

Barca, Gunners through

Eto'o treble sinks Panathinaikos



REUTERS, London

Barcelona and Arsenal swaggered through to the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday but Manchester United's hopes hang in the balance after another demoralising defeat.

United's 1-0 defeat by Lille in Paris intensified the pressure on manager Alex Ferguson and threw Group D wide open.

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o hit a sparkling hattrick in Barcelona's 5-0 thrashing of Panathinaikos which assured them of qualification from Group C.

Dutchman Robin van Persie scored twice as Arsenal maintained their 100 percent record in Group B with a 3-0 home win over Sparta Prague but Bayern Munich's hopes of qualifying on the night were dashed after a 2-1 loss at Juventus in Group A.

On Tuesday French side Olympique Lyon and nine-time winners Real Madrid confirmed their places in the last 16.

United are in danger of not reaching the knockout phase after their defeat, combined with Villarreal's win at Benfica, left all four teams still in contention to qualify.

Marcos Senna's long-range effort eight minutes from time gave Villarreal, who visit Old Trafford next, a 1-0 win in Portugal and they top the group on six points, with Lille and United on five points and Benfica on four.

United arrived in Paris, where Lille are playing their home matches due to ground redevelopment, still in shock after a 4-1 weekend thrashing by Middlesbrough.

Lille profited after 38 minutes when Slovenian Milenko Acimovic raced through a hole in the centre of United's defence and crashed the ball home to register the French team's first goal in the Champions League this season.

United hit the bar in the second half but Lille could also have added to



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona's Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o (R) celebrates with teammates Brazilian Ronaldinho (C) and Argentinian Leo Messi after completing his hattrick against Panathinaikos during their Champions League encounter at the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona on November 2.

their tally and Ferguson has much to ponder before Sunday's home match against English champions Chelsea.

In the Nou Camp Barcelona scored in the opening minute and quickly swamped their Greek opponents.

Dutchman Mark van Bommel lobbed them in front and Eto'o grabbed two either side of 18-year-old Lionel Messi's effort to make it 4-0 at half-time.

Eto'o completed his hat-trick just past the hour with a beautifully curled shot and with 10 points from their four matches, the Catalan club cannot fail to finish in the top two in their group with the three other teams on four points.

One of those is German side Werder Bremen, who breathed life into their campaign with an extraordi-

nary 4-3 home win over Udinese.

The Italians recovered from 3-0 down early in the second half to level at 3-3 with three goals in six minutes before Johan Micoud's second of the night clinched the points for the Germans.

At Highbury substitute Van Persie added two well-taken goals to Thierry Henry's majestic opener midway through the first half, a right-footed curler into the corner of the net after some neat inter-passing.

Arsenal have a maximum 12 points, five more than Ajax Amsterdam who increased their grip on second place with a dramatic 4-2 win at Swiss side Thun.

Stoppage time goals by Nigel de Jong and Nourdin Boukhari gave the Dutch side victory and they are now

four points clear of third-placed Thun.

Group A is much tighter after a David Trezeguet double earned Juventus revenge for their defeat at Bayern by the same score two weeks ago.

The French striker's goals came either side of a Sebastian Deisler goal for Bayern, lifting Juve to the top of the group on nine points, the same as the Germans.

However, Juve's night was soured when Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was sent off in the last minute for kicking out at an opponent.

Belgian side Club Brugge remain in contention on six points after a 3-2 home win over Rapid Vienna, who had taken the lead with a goal after only 26 seconds by Marek Kincl.

Russian title CSKA's

REUTERS, Moscow

CSKA beat Dynamo 2-1 in a heated Moscow derby on Sunday to clinch the Russian premier league title with a game to spare.

CSKA defender Alexei Bereztzky opened the scoring from close range in the 55th minute and Brazilian playmaker Daniel Carvalho added the second when he beat Dynamo's Portuguese keeper Nuno with a neat lob 18 minutes later.

Defender Denis Kolodin pulled one back for Dynamo in the seventh minute of added time but it was too little too late to prevent the army side from celebrating a deserved victory.

The win gave UEFA Cup holders CSKA an insurmountable four-point lead over last year's champions Lokomotiv and their Moscow rivals Spartak with just one round of matches remaining.

Lokomotiv crushed already relegated Terek Grozny 3-0 while Spartak captain Yegor Titov scored midway through the second half to give his side a 1-0 win over Saturn Ramenskoye.

