



ROCK A BYE BABY: Real Madrid forwards Ruud van Nistelrooy (R) and Raul and midfielder hardman Emerson (C) celebrate following the Dutchman's strike against Dynamo Kiev during their Champions League match at the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday.

## Crespo, Ayala return to Argentina squad

**Football**

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

World Cup stalwarts Hernan Crespo, Roberto Ayala and Gabriel Heinze have been recalled by Argentina for their friendly international against Spain in Murcia next month.

Ayala, who scored when Argentina drew 1-1 with hosts Germany in their World Cup quarterfinal in Berlin in June before they went out on penalties, is set to equal the national caps record of 106 held by retired former captain Diego Simeone.

The trio were not match fit earlier in the month with Crespo moving to Inter Milan from Chelsea, Ayala in conflict with his club Valencia and Manchester United's Heinze nursing an injury.

Midfielder Pablo Aimar, who also missed coach Alfio Basile's first match

in charge, a 3-0 defeat by arch-rivals Brazil in London on Sept. 3, is recalled possibly with a view to taking on Juan Roman Riquelme's playmaker role.

Riquelme, who pulled the strings in Argentina's impressive World Cup team, announced his retirement from international football for family reasons two weeks ago after a muted performance in the Brazil friendly.

Villarreal defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena is recalled for the first time in six years. He last played for Argentina in a 0-0 draw with England at Wembley in February 2000.

Basile, who took the reins from Jose Pekerman after the World Cup for his second spell in charge, chose 21 players based in Europe only because Argentine clubs will be involved in Copa Sudamericana matches at the time of the friendly.

Spain have a free date on Oct. 11 after a Euro 2008 qualifier away against Sweden in Group F on Oct. 7.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Roberto Abbondanzieri (Getafe), Leonardo Franco (Atletico Madrid)

**Defenders:** Fabricio Coloccini (Deportivo Coruna), Gabriel Heinze (Manchester United), Roberto Ayala (Valencia), Gabriel Milito, Leonardo Ponzio (both Real Zaragoza), Rodolfo Arruabarrena (Villarreal)

**Midfielders:** Pablo Zabaleta (Espanyol), Maxi Rodriguez (Atletico Madrid), Pablo Aimar (Real Zaragoza), Leandro Somoza (Villarreal), Javier Mascherano (West Ham United), Luis Gonzalez (Porto), Federico Insua (Borussia Muenchengladbach), Daniel Bilos (Saint Etienne)

**Forwards:** Sergio Aguero (Atletico Madrid), Lionel Messi, Javier Saviola (Barcelona), Carlos Tevez (West Ham United), Hernan Crespo (Inter Milan)

## Kaka slams 'X-mas tree'

INTERNET, undated

Kaka has told Carlo Ancelotti he hates the Christmas Tree formation and begged for a return to the two-striker system.

"Personally I much prefer the tactic with two forwards, as that way I don't have to hold on to the ball so much," said the versatile Brazilian.

Milan used Kaka and Clarence Seedorf in a more advanced role in support of Alberto Gilardino in the 0-0 Champions League draw at Lille Tuesday night, but there were critics of this decision within the squad.

"Some say I'm egotistical when I run with the ball and go for a one-on-one, but when you're a forward then it's necessary. With two strikers it's easier for me to release the ball and get the whole team moving."

This is the second consecutive 0-0 draw for the usually prolific Rossoneri following their Serie A stalemate at Livorno.

"We're not worried. The only thing we've been doing wrong at the moment is that we create so many chances and can't make the most of them," insisted Kaka. "We aimed so many shots at the goal and the 'keeper was always equal to them."

## Real winning over sceptics

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid's 5-1 demolition of Dynamo Kiev in the Bernabeu on Tuesday was a significant morale-boost for the fans and the Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos said.

A 2-0 defeat to Olympique Lyon on the opening day of the Champions League two weeks ago raised question marks over Fabio Capello's new project.

Coupled to an effective if uninspiring start to their Primera Liga campaign, that has left them second only to arch-rivals Barcelona, Tuesday's goal-laden win could not have come at a better time.

