

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collated results in the European Champions League after Wednesday's matches:

Group A
At La Coruna, Spain
Deportivo La Coruna (SPA) 0 Monaco (FRA) 5 (Chevanton 22, Givet 37, Saviola 39, Malcon 55, Adebayor 75)
At Liverpool, England
Liverpool (ENG) 3 (Pongolle 47, Mellor 81, Gerrard 86) Olympiakos (GRE) 1 (Rivaldo 26)

Group B
At Leverkusen, Germany
Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 3 (Juan 51, Voronin 77, Babic 86) Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 0
At Rome
Roma (ITA) 0 Real Madrid (SPA) 3 (Ronaldo 9, Figo 61-pen, 82)

Group C
At Amsterdam
Ajax (NED) 2 (Galasek 39, Mitea 64) Bayern Munich (GER) 2 (Makay 9, Ballack 78)
At Tel Aviv
Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR) 1 (Dago 29-pen) Juventus (ITA) 1 (Del Piero 71)

Group D
At Istanbul
Fenerbahce (TUR) 3 (Sanli 46, 62, 90) Manchester United (ENG) 0
At Lyon, France
Lyon (FRA) 5 (Essien 7, da Silva Nilmar 18, 51, Idangar 83, Bergougnoux 90) Sparta Prague (CZE) 0

'Dear, oh dear!'

AFP, London

Some argue he is treated almost as a deity anyway, but a British tourist attraction has now taken David Beckham's status to new extremes by casting him in a Christmas nativity scene as Joseph, the father of Jesus.

In a move condemned by church groups as deeply tasteless, famous London waxworks museum Madame Tussauds has set up the scene using effigies of Beckham and his wife Victoria to stand in for the holy couple Joseph and Mary.

The England football captain is shown in a billowing green robe standing next to Jesus in the crib, arms round the demurely hooded figure of Victoria, formerly a member of pop group the Spice Girls.



PHOTO: INTERNET SOURCE

BLASPHEMOUS? Wax works of England soccer captain David Beckham (L) and his wife Victoria appear in a new celebrity nativity scene at the Madame Tussauds in London on December 7.

The unorthodox tableau is augmented by figures of US President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip playing the Three Wise Men.

Actors Samuel L. Jackson and Hugh Grant are among the shepherds, while Australian pop star Kylie Minogue is an angel.

The nativity scene, pictured in British newspapers on Wednesday, brought swift condemnation from religious organisations, with the Catholic Church calling it "certainly not in very good taste".

"Dear, oh dear," lamented a spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Church worldwide, while the Presbyterians were more blunt.

"The waxwork will cause offence to many, and it should be pulled down straight away," a spokesman told the Sun newspaper.

The Times newspaper also railed against the tableau as "uniquely tasteless".

"In the temporal realm, this is an example of the cult of celebrity taken to an absurd extreme. In the spiritual domain, the offence is more serious," it said in an editorial.



HERE WE COME! Liverpool's Steven Gerrard is over the moon as he celebrates after scoring the third goal against Olympiakos at Anfield on December 8.

Gerrard makes it possible

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Liverpool

Steven Gerrard scored one of the finest - and most dramatic - goals Anfield's famous Kop has ever witnessed to fire Liverpool into the knockout stages of the tournament with a gut-wrenching 3-1 win over Olympiakos here on Wednesday.

Leading 2-1 with barely four minutes left, Liverpool's chance of securing the two-goal winning margin they needed to climb above their opponents in group E appeared to have slipped away.

But it was resurrected in the most spectacular fashion imaginable when Gerrard squared up to substitute Neil Mellor's lay-off and smashed an unstoppable half-volley from nearly 30 yards.

Olympiakos's goalkeeper Antonios Nikopolidis did well to see it and move in the right direction. Stopping it was never an option.

Gerrard said he had thought at half-time that it was all over at his beloved team which nevertheless he has threatened to leave if there is no hope of silverware.

"At half-time I thought it was a mountain to climb but we did it. Thank god for that strike at the end. It is the most important goal in

my career for Liverpool. I had a lot of pressure on me after all the speculation about my future.

"I think we have all got to have belief. Fingers crossed I'm desperate for that league title more here than anywhere else. It was a massive night for me."

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez paid tribute to the jewel in the side's crown.

"He can play all over the pitch. He influences every part of the game."

"I have said to him many times that he has the freedom because he has talent and is very important to us," he purred.

