

Manchester United FC v SL Benfica

Old Trafford - Manchester
Tuesday, 27 September 2005 - 20:45 (CET)
Group stage - Group D - Matchday 2



Match officials

Referee	Luboš Michel (SVK)
Assistant referees	Marian Ruzbarsky (SVK), Roman Slysko (SVK)
Fourth official	Miroslav Richtarik (SVK)
UEFA Delegate	Petr Fousek (CZE)
UEFA Referee observer	Mario Van Der Ende (HOL)

Match background

United and Benfica meet again

Manchester United FC play old rivals SL Benfica at Old Trafford in a match that conjures up thoughts of past epic encounters between the clubs. United hope to build on a solid performance at Villarreal CF in their opening game, and meet Benfica, who are the early group leaders and scored the only goal of Matchday 1 in the group, in the second minute of added time through Fabrizio Miccoli against LOSC Lille Métropole.

Memories of 1968: When the draw pitted United and Benfica together in Group D, it immediately provoked memories of the 1967/68 European Champion Clubs' Cup final at Wembley when United became the first English team to win the competition with a 4-1 victory after extra time.

The final was brought to life after 53 minutes with Bobby Charlton's opening goal, but Benfica hit back through midfield player Jaime Graça to take the game into extra time. Here United proved dominant and three goals in seven minutes in the first additional period from George Best, Brian Kidd and Charlton gave United the trophy.

Previous meeting: The teams had previously met two seasons before United's Wembley triumph. In the quarter-final of the 1965/66 edition of the Champion Clubs' Cup, Benfica had put themselves in the position of marginal favourites after losing the first leg only 3-2 at Old Trafford. Though David Herd, Denis Law and Bill Foulkes had countered José Augusto's early goal, a late strike from José Torres narrowed the gap in favour of Benfica for the return.

But at the Estádio da Luz, United found scintillating form in the opening 15 minutes. George Best, in a display rated by critics as his finest in a United shirt, scored twice and John Connelly added a third. Although Seamus Brennan gave Benfica consolation with an own goal, Paddy Crerand and Bobby Charlton sealed a 5-1 win and an 8-3 aggregate success, although the English side went on to lose to FK Partizan in the semi-finals.

Six wins from six: United have been in fine form in home games against Portuguese clubs, until their last meeting. On the first six occasions that a Portuguese club visited Manchester, they found United in fine goalscoring fettle with six wins and a goal difference of 23-6.

First defeat by Portuguese side: However, on the last occasion that United faced Portuguese opposition in the first knockout round of the 2003/04 UEFA Champions League, United came up against FC Porto and the wily José Mourinho, who won the first leg in Portugal 2-1. At Old Trafford, Paul Scholes gave the home side the advantage on away goals, only for Costinha to pop up with a goal in the 90th minute to end United's dreams.

Seven defeats from first seven: Benfica did not enjoy any success in their first seven visits to England, losing all seven with a goal difference of 6-20. But their last trip to England's shores for their 1991/92 Champion Clubs' Cup second round second-leg match at Arsenal FC enabled them to break the sequence. Two goals from Izaías Marques Soares and another from Vassili Kulkov saw Benfica home 3-1 after extra time and 4-2 on aggregate.

MILESTONES

Eleventh season: This is United's eleventh season in the Champions League, a record shared with Porto, and this is their tenth season in succession, also a record.

Last campaign missed: The last Champions League season missed by United was in 1995/96 when



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champions Blackburn Rovers FC were England's sole representatives.

First home defeat in 21: United lost their last home game in the competition – to a Hernán Crespo goal for AC Milan in the first leg of first knockout round last season. Before that United's previous 20 home games in the Champions League had yielded 16 wins and four draws.

Without a goal in four games: United have not scored a goal or won any of their last four games in the competition. They signed off from the group stage last season with a 3-0 defeat at Fenerbahçe SK, then lost both first knockout round games 1-0 to Milan, before opening this season with a 0-0 draw with Villarreal CF.

Goalscoring run: Prior to this run United had scored a goal in 40 of their last 45 Champions League games.

Third season involved: Benfica return to the Champions League for the first time since the 1998/99 season, and for their third season overall.

One defeat in six matches: The Portuguese champions have lost only one of their last six Champions League games, at HJK Helsinki in 1998/99, their last away defeat in the competition.

Three away defeats: Benfica have lost three of their 15 games overall in the competition with six wins and six draws. All three defeats have been on their travels.

All-time statistics

Head-to-head record

Date	Competition	Stage	Match	Res	Venue
02.02.1966	UCL	QF	Man. United - Benfica	3-2	Manchester
09.03.1966	UCL	QF	Benfica - Man. United	1-5	Lisbon
29.05.1968	UCL	F	Man. United - Benfica	4-1	London

Overall record

Manchester United FC	Pld: 3, W: 3, D: 0, L: 0, GS: 12, GA: 4
SL Benfica	Pld: 3, W: 0, D: 0, L: 3, GS: 4, GA: 12

Home team's record versus clubs from the away team's country

Date	Competition	Stage	Match	Res	Venue
26.02.1964	UCWC	QF	Man. United - Sporting	4-1	Manchester
18.03.1964	UCWC	QF	Sporting - Man. United	5-0	Lisbon
02.02.1966	UCL	QF	Man. United - Benfica	3-2	Manchester
09.03.1966	UCL	QF	Benfica - Man. United	1-5	Lisbon
29.05.1968	UCL	F	Man. United - Benfica	4-1	London
19.10.1977	UCWC	R2	Porto - Man. United	4-0	Porto
02.11.1977	UCWC	R2	Man. United - Porto	5-2	Manchester
05.03.1997	UCL	QF	Man. United - Porto	4-0	Manchester
19.03.1997	UCL	QF	Porto - Man. United	0-0	Porto
05.12.2001	UCL	GS2	Man. United - Boavista	3-0	Manchester
19.03.2002	UCL	GS2	Boavista - Man. United	0-3	Porto
25.02.2004	UCL	1/8	Porto - Man. United	2-1	Porto
09.03.2004	UCL	1/8	Man. United - Porto	1-1	Manchester

Overall record

Manchester United FC	Pld: 13, W: 8, D: 2, L: 3, GS: 33, GA: 19
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Away team's record versus clubs from the home team's country

