

PREVIEW: REAL V JUVENTUS

Old Lady's Galactico date



AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid and Juventus will both be aiming to put behind them this week-end's domestic disappointments with stirring performances in their Champions League first leg clash on Tuesday.

Real lost for the first time since former Brazil boss Wanderley Luxemburgo took over at the helm of the Spanish giants in December, going down 2-0 to Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Juventus did slightly better with a 0-0 draw at Messina but dropping two points has allowed Milan to pull level with La Signora Vecchia - Juve's nickname is The Old Lady - at the top of Serie A.

Luxemburgo put the beating by the Basques behind him on Sunday but warned the Real not to take their eye off the ball ahead of the Italian side's visit, a replay of the 1998 Champions League final which Madrid won 1-0.

"The Champions League is a completely different competition. The players know that their involvement in it can end after just 180 minutes," said Luxemburgo.

"I expect everyone to be fully focused on the game and not thinking back to Saturday."

Most of those likely to be involved expect the encounter to be a special night, befitting the tradition and history of the two sides.

"There are few teams that can

compare with Madrid. This game could easily have been a final," said Juve striker and Italian international Alessandro Del Piero.

"A game against Madrid is always going to be an irresistible sporting attraction, especially since the last few years have seen Real acquire such a selection of global stars.

"As for Juve, OK we have lost a couple of recent games in Serie A but mentally we are in excellent shape," added Del Piero.

Juve's brains may be in good order but there are some question marks over a few legs.

They could be without their inspirational Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved, who has not played since injuring his left knee on January 23, although he will travel to Madrid.

Nedved has been training apart from his team-mates in a desperate bid to be fit to face Real but Juventus coach Fabio Capello will not know until Tuesday whether Nedved will win his race against time.

"We have players other than Pavel but, if he can't play, you are always going to miss someone like him," admitted Capello.

"He is dynamic, aggressive and can also change the rhythm of the game in a moment," added Capello, who knows his next opponents very well having guided them to the 1997 Spanish league title.

Capello will definitely be without his French striker David Trezeguet, who is suffering from flu.

Michel Salgado is Real's main injury worry, the right back having

received a bad knock on his left thigh against Athletic, and Alvaro Arbeloa could start his first Champions League game.

Inevitably, the visit of Juventus will bring back many memories for Real's three-times World Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane.

Zidane spent five years at Juventus between 1996 and 2001 but his frustration at their inability to lift European club football's top prize was instrumental in him moving to the Spanish capital for what is still a world record tranfer fee of 75.1 million euros.

"I've still got many friends in Turin, and not just people involved in the football club. They include a baker, a few taxi drivers, even my old hair-dresser. Everybody has been on the phone asking for tickets," said Zidane.

"I'd love to score a goal against Juve but not for any other reason than it will put Madrid one step closer to winning the Champions League.

"I had a great time at Juventus however it's simple, Madrid have to beat Juventus if they are to progress. I don't think the Juve fans are going to blame me for trying to play at my best against them."

FIXTURES

Tuesday's matches of Champions League, Last 16, first leg: Bayern Munich v Arsenal, Liverpool v Bayer Leverkusen, PSV Eindhoven v Monaco, Real Madrid v Juventus



PHOTO: AFP

BYE, BYE CHELSEA! Newcastle United's Patrick Kluivert (C) celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Chelsea at St James' Park, Newcastle on February 20.

FA CUP

Kluivert gives 'em the blues



AFP, Newcastle

Chelsea's quest for an historic quadruple of trophies was laid to rest as a Patrick Kluivert goal saw Newcastle maintain their bid to lift the FA Cup for the first time in 50 years by booking a place in the sixth round with a 1-0 victory.

Jose Mourinho's decision to rest roughly 100million poundsworth of talent backfired as the Stamford Bridge club paid the price for concentrating too heavily on the Champions League trip to Barcelona, with their first loss to an English club in four months.

Mourinho introduced substitutes Frank Lampard, Eidur Gudjohnsen and Damien Duff at half-time in an attempt to cancel out Kluivert's fourth minute winner, which has saved bookmakers an estimated 20million pounds they were expecting to pay-out had Chelsea claimed four trophies this term.

However the move proved ill-advised as his side were forced to operate for the last 40 minutes with 10 men after Wayne Bridge, the England international, was stretched off and taken to hospital with a suspected broken ankle as he

fell awkwardly following an innocuous challenge with Newcastle skipper Alan Shearer.

Chelsea ended the game with nine men after Carlo Cudicini, the Italian goalkeeper, was red carded for an injury-time professional foul on substitute Shola Ameobi, to see him suspended for Sunday's League Cup final.

