AFC Ajax have consolidated second place in the Group B table thanks to the two added-time goals that ensured a 4-2 win in their last outing against FC Thun. A home win against AC Sparta Praha on Matchday 5 will ensure qualification for the knockout stages and eliminate their opponents.

September meeting
• The Czech side, beaten 3-0 by Arsenal FC last time out as the English club made certain of their own qualification, are still looking for their first win in the group. They gained their only point so far in the 1-1 home draw against Ajax in the opening game. Substitute Miroslav Matušovič gave Sparta the lead in the 66th minute, only for Wesley Sneijder to equalise in the first minute of added time.
• But Sparta still harbour ambitions of continuing their European campaign beyond the winter break, whether in the UEFA Champions League or by taking the UEFA Cup spot on offer to the team finishing third in the section.

Previous Czech encounters
• Ajax first encountered Czech opposition in the quarter-finals of the 1966/67 European Champion Clubs' Cup, when they were beaten 3-2 on aggregate by FK Marila Pribram. Ajax were held 1-1 in the home leg and then lost 2-1 away, after a late own goal from defender Fritz Soetekouw.
• That Czech club will, even now, be far better known under their former identity, the famous FK Dukla Praha, and the name they played under until their 1998 amalgamation. Dukla Praha were crowned champions of the former Czechoslovakia five times in the 1960s.
• The other meeting between Ajax and a Czech club before the opening group game this season was in the 1984/85 UEFA Cup second round against TJ Bohemians CKD Praha, now CU Bohemians Praha, where a stalemate ensued after each team had won their home leg by 1-0. It was the Czech side who were the more accurate in the penalty shoot-out winning the spot-kicks 4-2.

One win in five for Ajax
• Ajax have therefore been eliminated from UEFA competition following both their previous ties with Czech clubs, despite a draw and a victory in the two home legs. The draw in Prague on Matchday 1 on 14 September, means they have now only won one of five matches to date.

Fine record against Dutch teams
• Sparta are meeting Ajax for the first two times this season. However, they have been drawn with two other Dutch clubs in past UEFA club competition. Each time came in the UEFA Champions League group stages and Sparta won all four of the fixtures.
Team facts: Ajax

• Previous winners and losing finalists in the competition, Ajax are making their third appearance in the UEFA Champions League in the past four seasons. The Dutch side could have had a sequence of five straight qualifications had they negotiated the third qualifying round in both the 2001/02 and 2004/05 campaigns.

• Ajax became champions of Europe with a 1-0 success against Milan in the 1994/95 final and then came within a penalty shoot-out of becoming the first and only team to win the UEFA Champions League two seasons running. They lost 4-2 against Juventus on penalties after a 1-1 draw after extra time.

• Ajax, together with FC Bayern München, enjoyed much of their success in terms of the European Champion Clubs' Cup during the 1970s as they won the competition three times in a row against Panathinaikos FC (1970/71), FC Internazionale Milano (1971/72) and Juventus (1972/73).

• Prior to that, the Dutch side were on the receiving end of a 4-1 defeat away by Milan in the 1968/69 European Champion Clubs' Cup final. In six appearances in the final, Ajax have won four and lost two.

• Last season, Ajax finished second, ten points adrift of champions PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch Eredivisie, a performance that resulted in their qualification to the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round.

• Having struggled to overcome the final hurdle to the group stage in the past, Ajax negotiated the third qualifying round this season when they defeated Danish side Brøndby IF 5-3 on aggregate. Despite falling a goal behind in the home leg at the Amsterdam ArenA, the Dutch side responded with three second-half goals without reply thanks to Ryan Babel (50) and Wesley Sneijder (80, 89). Ajax maintained their advantage in Denmark and actually opened the scoring through Markus Rosenberg (31). Although Brøndby equalised shortly afterwards, Ajax were ahead again through
Babel (73) before Julien Escudé scored an own goal three minutes into added time by which point the tie had been won.

• Ajax left it late to equalise in their opening UEFA Champions League group stage match away against Czech champions AC Sparta Praha. Substitute Miroslav Matušovič had given Sparta the lead after 66 minutes only for Sneijder to level in added time.