Date	Competition	Stage	Match	Res	Venue
21.03.1962	UCL	SF	Benfica - Tottenham	3-1	Lisbon
05.04.1962	UCL	SF	Tottenham - Benfica	2-1	London
02.02.1966	UCL	QF	Man. United - Benfica	3-2	Manchester
09.03.1966	UCL	QF	Benfica - Man. United	1-5	Lisbon
29.05.1968	UCL	F	Man. United - Benfica	4-1	London
25.10.1972	UCL	R2	Derby - Benfica	3-0	Derby
08.11.1972	UCL	R2	Benfica - Derby	0-0	Lisbon
01.03.1978	UCL	QF	Benfica - Liverpool	1-2	Lisbon
15.03.1978	UCL	QF	Liverpool - Benfica	4-1	Liverpool
07.03.1984	UCL	QF	Liverpool - Benfica	1-0	Liverpool
21.03.1984	UCL	QF	Benfica - Liverpool	1-4	Lisbon
24.10.1984	UCL	R2	Liverpool - Benfica	3-1	Liverpool

07.11.1984	UCL	R2	Benfica - Liverpool	1-0	Lisbon
23.10.1991	UCL	R2	Benfica - Arsenal	1-1	Lisbon
06.11.1991	UCL	R2	Arsenal - Benfica	1-3	London

Overall record

SL Benfica Pld: 15, W: 3, D: 2, L: 10, GS: 17, GA: 34

Record in Europe**Manchester United FC**

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
European Champions Clubs' Cup / UEFA Champions League	163	90	39	34	326	164
UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	31	16	9	6	55	35
UEFA Cup	20	6	11	3	19	16
UEFA Super Cup	2	1	0	1	1	1
UEFA Intertoto Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	216	113	59	44	401	216

SL Benfica

	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
European Champions Clubs' Cup / UEFA Champions League	154	75	35	44	294	166
UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	42	21	13	8	67	34
UEFA Cup	64	30	17	17	97	72
UEFA Super Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0
UEFA Intertoto Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	260	126	65	69	458	272

Players list

Manchester United FC

Num	Player	DoB	Pos	Nat	Current Season				All-time			
					UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
					Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers												
1	Tim Howard	06.03.79	GK	USA	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	0
19	Edwin van der Sar	29.10.70	GK	NED	3	0	6	0	47	0	89	0
30	Luke Steele	24.09.84	GK	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Thomas Lee	03.01.86	GK	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders												
2	Gary Neville	18.02.75	DF	ENG	2	0	2	0	96	2	100	2
4	Gabriel Heinze	19.04.78	DF	ARG	2	2	4	0	9	2	23	3
5	Rio Ferdinand	07.11.78	DF	ENG	3	0	6	0	32	1	48	1
6	Wes Brown	13.10.79	DF	ENG	1	0	0	0	38	1	38	1
22	John O'Shea	30.04.81	DF	IRL	2	0	6	0	33	0	33	0
26	Phil Bardsley	28.06.85	DF	ENG	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
27	Mikaël Silvestre	09.08.77	DF	FRA	2	0	6	0	66	2	67	2
28	Gerard Piqué	02.02.87	DF	ESP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
44	Adam Eckersley	07.09.85	DF	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Jonny Evans	03.01.88	DF	NIR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midfielders												
13	Ji-Sung Park	25.02.81	MD	KOR	2	0	6	0	20	2	25	2
16	Roy Keane	10.08.71	MD	IRL	1	0	5	0	80	14	84	15
17	Liam Miller	13.02.81	MD	IRL	1	0	0	0	16	3	21	3
18	Paul Scholes	16.11.74	MD	ENG	3	0	6	0	86	19	90	20
23	Kieran Richardson	21.10.84	MD	ENG	2	1	4	0	9	1	9	1
24	Darren Fletcher	01.02.84	MD	SCO	3	0	6	0	16	0	16	0
25	Quinton Fortune	21.05.77	MD	RSA	0	0	0	0	28	2	28	2
45	David Fox	13.12.83	MD	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Lee Martin	09.02.87	MD	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	Richard Jones	26.09.86	MD	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forwards												
7	Cristiano Ronaldo	05.02.85	FW	POR	3	1	4	0	17	1	19	1
8	Wayne Rooney	24.10.85	FW	ENG	2	1	6	2	8	4	8	4
9	Louis Saha	08.08.78	FW	FRA	0	0	0	0	5	0	26	9
10	Ruud van Nistelrooij	01.07.76	FW	NED	3	1	6	5	57	46	61	46
11	Ryan Giggs	29.11.73	FW	WAL	2	0	3	0	94	22	100	22
14	Alan Smith	28.10.80	FW	ENG	3	0	6	0	24	9	43	16
20	Ole Gunnar Solskjær	26.02.73	FW	NOR	0	0	0	0	75	19	81	22
40	Sylvan Ebanks-Blake	29.03.86	FW	ENG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Giuseppe Rossi	01.02.87	FW	ITA	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

Coach: Alex Ferguson (SCO)

Statistics include qualifying rounds for all UEFA club competition. (ECCC/UCL - ECWC - UCUP - SCUP - UIC - EUSA)

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Players list

SL Benfica

Num	Player	DoB	Pos	Nat	Current Season				All-time			
					UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
					Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers												
1	José Moreira	20.03.82	GK	POR	1	0	5	0	3	0	15	0
12	Quim	13.11.75	GK	POR	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
24	Bruno Costa	28.08.86	GK	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	Rui Nereu	04.02.86	GK	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders												
3	Anderson	27.04.80	DF	BRA	1	0	5	0	1	0	1	0
4	Luisão	13.02.81	DF	BRA	1	0	5	0	2	0	14	0
5	Léo	06.07.75	DF	BRA	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
13	Alcides	13.03.85	DF	BRA	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0
18	Manuel Dos Santos	28.03.74	DF	FRA	0	0	1	0	2	0	37	2
22	Nélson	10.06.83	DF	CPV	1	0	4	0	1	0	1	0
25	Tiago Gomes	29.07.86	DF	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
27	João Pereira	25.02.84	DF	POR	0	0	4	0	1	0	14	1
33	Ricardo Rocha	03.10.78	DF	POR	1	0	0	0	5	0	17	0
42	Ricardo Nunes	18.06.86	DF	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Tiago Costa	22.04.85	DF	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midfielders												
6	Petit	25.09.76	MD	POR	1	0	0	0	14	0	29	0
7	Carlitos	06.09.82	MD	POR	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
8	Bruno Aguiar	24.02.81	MD	POR	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0
14	Manuel Fernandes	05.02.86	MD	POR	1	0	5	0	2	0	12	0
15	Nuno Assis	25.11.77	MD	POR	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0
16	Beto	20.11.76	MD	BRA	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
17	Andrei Kariaka	01.04.78	MD	RUS	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1
26	Fernando Alexandre	02.08.85	MD	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Hélio Roque	20.07.85	MD	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	João Coimbra	24.05.86	MD	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Luís Zambujo	29.09.86	MD	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Manuel Curto	09.07.86	MD	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forwards												
9	Mantorras	18.03.82	FW	ANG	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
10	Georgios Karagounis	06.03.77	FW	GRE	1	0	1	0	34	4	52	4
11	Geovanni	11.01.80	FW	BRA	1	0	4	0	19	1	31	1
20	Simão	31.10.79	FW	POR	1	0	5	2	20	1	40	6
21	Nuno Gomes	05.07.76	FW	POR	1	0	5	5	8	7	39	18
30	Fabrizio Miccoli	27.06.79	FW	ITA	1	1	3	0	8	2	10	4
35	João Vilela	09.09.85	FW	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Vasco Firmino	26.07.84	FW	POR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Coach: Ronald Koeman (HOL)