Eng batting

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six in the first match at Rawalpindi.

Asif then removed Marcus Trescothick in his fourth over, sending the experienced opener's bails airborne with a sharp cutter. Trescothick, who made a fighting unbeaten 124 and 38 in the first match, made just eight.

Kevin Pietersen, whose form is a worry on the tour, fell to Nazir in the 13th over when he miscued a drive and was caught by wicketkeeper Rehman for four.

Asif then dismissed captain Michael Vaughan (17) and Paul Collingwood (0) -- both caught in the slips in his seventh over -- to have England reeling on 4-34.

In his next two overs, Asif sent Geraint Jones (0) and allrounder Andrew Flintoff (9) back to the pavilion in a remarkable spell of 11 overs, taking 5-43.

Ashley Giles (21) and topscorer Shaun Udal (23) added 34 invaluable runs for the eighth wicket but Asif returned for a second spell after lunch to dismiss Udal and last man Steve Harmison to wrap up the innings.

Hoggard then matched Asif blow for blow as he removed opener Taufiq Umar (six) in his third over and followed it up with the wickets of Faisal Athar (0), Shahid Yousuf (10) and Imran Farhat (23) in his spell of six overs.

India clinch

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beating Zimbabwe 3-2 in March 2002 and came with three games in hand in Ahmedabad on Sunday, Rajkot on November 9 and Baroda on November 12.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between India and Sri Lanka at the Nehru Stadium on Thursday:

SRI LANKA: 261 all out in 49.5 overs (Atapattu 87, Dilshan 52, Arnold 32; Agarkar 5-44.

INDIA: 262 for 6 in 45.4 overs (Dravid 63, Sehwag 48, Dhoni 15 not out, Raina 39, Rao 38; Muralitharan 3-35) **Result: India won by four wickets and take 4-0 winning lead.**

Man-of-the-match: Ajit Agarkar.

Hall checks

FROM PAGE 12

A 12-match winning streak by South Africa was ended when the fourth match in Durban was abandoned because of rain Friday. South Africa have been unbeaten in 18 matches, including two no-results and a tie.

It was the fourth successive toss won by South African captain Graeme Smith.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the New Zealand innings in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa at Centurion Park on Sunday:

NEW ZEALAND
Fleming c Boucher b Pollock 0
Astle c Hall b Langeveldt 37
Vincent c De Villiers b Hall 66
Marshall c Boucher b Langeveldt 3
Styris c Boucher b Hall 19
McMillan lbw b Hall 9
McCullum c Boucher b Hall 27
Vettori run out (Boucher) 0
Franklin c Boucher b Nel 12
Mills c Prince b Ntini 19
Bond not out 9
Extras: (lb-3, nb-4, w-7) 14
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 215
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-75, 3-91, 4-134, 5-141, 6-152, 7-152, 8-185, 9-187
Substitutions: McMillan for Adams

Bowler
Pollock 8 1 34 1
Ntini 8.3 0 49 1
Nel 9 0 46 1
Langeveldt 9 2 36 2
Hall 10 1 23 4
Kallis 5 0 24 0
SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, De Villiers, Kallis, Prince, Boucher, Kemp, Pollock, Hall, Langeveldt, Ntini, Nel.
Substitutions: Morkel.
Toss: South Africa.

Henry, Arsenal go along



AFP, London

The Arsenal revival that has coincided with Thierry Henry's return from injury gathered pace on Saturday as the Gunners swept bottom club Sunderland aside to climb to third in the English Premiership table.

Henry claimed Arsenal's second and third goals in a 3-1 win at Highbury to make it five goals from four starts for the club captain since his return from a six-week lay-off.

The Frenchman's recent goalscoring exploits have been matched by Dutch winger Robin van Persie, who also made it five from four starts after running on to a Sol Campbell through ball to put his side ahead in the 12th-minute.

Centre-back Alan Stubbs gave Sunderland some hope 15 minutes from time but Henry stifled any fightback with his second goal of the afternoon with eight minutes left.

Defeats for Manchester City and Charlton helped Arsenal climb into the top three, though unfancied Wigan's 2-0 win at Portsmouth kept them in second place, five points clear of the Gunners.

Arsenal are 11 points adrift of leaders Chelsea and manager Arsene Wenger will be hoping Manchester United can halt the champions' juggernaut at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Liverpool claimed their first away win of the season by overcoming Aston Villa 2-0 in Birmingham.

