

Arsenal FC - Sevilla FC

MATCH PRESS KIT

Arsenal Stadium, London

Wednesday 19 September 2007 - 20.45CET

Group H - Matchday 1



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Match background

Two teams who between them have contested three of the last four senior UEFA club finals meet on Matchday 1 in Group H. It is a mouthwatering tie with Arsenal FC taking on double UEFA Cup winners Sevilla FC mindful of the fact that it was a team from Spain who deprived them of their UEFA Champions League title dream 16 months ago.

- Arsenal had disposed of Real Madrid CF and then Villarreal CF in the knockout rounds in 2005/06 but then found FC Barcelona too strong as the Catalan club battled back from going a goal down to win 2-1. It was a huge disappointment for the London club but not a new experience: on two previous occasions they had lost in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final to Spanish sides, Valencia CF in 1979/80 and Real Zaragoza in 1994/95.

- In their tenth successive campaign in Europe's most prestigious club competition, the London club will be defending a proud home record – spanning two grounds – as well as looking to get off on a winning note for the fourth successive year. It is also the fourth time in five years they have begun in front of their own supporters.

- Their recent home statistics are formidable – since losing a 2003/04 quarter-final second leg to Chelsea FC at Highbury, Arsenal played ten matches in the competition at their old stadium without losing, winning seven and drawing three. Now they have gone another five matches unbeaten, including last season's third qualifying round, at their new home in nearby Ashburton Grove, with three wins and two draws.

- They have never faced Sevilla before in European competition and the visitors will be heartened by the fact they do not always have things their own way when playing host to Spanish opponents. In eight home ties in the competition they have suffered two defeats and two draws, though one of the reverses came while they were staging home matches at Wembley. At home to Spanish visitors in UEFA Champions League group matches their record is W1 D1 L2.

- In the past seven seasons Arsène Wenger's team have never failed to get out of the initial group stage and in the last five they have always qualified as section winners. It is a tough start for Sevilla on their UEFA Champions League bow but as winners of the UEFA Cup for the last two seasons - becoming only the second team to successfully defend the trophy - who is to say they will not now perform with flying colours in the senior competition as well.



- Their brief involvement so far has proved a severe test of their mental and emotional strength following the death of Antonio Puerta. They dedicated their 6-1 aggregate victory of AEK Athens FC in the third qualifying round - which meant that they would be making only their second appearance in the European Champion Clubs' Cup, 50 years after their debut – to the midfielder.
- Puerta was a Spain Under-21 team-mate of Cesc Fabregas, with the Arsenal midfielder dedicating his goal last month in the 3-0 second-leg defeat of AC Sparta Praha that secured a 5-0 aggregate third qualifying round victory to his friend.
- In their twin UEFA Cup campaigns coach Juande Ramos' team, who lost last month's UEFA Super Cup to AC Milan 3-1, have faced three opponents from England, including Middlesbrough FC whom they beat in the 2006 final in Eindhoven 4-0. Earlier they had drawn 1-1 away to Bolton Wanderers FC in the group stage while in last season's quarter-finals they defeated Tottenham Hotspur FC 2-1 at home before drawing 2-2 away. They went on to beat RCD Espanyol 3-1 on penalties in the Hampden Park final after the Spanish rivals had drawn 2-2.
- The other teams in the group are FC Steaua Bucureşti and SK Slavia Praha.

Match facts

Arsenal

- **Kolo Touré's** next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 50th.
- **Alexandre Song** celebrated his 20th birthday on 9 September.
- Arsenal came from behind to defeat north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur FC 3-1 at White Hart Lane on Saturday. Gareth Bale had put the home side in front early on but two goals by **Emmanuel Adebayor** (64, 90) and one from **Cesc Fabregas** (79) turned the game in Arsenal's favour.
- **Bacary Sagna** returned to the Arsenal defence after a back injury, although **William Gallas** (groin), **Emmanuel Eboué** (ankle) and **Jens Lehmann** (elbow) were all absent. **Gilberto** replaced the suspended Philippe Senderos in central defence.
- **Gallas** picked up a groin injury in the 1-1 draw at Blackburn Rovers FC on 19 August while **Lehmann** picked up an achilles problem in the same match and, having recovered from that, then suffered an elbow injury in Germany's 2-0 win in Wales on 8 September.
- Manager **Arsène Wenger** said: "It shows our spirit and belief and I was very happy with our game and our mental strength and togetherness. We have showed them all again. I hope the good form continues. At half-time I could not complain because all we did wrong was not to take our chances. I felt if we kept the pace high, we would have a good chance of winning."
- **Gaël Clichy** made his 50th Premier League start for Arsenal in the victory, which moved Arsenal top of the Premier League standings and kept up their unbeaten start to the new campaign.
- The win was Arsenal's first away from home in seven games in the league, with the last a 1-0 victory against Aston Villa FC on 14 March.
- The game was the first in nine Premier League outings in which Arsenal have scored more than once away from home. The last time was also against Tottenham, a 2-2 draw on 21 April.
- Arsenal are undefeated against their north London rivals in 19 league and cup matches stretching back to November 1999 when they lost 2-1.

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- The victory against Tottenham was Arsenal's fourth in succession in all competitions.
- They are unbeaten in 12 Premier League games, winning seven and drawing five since a 1-0 reverse at the hands of West Ham United FC on 7 April.
- A number of Arsenal players have been on international duty in the past week, with **Eduardo da Silva** scoring both goals in Croatia's 2-0 win against Estonia and also finding the net in a 6-0 victory in Andorra that kept his country clear at the top of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying Group E. In Group D **Tomáš Rosický** scored the first of the Czech Republic's goals in a 3-0 win away to San Marino on 8 September and also appeared in the 1-0 win against the Republic of Ireland four days later, while **Jens Lehmann** featured for Germany in their 2-0 win in Wales in the same section.
- **Lassana Diarra** played 180 minutes as France drew 0-0 in Italy and lost 1-0 at home to Scotland to slip to third place in Group B. **Nicklas Bendtner** appeared in the second half as Denmark's Group F game with Sweden ended goalless and remained on the bench for the 4-0 win against Liechtenstein.
- **Touré** and **Emmanuel Eboué** played in the Ivory Coast's 0-0 draw away to Gabon, a result which booked their place in next year's African Cup of Nations finals.
- **Philippe Senderos** played 90 minutes on each occasion as UEFA EURO 2008™ co-hosts Switzerland overcame Chile 2-1 in a friendly before a 4-3 defeat against Japan.
- **Theo Walcott** started both games for England as they won 3-0 in Montenegro and 2-0 away to Bulgaria to continue their strong start to UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying Group 3.
- On 7 September **Wenger** signed a three-year contract extension until June 2011 which will make him the club's longest serving manager. The Frenchman took over at Arsenal in 1996 and has guided the club to seven major honours as well as the finals of the 2006 UEFA Champions League and the 1999/00 UEFA Cup, and is now on course to overtake George Allison's club record reign between January 1934 and May 1947.
- It has been another busy summer at the Arsenal Stadium, with **Eduardo** signing a four-year contract from NK Dinamo Zagreb and **Sagna** joining on a long-term deal from AJ Auxerre. **Diarra** joined on a similar deal from Chelsea FC on 31 August while Wenger continued his policy of recruiting younger players with the acquisitions of **Lukasz Fabiański** and **Håvard Nordtveit**.
- There were a number of high-profile departures, the most significant of which were captain **Thierry Henry**, who joined FC Barcelona in a €24m deal, and **Fredrik Ljungberg**, who was bought by West Ham United FC for €4.5m while **José Antonio Reyes** signed for Club Atlético de Madrid in a €12m transfer. Other notable Arsenal departures were **Jérémy Aliadière** (Middlesbrough FC), **Fabrice Muamba** (Birmingham City FC), **Mart Poom** (Watford FC) and **Arturo Lupoli** (ACF Fiorentina), while **Johan Djourou** will be on loan at Birmingham until January.
- **Gilberto** was the captain as Brazil lifted the Copa América for the eighth time – their fourth success in the past five editions of the competition – although he was suspended for the 3-0 final defeat of Argentina. Julio Baptista, who spent 2006/07 on loan at Arsenal from Real Madrid CF, opened the scoring in that game.
- **Justin Hoyte** was a key figure in England's campaign at the European U21 Championship in the Netherlands – although he missed one penalty and converted the other as his side lost an epic shoot-out 13-12 to the hosts in the semi-finals.
- Three Arsenal players featured for England at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in the Korea Republic - **Rhys Murphy**, **Gavin Hoyte** and **Henri Lansbury** - although the trio were powerless to prevent a 4-1 quarter-final defeat by Germany. **Fran Mérida** was part of the Spain side that reached the final, losing in a penalty shoot-out to Nigeria.

