

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

MATCH PRESS KIT

Anfield, Liverpool

Tuesday 6 November 2007 - 20.45 CET

Group A - Matchday 4



Contents

1 - Match background	7 - UEFA information
2 - Match facts	8 - Match-by-match lineups
3 - Squad list	9 - Competition facts
4 - Head coach	10 - Team facts
5 - Match officials	11 - Competition information
6 - Domestic information	12 - Legend

Match background

Last season's UEFA Champions League runners-up are in grave danger of failing to qualify for the knockout rounds after Liverpool FC suffered a second successive Group A defeat on Matchday 3 to remain on a single point from three games. Not that Beşiktaş JK can afford to rest on their laurels after their win two weeks ago; they also have ground to make up on the top two.

- The sides went into Matchday 3 at the İnönü Stadium boasting just a single goal between them after four fixtures. That quickly changed as Sami Hyypiä put through his own net while Bobo's strike with eight minutes remaining rendered Steven Gerrard's late header academic.
- Liverpool, who began with a 1-1 draw away to FC Porto followed by a 1-0 home defeat by Olympique de Marseille, therefore have to mount the kind of recovery for which they have become famous in recent seasons. One thing is for sure: should they lose this game, Rafael Benítez's men will not be able to extend a run of three successive appearances in the last 16.
- Before the game on 24 October the two teams had not crossed paths in UEFA competition. Liverpool had faced two Turkish clubs in three previous home-and-away encounters and their record in the home legs shows two wins and a draw.
- They beat Trabzonspor 3-0 at Anfield in the 1976/77 European Champions Clubs' Cup second round which helped them make progress on their way to their first continental crown. It was 25 seasons before they came across opponents from Turkey again, a second group stage fixture with Galatasaray AS producing two draws, 0-0 on Merseyside and 1-1 in Istanbul. They faced the same opponents 12 months ago in the group stage with both games ending 3-2 to the home side.
- During his time as Valencia CF coach, Benítez guided his team past Beşiktaş en route to their 2004 UEFA Cup triumph. They won 3-2 at home and 2-0 away in the third round and then followed that by defeating another Turkish opponent, Gençlerbirliği SK, in the fourth round, overturning a 1-0 away loss with a 2-0 home win.
- Besiktas's three previous visits to face sides in England has brought two defeats – 3-1 against Aston Villa FC in the 1982/83 European Cup first round and 6-0 against Leeds United AFC in the 2000/01 UEFA Champions League first group stage. That remains their heaviest defeat in UEFA competition.



- However they are one of the few sides who have managed to lower Chelsea FC's colours at Stamford Bridge in this competition, a 2-0 victory in the 2003/04 group stage that remains their only success in ten UEFA Champions League away games.

- Besiktas' fourth participation on Europe's grandest stage started poorly with a 2-0 away defeat at Marseille preceding a 1-0 home loss to Porto. That made their victory against Liverpool – only their sixth in 21 games in the competition – all the greater and it has handed them the opportunity to improve on their previous group finishing positions: two thirds and a fourth.

Match facts

Liverpool

- Three Liverpool players have appeared in all five UEFA Champions League games so far this season, including qualifying: **Pepe Reina**, **Steve Finnan** and **Sami Hyypiä**.
- **Hyypiä**'s next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 100th.
- **Charles Itandje** celebrated his 25th birthday on 2 November.
- Liverpool have no players suspended or within a yellow card of a ban.
- Liverpool dropped to seventh in the Premier League on Saturday evening with a goalless draw at Blackburn Rovers FC, for whom David Bentley and David Dunn both struck the woodwork in the first 45 minutes. The visitors were the more threatening side in the second half, however, **Dirk Kuyt** twice passing up presentable openings, **Steven Gerrard** drawing two good saves from Blackburn goalkeeper Brad Friedel and substitute **Peter Crouch** going close with a header.
- "We didn't create enough but their goalkeeper made some great saves," said **Rafael Benítez**. "When the other team is working hard from the beginning then it's difficult but we found more space in the last half-hour when we had players like **Harry Kewell**, who could beat people, and someone like **Crouch** in the air. That gave us more options with second balls. We needed to do something different in the second half and we controlled almost everything. We can play better. It's clear we played well in second half but it's not always easy to play as you want."
- **Mohamed Sissoko** recovered from illness to replace **Xabi Alonso**, who suffered a recurrence of a foot injury against Arsenal FC the previous weekend, while **Javier Mascherano** shook off his own foot problem to start at Ewood Park. **Kewell** replaced **Ryan Babel** two minutes past the hour for his first league appearance of the season and only his third since the end of the 2005/06 campaign.
- **Fernando Torres** (adductor) and **Daniel Agger** (foot) are likely to be out of action for a further three weeks, when **Alonso** is also expected to return.
- Liverpool are one of two sides still unbeaten in the Premier League this season – leaders Arsenal are the other. The Merseyside club are unbeaten in 12 league matches since their last defeat, a 1-0 reverse at Fulham FC on 5 May.
- Before the visit to Blackburn, Liverpool's tally of 20 points from their first ten games was their highest total since 2002/03, when they had collected 24 points from the same number of matches and went on to finish fifth.
- **Reina** has played all 990 minutes of Liverpool's league campaign so far, the only player to do so.
- Liverpool have allowed 18-year-old defender **Robbie Threlfall** to join Hereford United FC, who play in the fourth tier of English football, on loan for three months.