Steven Gerrard's penalty and Xabi Alonso's drive both came in the last five minutes and Villa boss David O'Leary was left fuming over the spot-kick that turned a match that had appeared destined to end goalless.

Defender Liam Ridgeway was judged to have wrestled Peter Crouch to the ground but O'Leary insisted the Liverpool striker was doing just as much grappling.

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez rejected O'Leary's view of the spot-kick. "For me it is a clear penalty," he said.

Top-flight debutants Wigan continued to confound the pre-season odds by claiming their sixth straight league victory at Fratton Park.

Man-of-the-match Pascal Chimbonda headed in a 48th-minute corner and then set up Jason Roberts to tap in the second 11 minutes from time.

Blackburn ended Charlton's 100 percent away record with an impressive 4-1 win at Ewood Park.

The home side were quickly out of the traps, Australia midfielder Brett Emerton unleashing a swerving drive from 20-yards to give them a second-minute lead that was shortly doubled by Paul Dickov's header.

Brian Hughes gave the visitors hope with a close-range effort but Rovers secured matters when Morten Gamst

Pedersen struck just before the hour mark and Craig Bellamy rounded off the rout.

Fulham pulled further away from the drop zone courtesy of a 2-1 home win over high-flying Manchester City.

French midfielder Steed Malbranque, identified earlier in the day as one of the Premiership's unsung heroes by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, responded to the unexpected accolade with a first-half double.

Malbranque's sixth and 45th-minute strikes came either side of a Lee Croft goal for City.

Teddy Sheringham's fourth Premiership strike of the season was enough to give West Ham victory over visitors West Bromwich at Upton Park.

The 39-year-old former England striker pounced in the 57th minute to keep Alan Pardew's side firmly ensconced in the top half of the table.

Newcastle made it four wins on the trot with a 1-0 win over Birmingham at St James' Park.

The visitors resisted the combined firepower of Michael Owen and Alan Shearer for over an hour.

But Steve Bruce's relegation-threatened side finally succumbed to their eighth defeat of the season when Turkey midfielder Emre Belozoglu fired in a 78th-minute shot that found the net with the help of a deflection off Owen.



PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard (R) goes past Gareth Barry of Aston Villa during their Premiership fixture at Villa Park in Birmingham on November 5.

PRIMERA LIGA

Osasuna surprise still on



REUTERS, Madrid

Osasuna tightened their grip at the top of the Primera Liga when they inflicted a first home defeat of the season on Real Sociedad with a 2-1 win at Anoeta on Saturday.

Javier Aguirre's modest outfit are now five points clear of Barcelona at the top after 11 matches but the champions can narrow the gap to two points with a win at high-flying Getafe on Sunday.

Former Mexico coach Aguirre refused, however, to get carried away with his side's spectacular start to the season.

"We still need another 18 points or so to achieve our aim which is to avoid relegation," he said.

Villarreal climbed to third, level on points with Barca, after a first-half strike from Argentina's Luciano Figueroa gave them a 1-0 win at home

to regional rivals Valencia.

Figueroa, deputising for the injured Diego Forlan, poked the ball past goalkeeper Santiago Canizares after Valencia's defence failed to deal with Marcos Senna's lofted pass into the area.

Villarreal's Mariano Barbosa preserved their lead with a string of top-drawer saves in the second half, including a stunning one-handed effort to block a vicious David Albelda drive.

Former Spain boss Javier Clemente was denied a winning start to his third spell at Athletic Bilbao when Espanyol midfielder Ferran Corominas snatched a late equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw in a nervous bottom-of-the-table clash at Montjuic.

The draw leaves Bilbao anchored to the foot of the table with Espanyol just two points above them.

Leaders Osasuna dominated the early exchanges against Sociedad but they only took the lead 11 minutes

before halftime after good work by Enrique Corrales on the left.

The fullback clipped a fine cross into the area and in-form midfielder Raul Garcia outjumped two defenders and team mate Savo Milosevic to loop a header over keeper Asier Riesgo.

Sociedad drew level, however, on the stroke of halftime when spot kick specialist Xabi Prieto put away a penalty after Osasuna midfielder Valdo handled in the area.