• But Ajax were not able to build on that result on Matchday 2, losing 2-1 at home to Arsenal FC. The English side took a two-goal lead through Fredrik Ljungberg (2) and Robert Pirès (69pen) and though Rosenberg (71) managed to reduce the deficit there was no last-gasp escape for the Dutch outfit.

• Greek striker Yannis Anastasiou was on target twice as Ajax kick-started their faltering UEFA Champions League campaign with a 2-0 victory against FC Thun at the Amsterdam ArenA on Matchday 3. Anastasiou was told he was to be released in March, but newly-arrived coach Danny Blind intervened because of his positive influence on younger players. That decision was vindicated in style. After an Ajax-dominated first half, the 32-year-old broke the deadlock nine minutes before the interval, clinically slotting in from eight metres. Mauro Lustrinelli worked opportunities for the visitors before and after, but Anastasiou doubled the lead ten minutes after the restart as Ajax sidled into second place in the section.

• On Matchday 4, added-time goals from Nigel de Jong and Nourdin Boukhari secured Ajax's first away win in Europe for 15 matches and ended the resilience of Thun, who twice came from behind to draw level before eventually losing 4-2. Wesley Sneijder put the visitors ahead after 27 minutes only to see Mauro Lustrinelli (56) level the scores and when Yannis Anastasiou's 63rd-minute goal was cancelled out by Adriano Pimenta 16 minutes from time, the game seemed destined to finish honours even. But as Thun tired, Ajax eventually found their killer instinct.

• On Matchday 5, Ajax will complete 150 matches played in the European Champion Clubs' Cup. To date, they have recorded 75 wins, 35 draws and 39 defeats with 243 goals scored and 143 conceded.

• Despite appearing in two finals, Ajax have had limited recent success in the competition as their overall record shows. Having played 68 matches, the Dutch side have won 30, drawn 18 and lost 20 matches with 92 goals scored and 61 conceded.

Team facts: Sparta

• Sparta are involved in the UEFA Champions League for the sixth time in the past seven seasons. The Czech side advanced to the second group stage on two occasions, but the 2003/04 season provided them with their first trip into the knockout stages although they would lose 4-1 on aggregate to AC Milan.

• The Czech side failed to qualify for the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League following their away goals exit to Belgian side KRC Genk. Attempting to overcome a 2-0 deficit from the opening leg, the Czechs won 4-2 at home with Karel Poborský (56), Jirí Jarošík
Competition facts

UEFA Champions League: Did you know?

• Only Group A in the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League group stage contains four domestic league champions from their respective 2004/05 domestic seasons. SK Rapid Wien won the Austrian Bundesliga by a point from Grazer AK. Club Brugge KV won the Belgian first division by three points from RSC Anderlecht. FC Bayern München won the German Bundesliga by 14 points from FC Schalke 04, while Juventus won the Italian Serie A championship by seven points from AC Milan, with FC Internazionale Milano and Udinese Calcio a further seven and 17 points behind.

• This season Manchester United FC have extended their consecutive participation in
the UEFA Champions League to ten, a record in the competition. Bayern, PSV Eindhoven, Olympiacos CFP and Real Madrid CF are making their ninth consecutive appearance, one ahead of Arsenal FC.

• In addition, Manchester United have qualified for the knockout stages of the competition for each of the past nine seasons, winning the European Champion Clubs’ Cup at the end of the 1998/99 campaign. The English club have also advanced as far as the semi-finals twice, the quarter-finals four times and the first knockout round twice in the other eight seasons.

• Of all 32 clubs competing in this season's UEFA Champions League, only Real Betis Balompié did not participate in a UEFA club competition during the 2004/05 season.

• Six clubs competing in the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League were involved in the competition when it started during the 1992/93 season with two rounds preceding the group stage. AC Milan were beaten finalists (to Olympique de Marseille), while Club Brugge, PSV, Rangers FC and FC Porto all participated in the group stage. FC Barcelona were knocked out in the second round, the last hurdle to enter the group stage.

