

# Bayern romp at the Emirates

AFP, London



Bayern Munich loaded fresh misery onto beleaguered Arsenal with a 3-1 win at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday that left them with one foot in the Champions League quarterfinals.

Bayern, runaway leaders in the Bundesliga, bossed the first half of the last 16 first leg, and went in 2-0 up at half-time through goals from Toni Kroos and Thomas Mueller.

Lukas Podolski replied early in the second half, breaching his former club's defence for the first time in 2013, but Mario Mandzukic struck late on to put Bayern firmly in control ahead of the second leg on March 13.

Greeted by roars from the home fans as they left the tunnel, Arsenal began with intent, and saw first Santi Cazorla and then Theo Walcott thread inviting crosses into the Bayern box from the right.

However, the wind was sucked from their sails in only the seventh minute as Bayern took the lead from their first attack.

Mueller's cross from the right eluded the stretching Mikel Arteta and Kroos beat Per Mertesacker to the bouncing ball to hit a crisp half-volley that skipped off the turf and flashed past the flailing Wojciech Szczesny.

It was a cruel blow for Arsenal and things got even worse in the 21st minute, with Mueller volleying into the roof of the net from close range after Szczesny par-

ried Daniel Van Buyten's header from a right-wing corner.

Bacary Sagna and Arteta found their way into the referee's book as the hosts' frustrations threatened to get the better of them, while Bayern's fans launched a gleeful chorus of the English terrace chant, 'Football's coming home!'

Mandzukic almost put Bayern out of sight when he directed a header inches wide of Szczesny's right-hand post shortly before half-time.

Bayern retreated in the second half, content to look for opportunities on the break, but it backfired in the 55th minute as Arsenal pulled themselves back into the match.

Wilshere's looping corner from the Arsenal right was somehow allowed to bounce in the heart of a crowded area and Podolski exploited hesitancy in the visiting ranks to nod a header past flat-footed Germany team-mate Manuel Neuer.

Szczesny had to tip a rising drive from Kroos over the bar as Bayern resumed their assault on the home goal, with Javi Martinez heading over from the ensuing corner.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger introduced Tomas Rosicky and Olivier Giroud in the 72nd minute and the pair almost made an immediate impact.

Rosicky found Walcott wide on the right with a strafing pass and Giroud met the Englishman's subsequent cross with a first-time shot that Neuer scrambled away.



Bayern Munich midfielder Toni Kroos is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal against Arsenal during their Champions League round of 16 clash at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Most popular Bavarians

AFP, Berlin

Having impressed in Tuesday's Champions League victory at Arsenal, Bayern Munich, who enjoy a record 15-point lead in the Bundesliga, are also proving to be Germany's football champions of social media.

Bayern are by the far the most popular of Germany's 18 top-flight teams on Facebook with just over six million fans, nearly three times as many as nearest rivals Borussia Dortmund.

But the Bavarians' international popularity pales compared to their European rivals with Spain's giants Barcelona claiming 40.5m Facebook fans and the English Twitter feed alone has eight million followers.

Likewise, Real Madrid have 36m Facebook fans and 6.8m followers to their Spanish Twitter feed.

## Lewandowski ban upheld

AFP, Berlin

Borussia Dortmund's top scorer, striker Robert Lewandowski, on Tuesday had his appeal against a three-match Bundesliga ban rejected by the German Football Association's (DFB) disciplinary committee.

The 24-year-old was shown a straight red card 10 days ago for a dangerous challenge on midfielder Per Skjelbred in Hamburg's shock 4-1 victory at Dortmund and was promptly handed a three-match ban, which the DFB upheld Tuesday. Lewandowski has scored 14 goals in 20 league games so far this campaign, while his 30 goals in all competitions last season helped Borussia win the league and cup double.

"Mr Lewandowski had carried through with his challenge and not held back, he risked injury both for himself and his opponent," said committee chairman Hans E Lorenz.

Having already missed Dortmund's 3-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday, he will also miss Sunday's trip to Moenchengladbach and the home match against Hanover 96 on March 2.

# Chelsea target long run

AFP, Paris



Last season's Champions League winners Chelsea headline the four English clubs vying for a berth in the last 16 of the Europa League on Thursday,

as several high-profile names stare at the exit door.

Chelsea go into the second leg of their tie with Sparta Prague at Stamford Bridge holding a 1-0 advantage thanks to Oscar's late strike a week ago in the Czech capital. "We still have to concentrate to make sure we get the right result but we're in a good position now so we have to follow it through," said midfielder Frank Lampard.

Despite the ignominy of becoming the first Champions League winners to bow out at the group stage, Lampard, who is just three goals shy of Bobby Tambling's club record tally of 202, insisted more European success was still firmly on Chelsea's radar.

"If it's hard (to focus on the Europa League after dropping out of the Champions League) then we'd better change that very quickly because we're in this competition now so we have to get our attitude right.

"The Europa League is a fantastic competition to try and win, so that's what we have to do."

Three-time UEFA Cup winners Liverpool will need to overturn a two-goal deficit against 2008 UEFA Cup winners Zenit St. Petersburg to prevent a premature end to their

European campaign at Anfield.

Fresh from Sunday's 5-0 battering of Premier League rivals Swansea City, Spanish defender Jose Enrique hopes Brendan Rodgers' side can replicate that performance on Thursday.

"It was a good reaction from the team," he said.

"It was a really hard game against Zenit so it is good for us to have this result because now our confidence is

Londoners stressed their approach would remain the same at Stade Gerland.