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- Arsenal enjoyed a successful pre-season, defeating Italian champions FC Internazionale Milano and Paris Saint-Germain FC to win a friendly tournament at their home ground, although an Austrian training camp ended with a 1-0 defeat at the hands of FC Salzburg after a 3-0 win against Gençlerbirliği SK of Turkey. Pre-season had begun with a 2-0 win at Barnet FC while a 2-1 victory against S.S. Lazio and a 1-0 defeat of hosts AFC Ajax secured victory in the Amsterdam tournament.
- **Cesc Fabregas** was the popular choice as the Player of the Season for 2006/07 with Arsenal's supporters clubs, winning nine of the ten awards. **Emmanuel Adebayor** was the choice of the China supporters club.
- Following Henry's departure **William Gallas** was appointed Arsenal's new captain with **Touré** and **Gilberto** acting as his deputies.
- Arsenal opened their Premier League campaign by coming from a goal down to defeat Fulham FC at home, **Robin van Persie** and **Aleksandr Hleb** scoring in the final seven minutes to secure a 2-1 win. **Van Persie's** early penalty proved enough only for a 1-1 draw at Blackburn in their second fixture, however, although Wenger's side returned to winning ways with home defeats of Manchester City FC (1-0) and Portsmouth FC (3-1).
- The building where Arsenal were founded on 25 December 1886, the Pullman public house in London, was demolished this summer as part of the expansion of the Docklands Light Railway. The pub previously stood next door to Woolwich Arsenal underground station.
- Having lifted the UEFA Women's Cup for the first time in April with a 1-0 aggregate defeat of Umeå IK, Arsenal LFC will begin their defence of the trophy at home against ASD CF Bardolino Verona of Italy, Kazakhstan's Alma KTZH and SV Neulengbach from Austria in the second qualifying round in October. The club also has nine representatives in England's squad for the FIFA Women's World Cup in China.

Sevilla

- **Frédéric Kanouté** celebrated his 30th birthday on 2 September while coach **Juande Ramos** is 53 on 25 September.
- Sevilla FC returned to action at the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán for the first time since the death of **Antonio Puerta** and recorded a 4-1 victory against ten-man RC Recreativo de Huelva. **Aleksandr Kerzhakov** scored twice on 12 and 73 minutes, but missed a penalty to complete his hat-trick. **Kanouté** also managed two goals (35, 53) while the visitors, who had Edu Moya sent off, had only an Aitor Tornavaca goal to show for their efforts.
- "From the very first moment of the game Sevilla's superiority was palpable," said **Ramos**. "We scored two goals in the first half and afterwards they got back in touch but we managed another couple of goals and the overall result was fair. After all of the events we have lived through following the death of Antonio Puerta we must realise life goes on. We know we are taking part in very difficult competitions and we have no other choice but to lift ourselves for the challenges we face. Arsenal know Sevilla are a very good team and they respect us just as we respect them. In Europe all games are hard."
- Although **Adriano** has begun full training following three weeks out with a calf muscle tear, **Ramos** decided not to risk the Brazilian against Recreativo.
- **Luis Fabiano** was also left out having damaged a bone in his right foot during Sevilla's penultimate training session. The attacker did participate in the final session and missed the match as a precaution.
- **Javi Navarro** is continuing his recuperation from a knee injury.
- **Julien Escudé** was rested following his participation in his country's recent UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifiers against Italy and Scotland while **Aquivaldo Mosquera** did not feature as the Colombian had various bureaucratic issues to resolve in Mexico to finalise his move to his new club.

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- **Arouna Koné** made his Sevilla debut against Recreativo, replacing **Kanouté** in the second half.
- The news that dominated the world of football in late August was the untimely death of **Puerta** from a heart attack. The 22-year-old collapsed on the pitch during his team's Primera División match with Getafe CF. Although Puerta regained consciousness shortly afterwards and was walked to the dressing rooms, he suffered a further relapse and was taken to hospital but died three days later.
- The Sevillano had played a crucial role in the Andalusian team's successes over the past two seasons, helping them to win two UEFA Cups, a UEFA Super Cup, a Spanish Cup and a Spanish Super Cup. It was **Puerta's** penalty that sealed a shoot-out victory against RCD Espanyol in the UEFA Cup final in Glasgow last May.
- **Morgan de Sanctis** and **Tom De Mul** were Sevilla's first signings of pre-season having arrived from Udinese Calcio and AFC Ajax respectively.
- **Koné** signed a five-year deal having moved from PSV Eindhoven.
- **Mosquera** was brought in on a five-year deal from Mexican team CF Pachuca.
- **Seydou Keita** left RC Lens on a four-year contract.
- **Khalid Boulahrouz** signed up on a season-long loan from Chelsea FC.
- Players leaving included experienced defender **Aitor Ocio** (Athletic Club Bilbao), goalkeeper **David Cobeño** (UD Almería), striker **Kepa Blanco** (Getafe), left-back **David Castedo** (Levante UD), midfielder **Francisco Gallardo** (Real Murcia CF) and forward **Antoñito** (Xerez CD).
- **Andrés Palop** signed a two-year contract extension. The 33-year-old saved three spot-kicks in the shoot-out against Espanyol in Glasgow.
- Sevilla began their season chasing yet another trophy as they played host to Real Madrid CF in the first leg of their Spanish Super Cup tie and won 1-0 thanks to a **Luis Fabiano** penalty in the first half.
- Fireworks were to follow in the return match at the Santiago Bernabéu as Sevilla turned on the style to win 5-3. A hat-trick from **Kanouté** and two **Renato** goals earned yet another title.
- Sevilla started the Primera División on 25 August with a 4-1 home triumph against Getafe, though the game was overshadowed by **Puerta's** collapse. The home team fell behind to a Pablo Hernández effort but responded through **Jesús Navas**, **Luis Fabiano**, **Kanouté** and **Kerzakhov** in the second half.
- **Daniel Alves** produced a highly effective performance for Brazil in the 3-0 Copa América final win against Argentina. The right-back was brought on with only 30 minutes gone and his cross forced Roberto Ayala to prod into his own net to establish a two-goal lead before the 24-year-old hit a fine third to round off the victory.
- **De Mul** started in the Belgium team that went lost 2-0 to Serbia in the semi-finals of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship in the Netherlands, though his side qualified for the Olympic Games.
- **Diego Capel** scored an added-time equaliser in Spain's 2-2 opening FIFA U-20 World Cup group game against Uruguay. **José Crespo** was also part of the team that took part in Canada. Spain bowed out at the quarter-final stage, losing to the Czech Republic in a penalty shoot-out. **Federico Fazio** helped Argentina to overcome the Czechs 2-1 in the final.
- **Navarro** was included in the squad for Spain's 2-0 win in Latvia on 2 June and was also on the bench during his country's identical victory in Liechtenstein four days later.