Statistics include qualifying rounds for all UEFA club competition. (ECCC/UCL - ECWC - UCUP - SCUP - UIC - EUSA)

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Group D

Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
SL Benfica	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Manchester United FC	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Villarreal CF	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
LOSC Lille Métropole	1	0	0	1	0	1	0


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Pld Matches played **W** Won **D** Drawn **L** Lost **GF** Goals for **GA** Goals against **Pts** Points

Villarreal	0 - 0	Man. United
Benfica	1 - 0	Lille
Lille	27/09	Villarreal
Man. United	27/09	Benfica
Man. United	18/10	Lille
Villarreal	18/10	Benfica
Lille	02/11	Man. United
Benfica	02/11	Villarreal
Man. United	22/11	Villarreal
Lille	22/11	Benfica
Villarreal	07/12	Lille
Benfica	07/12	Man. United

Booking List - 2005

Group D

Qualification phases	Group Stage 1 - Matchdays						
	Y or R	1	2	3	4	5	6
LOSC LILLE METROPOLE							
CABAYE Yohan	Y						
GYGAX Daniel	Y						
PLESTAN Nicolas	Y						
VITAKIC Milivoje							
VILLARREAL CF							
FONT ROMERO Héctor	Y						
GONZALO	Y						
ROMERO POYON José Maria							
MANCHESTER UNITED FC							
RICHARDSON Kieran	Y						
ROONEY Wayne	R						
SMITH Alan	Y						
SL BENFICA							
ROCHA Ricardo	Y						

Y Booked R sent off  suspension ### suspension for at least 1 match * misses next match if booked

Note: this list is destined for the press. It is given to the competing clubs for information purposes only and therefore has no legal value. In the event of any discrepancy, only the correspondence addressed directly to the clubs will be considered as the authoritative version.

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Line-ups

Manchester United FC

Num.	Player	QF1		QF2		QF3		Group Phase						KN		QF		SF		
		1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	MD1	MD2	MD3	MD4	MD5	MD6	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	F
Goalkeepers																				
19	Edwin van der Sar	0	0	0	0	90	90	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Luke Steele	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Tim Howard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
48	Thomas Lee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defenders																				
2	Gary Neville	0	0	0	0	90	16(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Wes Brown	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Rio Ferdinand	0	0	0	0	90	90	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Mikaël Silvestre	0	0	0	0	90	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	John O'Shea	0	0	0	0	90	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Gabriel Heinze	0	0	0	0	0	90	33(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44	Adam Eckersley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Phil Bardsley	0	0	0	0	0	44(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Gerard Piqué	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
47	Jonny Evans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Midfielders																				
16	Roy Keane	0	0	0	0	67(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Paul Scholes	0	0	0	0	90	46(-)	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Quinton Fortune	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Liam Miller	0	0	0	0	23(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Darren Fletcher	0	0	0	0	90	61(-)	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	David Fox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Ji-Sung Park	0	0	0	0	0	74(+)	10(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Kieran Richardson	0	0	0	0	0	29(+)	57(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	Richard Jones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46	Lee Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forwards																				
11	Ryan Giggs	0	0	0	0	0	90	10(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Ole Gunnar Solskjær	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Louis Saha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Ruud van Nistelrooij	0	0	0	0	81(-)	90	80(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Alan Smith	0	0	0	0	23(+)	90	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Cristiano Ronaldo	0	0	0	0	67(-)	90	80(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Wayne Rooney	0	0	0	0	90	0	64(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42	Giuseppe Rossi	0	0	0	0	9(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Sylvan Ebanks-Blake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(+) Player In (-) Player Out (+/-) Player In/Out

Line-ups

SL Benfica

Num.	Player	QF1		QF2		QF3		Group Phase						KN		QF		SF		F
		1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	MD1	MD2	MD3	MD4	MD5	MD6	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	
Goalkeepers																				
12	Quim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	José Moreira	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
43	Rui Nereu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
24	Bruno Costa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Defenders																				
18	Manuel Dos Santos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27	João Pereira	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25	Tiago Gomes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13	Alcides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33	Ricardo Rocha	0	0	0	0	0	0	46(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
44	Tiago Costa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	Luisão	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	Léo	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	Anderson	0	0	0	0	0	0	44(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22	Nélson	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
42	Ricardo Nunes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Midfielders																				
8	Bruno Aguiar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	Petit	0	0	0	0	0	0	67(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17	Andrei Kariaka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26	Fernando Alexandre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
39	João Coimbra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
41	Manuel Curto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
40	Luís Zambujo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14	Manuel Fernandes	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	Carlitos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	Nuno Assis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28	Hélio Roque	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16	Beto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Forwards																				
21	Nuno Gomes	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10	Georgios Karagounis	0	0	0	0	0	0	23(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20	Simão	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
30	Fabrizio Miccoli	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11	Geovanni	0	0	0	0	0	0	80(-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
35	João Vilela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
46	Vasco Firmino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	Mantorras	0	0	0	0	0	0	10(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

(+) Player In (-) Player Out (+/-) Player In/Out

Referee

Luboš Michel**Nationality:** SVK**Date of birth:** 16.05.1968

Luboš Michel has made light of his tender years in refereeing terms to make a name for himself as a leading European referee, and has a major club final already under his belt.

Career: As a representative of one of UEFA's newer member counties, Slovakia, Michel has performed with distinction on the European and world stage. Born in Stropkov on 16 May 1968, he began refereeing in 1987, took his opening top-division game in 1993, and graduated to FIFA level in 1994. As well as being an international match official, Michel is also acting as a UEFA/International Committee of the Red Cross ambassador to highlight the campaign to protect children in war, and he travelled with colleagues Anders Frisk and Markus Merk to Sierra Leone for a field trip in spring 2004.

