

# 'We deserve credit'

AFP, Amsterdam



Borussia Dortmund deserve credit for having dominated the Champions League's so-called 'Group of Death', according to director of sport Michael Zorc after his team hammered Ajax 4-1 in Amsterdam.

The German champions booked their place in the last 16 on Wednesday with some clinical finishing and impressive counter-attacking football as Germany stars Marco Reus and Mario Goetze shone and Poland's Robert Lewandowski scored twice.

Having been drawn with Real Madrid, Ajax and Manchester City in Group D, Dortmund are now three points clear at the top of the table ahead of their final pool game at home to Manchester City in a fortnight.

But Zorc says his team deserve all the credit they have earned after beating Real at home, then drawing away in both Madrid and Manchester while claiming victory over the Dutch both home and now away during their campaign.

"You simply have to give the team a lot of praise for the way they marched through a difficult group, we didn't expect that" said Zorc as Dortmund reached the knockout phase for the first time since 2003.

Incredibly, Dortmund had just five shots on target over the 90 minutes at the Amsterdam Arena, but scored from four of them and gave a lesson in counter-attacking football with just 33 per cent ball possession.

"I think we had an average of around 70 per cent possession, but we gave bad goals away," admitted Ajax coach Frank De Boer.

"We certainly could have avoided three of them. That's the hardest part to take about this defeat."



Borussia Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski (C) celebrates his goal with teammates during their Champions League encounter against Ajax Amsterdam in Amsterdam on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Adriano faces UEFA rap

AFP, Paris

UEFA on Wednesday opened disciplinary proceedings against Shakhtar Donetsk forward Luiz Adriano after he scored a controversial goal in Tuesday's Champions League game at Danish side Nordsjaelland.

The Brazilian faces charges for "violation of the principles of conduct" under Article 5 of UEFA's Disciplinary Regulations and his case will be heard by the governing body's Control and Disciplinary Body on November 27.

Adriano ended up with a hat-trick in a 5-2 victory which took his side into the last 16 but Nordsjaelland skipper Nikolai Stockholm was unimpressed.

## Ultras attack Spurs fans

Football

AFP, Rome

Visiting supporters from English Premier League club Tottenham were injured after suspected hardline fans of Lazio attacked a pub in the Italian capital, Rome, reports said on Thursday.

One of those injured had to attend hospital after the attack, which occurred in the early hours of Thursday morning when a group of Italians wearing masks attacked the premises, according to witnesses quoted by the ANSA news agency.

The Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper said the injured supporter had suffered a stab wound. He had been among a group of 10 fans which included nine English and one US national.

Gazzetta quoted the owner of the Drunken Ship pub, Marco Manzi, as saying: "Everything looked planned, they were extremely organised. They blocked the second exit and were even armed with tear gas."

"They managed to isolate the English and started hitting them with bars, chairs and tables."

## City crash out again

REUTERS, Bern



Real Madrid and AC Milan led a procession of six teams into the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday while big-spending Manchester City failed again on the European stage to further dent English soccer's standing.

Milan qualified with a 3-1 win at Anderlecht, their goals including a spectacular overhead kick by Philippe Mexes which was a near carbon copy of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's extraordinary effort for Sweden against England last week.

Paris St Germain, Arsenal and Bundesliga pair Borussia Dortmund and Schalke 04 were the other teams to qualify with a match to spare as the competition

continued on its predictable course.

It was the 13th consecutive occasion that Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has led his side into the last 16.

None of the 13 qualifiers can be described as a major surprise although Shakhtar's progress in a group containing holders Chelsea and Juventus may have raised some eyebrows.

Nine-time champions Real Madrid, who suffered the setback of a defeat at Dortmund on the way, went through with a 1-1 draw at City who were eliminated at the group stage for the second time in a row.