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- **Capel** enjoyed a 4-0 2009 European U21 Championship qualifying victory against Georgia on 11 September in Almunecar.
- **Ivica Dragutinović** was involved in Serbia's UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying Group A draws at home to Finland (0-0) and in Portugal (1-1) last week. In early June he took part in the 2-0 win in Finland and 3-2 loss in Belgium.
- **Escudé** played in France's Group B double header last week, drawing 0-0 in Italy but then losing 1-0 at home to Scotland.
- **Kerzhakov** scored for Russia in the 3-0 win against F.Y.R. Macedonia on 8 September and then came on as a substitute at Wembley Stadium where his side went down by the same scoreline against England.
- **Daniel Alves** came on a substitute on each occasion as Brazil enjoyed friendly wins against the United States (4-2) and Mexico (3-1).
- **Mosquera** started Colombia's 1-0 friendly win at home to Paraguay.

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Squad list

Arsenal

No	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Jens Lehmann	GER	10.11.1969	37	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	57	-	94	-
21	Łukasz Fabiański	POL	18.04.1985	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
24	Manuel Almunia	ESP	19.05.1977	30	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	7	-	10	-
Defenders															
3	Bacary Sagna	FRA	14.02.1983	24	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	22	-
5	Kolo Touré	CIV	19.03.1981	26	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	45	2	49	2
6	Philippe Senderos	SUI	14.02.1985	22	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	10	-	13	-
10	William Gallas	FRA	17.08.1977	30	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	43	2	58	2
22	Gaël Clichy	FRA	26.07.1985	22	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	13	-	15	-
27	Emmanuel Eboué	CIV	04.06.1983	24	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	15	1	25	1
30	Armand Traoré	FRA	08.10.1989	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Justin Hoyte	ENG	20.11.1984	22	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	9	-
37	Paul Rodgers	ENG	06.10.1989	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
2	Abou Diaby	FRA	11.05.1986	21	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	8	-
4	Cesc Fabregas	ESP	04.05.1987	20	-	2	2	-	-	5	3	26	2	30	6
7	Tomáš Rosický	CZE	04.10.1980	26	-	2	1	-	-	4	1	36	9	56	10
8	Lassana Diarra	FRA	10.03.1985	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	-
13	Aleksandr Hleb	BLR	01.05.1981	26	-	1	1	-	-	5	1	26	1	54	6
15	Denilson	BRA	16.02.1988	19	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	2	-
16	Mathieu Flamini	FRA	07.03.1984	23	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	20	-	32	1
17	Alexandre Song	CMR	09.09.1987	20	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	4	-
19	Gilberto	BRA	07.10.1976	30	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	38	4	41	4
34	Kieran Gibbs	ENG	26.09.1989	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Mark Randall	ENG	28.09.1989	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
9	Eduardo	CRO	25.02.1983	24	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	20	8
11	Robin van Persie	NED	06.08.1983	24	-	2	-	-	-	5	2	21	4	35	5
25	Emmanuel Adebayor	TGO	26.02.1984	23	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	23	1	35	5
26	Nicklas Bendtner	DEN	16.01.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
32	Theo Walcott	ENG	16.03.1989	18	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	7	-
Coach															
-	Arsène Wenger	FRA	22.10.1949	57	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	96	-	145	-

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Sevilla

No	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Andrés Palop	ESP	22.10.1973	33	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	11	-	45	1
13	Morgan De Sanctis	ITA	26.03.1977	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	18	-
Defenders															
2	Javi Navarro	ESP	06.02.1974	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	-
3	Ivica Dragutinović	SRB	13.11.1975	31	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	37	-
4	Daniel Alves	BRA	06.05.1983	24	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	38	2
14	Julien Escudé	FRA	17.08.1979	28	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	40	-
15	Aquivaldo Mosquera	COL	22.06.1981	26	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
16	Lolo	ESP	22.08.1984	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Khalid Boulahrouz	NED	28.12.1981	25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	18	-
24	Andreas Hinkel	GER	26.03.1982	25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	8	1	42	2
26	José Ángel Crespo	ESP	09.02.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
28	Federico Fazio	ARG	17.03.1987	20	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-
30	David Prieto	ESP	02.01.1983	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Midfielders															
5	Duda	POR	27.06.1980	27	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	9	1
6	Adriano	BRA	26.10.1984	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	5
8	Christian Poulsen	DEN	28.02.1980	27	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	60	2
11	Renato	BRA	15.05.1979	28	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	25	3
18	José Luis Martí	ESP	28.04.1975	32	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	35	2
20	Tom De Mul	BEL	04.03.1986	21	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-
21	Seydou Keita	MLI	16.01.1980	27	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	8	-	42	2
25	Enzo Maresca	ITA	10.02.1980	27	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	10	1	32	7
Forwards															
7	Jesús Navas	ESP	21.11.1985	21	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	27	-
9	Aleksandr Kerzhakov	RUS	27.11.1982	24	-	1	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	33	17
10	Luis Fabiano	BRA	08.11.1980	26	-	2	3	-	-	1	1	4	-	30	9
12	Frédéric Kanouté	MLI	02.09.1977	30	-	1	1	-	-	2	3	-	-	43	15
17	Diego Capel	ESP	16.02.1988	19	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-
22	Arouna Koné	CIV	11.11.1983	23	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	2	20	3
27	Alfaro	ESP	23.11.1986	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Coach															
-	Juande Ramos	ESP	25.09.1954	52	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	-

Head coach

Arsenal FC: Arsène Wenger

Date of birth: 22 October 1949

Nationality: French

Playing career: AS Mutzig, FC Mulhouse, AS Vauban, RC Strasbourg

Coaching career: RC Strasbourg (assistant coach), AS Cannes (assistant coach), AS Nancy-Lorraine, AS Monaco FC, Nagoya Grampus Eight, Arsenal FC

Arsène Wenger was never covered in glory as a player, but has more than made up for that lack of success in his time as a coach, turning Arsenal FC into one of Europe's top teams thanks to his incredible eye for a bargain and an astute footballing mind.

Born in Strasbourg, Wenger worked at RC Strasbourg and AS Cannes before AS Nancy-Lorraine offered him his big break. He impressed sufficiently to be offered the job as coach of AS Monaco FC in 1987. Within a year Monaco scooped the French championship and Wenger the Manager of the Year award. He reportedly turned down France and FC Bayern München to continue at Monaco, although he did subsequently move on to Japan and enjoy tremendous success with Nagoya Grampus Eight.

Appointed by Arsenal in September 1996, Wenger became the first foreigner to win the Premiership in 1998, adding the first of four FA Cup triumphs to boot. The Gunners lost the 2000 UEFA Cup final to Galatasaray SK but claimed another double in 2002, and in 2004 played some thrilling attacking football en route to becoming the first team since 1889 to negotiate a top-flight season unbeaten. Wenger, given the freedom of Islington for his domestic success in north London, nearly topped all of his achievements by taking Arsenal to the 2006 UEFA Champions League final, only for FC Barcelona to come from behind to win 2-1.

Sevilla FC: Juande Ramos

Date of birth: 25/09/1954

Nationality: Spanish

Coaching career: Elche CF, CD Alcoyano, UD Levante, Logroñés CF, FC Barcelona B, UD Lleida, Rayo Vallecano, Real Betis Balompié, RCD Espanyol, Málaga CF, Sevilla FC

Juande Ramos shot to European attention in 2006 when he led Sevilla FC to victory in the UEFA Cup. Sevilla had not reached a final since the 1962 Copa del Rey, but in Eindhoven they were in awesome form, winning 4-0 against Middlesbrough FC. Few were surprised when Ramos surpassed that feat in 2006/07 - FC Barcelona being dispatched 3-0 in the UEFA Super Cup in August before Sevilla retained the UEFA Cup by ultimately triumphing 3-1 on penalties in Glasgow against RCD Espanyol after a 2-2 draw. A historic treble was completed by the Copa del Rey.