"The Bernabeu needed a result like this. It has been an important win and now we must continue in the same vein," Roberto Carlos said.

"The key thing was we functioned as a unit, scored five goals and could have had more."

Real's forwards enjoyed a field day with a goal for Jose Antonio Reyes and two-apiece for Ruud van Nistelrooy and Raul, who had not scored since October last year. Added to that Brazilian striker Ronaldo returned to action for the first time this season as a second-half substitute, and was given a warm welcome by the home fans with whom he has had a strained relationship.

"Raul suffered a bad injury last season and perhaps that prevented us from seeing the player we all used to seeing," said goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

"He has proven once he again he can be the best. Also it was great to see Ronaldo back from injury and receive the support of the fans."

While the frontline provided some of the flamboyance demanded by Real's fans, the defence looked uncomfortable at times and Capello was quick to point out the need to improve in

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# Real romp past Kiev

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid bounced back from their 2-0 mauling by Lyon in the Champions League two weeks ago to inflict a 5-1 thrashing on Dynamo Kiev here on Tuesday.

Two goals apiece from Ruud van Nistelrooy and captain Raul, and one from Jose Antonio Reyes, produced the nine-time kings of Europe's best win in continental competition since their 6-0 win over Genk in 2002.

The victory will reassure Real coach Fabio Capello and Real's ever-critical fans that they can still qualify from Group E with ease and mount a serious challenge to become European champions for a record-stretching 10th time.

"There were some things I didn't like but on a night like this I can't complain too much," said Capello.

"We can still improve but we were very quick on the break. Raul did particularly well. He's a born goalscorer but hasn't always had much luck recently," added the Italian who guided Milan to the Champions League title in 1994.

Van Nistelrooy, who had become a father for the first time less than 24 hours earlier after his wife gave birth to a daughter called Moa, opened the scoring

after 20 minutes by hammering home a loose ball after Kiev keeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy had failed to grab hold of a Roberto Carlos cross.

Raul then crowned his return to the starting line-up, after being left among the substitutes for Real's 1-0 win at Real Betis on Saturday, with a stunning header six minutes later.

A long pass from Jose Antonio Reyes from the right side of the midfield found Raul roaming forward and the Bernabeu icon showed the skill that has made him the highest scorer in Champions League history by nodding the ball past Shovkovskiy.

Reyes then got on the score sheet himself two minutes into injury time at the end of the first half with a wonderful half-volley from just inside the area, the former Arsenal winger connecting with a Mahamadou Diarra pass.

Real were however quickly shaken out of their complacency by Artem Milevskiy finding the net less than two minutes into the second half following some slack defending.

The goal got them focussed again and Raul added Real's fourth on the hour, his 53rd Champions League goal in Europe's top club competition.

Shortly afterwards, van Nistelrooy then got Real's fifth goal from the penalty spot after he had been dragged down by

Shovkovskiy while bearing down on goal.

To make matters even worse for the Ukrainians, the luckless Shovkovskiy was shown a red card for his deliberate foul.

"A shocking error of judgement, but then we made some terrible errors throughout game," was the brutal verdict of Kiev coach Anatoliy Demyanenko.

Van Nistelrooy was almost immediately substituted after his second goal.

The Dutchman was replaced by Ronaldo as massive cheers rang out around the Santiago Bernabeu stadium for both men, with the Brazilian star wandering onto the pitch to play his first minutes for Real this season.

"Ronaldo is still short of match fitness but I could send him on because things were relaxed at that point. It was very important for him psychologically," said Capello.

Capello's midfield and forwards were on song but what will concern Capello more, especially with his reputation for fashioning teams with rock solid rearguards, is that his defence was clearly out of tune.

Kiev had several chances to score in the first half before Milevskiy broke through and then they went close two more times late in the game despite the match having long been lost.

For the third game running, David Beckham was left on the

bench and the form of Jose Antonio Reyes makes it questionable whether the former England captain will get a recall for Sunday's local derby against Atletico Madrid.

