

# Spurs net top spot

AFP, Paris



Not satisfied with reaching the last 16 of the Champions League in their debut season, Tottenham Hotspur wrapped up top spot in Group A at the expense of holders Inter Milan on Wednesday with a 3-3 draw at Twente Enschede as the Italians slumped to defeat at Werder Bremen.

Spurs' coach Harry Redknapp saluted his side's showing after they got to grips with a difficult-looking group.

"I think it was the toughest group and to top it is brilliant," he said. You want to win all your games so we wanted to win here but it's important to finish top of the group and we've done that so I'm proud of the boys."

Spurs had been widely expected to be satisfied in principle in ensuring a top-two finish - behind Inter.

But Redknapp's side have grown in stature since a dreadful first-half mauling in the San Siro early on in the competition.

Although they could only turn a 4-0 deficit into a 4-3 loss on that occasion Spurs won the return and have not looked

back and Tuesday was their fifth straight match in which they have scored at least three goals.

A Jermain Defoe double in a topsy-turvy game was the highlight and Spurs were further cheered by the news that Inter had been thumped 3-0 in Bremen to send the Londoners through with 11 points to the Italians' 10, ramping up the pressure on the holders' boss Rafa Benitez.

Spurs took an early lead thanks to a Peter Wisgerhof own goal as Twente's veteran debutant goalkeeper Sander Boschker kicked at fresh air following his teammate's backpass.

Defoe then bagged the limelight while Denny Landzaat, Roberto Rosales and Nacer Chadli netted for the Dutch.

In Germany, Werder Bremen might have been out of contention but they still took Inter to the cleaners for a first win in the group.

The hapless nature of Inter's showing will only reignite the debate over the future of Benitez, whose men are ten points off the pace in Serie A as they struggle to reach the heights of last season's treble under Jose Mourinho.

Austrians Sebastian Proedl and Marko Arnautovic and

Peruvian veteran Claudio Pizarro scored the Werder goals, leaving Benitez with much to ponder.

As Spurs celebrated a result which means they avoid the biggest guns in the next phase there was similar cheer for compatriots Manchester United after Brazilian star Anderson's first goal at Old Trafford landed them top spot in Group C in securing a 1-1 draw with challengers Valencia.

United had won the away game with the Spaniards with Mexican find Javier "Little

Pea" Hernandez bagging the only goal - but this time it was another Hernandez - Valencia's Pablo - who made United sweat with his opener on 32 minutes, firing past 20-year-old reserve keeper Ben Amos after Chori Dominguez had fed him.

But Sir Alex Ferguson's men rallied well after spurning a chance to become the first side to go six Champions League games without conceding a goal.

And after Dimitar Berbatov had notably wasted several chances Anderson was in the right place at the right time to score on the rebound after Vicente Guaita had parried an initial meaty effort from Korean Park Ji-Sun.

The draw gave United 14 points from six unbeaten group games - three more than Valencia, who could now as runners-up face one of the biggest fish in the last 16.

Rangers - already qualified for the Europa League - drew 1-1 at Turkish tailenders Bursaspor, who ended with a grand total of just that one point.

Elsewhere, Schalke cast aside poor German league form to win Group B after a 2-1 win at Benfica while Lyon are also through despite a home draw with Hapoel Tel-Aviv.

## RESULTS

FC Twente (NED) 3 (Landzaat 22-pen, Rosales 56, Chadli 64) Tottenham (ENG) 3 (Wisgerhof 12-og, Defoe 47, 59)  
Werder Bremen (GER) 3 (Prodl 39, Arnautovic 49, Pizarro 88)  
Inter Milan (ITA) 0  
Benfica (POR) 1 (Luisao 87) Schalke 04 (GER) 2 (Jurado 19, Howedes 81)  
Lyon (FRA) 2 (Lisandro 62, Lacazette 88) Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR) 2 (Sahar 63, Zehavy 69)  
Bursaspor (TUR) 1 (Yildirim 79)  
Rangers (SCO) 1 (Miller 19)  
Manchester United (ENG) 1 (Anderson 62) Valencia (ESP) 1 (Pablo Hernandez 32)  
Barcelona (ESP) 2 (Fontas 51, Vazquez 82) Rubin Kazan (RUS) 0  
FC Copenhagen (DEN) 3 (Vingaard 26, Gronkjaer 50-pen, Cisse 73-og)

# Barca fell Kazan

AFP, Barcelona



A second string Barcelona side proved too strong for Rubin Kazan on Tuesday as the Russians fell 2-0 at the Nou Camp to miss out on a berth in the Champions League knockout phase.

Last season, Rubin, unbeaten in 15 in their domestic league, briefly caused a sensation with a 2-1 pool phase win at the Nou Camp. The return was a draw, as was this campaign's opener in Russia - hence leaving the Catalan club winless in three previous meetings.