• Defending champions Liverpool FC entered the competition at the first qualifying round stage having not secured one of the automatic qualification slots available for finishing in the top four places in last season's English Premiership, but they are not the only club to have played six matches to advance to the group stage - a feat shared by FC Artmedia. Three clubs also made it from the second qualifying round: Rapid Wien, Anderlecht and FC Thun.

• Both Arsenal and Schalke remain the only two clubs among this season's participants never to have played a UEFA Champions League qualifying-round match. At the start of the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League all of Arsenal's 68 matches were restricted to the group stage and beyond while Schalke's six matches had come in the first group stage of the 2001/02 season, their sole previous participation before this campaign.

• Only two of the former winners of the competition since it commenced in the 1992/93 season are not participating in this season's UEFA Champions League, namely Marseille (1992/93) and BV Borussia Dortmund (1996/97).

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

**Biggest wins**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-3</td>
<td>AS Monaco FC v RC Deportivo La Coruña</td>
<td>05.11.2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-0</td>
<td>Juventus v Olympiacos CFP</td>
<td>10.12.2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>Paris Saint-Germain FC v Rosenborg BK</td>
<td>24.10.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Olympique Lyonnais v Werder Bremen</td>
<td>08.03.2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>Olympique de Marseille v PFC CSKA Moskva</td>
<td>17.03.1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Real Madrid CF v KRC Genk</td>
<td>25.09.2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monaco’s record victory was achieved in part thanks to the exploits of Dado Pršo, who scored four of his seven 2003/04 UEFA Champions League goals that evening against Deportivo. Only one team has scored more than five goals in an away game, Manchester United FC winning 6-2 at Brøndby IF in 1998/99.

- **Most goals in a season**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ruud van Nistelrooij</td>
<td>Manchester United FC</td>
<td>2002/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Alessandro Del Piero</td>
<td>Juventus</td>
<td>1997/98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mário Jardel</td>
<td>FC Porto</td>
<td>1999/00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rivaldo</td>
<td>FC Barcelona</td>
<td>1999/00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raúl González</td>
<td>Real Madrid FC</td>
<td>1999/00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruud van Nistelrooij</td>
<td>Manchester United FC</td>
<td>2001/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Filippo Inzaghi</td>
<td>AC Milan</td>
<td>2002/03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ruud van Nistelrooij has finished UEFA Champions League top goalscorer in three of the past four seasons, AS Monaco FC’s Fernando Morientes pipping him to that feat with nine in 2003/04.

- **Four goals in a match**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marco van Basten</td>
<td>AC Milan v IFK Göteborg</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>25.11.1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simone Inzaghi</td>
<td>S.S. Lazio v Olympique de Marseille</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>14.03.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dado Pršo</td>
<td>AS Monaco FC v RC Deportivo La Coruña</td>
<td>8-3</td>
<td>05.11.2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruud van Nistelrooij</td>
<td>Manchester United FC v AC Sparta Praha</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>03.11.2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of these four-goal hauls, Dado Pršo’s against Deportivo was the quickest. He scored his first goal 26 minutes into the game and his fourth just 23 minutes later.

- **Fastest goal in a match**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Time (sec)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilberto</td>
<td>PSV Eindhoven 0-4 Arsenal FC</td>
<td>20.07</td>
<td>25.09.2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alessandro Del Piero</td>
<td>Manchester United FC 3-2 Juventus</td>
<td>20.12</td>
<td>01.10.1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Seedorf</td>
<td>FC Schalke 04 2-2 AC Milan</td>
<td>21.20</td>
<td>28.09.2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marek Kincl</td>
<td>Club Brugge KV 3-2 SK Rapid Wien</td>
<td>25.40</td>
<td>02.11.2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariano Bombardo</td>
<td>Willem II 3-4 AC Sparta Praha</td>
<td>28.21</td>
<td>20.10.1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AC Milan’s joy at Clarence Seedorf’s first-minute goal against FC Schalke 04 was short-lived - Søren Larsen equalised for the home side in the third minute.