1993: By his mid-20s, Michel had earned himself UEFA and FIFA recognition. His first assignment was in November 1993 – a UEFA European Under-21 Championship match between San Marino and England.

1995-2000: He officiated at the UEFA European Under-16 Championship final round in Belgium (1995), the FIFA Under-17 World Championship in Egypt (1997) and the UEFA European Under-21 Championship final round in Romania (1998), before earning himself a trip to Australia for two matches in the 2000 Olympic Games football tournament.

2002: Two years later, he was a member of the referee team for the FIFA World Cup finals in Korea/Japan. "It's a great feeling when you lead teams out in front of a big crowd," he says. The crowd never allows you to lose concentration, and this motivates you in itself."

2003: As far as UEFA's club competitions are concerned, Michel was refereeing UEFA Champions League matches by 1998. Regular appointments have come his way in the intervening years, and his progress was such that he was given his biggest club appointment to date - the 2003 UEFA Cup final between FC Porto and Celtic FC in Seville.

2003/04: Michel officiated at seven matches in the UEFA Champions League, one match in the UEFA Cup and two fixtures in the UEFA EURO 2004™ qualifying round. His season then culminated with a trip to the EURO 2004™ finals in Portugal where he refereed three matches.

2004/05: Michel took charge of six UEFA Champions League games, including the semi-final second leg between Liverpool FC and Chelsea FC, and two FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res	Venue
04.11.1998	UCL	GS	Man. United - Brøndby	5-0	Manchester
27.10.1999	UCL	GS1	Arsenal - Fiorentina	0-1	London
02.11.1999	UCL	GS1	Boavista - Dortmund	1-0	Porto
21.03.2000	UCL	GS2	Valencia - Man. United	0-0	Valencia
21.02.2001	UCL	GS2	Arsenal - Lyon	1-1	London
08.08.2001	UCL	QR3	Porto - Grasshoppers	2-2	Porto
20.02.2002	UCL	GS2	Boavista - Bayern	0-0	Porto
12.03.2002	UCL	GS2	Porto - Panathinaikos	2-1	Porto
24.04.2002	UCL	SF	Man. United - Leverkusen	2-2	Manchester
14.08.2002	UCL	QR3	Željezničar - Newcastle	0-1	Sarajevo
25.09.2002	UCL	GS1	PSV - Arsenal	0-4	Eindhoven
27.11.2002	UCL	GS2	Roma - Arsenal	1-3	Rome

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10.12.2003	UCL	GS1	Arsenal - Lokomotiv Moskva	2-0	London
20.10.2004	UCL	GS	Chelsea - CSKA Moskva	2-0	London
03.05.2005	UCL	SF	Liverpool - Chelsea	1-0	Liverpool

UEFA Champions League Other matches

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res	Venue
27.08.1997	UCL	QR2	Lierse - Anorthosis	3-0	Brussels
26.08.1998	UCL	QR2	Spartak Moskva - Litex	6-2	Moscow
16.09.1998	UCL	GS	PSV - HJK	2-1	Eindhoven
09.12.1998	UCL	GS	Lens - Dynamo Kyiv	1-3	Lens
15.09.1999	UCL	GS1	Valencia - Rangers	2-0	Valencia
28.09.1999	UCL	GS1	Olympiacos - Molde	3-1	Athens
29.02.2000	UCL	GS2	Dynamo Kyiv - Rosenborg	2-1	Kiev
07.11.2000	UCL	GS1	Rangers - Monaco	2-2	Glasgow
22.11.2000	UCL	GS2	Anderlecht - Lazio	1-0	Brussels
11.09.2001	UCL	GS1	Dynamo Kyiv - Dortmund	2-2	Kiev
23.10.2001	UCL	GS1	Deportivo - Lille	1-1	La Coruna
30.10.2001	UCL	GS1	Galatasaray - PSV	2-0	Istanbul
23.10.2002	UCL	GS1	Milan - Bayern	2-1	Milan
19.02.2003	UCL	GS2	Real Madrid - Dortmund	2-1	Madrid
11.03.2003	UCL	GS2	Ajax - Valencia	1-1	Amsterdam
09.04.2003	UCL	QF	Juventus - Barcelona	1-1	Turin
26.08.2003	UCL	QR3	Deportivo - Rosenborg	1-0	La Coruna
16.09.2003	UCL	GS1	Milan - Ajax	1-0	Milan
21.10.2003	UCL	GS1	Lyon - Bayern	1-1	Lyon
05.11.2003	UCL	GS1	Olympiacos - Galatasaray	3-0	Athens
09.03.2004	UCL	1/8	Juventus - Deportivo	0-1	Turin
24.03.2004	UCL	QF	Real Madrid - Monaco	4-2	Madrid
25.08.2004	UCL	QR3	M. Tel-Aviv - PAOK	1-0	Tel-Aviv
14.09.2004	UCL	GS	Internazionale - Bremen	2-0	Milan
24.11.2004	UCL	GS	Barcelona - Celtic	1-1	Barcelona
22.02.2005	UCL	1/8	Real Madrid - Juventus	1-0	Madrid
23.08.2005	UCL	QR3	Monaco - Betis	2-2	Monaco

Other matches

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res	Venue
14.12.1994	U21	QR	Moldova - Germany	1-1	Chisinau
26.04.1995	U16	GS - FT	Poland - Sweden	0-1	Handzame
03.05.1995	U16	SF	Germany - Portugal	1-3	Geel
10.08.1995	UCWC	PR	Shakhtar - Linfield	4-1	Donetsk
11.10.1995	EURO	PR	Liechtenstein - Northern Ireland	0-4	Eschen
15.11.1995	U21	QR	Cyprus - Belgium	1-1	Nicosia
02.06.1996	WC	QR	San Marino - Wales	0-5	Serravalle
31.10.1996	UCWC	R2	AIK - Nîmes	0-1	Solna
20.08.1997	WC	QR	Ukraine - Albania	1-0	Kiev
11.10.1997	WC	QR	Georgia - Poland	3-0	Tbilisi