- Liverpool were denied three Premier League points against Arsenal at Anfield on 29 October when Cesc Fabregas cancelled out **Gerrard's** sixth-minute opener with eleven minutes to go.
- The draw came at a price, though, as **Torres** (thigh), **Alonso** (metatarsal) and **Mascherano** all suffered injuries, with Torres and Alonso having only just returned from similar problems to face Arsenal. "A scan has shown a tear to a different adductor muscle to his original injury and we expect Fernando to be out for about three weeks," said a Liverpool spokesman. "As for Xabi Alonso, a scan showed a fracture to the fourth metatarsal in his left foot. Javier Mascherano had a scan which has showed no bone injury, but he will receive intensive treatment on extensive bruising in his foot."
- "If you analyse the chances we had in the game you could say we have lost two points," said **Benítez**. "But if you analyse the chances Arsenal had they deserved to score. It's a pity because we were 1-0 up for a long time and if we had scored the second goal it would have made a big difference. We had injury problems with **Torres** and **Alonso** having to go off and Arsenal are one of the best teams in England if not Europe, so in the end a draw was a fair result. Arsenal play at a very good tempo and with the injury to Torres it didn't help us because we didn't have the pace to get behind them enough."
- The Arsenal match marked **Gerrard's** 400th appearance for Liverpool, for whom he made his debut in a 2-0 win against Blackburn Rovers FC on 29 November 1998. He is the 26th Liverpool player to achieve the feat.
- Liverpool reached the English League Cup quarter-finals on 31 October with a 2-1 win against Cardiff City FC at Anfield. **Nabil El Zhar** – on his first start of the season – opened the scoring early in the second half with his first goal for Liverpool and, although Darren Purse headed the visitors level just past the hour, within a minute **Gerrard** exchanged passes with **Yossi Benayoun** to score what proved to be the decisive goal.
- "In the first half we played well and had a lot of chances to score, but they were working hard too," said **Benítez**. "We started the second half well and that was what made the difference. They got back into it with a set-piece and so it was good for us to see Gerrard score. Normally, in these kind of games it's better to keep some players safe and I would have wanted really to leave Steven out. We have so many players with injuries and we want players to be ready for the next game – but sometimes you don't have enough and we needed experience because we wanted to win the game. In the end Steven was the one who scored the vital goal, a typical goal. His form is coming back, as are his goals. That is three now in successive games."
- **Jack Hobbs** was given his first competitive start at centre-back while **Kewell** came on for the final 20 minutes, his first Liverpool appearance since the UEFA Champions League final defeat by AC Milan in May. **Sissoko** missed the match due to illness.
- Liverpool will visit holders Chelsea FC in the League Cup quarter-finals in the week commencing 17 December, a repeat of the 2005 final which Chelsea won 3-2 after extra time.
- On 27 October Liverpool announced **Jermaine Pennant** would be sidelined for up to ten weeks with a fractured leg. "For the last eight weeks Jermaine has undergone intensive treatment between matches," said a club statement. "But following an acute exacerbation of the problem during the game against Beşiktaş it has now been decided he requires surgery."
- **Reina** acknowledges some key absences are hindering Liverpool's challenges in the UEFA Champions League and Premier League, saying: "The injuries are a big problem. We have had far too many in the last few months. Now we have another injury to Fernando and another to Xabi – it's a pain. When important players are recovering and coming back into the side and then they get injured again it is always difficult, but we must keep fighting."

- **Kewell** has provided a timely boost for **Benítez** after shaking off a groin injury that restricted him to just two league appearances in 2006/07. "He is confident and now wants to play some games," said the Liverpool manager. "He is training really well and I'm pleased to see him back again because he has been out for a long time. When you talk about Harry Kewell you talk about pace, ability, experience and about somebody who can score goals and play in different positions so it is clear he could be like a new signing for us."

- **Gerrard** and **Torres** have been nominated for the FIFA World Player of the Year award. The winner will be announced in Zurich on 17 December.

Beşiktaş

- Seven Beşiktaş players have appeared in all seven UEFA Champions League games so far this season, including qualifying: **Serdar Kurtuluş**, **İbrahim Toraman**, **Matías Delgado**, **Edouard Cissé**, **İbrahim Üzülmez**, **Serdar Özkan** and **Bobo**.

- **Márcio Nobre** celebrates his 27th birthday the day of the Liverpool game, on 6 November.

- Beşiktaş have no players suspended or within a yellow card of a ban.

- Beşiktaş suffered their first away defeat by Fenerbahçe SK since February 2001 when they lost 2-1 to their Istanbul rivals on Saturday. It had started positively for the visitors at the Şükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium when **Bobo** struck three minutes into the game but Fenerbahçe recovered and levelled thanks to Deivid's 29th-minute equaliser. Semih Şentürk scored what proved to be the winner on the hour and the defeat meant Beşiktaş slipped a point behind their opponents.

- Beşiktaş coach **Ertuğrul Sağlam** said: "We limited Fenerbahçe's chances. There were so few that I can't remember them. We created a lot, maybe five or six clear ones, but you have to take one or two. I'm glad we had so many chances but not taking them makes you think. We now have a very important UEFA Champions League match against Liverpool. We have to prepare properly for that."

- **Rodrigo Tello** was removed from the squad to face Fenerbahçe due to an injury to his left ankle while **Nobre** missed the game due to a problem with his left calf.

- **Gökhan Zan** had to go off injured in the 13th minute and was replaced by **Lamine Diatta**. The injury was revealed to be a tear in the ligaments in his right foot, a problem that is expected to keep the defender on the sidelines for a month.

- **Toraman** was surprisingly named in the starting lineup although he had been expected to be excluded from the squad due to a knee ligament injury while **Koray Avcı** came in after a three-game break, coincidentally for the first time since another derby, against Galatasaray AS.

- After moving to Beşiktaş from Fenerbahçe this summer, veteran **Rüştü Reçber** returned to the Şükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium for the first time.

- Following their Matchday 3 victory against Liverpool – the first for Beşiktaş against an English side in Istanbul – they were held to a goalless draw by İstanbul BB SK in the Turkish Süper Lig on 28 October. It was the second occasion on which **Sağlam**'s team have dropped points at home in the league this campaign, having previously drawn 0-0 with Kayserispor on 1 September.

- "Our opponents ran a lot and were really fresh and ambitious," said **Sağlam**. "They were extra motivated to beat a team who defeated Liverpool. Physically we were tired because of the Liverpool game and couldn't play good football. You need to show understanding to players in such cases. They need to recover and we need to pay attention to this."

- **Reçber** has had the red card he received in the 3-2 win against Trabzonspor on 20 October rescinded by the Turkish Football Federation. The goalkeeper was dismissed for handling the ball outside the penalty area but video footage showed that the ball had instead struck his chest.
- Beşiktaş got their Turkish Cup group stage campaign off to a disappointing start when they lost 2-1 at home to Çaykur Rizespor on 31 October. **Sağlam** decided to rest some of his most influential players, leaving out **Arıkan, Gökhan, Delgado, Tello** and **Özkan**, allowing **Mehmet Sedef** to make his first appearance of the season. Beşiktaş led 1-0 at the break thanks to **Federico Higuaín's** early goal, but Rizespor levelled two minutes into the second half through a Leandro Rodrigues diving header and then Kürşat Duymuş converted Altan Aksoy's corner for what proved to be the winning goal.
- "Today we had the chance to see our players who play less often in the starting eleven," said **Sağlam**. "We wish we had got a win by playing good football but we couldn't achieve that. Rizespor did a good job and deserved to win. We need to learn lessons from this defeat. There are three more games in the cup and we can recover from this."
- The setback was Beşiktaş's second home loss of the season following a 1-0 defeat by Porto on UEFA Champions League Matchday 2.
- **Toraman** missed his first match of the season when he sat out the cup defeat. He had previously been an ever-present, playing the full 90 minutes of every fixture.
- **İbrahim Akın** and **Kurtuluş** (both thigh strains) are still receiving treatment for their respective injuries.

