



AS Roma striker Mirko Vucinic (L) shoots to score a stunning goal against Sporting Lisbon during their Champions League match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Tuesday.

SEVEN-STAR GUNNERS Brits in cruise control

AFP, Paris



Manchester United and Arsenal are within touching distance of the Champions League knockout stages after maintaining their perfect starts in the group phase.

United ground out a highly impressive 4-2 victory at Dynamo Kiev while Arsenal turned on the turbo as they blitzed Slavia Prague 7-0.

United were off to a dream start courtesy of England centre-back Rio Ferdinand's second goal in successive games and just eight minutes later England striker Wayne Rooney continued his recent purple patch, notching his seventh goal in his last six matches.

United seemed to be in cruise control but they let the hosts back into the match on 34 minutes as Diogo Rincon converted Carlos Correa's corner with a bullet header, although United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar was fuming that the Brazilian striker was left totally unmarked in the penalty box.

Still the hope did not last long for Dynamo as a quick break down the left four minutes from the break saw Ryan Giggs cross for an unmarked Cristiano Ronaldo to head United back into a two-goal lead.

It was more of the same in the second period with Ronaldo notching his second from the penalty spot before Ismael Bangoura's late consolation.

"What I liked is we played a good tempo," said Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, who turned 58 on Monday. "At 3-0 we could have killed the game but we kept going. It is a joy to watch."

"We were very creative and you could see we enjoy what we do. There is happiness in the team. They want to play together."

"But I still think there is more to come from this team because they are all very young players. Everybody is still improving."

Sevilla beat Steaua Bucharest 2-1 in the other match to move second in the group, three points behind Arsenal and three ahead of Slavia.

Early goals from Frederic Kanoute and Luis Fabiano put them in the box seat before Ovidiu Petre pulled one back for Steaua after the break.

In group G Inter Milan went top of the table after a come-from-behind 2-1 victory at CSKA Moscow.

Brazilian striker Joao gave the lead on 32 minutes with a lob over Inter's Brazilian goalkeeper Julio Cesar but seven minutes after the break and Argentina forward Hernan Crespo equalised from closer range.

His international defensive teammate Walter Samuel snatched the spoils 10 minutes from time, heading home a Luis Figo free-kick.

It was really difficult match," Inter coach Roberto Mancini said. "CSKA played very well in the first half, while we had certain problems."

"Luckily after the break we managed to increase productivity and changed things for the better."

Evenhoven played out a 0-0 draw in Istanbul, leaving the Turks a point behind Inter on five with PSV Eindhoven.

In group E it was honours even at Ibrox as Rangers and Barcelona played out a 0-0 draw, leaving them both on seven points from three games.

Lyon gave themselves a lifeline as they won 2-0 at Stuttgart with goals from Fabio Dos Santos and Karim Benzema, handing them their first Champions League points of the season and hope of catching one of the top two ahead of the knock-out stages.

Injury crisis for Bayern

INTERNET, undated



AFP, Paris

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