Like Rafael Benítez and other leading Spanish coaches of the modern generation, Ramos emphasises discipline but also skilful football. That approach bore fruit in his debut season at Sevilla when, as well as winning the UEFA Cup, he got to within a point of the UEFA Champions League, narrowly losing out to CA Osasuna in the race for fourth place in the Primera División. Ramos counts local rivals Real Betis Balompié among his former clubs so his appointment was not initially popular with Sevilla supporters, but they were soon won round by results.

It was at Rayo Vallecano that Ramos first came to prominence, taking them to promotion to the Primera División in his first season in 1998/99 and to a ninth-place finish the following year. In 2000/01 the Madrid club qualified for the UEFA Cup through the Fair Play ranking and in their first season in Europe went all the way to the quarter-finals. Ramos had previously spent most of his career in the lower divisions. A far cry from such beginnings, a third-place league finish for Sevilla in 2006/07 followed by the Copa del Rey with a 1-0 defeat of Getafe CF hinted the next step for Ramos could well be to be crowned Spain or Europe's best.

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Match officials

Referee	Peter Fröjdfeldt (SWE)
Assistant referees	Stefan Wittberg (SWE), Fredrik Nilsson (SWE)
Fourth official	Martin Ingvarsson (SWE)
UEFA Delegate	Roland Tis (BEL)
UEFA Referee observer	Wilfried Heitmann (GER)

Referee

Name	Nat.	DoB	UCL	UEFA
Peter Fröjdfeldt	SWE	14.11.1963	10	27

Peter Fröjdfeldt has made a lasting impression since his elevation to join Europe's top-ranked referees. The Eskilstuna-based official reached the higher Swedish levels in the mid-1990s, made his top-flight bow in 1997, and has passed the 200-match mark in the élite Swedish domestic game. His FIFA international badge followed at the start of 2001.

Early years of picking up experience was followed by his UEFA Champions League debut in September 2003 with the meeting of FC Dynamo Kyiv and FC Lokomotiv Moskva. Fröjdfeldt's promotion to UEFA Elite status came in January 2005, and he continued to get regular appointments at the highest club and international levels, including six FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The 2005/06 campaign saw Fröjdfeldt become a regular face in the UEFA Champions League and the married father of two has become well used to high-profile appointments. Back in Sweden, Fröjdfeldt has become the main man in the middle following Anders Frisk's decision to quit the game and – and has taken charge of a number of important Allsvenskan fixtures. He also took charge of the 2006 Scandinavian Royal League final in April that year which FC København won by beating Lillestrøm SK 1-0. An arena manager by profession, he lists his favourite hobby as golf.

UEFA Champions League matches involving teams from the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage		Res.	Venue
27.09.2005	UCL	GS	LOSC Lille Métropole - Villarreal CF	0-0	Paris
28.03.2006	UCL	QF	Arsenal FC - Juventus	2-0	London
09.08.2006	UCL	QR3	FC Salzburg - Valencia CF	1-0	Wals-Siezenheim
13.09.2006	UCL	GS	Hamburger SV - Arsenal FC	1-2	Hamburg
31.10.2006	UCL	GS	FC Shakhtar Donetsk - Valencia CF	2-2	Donetsk

Other matches - Matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage		Res.	Venue
12.08.2003	UIC	F	SC Heerenveen - Villarreal CF	1-2	Heerenveen
27.11.2003	UCUP	R2	Groclin Grodzisk Wielkopolski - Manchester City FC	0-0	Grodzisk Wielkopolski
03.03.2004	UCUP	R3	PFC Levski Sofia - Liverpool FC	2-4	Sofia
10.03.2005	UCUP	1/8	FK Austria Wien - Real Zaragoza	1-1	Vienna
14.04.2005	UCUP	QF	Sporting Clube de Portugal - Newcastle United FC	4-1	Lisbon
15.03.2007	UCUP	1/8	RCD Espanyol - Maccabi Haifa FC	4-0	Barcelona
12.04.2007	UCUP	QF	CA Osasuna - Bayer 04 Leverkusen	1-0	Pamplona

Domestic information

Arsenal FC (Premier League)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	12/08/07	Fulham FC (H)	2-1	Van Persie 84(pen), Hleb 90
League	19/08/07	Blackburn Rovers FC (A)	1-1	Van Persie 18
League	25/08/07	Manchester City FC (H)	1-0	Fabregas 80

Lineups: Almunia, Sagna (Denilson 19), Gilberto, Kolo Touré, Clichy, Hleb, Fabregas, Flamini, Rosický, Adebayor (Eduardo 75), Van Persie (Song 87)

League	02/09/07	Portsmouth FC (H)	3-1	Adebayor 8(pen), Fabregas 35, Rosický 59
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Lineups: Almunia, Kolo Touré, Senderos, Gilberto, Clichy, Rosický, Fabregas, Flamini, Hleb (Denilson 61), Van Persie (Diaby 70), Adebayor (Eduardo 79)

League	15/09/07	Tottenham Hotspur FC (A)	3-1	Adebayor 65, 90, Fabregas 80
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Lineups: Almunia, Sagna, Kolo Touré, Gilberto, Clichy, Hleb (Song 90), Fabregas, Diaby (Rosický 56), Flamini, Adebayor, Van Persie (Denilson 85)

League	22/09/07	Derby County FC (H)		
League	29/09/07	West Ham United FC (A)		
League	07/10/07	Sunderland AFC (H)		
League	20/10/07	Bolton Wanderers FC (H)		
League	28/10/07	Liverpool FC (A)		
League	03/11/07	Manchester United FC (H)		
League	12/11/07	Reading FC (A)		
League	24/11/07	Wigan Athletic FC (H)		
League	01/12/07	Aston Villa FC (A)		
League	08/12/07	Middlesbrough FC (A)		
League	15/12/07	Chelsea FC (H)		
League	22/12/07	Tottenham Hotspur FC (H)		
League	26/12/07	Portsmouth FC (A)		
League	29/12/07	Everton FC (A)		
League	01/01/08	West Ham United FC (H)		
League	12/01/08	Birmingham City FC (H)		
League	19/01/08	Fulham FC (A)		
League	29/01/08	Newcastle United FC (H)		
League	02/02/08	Manchester City FC (A)		
League	09/02/08	Blackburn Rovers FC (H)		

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Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Arsenal FC	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
2	Manchester City FC	6	4	0	2	5	2	12
3	Liverpool FC	5	3	2	0	11	2	11
4	Manchester United FC	6	3	2	1	4	2	11
5	Chelsea FC	6	3	2	1	7	6	11
6	West Ham United FC	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
7	Everton FC	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
8	Blackburn Rovers FC	5	2	3	0	5	3	9
9	Wigan Athletic FC	6	2	2	2	7	5	8
10	Newcastle United FC	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
11	Aston Villa FC	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
12	Birmingham City FC	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
13	Middlesbrough FC	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
14	Sunderland AFC	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
15	Portsmouth FC	6	1	3	2	7	8	6
16	Fulham FC	6	1	2	3	9	11	5
17	Tottenham Hotspur FC	6	1	1	4	9	11	4
18	Reading FC	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
19	Derby County FC	6	1	1	4	4	15	4
20	Bolton Wanderers FC	6	1	0	5	7	11	3

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Sevilla FC (Primera División)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	25/08/07	Getafe CF (H)	4-1	Jesús Navas 46, Luis Fabiano 67, Kanouté 70, Kerzhakov 82