04.11.1997	UCUP	R2	Lazio - Rotor	3-0	Rome
25.11.1997	UCUP	R3	Steaua - Villa	2-1	Bucharest
23.05.1998	U21	QF	Germany - Greece	0-1	Bucharest
27.05.1998	U21	SF	Norway - Spain	0-1	Bucharest
31.05.1998	U21	F	Greece - Spain	0-1	Bucharest
05.08.1998	UIC	SF	Vojvodina - Bastia	4-0	Novi Sad
04.03.1999	UCWC	QF	Lokomotiv Moskva - M. Haifa	3-0	Moscow
06.06.1999	EURO	PR	Israel - Austria	5-0	Tel-Aviv
24.08.1999	UIC	F	Hamburg - Montpellier	1-1*(0-3)	Hamburg
08.09.1999	EURO	PR	FYR Macedonia - Serbia-Montenegro	2-4	Skopje
25.11.1999	UCUP	R3	Ajax - Mallorca	0-1	Amsterdam
20.04.2000	UCUP	SF	Leeds - Galatasaray	2-2	Leeds
08.08.2000	UIC	F	Auxerre - Stuttgart	0-2	Auxerre
02.09.2000	WC	QR	Netherlands - Rep. of Ireland	2-2	Amsterdam
01.09.2001	WC	QR	Scotland - Croatia	0-0	Glasgow
06.10.2001	WC	QR	Romania - Georgia	1-1	Bucharest
06.12.2001	UCUP	R3	Brøndby - Parma	0-3	Brøndby
04.04.2002	UCUP	SF	Internazionale - Feyenoord	0-1	Milan
02.06.2002	WC	GS - FT	Paraguay - South Africa	2-2	Busan
12.10.2002	EURO	QR	Spain - Northern Ireland	3-0	Albacete
21.05.2003	UCUP	F	Celtic - Porto	2-3	Sevilla
11.06.2003	EURO	QR	Norway - Romania	1-1	Oslo
06.09.2003	EURO	QR	Rep. of Ireland - Russia	1-1	Dublin
19.11.2003	EURO	P-O	Netherlands - Scotland	6-0	Amsterdam
06.05.2004	UCUP	SF	Marseille - Newcastle	2-0	Marseille
16.06.2004	EURO	GS - FT	Greece - Spain	1-1	Porto
21.06.2004	EURO	GS - FT	Switzerland - France	1-3	Coimbra
26.06.2004	EURO	QF	Sweden - Netherlands	0-0*(4-5)	Faro-Loule
04.09.2004	WC	QR	Austria - England	2-2	Vienna
30.03.2005	WC	QR	Ukraine - Denmark	1-0	Kiev

Domestic News

United suffer home setback

(Saturday, 24 September 2005)

Three of the four sides involved in UEFA Champions League Group D picked up three points in their weekend fixtures, with Manchester United FC the one side to fail to win after suffering a surprise home defeat. SL Benfica and Villarreal CF enjoyed important away wins on Friday and Saturday respectively, while LOSC Lille Métropole bounced back from midweek disappointment as uefa.com rounds up the action.

Manchester United FC 1-2 Blackburn Rovers FC

United suffered their first defeat of the new Premiership season as two goals from Morten Gamst Pedersen gave Blackburn three unexpected points at Old Trafford. With Gary Neville's expected return postponed due to surgery on a groin injury on Friday, Gabriel Heinze expected to miss the majority of the season with a knee injury, and Wes Brown (hamstring) and Quinton Fortune (knee) already injured, United manager Sir Alex Ferguson could ill afford the injury that forced off Republic of Ireland defender John O'Shea just before the hour, forcing 20-year-old Phil Bardsley into action for his Premiership debut.

By that stage United already trailed to Pedersen's 33rd-minute strike, with Paul Dickov denied three times by United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar as he sought to extend the visitors' advantage. At the other end Ruud van Nistelrooij and Paul Scholes failed to find the target when well-placed, but the 55th-minute introduction of Wayne Rooney sparked United into life. It was a shot from the England international - who begins a two-game suspension at home against SL Benfica on Tuesday - that was parried by Brad Friedel, Van Nistelrooij tucking in the rebound. As United pressed for a winner, however, a Scholes error led to Pedersen's second goal nine minutes from time as the visitors inflicted a defeat that left Sir Alex's team - also without Roy Keane (broken foot), Louis Saha and Ole Gunnar Solskjær (both knee) - ten points adrift of Premiership leaders Chelsea FC.

"It's a bitter blow," Sir Alex admitted. "Our record at home over the years has been terrific. We know the crux of the problem. If someone told me we would create eight clear-cut chances in the first half of every game I would be delighted. But if they said we wouldn't hit the target with any of them, I would see a few danger signs. The weaknesses in our defending kept us on the edge and Blackburn capitalised on it. I am concerned about the gap to Chelsea but not as concerned about making sure we get back on track."

FC Penafiel 1-3 SL Benfica

Benfica made it three wins in a row with a comprehensive victory at Penafiel on Friday. Ronald Koeman named the same starting lineup that defeated UD Leiria 4-0 last week and the team immediately found their groove, Nuno Gomes and Simão Sabrosa both scoring within the first eleven minutes as Benfica raced into a two-goal lead. The away team eased off in the second half, and Marco Ferreira reduced the deficit with ten minutes left, but any hopes of an unlikely Penafiel comeback were soon scuppered when Nuno Gomes made it 3-1 with a tremendous long-range strike.

"We started the match very well," Koeman said. "In the second half we defended but I think the players should have sought the third goal. We conceded but responded with a great goal from Nuno Gomes. I think our minds are already on the match with United."

Brazilian striker Geovanni is a doubt for Tuesday after he was taken off with a leg injury. His loss would be a blow to Benfica but that would be softened if Greek forward Georgios Karagounis returns to fitness after missing the last two matches.

LOSC Lille Métropole 2-0 AS Saint-Etienne

Having lost 2-1 at Paris Saint-Germain FC on Wednesday, Lille got their Ligue 1 campaign back on track with an important win at home against Saint-Etienne. Claude Puel's side, runners-up in the French top flight in 2004/05, secured three points that enabled them to leapfrog their opponents and climb from eighth to fifth place in the standings. Matt Moussilou scored his first goal of the new season from inside the penalty area after 24 minutes and new signing Hicham Abouchrouane added a second with a powerful free-kick 25 minutes from time.

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However, the visitors pushed hard at the end of the game and were unfortunate not to score at least once against a Lille side who face Villarreal CF on Tuesday night at the Stade de France. "Between now and Tuesday we need to recover because we made lots of mistakes in this match," said midfield player Mathieu Chalmé.

"We were lucky tonight," agreed Lille coach Puel, who opted to rest striker Peter Odemwingie and midfield player Mathieu Debuchy while in-form pair Jean Makoun and Nicolas Fauvergue started on the bench and Serbo-Montenegrin defender Milivoje Vitakić did not appear because of a bruised thigh. "It makes up for our unlucky moments in the past. Such points are important because they are picked up in tough conditions."