Squad list

Liverpool

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															
25	Pepe Reina	ESP	31.08.1982	25	-	2	-	3	-	11	-	27	-	81	-
30	Charles Itandje	FRA	02.11.1982	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
40	David Martin	ENG	22.01.1986	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
3	Steve Finnan	IRL	20.04.1976	31	-	2	-	3	-	10	-	32	-	54	-
4	Sami Hyypiä	FIN	07.10.1973	34	-	2	1	3	-	8	-	45	3	99	7
5	Daniel Agger	DEN	12.12.1984	22	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	11	1	19	1
6	John Arne Riise	NOR	24.09.1980	27	-	2	-	2	-	9	-	54	3	82	4
12	Fábio Aurélio	BRA	24.09.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	2	23	2
17	Álvaro Arbeloa	ESP	17.01.1983	24	-	2	-	1	-	9	-	6	-	8	-
23	Jamie Carragher	ENG	28.01.1978	29	-	1	-	3	-	10	-	56	-	95	1
39	Stephen Darby	ENG	06.10.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Robert Threlfall	ENG	28.11.1988	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46	Jack Hobbs	ENG	18.08.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
7	Harry Kewell	AUS	22.09.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	26	-	64	11
8	Steven Gerrard	ENG	30.05.1980	27	-	1	-	3	1	9	2	45	7	82	20
11	Yossi Benayoun	ISR	05.05.1980	27	-	2	-	2	-	7	1	2	-	23	4
14	Xabi Alonso	ESP	25.11.1981	25	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	35	2	42	2
16	Jermaine Pennant	ENG	15.01.1983	24	-	-	-	2	-	9	-	17	-	19	-
20	Javier Mascherano	ARG	08.06.1984	23	-	2	-	2	-	7	-	6	-	10	-
21	Lucas Leiva	BRA	19.01.1987	20	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
22	Mohamed Sissoko	FRA	22.01.1985	22	-	2	-	1	-	7	1	18	-	37	1
33	Sebastian Leto	ARG	30.08.1986	21	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
34	Jay Spearing	ENG	25.11.1988	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Raymond Putterill	ENG	02.03.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Ryan Flynn	SCO	04.09.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
9	Fernando Torres	ESP	20.03.1984	23	-	1	-	2	-	9	4	2	-	8	2
10	Andriy Voronin	UKR	21.07.1979	28	-	1	1	3	-	9	3	8	2	21	5
15	Peter Crouch	ENG	30.01.1981	26	-	2	1	2	-	5	-	20	6	30	8
18	Dirk Kuyt	NED	22.07.1980	27	-	1	2	3	1	10	2	14	2	34	11
19	Ryan Babel	NED	19.12.1986	20	-	2	-	2	-	9	1	11	-	24	5
38	Craig Lindfield	ENG	07.09.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach															
-	Rafael Benítez	ESP	16.04.1960	47	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	51	-	86	-

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

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Anfield, Liverpool

Beşiktaş

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	Rüştü Reçber	TUR	10.05.1973	34	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	18	-	53	-
35	Atilla Özmen	TUR	11.05.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
84	Hakan Arıkan	TUR	17.08.1982	25	-	3	-	3	-	9	-	3	-	6	-
Defenders															
2	Serdar Kurtuluş	TUR	23.07.1987	20	-	4	-	3	-	8	1	3	-	11	-
3	Mehmet Sedef	TUR	05.08.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
5	Gökhan Zan	TUR	07.09.1981	26	-	2	-	2	-	9	-	2	-	11	-
8	Baki Mercimek	TUR	17.09.1982	25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	13	-
15	Lamine Diatta	SEN	02.07.1975	32	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	10	-	14	-
58	İbrahim Toraman	TUR	20.11.1981	25	-	4	1	3	-	11	1	3	-	27	3
78	İbrahim Kaş	TUR	20.09.1986	21	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	-
Midfielders															
6	Mehmet Yozgatlı	TUR	09.01.1979	28	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	8	-	20	2
7	Burak Yılmaz	TUR	15.07.1985	22	-	1	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	6	-
10	Matías Delgado	ARG	15.12.1982	24	-	4	3	3	-	8	1	3	-	32	11
14	Rodrigo Tello	CHI	14.10.1979	28	-	3	-	3	-	10	2	9	-	29	-
17	Ricardinho	BRA	23.05.1976	31	-	4	-	1	-	6	1	1	-	10	2
18	Edouard Cissé	FRA	30.03.1978	29	-	4	-	3	-	9	-	33	2	55	3
19	İbrahim Üzülmez	TUR	10.03.1974	33	-	4	-	3	-	8	-	15	-	47	2
21	Serdar Özkan	TUR	01.01.1987	20	-	4	-	3	-	10	-	3	-	7	-
22	Ali Tandoğan	TUR	25.12.1977	29	-	2	-	2	-	5	-	2	-	29	2
41	Koray Avcı	TUR	19.05.1979	28	-	3	1	2	-	10	-	2	-	15	1
55	İbrahim Akın	TUR	04.01.1984	23	-	2	-	1	-	4	-	1	-	16	4
Forwards															
9	Federico Higuaín	ARG	25.10.1984	23	-	-	-	3	-	6	-	3	-	3	-
11	Márcio Nobre	BRA	06.11.1980	26	-	1	-	1	-	9	1	12	3	19	4
13	Bobo	BRA	09.01.1985	22	-	4	2	3	1	8	4	3	1	12	5
99	Batuhan Karadeniz	TUR	24.04.1991	16	-	2	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	-
Coach															
-	Ertuğrul Sağlam	TUR	19.11.1969	37	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	12	-

Head coach

Liverpool FC: Rafael Benítez

Date of birth: 16 April 1960

Nationality: Spanish

Playing career: Real Madrid CF B, CP Parla, CD Linares

Coaching career: Real Madrid CF (youth coach), Real Valladolid (assistant coach), CA Osasuna (assistant coach), CD Tenerife, CF Extremadura, Valencia CF, Liverpool FC

Rafael Benítez has stamped his authority on Liverpool FC since his arrival from Spain on 16 June 2004. Former Primera División stars Xabi Alonso and Luis García blended perfectly with locals such as Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher as Benítez guided the Reds to UEFA Champions League glory in his first season in charge. Liverpool's recovery from 3-0 down against AC Milan and their subsequent penalty shoot-out victory was one of the greatest finals. Although the holders were eliminated in the 2005/06 first knockout round, Benítez still oversaw an FA Cup triumph and they returned to the UEFA Champions League final in 2006/07, though Milan had their revenge with a 2-1 win in Athens.

After spending his playing career in the lower leagues as a midfielder with Real Madrid CF B, Benítez coached youth players at Madrid before taking charge of CD Tenerife and CF Extremadura, impressive spells which earned him his big break at Valencia CF in 2001. He led the club to their first league title for 31 years in 2002, repeating the trick in 2004 when they also won the UEFA Cup in Gothenburg.

That 2-0 victory against Olympique de Marseille was his final game before being lured to Liverpool, a club starved of league honours since 1990. The Reds' UEFA Champions League triumph in 2004/05 was followed by winning the FA Cup in 2006 when Liverpool recovered from a two-goal deficit against West Ham United FC in the final to draw 3-3 and then prevail on penalties. The highlight of last term was the UEFA Champions League run, Chelsea FC again overcome in the semi-finals.