Lineups: Palop, Dragutinović (Renato 54), Hinkel, Puerta (Duda 31), Diego Capel, Keita, Maresca, Jesús Navas, Luis Fabiano, Kanouté (Kerzhakov 72), Fazio

League	16/09/07	RC Recreativo de Huelva (H)	4-1	Kerzhakov 13, 74, Kanouté 36, 54
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Lineups: Palop, Daniel Alves (Martí 75), Boulahrouz, Fazio, Dragutinović, Jesús Navas, Keita, Renato, Duda (Diego Capel 63), Kerzhakov, Kanouté (Arouna Koné 56)

League	22/09/07	FC Barcelona (A)
League	26/09/07	RCD Espanyol (H)
League	30/09/07	Real Zaragoza (A)
League	07/10/07	RC Deportivo La Coruña (H)
League	21/10/07	Levante UD (A)
League	28/10/07	Valencia CF (H)
League	31/10/07	Club Atlético de Madrid (A)
League	04/11/07	Real Madrid CF (H)
League	11/11/07	Villarreal CF (A)
League	25/11/07	RCD Mallorca (H)
League	02/12/07	UD Almeria (A)
League	09/12/07	Real Murcia CF (H)
League	16/12/07	Real Valladolid CF (A)
League	23/12/07	Real Racing Club Santander (H)
League	06/01/08	Real Betis Balompié (H)
League	13/01/08	Athletic Club Bilbao (A)
League	20/01/08	Getafe CF (A)
League	27/01/08	CA Osasuna (H)
League	03/02/08	RC Recreativo de Huelva (A)
League	10/02/08	FC Barcelona (H)

Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Real Madrid CF	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
2	Sevilla FC	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
3	Valencia CF	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
4	Villarreal CF	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
5	FC Barcelona	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
6	Real Murcia CF	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
7	Real Racing Club Santander	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
8	RCD Mallorca	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
9	Real Valladolid CF	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
10	RCD Espanyol	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
11	RC Deportivo La Coruña	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
12	UD Almeria	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
13	CA Osasuna	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
14	Club Atlético de Madrid	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
15	Real Betis Balompié	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
16	Real Zaragoza	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
17	Athletic Club Bilbao	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
18	RC Recreativo de Huelva	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
19	Getafe CF	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
20	Levante UD	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

UEFA information

Solidarity payments

UEFA is distributing €43.2m in solidarity payments from the 2006/07 UEFA Champions League to the top leagues of UEFA's member associations. Leagues with participants in the 2006/07 UEFA Champions League will receive a total of €36m, while leagues without participants in last season's competition will receive €7.2m. The payment is being made by UEFA as part of the solidarity scheme associated with the UEFA Champions League, Europe's most prestigious club competition. It is aimed at supporting youth development activities in professional football, and complements other UEFA initiatives such as club licensing and the introduction of rules on locally-trained players.

Coaching licence

London will be the setting as UEFA celebrates the tenth anniversary of the introduction of the European Coaching Licence. The seventh UEFA Symposium for Coach Education Directors, which will take place on 24-26 September at the Grange City Hotel, will focus on events that have taken place in the decade since six UEFA member associations - France, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain and Italy - were the first to sign the UEFA Convention on the Mutual Recognition of Coaching Qualifications. High-profile guests and speakers including Gérard Houllier, Fabio Capello and Sir Trevor Brooking, will contribute.

Coaches forum

Many of the top coaches in Europe were at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, on 6-7 September for the ninth UEFA Elite Club Coaches Forum. Illustrious names such as José Mourinho, Arsène Wenger, Ottmar Hitzfeld and Gérard Houllier joined senior UEFA officials at the forum, an essential component within UEFA's annual calendar. The coaches have an ideal opportunity at the gathering, away from the pressures of competition, to debate matters of mutual interest and to stimulate thoughts on the development of the game. The forum/seminar focused on technical trends, tactical tracking systems to assist coaches, refereeing issues and top-level training methods. In previous years the meetings have produced various recommendations which UEFA has taken on board for the overall benefit of the European club game.

Safety summit

UEFA, in co-operation with the Dutch National Football Information Point (CIV), brought together various parties in Amsterdam earlier this month to discuss safety and security aspects related to international football matches. The meeting was attended by representatives of the European police and governmental bodies, security officers of UEFA and the national football associations, and security officials of the clubs taking part in this season's UEFA Champions League. "The event provided an opportunity to initiate the security planning for the UEFA Champions League group stage matches, to exchange information about the participating clubs and to share experiences and highlight good and bad practices," said UEFA.

Referee guidance

Europe's referees have been given clear instructions for action on penalty-area jostling and stopping play for player injuries. The instructions came during a two-day summer gathering of Europe's top referees and assistants at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland. "UEFA continues to work with Europe's top referees and assistants, in particular focusing on certain aspects which are harming the image of the modern game," said the European body in a statement.

Key dates

The 2007/08 UEFA Champions League group stage will be played over six matchdays - 18/19 September, 2/3 October, 23/24 October, 6/7 November, 27/28 November and 11/12 December. The first knockout round will follow over two legs on 19/20 February and 4/5 March after the draw in Nyon on 21 December. The draw for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be staged on 14 March. The last eight will be played on 1/2 and 8/9 April before the semi-finals on 22/23 and 28/29 April. The 2008 UEFA Champions League final will be played in Moscow on 21 May, before UEFA EURO 2008™ kicks off in Austria and Switzerland on 7 June.

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Match-by-match lineups - Group H

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Steaua București	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arsenal FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SK Slavia Praha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sevilla FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium, Venue
19.09.2007	Arsenal - Sevilla	-	Arsenal Stadium, London
19.09.2007	Slavia - Steaua	-	Evzena Rošického, Prague
02.10.2007	Steaua - Arsenal	-	Steaua Stadium, Bucharest
02.10.2007	Sevilla - Slavia	-	Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán, Sevilla
23.10.2007	Sevilla - Steaua	-	Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán, Sevilla
23.10.2007	Arsenal - Slavia	-	Arsenal Stadium, London
07.11.2007	Steaua - Sevilla	-	Steaua Stadium, Bucharest
07.11.2007	Slavia - Arsenal	-	Evzena Rošického, Prague
27.11.2007	Sevilla - Arsenal	-	Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán, Sevilla
27.11.2007	Steaua - Slavia	-	Steaua Stadium, Bucharest
12.12.2007	Arsenal - Steaua	-	Arsenal Stadium, London
12.12.2007	Slavia - Sevilla	-	Evzena Rošického, Prague

Competition facts

• **UEFA Champions League:** Group stage milestones

Holders AC Milan will be keen to avoid becoming the first defending champions to fail to get through a group stage since the UEFA Champions League began. (This record, like the others, includes the seasons between 1999/00 and 2002/03 that featured a second group stage)

In 1992/93, FC Barcelona were the reigning European Champion Clubs' Cup holders and were beaten 4-3 on aggregate in the second round by PFC CSKA Moskva.

Alessandro Costacurta set the UEFA Champions League oldest player record against AEK Athens FC on Matchday 5 of the 2006/07 season at 40 years and 211 days, 94 days older than previous record holder, Club Brugge KV goalkeeper Dany Verlinden when he played the full 90 minutes against AFC Ajax on 9 December 2003. Laurent Blanc is the oldest player to score in the competition, aged 36 years and 339 days having found the net for Manchester United FC in their 3-2 defeat of Olympiacos CFP on 23 October 2002.

Celestine Babayaro is the youngest player to have appeared in the UEFA Champions League. He was 16 years and 87 days when he started for RSC Anderlecht against FC Steaua Bucuresti on 23 November 1994. He was then sent off in the 37th minute.

