

PREVIEW: REAL V JUVENTUS

Old Lady's Galactico date

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid and Juventus will both be aiming to put behind them this weekend'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 on 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 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 transfer 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 hairdresser. 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."

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

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.

PREVIEW: BAYERN V ARSENAL

Gunners have to defy odds

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

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 duel 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 away."

Ronaldo's shirts stolen

INTERNET SOURCE, Brasilia

Brasilia, 02/20 - About 100 shirts from 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, Nelio 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 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 Ciccarelli in France is void as they had not allowed to hold a civil marriage because none of them are legally divorced from their former couples.

SERIE A

Milan smile as Juve stutter

Football

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

FA CUP

Kluivert gives 'em the blues

Football

AFP, Newcastle

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 men after 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 the best-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 momentum 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

AFF, London

Collected 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 1 Manchester Utd 2 (Fortune 23, Ronald 58)

Southampton 2 (Camara 4, 36) Brentford 2 (Rankin 40, Sodje 58)

Sunday

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 1 Manchester Utd 2 (Fortune 23, Ronald 58)

Southampton 2 (Camara 4, 36) Brentford 2 (Rankin 40, Sodje 58)

Wednesday

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 1 Manchester Utd 2 (Fortune 23, Ronald 58)

Southampton 2 (Camara 4, 36) Brentford 2 (Rankin 40, Sodje 58)

Sunday

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 1 Manchester Utd 2 (Fortune 23, Ronald 58)

Southampton 2 (Camara 4, 36) Brentford 2 (Rankin 40, Sodje 58)

Wednesday

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 1 Manchester Utd 2 (Fortune 23, Ronald 58)

Southampton 2 (Camara 4, 36) Brentford 2 (Rankin 40, Sodje 58)

Sunday

Arsenal 1 (Pires 78) Sheffield Utd 1 (Gray 90-pen)

Bolton 1 (Davies 12) Fulham 0</