



Just 122 seconds after coming on as a substitute on Saturday night, Gareth Bale conjured a magical overhead kick, probably the greatest goal in a Champions League final, to give Real Madrid the lead. The Welshman went on to score another as the holders came away with a 3-1 win from Kiev and retained the trophy for the second time.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bale authors *La Decimotercera* CR7 outburst shocks Real

AFP, Kiev

Gareth Bale came off the bench to score twice, including one of the all-time great goals in a Champions League final, as Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 in Kiev on Saturday to take the trophy for the third year running.

Bale's jaw-dropping overhead kick in the 64th minute put Real 2-1 up moments after his introduction, following a dramatic start to the second half in which Karim Benzema gave Real the lead as a result of a Loris Karius howler.

Sadio Mane had briefly restored parity, but Bale put Real in front again and then sealed the triumph late on with a long-range strike that the unfortunate Karius could only punch into the net.

Jurgen Klopp's and Liverpool's own evening was marred by the loss of a distraught Mohamed Salah to injury in the first half, the Egyptian

REAL'S HISTORY MAKERS	
Real Madrid have won 13 European cups. All English clubs combined have won 12 and all Italian clubs combined have also won 12 while all German clubs combined have won 7.	Champions League campaign for a record seventh time in his career, including six times in a row in the past six seasons.
Gareth Bale is the first player to come on as a substitute and score twice in a Champions League/European Cup final.	Cristiano Ronaldo now has the same number of Champions League titles (5) as Barcelona, Bayern and Liverpool.
Zinedine Zidane now has won 5 CL trophies with Real Madrid. He won two as a player and becomes the third manager after Bob Paisley and Carlo Ancelotti to win Europe's greatest prize three times.	Sergio Ramos is the second captain to have won the Champions League trophy 3 times. The first was Franz Beckenbauer. Ramos was not captain in 2013/14, but lifted it in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.
Cristiano Ronaldo has finished top scorer in a	

coming off half an hour in having damaged his shoulder.

This was not to be Salah's night, with Zinedine Zidane becoming the first coach to win the Champions League three years in a row. This is their 13th title overall.

"With a team like this we can go far, but to win three of them, it's something crazy," Zidane said.

For Liverpool, the game will be remembered for the disaster that befell Karius in the second half, and for Salah's tears as he departed the pitch at the NSC Olympiyskiy.

The Egyptian hurt his left shoulder as he went down in a challenge with Sergio Ramos in the 25th minute. Five minutes later he made way for Adam Lallana, and his presence

at the World Cup is now in doubt.

"We wanted everything and got nothing. We lost an important player and probably Egypt lost for the World Cup an important player," Klopp said.

Benzema opened the scoring in the 51st minute after a moment of unbelievable carelessness from Karius, who attempted to roll the ball out to the nearest red shirt only for Benzema to stick out a leg and send it trickling into the net.

Klopp's side really could have let their heads drop, but they were soon back level, Mane turning the ball in after Dejan Lovren headed down a corner.

But their renewed hope was crushed upon the introduction of Bale. The Welshman had been on the field barely two minutes when he met Marcelo's cross from the left with an improbable leap, back to goal, 15 yards out, to send an overhead kick on his left foot arcing over Karius and in.

That deserved to be the winner, although it was his long-range shot in the 83rd minute that ensured victory.

AFP, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo won the Champions League for a fifth time on Saturday but the striker's petulant posturing over his future has left a sour taste at Real Madrid.

While his team-mates were celebrating a record-stretching 13th European crown, earned after a gutsy 3-1 victory over Liverpool, Ronaldo was casting doubt over his commitment to the club.

"It was very nice to be in Madrid," said Ronaldo, who was told it sounded like he was saying goodbye. "In the next few days I will give an answer to the fans because they have always been by my side."

For months, Ronaldo and his representatives have been wrangling with Real over a new deal, as the Portugese reportedly seeks to surpass Lionel Messi at Barcelona and Neymar at PSG as the highest paid player in the world.

Florentino Perez's resistance has offended Ronaldo, who has implied several times all is not well in their relationship.

When Ronaldo's comments were put to

Perez on Saturday night, he expressed annoyance at their timing and appeared to brush off the possibility of a departure.