In 2006/07, PFC Levski Sofia joined 1. FC Košice in being the only team to have played in the UEFA Champions League and never picked up a point. The Slovakian side have not returned to the competition since losing all six games in their only campaign to date in 1997/98. Only five other teams have ever gone through a single group stage campaign without picking up a point namely SK Rapid Wien (05/06), RSC Anderlecht (04/05), FC Spartak Moskva and Bayer 04 Leverkusen (02/03, first and second group stage respectively) and Fenerbahçe SK (01/02, first group stage).

Levski also conceded 17 goals in their six outings last term, just two short of the record number let in during a group stage set by Ferencvárosi TC (19) in the 1995/96 campaign.

Before their 3-1 win against Sporting Clube de Portugal on Matchday 6 of the 2006/07 campaign, FC Spartak Moskva went 22 games without a win in the competition, surpassing the unwanted record set by AEK Athens FC on Matchday 3 of the same campaign.

The lowest total for a team qualifying from the group stage is seven points. The first to do it, since three points for a win was introduced in 1995/96, were Legia Warszawa that same season before Bayer 04 Leverkusen managed it in 1999/00 and Liverpool FC in 2001/02. FC Lokomotiv Moskva and eventual finalists Juventus both progressed with seven points in 2002/03, a feat achieved by Rangers FC and Werder Bremen in 2005/06.

• **UEFA Champions League:** Did you know?

Domestic champions: This season's competition features 13 domestic league winners from last season, but only Group G of the eight groups features four domestic title-holders - namely PSV Eindhoven, FC Internazionale Milano, Fenerbahçe SK and PFC CSKA Moskva. Alongside the 13 champions, there are ten runners-up and six third-placed finishers. The holders AC Milan, Arsenal FC, Valencia CF are the only clubs in the group stage to have finished in fourth place in their domestic league championship.

Consecutive participations: This season, Manchester United FC have extended their consecutive participation in the UEFA Champions League to 12, a record in the competition. PSV Eindhoven, Olympiacos CFP and Real Madrid CF are making their eleventh consecutive appearances, one ahead of Arsenal FC.

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Knockout streak: In qualifying for the 2006/07 knockout stage, Real Madrid CF surpassed Manchester United FC's record of nine consecutive seasons (which ended in 2005/06) in advancing past the group stage. Madrid have featured in the knockout phase every time since the 1996/97 campaign. Madrid, have won the competition three times in the last ten years while they advanced as far as the semi-finals twice and the quarter-finals twice. However, in the last three seasons their interest in the competition has ended at the first knockout round.

European return: Of all 32 clubs, S.S. Lazio, Rosenborg BK and VfB Stuttgart did not participate in a UEFA club competition during the 2006/07 season.

Past masters: Six clubs competing in the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League were involved in the competition when it started during the 1992/93 season. Olympique de Marseille were champions, beating AC Milan in the final, while PSV Eindhoven, PFC CSKA Moskva, FC Porto and Rangers FC all participated in the group stage. In addition, VfB Stuttgart, AEK Athens FC and FC Barcelona were knocked out in the two rounds preceding the group stage that marked the competition proper.

Long road for debutants: Six clubs have advanced to the group stage from the European Champion Clubs' Cup second qualifying round including one of this season's two debutants, SK Slavia Praha. They are joined by Rangers, FC Shakhtar Donetsk, FC Steaua Bucuresti, Beşiktaş JK and Rosenborg as clubs who had to play four matches to claim their place in the group stage of the competition. A debutant has not won the competition since Juventus in 1995/96, the Italian side becoming the third club to achieve this following Olympique de Marseille (1992/93, first UEFA Champions League final) and AFC Ajax (1994/95).

Sevilla FC join Slavia in competing in the UEFA Champions League for the first time, although both clubs have previous experience of the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

No qualifiers: Of the 32 clubs involved in the group stage, only AS Roma and FC Schalke 04 have yet to play a qualifying round match in order to reach the UEFA Champions League. Roma are making their fifth appearance in the competition, Schalke their third.

Pedigree: Four of the former winners of the competition since it included a group stage element from the 1992/93 season are not participating in this season's UEFA Champions League, namely AFC Ajax (1994/95), Juventus (1995/96), BV Borussia Dortmund (1996/97) and FC Bayern München (2000/01). Of the last ten winners of the competition, Real Madrid CF (three), Manchester United FC, AC Milan (two), FC Porto, Liverpool FC and FC Barcelona, only FC Bayern München are not involved. Only two winners from the last ten UEFA Cup finals are not involved in this season's UEFA Champions League group stage, namely Parma FC (1998/99) and Feyenoord (2001/02). Liverpool and Porto have won both competitions in the past decade, while the remaining UEFA Cup winners in that time are FC Internazionale Milano, Galatasaray SK, Valencia CF, PFC CSKA Moskva and Sevilla FC (two).

• **UEFA Champions League:** All-time records

Biggest wins

7-0: Juventus v Olympiacos CFP (10.12.2003)

7-1: Manchester United FC v AS Roma (10.04.2007)

6-0: Olympique de Marseille v PFC CSKA Moskva (17.03.1993)

6-0: Leeds United AFC v Beşiktaş JK (26.09.2000)

6-0: Real Madrid CF v KRC Genk (25.09.2002)

Most goals in a game

8-3: AS Monaco FC v RC Deportivo La Coruña (05.11.2003)

7-2: Paris Saint-Germain FC v Rosenborg BK (24.10.2000)

7-2: Olympique Lyonnais v Werder Bremen (08.03.2005)

Only one team has scored more than five goals in an away game, Manchester United FC, winning 6-2 at Brøndby IF in 1998/99.

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Leading scorer in a season

12: Ruud van Nistelrooy (Manchester United FC, 2002/03)
Kaká finished as top scorer in 2006/07 with ten goals for AC Milan.

Four goals in a match

Marco van Basten (**AC Milan** 4-0 IFK Göteborg, 25.11.1992)
Simone Inzaghi (**S.S. Lazio** 5-1 Olympique de Marseille, 14.03.2000)
Dado Pršo (**AS Monaco FC** 8-3 RC Deportivo La Coruña, 05.11.2003)
Ruud van Nistelrooy (**Manchester United FC** 4-1 AC Sparta Praha, 03.11.2004)
Andriy Shevchenko (Fenerbahçe SK 0-4 **AC Milan**, 23.11.2005)
Of these four-goal hauls, Dado Pršo's against Deportivo was the quickest. He scored his first goal 26 minutes into the game and his fourth just 23 minutes later.

Fastest goal in a match

10.03 secs: Roy Makaay (**FC Bayern München** 2-1 Real Madrid CF, 07.03.2006)
20.07 secs: Gilberto (PSV Eindhoven 0-4 **Arsenal FC**, 25.09.2002)
20.12 secs: Alessandro Del Piero (Manchester United FC 3-2 **Juventus**, 01.10.1997)
21.20 secs: Clarence Seedorf (FC Schalke 04 2-2 **AC Milan**, 28.09.2005)
25.40 secs: Marek Kincl (Club Brugge KV 3-2 **SK Rapid Wien**, 02.11.2005)

Fastest hat-tricks

9 mins: Mike Newell (**Blackburn Rovers FC** 4-1 Rosenborg BK, 06.12.1995)
19 mins: Marco Simone (Rosenborg BK 1-4 **AC Milan**, 25.09.1996)
19 mins: Dado Pršo (**AS Monaco FC** 8-3 RC Deportivo La Coruña, 05.11.2003)
21 mins: Sigurd Rushfeldt (**Rosenborg BK** 3-0 Galatasaray SK, 21.10.1998)
21 mins: Simone Inzaghi (**S.S. Lazio** 5-1 Olympique de Marseille, 14.03.2000)

Youngest players to score

17 years, 195 days: Peter Oforiquaye (Rosenborg BK 5-1 **Olympiacos CFP**, 01.10.1997)
17 years, 218 days: Cesc Fabregas (**Arsenal FC** 5-1 Rosenborg BK, 07.12.2004)
17 years, 241 days: Martin Klein (Panathinaikos FC 2-1 **AC Sparta Praha**, 27.02.2002)
17 years, 353 days: Karim Benzema (**Olympique Lyonnais** 2-1 Rosenborg BK, 06.12.2005)
18 years, 61 days: Sammy Kuffour (**FC Bayern München** 2-2 FC Spartak Moskva, 02.11.1994)
18 years, 70 days: Andriy Shevchenko (**FC Dynamo Kyiv** 1-4 FC Bayern München, 07.12.1994)
Peter Oforiquaye became the youngest player to score, but Celestine Babayaro is still the youngest to appear, having begun RSC Anderlecht's game against FC Steaua Bucuresti on 23 November 1994, aged 16 years and 87 days.