Riesgo stopped Osasuna regaining the lead early in the second half with a great double save, scooping a powerful Milosevic header off the line and then blocking the striker's follow-up with a superb reflex save.

However, defender Carlos Cuellar secured a rare win for the Navarans in San Sebastian when he headed low into the net after bursting between two defenders to meet a free kick from Patxi Punal midway through the second half.

Tutul's death condoled

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation, Sonali Oit Club, Brothers Union and Swadhinata Krira Sangha on Sunday condoled the death of former national



MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN TUTUL

footballer Mosharraf Hossain Tutul.

Tutul, who got a national call in 1995 and played for the second-string Bangladesh Greens, was killed in a road accident on Eid Day in the city.

The 38-year-old striker was at the peak of his form in 1995 when he led Bhola to win the National Football Championship in Naogaon. Tournament top-scorer Tutul then joined Abahani before fading away from the limelight due to repeated injuries. He also played for Brothers Union and Wari Club in the Premier League.

Swadhinata Krira Sangha will hold a milad mahfil today at Khilgaon Talata City Super Market in memory of Tutul, who was founding vice-president of the organisation.

Proteas' winning streak snapped

AFP, Durban

South Africa's 12-match winning streak ended Friday when the fourth one-day international against New Zealand at Kingsmead was abandoned because of rain.

South Africa, batting first after winning the toss, were 79 for two after 20 overs when rain stopped play. The rain did not let up before umpires Steve Bucknor and Brian Jerling called off the game almost four hours later.

South Africa, holding an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, had won 12 matches since a wash-out in the sixth international against England, also in Durban, in February.

South Africa's winning sequence was the second-longest in one-day internationals behind Australia's 21 successive wins in 2003. South Africa have been unbeaten in 18 matches, including two no-results and a tie.

SERIE A

A blow for Inter



AFP, Rome

Inter Milan's Serie A title ambitions faded further after they were held to a goalless draw by Lazio.

Chances were at a premium but the best of them fell to Inter whose Nigerian striker Obafemi Martins wasted two excellent opportunities in the second half.

Lazio, though, will have felt aggrieved not to have been a goal up at the break after Goran Pandev saw his close range effort harshly disallowed.

A point for Inter, only their second from the last nine, left them in fourth place on 20 points, seven behind leaders Juventus who play Livorno on Sunday.

Lazio, who have struggled themselves after a solid start to the season, are still unbeaten at home but are without a win in their last four matches.

Inter, whose 2-1 win over Porto on Tuesday took them to the brink of a

place in the Champions League's knockout stages, have not won away to Lazio in the league since March 3, 1996.

Fernando Orsi, standing in for the suspended Inter coach Mancini, insisted his team deserved victory.

"It's two points lost, we should have won," he moaned.

"We dominated the second half and there was only one team in it. It's a lot of effort for little reward."

Mancini, a former Lazio player and coach, was unable to take his place in the dugout at the Olympic stadium having been banned for two matches for abusing the referee in the 3-2 defeat to Roma last month.

Inter's troubled striker Adriano, who has suffered with poor form and disciplinary problems this season, showed what he can do when he's in the mood, his early shot curling inches over the crossbar.

Lazio were happy to play on the counter-attack and their tactic almost paid off when Cesar's goalbound shot was tipped over by Julio Cesar.

The home side did have the ball in the net in the 21st minute only to see what looked a perfectly good goal ruled out.

Cesar's towering header at the back post found Pandev who swept the ball home from a yard out only for his celebrations to be curtailed by the referee who said Cesar had climbed over his marker.

Inter were then left to rue two gilt-edged chances that Martins didn't take.

First he took too long over his shot when one-on-one with Julio Cesar and allowed the Lazio defence to rob him of the ball.

And then moments later he slipped just as he was about to pull the trigger after leaving the home defence in his slipstream.

In Saturday's early match, Empoli beat Reggina 3-0.

The Tuscan side's victory lifted them up to sixth ahead of Sunday's matches, while an eighth defeat for Reggina left the Calabrians sixth from bottom on nine points.

Kahn's frustration

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn admits he is at loss for what to do next weekend after Germany manager Jurgen Klinsmann decided to give him another break ahead of Saturday's friendly match with France in Paris.

Klinsmann continues to rotate his goalkeepers and Arsenal's Jens Lehmann will be between the sticks against France with Kahn allowed the luxury of some leisure time.