RCD Espanyol 1–2 Villarreal CF

A 66th-minute strike from Marcos Senna secured Villarreal's opening victory of the Primera División season but Manuel Luis Pellegrini's team were forced to work hard to overcome Espanyol 2-1. Pellegrini continued his policy of squad rotation, influential midfielder player Juan Pablo Sorín returning after a minor muscular injury. The Argentinian made way for Alessio Tacchinardi late on while right winger Luis Antonio Valencia made a brief cameo appearance and Santi Cazorla and Héctor Font were rested.

Espanyol dominated early on, playmaker Iván De la Peña pulling the strings in the centre of the field. Villarreal weathered a few early scares before taking the lead on 44 minutes when Josico turned in Juan Román Riquelme's corner from close range. Strikers Diego Forlán and José Mari Romero promised to add to Villarreal's tally but the scores were even just before the hour when Luis García beat Sebastián Viera with a low drive. Six minutes later, the visitors restored their lead through Marcos Senna, who finished off a superb passing move to give Villarreal maximum points for the first time this term.

Pellegrini was clearly relieved, saying afterwards: "All this team needed was to win a game and they have done so tonight in a bitterly-fought match. We have been taking things one step at a time and gaining momentum each time we play. Our position in the table is the last thing on my mind at the moment because we are still only four games into the competition - for our own sense of wellbeing, losing now would have added more pressure than wherever we might be in the league rankings."

Lille and Benfica savour home wins

(Sunday, 18 September 2005)

LOSC Lille Métropole and SL Benfica both sauntered to four-goal home wins, while UEFA Champions League Group D rivals Villarreal CF and Manchester United FC earned points on their travels.

LOSC Lille Métropole 4-0 OGC Nice

Lille scored three goals in the last 13 minutes to seal a comfortable-looking victory over ten-man Nice on Saturday. The home side held a slender one-goal lead for much of the encounter after Jean Makoun had broken the deadlock on four minutes. Late strikes from Milenko Ačimovič, Peter Odemwingie and Daniel Gygax gave the scoreline a one-sided appearance but a tally of seven yellow cards and one red - to Nice's Bill Tchato - reflect a keenly contested match.

A power cut delayed the game for ten minutes during the second half but it did not dim Lille's charge and the result of what coach Claude Puel labelled "a very good evening" lifts them to fourth in Ligue 1.

Cádiz CF 1-1 Villarreal CF

Villarreal CF are still waiting for their first win of the Primera División season after Cádiz CF came from behind to earn a share of the spoils in Andalusia. With the talismanic Juan Román Riquelme still sidelined with a sprained ankle ligament, Manuel Luis Pellegrini's side struggled to impose their game on the hosts and were relieved to see two Cádiz goals ruled out during the opening half hour.

José Mari Romero then opened the scoring on 38 minutes, taking advantage of a defensive error, but Cádiz responded almost immediately from an indirect free-kick, when Oli Álvarez flicked a near-post header past Sebastián Viera. Although Villarreal upped the tempo as the game wore on they were unable to regain the

lead, despite the introduction of ESM Golden Shoe holder Diego Forlán as a second-half substitute.

Right-back Javi Venta also returned after spending the last week out with an ankle knock and Pellegrini was quick to point out the long-term benefits of rotating his squad. "I made a few changes to the side," he said, "because if we don't rotate the squad now, then we will end up paying the price later in the season. I felt that it was an evenly-balanced game. Cádiz put us under a lot of pressure and that made it difficult for us to get into our stride and take control of the ball. It was a shame that we were unable to hang on to our lead but overall, I feel that we have improved since the opening game of the season."

SL Benfica 4-0 UD Leiria

Benfica won their first match of the Portuguese Liga season, beating Leiria comfortably at the Estádio da Luz. Benfica's coach Ronald Koeman made just one change to the team that won 1-0 in last Wednesday's UEFA Champions League clash against Lille, with Brazilian centre-back Anderson replacing the suspended Ricardo Rocha, while Greek midfielder Georgios Karagounis was still sidelined with a leg injury.

Anderson did not take long to impose himself on the match but it was in attack that he enjoyed some early success, reacting first to scoop the ball into the net after a third-minute corner. Leiria could have levelled when Nené's 34th-minute shot went wide and Benfica soon made them pay when Nuno Gomes doubled the lead on the stroke of half-time. The Portugal striker made it 3-0 just after the hour mark before completing his hat-trick late on.

Benfica coach Ronald Koeman said: "I'm very satisfied with the result and with the effort of my players. We still have a long way to go and there are still plenty of games to be played, but I think we are on the right track."

Liverpool FC 0-0 Manchester United FC

United held firm against a determined Liverpool side to secure a share of the spoils with their north-west rivals at Anfield. Both sides had chances to claim all three points, with Steven Gerrard a constant threat for the home team while Ruud van Nistelrooij almost scored for a seventh consecutive Premiership game but saw his chip go over the bar.

The game gradually became more attritional in the second half, with every ball being fiercely contested and it eventually took its toll when United captain Roy Keane broke a metatarsal bone in his left foot. The veteran midfield player, who missed the Group D opener at Villarreal on Wednesday with a hamstring injury, could be out for up to two months.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said: "You could see it had 0-0 written all over it early on. Maybe this game it just too important now. There's maybe pressure on players that makes it difficult for them to relax. I thought we had enough of the ball to win it. We showed professionalism, good composure and we just lacked a cutting edge."

Domestic league details

Manchester United FC (Barclaycard Premiership)

Date	Opponent	Res	Lineup
24.09.2005	v Blackburn (H)	1-2	Van der Sar, O'Shea (Bardsley 57), Ferdinand, Silvestre, Richardson, Fletcher (Rooney 55), Smith, Scholes, Cristiano Ronaldo, Van Nistelrooij, Park (Giggs 69)
18.09.2005	v Liverpool (A)	0-0	Van der Sar, O'Shea, Ferdinand, Silvestre, Richardson, Smith, Scholes, Roy Keane (Giggs 88), Cristiano Ronaldo (Park 90), Rooney (Fletcher 88), Van Nistelrooij
10.09.2005	v Man. City (H)	1-1	Van der Sar, O'Shea, Ferdinand, Silvestre, Heinze, Fletcher (Roy Keane 78), Smith (Richardson 87), Scholes, Rooney, Van Nistelrooij, Park (Giggs 81)