Former Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris again appears set to miss out against his old club with Villas-Boas likely to opt once more for reserve custodian Brad Friedel, while England striker Jermain Defoe remains sidelined with an ankle problem.

Newcastle will be greeted by sub-zero temperatures as they make the trip to Kharkiv for their second-leg fixture against Metalist.

Alan Pardew's men were left to rue their profligacy as they were held to a goalless stalemate by the Ukrainian outfit last time out.

However, the Magpies could be boosted by the return of France international Hatem Ben Arfa from a hamstring injury that has kept him out since early December, while January recruit Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa says there is plenty of reason for optimism.

"However there were a lot of positives to take out of the match and we'll go away in the second leg, try and get one or two goals and come away with a victory."

Two goals from Rodrigo Palacio at the San Siro helped Inter Milan to a 2-0 first-leg advantage over Romanian side CFR Cluj, but a steep task awaits holders Atletico Madrid in Russia after the Spaniards suffered a 2-0 home defeat to Rubin Kazan.

Italian title challengers Napoli must overturn a three-goal deficit away to Czech league leaders Viktoria Plzen if they are to progress, a feat never achieved before in the Europa League.

FIXTURES	
Thursday	
(All 1800GMT kick-offs unless stated otherwise)	
Rubin Kazan (RUS) v Atletico Madrid (ESP)	(1700)
Metalist Kharkiv (UKR) v Newcastle United (ENG), Genk (BEL) v VfB Stuttgart (GER), CFR Cluj (ROM) v Inter Milan (ITA), Dnipro (UKR) v FC Basel (SUI), Lazio (ITA) v Borussia Moenchengladbach (GER), Lyon (FRA) v Tottenham Hotspur (ENG)	(All 2005 GMT kick-offs)
Viktoria Plzen (CZE) v Napoli (ITA), Hanover (GER) v Anzhi Makhachkala (RUS), Chelsea (ENG) v Sparta Prague (CZE), Fenerbahce (TUR) v BATE Borisov (BLR), Olympiacos (GRE) v Levante (ESP), Liverpool (ENG) v Zenit (RUS), Bordeaux (FRA) v Dynamo Kiev (UKR), Benfica (POR) v Bayer Leverkusen (GER), Steaua	

there for the next game, which it is really important we win.

"They (Zenit) spent a lot of money so they have good players so we have to keep a clean sheet and then to score as many as we can."

Meanwhile, Gareth Bale's brace ensured Tottenham travel to Lyon leading 2-1 on aggregate.

Two stunning free-kicks from the Wales international handed Spurs a slender advantage, but the



Porto midfielder Joao Moutinho (R) jumps for joy after scoring the all-important goal during their Champions League second round match against Malaga at the Dragao Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Porto ride on Joao

AFP, Porto



Joao Moutinho's second-half goal was enough to give Porto a 1-0 win over Malaga in a cagey first-leg at the Estadio do Dragao on Tuesday.

The hosts dominated the opening period but failed to create a clear opening until six minutes after the break when Alex Sandro's fine pass was swept past Willy Caballero first-time by Moutinho, although replays showed the Portuguese international may have been in an offside position.

Porto were then happier to hold on to their advantage than go in search of a second, and with Malaga unable to muster any sort of response, the tie is delicately balanced heading into the return at La Rosaleda in three weeks' time.

"You have to give credit to Porto for the way they pressed us all over the pitch, but we have to apply the same pressure in Malaga.

"We have demonstrated this year that we can compete with anyone," added Pellegrini.

Porto boss Vitor Pereira meanwhile was much happier with his men but lamented not killing the tie off with a second goal.

"We played a complete game, we dominated and pressed them which is what I like to see," he told reporters.

"We were playing a great team and we

completely took the initiative from them, but it was a shame not to have scored the second goal."

Malaga's only previous defeat in European competition had also come in the city of Porto, to Boavista in 2003, and they slipped to a similar fate after failing to have a single shot on target throughout the 90 minutes.

Marat Izmailov was handed a start ahead of James Rodriguez as the latter continued his return from injury and the Russian tested Caballero with a low drive just four minutes in.

However, for all their possession Porto failed to force the Argentine into another save for the rest of the opening period.

Twice Fernando headed just off target from Moutinho corners before Danilo and Izmailov also fired wide of Caballero's right-hand post.

Izmailov was again off the mark as he slid in at the back post moments after the break, but ironically it was when the visitors had been enjoying their best spell of possession that Porto eventually found a way through.

A lovely pass from Alex Sandro split the Malaga defence wide open and Moutinho was allowed to run on and slot past Caballero first time despite just being goal-side of Martin Demichelis as the ball was played.

And there was very little by way of goalmouth action in the final half hour as both sides seemed content for the tie to be settled in the south of Spain on March 13.

Star  
**SPORT**  
ONLINE POLL

Who do you think will win the BPL?

**Dhaka Gladiators (57%)**  
**Sylhet Royals (28%)**  
**Duronto Rajshahi (6%)**  
**Other (9%)**

Total votes: 447

Who do you think will qualify to the Champions League quarterfinal?

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What to WATCH

**TEN Sports**

**World Hockey League**  
Oman v Bangladesh  
Live from 4:25pm

**UEFA Europa League**  
Lyon v Tottenham  
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

Chelsea v Sparta Prague  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

**TEN Action**

**UEFA Europa League**  
Rubin v Atletico Madrid  
Live from 11:00pm

Liverpool v Zenith  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

ফেব্রুয়ারি  
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস

মোদের গরব  
মোদের আশা  
আমরি বাঙলা ভাষা

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস উপলক্ষে সকল  
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