Karim Benzema gave Jose Mourinho's team the lead as they dominated the early stages and Sergio Aguerro's 74th minute penalty was too late to save the hosts

### RESULTS

**FC Porto 3** (Lucho 20, Moutinho 67, S. Varela 85) **Dinamo Zagreb 0**  
**Dynamo Kiev 0 Paris Saint Germain 2** (Lavezzi 45, 52)  
**Arsenal 2** (Wilshere 49, Podolski 63) **Montpellier 0**  
**Schalke 04 1** (Fuchs 77) **Olympiakos 0**  
**Zenit St Petersburg (RUS) 2** (Danny 49, Faizulin 86)  
**Malaga (ESP) 2** (Buonanotte 8, Fernandez 9)  
**Anderlecht 1** (De Sutter 78) **AC Milan 3** (Stephan El Shaarawy 47, Mexes 71, Pato 90+1)  
**Manchester City 1** (Aguero 73-pen)  
**Real Madrid 1** (Benzema 10)  
**Ajax 1** (Hoesen 86) **Dortmund 4** (Reus 8, Goetze 36,

Mario Goetze scored one goal and was involved in two others scored by Marco Reus and Roberto Lewandowski as Juergen Klopp's ruthlessly efficient side raced to a 3-0 halftime lead in Amsterdam.

Lewandowski added the fourth before Daniel Hoosen pulled one back as once mighty Ajax, no longer able to compete with the financial clout of clubs from bigger leagues, fell at the group stage for the third season in a row.

Seven-times champions AC Milan put their Serie A problems behind them as Stephan El Shaarawy, Mexes and Alexandre Pato scored in the second half at Anderlecht in Group C.

The highlight came when Frenchman Mexes chested up the ball on the edge of the area and sent a dipping bicycle kick into the far corner of the net.

in Group D, even after Alvaro Arbeloa was sent off.

Bundesliga champions Dortmund gave the evening's most impressive display as they trounced four-times European champions Ajax Amsterdam 4-1 away in the same group despite allowing their opponents much of the possession.

# Chelsea appoint Rafa

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea appointed Rafael Benitez as their interim first team manager until the end of the season on Wednesday after the European champions sacked Roberto di Matteo.

Di Matteo was fired after Tuesday's 3-0 defeat by Juventus in Turin left Chelsea facing elimination at the group stage of the Champions League.

Roman Abramovich, Chelsea's Russian billionaire owner who has now sacked seven managers since buying the club in 2003, subsequently appointed former Liverpool boss Benitez, albeit in a caretaker capacity.

"Chelsea Football Club can confirm Rafael Benitez has been appointed interim first-team manager until the end of the season," said a club statement.

"The owner (Abramovich) and the board believe that in Benitez we have a manager with significant experience at the highest level of football, who can come in and immediately help deliver our objectives."

Hours later former Blues midfielder di Matteo who, after replacing the sacked Andre Villas-Boas in March, led Chelsea to an FA Cup and Champions League double, with the Blues beating Bayern Munich on penalties in May, gave his first public reaction in a statement issued by the League Managers' Association.

"It was an honour for me to be appointed manager of a club that I



loved playing for and one that is so close to my heart," said di Matteo.

"I am extremely proud of the successes and trophies that we were able to bring to the club in recent months.

"Lifting Chelsea's first Champions League trophy, in Munich, was the best achievement in club history and without doubt the highlight of my career to date, both as a player and manager," said the former Italy midfielder, who played in two FA Cup winning teams.

"It is a memory I will treasure for the rest of my life.

"I have a deep and unreserved passion for Chelsea Football Club and I would like to sincerely thank all of the staff, my players and of course the Chelsea fans, for their

tremendous and unconditioned support in the intense time I have been the manager at the Bridge.

"I wish all of them every success for the rest of the season and beyond," added di Matteo, only appointed on a permanent basis in June.

Chelsea's statement said Benitez came with an "outstanding pedigree".

But the fact the 52-year-old Spaniard joined Chelsea on a short contract is bound to intensify speculation that former Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola, currently on a one-year sabbatical from football, is the man Abramovich truly wants to take charge at Stamford Bridge on a full-time basis.