Date	Opponent	Res	Goalscorers
13.08.2005	v Everton (A)	2-0	43' van Nistelrooy, 46' Rooney
20.08.2005	v Villa (H)	1-0	66' van Nistelrooy
28.08.2005	v Newcastle (A)	2-0	66' Rooney, 90' van Nistelrooy
10.09.2005	v Man. City (H)	1-1	45' van Nistelrooy
18.09.2005	v Liverpool (A)	0-0	
24.09.2005	v Blackburn (H)	1-2	67' van Nistelrooy
01.10.2005	v Fulham (A)		
15.10.2005	v Sunderland (A)		
22.10.2005	v Tottenham (H)		
29.10.2005	v Middlesbrough (A)		
06.11.2005	v Chelsea (H)		
19.11.2005	v Charlton (A)		
27.11.2005	v West Ham (A)		
03.12.2005	v Portsmouth (H)		
11.12.2005	v Everton (H)		
14.12.2005	v Wigan (H)		

Rank	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Chelsea FC	7	7	0	0	14	1	21
2	Charlton Athletic FC	6	5	0	1	10	4	15
3	Bolton Wanderers FC	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
4	West Ham United FC	6	3	2	1	10	4	11
5	Manchester United FC	6	3	2	1	7	3	11
6	Manchester City FC	7	3	2	2	7	6	11
7	Arsenal FC	6	3	1	2	9	4	10
8	Wigan Athletic FC	6	3	1	2	5	4	10
9	Tottenham Hotspur FC	6	2	3	1	5	3	9
10	Newcastle United FC	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
11	Middlesbrough FC	7	2	2	3	6	9	8
12	Blackburn Rovers FC	7	2	2	3	5	9	8
13	Liverpool FC	5	1	4	0	3	2	7
14	Birmingham City FC	7	1	3	3	7	11	6
15	Aston Villa FC	7	1	3	3	6	11	6
16	Fulham FC	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
17	Portsmouth FC	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
18	West Bromwich Albion FC	7	1	2	4	7	13	5
19	Sunderland AFC	7	1	1	5	5	10	4

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20	Everton FC	6	1	0	5	1	7	3
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Domestic league details

SL Benfica (SuperLiga)

Date	Opponent	Res	Lineup
23.09.2005	v Penafiel (A)	3-1	Moreira, Luisão, Petit, Geovanni (Beto 46), Simão, Manuel Fernandes, Nuno Gomes, Miccoli (João Pereira 64), Léo (Ricardo Rocha 84), Néelson, Anderson
18.09.2005	v Leiria (H)	4-0	Moreira, Léo, Luisão, Anderson, Néelson, Petit (João Pereira 69), Manuel Fernandes, Simão, Miccoli (Nuno Assis 77), Geovanni (Beto 59), Nuno Gomes
10.09.2005	v Sporting (A)	1-2	Moreira, Luisão, Ricardo Rocha, Anderson, João Pereira (Nuno Gomes 46), Néelson, Carlitos (Beto 56), Manuel Fernandes, Simão, Karagounis (Alcides 67), Miccoli

Date	Opponent	Res	Goalscorers
20.08.2005	v Académica (A)	0-0	
27.08.2005	v Gil Vicente (H)	0-2	
10.09.2005	v Sporting (A)	1-2	65' Simao
18.09.2005	v Leiria (H)	4-0	4' Joao Paulo, 45' Nuno Gomes, 62' Nuno Gomes, 85' Nuno Gomes
23.09.2005	v Penafiel (A)	3-1	5' Nuno Gomes, 12' Simao, 83' Nuno Gomes
03.10.2005	v Guimarães (H)		
16.10.2005	v Porto (A)		
23.10.2005	v Amadora (H)		
30.10.2005	v Naval 1° Maio (A)		
06.11.2005	v Rio Ave (H)		
20.11.2005	v Braga (A)		
27.11.2005	v Belenenses (H)		
04.12.2005	v Marítimo (A)		
11.12.2005	v Boavista (H)		
18.12.2005	v Nacional (H)		

Rank	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	FC Porto	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
2	Sporting Clube de Portugal	5	4	0	1	8	5	12
3	CD Nacional	5	3	2	0	6	3	11
4	SC Braga	5	3	2	0	4	0	11
5	CF Os Belenenses	5	3	0	2	10	6	9
6	Rio Ave FC	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
7	Gil Vicente FC	5	3	0	2	5	2	9
8	SL Benfica	5	2	1	2	8	5	7
9	A. Naval 1° Maio	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
10	Vitória FC	5	2	1	2	2	2	7
11	Boavista FC	4	1	3	0	7	4	6
12	FC Paços de Ferreira	5	2	0	3	4	8	6
13	CF Estrela da Amadora	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
14	Vitória SC	5	1	0	4	3	10	3
15	A. Académica de Coimbra	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
16	CS Marítimo	5	0	2	3	3	6	2
17	UD Leiria	5	0	2	3	1	8	2
18	FC Penafiel	5	0	1	4	3	11	1

Competition overview

Competition Overview

How the UEFA Champions League works...

The UEFA Champions League is UEFA's most prestigious club competition. It was originally created as the European Champion Clubs' Cup for the 1955/56 season, before its format and name were changed in 1992.

Real Madrid CF have been the most successful side in the UEFA Champions League, winning the competition three times. They are also the most successful side overall with nine triumphs, followed by six for AC Milan and five for current champions Liverpool FC.

The Champions League is open to each national association's domestic champions, as well as clubs who finish just behind them in their respective domestic championship. The number of clubs that can be entered by an association and their entry point in the competition depends on the association's position in UEFA's coefficient ranking list.

Since its inception in 1992/93, the Champions League has continued to evolve, maintaining a mixture of round-robin group matches as well as its traditional knockout format. The current format was introduced in 2003/04. After three qualifying rounds, 32 teams contest the group stage, divided into eight groups of four. The group winners and runners-up advance to the knockout stage, the eight third-placed teams move into the UEFA Cup third round, and the eight fourth-placed teams are eliminated.

A draw determines who each of the 16 clubs will play in the first knockout stage, with ties decided over two matches on a home and away basis. The club that scores the greater aggregate of goals advances, or in the event of both teams scoring the same number of goals, the team which scores more away goals.

If the away-goals rule proves inconclusive, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes is played after the second match. If during extra time both teams score the same number of goals, away goals count double (ie the visiting team advances). If no goals are scored during extra time, the winner is decided by penalty kicks. The two teams that advance from the knockout round contest the final, held as a single match in May.

The European Champion Clubs' Cup was a purely knockout competition until the format was changed in 1992/93 with the inception of the Champions League. That year the competition began with three knockout rounds with the winners advancing to a group stage involving two sets of four clubs playing home and away. The two group winners contested the final. A similar format was used the following season, with the addition of a two-legged semi-final stage involving the top two clubs from both groups.