There were further worries for Mourinho as Duff and William Gallas left the pitch limping with injuries which make them doubts for Wednesday's Nou Camp date.

Mourinho took defeat - only the third of the season for his side - on the chin.

"I'm stupid if I say we are not sad because we lost.

"We didn't win today and we are not happy with that.

"Sometimes you are proud of your team when you win and even though we lost like we did today, I am still proud of them. The mentality was fantastic.

"We only had 10 players during 45 minutes and realistically nine when Duff got injured. The message was of a very proud team. It's not a drama because that does not exist in football.

"Newcastle were not the best team but at Stamford Bridge they were better than us for 45 minutes

and we beat them 4-0."

His Newcastle counterpart Graeme Souness was understandably delighted.

"I think we got nervous after scoring the goal. They are a top team playing with all confidence in the world. It is the first time we had a 1-0 home success since I've been here.

"We're delighted about it and in the next round of the cup and we will get a lift from this."

The last 16 tie only went ahead following a morning pitch inspection following a herculean effort from the groundstaff to clear the playing surface of more than six inches of overnight snow.

Their efforts were particularly appreciated by John Terry, who would have served his one-match suspension against Liverpool in Cardiff had this game not gone ahead.

Newcastle repaid the sterling efforts of their army of snow-shifters by taking the lead with their first serious attack as they exploited Chelsea's aerial weakness caused by the absence of Terry.

Laurent Robert, the French winger, made the most of his first St James's Park start in almost two months by sending over an inch-perfect cross from the left after he

was fed by Nicky Butt, who in turn was named in the line-up for the first time in three months following a thigh injury.

The lurking Kluivert needed no second invitation to bury his ninth goal of the season into the top corner with a sumptuous near post header from six yards, after losing his marker, Gallas.

Sir Bobby Robson, the former Newcastle manager and also Mourinho's mentor from their time together at Barcelona watched as a guest from the stands as Chelsea mounted a determined bid to draw level.

Mateja Kezman, operating as a lone forward, wasted a decent opening when he leapt in front of better-placed team-mate Glen Johnson to head tamely over from a Geremi cross.

However, the Serbian international came close to making amends when he stole in between Titus Bramble and former Chelsea defender Celestine Babayaro to meet a Tiago cross with a looping close-range effort which crashed off the underside of the bar before bouncing to safety.

Newcastle showed few signs of being able to build on their early lead as they rapidly lost the momen-

turn afforded them by Kluivert's early strike.

And it took a fine save low to his left by Newcastle's Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given to deny midfielder Jiri Jarosik who took aim from 20 yards following a neat touch by Kezman as the hosts recorded a rare clean sheet.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

AFP, London

Collated English FA Cup fifth round results on Sunday:

Burnley 0 Blackburn 0
Tottenham 1 (Defoe 45) Nottingham Forest 1 (Taylor 56)
Newcastle 1 (Kluivert 4) Chelsea 0

Saturday
Arsenal 1 (Pires 78) Sheffield Utd 1 (Gray 90-pen)
Bolton 1 (Davies 12) Fulham 0
Charlton 1 (Bartlett 45) Leicester 2 (Dabizas 38, Dublin 90)
Everton 0 Manchester Utd 2 (Fortune 23, Ronaldo 58)
Southampton 2 (Camara 4, 36) Brentford 2 (Rankin 40, Sodje 58)

PREVIEW: BAYERN V ARSENAL

Gunners have to defy odds



AFP, Munich

With the English Premiership title seemingly out of reach Arsenal turn their attention to the Champions League on Tuesday hoping to gain the upper hand over German leaders Bayern Munich in the first leg of the last sixteen dult at the Olympic Stadium.

English champions Arsenal lie 11 points behind London rivals Chelsea on the domestic scene but winning the Champions League for the first time in their history would more than compensate for surrendering their English crown.

"I think it is so important for us to do well in the Champions League," explained Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. "It does not matter that we are not top of the Premiership - the motivation is still there."

After reaching the quarter-finals last season, before being eliminated by Chelsea, Wenger is determined for his cosmopolitan collection of stars to collect the one main trophy missing from the cabinet.

However, Bayern represent a tough obstacle to overcome with the 2001 victors top of the Bundesliga and starting to look the part in Europe after some indifferent displays over the past three seasons.

"Bayern have a wealth of experience in the Champions League and have been crowned European champions four times," acknowledged Wenger. "They will be a very difficult team to play against."

Indeed Bayern used home advantage to crush Borussia Dortmund 5-0 on Saturday with Dutch international Roy Makaay scoring a superb hat-trick.