Benitez' counterpart Dusan Bagevic fumed at his side's performance.

"The whole game was the worst we have played for a long time. We didn't create a single chance. Because we scored the first goal we thought we could hold back but Liverpool were better faster and stronger than us and with the pressure we were under we could not hold out," was his frank assessment.

They left it late but Liverpool - for their guts if nothing else - fully deserved to treat their fans to one of the most memorable nights in Anfield's illustrious European history.

Stunned by the Rivaldo goal that had given the Greeks a first half lead and a precious away goal, Benitez's

side got back into the match courtesy of goals from second half substitutes Florent Sinama Pongolle and Mellor.

Liverpool kicked off knowing a 1-0 win would lift them above the Greeks but that conceding one goal could be fatal.

There was precious little sign of either caution or patience however as Liverpool started with a bout of sustained pressure that yielded four corners inside the first three minutes.

Milan Baros thought he had scored from the second, his effort disallowed for climbing on his marker, while Sami Hyypia sent the fourth into the side netting at the footpost.

Olympiakos's vulnerability at set-pieces was underlined again when Harry Kewell was allowed a free header from a Xabi Alonso free-kick from the right.

The Australian failed to exploit the opportunity, directing his header into a defender's back rather than towards the target.

It was still encouraging enough for the home side and by the time Gerrard deflected a Xabi Alonso free-kick onto the post in the 21st minute, the Greeks had yet to mount a meaningful attack.

Rivaldo soon changed that, embarking on a run from inside his own half that took him past three ineffective challenges before he was unpeeled by Hyypia's trip on the edge of the area.

As the last man standing between

the Brazilian and Liverpool goalkeeper, Hyypia could count himself lucky to escape without any kind of sanction from Spanish referee Manuel Mejuto.

Liverpool did not go unpunished however. Rivaldo's free-kick was tamely struck and poorly directed by his standards. But a crack in the Liverpool wall ensured the unsighted Chris Kirkland could do little to prevent it finishing in the net.

Benitez had little option but to reshuffle his pack and the half-time introduction of Sinama Pongolle did not take long to pay off, the youngster hooking in Kewell's low cross from the left after less than two minutes on the field.

That at least got the Anfield crowd going and the home supporters howled were cruelly raised just after the hour mark when a shot from Gerrard slipped under Nikopolidis only to be disallowed because of a foul by Baros on centreback Gabriel Schuster.

There was more agony a quarter of an hour from the end when Kewell sent another free-header, this time from Pongolle, straight into the arms of the Greek goalkeeper.

Liverpool's chance seemed to be slipping away when Pongolle found a yard of space on the left of the goalmouth and slipped in a cross for Antonio Nunez.

The Spaniard's header was blocked but Mellor pounced to smash the loose ball into the net and set the stage for Gerrard's late heroics.

Ronaldo the spark

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Rome

Luis Figo scored twice but Ronaldo was the showstopper as Real Madrid defeated a second-string Roma side 3-0 behind closed doors here Wednesday to clinch a place in the knockout phase of the Champions League.

The match at the Olympic stadium was the second of Roma's two-game ban on supporters following crowd trouble against Dynamo Kiev here in September.

Ronaldo gave Real an early lead with a cool finish before winning a controversial penalty just after the hour which Figo converted.

The Portuguese midfielder then doubled his tally seven minutes from time, juggling the ball in the box before rifling home a low drive.

Victory for Real, only their second in Italy since 1962, ensured a place in the last 16 for the Spanish side for the eighth successive season.

While Roma had nothing to play for having already been eliminated, Real found themselves in the precarious position of needing to win their final group B match to be

certain of qualifying for the next round.

Their task was made easier by the fact that Roma coach Luigi Del Neri rested several key players including their captain Francesco Totti.

But it was far from a leisurely stroll for the nine-time European champions despite an excellent start, with Roma hitting the bar and creating several good chances.

Zinedine Zidane won his race to be fit and started in midfield for Real. The now-retired French international has been suffering from a sore back and missed Sunday's draw against Villarreal.

After Ronaldo headed wide from Figo's cross, Roma, who were not even able to console themselves with a place in the UEFA Cup, forced three corners in quick succession without troubling the visitors.

Ronaldo fared better in the ninth minute when he put Real in front.

A quick exchange of passes with Zidane created the opening for the Brazilian, who accelerated clear of the Roma defence and clipped the ball right-footed past Ivan Pelizzoli.