At Valencia, Benitez twice won the Spanish League and the UEFA

Cup while his six years at Liverpool yielded an FA Cup and the club's fifth European Cup.

Benitez left Liverpool by "mutual consent" in 2010 after the club finished the Premier League season in seventh place, their worst position since 1999.

However, days later, he then took charge of Inter Milan only to quit months later in December 2010 over the Italian giants' alleged failure to back him in the upcoming transfer window.

Earlier on Wednesday, Chelsea explained fans' favourite di Matteo's dismissal by saying "recent performances and results have not been good enough".

Chelsea made a superb start to the current season, winning seven and drawing one of their opening eight league games to move four points clear at the Premier League summit.

But a 3-2 loss at home to Manchester United last month marked the start of a run of four games without a win.

Saturday's 2-1 defeat at West Bromwich Albion, di Matteo's former club, left Chelsea four points behind leaders Manchester City in third place.

Chelsea spent over £80 million (\$127 million, 100 million euros) on new players in the close season, notably bringing in Belgian winger Eden Hazard from Lille and Brazilian attacking midfielder Oscar from Internacional.

Although the quality of their football drew praise from pundits in the season's early months, that initial momentum appears to have disappeared.



<b>Channel 9</b>
<b>Bangladesh v West Indies</b>
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 9:30am
<b>ESPN</b>
<b>Australia v South Africa</b>
Second Test, Day 2
Live from 6:00am
<b>Sportscenter India</b>
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
<b>STAR Cricket</b>
<b>India v England</b>
Second Test, Day 1
Live from 10:00am
<b>STAR Sports</b>
<b>Primera Liga</b>
Real Sociedad v Osasuna



<b>Bangladesh v West Indies</b>
Second Test, Day 3
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Sk Abu Naser Stadium, Khulna
<b>Bangladesh Premier League</b>
Muktijoddha v Brothers Union
Time: 5:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
<b>National Cricket League</b>
(Four-day match, Day-1)
Rajshahi v Dhaka Metro
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden
Khulna v Sylhet
Venue: Shaheed Kamaruzzaman Stadium, Rajshahi
Chittagong v Dhaka
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
Rangpur v Barisal

## Superclasico Brazil's

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Substitute Ignacio Scocco struck twice in the final 10 minutes to give Argentina a 2-1 win over arch-rivals Brazil in a friendly at La Bombonera on Wednesday, but the visitors took the "Superclasico de las Americas" trophy on penalties.

Brazil, who had beaten Argentina 2-1 in Goiania in September, won the trophy 4-3 in the shootout. The friendly double-header between the teams featured players only from domestic leagues.

The return leg was supposed to have taken place on Oct. 3 but a floodlights failure at the original venue in the northern city of Resistencia forced a postponement until Wednesday.

Scocco, the Argentine first division's top scorer making his international debut at 27, put the home side ahead with a penalty in the 80th minute after Jean brought down Juan Manuel Martinez.

Brazil's Jean made amends four minutes later when he shot across the Argentine goal and Fred wrong footed goalkeeper Agustin Orion to make it 1-1.

Argentina pushed hard for the winner and in the final minute Walter Montillo launched a quick counter-attack, Martinez fended off two defenders and squared for Scocco to shoot low past Diego Cavalieri.

"The players had a great game despite having to play a midweek fixture," coach Alejandro Sabella said.

The Argentine coach's squad had been involved in three league matches in the previous 10 days.

Brazil's Neymar had a lively first half, teasing the Argentine defence with his trademark, jinking runs and had a chance in the 33rd minute from inside the box but lifted his lob high over the bar.

Argentina failed to make the most of several free kicks and corners in the first half with Martinez, who scored a fine opener in the 2-1 win in Goiania, coming close in the 25th minute.

Montillo, occupying the playmaker's role, went on a Lionel Messi-style diagonal run across the face of the goal and fed left back Leonel Vangioni, whose cross was met by Barcos but his header went just wide.