"Do not ask me these things the day we are celebrating a Champions League title like today," Perez said. "Everyone has the right to speak but here the important thing is the club, that we are all celebrating this title. Cristiano is happy, is happy and remains happy. He is under contract."

Zidane was not in the mood to indulge.

"I'm not thinking about that," Zidane said. "I am thinking about what we are doing now, the game, what we have achieved. On Cristiano, we will see later. He has to stay, yes or yes."

'CHANGE THE NAME TO CR7 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE'

Ronaldo did not score and watched the final be decided by the brilliance of Gareth Bale. When this was put to him, Ronaldo replied: "Maybe the Champions League should change its name to the CR7 Champions League."

"Who has more Champions League titles and more goals?" he asked, referring to again finishing at the top of the tournament's scoring list with 15 goals.

All-timer as a player, now as a coach too

AFP, Kiev

He was one of the all-time greats as a player, and Zinedine Zidane now merits consideration as one of the game's great managers after making history with Real Madrid in Saturday's Champions League final.

His team's 3-1 win over Liverpool in Kiev allowed Zidane to become the first coach ever to win the Champions League in three consecutive seasons, with Real becoming the first team to achieve that feat in more than 40 years.

Less than two and a half years after being promoted from his position as coach of Real's second team to his first managerial role at the highest level, the Frenchman has become only the third coach in the history of the game to lift the European Cup three times.

Leaving behind contemporaries Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola, Zidane has equalled former Liverpool manager Bob Paisley and Carlo Ancelotti, the

man he used to serve as an assistant.

"I need to congratulate the players as it is not at all easy what they are doing," Zidane said after the game in the Ukrainian capital. "This is the business. There are no words for it. That is what this squad is all about. They have no limit to what they can do."

Zidane was reluctant to take too much of the credit after seeing his side secure their fourth Champions League title in five seasons, and the 13th in the club's long love affair with the European Cup.

The 45-year-old also won the trophy as a player for Real, his volley in the 2002 win over Bayer Leverkusen in Glasgow being considered one of the best ever to grace a final -- although it was possibly surpassed by Gareth Bale's overhead kick on Saturday.

It has been 20 years since Zidane scored twice as France beat Brazil 3-0 in the 1998 World Cup final.

Yet as a coach, he has now won nine trophies since coming to the Bernabeu dugout in January 2016. The question now is, where does he go from here?



PHOTO: REUTERS

Zinedine Zidane became just one of three managers in history to win the European Cup/Champions League thrice and the only one to do so consecutively.

Bale keeping options open

REUTERS, Kiev

Gareth Bale proved his worth to Real Madrid by delivering the Champions League trophy with a sensational two goals after coming off the bench in the 3-1 win over Liverpool in Saturday's final but then declared he would have to consider his future at the club.

"It has to be the best goal in a Champions League final, there is no bigger stage," Bale said of his strike which put Madrid on their way to a third consecutive Champions League triumph.

"I am just happy to get the win. It is a team game but when you are a substitute, it is a game of more than 11 players. I made an impact."

Bale, however, said he was not happy to have been left out of many of Real's biggest games this season and admitted he would have to think long and hard about his future at the club where he has won so much.

"I need to be playing week in, week out and that has not happened this season. I had an injury five, six weeks in but (have been) fit ever since. I have to sit down with my agent in the summer and discuss it."

Bale also scored in Real's 4-1 win over Atletico Madrid in the 2014 final, striking the goal that put Madrid ahead in extra time and on their way to finally landing 'La Decima', the 10th European crown they had craved for 12 years.

"Obviously I was very disappointed not to start the game; I felt I deserved it but the manager makes the decisions," he said.

"The best I can do is to come on and make an impact; I certainly did."



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Real Madrid celebrate their third successive Champions League victory after defeating Liverpool 3-1 in the final in Kiev on Saturday night. Real superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, with the trophy placed on his head, holds up five fingers to denote the number of Champions League titles he has won. Loris Karius is distraught after his second mistake leads to a goal. Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp walks past the trophy as a runner-up for the second time.

PHOTOS: REUTERS/AFP