Roma, who lost the away leg in Madrid 4-2 after being two goals ahead, came close to levelling the

score in the 31st minute when Vincent Candela's 25-yard free-kick rattled the crossbar.

With only a slender lead to hold onto, Real were susceptible to a sucker punch, but their fears were eased in the 61st minute when they were awarded a dubious penalty.

Ronaldo's mesmerising run took him into the box and as he tried to dribble past Talianos Dellas, the Brazil international fell to the ground under what appeared to be a fair challenge by the Greek defender.

However, Dutch referee Rene Temmink saw things differently and pointed to the spot and Figo slotted the ball past Pelizzoli.

Amantino Mancini forced a flying save from Real keeper Iker Casillas and Daniele Corvia saw his headed goal ruled out for offside as Roma looked to restore some pride, before Figo grabbed his second of the night for a scoreline that flattered the Spaniards.

The Portuguese superstar found received the ball on the edge of the box and although his first touch only made the ball pop up, he showed excellent skill to beat lift it over Dellas before firing past Pelizzoli from inside the area with eight minutes remaining.

Cold North beckons Japan

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Japan will have to travel to North Korea for a World Cup tie after being handed a tough draw in the last round of Asian zone qualifiers for the 2006 Germany finals here Thursday.

The Asian champions were seeded separately from bitter rivals South Korea but were given by far the harder assignment in a veritable 'Group of Death' that also includes mighty Iran and fast-improving Bahrain.

Within minutes of the draw at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) headquarters, attention was already turning to the mouthwatering prospect of Japan's showdown with North Korea in Pyongyang on June 8 next year.

Japan last played a World Cup qualifier in the North Korean capital in 1989, losing 2-0 and the prospect of travelling to Pyongyang for a match laden with political overtones will be a daunting one.

FIXTURES

Draw for final round of 2006 FIFA World Cup Asian zone qualifiers made here Thursday:

Group A
South Korea
Saudi Arabia
Uzbekistan
Kuwait
Group B
Japan
Iran
Bahrain
North Korea

Note: Group winners and runners-up qualify automatically for 2006 FIFA World Cup finals. Third place teams meet in play-off to determine who advances to a further play-off against the fifth place side from CONCACAF qualifying zone.

The final goodbye

Football

AP, Carson

The security guards were trying to hustle Mia Hamm off the field, but she was having none of it. Making a U-turn, Hamm headed directly to a group of young fans seated in the stands who were screaming for her autograph.

"We all understand there's a bigger perspective," she said. "We want to make sure this game and these girls go forward together."

Hamm and Julie Foudy closed out their remarkable careers with the U.S. women's soccer team in style Wednesday night, cheered on by droves of young girls in a 5-0 victory over Mexico.

"It's hard to believe that it's over. Julie was crying, I'm crying," Hamm said. "I'm extremely blessed."

Hamm, the leading all-time scorer for the American women, assisted on the first two goals in the friendly match against the Mexican national team.

Longtime teammate Joy Fawcett, 36, also is retiring, but was unable to play because she is recuperating from back surgery.

Playing before a crowd of 15,549 who were yelling their names throughout the match, Hamm, Foudy and Fawcett smiled and waved to the fans after the final whistle.

The trio left quite a legacy, including the 1999 World Cup victory over China that drew a crowd of 90,000 to the Rose Bowl and attracted a TV audience of some 40 million.

While those three were playing, the United States won two World Cup championships and two Olympic gold medals, including in Athens last summer.

Hamm wore a jersey bearing her husband's name, Chicago Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, in the second half. Garciaparra and his family were in the stands.

"I wasn't expecting that," said Hamm, who was touched that the Garciaparras joined her family at the game. "That was special."

Hamm, who finished her career with 158 goals, came close to scoring

several times, including bouncing a shot off the crossbar in the first half and having a close-range shot blocked by the goalkeeper in the second half.

Aly Wagner and Abby Wambach each scored two goals for the United States, which led 4-0 at halftime.

On the first U.S. goal, Hamm displayed the ballhandling skills that served her so well during her storied career. She took a pass in the right corner of the box, started dribbling to her left, then to her right, feinted back to her left, then raced around an off-balance defender.

With goalkeeper Pamela Tajonar sliding to her left to cut off the angle, Hamm rolled a perfectly paced pass across the center of the box and a charging Wagner drove a shot into the open left side of the net.