Beşiktaş JK: Ertuğrul Sağlam

Date of birth: 19 November 1969

Nationality: Turkish

Playing career: Fenerbahçe SK, Gaziantepspor, Samsunspor (twice), Beşiktaş JK

Coaching career: Samsunspor, Kayserispor, Beşiktaş JK

The modest, upbeat and youthful Ertuğrul Sağlam is already making his name as a coach but in his day he was also a fine player. It was at Samsunspor from 1988 that he first impressed and he made his Turkey debut in 1993 before joining Beşiktaş JK on what at the time was the league's highest salary. Primarily an attacker, Beşiktaş coach John Toshack also used Sağlam in defence, but it was up front that he excelled. Sağlam scored more than 100 goals for Beşiktaş, winning the title in his first season as well as the Turkish Cup in 1998 before returning to Samsunspor in 2001 to end his playing career. He was capped 26 times, scoring eleven goals, and was part of the Turkey squad at EURO '96™.

In 2003 Sağlam retired from playing to become Samsunspor coach and helped the financially troubled team to 12th place. Kayserispor took him on in 2005/06, and he turned the relegation contenders into challengers for Europe, finishing fifth in both his seasons to qualify for the UEFA Intertoto Cup. His diamond formation proved a big success and transformed Mehmet Topuz and Gökhan Ünal into internationals.

Sağlam's success in Kayseri naturally attracted the attentions of the big clubs and Beşiktaş, who he had left in tears six years earlier, made him their coach in summer 2007. Aiming to win the title for the first time since 2002/03, Beşiktaş gave Sağlam the resources to sign national team goalkeeper Rüştü Reçber, Hakan Arıka, Under-21 custodian Atilla Özmen, Senegal defender Lamine Diatta, wingers Rodrigo Tello and Mehmet Yozgatlı, and French midfielder Edouard Cissé.

Match officials

Referee	Markus Merk (GER)
Assistant referees	Sönke Glindemann (GER), Peter Henes (GER)
Fourth official	Jochen Drees (GER)
UEFA Delegate	Eduard Dervishaj (ESP)
UEFA Referee observer	Esa Antero Palsi (FIN)

Referee

Name	Nat.	DoB	UCL	UEFA
Markus Merk	GER	15.03.1962	49	73

Markus Merk has a wealth of experience behind him, not least UEFA Champions League and UEFA European Championship finals. The dentist from Otterbach has been a referee since his teens, made his German Bundesliga bow in 1988, where he has since refereed more than 300 games, and came on to the FIFA international list in 1992. His first major international tournament appearance came at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, and in the same year he officiated his first UEFA Champions League match.

The married father-of-one's many prestigious assignments have included the 1997 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final between FC Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain FC, and a UEFA Intertoto Cup final later that year, the 2003 UEFA Champions League final involving Juventus and AC Milan – Merk won the UEFA Fair Play prize for his display in Manchester – and the UEFA EURO 2004™ decider between Greece and Portugal, having had a UEFA EURO 2000™ semi-final. His other major tournaments have included the 2002 FIFA World Cup and 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup and, after being selected as one of Europe's ten referees for the 2006 World Cup finals, he refereed three group games in his homeland.

Merk, well-known for his humanitarian work, was instrumental in a project to help children enjoy a better life on the Indian sub-continent, setting up a special village and school facilities for under-privileged youngsters in the area of the city of Trichy, launching agricultural projects and taking care of medical health. In addition, he was a UEFA EURO 2004™ ambassador for the UEFA/International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) campaign to highlight the plight of children in war, along with colleagues Pierluigi Collina, Anders Frisk and Ľuboš Michel. Before the final tournament, Merk travelled to Sierra Leone on a field trip to experience the ICRC's activities for himself.

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Res.	Venue
11.09.1996	UCL	GS	Juventus - Manchester United FC	1-0 Turin
16.09.1998	UCL	GS	Juventus - Galatasaray AS	2-2 Turin
29.09.1999	UCL	GS1	FC Barcelona - Arsenal FC	1-1 Barcelona
05.04.2000	UCL	QF	Chelsea FC - FC Barcelona	3-1 London
13.09.2000	UCL	GS1	FC Barcelona - Leeds United AFC	4-0 Barcelona
26.09.2000	UCL	GS1	PSV Eindhoven - Manchester United FC	3-1 Eindhoven
17.10.2000	UCL	GS1	Rangers FC - Galatasaray AS	0-0 Glasgow
05.12.2001	UCL	GS2	FC Barcelona - Galatasaray AS	2-2 Barcelona
10.04.2002	UCL	QF	Manchester United FC - RC Deportivo La Coruña	3-2 Manchester
27.08.2002	UCL	QR3	Fenerbahçe SK - Feyenoord	0-2 Istanbul
25.02.2003	UCL	GS2	Juventus - Manchester United FC	0-3 Turin
13.08.2003	UCL	QR3	Galatasaray AS - PFC CSKA Sofia	3-0 Istanbul
26.11.2003	UCL	GS1	S.S. Lazio - Beşiktaş JK	1-1 Rome
06.04.2004	UCL	QF	Arsenal FC - Chelsea FC	1-2 London
25.08.2004	UCL	QR3	Manchester United FC - FC Dinamo 1948 Bucuresti	3-0 Manchester
02.11.2005	UCL	GS	LOSC Lille Métropole - Manchester United FC	1-0 Paris

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 6 November 2007 - 20.45 CET

Anfield, Liverpool

Date	Comp.	Stage		Res.	Venue
07.03.2006	UCL	1/8	FC Barcelona - Chelsea FC	1-1	Barcelona
31.10.2006	UCL	GS	Liverpool FC - FC Girondins de Bordeaux	3-0	Liverpool
06.12.2006	UCL	GS	FC Porto - Arsenal FC	0-0	Porto
25.04.2007	UCL	SF	Chelsea FC - Liverpool FC	1-0	London

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

Date	Comp.	Stage		Res.	Venue
23.09.1992	WC	QR	Poland - Turkey	1-0	Poznan
09.07.1995	UIC	GS - FT	R. Charleroi SC - Bursaspor	0-2	
16.03.2000	UCUP	QF	Leeds United AFC - SK Slavia Praha	3-0	Leeds
15.02.2001	UCUP	R4	AS Roma - Liverpool FC	0-2	Rome
15.06.2002	WC	1/8	Denmark - England	0-3	Niigata
20.03.2003	UCUP	QF	Liverpool FC - Celtic FC	0-2	Liverpool
23.06.2003		QR1	Brazil - Turkey	2-2	Saint-Etienne
13.06.2004	EURO	GS - FT	France - England	2-1	Lisbon
04.06.2005	WC	QR	Turkey - Greece	0-0	Istanbul
07.10.2006	EURO	QR	England - F.Y.R. Macedonia	0-0	Manchester

