

Manchester United FC - Villarreal CF

MATCH PRESS KIT

Old Trafford, Manchester
Wednesday 17 September 2008 - 20.45CET
Group E - Matchday 1



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This press kit includes information relating to this UEFA Champions League match. For more detailed factual information, and in-depth competition statistics, please refer to the matchweek press kit, which can be downloaded at: <http://www.uefa.com/uefa/mediaservices/presskits/index.html>

Match background

Manchester United FC open the defence of their European crown against Villarreal CF, aiming to avoid a repeat of their unhappy fate when they last met Manuel Pellegrini's men in the UEFA Champions League.

- When United and Villarreal faced off for the first time in the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League group stage, it was the tournament debutants from Spain who came out on top, holding Sir Alex Ferguson's team to goalless draws at El Madrigal and Old Trafford en route to securing first place in the section.
- While Villarreal duly advanced as far as the semi-finals, United's European campaign was over by Christmas as they finished bottom of the group – their earliest exit from a continental competition in a decade.
- Four months after beating Chelsea FC on penalties in a rain-soaked Luzhniki Stadium to collect their third European crown, United will be confident of ensuring a different outcome this time around. In addition, their formidable home record in the UEFA Champions League suggests a testing evening awaits Villarreal in this opening Group E fixture.
- Sir Alex Ferguson's team have won their last 12 home games in the UEFA Champions League – the most recent against another Spanish side, FC Barcelona, in last season's semi-final – to set a new competition record and they are unbeaten in their last 15 stretching back to March 2005.
- United did not lose a single game en route to their final triumph last term, winning nine and drawing three of the 12 matches that took them to Moscow. After topping a group containing AS Roma, Sporting Clube de Portugal and FC Dynamo Kyiv, they then overcame Olympique Lyonnais, Roma and FC Barcelona.
- Cristiano Ronaldo, who finished as the competition's eight-goal top scorer, struck United's goal in the 1-1 final draw with Chelsea prior to their 6-5 shoot-out success.
- United are now seeking to become the first team since AC Milan in 1989/90 to retain their European title. However, they missed the opportunity to start the new continental campaign with a trophy when losing 2-1 to FC Zenit St. Petersburg in the UEFA Super Cup on 29 August.
- It was also Zenit who ended Villarreal's interest in Europe last term, beating Pellegrini's team on away goals in the UEFA Cup Round of 32.



- Villarreal had earlier overcome FC BATE Borisov in the first round before topping their group-stage section with wins against FK Mladá Boleslav, IF Elfsborg and AEK Athens FC and a draw with ACF Fiorentina. However, after a 1-0 defeat at Zenit, Villarreal then conceded a first-half goal to Pavel Pogrebnyak in the return, ensuring their elimination despite a fightback on the night courtesy of goals from Guille Franco and Jon Dahl Tomasson.
- Villarreal subsequently secured their second UEFA Champions League campaign by finishing second in the Spanish top flight, the highest league placing in their history.
- United have a strong home record against teams from Spain, with eight wins, seven draws and just two defeats from 17 matches played.
- Villarreal had never faced English opposition before they defeated Middlesbrough FC 2-0 in a home tie in the 2004/05 UEFA Cup group stage. They then faced another three in the next season's UEFA Champions League. They secured 2-1 wins both at home and away to Everton FC in the third qualifying round before holding United twice. However, their run of luck against English sides ended against Arsenal FC in the semi-final when they lost 1-0 in London before a goalless draw at El Madrigal.
- Wayne Rooney was sent off after 64 minutes of Villarreal's goalless draw with United in Spain on 14 September 2005.
- The lineups that evening were:
Villarreal: Sebastián Viera, Jan Kromkamp, Gonzalo Rodríguez, Quique Álvarez, Rodolfo Arruabarrena, Héctor Font (Roger García), Josico (Alessio Tacchinardi), Marcos Senna, Juan Pablo Sorín, Diego Forlán, Antonio Guayre (Luciano Figueroa).
Man United: Edwin van der Sar, John O'Shea, Rio Ferdinand, Mikaël Silvestre, Gabriel Heinze (Kieran Richardson), Cristiano Ronaldo (Ryan Giggs), Darren Fletcher, Paul Scholes, Alan Smith, Wayne Rooney, Ruud van Nistelrooy (Ji-Sung Park).
- The lineups for the return fixture at Old Trafford on 22 November 2005 – the last time United failed to win a home UEFA Champions League game – were:
Man United: Edwin van der Sar, Wes Brown, Rio Ferdinand, Mikaël Silvestre, John O'Shea, Darren Fletcher (Ji-Sung Park), Alan Smith (Louis Saha), Paul Scholes, Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney, Ruud van Nistelrooy.
Villarreal: Mariano Barbosa, Javi Venta, Gonzalo Rodríguez, Juan Manuel Peña, Rodolfo Arruabarrena, Roger García (Héctor Font), Alessio Tacchinardi (Josico), Marcos Senna, Juan Pablo Sorín, José María, Luciano Figueroa (Xisco Nadal).
- Villarreal's French midfielder Robert Pirès will not want to remember his first visit to Old Trafford with former club Arsenal FC, which brought a 6-1 reverse in February 2001. In six years at Arsenal, Pirès tasted defeat in four of five trips to United, winning only once.
- Villarreal defender Joan Capdevila appeared as a late substitute for RC Deportivo La Coruña on the night they defeated United 3-2 at Old Trafford in a UEFA Champions League group stage game on 17 October 2001.
- Old Trafford will hold no surprises for Villarreal forward Giuseppe Rossi, who was a United player for three years between 2004 and 2007. Rossi made 14 appearances in that time, scoring four times. In the UEFA Champions League, he appeared as a late substitute in both the 3-0 home win against Debreceni VSC in the third qualifying round in August 2005 and the 1-0 defeat away against LOSC Lille Métropole in the group stage three months later.
- Villarreal midfielder Marcos Senna earned a place in the UEFA EURO 2008™ Team of the Tournament for his efforts in Spain's triumphant campaign in Austria and Switzerland.
- United have lifted the European Champion Clubs' Cup three times: in 1968, 1999 and 2008.
- The other opening Group E games pits Celtic FC against Aalborg BK.