Hamm also assisted on the second



PHOTO: AFP

THE END! US women's football great Mia Hamm waves to fans prior to her final international game, a friendly against Mexico in Carson, California on December 8.

score, this time showing her accuracy from the corner. Her curling corner kick sailed just over the goalie's outstretched hands and right into the center of the box, where Wambach headed the ball into the open net.

"Scoring is fun, but it's also fun to watch your teammates enjoying the game," Hamm said. She laughed and added, "I hadn't touched a ball in a month before tonight."

STANDINGS

Champions League Groups A-D tables after Wednesday's final round of matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A						
Monaco	6	4	0	2	10	4
Liverpool	6	3	1	2	6	3
Olympiakos	6	3	1	2	5	10
Deportivo	6	0	2	4	0	9

Group B						
Leverkusen	6	3	2	1	13	7
Real	6	3	2	1	11	8
Kiev	6	3	1	2	11	8
Roma	6	0	1	5	4	16

Group C						
Juventus	6	5	1	0	6	1
Bayern	6	3	1	2	12	5
Ajax	6	1	1	4	6	10
Tel-Aviv	6	1	1	4	4	12

Group D						
Lyon	6	4	1	1	17	8
United	6	3	2	1	14	9
Fenerbahce	6	3	0	3	10	13
Prague	6	0	1	5	2	13

Perfect Leverkusen

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Leverkusen

Bayer Leverkusen maintained their 100 percent home record in this season's Champions League defeating Dynamo Kiev 3-0 here on Wednesday to book their place in the last sixteen of the competition.

Locked 0-0 at half-time Bayer were set to exit the competition but the 2002 finalists raised their game after the interval with Brazilian Juan heading them in from the 51st minute.

Ukraine international Andrei Voronin then netted against his compatriots after 77 minutes before Croat Marko Babic added a flattering third four minutes from time.

Bayer become the third German team in the knockout phase joining Bayern Munich and German champions Werder Bremen.

It marks a huge turnaround in

fortunes for Leverkusen who were almost relegated from the Bundesliga in May 2003.

With the score 0-0 at half-time Bayer were heading out of the competition as Real Madrid led 1-0 at Roma.

But just six minutes into the second half that all changed with Brazilian defender Juan the unlikely scorer.

Juan signed a new contract on Wednesday and celebrated by powering home a downward header from a Voronin corner.

The goal lifted the tension and Voronin hit the post with a left-footed drive in the 56th minute.

The 22,500 fans then endured a nailbiting last 20 minutes until Voronin got the goal he deserved converting from close range in the 77th minute after brilliant play from German international Bernd Schneider.

Kiev were left to rue their string of missed chances and their evening was summed up when goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy let Babic's tame shot squirm under his body for 3-0.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Manikganj

Memo No-LGED/EE/Manik/C-1990/04-05/1086

Dated: 01/12/04

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
Tender Notice Number 12/2004-2005

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned works as per terms and conditions stated below:

No.	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender document (Tk)
1	2	3	4	5

Name of project: Portable Steel Bridge Construction Project under Netherland Assisted ORET Programme

01.	28.082m Long Deck Girder Bridge (Super Structure) over Vararia Khal on Balirack-Harirampur FRB road under Sadar Upazila, Manikganj	Tk. 78,000/=	180 days	Tk. 1,000/=
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1.	Last date, time & places of selling tender documents	16/01/05 & office hours (a) Office of the undersigned. (b) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar, Shibabala, Ghior, Daulatpur, Harirampur, Singair & Sauria, Manikganj. (c) The Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj. (d) Project Director, Netherland ORET Programme Portable Steel Bridge, LGED, HQ, Dhaka.
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3.	Last date, time & places of receiving tender	18/01/05 & 1.00 PM (a) Office of the undersigned. (b) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar, Shibabala, Manikganj. (c) The Deputy Commissioner, Manikganj. (d) Project Director, Netherland ORET Programme Portable Steel Bridge, LGED, HQ, Dhaka.
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4.	Date, time & place of opening of tender	18/01/05 & 3.00 PM Office of the undersigned.
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5. Tender shall be valid for a period of 119 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified in section 2. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Cash/Treasury Challan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderers or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.

DPP-29317-6/12/04

G-1219

Md Abdul Hai

Executive Engineer

LGED, Manikganj