Domestic information

Liverpool FC (Premier League)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	11/08/07	Aston Villa FC (A)	2-1	Own goal, Gerrard 87
League	19/08/07	Chelsea FC (H)	1-1	Torres 16
League	25/08/07	Sunderland AFC (A)	2-0	Sissoko 37, Voronin 87
League	01/09/07	Derby County FC (H)	6-0	Alonso 27, 69, Babel 45, Torres 56, 78, Voronin 76
League	15/09/07	Portsmouth FC (A)	0-0	
League	22/09/07	Birmingham City FC (H)	0-0	
Cup	25/09/07	Reading FC (A)	4-2	Benayoun 23, Torres 50, 72, 86
League	29/09/07	Wigan Athletic FC (A)	1-0	Benayoun 75
League	07/10/07	Tottenham Hotspur FC (H)	2-2	Voronin 12, Torres 90
League	20/10/07	Everton FC (A)	2-1	Kuyt 54(pen), 90(pen)
League	28/10/07	Arsenal FC (H)	1-1	Gerrard 7

Lineups: Reina, Finnan, Hyypiä, Carragher, Riise, Mascherano, Alonso (Arbeloa 68), Gerrard, Voronin (Benayoun 65), Kuyt, Torres (Crouch 46)

Cup 31/10/07 Cardiff (H) 2-1 El Zhar 48, Gerrard 66

Lineups: Itandje, Arbeloa, Hobbs, Carragher, Fábio Aurélio, El Zhar (Kewell 71), Lucas Leiva (Mascherano 87), Gerrard, Leto (Benayoun 63), Crouch, Babel

League 03/11/07 Blackburn Rovers FC (A) 0-0

Lineups: Reina, Finnan, Carragher, Hyypiä, Riise, Benayoun (Crouch 72), Sissoko, Mascherano, Babel (Kewell 63), Gerrard, Kuyt

League	10/11/07	Fulham FC (H)		
League	24/11/07	Newcastle United FC (A)		
League	02/12/07	Bolton Wanderers FC (H)		
League	08/12/07	Reading FC (A)		
League	16/12/07	Manchester United FC (H)		
League	22/12/07	Portsmouth FC (H)		
League	26/12/07	Derby County FC (A)		
League	30/12/07	Manchester City FC (A)		
League	02/01/08	Wigan Athletic FC (H)		
League	12/01/08	Middlesbrough FC (A)		
League	19/01/08	Aston Villa FC (H)		
League	29/01/08	West Ham United FC (A)		
League	02/02/08	Sunderland AFC (H)		
League	09/02/08	Chelsea FC (A)		
League	23/02/08	Middlesbrough FC (H)		
League	01/03/08	Bolton Wanderers FC (A)		
League	08/03/08	Newcastle United FC (H)		
League	15/03/08	Reading FC (H)		
League	22/03/08	Manchester United FC (A)		
League	29/03/08	Everton FC (H)		

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 6 November 2007 - 20.45 CET

Anfield, Liverpool

Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Arsenal FC	11	8	3	0	24	9	27
2	Manchester United FC	12	8	3	1	21	6	27
3	Manchester City FC	12	8	1	3	16	13	25
4	Chelsea FC	12	7	3	2	18	8	24
5	Portsmouth FC	12	6	4	2	23	13	22
6	Blackburn Rovers FC	11	6	4	1	15	9	22
7	Liverpool FC	11	5	6	0	17	6	21
8	Everton FC	12	6	1	5	18	14	19
9	Aston Villa FC	11	5	3	3	16	13	18
10	Newcastle United FC	11	5	2	4	18	17	17
11	West Ham United FC	11	4	3	4	13	10	15
12	Reading FC	12	4	1	7	15	26	13
13	Fulham FC	12	2	6	4	16	18	12
14	Birmingham City FC	12	3	2	7	12	18	11
15	Sunderland AFC	12	2	3	7	12	21	9
16	Middlesbrough FC	12	2	3	7	12	23	9
17	Tottenham Hotspur FC	12	1	5	6	19	24	8
18	Wigan Athletic FC	12	2	2	8	10	19	8
19	Bolton Wanderers FC	12	1	4	7	11	18	7
20	Derby County FC	12	1	3	8	5	26	6

Beşiktaş JK (Super League)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	11/08/07	Konyaspor (H)	1-0	Bobo 37
League	19/08/07	Kasimpasa SK (A)	2-1	İbrahim Toraman 63, Ricardinho 85
League	25/08/07	Gaziantepspor (A)	1-0	Batuhan Karadeniz 90
League	01/09/07	Kayserispor (H)	0-0	
League	15/09/07	Ankaraspor AS (A)	0-0	
League	22/09/07	Denizlispor (H)	3-2	Tello 17, Bobo 34, Serdar Kurtuluş 60
League	29/09/07	Galatasaray AS (A)	1-2	Tello 44
League	07/10/07	Gençlerbirliği SK (H)	1-0	Márcio Nobre 45
League	20/10/07	Trabzonspor (A)	3-2	Burak Yılmaz 22, Delgado 26(pen), Bobo 74
League	28/10/07	Istanbul BB SK (H)	0-0	
Lineups: Hakan Arıkan, Ali Tandoğan, Gökhan Zan, İbrahim Toraman, İbrahim Üzülmez, Serdar Özkan (Mehmet Yozgatlı 74), Cissé, Delgado (Ricardinho 46), Tello, Burak Yılmaz (Márcio Nobre 60), Bobo				
Cup	31/10/07	Rizespor (H)	1-2	Higuaín 7
Lineups: Rüştü Reçber, Mehmet Sedef, Mehmet Yozgatlı (Burak Yılmaz 81), Baki Mercimek, Higuaín, Márcio Nobre, Diatta, Ricardinho (Batuhan Karadeniz 72), Aydın Karabulut (İbrahim Üzülmez 46), Koray Avcı, İbrahim Kaş				
League	03/11/07	Fenerbahçe SK (A)	1-2	Bobo 3
Lineups: Hakan Arıkan, Ali Tandoğan, Gökhan Zan (Diatta 17), İbrahim Toraman, İbrahim Üzülmez, Burak Yılmaz (Higuaín 64), Cissé, Koray Avcı (Batuhan Karadeniz 83), Serdar Özkan, Delgado, Bobo				
League	10/11/07	Sivasspor (H)		
League	25/11/07	Gençlerbirliği Oftasspor (A)		
League	02/12/07	Rizespor (H)		
League	09/12/07	Bursaspor (A)		
League	16/12/07	MKE Ankaragücü (H)		
League	23/12/07	Vestel Manisaspor (A)		
League	13/01/08	Konyaspor (A)		
League	20/01/08	Kasimpasa SK (H)		
League	27/01/08	Gaziantepspor (H)		
League	10/02/08	Kayserispor (A)		
League	17/02/08	Ankaraspor AS (H)		
League	24/02/08	Denizlispor (A)		
League	02/03/08	Galatasaray AS (H)		
League	09/03/08	Gençlerbirliği SK (A)		
League	16/03/08	Trabzonspor (H)		
League	23/03/08	Istanbul BB SK (A)		
League	30/03/08	Fenerbahçe SK (H)		
League	06/04/08	Sivasspor (A)		
League	13/04/08	Gençlerbirliği Oftasspor (H)		
League	20/04/08	Rizespor (A)		