Match facts

Manchester United FC

UEFA milestones

- Gary Neville's next appearance in the UEFA Champions League will be his 100th in the competition. Owen Hargreaves is one match away from his half-century.

- Rio Ferdinand's next match in UEFA club competition will be his 75th game in Europe.
- United missed the chance to claim the UEFA Super Cup for the second time – and give Sir Alex Ferguson a third victory overall following his triumphs with Aberdeen FC in 1983 and United eight years later – as they went down 2-1 to FC Zenit St. Petersburg in Monaco on 29 August. A goal in each half from Pavel Pogrebnyak and debutant Danny put the Russian side in command and, although Nemanja Vidić halved the deficit, United's hopes were effectively ended by the time Paul Scholes collected a second yellow card in added time.

UEFA Champions League statistics

- None

Disciplinary information

- Scholes is suspended on Matchday 1 following his red card against Zenit.

Latest domestic information

• Saturday 13 September: Liverpool FC 2-1 Manchester United FC (Brown og 27, Babel 77; Tévez 3)

United suffered their first Premier League defeat at Anfield since November 2001 – and their first in the league against Liverpool since April 2004 – despite taking an early lead through Carlos Tévez, set up by debutant Dimitar Berbatov. United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar punched an attempted clearance against Wes Brown for Liverpool's equaliser, and United were beaten by Ryan Babel's late winner, a miserable day compounded by Vidić's late dismissal for a second bookable offence.

• "We can take nothing positive from this; we didn't have one performer on the pitch apart from possibly Ferdinand," said Sir Alex. "It was disappointing. Our defending was very poor for both Liverpool goals. You don't expect that from Manchester United. When we have a bad day we usually still get something from the game. Overall, they were the better team. Liverpool produced a performance of tackling, hassling and getting about us, and the source of our defeat was not coping. You have to give them credit for that – but at the end of the day, we should cope."

• It was the first time Sir Alex had tasted defeat in nine league games against the Liverpool manager Rafael Benítez following the latter's appointment at Anfield in summer 2004.

• The loss was only United's third in the league in 2008 and brought to an end a run of six successive league wins against their Merseyside opponents.

• Sir Alex's side have scored at least once in each of their last 27 league matches.

• United have gone 40 Premier League games without a goalless draw, a run stretching back to the stalemate at home to Reading FC on the opening day of last season.

• United also kicked off the 2008/09 campaign with a point as they were held to a 1-1 home draw by Newcastle United FC on 17 August. Obafemi Martins headed the visitors in front in the 22nd minute, a lead which was swiftly cancelled out by Darren Fletcher's equaliser two minutes later.

• Now on loan at Tottenham Hotspur FC, Fraizer Campbell made his first Premier League start for United against Newcastle, and when he was taken off with ten minutes remaining, his replacement was 18-year-old debutant Rafael Da Silva. Another Brazilian, Rodrigo Possebon, also made his first Premier League appearance as a substitute.

• United opened the season by winning the FA Community Shield for the 17th time, defeating FA Cup winners Portsmouth 3-1 on penalties after a goalless 90 minutes.

• That was United's last fixture before the start of the Premier League campaign and maintained their unbeaten record throughout pre-season. In eight matches in Scotland, England, South Africa and Nigeria, Sir Alex's side won six and drew two.

• United will play Middlesbrough FC in the English League Cup third round at Old Trafford on 23 September.

Injury news

- Michael Carrick – out 17 August to 13 September (ankle), out since 13 September (ankle)
- Cristiano Ronaldo – out since July (ankle)
- Ji-Sung Park – out since June (knee)
- Owen Hargreaves – out July to 13 September (knee)
- Rio Ferdinand – out 3-8 September (back)

- Michael Carrick returned from an injury to his right ankle to start at Liverpool, although he injured the joint again in a challenge with Yossi Benayoun midway through the first period and was replaced by Ryan Giggs at half-time, subsequently appearing with his right foot in a cast. "I don't think anything is broken but he certainly won't be fit for Wednesday I wouldn't think," said Sir Alex.

- Wayne Rooney was fit for the start of the Premier League season after overcoming a virus contracted in Nigeria.

Summer transfers

•In

Dimitar Berbatov (Tottenham Hotspur FC)

•Out

Gerard Piqué (FC Barcelona)

Mikaël Silvestre (Arsenal FC)

Louis Saha (Everton FC)

Danny Simpson (Blackburn Rovers FC, loan)

Lee Martin (Nottingham Forest FC, loan)

Chris Eagles (Burnley FC)

Fraizer Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur FC, loan)

- United made their only high-profile summer signing moments before the transfer window closed on 1 September, Bulgarian international striker Berbatov moving to Old Trafford on a four-year contract.

International news

- There were contrasting fortunes for United's international players as qualifying for the 2010 FIFA World Cup started in earnest in Europe on 6 and 10 September, Rooney starting both games as England began Group 6 with away wins against Andorra (2-0) and Croatia (4-1), scoring the third goal in the second match. Ferdinand missed the first game with a back injury but returned in Zagreb, when Brown was also back in the starting lineup.

- Fletcher played as Scotland started Group 9 with away games against F.Y.R. Macedonia (0-1) and Iceland (2-1), while John O'Shea made two Group 8 appearances for the Republic of Ireland against Georgia (2-1) and Montenegro (0-0). Jonny Evans featured as Northern Ireland opened Group 3 against Slovakia (1-2) and the Czech Republic (0-0).

- Patrice Evra and Vidić were in Group 7 action, the former featuring as France lost 3-1 in Austria but sitting out the 2-1 win against Vidić's Serbia, whose side had previously beaten the Faroe Islands 2-0. In Group 1 Nani scored in both games as Portugal beat Malta 4-0 but lost 3-2 at home to Denmark, while Berbatov's Bulgaria side drew 2-2 with Montenegro in Group 8.

- In South America, Tévez was sent off as Argentina drew 1-1 with Paraguay.

