



Liverpool midfielder Lucas Leiva (L) scores the third goal against Steaua Bucurest during their Europa League encounter at Anfield on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Reds whip Steaua

AFP, Paris



Liverpool and Manchester City enjoyed a Europa League cruise on Thursday as a tournament often derided as the Champions League's poor relation gorged on a feast of 78 goals and three hat-tricks.

England midfielder Joe Cole scored the quickest European goal in Liverpool's history - after just 25 seconds - as his team enjoyed a 4-1 victory over fellow former European champions Steaua Bucharest at Anfield.

Roberto Mancini's expensively-assembled Manchester City won 2-0 at Red Bull Salzburg while mighty Juventus were held to a 3-3 draw at home by unfashionable Polish side Lech Poznan.

Poznan's Latvian striker Artjoms Rudnevs grabbed all of his side's three goals while Patrick Helmes of Bayer Leverkusen and Alexandr Kerzhakov of Zenit St Petersburg also hit hat-tricks.

Cole's early strike was his first for Liverpool since joining on a free transfer from Chelsea in the summer.

Cristian Tanase equalised in the 13th minute but David Ngog scored twice and substitute Lucas hit the other to ensure manager Roy Hodgson's decision to leave out Fernando Torres and Steven Gerrard did not backfire.

David Silva grabbed his first goal for Manchester City since his 30 million euro move from Valencia as Mancini's team took the lead in Austria after just eight minutes.

The goal was set up by Brazilian striker Jo, who went on to score the second in the 63rd

minute after Salzburg keeper Gerhard Tremmel failed to hold a 20-metre drive from Carlos Tevez.

City share the same Group A as Juventus, the former two-time European champions who were given a huge scare by Poznan.

The Polish visitors were 2-0 ahead after 30 minutes thanks to Rudnevs.

Juve centre-back Giorgio Chiellini pulled one back on the stroke of half-time and then levelled the score five minutes later.

Veteran skipper Alessandro Del Piero looked to have sealed Juve's comeback but making it 3-2 after 68 minutes with his 52nd career goal in European competition.

But Poznan rallied to grab a point when Rudnevs completed his hat-trick in the last minute.

Defending champions Atletico Madrid suffered a 1-0 defeat at Aris Salonika with Spanish striker Javito hitting a long-distance winner on the hour mark.

The win extended Aris's record of never having lost at home in Europe - a run of 22 games. In the same Group B, 26-year-old Helmes was the toast of Leverkusen in their 4-0 mauling of Norway's Rosenborg. Stefan Reinartz scored the other goal for the German side.

CSKA Moscow, who won the old UEFA Cup in 2005, began their campaign with a 3-0 win at Lausanne with Brazilian striker Wagner Love scoring two of the goals.

Russia's Zenit Saint Petersburg, the 2008 champions, won 3-1 at Anderlecht with Kerzhakov hitting a first-half hat-trick.

Sevilla, the 2006 and 2007 UEFA Cup champions, lost 1-0 at home to Paris Saint-Germain while FC Porto, the 2004 Champions League winners, saw off Rapid Vienna 3-0.

## Atletico's Barca test

AFP, Madrid



Champions Barcelona travel to unbeaten league leaders Atletico Madrid on Sunday in the first major duel of the 2010/11 La Liga season as both sides present their title credentials.

Barcelona crushed Panathinaikos 5-1 on Tuesday in the Champions League and hope to get back on track in the league after their shock 2-0 home defeat to promoted Hercules.

Atletico were the only team to beat Barcelona in the league last season winning 2-1 at the Vicente Calderon and the Europa League holders have started with a maximum six points to top the standings.

Atletico have so far refused to talk themselves up as title contenders and will have to contend with an in-form Lionel Messi who scored two goals in the Panathinaikos win and the 23-year-old is Barcelona's all-time Champions League leading scorer with 27 goals.

Atletico have two fine strikers themselves in experienced Uruguayan Diego Forlan and his younger sidekick Sergio "Kun" Agüero.

Forlan, voted best player at the World Cup finals, tops the goings-on charts with three goals and is fit to play, however, Argentine Agüero, 22, has a knock that makes him a doubt for the Barcelona clash.

If Atletico win they would be six points clear of champions Barcelona who currently lie in

ninth position on three points.

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho goes in search of his first away win on Saturday when his side travel to unbeaten Real Sociedad.

Mourinho's side were jeered following their narrow 1-0 win over Osasuna at the Santiago Bernabeu but Wednesday's impressive 2-0 Champions League win over Ajax saw the jeers turn to cheers.