"I am torn, I do not know whether to play golf, go for a swim or do some dancing," Kahn told pay-per-view television channel Premiere.

The 36-year-old Kahn, who has been Germany's first-choice goalkeeper since late 1996, was pictured playing golf on his last time-out on September 3 when Germany lost 2-0 to Slovakia in a Bratislava friendly match.

"When I see that the best goalkeeper (Kahn) is playing golf when the match is on it makes me crazy," Franz Beckenbauer, West Germany's 1974 World Cup winner, said at the time.

Klinsmann has decided to keep Lehmann and Kahn, who have a frosty relationship, apart on international duty before making a final decision on who is number one for the 2006 World Cup.

Gayle c Warner b Watson 33
Smith c Warner b Lee 3
Sarwan c Gilchrist b Lee 31
Lara c Hayden b Bracken 14
Chanderpaul lbw b Bracken 7
Samuels not out 17
Ramdin c Gilchrist b Lee 6
Powell lbw b Bracken 0
Edwards b Bracken 0
Collymore lbw b Lee 4
Lawson b Lee 1
Extras: (lb-3, nb-10) 13
Total: (All out in 49 overs) 129
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-53, 3-85, 4-99, 5-99, 6-105, 7-106, 8-106, 9-114

Bowler
McGrath 11 3 22 0
Lee 14 4 30 5
Watson 6 0 25 1
Bracken 16 3 48 4
Warne 2 1 1 0
Result: Australia won by 379 runs and lead series 1-0.
Man-of-the-match: Ricky Ponting.

Hectic cricket

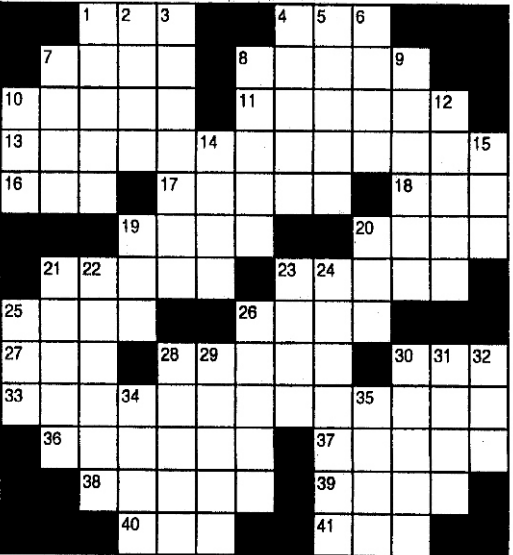
FROM PAGE 12

Enamul Haque Jr and Nazmul Hossain.

Another popular club Abahani will only register one player (pacer Anwar Hossain Munir) from the national pool.

Two other national pacemen Mashrafe Bin Mortuza and Tapash Baisya have little chance to play in the league due to injuries while wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim will be busy with under-19 duties.

Meanwhile, the national cricketers will restart their indoor practice tomorrow.



CRYPTOQUIP

X Q R N Z G P H R G B I X I O
N Q V H I B D X C H W P H F F X I O
Y C N V D H F, X F Z W W N F H R N Z

Y N Z C U J H X P N I X I O J N P H U.
Yesterday's Cryptokuip: A NEW FILM ABOUT HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MORTGAGE HOLDER HAS BEEN TITLED "HOME: A LOAN."

Today's Cryptokuip Clue: R equals Y

The Cryptokuip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 AWOL's catcher pursuers
4 "The A-Team" actor
7 Peter Pan foe
8 Tierney of "ER"
10 Click-and-drag device
11 Whopper topper
13 "Joy to the World" band
16 Trinity member
17 Stage statuary
18 Felonious flight
19 Umpires
20 "Star Wars" knights
21 Muffler
23 Denis of "Rescue Me"
25 Slender
26 Ethereal
27 Reunion group

DOWN
2 Indulge in vogueing
3 Summer-time pest
4 Shabby troupe's performance venue
6 "Star Trek: TNG" officer
7 Yo followers
8 lo, Europa, Gany-mede and Callisto
9 Fisher-man
10 Peaks (Abbr.)
22 Disreputable
14 Remove one's cap
15 "You over-spoke," in chatrooms
19 Scooted
20 Comic Leno
21 Polish industry
23 Roster
24 Soil woe
25 Ring decision
26 Tray contents
28 Frivolous
29 Correspond-

Solution time: 21 mins.

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