But they put the record straight as they picked off their rivals with second-half goals from Andreu Fontas and Victor Vazquez to send Barcelona streaking on with 14 points while Danish side FC Copenhagen won 3-1 against Panathinaikos to claim second spot with ten.

Kazan's hopes of a win to pinch second place from under the Danes' noses looked as if they had received a boost when Barca coach Pep Guardiola sent out a virtual reserve side, resting David Villa as well as Xavi.

Xavi's fellow FIFA Ballon d'Or hopefuls Leo

Messi and Andres Iniesta started on the bench.

Even so, the game was an opportunity for fringe players such as Maxwell, Jonathan and Fontas to impress while Jose Pinto made a rare start in goal in place of usual first choice Victor Valdes.

Two up-and-coming names - Bojan Krkic and Jeffren - had little opportunity to stake their claims, however, as both had to leave the action before the break to be replaced by Marc Bartra and Vazquez.

Kazan coach Kurban Berdiyev had forecast that Barca would not change their fluent style even with so many top names out and yet it was the Russians who had the better of things in a tight first half.

But after the restart Barca's young bucks turned on the style and Fontas broke the deadlock five minutes into the second half before Vazquez wrapped up the points eight minutes from time.

Defender Fontas was delighted to have the opportunity to shine on his competition debut.

"It was impossible to do better - and I get a goal into the bargain so I can't be happier, though I was a bit nervous to start with," he told Spanish television.

# Ze Roberto seeks Brazil return

AFP, Berlin

Hamburg's Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto, whose contract expires at the end of the season, wishes to finish his career with a club from his homeland, according to his agent.

Juan Figer told Wednesday's edition of German weekly Sport Bild that Corinthians, Gremio, Santos and newly crowned Brazilian champions Fluminense are all interested in the 36-year-old former Brazil international.

American outfit New York Red Bulls have also been linked with the player.

Ze Roberto, capped 91 times by Brazil, previously enjoyed success at Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich during his time in Germany, where he has played 319 league games.



PHOTO: AFP  
Tottenham Hotspur striker Jermain Defoe celebrates scoring the second goal against FC Twente during their Champions League match in Enschede on Tuesday.

# 'I failed to adapt'

EUROSPORT



Robinho has admitted he failed at Manchester City because he struggled to adapt to the English style of football.

Speaking exclusively to Eurosport, the Brazilian said he did not have a problem with manager Roberto Mancini, despite being sent out on loan shortly after the Italian replaced Mark Hughes.

"English football is difficult," said Robinho, now at Milan.

"It's not easy to adapt to it. In English football it's not the whole team playing, touching the ball in the Brazilian way."

"Mancini is an excellent coach. I never had any problem with him. He was always a good coach, and always respected me, and I always respected him. The problem is that English football is not an easy game for me."

Robinho went on loan to Santos in January, six weeks after Mancini took the manager's job, but the forward said he was motivated by a desire to make Brazil's World Cup squad having fallen down the pecking order at City.

"I had the project to arrive to the World Cup in a good physical condition. And at Manchester City, I was not playing every game. So it was not good for my fitness," he said.

"I know myself physically, and I know that the more I play the better I am physically. That's why I decided to go back to Santos. My goal was really to be on top for the World Cup."

Robinho arrived at City for a British record fee of £32.5 million in September 2008, on the same day the club was bought by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan.

Despite a largely disappointing time at the club, in which he scored 16 goals in 53 games, Robinho said it was the right move for both him and for City, as he paved the way for other big-name players to join.

"You have to demonstrate your value on the pitch. I don't feel a better or a worse player because I was the most expensive," he said.

"I believe it was good for me and for City, because I opened the doors for other big players to come to City. Maybe if I hadn't signed there, no other big player would have signed in this club. So it was good."



PHOTO: AFP  
Barcelona defender Andreu Fontas (R) scores the opening goal against Rubin Kazan during their Champions League encounter at Nou Camp on Tuesday.

# Copenhagen make history

AFP, Copenhagen



FC Copenhagen became the first Danish club to reach the Champions League knockout stages on Tuesday after they outclassed Greek side Panathinaikos 3-1.

Goals by Martin Vingard, a penalty by 33-year-old veteran Jesper Gronkjaer and an own goal by former Liverpool misfit Djibril Cisse eased the Danish side into the last 16. Cedric Kante grabbed a consolation goal in time added on.

Defeat saw the Greeks finish rock bottom of Group D with a paltry return of two goals and two points from their six matches.

Thankfully the hosts never gave their Norwegian manager Stale Solbakken much cause for concern -- the 42-year-old former international midfielder has had a pace-maker for the past decade after suffering a heart attack.