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 6 November 2007 - 20.45 CET

Anfield, Liverpool

Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Galatasaray AS	11	7	4	0	21	6	25
2	Sivasspor	11	8	1	2	21	8	25
3	Fenerbahçe SK	11	6	4	1	17	10	22
4	Beşiktaş JK	11	6	3	2	13	9	21
5	Kayserispor	11	4	5	2	16	12	17
6	Istanbul BB SK	11	5	2	4	15	11	17
7	Trabzonspor	11	4	4	3	14	11	16
8	MKE Ankaragücü	11	4	3	4	13	14	15
9	Denizlispor	11	4	3	4	16	15	15
10	Gaziantepspor	11	4	2	5	14	15	14
11	Gençlerbirliği Oftasspor	11	4	2	5	11	11	14
12	Konyaspor	11	3	4	4	12	20	13
13	Vestel Manisaspor	11	3	3	5	16	19	12
14	Bursaspor	11	2	5	4	11	13	11
15	Rizespor	11	3	1	7	10	23	10
16	Gençlerbirliği SK	11	2	3	6	12	17	9
17	Kasimpasa SK	11	2	1	8	7	19	7
18	Ankaraspor AS	11	1	4	6	8	14	7

UEFA information

FARE Action Week

The eighth annual Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network Action Week closes with organisers delighted at the pan-European drive to emphasise the message that racism, intolerance and violence have no place in football. The FARE Action Week is co-ordinated by the FARE network in co-operation with UEFA. Activities have been designed to raise awareness of the issues and underline football's determination to tackle them. Initiatives have been led by – among others – campaigning non-governmental organisations, fan groups, clubs, national associations, ethnic minorities, youth groups and schools.

Every high-profile platform has been used by the football community to highlight the fight against racism. From UEFA Champions League and UEFA EURO 2008™ matches to domestic league games across the continent, the signal to the racists has been clear – get out of our game. UEFA's flagship club competition, the UEFA Champions League, showcased the FARE/UEFA activities on Matchday 3, with all 32 teams displaying their opposition to racism as part of UEFA's contribution to the FARE Action Week.

Europe's leading leagues have also been making a stand against racism. All professional clubs in England and Scotland regularly participate and the German Bundesliga expanded its engagement over two weekends so all sides in the top two divisions had the chance to take part in the anti-racist activity at a home match. The leagues were also active in Austria, the Republic of Ireland, F.Y.R. Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia and Slovenia. For the first time, Israel has joined in the Action Week, together with Greece, Sweden and Switzerland as much-valued newcomers. Anti-racist activities have been organised by fan clubs at league fixtures in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, England, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine.

FARE match

UEFA gave further support to the FARE Action Week by staging a match in Nyon, Switzerland, on 29 October. A team composed of UEFA staff members played against footballers from the Organisation Sportive Africa-Suisse at the Colovray Stadium opposite UEFA's headquarters. Before the game, the visitors were shown around UEFA's House of European Football and viewed the many European trophies on display, before emerging as 3-1 winners on the pitch.

"We want to see the 'beautiful game' played without the cancer of racism," says FARE. "Football is the biggest sport in the world and belongs to us all. It should be the right of every person to play, watch and discuss it freely, without fear. Unfortunately, at all levels of the game, from amateur to international, there are incidents of racism. Be it from fans, players, clubs or other football bodies, FARE believes that such behaviour, on and off the field, is unacceptable and unwanted by the majority of fans and players."

Cerebral Palsy finals

The Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) – which received UEFA's annual CHF1m charity cheque in 2007 – has held the draw for the CPISRA Football Seven-a-Side World Championship to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in mid-November with 16 teams divided into four groups of four. Founded in 1978, CPISRA is an international governing sports body for athletes with cerebral palsy or traumatic brain injury, stroke and other related conditions. CPISRA has its own version of football, a modified seven-a-side game that has been played by athletes with cerebral palsy for many years.

Key dates

The 2007/08 UEFA Champions League group stage is 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 29/30 April. The 2008 UEFA Champions League final will be held in Moscow on 21 May, before UEFA EURO 2008™ kicks off in Austria and Switzerland on 7 June.

Match-by-match lineups - Group A

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Olympique de Marseille	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
FC Porto	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Beşiktaş JK	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Liverpool FC	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Date	Match	Result	Stadium, Venue
18.09.2007	Marseille - Beşiktaş	2-0	Vélodrome, Marseille
Goals: 1-0 Rodriguez 76 , 2-0 Cissé 90+1			
Beşiktaş: Hakan Arıkan, Serdar Kurtuluş (İbrahim Kaş 26), Delgado (Higuaín 75), Bobo, Tello, Diatta, Ricardinho (Koray Avcı 44), Cissé, İbrahim Üzülmöz, Serdar Özkan, İbrahim Toraman			
18.09.2007	Porto - Liverpool	1-1	Estádio do Dragão, Porto
Goals: 1-0 Lucho González 8 , 1-1 Kuyt 17			
Liverpool: Reina, Finnan, Hyypiä, Gerrard, Torres (Voronin 76), Pennant, Arbeloa, Kuyt, Babel (Fábio Aurélio 85), Mascherano, Carragher			
03.10.2007	Liverpool - Marseille	0-1	Anfield, Liverpool
Goals: 0-1 Valbuena 77			
Liverpool: Reina, Finnan, Hyypiä, Gerrard, Torres, Benayoun, Fábio Aurélio (Voronin 70), Crouch (Kuyt 75), Sissoko, Carragher, Leto (Riise 52)			
03.10.2007	Beşiktaş - Porto	0-1	Inönü, Istanbul
Goals: 0-1 Quaresma 90+2			
Beşiktaş: Hakan Arıkan, Serdar Kurtuluş (Ali Tandoğan 71), Gökhan Zan, Delgado, Bobo (Márcio Nobre 27), Tello, Cissé, İbrahim Üzülmöz, Serdar Özkan, İbrahim Akın (Higuaín 67), İbrahim Toraman			
24.10.2007	Beşiktaş - Liverpool	2-1	Inönü, Istanbul
Goals: 1-0 Hyypiä 13 (o.g.), 2-0 Bobo 82 , 2-1 Gerrard 85			
Beşiktaş: Hakan Arıkan, Serdar Kurtuluş (Koray Avcı 42), Gökhan Zan, Delgado (Higuaín 62), Bobo (Diatta 86), Tello, Cissé, İbrahim Üzülmöz, Serdar Özkan, Ali Tandoğan, İbrahim Toraman			
Liverpool: Reina, Finnan, Hyypiä (Crouch 83), Riise, Gerrard, Voronin, Pennant (Benayoun 59), Kuyt, Babel, Mascherano (Lucas Leiva 76), Carragher			
24.10.2007	Marseille - Porto	1-1	Vélodrome, Marseille
Goals: 1-0 Niang 69 , 1-1 Lucho González 79			
06.11.2007	Liverpool - Beşiktaş	-	Anfield, Liverpool
06.11.2007	Porto - Marseille	-	Estádio do Dragão, Porto
28.11.2007	Beşiktaş - Marseille	-	Inönü, Istanbul
28.11.2007	Liverpool - Porto	-	Anfield, Liverpool
11.12.2007	Marseille - Liverpool	-	Vélodrome, Marseille
11.12.2007	Porto - Beşiktaş	-	Estádio do Dragão, Porto

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.