The competition expanded further for the 1994/95 season with one preliminary round required before the clubs divided into four groups of four clubs. The top two clubs in each group advanced to the knockout stage, which this time began at the quarter-final stage. The 1997/98 season saw another phase of expansion. Two qualifying rounds were introduced and the group stage expanded to six groups of four clubs each. The six group winners and the two best runners-up advanced to the knockout stages.

An additional qualifying round was introduced for the 1999/2000 season to generate two group stages, firstly with 32 teams - eight groups of four - who played six matches apiece to reduce the competition to 16 teams for the second group stage, with the eight third-placed teams moving to the UEFA Cup third round. At the end of the second group stage, eight teams remained to contest the knockout stage.

Notices

Higher Champions League revenue

UEFA has estimated that the gross budgeted income for the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League will be €598m (CHF930m) - higher than the revenue obtained last season.

Use within European football

Based on those amounts, €453m would go to the 32 clubs, including €22.5m for the professional leagues of the participating associations, and €145m to UEFA for European football. The net amount of €430m (€453m in revenue less €22.5m for the professional leagues of the participating associations) available to the clubs will be split into a fixed amount of €206m – starting bonuses, performance bonuses, match bonuses), and €206m for the so-called TV market pool (distributed proportionally to the income from the TV contracts of each country). A surplus of €18.6m is expected for this year's competition.

Club payments

Each of the 32 clubs involved in the Champions League group stage will receive a starting fee of €1.6m. In addition, they will receive a bonus of €321,000 per match. Performance bonuses will involve €321,000 for a win and €161,000 for a draw in the group stage.

Winners' reward

The 16 teams playing in the first knockout round will receive €1.6m each, the eight quarter-finalists €1.9m each and the four semi-finalists €2.6m. The Champions League winners will receive €6.4m, and the runners-up €3.9m.

Total minimum amount

This means that a total minimum amount of €3.5m per club is guaranteed for the group stage. A club could receive, at best, up to €18m, not counting the TV market pool share and gate receipts.

Solidarity amounts

Solidarity payments to European associations, leagues and clubs are expected to total around €75m. Some €22.5m will go to European leagues represented in the Champions League, while between €6.4m and €11.6m will be distributed among the European leagues not represented in the competition. The solidarity contributions are, among other things, intended for investment in club youth development programmes.

Record-breaking night for uefa.com

The official UEFA website, uefa.com, kicked off the UEFA Champions League group stage with a record of its own, registering 11.7 million page views and 682,000 visits, as the competition got under way on 13 September.

Beating last season

These figures beat the totals set on last season's opening night on 14 September 2004 when uefa.com received 8.4 million page impressions and 416,000 unique visits. Those totals have been eclipsed with increases of 39 per cent and 64 per cent respectively.

Latest results and statistics

The website has been redesigned for the 2005/06 campaign, to provide a growing global audience of football fans with the latest live match results and statistics, plus enhanced multimedia coverage of European football. The site covers news from the 52 UEFA national football associations and 16 UEFA competitions, all reported in nine languages, including Russian, Japanese and Korean, as well as English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

Video footage

uefa.com has a wealth of video footage available and as a result of the redesign, an embedded media player on the homepage specifically targets the broadband market, offering users a taster of the unique uefa.com Action video product.

Broadband users

16:26:51 CET
27/9/2005

Broadband users represent more than 80 per cent of the current uefa.com user base. This compares with just 54 per cent of users accessing via broadband in 2001 when the site was launched.

Enhanced online resource

UEFA Media Technologies CEO, Alexandre Fourtoy, explained: "We are delighted to be offering supporters of European football throughout the world a vastly enhanced online resource for the 2005/06 season and beyond. All the additional elements that have been added to uefa.com in the past four years are now better integrated to make the site easier for our visitors to use. We believe that our strategy of tailoring content to the broadband market has been successful, and our recent redesign is a continuation of that pattern."

Steady development

Europe's football website has evolved steadily since its initial launch in 2001, and the new design builds on the success of the official UEFA EURO 2004™ site. uefa.com received more than 75 million visits and served over 700 million page views in the last season, and on average, the site welcomes more than two million new visitors every month.

Top nations

The list of top 15 nations from which football fans accessed uefa.com in the last 12 months is a mark of the site's global appeal - Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey and the United States. These 15 head a total of 220 nations from which users accessed the site in the last year.

LEGEND

ECCC: European Champions Clubs' Cup / UEFA Champions League	F: Final(s)
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners' Cup	GS: Group stage
UCUP: UEFA Cup	GS1: First group stage
UIC: UEFA Intertoto Cup	GS2: Second group stage
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup	PR: Preliminary round
AP: Appearances	QF: Quarter-finals
DoB: Date of birth	QR: Qualifying round
D: Drawn	QR1: First qualifying round
GA: Goals against	QR2: Second qualifying round
GF: Goals for	QR3: Third qualifying round
L: Lost	R1: First round
Pld: Matches played	R2: Second round
Nat.: Nationality	R3: Third round
No: Number	R4: Fourth round
W: Won	SF: Semi-finals
	1/8: Eighth-finals
	1/16: Sixteenth-finals

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UEFA Champions League press kits are provided to media by uefa.com. For every UEFA Champions League match, two press kits are issued: Monday at 11:00CET and 22:00CET for Tuesday's matches and Tuesday at 11:00CET and 22:00CET for Wednesday's matches.

Disclaimer

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Statistics: Competitions

Statistics pertaining to the UEFA Champions League only commence at the start of the 1992/93 season, whereas statistics pertaining to the European Champion Clubs' Cup commence at the start of the 1955/56 season and include UEFA Champions League statistics. Other statistics included make reference to the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (1961/62 to 1998/99), the UEFA Cup (1971/72 to date), the UEFA Intertoto Cup (1995 to date), the UEFA Super Cup (1973 to date) and the European/South American Cup (1956 to 2004). No statistics are provided for the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup as this competition was not held under UEFA auspices.

Statistics: Appearances

The player appearance statistic is calculated by adding the amount of times the player has been in the starting line-up plus the amount of times the player has been introduced during the course of a match. For the calculation of appearances, all matches - including all qualifying rounds - are included for both UEFA Champions League (UCL) and UEFA club competition (UEFA) listings. UEFA club competitions are defined as the UEFA Champions League (and European Champion Clubs' Cup), the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, the UEFA Intertoto Cup, the UEFA Super Cup and the European/South American Cup.