Real should have won much more comfortably and have yet to concede in their three first games under Mourinho.

Real have collected four points from six to sit fifth while promoted Sociedad, who finished runner-up to Real in the 2003 title race, are above them on goal difference.

In other matches, Valencia hope to continue their perfect start to the season by bringing Hercules off cloud nine after their historic win over Barcelona at Camp Nou.

Promoted Hercules host Valencia on Sunday aiming to take another big scalp but come up against a side with a maximum six points in the league and high on confidence after winning 4-0 at Bursaspor in their Champions League opener on Tuesday.

Elsewhere third-placed Sevilla, with four points from six, travel to Malaga on Sunday looking to maintain their unbeaten start to the campaign.

At the bottom, promoted Levante and Racing Santander - the only two teams with no points -- hope to kickstart their seasons with wins.

Levante host Villarreal on Sunday while Santander are at home to Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

### FIXTURES

**Saturday**  
Espanyol v Almeria (1700 GMT), Real Mallorca v Osasuna (1700 GMT), Sporting Gijon v Athletic Bilbao (1900 GMT), Real Sociedad v Real Madrid (2100 GMT)

**Sunday**  
all 1600 GMT unless stated  
Hercules v Valencia, Levante v Villarreal, Racing Santander v Real Zaragoza, Atletico Madrid v Barcelona (1800 GMT), Malaga v Sevilla (2000 GMT)

**Monday**  
Deportivo La Coruna v Getafe (2000 GMT)

## False identity woe for Edel

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint Germain goalkeeper Apoula Edel was set to face further media scrutiny Friday when a tabloid sports weekly claimed to have evidence that he is not really who he claims to be.

Edel hit the headlines several months ago when a disgruntled former coach of the player in Cameroon, Nicolas Philibert, claimed Edel was in fact five years older than 24, and named Ambroise Beyamena.

Edel has refuted the allegations. However 10 Sport's Friday edition contains excerpts of documents which appear to support Philibert's claims and which are currently being pored over by the authorities.

The weekly also published signed testimony from another Cameroon player who claims to have known Edel as Ambroise Beyamena in Cameroon and then recognised him in France.

It is believed Philibert initially informed the authorities of the alleged fraud in a bid to reclaim money owed to him by Edel.

The former coach was a mentor to Edel, reportedly lending him money and helping him find him a club in Armenia.

According to 10 Sport, Philibert lodged an official complaint with police on May 18 against the 'keeper for identity fraud.

The weekly said PSG, one of the biggest clubs in the league, has made attempts to "slow the legal process" surrounding Edel.

## Zidane named Qatar's bid ambassador

REUTERS, Dubai

Former France midfielder Zinedine Zidane has been appointed ambassador for Qatar's attempt to host the 2022 World Cup, said the Gulf Arab state's bid committee.

Qatar's bid is one of nine for the finals but their main opposition is likely to come from Australia, Japan, South Korea and United States.

"Football is for everyone," Zidane said in a statement. "When I think of all the youth of the Middle East, what they're missing is an event like the World Cup."

"We had [the 2010 World Cup] in Africa and now it is time for the Middle East."

It is almost certain one of the four European bids from England, Russia, Spain/Portugal and Belgium/Netherlands will win the right to stage the 2018 World Cup, meaning a country from outside Europe will stage the 2022 finals.

Qatar would be the smallest host country since Uruguay held the inaugural tournament in 1930.

The head of a FIFA inspection team hinted on Thursday the Gulf Arab state's size, rather than its fierce summer heat or the fact it is an Islamic country, could rule it out of contention though.

FIFA will announce the venues for 2018 and 2022 in Zurich on Dec. 2.

## Blues on a hot streak

AFP, London



Chelsea will look to strengthen their grip on top spot in the Premier League when Blackpool arrive in London on Sunday with the newboys hoping to avoid a repeat of their

previous trip to the capital. Last month Blackpool's visit to Arsenal ended in a 6-0 thrashing for Ian Holloway's men.

Premier League champions Chelsea head into this weekend's clash on the back of a 4-1 midweek win away to Slovakian side MSK Zilina that saw them start their Champions League campaign in style.

Chelsea have never won European club football's leading tournament and, with this season's final taking place at London's Wembley Stadium, they could be forgiven for focusing on the trophy their billionaire owner Roman Abramovich is desperate to bring to Stamford Bridge.

But Italian manager Carlo Ancelotti has great respect for the domestic league title too and is set to field England midfielder Frank Lampard, who should be fit following a hernia injury, against Blackpool.

Despite their mauling by Arsenal, Blackpool currently occupy an impressive fourth spot in the table after wins over Wigan and Newcastle, as well as a draw with Fulham.