"This was a good win but we need to raise our game against Arsenal," confessed Bayern manager Felix Magath. "We know they are in good shape but are still confident of winning at home."

German international captain Michael Ballack, who has been unable to train all week due to muscular problems, is the only doubt for Bayern with Magath having all of his big guns available for Arsenal.

The goalkeeper duel between German internationals Oliver Kahn and Jens Lehmann has been the talk of the domestic media with the duo - who are far from good friends - rivals for the German number one jersey.

"Everyone seems to be talking about the duel between myself and Jens Lehmann," admitted Bayern custodian Kahn. "But there are 20 other people playing in this game too."

Frenchman Wenger has injury problems to negotiate with England international Sol Campbell definitely sidelined due to an ankle injury and his international team-mate Ashley Cole also doubtful with the flu.

Brazilian midfielder Edu is recovering from a hamstring injury and is rated at 50-50 to be fit in time for Tuesday.

Arsenal laboured to a 1-1 draw with Sheffield United in the fifth round of the FA Cup on Saturday and knock defeating Bayern on their own patch is a mammoth task.

The last time an English team defeated Bayern at the Olympic Stadium was back in the 1993/94 season when unfashionable Norwich City won 2-1 in the second round of the UEFA Cup.

Arsenal also have a poor record in Germany failing to win any of their last three Champions League matches in Schalke 04, Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern also have the psychological strangeness over Arsenal having won 1-0 in Munich the last time the two met in the 2000/01 Champions League campaign.

Ottmar Hitzfeld's team went on to lift the trophy defeating Valencia 5-4 on penalties and will hope playing Arsenal is a good omen.

Ronaldo's

shirts stolen

INTERNET SOURCE, Brasilia

Brasilia, 02/20 - About 100 shirts of the collection of Brazilian international Ronaldo were stolen together with other trophies at Rio de Janeiro, as announced Saturday by the father of the player, Neli Nazario.

The collection, of "great sentimental value" according to Nazario, was stolen from Ronaldo's father's flat, located in a luxurious residential area of Rio.

The thieves also got valuable objects and jewelry, as well as trophies won by the player, including a gold soccer-shoe, paintings, Ronaldo's photos, clothing and footwear.

"It was horrible. I arrive in the flat, found the door open, and everything was a mess," said Nazario to the local press.

According to the father of the soccer star, among the shirt that were stolen, was the first one worn by Ronaldo in the national team, as well as other of German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, he gave to the Brazilian in the final of the Korea-Japan 2002 World Cup.

This comes in moments when the Rio de Janeiro archdiocese said the wedding celebrated between the player and Brazilian model Daniella Cicarelli in France is void as they had not allowed to hold a civil marriage because none of them are no legally divorced from their former couples.

SERIE A

Milan smile as Juve stutter



REUTERS, Rome

Ten-man AC Milan replaced Juventus at the top of Serie A after a stoppage-time goal by Brazilian winger Serginho gave them a 1-0 win over Cagliari on Saturday.

The result gave Milan 54 points from 25 matches, level on points but with a better goal difference than Juventus, who drew 0-0 at Messina in an earlier match.

Third-placed Inter Milan remain 11 points adrift of the leaders after conceding a late goal to draw 1-1 with Udinese. At the San Siro, a bright start by Milan against Cagliari was marred when Andriy Shevchenko was forced to make an early exit after clashing heads with defender Massimo Brambilla.

Even without their top striker, however, the Serie A champions pressed forward.

Clarence Seedorf curled a low centre across the face of goal and striker Jon Dahl Tomasson narrowly failed to connect while Shevchenko's replacement, Heman Crespo, fired just over.

Milan continued to dominate after the interval but as the minutes ticked by their attack grew increasingly impatient.

Rui Costa blasted over the bar, despite having time and space to spare, and defender Giuseppe Pancaro was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Cagliari's defensive tactics seemed likely to be rewarded with a point but in the first minute of stoppage time Cafu curled a cross to an unmarked Serginho in the area and the winger rifled a shot into the roof of the net.

Juve's goalless draw was the latest in a series of recent slips. Having started February with an eight-point cushion, the Turin-based club lost two of their

previous three matches to let Milan back into the title race.

Messina's position in the bottom half of the division belied a tricky away test for the 27-time Italian champions.

The Sicilian side had lost only twice at their Stadio San Filippo this season and easily matched Juve in the first half.

While Alessandro Del Piero forced Messina goalkeeper Marco Storari into a diving save at one end, Riccardo Zampagna went even closer at the other with a header that smacked the post.

Juventus played with more spirit after the break, but a combination of imprecise passing and aggressive marking by the home side meant they struggled to create any scoring chances.