Appearances: UEFA Champions League

Note: This list considers group stage to final only;

108 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
107 Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid CF)
105 Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)
103 David Beckham (Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
103 Oliver Kahn (FC Bayern München)
98 Gary Neville (Manchester United FC)
97 Luís Figo (FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano)
95 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United FC)
95 Paul Scholes (Manchester United FC)
94 Clarence Seedorf (AFC Ajax, Real Madrid CF, AC Milan)
89 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
85 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC)

Goals: UEFA Champions League

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56 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
49 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
46 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
42 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC)
38 Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus, AC Milan)
37 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)

Appearances: UEFA club competition

168 Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)
136 Luís Figo (Sporting, FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano)
133 Oliver Kahn (Karlsruher SC, FC Bayern München)
130 Frank de Boer (AFC Ajax, FC Barcelona, Galatasaray SK)
127 Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (FC Bayern München, FC Internazionale Milano, Servette FC)
125 Clarence Seedorf (AFC Ajax, UC Sampdoria, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano, AC Milan)
122 Zinédine Zidane (AS Cannes, FC Girondins de Bordeaux, Juventus, Real Madrid CF)
121 Alessandro Costacurta (AC Milan)
121 Phillip Cocu (SBV Vitesse, PSV Eindhoven, FC Barcelona)
119 Roberto Carlos (FC Internazionale Milano, Real Madrid CF, Fenerbahçe SK)

Goals: UEFA club competition

62 Gerd Müller (FC Bayern München)
59 Filippo Inzaghi (Parma FC, Juventus, AC Milan)
59 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
58 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
56 Eusébio (SL Benfica)
53 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
50 Alfredo Di Stéfano (Real Madrid CF)
50 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Juventus, Arsenal FC)
50 Henrik Larsson (Feyenoord, Celtic FC, FC Barcelona, Manchester United FC, Helsingborgs IF)
47 Carlos Santillana (Real Madrid CF)

Goals: UEFA Champions League/European Champion Clubs' Cup

Note: This list considers the all-time goalscorers list in both competitions including all qualifying round matches.

56 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
55 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
53 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
49 Alfredo Di Stéfano (Real Madrid CF)
47 Eusébio (SL Benfica)
42 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC)
42 Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus, AC Milan)

Last updated: 13.09.2007

Team facts

Arsenal FC

UEFA club competition milestones

- In the 2005/06 season Arsenal advanced to the European Champion Clubs' Cup final for the first time although they had previously been involved in both UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup finals.
- Arsenal played in three Cup Winners' Cup finals, triumphing in the 1993/94 season when they overcame Parma FC 1-0 thanks to Alan Smith's 22nd-minute goal. The other finals ended in narrow defeats by Valencia CF and Real Zaragoza in 1979/80 and 1994/95 respectively.
- Following their elimination from the 1999/00 UEFA Champions League at the end of the group stage, Arsenal advanced to the UEFA Cup final only to lose on penalties to Galatasaray SK at Copenhagen's Parken stadium.

UEFA Champions League milestones

- Their finest UEFA Champions League campaign culminated on 17 May 2006 with a 2-1 defeat by FC Barcelona, after Sol Campbell had given the London club the lead in Paris.

UEFA club competition honours

- UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1993/94

Ten-year record

- 2006/07:** UEFA Champions League - first knockout round
- 2005/06:** UEFA Champions League - runners-up
- 2004/05:** UEFA Champions League - first knockout round
- 2003/04:** UEFA Champions League - quarter-finals
- 2002/03:** UEFA Champions League - second group stage
- 2001/02:** UEFA Champions League - second group stage
- 2000/01:** UEFA Champions League - quarter-finals
- 1999/00:** UEFA Cup - finalists (having transferred from the UEFA Champions League group stage)
- 1998/99:** UEFA Champions League - group stage
- 1997/98:** UEFA Cup - first round

2006/07 season

Domestic record: Arsenal again finished fourth in the English Premier League, level on 68 points with third-placed Liverpool FC. They were eight points ahead of Tottenham Hotspur FC and 15 points behind third-placed Chelsea FC, while champions Manchester United FC were a further six points ahead. They were eliminated in the fifth round of the FA Cup by Blackburn Rovers FC.

European record: Arsenal were making their ninth successive attempt at winning the UEFA Champions League. They reached the group stage by defeating NK Dinamo Zagreb in the third qualifying round. The English side and rivals FC Porto both recorded three victories and two draws from their six outings in Group G - to finish ahead of PFC CSKA Moskva and Hamburger SV - but Arsenal topped the standings due to their better head-to-head record against their Portuguese opponents. Arsenal lost 2-1 over two legs to PSV Eindhoven in the first knockout round.

Key facts

UEFA club competition

- Pld: 157 W: 75 D: 42 L: 40 GF: 244 GA: 155

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

- Pld: 89 W: 39 D: 26 L: 24 GF: 120 GA: 90

Arsenal FC - Sevilla FC

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European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

• Pld: 103 W: 47 D: 27 L: 28 GF: 151 GA: 101

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

0-7: R. Standard de Liège v Arsenal FC

03.11.1993, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup second round second leg

• Biggest home win

6-1: Arsenal FC v FK Austria Wien

18.09.1991, European Champion Clubs' Cup first round first leg

• Biggest away win

0-7: R. Standard de Liège v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano

17.09.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage

4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC

22.11.2000, UEFA Champions League second group stage

3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC

07.11.2000, UEFA Champions League first group stage

2-5: Arsenal FC v SK Spartak Moskva

29.09.1982, UEFA Cup first round second leg

• Heaviest home defeat

0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

2-5: Arsenal FC v SK Spartak Moskva (see above for details)

• Heaviest away defeat

4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

• Biggest win

5-1: Arsenal FC v Rosenborg BK

07.12.2004, UEFA Champions League group stage

1-5: FC Internazionale Milano v Arsenal FC

25.11.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-4: PSV Eindhoven v Arsenal FC

25.09.2002, UEFA Champions League group stage

• Biggest home win

5-1: Arsenal FC v Rosenborg BK (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

1-5: FC Internazionale Milano v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

0-4: PSV Eindhoven v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

Arsenal FC - Sevilla FC

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- Heaviest home defeat
0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat
4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

Last updated: 30.08.2007

Sevilla FC

UEFA club competition milestones

- Sevilla are experiencing the greatest period in their history after becoming only the second team to successfully defend the UEFA Cup in 2006/07. Previously, Sevilla's best season in UEFA club competition came in 1957/58 as they advanced to the quarter-finals of the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

UEFA club competition honours

- UEFA Cup: 2005/06, 2006/07
- UEFA Super Cup: 2006

Ten-year record

- 2006/07:** UEFA Cup - winners
- 2005/06:** UEFA Cup - winners
- 2004/05:** UEFA Cup - Round of 16
- 2003/04:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 2002/03:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 2001/02:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 2000/01:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 1999/00:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 1998/99:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 1997/98:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2006/07 season

Domestic record: Sevilla finished third in the Primera División, five points behind champions Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona and five ahead of third-placed Valencia CF, enough to enter the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round.