- Four United squad members also played at UEFA EURO 2008™: Van der Sar, Evra, Nani and Ronaldo. Evra's France failed to get beyond the group stage while Van der Sar's last appearance for the Netherlands was the quarter-final defeat by Russia and Ronaldo and Nani were in the Portugal side beaten by Germany at the same stage.

- Van der Sar was named in the UEFA Technical Team's Team of the Tournament.

Miscellaneous

- United's success in last season's UEFA Champions League was reflected in the UEFA Club Footballer of the Year awards in Monaco on 28 August, with Ronaldo collecting the prize for Best Forward and also the UEFA Club Footballer of the Year prize. He is the second United player to win the latter accolade, after David Beckham in 1999.

- Evra signed a four-year contract extension in June.

- Ronaldo's 31 Premier League goals last season earned the Portuguese winger the ESM Golden Shoe. Ronaldo finished ahead of Daniel Güiza who scored 27 times for RCD Mallorca.

- Ole Gunnar Solksjær, who retired from playing in August 2007, was named as United's reserve team manager in May.

- In July, Carlos Queiroz relinquished his role as assistant manager and signed a four-year deal to coach Portugal for a second time. United appointed Mick Phelan as his replacement on 3 September, with René Meulensteen promoted to fill Phelan's previous role of first-team coach.

- On Monday United announced that Tomasz Kuszczyk had signed a two-year contract extension that will keep him at Old Trafford until summer 2012.

- Reserve goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler was a UEFA European Under-19 Championship winner with Germany at the July tournament in the Czech Republic. The 19-year-old played in all five matches.

Villarreal CF

UEFA milestones

- Robert Pirès's next UEFA Champions League game will be his 75th match in the competition.

- Edmílson needs to play one more game to bring up 50 matches in UEFA club competition.

UEFA Champions League statistics

- None

Disciplinary information

- Villarreal have no players suspended or within a booking of a ban.

Latest domestic information

• Sunday 14 September: Villarreal CF 1-0 RC Deportivo La Coruña (Cazorla 27)

Villarreal made it four points from two Liga matches at El Madrigal as Santi Cazorla scored the only goal, beating goalkeeper Daniel Aranzubía with a sweetly-struck shot from the edge of the area before the half-hour. The hosts had chances to increase the advantage, and almost paid for their profligacy when Sergio González struck the foot of the post with five minutes to go.

- "We put in a very complete performance and created a lot of chances," said coach Manuel Pellegrini. "A win was fair but the margin of victory should have been greater. Had it not been for us being too hasty with some of our moves and for Daniel Aranzubía, we would have scored more. The win has left me feeling very happy, though – we looked strong."

- Jozy Altidore, a summer signing from Red Bull New York, made his league debut as a half-time substitute for Guille Franco. Sebastián Eguren and Diego Godín were rested, however, having been among the 13 Europe-based Uruguayan internationals affected by severe fog, which caused a 24-hour delay to their flights from Montevideo to Europe.

- Villarreal drew 1-1 away at CA Osasuna in their first game of the Liga season on 31 August. Marcos Senna scored direct from a free-kick to give Pellegrini's team a 54th-minute lead, but Godín was then sent off for fouling Masoud Shojaei and Javad Nekounam converted the subsequent spot-kick twenty minutes from time.

Injury news

- Giuseppe Rossi – out since 26 August (sprained ankle)
- Nihat Kahveci – out since 21 June (right thigh tear)
- Robert Pirès – out 27 August to 12 September (left hamstring strain)
- Fabricio Fuentes – out 17 January to 24 July (anterior cruciate ligament)

- Rossi is recovering from the ankle sprain he suffered when he collided with Senna during training.

- Nihat is still suffering from the thigh injury sustained during the UEFA EURO 2008™ quarter-final against Croatia.

Summer transfers

•In

Sebastián Eguren (Hammarby)

Edmílson (FC Barcelona)

Joseba Llorente (Real Valladolid CF)

Jozy Altidore (Red Bull New York)

Robert Flores (CA River Plate, Uruguay)

Ariel Ibagaza (RCD Mallorca)

Damián Escudero (CA Vélez Sarsfield)

•Out

Robert Flores (CA River Plate, Argentina)
Josico (Fenerbahçe SK)
Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)
Josemi (RCD Mallorca)
Martín Cáceres (FC Barcelona)
Jonathan Pereira (Real Racing Club Santander)
Marco Ruben (RC Recreativo de Huelva)
Leandro Somoza (CA Vélez Sarsfield)
Marcos García (Real Sociedad de Fútbol)
César Arzo (RC Recreativo de Huelva)
Damián Escudero (RC Recreativo de Huelva)
Rio Antonio Mavuba (LOSC Lille Métropole)

International news

- Joan Capdevila and Senna carried on their UEFA EURO 2008™ form by helping Spain to a 1-0 home win against Bosnia-Herzegovina as they kicked off their 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying Group 5 challenge on 6 September, Cazorla coming on in the second half. Four days later the trio started with Capdevila and Senna scoring as the European champions made it two home wins from two with a 4-0 defeat of Armenia.
- Godin and Egueren were in the starting lineup for Uruguay's 1-0 qualifying victory in Colombia, the latter scoring the only goal of the game. Both also featured in the 0-0 draw at home with Ecuador.
- Villarreal provided three of Spain's victorious squad at UEFA EURO 2008™: Senna, Capdevila and Cazorla. Nihat also shone for Turkey, scoring two goals in the dying seconds of their pivotal group game with the Czech Republic to send the side through. A thigh injury forced him to watch the semi-final defeat by Germany from the sidelines.
- Senna was named in the UEFA EURO 2008™ UEFA Technical Team's Team of the Tournament.
- Altidore was in the United States squad that failed to make it beyond the first round of the Olympics in Beijing, while Rossi was part of the Italy team that succumbed to Belgium in the quarter-finals.

Miscellaneous

- Pellegrini celebrated his 55th birthday on 16 September, the day before the trip to Old Trafford.
- Senna and Cazorla both signed new contracts in late August. The former penned a one-year extension to tie him to Villarreal until 2011, while Cazorla ended speculation about his future by agreeing a six-year deal.