S.S. Lazio goalkeeper Marco Ballotta is the oldest player to compete in the UEFA Champions League, taking to the field against Werder Bremen on 24 October 2007 at the age of 43 years and 204 days. The record was previously held by Alessandro Costacurta, the AC Milan defender who played against AEK Athens FC in the 2006/07 season at the age of 40 years and 211 days. 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.

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: Arsenal FC v SK Slavia Praha (23.10.2007)

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.

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;

111 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)

110 Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid CF, Fenerbahçe SK)

105 Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)

103 David Beckham (Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)

103 Oliver Kahn (FC Bayern München)

100 Luís Figo (FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano)

98 Gary Neville (Manchester United FC)

98 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United FC)

97 Paul Scholes (Manchester United FC)

97 Clarence Seedorf (AFC Ajax, Real Madrid CF, AC Milan)

91 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)

88 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC, FC Barcelona)

86 Claude Makelele (FC Nantes Atlantique, Real Madrid CF, Chelsea FC)

86 Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid CF, AS Monaco FC, Liverpool FC, Valencia CF)

Goals: UEFA Champions League

58 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
52 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
47 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
43 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC, FC Barcelona)
39 Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus, AC Milan)
37 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)

Appearances: UEFA club competition

168 Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)
139 Luís Figo (Sporting, FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano)
134 Oliver Kahn (Karlsruher SC, FC Bayern München)
130 Frank de Boer (AFC Ajax, FC Barcelona, Galatasaray SK) 128 Clarence Seedorf (AFC Ajax, UC Sampdoria, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano, AC Milan)
127 Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (FC Bayern München, FC Internazionale Milano, Servette FC)
122 Roberto Carlos (FC Internazionale Milano, Real Madrid CF, Fenerbahçe SK)
122 Zinedine 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)

Goals: UEFA club competition

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

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

Last updated: 25.10.2007

Team facts

Liverpool FC

UEFA club competition milestones

• The most successful English club in UEFA competition history, Liverpool have won the European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League five times.

• Liverpool have also won the UEFA Cup on three occasions and the UEFA Super Cup three times, having lost only four finals: the European Champion Clubs' Cup in 1984/85 and 2006/07, the 1965/66 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and the 1978 UEFA Super Cup.

UEFA Champions League milestones

• Winners in 2004/05, with a 3-2 shoot-out victory against AC Milan after a 3-3 draw in Istanbul, Liverpool were beaten 2-1 by the Rossoneri in the 2006/07 showpiece in Athens. Only once since their bow in 2001/02 have they failed to get beyond the group stage.

UEFA club competition honours

- European Champion Clubs' Cup: 1976/77, 1977/78, 1980/81, 1983/84, 2004/05
- UEFA Cup: 1972/73, 1975/76, 2000/01
- UEFA Super Cup: 1977, 2001, 2005

Ten-year record (including current season)

2006/07: UEFA Champions League - runners-up

2005/06: UEFA Champions League - first knockout round

2004/05: UEFA Champions League - winners

2003/04: UEFA Cup - fourth round

2002/03: UEFA Cup - quarter-finals (having transferred from the UEFA Champions League group stage)

2001/02: UEFA Champions League - quarter-finals

2000/01: UEFA Cup - winners

1999/00: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

1998/99: UEFA Cup - third round

1997/98: UEFA Cup - second round

2006/07 season

Domestic record: Liverpool again finished in third place in the Premier League. They were 15 points behind second-placed Chelsea FC and six points further adrift of the champions Manchester United FC. Third spot was enough to secure a place in the third qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League. They relinquished the FA Cup with a 3-1 home third-round defeat by Arsenal FC.

European record: The English side recorded four victories and a draw from their six outings to top Group C, three points clear of PSV Eindhoven, six ahead of FC Girondins de Bordeaux and nine in front of Galatasaray SK. They eliminated holders FC Barcelona in the first knockout round, going through on away goals after a 2-2 aggregate draw. It was more comfortable in the quarter-finals as PSV were dispatched 4-0 over two legs before a meeting with old foes Chelsea in the last four. A 1-1 draw after 210 minutes of football led to penalties at Anfield, which Liverpool won 4-1. They fell short in the final, however, as Milan gained revenge for the 2005 defeat with a 2-1 success in Athens.

Key facts

UEFA club competition

• Pld: 259 W: 144 D: 57 L: 58 GF: 452 GA: 215

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

• Pld: 57 W: 25 D: 18 L: 14 GF: 71 GA: 46

European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

• Pld: 148 W: 84 D: 32 L: 32 GF: 263 GA: 117

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

11-0: Liverpool FC v Strømsgodset IF

17.09.1974, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg

• Biggest home win

11-0: Liverpool FC v Strømsgodset IF (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-5: FC Haka v Liverpool FC

08.08.2001, European Champion Clubs' Cup third qualifying round first leg

0-5: Crusaders FC v Liverpool FC

28.09.1976, European Champion Clubs' Cup first round second leg

0-5: KR Reykjavík v Liverpool FC

17.08.1964, European Champion Clubs' Cup preliminary round first leg

• Heaviest defeat

5-1: AFC Ajax v Liverpool FC

07.12.1966, European Champion Clubs' Cup second round leg

• Heaviest home defeat

0-2: Liverpool FC v SL Benfica

08.03.2006, UEFA Champions League first knockout round second leg

0-2: Liverpool FC v Celtic FC

20.03.2003, UEFA Cup quarter-finals second leg

1-3: Liverpool FC v FC Barcelona

20.11.2001, UEFA Champions League second group stage

0-2: Liverpool FC v FC Spartak Moskva

04.11.1992, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup second round second leg

• Heaviest away defeat

5-1: AFC Ajax v Liverpool FC (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

• Biggest win

5-0: Liverpool FC v FC Spartak Moskva

02.10.2002, UEFA Champions League first group stage

• Biggest home win

5-0: Liverpool FC v FC Spartak Moskva (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-3: PSV Eindhoven v Liverpool FC

03.04.2007, UEFA Champions League quarter-finals first leg

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 6 November 2007 - 20.45 CET

Anfield, Liverpool

- Heaviest defeat
0-2: Liverpool FC v SL Benfica (see above for details)
2-0: Valencia CF v Liverpool FC
17.09.2002, UEFA Champions League group stage
4-2: Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Liverpool FC
09.04.2002, UEFA Champions League quarter-finals second leg
1-3: Liverpool FC v FC Barcelona (see above for details)

- Heaviest home defeat
0-2: Liverpool FC v SL Benfica (see above for details)
1-3: Liverpool FC v FC Barcelona (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat
2-0: Valencia CF v Liverpool FC (see above for details)
4-2: Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Liverpool FC (see above for details)

Last updated: 25.10.2007

Beşiktaş JK

UEFA club competition milestones

- Beşiktaş reached the last eight of the 1986/87 European Champion Clubs' Cup, where they lost 7-0 on aggregate to FC Dynamo Kyiv.