The hosts took a firm grip on the match and a place in the knockout stages in the 26th minute when, from outside the penalty area, Vingard rifled home Christian Bolanos's pass, giving visiting goalkeeper Alexandros Tzorvas no chance.

Tzorvas, Greece's first choice 'keeper at the World Cup finals, proved equal to the task 10 minutes later when he got down smartly to save from Claudimir.

The visitors, who have had a catastrophic campaign scoring just once as their mix of international journeymen - such as Djibril Cisse and Sidney Govou -- and local players have failed to sparkle,

managed just one shot in the opening 45 minutes, right on the half-time whistle.

However, the shot by Stergos Marinos, a replacement for the reportedly Govou, was easily gathered by Johan Wiland.

The hosts doubled their lead in deserved fashion in the 50th minute when veteran Gronkjaer converted from the penalty spot after the 33-year-

# Five-year-old boy proved Ronaldo's son

AFP, Sao Paulo

Star Brazilian striker Ronaldo on Wednesday admitted to being the father of a five-year-old boy born in Japan and living in Singapore, following the result of a DNA test.

"Alex is my son, the brother of three other children. I will always behave as his father, wrote Ronaldo, 34, on his Twitter social networking account.

"The result of the test confirmed my feelings when I met Alex," added Ronaldo, who first met the child on Monday.

The DNA test to which Ronaldo submitted confirmed that he was the father of the boy, who was born in Japan and has Brazilian nationality.

The mother of Alex, Michele Umezu, had been trying since 2009 to have Ronaldo recognised as the boy's father and is demanding child support.

She says she met Ronaldo at a party in Tokyo in 2002 celebrating Brazil's success at that year's World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Ronaldo, she says, returned to Tokyo in 2004 during a tour of Real Madrid, for whom he was then playing. She said she became pregnant by him at that time.

Reports said Michele Umezu was a 28-year-old Brazilian living in Singapore.

# Brazil set Dutch date

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazil will tackle their World Cup conquerors the Netherlands in a friendly match next June, Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) president Ricardo Teixeira announced on Wednesday.

The game on June 4 will take place in one of the 12 stadiums that will be used to host matches at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

The CBF also confirmed friendly matches against France in Paris on February 9 and against Germany in Stuttgart on August 10.

In July, Brazil will compete in the Copa America in Argentina, where they will be bidding to win their third consecutive continental crown.

# Steve denies Edin rifts

AFP, Wolfsburg

Wolfsburg coach Steve McClaren on Wednesday insisted he had no problems with Edin Dzeko, despite the Bosnian striker having refused to shake his hand after being substituted on Saturday.

Dzeko, the Wolfsburg captain, was taken off with two minutes to play after missing a penalty in the 77th minute of the 0-0 draw with Werder Bremen.

He made no secret of his displeasure, avoiding McClaren's outstretched hand on the touchline and making straight for the tunnel, rather than joining his team-mates on the bench.

"I can understand it. Football is a sport where there are lots of emotions and you have to manage them," McClaren told the club website.

The English coach, who arrived from Dutch side FC Twente last summer, did not reveal if the 24-year-old would be fined over the incident.

## HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA DHAKA

### Ayush Scholarship (2011-12)

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers 15 scholarship slots to meritorious nationals of BIMSTEC countries to pursue Under Graduate / Post Graduate / Ph.D course in Indian traditional systems of Medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) in relevant Indian Universities for the academic year 2011-2012.

Further information along with application forms for these scholarships may be collected from the Education Wing, High Commission of India, House No 2, Road No 142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka 1212 on any working days between 1100 hrs to 1300 hrs from 12 to 30 December 2010, upon submission of the photocopy of mark sheet of the qualifying examination. Forms can also be collected from the Assistant High Commission of India Chittagong and Rajshahi. The last date of receipt of completed application forms at High Commission of India, Dhaka and Assistant High Commission of India Chittagong and Rajshahi is 30 December, 2010.

## Suarez given 3-week break

AFP, The Hague

Ajax's Uruguayan striker and captain Luis Suarez will be given three weeks' holiday after his side's Champions League match at AC Milan on Wednesday, Dutch news agency ANP reported.

Suarez has been suspended from Dutch first division games until the end of January for biting an opponent in a game against PSV Eindhoven last month.

He was unable to take a holiday last summer due to his participation with Uruguay at the World Cup in South Africa, beginning pre-season training with Ajax only a few days after the end of the tournament.

Since arriving in Amsterdam in 2007, the prolific frontman has scored 113 goals in only 157 matches for Ajax.

## HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA DHAKA

### Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarship (2011-12)

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi is offering Scholarships to meritorious students from Bangladesh to study in various Indian Colleges and Universities during the academic year 2011-2012. These Scholarships are offered in various courses at the Under Graduate, Post Graduate, M. Phil, Ph.D and Post Doctoral Research level except MBBS/BDS. Candidates should have fluency in English.

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