Squad list

Man. United

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	Edwin van der Sar	NED	29.10.1970	37	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	72	-	117	-
12	Ben Foster	ENG	03.04.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Tomasz Kuszczak	POL	20.03.1982	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-
38	Ron-Robert Zieler	GER	12.02.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	Ben Amos	ENG	10.04.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
2	Gary Neville	ENG	18.02.1975	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	2	110	2
3	Patrice Evra	FRA	15.05.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	38	1	47	1
5	Rio Ferdinand	ENG	07.11.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	54	2	74	2
6	Wes Brown	ENG	13.10.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	55	1	58	1
15	Nemanja Vidić	SRB	21.10.1981	26	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	17	1	32	5
20	Fabio	BRA	09.07.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Rafael	BRA	09.07.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	John O'Shea	IRL	30.04.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	50	1	56	1
23	Johnny Evans	NIR	03.01.1988	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
36	David Gray	SCO	04.05.1988	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39	James Chester	ENG	23.01.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	Richard Eckerley	ENG	12.03.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
4	Owen Hargreaves	ENG	20.01.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	49	-	52	-
8	Anderson	BRA	13.04.1988	20	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	12	-	13	-
11	Ryan Giggs	WAL	29.11.1973	34	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	104	23	120	25
13	Ji-Sung Park	KOR	25.02.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	1	35	2
16	Michael Carrick	ENG	28.07.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	24	2	25	2
17	Nani	POR	17.11.1986	21	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17	1	20	1
18	Paul Scholes	ENG	16.11.1974	33	S	-	-	-	-	3	-	102	21	113	23
19	Daniel Welbeck	ENG	26.11.1990	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Darren Fletcher	SCO	01.02.1984	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	31	-	36	-
28	Darron Gibson	IRL	25.10.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	Sam Hewson	ENG	28.11.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Rodrigo Possebon	BRA	13.02.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
35	Thomas Cleverley	ENG	12.08.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
7	Cristiano Ronaldo	POR	05.02.1985	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	11	46	12
9	Dimitar Berbatov	BUL	30.01.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	26	7	53	28
10	Wayne Rooney	ENG	24.10.1985	22	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	33	11	35	12
26	Manucho	ANG	07.03.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Carlos Tévez	ARG	05.02.1984	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	12	4	16	4
Coach															
-	Sir Alex Ferguson	SCO	31.12.1941	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	-	216	-

Manchester United FC - Villarreal CF

MATCH PRESS KIT

Wednesday 17 September 2008 - 20.45 CET

Old Trafford, Manchester

Villarreal

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	Sebastián Viera	URU	07.03.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	9	-
13	Diego López	ESP	03.11.1981	26	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	10	-
26	Juan Carlos	ESP	27.07.1987	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Vicente Flor	ESP	05.11.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
2	Gonzalo Rodríguez	ARG	10.04.1984	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	-	30	2
3	Edmílson	BRA	10.07.1976	32	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	44	1	49	1
4	Diego Godín	URU	16.02.1986	22	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-
5	Joan Capdevila	ESP	03.02.1978	30	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	28	2	52	4
12	Pascal Cygan	FRA	29.04.1974	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	35	-
17	Javi Venta	ESP	13.12.1975	32	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	44	2
18	Ángel López	ESP	10.03.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	25	1
20	Fabrizio Fuentes	ARG	13.10.1976	31	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-
30	Edu	ESP	02.10.1981	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
6	Sebastián Eguren	URU	08.01.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	10	1
7	Robert Pirès	FRA	29.10.1973	34	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	74	13	102	16
8	Santi Cazorla	ESP	13.12.1984	23	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	27	6
10	Cani	ESP	03.08.1981	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	16	1
11	Ariel Ibagaza	ARG	27.10.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
14	Matías Fernández	CHI	15.05.1986	22	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-
19	Marcos Senna	ESP	17.07.1976	32	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	11	1	28	2
21	Bruno	ESP	12.06.1984	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
27	Jordi	ESP	01.01.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Marcos Gullón	ESP	20.02.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
9	Guille Franco	MEX	03.11.1976	31	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	11	1
15	Nihat Kahveci	TUR	23.11.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	27	6
16	Joseba Llorente	ESP	24.11.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
22	Giuseppe Rossi	ITA	01.02.1987	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-
Coach															
-	Manuel Pellegrini	CHI	16.09.1953	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	44	-

Head coach

Manchester United FC: Sir Alex Ferguson

Date of birth: 31 December 1941

Nationality: Scottish

Playing career: Queen's Park FC, Saint Johnstone FC, Dunfermline Athletic FC, Rangers FC, Falkirk FC, Ayr United FC

Coaching career: Falkirk FC, East Stirlingshire FC, Saint Mirren FC, Aberdeen FC, Manchester United FC

Sir Alex Ferguson has enjoyed almost three decades at the top, cementing Manchester United FC in a position as one of Europe's foremost clubs. He helped to nurture a group of young players including David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville who formed the backbone of United's treble-winning side of 1999, and the latter two were still serving the club as the UEFA Champions League was regained in 2008, at the end of a season in which the Scotsman also clinched his tenth English title. The esteem in which he is held by his peers is reflected in his position as head of the UEFA Coaches Panel.

Sir Alex enjoyed a relatively successful playing career that featured a spell at Rangers FC before becoming player-coach at Falkirk FC. He then managed East Stirlingshire FC and Saint Mirren FC before shooting to prominence at Aberdeen FC. In 1980, the club won the Scottish title to break the Old Firm's 14-year stranglehold, a dominance that has returned since Aberdeen's last championship in 1985. But his greatest glory with the Dons came in 1983 when they beat Real Madrid CF to lift the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup.

United appointed Sir Alex in 1986 and, after a difficult start, he led the Old Trafford team to their longest period of sustained success. Their first trophy was the 1990 FA Cup, followed the next season by a UEFA Cup Winners' Cup triumph. In 1993 came the first of ten Premier League titles, to which five FA Cups have been added. Ferguson's finest hour arrived in 1999, when two stoppage-time goals gave United a 2-1 UEFA Champions League final victory against FC Bayern München. After failing to get beyond the 2005/06 group stage and also finishing as Premier League runners-up, Sir Alex hit the heights again with the 2006/07 league crown. This was retained in the following campaign before United defeated Chelsea FC in Moscow to claim the UEFA Champions League for the third time in their history.