- They also progressed to the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in 2002/03, where S.S. Lazio prevailed 3-1 on aggregate.

UEFA Champions League milestones

- They have previously featured in the group stage of the UEFA Champions League on three occasions since their bow in the 1997/98 campaign.

UEFA club competition honours

- N/A

Ten-year record

- 2006/07:** UEFA Cup - group stage
- 2005/06:** UEFA Cup - group stage
- 2004/05:** UEFA Cup - group stage
- 2003/04:** UEFA Champions League - group stage
- 2002/03:** UEFA Cup - quarter-finals
- 2001/02:** Did not compete in UEFA club competition
- 2000/01:** UEFA Champions League - first group stage
- 1999/00:** European Champion Clubs' Cup - second qualifying round
- 1998/99:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup - second round
- 1997/98:** UEFA Champions League - group stage

2006/07 season

Domestic record: Beşiktaş finished nine points adrift of champions Fenerbahçe SK but were five points ahead of Galatasaray SK to ensure a place in the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round. They also retained the Turkish Cup with a 1-0 victory after extra time against Kayserispor.

European record: A 4-2 victory after 210 minutes over two legs was enough to take Beşiktaş into the UEFA Cup group stage at the expense of PFC CSKA Sofia. They failed to get beyond a tough Group B, winning just one match - 2-1 at home against Club Brugge KV - as they finished behind Tottenham Hotspur FC, FC Dinamo 1948 București and Bayer 04 Leverkusen.

Key facts

UEFA club competition

• Pld: 123 W: 39 D: 27 L: 57 GF: 143 GA: 183

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

• Pld: 21 W: 6 D: 2 L: 13 GF: 17 GA: 37

European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

• Pld: 55 W: 18 D: 11 L: 26 GF: 54 GA: 82

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

0-5: FK Sarajevo v Beşiktaş JK

03.10.2002, UEFA Cup first round second leg

• Biggest home win

5-1: Beşiktaş JK v FK Vaduz

25.08.2005, UEFA Cup second qualifying round second leg

• Biggest away win

0-5: FK Sarejevo v Beşiktaş JK (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

6-0: Leeds United AFC v Beşiktaş JK

26.09.2000, UEFA Champions League first group stage

• Heaviest home defeat

0-5: Beşiktaş JK v FC Dynamo Kyiv

14.03.1987, European Champion Clubs' Cup quarter-final first leg

• Heaviest away defeat

6-0: Leeds United AFC v Beşiktaş JK (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

• Biggest win

3-0: Beşiktaş JK v FC Barcelona

19.09.2000, UEFA Champions League first group stage

• Biggest home win

3-0: Beşiktaş JK v FC Barcelona (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-2: Chelsea FC v Beşiktaş JK

01.10.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage

• Heaviest defeat

6-0: Leeds United AFC v Beşiktaş JK (see above for details)

Liverpool FC - Beşiktaş JK

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 6 November 2007 - 20.45 CET

Anfield, Liverpool

- Heaviest home defeat

0-2: Beşiktaş JK v FC Bayern Munchen

26.11.1997, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-2: Beşiktaş JK v AC Milan

24.10.2000, UEFA Champions League first group stage

0-2: Beşiktaş JK v S.S. Lazio

16.09.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-2: Beşiktaş JK v Chelsea FC

09.12.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage

- Heaviest away defeat

6-0: Leeds United AFC v Beşiktaş JK (see above for details)

Last updated: 25.10.2007

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.

• **Disciplinary information:** As a rule, a player who is sent off the field of play is suspended for the next match in a UEFA club competition. The Control and Disciplinary Body is entitled to augment this punishment. In the case of repeated cautions, a player is suspended for one match after three cautions in three different matches, as well as following any subsequent odd-numbered caution (fifth, seventh, ninth, etc). Single yellow cards and pending suspensions are always carried forward either to the next stage of the competition or to another club competition in the current season.

• **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.

• **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.

• **Financial information:** UEFA says the estimated gross income for the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League is €824.5m – slightly higher than the 2006/07 campaign revenue. Under the competition regulations, 75 per cent of the total revenue received from television and commercial contracts concluded by UEFA, up to a maximum of €530m will go to the 32 teams taking part in the group stage of Europe's premier club competition. The remaining 25 per cent is earmarked for European football and remains with UEFA to cover organisational and administrative costs, as well as for solidarity payments to associations, clubs and leagues.

It is also stipulated that participating clubs will receive 82 per cent of any revenue received from the same stream in excess of €530m, with the remaining 18 per cent allocated to UEFA for European football. In addition, 50 per cent of the revenue received from new media contracts concluded by UEFA will also be available for distribution to the clubs, and the remaining 50 per cent will be allocated to the above-mentioned European football portion/quota.

The gross income for 2007/08 is estimated at €824.5m, and according to projections, will be made up of €819m from TV and commercial contracts and €5.5m from new media contracts. The total amount to be distributed to the clubs is €588.6m. Each of the 32 clubs in the group stage will receive a starting bonus of €3m. In addition, they will receive a match bonus of €400,000 per match. Performance bonuses will amount to €600,000 for a win and €300,000 for a draw in the group stage. The 16 teams playing in the first knockout round will receive €2.2m, the eight quarter-finalists €2.5m each and the four semi-finalists €3m each. The UEFA Champions League winners will receive €7m, and the runners-up €4m.

This means that a total minimum amount of €5.4m per club is guaranteed for the group stage. A club could receive, at best, up to €23.7m, not counting the market pool share and gate receipts. The remaining €280m will be distributed according to the proportional value of each TV market represented by the clubs taking part in the UEFA Champions League, and to be split among the number of teams – four, three, two or one – participating from a given association.

• **Disclaimer:** Although UEFA has taken all reasonable care that the information contained within this document is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or guarantee (including liability towards third parties), expressed or implied, is made as to its accuracy, reliability or completeness. Therefore, UEFA assumes no liability for the use or interpretation of information contained herein.

Legend

:: All-time statistics

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

UEFA club competition: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competition defined as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (1960-1999), the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup (1973 -), the UEFA Intertoto Cup and the European/South American Cup (1960-2004). Matches in the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup and the 1972 Super Cup are included only for information as these were not held under UEFA auspices, while the FIFA Club World Cup is excluded.

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 competition (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 competition 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

ECCC: 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