Second-placed Arsenal, who thrashed Braga 6-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday, are

away to Sunderland on Saturday with manager Arsene Wenger having again highlighted what he sees as unfair challenges on his players.

Manchester United are in action against Liverpool, in what has long been one of the league's standout fixtures, on Sunday.

United could only manage a goalless Champions League draw against Rangers, the Scottish club their manager Alex Ferguson represented as a striker, on Tuesday while Liverpool beat Romania's Steaua Bucharest 4-1 in the Europa League on Thursday.

The match will be United's first since Antonio Valencia suffered the ankle injury that threatens to rule the Ecuador winger out for the season and will give Wayne Rooney, in the spotlight over lurid allegations concerning reported extra-marital affairs, a chance to shine against the Red Devils' bitter rivals.

On Saturday, Blackburn, who've won just once in four league matches so far this season, are at home to Fulham while Aston Villa, in their last fixture before their new French boss Gerard Houllier takes command, face Bolton.

Everton play Newcastle while Stoke welcome bottom of the table West Ham, who will be without manager Avram Grant because the Israeli is observing the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur.

Saturday's other match sees Tottenham, who squandered a 2-0 lead in a 2-2 Champions League draw away to German side Bremen in midweek, welcome Wolves to White Hart Lane.

### FIXTURES

(all 1400GMT unless stated):  
**Saturday**  
Aston Villa v Bolton, Blackburn v Fulham, Everton v Newcastle, Stoke City v West Ham (1145GMT), Sunderland v Arsenal (1630GMT), Tottenham v Wolves, West Brom v Birmingham Sunday  
Chelsea v Blackpool (1500GMT), Manchester United v Liverpool (1230GMT), Wigan v Manchester City

## Zamora five months out

AFP, London

Fulham striker Bobby Zamora will be out for five months after breaking an ankle in last weekend's 2-1 Premier League victory over Wolves, Cottagers manager Mark Hughes said Thursday.

It was initially thought the 29-year-old England forward would be sidelined for three months, but he must now wait until February at the earliest to return to action.

"Bobby's had his operation," Hughes said. "He will now be in bed with his leg elevated for two weeks."

"The operation showed ligament damage so we're probably now looking at five months," the former Manchester United and Wales forward added.

## Moyes fined £8000

AFP, London

Everton manager David Moyes was fined 8,000 pounds (9,558 euros) pounds by the Football Association (FA) on Thursday after admitting a misconduct charge.

Moyes and assistant Steve Round both faced punishment for their behaviour towards referee Martin Atkinson at the full-time whistle in Everton's extraordinary 3-3 draw with Manchester United on Saturday.

The Merseysiders had trailed 3-1 heading into injury time at Goodison Park, but late goals from Tim Cahill and Mikel Arteta levelled the scores and ensured a share of the points.

## Robinho set for debut

REUTERS, Milan



Temperamental Brazilian forward Robinho could get his first start for AC Milan when they face Catania on Saturday (1845 GMT) following an injury to fellow Brazilian Alexandre Pato.

Robinho joined Milan at the end of the transfer window following an unsuccessful spell in England with Manchester City.

The former Real Madrid forward, who spent six months this year on loan in Brazil with Santos, has made two substitute appearances and may line up alongside Ronaldinho and Zlatan Ibrahimovic in attack.

Injury-plagued Pato suffered a thigh strain in Wednesday's 2-0 Champions League win over Auxerre and is expected to be out for three weeks along with captain Massimo Ambrosini who was hurt in same game.

Thiago Silva, another of

Milan's Brazilian contingent, should be fit after missing the Auxerre game through injury. Milan, beaten 2-0 at Cesena last week, have three points from their opening two games.

AS Roma coach Claudio Ranieri has declined to comment on a newspaper interview in which forward Francesco Totti criticised the team for being too defensive in their 2-0 Champions League loss at Bayern Munich.

Roma, who have only one point, will be without Nicolas Burdisso for the visit of Bologna on Sunday after the Argentina defender was sent off for a dreadful tackle in last week's 5-1 loss at Cagliari.

European and Serie A champions Inter Milan will be without Goran Pandev for the visit to Palermo after the Macedonian striker twisted his ankle and knee in the 2-2 Champions League draw at Twente Enschede on Tuesday.

Rafael Benitez's team have four points after scraping a 2-1 win over Udinese last week.

Fiorentina, who host Lazio on Saturday, have taken only one point from two games.

Alessandro del Piero has told his Juventus team mates to improve their concentration after 3-3 home draws in their last two matches, the second against Poland's Lech Poznan in the Europa League.