Villarreal CF: Manuel Pellegrini

Date of birth: 16 September 1953

Nationality: Chilean

Playing career: Universidad de Chile

Coaching career: Universidad de Chile, CD Palestino (three times), Chile (Under-20s), CD O'Higgins, Universidad Católica, Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Quito), Atlético San Lorenzo de Almagro, CA River Plate, Villarreal CF

Chilean Manuel Pellegrini was chosen to replace Benito Floro after the latter's resignation from Villarreal CF in February 2004, but had to wait three months before assuming control of first-team affairs as Floro's assistant Francisco García took charge for the remainder of that season. Pellegrini is a much-travelled coach enjoying his first stint in Europe. He coached nine clubs in Chile, Ecuador and Argentina, including Buenos Aires giants CA River Plate, before being lured across the Atlantic.

Pellegrini proved highly successful, guiding the club to a fourth-place finish in the 2004/05 Spanish Liga to earn UEFA Champions League qualification for the first time. Villarreal also reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup having won the UEFA Intertoto Cup for the second successive year in summer 2004. His gift lay in getting the best from players who had failed to hit the heights at their previous clubs. Juan Román Riquelme and Diego Forlán, disappointing at FC Barcelona and Manchester United FC respectively, both flourished during their spells at El Madrigal, the latter finishing as Spain's leading scorer in 2004/05 with 25 goals.

Villarreal beat Everton FC to reach the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League group stage and finished above Manchester United FC to progress to the knockout rounds, where they defeated Rangers FC and FC Internazionale Milano before falling to Arsenal FC in the semi-finals. That season, they ended seventh in Spain, and fifth the following campaign, but in 2007/08 Pellegrini led Villarreal to a club-best second place in the the standings, above Barcelona, meaning a UEFA Champions League return.

Match officials

Referee	Wolfgang Stark (GER)
Assistant referees	Jan-Hendrik Salver (GER), Volker Wezel (GER)
Fourth official	Lutz Wagner (GER)
UEFA Delegate	Metin Kazancioğlu (TUR)
UEFA Referee observer	Zdravko Jokic (SRB)

Referee

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	UCL	UEFA
Wolfgang Stark	GER	20.11.1969	23	46

Wolfgang Stark's ambition is to follow in the footsteps of compatriot Markus Merk and reach the top of the European refereeing tree. Hailing from Landshut in Bavaria, bank employee Stark has been a German Football Association referee since 1994. He took charge of 53 matches in the 2. Bundesliga before stepping up to the top flight in 1997. Two years later he became a FIFA official, overseeing his first international in March 2001, a goalless draw between Azerbaijan and Moldova.

Two early career highlights came in 1999 when he was selected to travel to the FIFA U-17 World Cup in New Zealand and the UEFA European Under-18 Championship in Sweden. Stark also spent a valuable month refereeing in Japan's J-League in September 2001. Stark was a regular in qualifying for both the 2006 FIFA World Cup, ending with the France-Cyprus tie, and UEFA EURO 2008™, when he took charge of five matches including the Group C game between Greece and Turkey in 2007.

Stark has been in the middle for top domestic fixtures too, with Bayer 04 Leverkusen's match with FC Schalke 04 in 2004 among his personal favourites to date. Other key games he has overseen include England's FIFA World Cup qualifying win against Northern Ireland in Manchester in March 2005, and Olympique Lyonnais' 2-2 group-stage tussle with Manchester United FC in the 2004/05 UEFA Champions League. He continues to earn a number of high profile appointments, including the 2005/06 first knockout round first-leg duel between AFC Ajax and FC Internazionale Milano, and took charge of three UEFA Champions League matches in 2007/08.

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
14.08.2002	UCL	QR3	Zalaegerszegi TE - Manchester United FC	1-0	Budapest
18.02.2003	UCL	GS2	AS Roma - Valencia CF	0-1	Rome
16.09.2003	UCL	GS1	Real Madrid CF - Olympique de Marseille	4-2	Madrid
25.11.2003	UCL	GS1	FC Internazionale Milano - Arsenal FC	1-5	Milan
15.09.2004	UCL	GS	Olympique Lyonnais - Manchester United FC	2-2	Lyon
03.11.2004	UCL	GS	RC Deportivo La Coruña - Liverpool FC	0-1	La Coruna
23.08.2005	UCL	QR3	Liverpool FC - PFC CSKA Sofia	0-1	Liverpool
13.09.2005	UCL	GS	Chelsea FC - RSC Anderlecht	1-0	London
18.10.2005	UCL	GS	AC Sparta Praha - Arsenal FC	0-2	Prague
01.11.2005	UCL	GS	Rosenborg BK - Real Madrid CF	0-2	Trondheim
09.08.2006	UCL	QR3	Liverpool FC - Maccabi Haifa FC	2-1	Liverpool
13.09.2006	UCL	GS	Olympique Lyonnais - Real Madrid CF	2-0	Lyon
01.11.2006	UCL	GS	FC København - Manchester United FC	1-0	Copenhagen
06.03.2007	UCL	1/8	Valencia CF - FC Internazionale Milano	0-0	Valencia
28.08.2007	UCL	QR3	Liverpool FC - Toulouse FC	4-0	Liverpool

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
06.03.1999	U16	QR	Scotland - Spain	0-1	Ta' Qali
21.10.1999	UCUP	R2	Leeds United AFC - FC Lokomotiv Moskva	4-1	Leeds
01.08.2001	UIC	SF	Aston Villa FC - Stade Rennais FC	1-0	Birmingham
12.12.2002	UCUP	R3	Liverpool FC - BV Vitesse	1-0	Liverpool
11.06.2003	EURO	QR	England - Slovakia	2-1	Middlesbrough
11.03.2004	UCUP	R4	Celtic FC - FC Barcelona	1-0	Glasgow
20.03.2005	UCUP	1/8	Villarreal CF - FC Steaua București	2-0	Villarreal
26.03.2005	WC	QR	England - Northern Ireland	4-0	Manchester
09.03.2006	UCUP	1/8	LOSC Lille Métropole - Sevilla FC	1-0	Villeneuve d'Ascq
08.09.2007	EURO	QR	Iceland - Spain	1-1	Reykjavik

