

# Red Devils Basel-ed

AFP, Paris



Manchester United and Manchester City crashed out of the Champions League on Wednesday as French side Lyon achieved a seven-goal miracle to reach the last 16.

United, the European champions in 1968, 1999 and 2008, slumped to a shock 2-1 defeat at Basel, a defeat which allowed the Swiss champions to go through from Group C with Benfica.

City defeated Group A winners Bayern Munich 2-0 but lost out on a last 16 spot when Napoli saw off pointless Villarreal 2-0 in Spain.

It was only the third time in 16 years that Sir Alex Ferguson's United had crashed at the group phase.

Despite needing just a point to go through, last year's beaten finalists were undone by goals in each half from Marco Streller and Alexander Frei which condemned Ferguson's side to their first away defeat in the open-ground in five years.

Phil Jones' late goal gave them a glimmer of hope but Basel soaked up waves of United pressure -- and rode their luck -- to book their place in the last 16 for the first time since 2002-03.

For United, who have played in three of the last four finals, there is now the unwel-

come consolation of the Europa League.

In a double dose of Mancunian misery, City also exited the tournament despite David Silva and Yaya Toure giving them a 2-0 win over a Bayern Munich side weakened by a dose of flu which had spread through the German squad.

Lyon pulled off the night's most remarkable result when they defeated 10-man Dinamo Zagreb 7-1 to sneak into the last 16 at the expense of Ajax.

Real Madrid, who had already made sure of top spot, downed Ajax 3-0 in Amsterdam to become only the fifth team in the history of the tournament to go through to the next round with a perfect record.

CSKA Moscow sneaked into the knock-out stages as Vasili Berezutsky scored three minutes from time to give the Russians a 2-1 victory at already-qualified Inter Milan in Group B.

With Trabzonspor holding Lille to a goalless draw in France, CSKA leap-frogged

the pair to remain in Europe's premier club competition.

The last 16 draw, which takes place on December 16, will feature Bayern Munich, Napoli, Inter Milan, CSKA Moscow, Benfica, Basel, Real Madrid, Lyon, Chelsea, Bayer Leverkusen, Arsenal, Marseille, APOEL Nicosia, Zenit Saint Petersburg, champions Barcelona and AC Milan.

## RESULTS

Manchester City (ENG) 2	(Silva 39, Yaya Toure 51)	Bayern Munich (GER) 0
Villarreal (ESP) 0	Napoli (ITA) 2	(Inler 65, Hamsik 76)
Lille (FRA) 0	Trabzonspor (TUR) 0	Inter Milan (ITA) 1 (Cambiasso 51)
Inter Milan (ITA) 1	(Cambiasso 51)	CSKA Moscow (RUS) 2
(Doumbia 50, Berezutsky 86)		(Streller 9, Frei 84)
Basel (SUI) 2		Manchester United (ENG) 1 (Jones 89)
Benfica (POR) 1		Benfica (POR) 1 (Oscar Cardozo 7)
Otel Galati (ROM) 0		Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 1 (Kovacic 40)
Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 1		Lyon (FRA) 7 (Gomis 45, 48, 52, 70, Gonalons 47, Lisandro 64, Briand 76)
Ajax (NED) 0		Real Madrid (ESP) 3

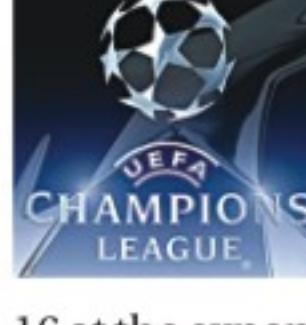


Manchester United players Wayne Rooney (L) and Nani walk off the pitch dejected after their Champions League loss to Basel in Switzerland on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Lyon-Zagreb result under microscope

AFP, Zagreb



French side Lyon pulled off a remarkable Champions League rescue act on Wednesday when they defeated Dinamo Zagreb 7-1 to sneak into the last 16 at the expense of Ajax.

Lyon went into their final Group D game three points behind Ajax and needing to make up a goal difference of seven if they were to reach the knockout rounds.

French international striker Bafetimbi Gomis was the star of the show, scoring four goals, including the fastest ever Champions League hat-trick as Lyon took second place in the group.

Real Madrid, who had already made sure of top spot, downed Ajax 3-0 in Amsterdam to become only the fifth team in the history of the tournament to go through to the next round with a perfect record.

Dinamo had taken the lead in the 40th minute when Fatos Beqiraj cut in from the right and fired a drive at Hugo Lloris who made a double-save but the third attempt fell to 17-year-old Mateo Kovacic who stabbed the ball into the roof of the net.

But Lyon were level just before half-time.

Aly Cissokho's cross looped over Ivan Kelava where Gomis applied the final touch.

Three minutes after the interval, Maxime Gonalons made it 2-1.

Gomis then completed his hat-trick to beat Blackburn Rovers' Mike Newell's record from 1995 for the quickest triple.

First, he hit his second after 48 minutes after Jimmy Briand slid the ball to the striker to fire past Kelava.

He added his third in the 52nd minute off a pass from Gonalons while his fourth of the evening came from a cross by Ederson in the 70th minute to make 6-1, six minutes after Lisandro Lopez had hit Lyon's fifth.

Briand netted the seventh of the night in the 75th minute to complete the rout and put Lyon into the last 16 for the ninth consecutive season.

In Amsterdam, Real notched up a 15th consecutive win in all competitions this season by ending Ajax's hopes 3-0.

Jose Callejon, a product of Real's youth system, grabbed his third goal in three games in the tournament this season, when he opened the scoring in the 14th minute.

The 24-year-old latched on to a fine through pass from Kaka, beat the offside trap and then squeezed the ball through the legs of Kenneth Vermeer.

Argentine striker Gonzalo Higuain, captain for the night in the absence of Iker Casillas, marked the occasion with Real's second, four minutes before the interval.

Fellow striker Karim Benzema was the creator this time, supplying the pass over the top.

Callejon added the third in injury time.



## Schalke seek Podolski

AFP, Berlin

## Life goes on

AFP, Manchester

Cologne's Germany star Lukas Podolski is being targeted by German league rivals Schalke 04 as a replacement for Spain striker Raul next summer, the German media reported Thursday.

Podolski, 26, is under contract with Cologne until 2013, but Gelsenkirchen-based Schalke are viewing him as a replacement next summer for Raul, 34, whose contract expires in June.

Cologne have repeatedly said they want to extend Podolski's contract when the Bundesliga's winter break starts on December 18.

"I'd like to hear what they have to say, but I won't put myself under any pressure," Podolski told Germany daily Bild, whose 11 goals in 13 games makes him the league's joint third top-scorer with Cologne 12th in the Bundesliga.

With four teams entering the Champions League next season, rather than the current three, Schalke, currently fourth in the Bundesliga, have a good chance of playing in Europe's top club competition next season.

But the Royal Blues were staying tight-lipped over any interest in Podolski while Raul has yet to commit to a contract extension at Schalke with talks planned for later this month.

Podolski has spent most of his career at Cologne.

"Now we are the top of the Premier League and the season will be long but we want to improve on last year in the Premier League."

"Ten points is very difficult to go out."

"If you are in the final (of the Europa League) it will be very important because I've never won the Europa League."

"We are a good team. We played well, we're very sorry for our supporters and I'm sorry for our players."

"I think we need to improve as a team because we got a tough group (in the Champions League) this year."

"Congratulations to Napoli, they got one point more than us."

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