Nine minutes from time Juve striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic broke the outside trap to go clear on goal, but the Swedish international lashed his shot straight at Storari.

Milan's joy at their late victory was not shared by city rivals Inter, who were instead on the receiving end of a last-minute goal by Udinese forward Henok Goitom that cancelled out a Juan Sebastian Veron strike.

Abramovich

asks for Kaka's price

INTERNET SOURCE

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich stunned AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani Friday night by asking him to name his price for midfielder Kaka.

The Brazil international is the one player Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has asked Abramovich for this season and the Russian is determined to do all he can to prise the free-scoring midfielder away from the San Siro.

Abramovich was in Milan to honour Milan striker Andrei Shevchenko at a function organised



KAKA

by Russian newspaper Sport Express.

Galliani took advantage of their meeting to discuss the permanent signing of on-loan Chelsea striker Hernan Crespo. But Abramovich was unimpressed by the players on offer - Jon Dahl Tomasson, Khaka Kaladze and Massimo Ambrosini.

He made it clear: Crespo will either go for £7 million cash or for a player swap deal involving Kaka.

PRIMERA LIGA

Real run snapped



AFP, Madrid

Barcelona extended their Spanish first division lead to seven points with a 2-0 win over Real Mallorca, as their rivals Real Madrid crashed 2-0 at home to Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

The Catalan club's victory was a big boost to their confidence ahead of their Champions League clash with Premiership leaders Chelsea on Wednesday.

"What was pleasing about this match was that we showed our true mental qualities. Mallorca was never going to be an easy game even though they are close to the bottom of the table," said Barca coach Frank Rijkaard.

"Even at 2-0 I couldn't relax but we battled and concentrated."

Mallorca had a chance to take the lead after just 11 minutes when Luis Garcia was held by Barca club captain Carles Puyol.

However, Garcia's shot from the spot was saved by Victor Valdes and the runaway league leaders never looked back.

Deco opened the scoring after 17 minutes, with a 20 yard run before unleashing a right foot shot that two Mallorca defenders just stood and watched go into the net.

The Portuguese international was on target again 12 minutes after the break, this time with a left foot effort from the edge of the area.

The scoreline could have even more embarrassing but for two superb close-range saves from their 20-year-old keeper Miguel Angel Moya.

"I am proud of the way we played but Barcelona's performance in this match will act as a warning to Chelsea," said Mallorca coach Hector Cuper.

One worrying note for Barca is that Puyol continues to be bothered by a painful right knee.

"I'm not a doctor, and he'll be getting treatment in the next few days, but I think and hope he'll be OK to face Chelsea," said Rijkaard.

Real Madrid's build-up to their own mouth-watering Champions League clash against Juventus on Tuesday suffered a serious setback when they lost for the first time under new coach Wanderley Luxemburgo.

Second half goals from Asier Del Horno and Andoni Iraola ended Real and Luxemburgo's seven-game winning run in the league.

Madrid started the match Saturday with Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and skipper Raul Gonzalez all on the bench, although Luxemburgo threw them all simultaneously into the fray just after the hour.

Real were lucky not to have been a goal down at the break.

In the 17th minute, Tiko Martinez hit a powerful drive which came off the crossbar and beat Iker Casillas in the Real goal.

The referee waved away Athletic's appeals but television replays later showed the ball had crossed the line.

"This was the worst game we've had this year, but the league isn't lost," said Casillas.

"We'll get over this and we are already starting to think about Juventus. In many respects, that is an even more important game

for our future."

England striker Michael Owen started just his second league game under Luxemburgo but was replaced by Ronaldo.

However, neither man impressed and the former Brazil boss will have to decide between Owen and the out-of-form three-times World Player of the Year against Juventus on Tuesday.

Adding to Real's misery on Saturday was the news that right back Michel Salgado is doubtful to face Juventus.

The Spanish international recieved a blow to his left hamstring late in the game but had to struggle on and finish the match as Real had used up all their substitutes.

His likely replacement is the reserve team player Alvaro Arbeloa, who has just one game in the Real first team to his name.

Sevilla's hopes of being in the Champions League next season took a knock when the third-placed side lost 1-0 at Real Sociedad.

The only goal of the game came four minutes from the whistle when Darko Kovacevic chested down a long ball with his back to the goal, before spinning then blasted it home on the half-volley.

TOP SIX

Spanish League standings after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Barcelona	24	18	3	3	49	17	57
Real	24	16	2	6	43	19	50
Betis	24	11	8	5	39	28	41
Sevilla	24	12	5	7	28	25	41
Villarreal	24	11	7	6	41	22	40
Valencia	24	10	8	6	36	24	38