Who will overtake Raul first?

AP, Barcelona

The Champions League returns Tuesday and Wednesday with Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi competing for yet another prize as the rival stars take aim at the tournament's all-time scoring record.

Ronaldo and Messi are neck-and-neck in a race to become the Champions League's all-time leading scorer by breaking the record held by Raul Gonzalez.

Ronaldo has 68 goals in Europe's top club competition, one more than Messi. Raul scored 71.

Ronaldo may have a better chance of getting there first as Real Madrid plays at Bulgaria's Ludogorets in Group B on Wednesday, a day after Messi's Barcelona has a tougher trip to Paris Saint-Germain in Group F.

The Portugal forward looks primed to increase his goal haul in Sofia after scoring 10 goals in his last six matches, including one four-goal performance and a hat trick.

Messi, meanwhile, scored his 400th and 401st goals for club and country in Barcelona's 6-0 rout of Granada on Saturday.

PSG lose Zlatan

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain star Zlatan Ibrahimovic will miss Tuesday's Champions League clash with Barcelona at the Parc des Princes due to a nagging heel problem, the French club have confirmed.

"The different tests carried out this morning on the problem with his left heel were not satisfactory. Zlatan Ibrahimovic is out of the match against Barcelona," said a statement released by PSG.

Ibrahimovic, who played for Barcelona in the 2009-10 season, had already missed his club's last two games in Ligue 1.

Without him, Laurent Blanc's side performed poorly in a 1-1 draw at Toulouse on Saturday and they are under pressure to get a result against the Catalans after opening their Group F campaign with a 1-1 draw with Ajax two weeks ago.



PHOTO: AFP

Manchester City players jog prior to a training session at the Etihad Stadium yesterday ahead of their tonight's Champions League match against Roma.

City aim to rebound

AFP, Paris



Manchester City will look to bounce back from an opening defeat at Bayern Munich when they host Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday, as Jose Mourinho's

Chelsea go to Lisbon.

CSKA MOSCOW V BAYERN MUNICH

Bayern beat CSKA home and away in the group stage of last season's Champions League and the Russian champions' hopes of getting a result this time will not be helped by the fact the match will be played behind closed doors at the Arena Khimki. CSKA, who trail leaders Zenit by four points at the top of the Russian Premier League, are being punished by UEFA for the bad behaviour of their fans during a group stage match last season.

The visitors have considerable selection problems just now, with Franck Ribery, Javi Martinez and Thiago Alcantara among those on the sidelines and Jerome Boateng doubtful, but they are yet to lose this season and have not even conceded a goal in their last five outings. Bayern beat Manchester City 1-0 on matchday one while CSKA were thumped 5-1 by Roma in Italy.

MAN CITY V ROMA

After conceding late to go down 1-0 to Bayern in their group opener, the visit of Roma is already a must-win game for Manuel Pellegrini's English champions. Manchester City have scored 11 goals in

winning their last two matches, but a meet- the most prestigious trophy in European with Porto on Friday. They have however ing with a Roma side who have won all five Serie A games so far and thumped CSKA Moscow 5-1 two weeks ago promises to be a stiff test. City have not beaten Italian opponents since a 3-0 victory over AC Milan in the UEFA Cup in 1978-79, and Roma coach Rudi Garcia said: "All the pressure is on them. They need to get a result at their home ground."

APOEL V AJAX

Cypriot champions APOEL earned plenty of plaudits for their performance in losing 1-0 to Barcelona at the Camp Nou in their Group F opener, but if they are to stand any prospect of progressing they will need to beat Ajax in Nicosia.

Ajax held Paris Saint-Germain to a 1-1 draw last time out and Frank de Boer's side head to the Mediterranean island Sigthórsson scored a hat-trick. The four-time European champions have performed poorly away from home in the competition recently but surely only a win would keep them in with a chance of finishing any higher than third in the section.

PSG V BARCELONA

The Parc des Princes will be the scene for the heavyweight showdown of the French champions and Luis Enrique's Barcelona. The clubs clashed in the quarterfinals 18 months ago, when Paris held their more illustrious opponents in both legs but lost on away goals. PSG are desperate to win

football, but they have had a cumbersome start to the season and have drawn four of their last five matches.

In contrast, Barcelona have enjoyed an excellent start to the campaign and are still to concede a goal never mind lose a game. With Lionel Messi and Neymar in fine form, and Gerard Pique back in the squad, they look like marginal favourites against a PSG side missing Thiago Silva and Ezequiel Lavezzi and with a doubt over Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

SCHALKE 04 V MARIBOR

Schalke drew at Chelsea on matchday one, and should fancy their chances of reaching the last 16 from Group G as they prepare to host Slovenian champions Maribor in Gelsenkirchen. Jens Keller's side are also fresh from beating bitter rivals Borussia fresh from a 5-2 victory at NAC Breda at Dortmund 2-1 in the Ruhr derby on the weekend, a game in which Kolbeinn Saturday, confirming their upturn in form after a slow start to the campaign.

SPORTING V CHELSEA

Chelsea are yet to lose this season, although while Jose Mourinho's side have been in imperious form in the Premier League, they stuttered to a 1-1 draw against Schalke in their Group G opener. That puts more pressure on them to win at the Estadio Jose Alvalade in Lisbon, where Chelsea will hope to be able to call upon top scorer Diego Costa, who has a nagging hamstring problem.

Marco Silva's side have drawn four of their last five games, including a 1-1 stalemate

won their last three home games against English opponents and will relish coming up against Mourinho, who worked as an assistant to Bobby Robson at Sporting two decades ago but is better known for his spells in charge of their great rivals Benfica and Porto.

BATE BORISOV V ATHLETIC BILBAO

Athletic will be eager to get back to winning ways when they become the first visitors to BATE's new Borisov Arena in a Champions League group game. Sixteen years on from their last appearance at this stage of the competition, Athletic kicked off in Group H by drawing 0-0 with Shakhtar Donetsk two weeks ago.

SHAKHTAR DONETSK V FC PORTO Shakhtar's status as one of the emerging

powers in the European game has been diminished by the bloody conflict that continues to rage around their home in Donetsk in eastern Ukraine. Their stateof-the-art Donbass Arena was last month damaged by shell fire and they are now forced to host Porto in Lviv, over 1,000 kilometres away in the west of the country.

Despite the disruption, Mircea Lucescu's side lie second in their domestic league and drew 0-0 at Athletic Bilbao two weeks ago. However, they will face a stern test from Porto, whose unbeaten start to the campaign includes a 6-0 win against Sporting are unbeaten this season but BATE. Julen Lopetegui's side will be without the injured Ricardo Quaresma and Casemiro for the trip east.

Mohammedan in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club booked a berth in the final of the Airtel U-18 Football Tournament after overcoming Team BJMC by 2-1 goals in the second semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The champions of the inaugural edition in 2013, which was held between the U-16 teams of the Bangladesh Premier League, will take on Brothers Union in the final which will be held at 5:00pm on Thursday at the same venue.

The Black and Whites, who emerged champions of Group B with two wins and two draws, took the lead in the second minute of the second half through Sadek, before Rasel made it 2-0 six minutes later.

Bablu reduced the arrears for Team BJMC in the 63rd minute, but that was too little to halt Mohammedan's progress to their second successive final of the youth tournament.

Hart set to return

REUTERS, London

England goalkeeper Joe Hart will return for Manchester City in their Champions League tie at home to Roma on Tuesday after being replaced by Willy Caballero at the weekend.

Hart sat on the bench for City's 4-2 win at Hull City in the Premier League and Argentine Caballero, signed from Malaga in the summer, produced a solid display. However, Hart remains

manager Manuel Pellegrini's first choice. Asked whether Hart

would play in a match City cannot afford to lose, Pellegrini said: "Yes, he's in a very good moment also." Hart was in magnificent

form in the 1-0 defeat by Bayern Munich in their opening Group E match earlier this month.

Pellegrini knows that defeat to Roma could seriously undermine his side's chances of reaching the last 16.

"It's a crucial game because Roma won their first match and we lost," Pellegrini said. "It will be a very tough group and we cannot drop points here at home. It's very important for us to win that game."

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WALTON

'I deserved to be sent-off'

AFP, Manchester



Wayne Rooney admitted he deserved to be sent-off in Manchester United's 2-1 win over West Ham as his sixth career red card again put his temperament under the spotlight. Rooney, who has been appointed skipper

by coach Louis van Gaal this season and is celebrating a decade at Old Trafford, was dismissed for a reckless lunge on Stewart Downing just on the hour mark on Saturday. "I knew at the time that I misjudged it," 28-year-old

Rooney said Sunday.

"It is a red card and I don't think it will benefit anyone to appeal against the decision. It was probably the right decision. I saw the West Ham player making a counter-attack and I tried to break-up the play, but I just misjudged it.

"I think everyone knew (I was in the wrong), so I am just grateful that the lads were able to hold on."

His first red card at club level in five and a half years means he will likely miss United's games against former

club Everton, Chelsea and West Brom through suspension. Rooney said he had apologised to his teammates but not Downing.

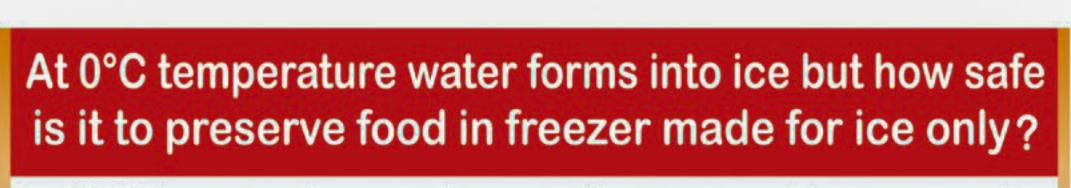
"No. I haven't absolutely volleyed the lad," said the England star. "I have tried to trip him up and, to be fair to him, he got

further away from me and that is why my leg is straighter than it should have been.

"As he pushed the ball away, my leg has straightened out and that is obviously why the referee has deemed it as a red card."

Rooney, who had scored United's opener on Saturday, will still be available to play for England in next month's

Euro 2016 qualifiers against San Marino and Estonia. But he will not turn out for van Gaal until the first weekend of November, when United play bitter rivals Manchester City.



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