsenal	3	1	2	0	4	3	5			
Panathinaikos	3	1	1	1	4	4	4			
Rosenborg	3	0	1	2	3	5	1			
Group F										
Milan	3	3	0	0	5	1	9			
Barcelona	3	2	0	1	6	2	6			
Shakhtar	3	1	0	2	3	4	3			
Celtic	3	0	0	3	2	9	0			
Group G										
Inter	3	3	0	0	10	2	9			
Bremen	3	2	0	1	4	4	6			
Valencia	3	1	0	2	4	7	3			
Anderlecht	3	0	0	3	2	7	0			
Group H										
Chelsea	3	3	0	0	8	1	9			
CSKA	3	1	1	1	2	2	4			
PSG	3	1	0	2	2	5	3			
Porto	3	0	1	2	1	5	1			

RESULTS AT A GLANCE										
Results in the European Champions League on Wednesday:										
Group E	At Brussels									
At Athens	Anderlecht (BEL) 1 (Wilhelmsson 26)									
Panathinaikos (GRE) 2 (Gonzalez 65, Olisadebe 82) Arsenal (ENG) 2 (Ljungberg 18, Henry 74)	Werder Bremen (GER) 2 (Klasnic 36, 59) At Valencia, Spain									
At Trondheim, Norway	Valencia (SPA) 1 (Aimar 73) Inter Milan (ITA) 5 (Stankovic 47, Vieri 49, Van der Mejde 76, Adriano 81, Cruz 90)									
Rosenborg (NOR) 1 (Storflor 42) PSV Eindhoven (NED) 2 (Farfan 26, De Jong 86)										
Group F	Group H									
At Milan, Italy	At London									
AC Milan (ITA) 1 (Shevchenko 31) Barcelona (SPA) 0	Chelsea (ENG) 2 (Terry 9, Gudjohnsen 45) CSKA Moscow (RUS) 0									
At Donetsk, Ukraine	At Paris									
Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) 3 (Matuzalem 57, 62, Brandao 78) Celtic (SCO) 0	Paris Saint Germain (FRA) 2 (Coridon 30, Pauleta 31) FC Porto (POR) 0									
Group G										

## Adriano makes fans happy

**INTERNET SOURCE, Milan**

Brazilian striker Adriano has delighted Inter Milan fans by pledging his future to the Serie A giants.

On the wish list of every big club in Europe after a spectacular start to the Italian season, Adriano reaffirmed his commitment to Inter ahead of the club's derby against AC Milan on the weekend.

"It is pleasing to hear that other great clubs are interested in me, yet it is my objective to stay at Inter for some time to come," the South American told Britain's Channel 4.

Adriano has found the net on a number of occasions for both Inter and Brazil so far this season, including a spectacular brace in the 3-1 victory over Udinese last weekend.

"I'm happy that people are talking about my performances but I'm not thinking about that too much," he continued.

"I just prefer to concentrate on the objectives that I want to achieve with my team rather than personal recognition."

## G8 the name!

**AFP, London**

Paul Gascoigne, who will forever be remembered for crying during England's World Cup semi-final defeat to Germany in 1990, is no longer.

The man known worldwide as Gazza, as much for his riotous personal behaviour as his sublime footballing skills, believes it's time to change his name now that he has kicked drinking.

So, step forward G8.

It is nothing to do with the group of eight leading industrial nations, rather it is a combination of his surname and his old shirt number.

"G8 is right for us now," said Gascoigne. "It sounds a bit like great, or it does with my Geordie accent."



PHOTO: AP  
Inter Milan hotshot Adriano (L) skips past a tackle from Valencia's Francisco Rufete at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia on October 20.

Adriano and Julio Ricardo Cruz comfortably maintained the Italians' unbeaten streak in all competitions.

The Inter coach Roberto Mancini tried to lessen the blow to his hosts' morale, whose defeat equalled their worst ever home showing in a European competition.

"I think it is fair to say I wasn't expecting a victory like that. A good game, yes, and hopefully we were going to come out on top. But a result like that, no," said Mancini.

"The first half was fairly equal and perhaps we had a little luck to open the scoring. In many respects, I don't think Valencia had a bad game."

Stankovic headed Inter ahead two minutes after half time, connecting with a cross from Giuseppe Favelli out wide on the left.

Vieri took just another two minutes to add to Inter's tally.

Meyde had only been on the field a minute, coming on for a flagging Vieri, and found the net with his first touch of the game, firing a hard low shot past Santiago Canizares in the Valencia goal.

Adriano made it 4-1 nine minutes from the whistle, getting the reward he deserved after a tireless evening tormenting Valencia, with an easy close-range goal, his fourth in three Champions League games this season.

Cruz, a late substitute for Adriano, completed the rout a minute into injury time with a free kick from the edge of the box.

"I don't feel very well after that, it wasn't what we wanted," said Valencia captain David Albelda.

"We took a hell of a beating," admitted Valencia's Francisco

an entertaining first half which saw both sides go close.

Valencia nearly opened the scoring after 15 minutes when Di Vaio unleashed a shot against his compatriots, which required a full length save from Inter's veteran 37 year-old goalkeeper Alberto Fontana

Adriano almost broke the deadlock on the half hour but he sidefooted the ball wide while clear in front of goal.

Valencia are now third in the group, behind Inter and Werder Bremen after the Germans won 2-1 at Anderlecht on Wednesday.

After two consecutive defeats they face the prospect of going into the UEFA Cup and defending the title they won last season.