Domestic information

Manchester United FC (Premier League)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
Cup	10/08/08	Portsmouth FC (H)	0-0	
League	17/08/08	Newcastle United FC (H)	1-1	Fletcher 24
Lineups: Van der Sar, Brown, Vidić, Ferdinand, Evra, Fletcher, Carrick (O'Shea 25), Scholes, Giggs (Possebon 63), Campbell (Da Silva 80), Rooney				
League	25/08/08	Portsmouth FC (A)	1-0	Fletcher 32
Lineups: Van der Sar, Brown, Ferdinand, Vidić, O'Shea, Fletcher, Anderson (Possebon 76), Scholes, Evra, Rooney, Tévez				
League	13/09/08	Liverpool FC (A)	1-2	Tévez 3
Lineups: Van der Sar, Brown, Ferdinand, Vidić, Evra, Rooney, Scholes (Hargreaves 66), Carrick (Giggs 46), Anderson (Nani 78), Tévez, Berbatov				
League	21/09/08	Chelsea FC (A)		
League	27/09/08	Bolton Wanderers FC (H)		
League	04/10/08	Blackburn Rovers FC (A)		
League	18/10/08	West Bromwich Albion FC (H)		
League	25/10/08	Everton FC (A)		
League	29/10/08	West Ham United FC (H)		
League	01/11/08	Hull City AFC (H)		
League	08/11/08	Arsenal FC (A)		
League	15/11/08	Stoke City FC (H)		
League	22/11/08	Aston Villa FC (A)		
League	30/11/08	Manchester City FC (A)		
League	06/12/08	Sunderland AFC (H)		
League	13/12/08	Tottenham Hotspur FC (A)		
League	20/12/08	Wigan Athletic FC (H)		
League	26/12/08	Stoke City FC (A)		
League	28/12/08	Middlesbrough FC (H)		
League	10/01/09	Chelsea FC (H)		
League	17/01/09	Bolton Wanderers FC (A)		
League	27/01/09	West Bromwich Albion FC (A)		
League	31/01/09	Everton FC (H)		

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

Manchester United FC - Villarreal CF

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Villarreal CF (Primera División)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	31/08/08	CA Osasuna (A)	1-1	Senna 54
Lineups: Diego López, Gonzalo Rodríguez, Diego Godín, Capdevila, Eguren, Santi Cazorla, Guille Franco (Matías Fernández 66), Ariel Ibagaza (Fabricio Fuentes 71), Joseba Llorente, Javi Venta, Senna				
League	14/09/08	RC Deportivo La Coruña (H)	1-0	Santi Cazorla 27
Lineups: Diego López, Gonzalo Rodríguez, Edmílson, Capdevila, Santi Cazorla, Guille Franco (Altidore 46), Ariel Ibagaza (Pirès 67), Joseba Llorente (Cani 80), Javi Venta, Senna, Fabricio Fuentes				
League	21/09/08	CD Numancia (A)		
League	24/09/08	Real Racing Club Santander (H)		
League	28/09/08	Sporting Gijón (A)		
League	05/10/08	Real Betis Balompié (H)		
League	19/10/08	RCD Espanyol (A)		
League	26/10/08	Club Atlético de Madrid (H)		
League	02/11/08	Athletic Club Bilbao (A)		
League	09/11/08	UD Almería (H)		
League	16/11/08	Málaga CF (A)		
League	23/11/08	Real Valladolid CF (H)		
League	30/11/08	RC Recreativo de Huelva (A)		
League	07/12/08	Getafe CF (H)		
League	14/12/08	Sevilla FC (A)		
League	21/12/08	FC Barcelona (H)		
League	04/01/09	Real Madrid CF (A)		
League	11/01/09	Valencia CF (A)		
League	18/01/09	RCD Mallorca (H)		
League	25/01/09	CA Osasuna (H)		
League	01/02/09	RC Deportivo La Coruña (A)		
League	08/02/09	CD Numancia (H)		

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

UEFA information

Elite Coaches Forum

UEFA has given Europe's top club coaches another unique opportunity to come together and exchange views with the governing body on the state of the European game at a gathering in Nyon, Switzerland. The UEFA Elite Coaches Forum celebrated its tenth anniversary with discussions on tactical and technical trends, the evolution of the European club competitions, the leadership role of the modern coach, how coaches cope with the demands of the high-pressure game today and their relationship with match officials. "It's a short but very intense gathering. Twenty-three top coaches were here, a fantastic turnout from our point of view," said UEFA technical director Andy Roxburgh. "UEFA respects them and listens to what they say, and there are many things that UEFA has taken on board [over the years]."

EURO example

UEFA hopes that the UEFA Champions League season will carry on in the same spirit that marked UEFA EURO 2008™ in Austria and Switzerland in June. At the UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco, UEFA General Secretary David Taylor recalled the attitude of players, supporters and officials at the EURO tournament, which heartened European football's governing body as it strives to promote the idea of respect throughout football. Congratulating the 32 clubs that have qualified for the UEFA Champions League group phase, Mr Taylor said: "The new European club football season comes hot on the heels of a hugely successful European Championship, where the spirit of both respect and fair play were seen both on and off the field. I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to ask all the clubs, players and officials to continue in that spirit for the season."

Only a Game? exhibition

Fans from across the globe will be able to get close to some of football's most coveted trophies at the ground-breaking Only a Game? exhibition which opens in Liverpool next month. The UEFA Champions League trophy, the UEFA Cup and the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup will all be on display at the interactive exhibition in the World Museum Liverpool. While providing a traditional museum experience, the exhibition also aims to provoke visitors into considering the social and cultural impact of the planet's most popular sport. The exhibition, which will run from 11 October to 1 March 2009, has been organised by UEFA in conjunction with the Northwest Development Agency, the National Football Museum and National Museums Liverpool to mark the city's year as 2008 European Capital of Culture.

Charity cheque

As ambassador for the European Leukodystrophy Association (ELA), Zinedine Zidane accepted a cheque from UEFA for CHF1m (€619,000) during the draw for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League in Monaco. At the start of each season UEFA donates CHF1m to a charitable or humanitarian cause. "It is a major contribution by UEFA and an important help for the association I have been sponsoring for the past eight years," Zidane told uefa.com. "I believe we have made good progress and ELA is lucky to receive a cheque from UEFA and its president Michel Platini." Leukodystrophies are rare genetic diseases, and UEFA's donation will help support a four-year project developing a European information and exchange network.

Support for referees

Europe's top referees and assistant referees have been urged by UEFA to carry on the good work this season and build on the positive results from UEFA EURO 2008™. The annual UEFA summer gathering for its leading match officials was an ideal platform for European football's governing body to give a resounding thumbs-up to the referees, assistants and fourth officials who played a crucial role in nurturing the theme of respect UEFA is striving to promote among players, referees, officials and spectators. "I want to congratulate the 12 referees, 24 assistant referees and eight fourth officials who were at the EURO tournament," said Referee Committee member Volker Roth, who added that the officials had stood up to the challenge of replacing recently retired elite referees. "We had no Pierluigi Collina, Anders Frisk or Markus Merk, but you responded, your performances were great, and we are proud. We ask you to keep up this high level of performance."

Match-by-match lineups

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Aalborg BK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester United FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Villarreal CF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Celtic FC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
17.09.2008	Man. United - Villarreal	-	Old Trafford, Manchester
17.09.2008	Celtic - AaB	-	Celtic Park, Glasgow
30.09.2008	AaB - Man. United	-	Aalborg, Aalborg
30.09.2008	Villarreal - Celtic	-	El Madrigal, Villarreal
21.10.2008	Villarreal - AaB	-	El Madrigal, Villarreal
21.10.2008	Man. United - Celtic	-	Old Trafford, Manchester
05.11.2008	AaB - Villarreal	-	Aalborg, Aalborg
05.11.2008	Celtic - Man. United	-	Celtic Park, Glasgow
25.11.2008	Villarreal - Man. United	-	El Madrigal, Villarreal
25.11.2008	AaB - Celtic	-	Aalborg, Aalborg
10.12.2008	Man. United - AaB	-	Old Trafford, Manchester
10.12.2008	Celtic - Villarreal	-	Celtic Park, Glasgow

Competition facts

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

Holders Manchester United FC are hoping 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 became the oldest player to compete in the UEFA Champions League in 2007/08 when he featured against Olympiacos CFP on Matchday 1 at the age of 43 years and 168 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. Ballotta was aged 43 years 252 days when he featured against Real Madrid CF on Matchday 6.

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 Bucureşti 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. Six other teams have gone through a single group stage campaign without picking up a point: FC Dynamo Kyiv (2007/08), SK Rapid Wien (2005/06) and RSC Anderlecht (2004/05) plus FC Spartak Moskva and Bayer 04 Leverkusen (2002/03, first and second group stage respectively) and Fenerbahçe SK (2001/02, first group stage).

Dynamo also conceded 19 goals in their six outings in 2007/08, equalling the record let in during a group stage set by Ferencvárosi TC 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 1999/2000 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.

Last updated: 01.09.2008

Team facts

Manchester United FC

UEFA club competition milestones

• United have been crowned champions of Europe three times, having defeated English Premier League rivals Chelsea FC on penalties in the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League final. United also won the competition in 1998/99, overturning a one-goal deficit against FC Bayern München with goals from Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjær in added time, and in 1967/68, running out 4-1 winners over SL Benfica after extra time.

UEFA Champions League milestones

• No club has taken part more times than United (14), although FC Porto also share this achievement. United's first entry came in 1994/95 and they last missed out in 1995/96, meaning this is their 13th campaign in a row. No team is on as good a run, with Real Madrid CF, Olympiacos CFP and PSV Eindhoven (12) their closest rivals.

UEFA club competition honours

- European Champion Clubs' Cup: 1967/68, 1998/99, 2007/08
- UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1990/91
- European/South American Cup: 1999
- UEFA Super Cup: 1991

Ten-year record (including current season)

- 2007/08:** UEFA Champions League – winners
- 2006/07:** UEFA Champions League – semi-finals
- 2005/06:** UEFA Champions League – group stage
- 2004/05:** UEFA Champions League – first knockout round
- 2003/04:** UEFA Champions League – first knockout round
- 2002/03:** UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
- 2001/02:** UEFA Champions League – semi-finals
- 2000/01:** UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
- 1999/00:** UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
- 1998/99:** UEFA Champions League – winners

2007/08 season

Domestic record: United retained the title by two points from Chelsea on the final day of the Premier League season, having also finished one place above the London club the previous campaign. It was their tenth championship since the Premier League began in 1992. In all-time records since 1889, United have 17 titles, just one fewer than Liverpool FC. They were knocked out of the FA Cup at Old Trafford in the quarter-final 1-0 by eventual winners Portsmouth FC.

European record: United won five of their six Group F matches to finish five points clear of AS Roma at the summit. They then completed a narrow 2-1 aggregate triumph over Olympique Lyonnais in the first knockout round before meeting Roma in the quarter-finals for the second consecutive season, prevailing 3-0 overall. A lone Paul Scholes goal was enough to see off the challenge of FC Barcelona over two legs in the semi-final, to send United through to a final against Chelsea which they won 6-5 on penalties after a 1-1 draw over 120 minutes.