Beckham did come on for Reyes after half time but, in the 45 minutes he was given, he did little to state his case that he should replace Real's new arrival and regain his place as Capello's first choice down the right flank.

## TUESDAY'S RESULTS

**At Madrid**  
Real Madrid (ESP) 5 (van Nistelrooy 20, 70-pen, Raul 27, 61, Reyes 45+1) Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 1 (Milevsky 48)

**At Bucharest**  
Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 0 Lyon (FRA) 3 (Fred 43, Tiago 55, Benzema 89)

**At Glasgow**  
Celtic 1 (Miller 36-pen) FC Copenhagen 0

**At Lisbon**  
Benfica (POR) 0 Manchester United (ENG) 1 (Saha 59)

**At London**  
Arsenal (ENG) 2 (Henry 38, Hleb 48) Porto (POR) 0

**At Moscow**  
CSKA Moscow (RUS) 1 (Dudu 59) SV Hamburg (GER) 0

**At Lens, France**  
Lille (FRA) 0 AC Milan (ITA) 0

**At Athens**  
AEK Athens (GRE) 1 (Julio Cezar 28) Anderlecht (BEL) 1 (Frutos 25)



Manchester United striker Louis Saha (R) unleashes a left foot strike to score as Benfica defender Anderson makes a despairing tackle in their Champions League encounter in Lisbon on Tuesday.

## United's hard-earned revenge

AFP, Lisbon



French striker Louis Saha gave Manchester United a 1-0 win over Benfica in Champions League Group F on Tuesday to

avenge last year's defeat to the Lisbon team which knocked the English side out of the European competition.

The victory was Manchester's first away win in the tournament for nearly three years and it gave Alex Ferguson's side six points from two matches after their 3-2 win over Celtic in their first European fixture earlier this month.

Saha cut into the box from the right hand side and his shot in the 59th minute deflected off Benfica's Brazilian defender Anderson into the back of the net.

Ferguson said afterwards: "It was a magnificent strike by Louis. It was a good bit of football down the channel. He came in on his left foot - marvellous goal."

"I think it was a good performance by us. We showed good pace in our game."

Rooney broke forward and had the chance to double the lead six minutes later but the shot landed squarely in Benfica keeper Quim's hands.

Quim made a spectacular trio of saves in the 86th minute after he failed to hold on to Gabriel Heinze's

free-kick then managed to defend shots from Darren Fletcher and Michael Carrick to the applause from the crowd.

Benfica's best chance at scoring came in the first half when striker Nuno Gomes made a booming shot from just outside the box which grazed the right hand post.

Ferguson added the goal was not the only impressive aspect of their performance. "There were other things," he said. "In the second half I thought we improved tremendously. Hopefully it gives them the confidence to trust each other you need in these games."

Benfica coach Fernando Santos said United's different strategy this time had paid off. "United were

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## Lippi in no rush

INTERNET, undated

Former Italy coach Marcello Lippi is in no rush to return to football management after guiding his country to World Cup success in the summer.

The experienced former Juventus boss will resume his career but only after an extended break away from the pressures of the game.

After being linked with roles at Manchester United, Internazionale and Sampdoria, as well as a senior post back with the Azzurri, Lippi is biding his time before making his next move.

"I will be back," he stated. "That is for certain."

"But only after the six or seven months' break I promised myself two years ago."

"I didn't get time to take them

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## Cicinho set for March return

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid defender Cicinho is set for an earlier than anticipated return after undergoing surgery on his right knee ligaments.

The head of Real Madrid's medical department, Alfonso del Corral, said the operation had been a complete success.

"Everything went perfectly," del Corral said. "Cicinho is doing very well and though we are not particularly in a rush, we are hopeful he will be able to return in March."

Cicinho was unmarked when he turned awkwardly on the wet turf at Betis's Manuel Ruiz de Lopera stadium on Saturday and immediately fell to the floor in pain before being stretched off after 29 minutes of Real Madrid's 1-0 win.



Lille player Milivoje Vitanic (down) slides in on AC Milan marksman Filippo Inzaghi as the Italian shoots towards goal in their Champions League match in Lens on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP