

PAST WINNERS

2014-15	Barcelona (ESP)
2013-14	Real Madrid (ESP)
2012-13	Bayern Munich (GER)
2011-12	Chelsea (ENG)
2010-11	Barcelona (ESP)
2009-10	Inter Milan (ITA)
2008-09	Barcelona (ESP)
2007-08	Man United (ENG)
2006-07	AC Milan (ITA)

TOP SCORERS

Ronaldo	Real Madrid	10
Messi	Barcelona	10
Neymar	Barcelona	10
Adriano	Donetsk	9
Tevez	Juventus	7



Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic (C) celebrates his opening goal with teammate Neymar during their Champions League final against Juventus at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin last night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Barca beat Juve to complete treble

AFP, Berlin



Luis Suarez and Neymar scored second half goals to give Barcelona a 3-1 Champions League final victory over Juventus on Saturday and make the Spaniards the first team to twice win the European treble.

Luis Enrique capped his first season as Barcelona's head coach by matching Pep Guardiola's feat from the 2008/09 season when the Catalans captured the European, Spanish league and cup titles.

An early goal by Barca's Ivan Rakitic was cancelled out by Juventus' ex-Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata, who equalised on 55 minutes.

But Suarez put the game beyond the Italian champions

with a 68th minute strike off a rebound at Berlin's Olympic Stadium. Neymar added the third with the last kick of the game in the 97th minute.

Juventus suffered the indignation of becoming the first team to lose six European Cup finals, 30 years after winning the trophy for the first time amidst the tragedy of the Heysel Stadium disaster.

This was the fifth time Barcelona have been crowned European champions and it is their fourth Champions League title in the last decade after their 2006, 2009 and 2011 triumphs.

Following their 2009 treble, Barcelona join Celtic, Ajax, PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United, Inter Milan and Bayern Munich on the exclusive list of teams to have won the treble.

Despite brief moments of magic, Lionel Messi failed to

Barcelona become the first club to win the European treble twice

The Spaniards emulate their 2009 feat of winning the treble of European, league and cup titles

with two uncustomary mistakes in defence straight from kick-off before Rakitic gave the Catalan giants the lead with just four minutes gone.

Neymar fed his captain Andres Iniesta from the left wing and the Spain international squared for Rakitic to drill home from close-range past Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon.

Juve came back into the game midway through the first-half, but Suarez forced Buffon, who failed to claim a winners' medal at the 12th attempt, into another save as it finished 1-0 at the break.

The Spaniards picked up where they left off in the second half when Rakitic fed Suarez, who forced Buffon into a diving save with 48 minutes gone before firing over moments later.

Messi, who showed glimpses of his brilliance with a first-half

darting run through the Juve defence, then fired wide after exchanging two quick passes in the build-up move.

Juve got the equaliser they had threatened when defender Stephan Lichtsteiner's cross found Carlos Tevez, whose shot was parried by Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, only for Morata to rifle home the loose ball on 55 minutes.

It was the ex-Real striker's first goal against Barcelona despite four years at the Bernabeu having left Madrid last year.

The goal breathed life back into Juve's ambitions, but it was a touch of Messi magic which led to the decisive goal.

The Argentina international attacked the Juve defence with a mazy run and although Buffon blocked his shot, Suarez fired home the rebound on 68 minutes.

'Ireland unfazed by furore'

AFP, Dublin

Republic of Ireland defender John O'Shea said on Saturday that his teammates had not been troubled by revelations about a secret FIFA loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI).

It emerged this week that world governing body FIFA paid a five million euros (\$5.5 million) loan to the FAI to stop them taking legal action after a handball by Thierry Henry in a play-off match took France to the 2010 World Cup at Ireland's expense.

O'Shea was watching from the substitutes' bench when the handball incident occurred in extra time of the game at the Stade de France in November 2009, but he said resurfacing memories of the incident would not disturb his preparations ahead of games against England and Scotland.

"It's one of those things," the Sunderland centre-back told a press conference at a hotel beside Dublin Airport.

"You're aware of it because of the news. But look, we just have to get on with it. The FAI have obviously made everything as public as possible and they've dealt with it as quickly as possible."



A neutral fan! SOCCERNET.COM

The half-and-half scarf has become the scourge of all grounds. Once reserved for big occasions, you can now buy a scarf which is 50 percent one team and 50 percent the other pretty much for any game -- even when it's a glamour FA Cup game like Bradford City vs. Reading.

Then we had a fan wearing a half and half shirt for the Chelsea vs. Manchester United Premier League game in November last year.

But one fan at the Champions League final in Berlin has taken things a step further. Never has a neutral worn his colours on his sleeve in such a fashion.

Wearing full kit that is one half Barcelona, and the other half Juventus, this gentleman has been walking the streets of the German capital like this for the past couple of days.

You might think he has been trying to draw attention to himself. It certainly has worked.

'Machine' on brink of history

Djokovic takes on Wawrinka in final today

AFP, Paris

Novak Djokovic can become the eighth man to claim a career Grand Slam in the French Open final on Sunday when he takes on Stan Wawrinka who has described the world number one as a "machine".

Djokovic takes a 17-3 career lead into his clash against the popular Wawrinka whose win over the Serb in the 2014 Australian Open quarterfinals put him on the way to his first and so far only major title.

It also snapped an eight-year losing streak against the eight-time Grand Slam trophy winner.

Djokovic will be playing in his third French Open final having lost the 2012 and 2014 championship

matches to nine-time Paris champion Rafael Nadal.

But having handed Nadal just his second ever loss at Roland Garros in the quarterfinals and then seeing off world number three Andy Murray in five sets in a semifinal stretched over two days, the 28-year-old is primed for history.

Only Fred Perry, Don Budge, Rod Laver, Roy Emerson, Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Nadal have won all four majors.

But Djokovic also has even greater objectives in sight -- victory over Wawrinka would put him halfway to a calendar Grand Slam, a challenge so daunting that only Budge (1938) and Laver (1962 and 1969) have managed to pull it off.

Djokovic insists that having to come back on Saturday to play

another hour to finish his semifinal against Murray 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 5-7, 6-1 after a Friday night suspension will have no bearing on his physical fitness for Sunday's match with Wawrinka.

Djokovic and Wawrinka have met six times on clay and the Swiss has won just one of those -- in Umag in the pair's first clash way back in 2006 and even that was through a retirement.

But Wawrinka, who put out Federer in the quarterfinals in Paris, insists his poor record will not be a factor on Sunday as he tries to escape the 'one Slam wonder' club.

It's been a long road to the business end of the majors for world number nine Wawrinka.

It took him 36 Grand Slam tournaments and nine years to make his first final in Melbourne last year.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates his victory over Great Britain's Andy Murray in their French Open men's semifinal in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

রিহাব সামার ফেয়ার-২০১৫

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