European record: The UEFA Cup holders began by brushing aside Atromitos FC 6-1 over two legs in the first round. In the group stage, a 0-0 draw at FC Slovan Liberec was followed by defeats of SC Braga (2-0) and Grasshopper-Club (4-0) before a 2-1 home defeat by Group C winners AZ Alkmaar. In the Round of 32, FC Steaua București were dispatched 3-0 on aggregate but it was harder work in the Round of 16 with a 5-4 triumph against FC Shakhtar Donetsk, with extra time needed in the second leg. Tottenham Hotspur FC were beaten 4-3 on aggregate in the last eight before Spanish rivals CA Osasuna lost 2-1 over two legs in the semi-finals. More familiar opposition waited in the final with RCD Espanyol pushing Sevilla to a penalty shoot-out after a 2-2 draw in Glasgow. Yet the holders were not to be denied and triumphed 3-1 on spot-kicks.

Key facts

UEFA club competition

- Pld: 70 W: 36 D: 17 L: 17 GF: 111 GA: 70

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

- N/A

Arsenal FC - Sevilla FC

MATCH PRESS KIT

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European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

• Pld: 8 W: 4 D: 2 L: 2 GF: 15 GA: 14

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

0-4: Grasshopper-Club v Sevilla FC

29.11.2006, UEFA Cup group stage

0-4: Middlesbrough FC v Sevilla FC

10.05.2006, UEFA Cup final (neutral venue)

4-0: Sevilla FC v Atromitos FC

28.09.2006, UEFA Cup first round second leg

4-0: Sevilla FC v PAOK Saloniki

03.11.1982, UEFA Cup second round second leg

4-0: Sevilla FC v AGF Århus

27.11.1957, European Champion Clubs' Cup first round first leg

• Biggest home win

4-0: Sevilla FC v Atromitos FC (see above for details)

4-0: Sevilla FC v PAOK Saloniki (see above for details)

4-0: Sevilla FC v AGF Århus (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-4: Grasshopper-Club v Sevilla FC (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

8-0: Real Madrid CF v Sevilla FC

23.01.1958, European Champion Clubs' Cup quarter-finals first leg

• Heaviest home defeat

1-2: Sevilla FC v AZ Alkmaar

14.12.2006, UEFA Cup group stage

• Heaviest away defeat

8-0: Real Madrid CF v Sevilla FC (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

• N/A

Last updated: 04.09.2007

Competition information

UEFA's most prestigious club competition was originally created as the European Champion Clubs' Cup for the 1955/56 season, before its revamping as the UEFA Champions League in 1992.

• **Format:** The UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco on 31 August saw the 32 teams divided into eight groups of four. Clubs from the same association could not be drawn into the same group. Each club plays one home and one away match against each other club in its group. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat. If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the group matches, the following criteria are applied to determine the rankings.

- a) higher number of points obtained in the group matches played among the teams in question;
- b) superior goal difference from the group matches played among the teams in question;
- c) higher number of goals scored away from home in the group matches played among the teams in question;
- d) superior goal difference from all group matches played;
- e) higher number of goals scored;
- f) higher number of coefficient points accumulated by the club in question as well as its association, over the previous five seasons.

The eight group-winners and eight runners-up of the group stage qualify for the first knockout round, to be played over two legs on 19/20 February and 4/5 March 2007. The clubs that finish this stage in third position in their group move into the Round of 32 of the UEFA Cup. The clubs that finish this stage in fourth position in their group are eliminated from UEFA club competition for the season. This year's UEFA Champions League final is in Moscow on 21 May 2008.

• **Locally-trained players rule:** In February 2005, UEFA announced the 'A' list that teams submit for UEFA club competitions will continue to be limited to 25 players, and from season 2007/08, at least six places will be reserved for players trained by the club's own football academy of which half can be players trained by other clubs from within the same association of the said club. The 'B' list will also continue to exist - involving an unlimited number of Under-21 players who have been at the club for two seasons. In 2006/07, the number of locally-trained players required began at four but the current six will rise to eight in 2008/09, with up to half of each figure allowed to be association trained.

A club-trained player is defined as a player who has been registered for a minimum of three seasons with the club between the age of 15 and 21, whereas an association-trained player is one who has been registered for at least three seasons by the club or by other clubs affiliated to the same association between the age of 15 and 21. UEFA is concerned some clubs are not training enough of their own players, but simply taking them from elsewhere. The proposed measures have the objective of creating a better balance in domestic competitions, preventing clubs from simply 'hoarding' players in squads and creating a system whereby locally-trained players would be given a greater opportunity to play regularly in club sides - ensuring a large reservoir of talent for national teams as a consequence.

• **Player registration:** UEFA regulations state that for all UEFA Champions League matches from the start of the first knockout round, a club may register a maximum of three new eligible players within their squad of 25 for the remaining matches in the current competition. Such registration must be completed by 1 February at the latest. One player from the above quota of three who has played UEFA club competition matches for another competing club in the current season may exceptionally be registered, provided that the player has not been fielded by another club in the UEFA Champions League this season.

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Legend

:: All-time statistics

The all-time record of the competing clubs in UEFA club competition.

UEFA club competitions: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competitions defined as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup (from the 1973 competition), the UEFA Intertoto Cup and the European/South American Cup. Matches in the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup and the 1972 Super Cup are included only for information purposes as these competitions were not held under UEFA auspices.

Goals for/against: Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out after a tie ended in a draw.

:: Squad list

The eligible list of players ordered first by playing position and then numeric order.

Current season - UCLQ: Total UEFA Champions League appearances in qualifying rounds only.

Current season - UCL: Total UEFA Champions League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday.

All-time - UCL: Total appearances in the UEFA Champions League from the 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

All-time - UEFA: Total appearances in UEFA club competitions (as defined above) including all qualifying round matches. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

Age: based on the date press kit was last updated

BL: Booking list (*: misses next match if booked, S: suspended)

:: Match officials

The match officials appointed to officiate the fixture.

UCL: Total matches officiated in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in UEFA club competitions including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCL: European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

UCUP: UEFA Cup • **UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup

SCUP: UEFA Super Cup • **UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship • **U21:** UEFA European Under-21 Championship

WC: FIFA World Cup • **CONFCUP:** Confederation Cup

FRIE: Friendly internationals • **U21FRIE:** Under-21 friendly internationals

U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship

U19: UEFA European Under-19 Championship • **U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship

:: Competition stages

F: Final

GS: Group stage

GS1: First group stage

GS2: Second group stage

KO1: First knockout round

PR: Preliminary round

QF: Quarter-finals

QR: Qualifying round

QR1: First qualifying round

QR2: Second qualifying round

FT: Final tournament

QR3: Third qualifying round

R1: First round

R2: Second round

R3: Third round

R4: Fourth round

SF: Semi-finals

1/8: Eighth-finals

1/16: Sixteenth-finals

1st: first leg

2nd: second leg

P-O: Play-off

:: Other Abbreviations

AP: Appearances

Comp.: Competition

D: Drawn

DoB: Date of birth

GA: Goals against

GF: Goals for

L: Lost

Nat.: Nationality

N/a: Not Applicable

No: Number

Pld: Matches played

Pos.: Position

Pts: Points

R: Sent off (red card)

Res.: Result

W: Won

Y: Booked

Y/R: Sent off (yellow card then direct red)

:: Statistics

(-) : Denotes player substituted

(*) : Denotes player dismissed/sent off

(+) : Denotes player introduced

(+/-) : Denotes player introduced and substituted