### FIXTURES

**Saturday**  
Fiorentina v Lazio, AC Milan v Catania

**Sunday**  
Bari v Cagliari, Cesena v Lecce, Chievo v Brescia, Palermo v Inter Milan, Parma v Genoa, AS Roma v Bologna, Udinese v Juventus, Sampdoria v Napoli

## Jose ready to help

Football

AFP, Madrid

Jose Mourinho said Friday he would like to accept an invitation to take charge of Portugal's national team for their next two Euro 2012 qualifiers but it depends on Real Madrid giving their blessing.

"I don't say no but I am the coach of Real Madrid and I have a contract for the next four years. I was not capable of saying no. I leave it up to Real Madrid to decide," the Portuguese coach told a news conference.

Portuguese national federation president Gilberto Madail met with Mourinho on Thursday in Madrid to try to convince him to take over for the qualifiers at home to Denmark on October 8 and away to Iceland four days later.

Portugal have had a poor start to their qualifying campaign, with a 4-4 home draw against Cyprus and a 1-0 defeat in Norway that have left them second from bottom of Group H.



Qatar 2022 bid committee CEO Hassan Al-Thawadi (R) presents French legend Zinedine Zidane with a personalised shirt in Doha on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

### RESULTS

Juventus (ITA) 3 (Chiellini 45, 50, Del Piero 68) Lech Poznan (POL) 3 (Rudnevs 14-pen, 30, 90)

Red Bull Salzburg (AUT) 0 Manchester City (ENG) 2 (Silva 8, Jo 63)

Aris (GRE) 1 (Javito 59) Atletico Madrid (ESP) 0

Bayer Leverkusen (GER) 4 (Helmes 4, 58, 61, Reinartz 38) Rosenborg (NOR) 0

Lille (FRA) 1 (Frau 57) Sporting Lisbon (POR) 2 (Vukcevic 11, Postiga 34)

Levski Sofia (BUL) 3 (Santos Joaozinho 43, Dembele 61, Greene 85) Ghenet (BEL) 2 (Azoefifa 23, De Smet 49)

FC Bruges (BEL) 1 (Koumahora 61) PAOK (GRE) 1 (Molezas 78)

Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 2 (Rukavina 18, Smpir 79) Villarreal (ESP) 0

Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 2 (Milevskiy 34, Eremenko 44) BATE Borisov (BLR) 2 (Rodionov 3, Nekhaychik 54)

AZ Alkmaar (NED) 2 (Berg Gudmundsson 15, Julliens 83) Sheriff Tiraspol (MDA) 1 (Nikolic 67)

Lausanne (SUI) 0 CSKA Moscow (RUS) 3 (Vagner Love 22, 82-pen, Ignashevich 68)

Sparta Prague (CZE) 3 (Wilfred 17, Kladrubsky 69, Kadlec 75) Palermo (ITA) 2 (Maccaroni 38, Hernandez 83)

AEK Athens (GRE) 3 (Djebbour 12, Liberopoulos 65, Scocco 89) Hajduk Split (CRO) 1 (Ibricic 29-pen)

Anderlecht (BEL) 1 (Juhasz 66) Zenit Saint Petersburg (RUS) 3 (Kerzhakov 8, 33, 44)

Stuttgart (GER) 3 (Baretto Caccu 23-pen, Gentner 59, Tasci 90) Young Boys (SUI) 0

Getafe (ESP) 2 (Arizmendi 51, Pedro Rios 82) Odense (DEN) 1 (Arizmendi 44-og)

Debrecen (HUN) 0 Metalist Kharkiv (UKR) 5 (Lacerda Edmar 24, 74, Cleiton Xavier 34, Fininho 77, Valyaev 90)

PSV Eindhoven (NED) 1 (Dzsudzsak 89) Sampdoria (ITA) 1 (Cacciatori 25)

Sevilla (ESP) 0 Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) 1 (Nene 76)

Karpaty Lviv (UKR) 3 (Holodyuk 43, Kopolovets 52, Kozhanov 78)

Borussia Dortmund (GER) 4 (Sahin 13-pen, Gotze 27, Barrios 87, 90)

Napoli (ITA) 0 FC Utrecht (NED) 0

Liverpool (ENG) 4 (Cole 1, Ngog 56-pen, 90, Lucas 81) Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 1 (Tanase 13)

FC Porto (POR) 3 (Rolando 26, Falcao 66, Ruben Micael 79) Rapid Vienna (AUT) 0

Besiktas (TUR) 1 (Ernst 90) CSKA Sofia (BUL) 0