Records

UEFA club competition

- Biggest win
10-0: Manchester United FC v RSC Anderlecht
26.09.1956, European Champion Clubs' Cup preliminary round second leg
- Biggest home win
10-0: Manchester United FC v RSC Anderlecht (see above for details)
- Biggest away win
0-6: Shamrock Rovers FC v Manchester United FC
25.09.1957, European Champion Clubs' Cup preliminary round first leg

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- Heaviest defeat

5-0: Sporting Clube de Portugal v Manchester United FC
18.03.1964, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals second leg

- Heaviest home defeat

0-1: Manchester United FC v AC Milan
23.02.2005, UEFA Champions League first knockout round first leg

2-3: Manchester United FC v RC Deportivo La Coruña
17.10.2001, UEFA Champions League first group stage

0-1: Manchester United FC v FC Bayern München
03.04.2001, UEFA Champions League quarter-finals first leg

2-3: Manchester United FC v Real Madrid CF
19.04.2000, UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg

0-1: Manchester United FC v BV Borussia Dortmund
23.04.1997, UEFA Champions League semi-final second leg

0-1: Manchester United FC v Juventus
20.11.1996, UEFA Champions League group stage

0-1: Manchester United FC v Fenerbahçe SK
30.10.1996, UEFA Champions League group stage

- Heaviest away defeat

5-0: Sporting Clube de Portugal v Manchester United FC (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

- Biggest win

7-1: Manchester United FC v AS Roma
10.04.2007, UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg

- Biggest home win

7-1: Manchester United FC v AS Roma (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

2-6: Brøndby IF v Manchester United FC
21.10.1998, UEFA Champions League group stage

- Heaviest defeat

4-0: FC Barcelona v Manchester United FC
02.11.1994, UEFA Champions League group stage

- Heaviest home defeat

0-1: Manchester United FC v AC Milan (see above for details)
2-3: Manchester United FC v RC Deportivo La Coruña (see above for details)

0-1: Manchester United FC v FC Bayern München (see above for details)

2-3: Manchester United FC v Real Madrid CF (see above for details)

0-1: Manchester United FC v BV Borussia Dortmund (see above for details)

0-1: Manchester United FC v Juventus (see above for details)

0-1: Manchester United FC v Fenerbahçe SK (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat

4-0: FC Barcelona v Manchester United FC (see above for details)

Last updated: 01.09.2008

Villarreal CF

UEFA club competition milestones

• Villarreal hold the distinction of reaching the finals of the UEFA Intertoto Cup in three successive seasons from 2002 to 2004, winning two and losing one. Their crowning European achievement saw them reach the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League semi-finals where they lost to Arsenal FC 1-0 over two legs.

UEFA Champions League milestones

• Villarreal marked their debut campaign in some style by reaching the semi-finals in 2005/06 where they were eliminated 1-0 by Arsenal FC on aggregate having disposed of FC Internazionale Milano on away goals in the previous round.

UEFA club competition honours

• UEFA Intertoto Cup: 2003, 2004

Ten-year record

2007/08: UEFA Cup – Round of 32

2006/07: UEFA Intertoto Cup – third round

2005/06: UEFA Champions League – semi-finals

2004/05: UEFA Cup – quarter-finals (having qualified as a UEFA Intertoto Cup winner)

2003/04: UEFA Cup – semi-finals (having qualified as a UEFA Intertoto Cup winner)

2002/03: UEFA Intertoto Cup – finalist

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

2007/08 season

Domestic record: Villarreal achieved their highest Primera División finish of second place, ten points behind Real Madrid CF but the same number above third-placed FC Barcelona. The Catalan club did, however, knock Villarreal out of the Copa del Rey in the quarter-finals 1-0 on aggregate.

European record: The Yellow Submarine comfortably overcame FC BATE Borisov 6-1 on aggregate in the UEFA Cup first round to take their place in the group stage. They then topped Group C, winning three and drawing one of their four matches to finish two points ahead of runners-up ACF Fiorentina and five clear of AEK Athens FC. Their interest was ended in the Round of 32 by eventual winners FC Zenit St. Petersburg on away goals.

Records

UEFA club competitions

• Biggest win

4-0: Villarreal CF 4-0 Egaleo FC

15.12.2004, UEFA Cup group stage

• Biggest home win

4-0: Villarreal CF v Egaleo FC (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-3: Odense BK v Villarreal CF

03.07.2004, UEFA Intertoto Cup second round first leg

0-3: ES Troyes Aube Champagne v Villarreal CF

07.08.2002, UEFA Intertoto Cup semi-finals second leg

• Heaviest defeat

2-0: Club Atlético de Madrid v Villarreal CF

24.08.2004, UEFA Intertoto Cup finals second leg

2-0: Torino Calcio v Villarreal CF

21.07.2002, UEFA Intertoto Cup third round first leg

• Heaviest home defeat

1-2: Villarreal CF v NK Maribor

15.07.2006, UEFA Intertoto Cup third round first leg

1-2: Villarreal CF v AZ Alkmaar

07.04.2005, UEFA Cup quarter-finals first leg

0-1: Villarreal CF v Málaga CF

13.08.2002, UEFA Intertoto Cup finals first leg

Manchester United FC - Villarreal CF

MATCH PRESS KIT

Wednesday 17 September 2008 - 20.45 CET

Old Trafford, Manchester

- Heaviest away defeat

2-0: Club Atlético de Madrid v Villarreal CF (see above for details)

2-0: Torino Calcio v Villarreal CF (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

- Biggest win

0-1: SL Benfica v Villarreal CF

02.11.2005, UEFA Champions League group stage

1-0: Villarreal CF v LOSC Lille Métropole

07.12.2005, UEFA Champions League group stage

1-0: Villarreal CF v FC Internazionale Milano

04.04.2006, UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg

- Biggest home win

1-0: Villarreal CF v LOSC Lille Métropole (see above for details)

1-0: Villarreal CF v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

0-1: SL Benfica v Villarreal CF (see above for details)

- Heaviest defeat

2-1: FC Internazionale Milano v Villarreal CF

29.03.2006, UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg

- Heaviest home defeat

N/A

- Heaviest away defeat

2-1: FC Internazionale Milano v Villarreal CF (see above for details)

Last updated: 22.07.2008

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.

:: 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.

Current season - League: Total league appearances based on the date press kit was last updated

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

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

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

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

U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship

U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship • **U16:** UEFA European Under-16 Championship

U19: UEFA 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

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