- **Fastest hat-tricks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Time (min)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Newell</td>
<td>Blackburn Rovers FC 4-1 Rosenborg BK</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>06.12.1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Simone</td>
<td>Rosenborg BK 1-4 AC Milan</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25.09.1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dado Pršo</td>
<td>AS Monaco FC 8-3 RC Deportivo La Coruña</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>05.11.2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigurd Rushfeldt</td>
<td>Rosenborg BK 3-0 Galatasaray SK</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21.10.1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simone Inzaghi</td>
<td>S.S. Lazio 5-1 Olympique de Marseille</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14.03.2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rosenborg conceded 16 goals the season Mike Newell scored his rapid hat-trick, three fewer than the UEFA Champions League group stage record set by Hungarian side Ferencvárosi TC the same season.

- **Youngest players to score**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Oforiquaye</td>
<td>Rosenborg BK 5-1 <strong>Olympiacos CFP</strong></td>
<td>17 y - 195 d</td>
<td>01.10.1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesc Fabregas</td>
<td><strong>Arsenal FC</strong> 5-1 Rosenborg BK</td>
<td>17 y - 218 d</td>
<td>07.12.2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Klein</td>
<td>Panathinaikos FC 2-1 <strong>AC Sparta Praha</strong></td>
<td>17 y - 241 d</td>
<td>27.02.2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sammy Kuffour</td>
<td><strong>FC Bayern München</strong> 2-2 FC Spartak Moskva</td>
<td>18 y - 61 d</td>
<td>02.11.1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andriy Shevchenko</td>
<td><strong>FC Dynamo Kyiv</strong> 1-4 FC Bayern München</td>
<td>18 y - 70 d</td>
<td>07.12.1994</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Peter Oforiquaye became the youngest player to score, but Celestine Babayaro is still the youngest player to appear, having begun RSC Anderlecht's game against FC Steaua Bucuresti on 23 November 1994 aged 16 years and 87 days.*
AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha
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All-time statistics

Head-to-head record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comp.</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.09.2005</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>AC Sparta Praha - AFC Ajax</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>Prague</td>
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Overall record

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFC Ajax</td>
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<td>AC Sparta Praha</td>
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Home team's record versus clubs from the away team's country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comp.</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.03.1967</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>QF</td>
<td>AFC Ajax - FK Marila Pribram</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.03.1967</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>QF</td>
<td>FK Marila Pribram - AFC Ajax</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>Pribram</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.10.1984</td>
<td>UCUP</td>
<td>R2</td>
<td>AFC Ajax - CU Bohemians Praha</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07.11.1984</td>
<td>UCUP</td>
<td>R2</td>
<td>CU Bohemians Praha - AFC Ajax</td>
<td>1-0*(4-2)</td>
<td>Prague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.09.2005</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>AC Sparta Praha - AFC Ajax</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>Prague</td>
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Overall record

<table>
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<tr>
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Away team's record versus clubs from the home team's country

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<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>28.09.1999</td>
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<td>AC Sparta Praha - Willem II</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.10.1999</td>
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<td>Willem II - AC Sparta Praha</td>
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<td>Tilburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.09.2001</td>
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<td>AC Sparta Praha - Feyenoord</td>
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<td>Prague</td>
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<td>GS1</td>
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<td>Rotterdam</td>
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<td>Prague</td>
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Overall record

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UEFA club competition record

AFC Ajax

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<td>European Champions Clubs' Cup / UEFA Champions League</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>UEFA Cup</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>70</td>
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AC Sparta Praha

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## AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha

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### European Champions Clubs’ Cup / UEFA Champions League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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### UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only) club record

#### AFC Ajax

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#### AC Sparta Praha

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**KEY:** All-time statistics

**Comp. -** Competition, **Res -** Result

**Pld** - Matches played, **W** - Won, **D** - Drawn, **L** - Lost, **GF** - Goals for, **GA** - Goals against

**(NOTE):** These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competitions defined as the European Champion Clubs’ Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners’ Cup, the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup and the UEFA Intertoto Cup

**(NOTE):** For matches in the UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only) club record, the fixtures played in the 1992/93 and 1993/94 first and second rounds are included in the statistics calculation

Current club names used for all clubs listed in these tables

Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined.

Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out.

**ECCC:** European Champions Clubs’ Cup / UEFA Champions League

**UCUP:** UEFA Cup

**UWC:** UEFA Cup Winners’ Cup

**SCUP:** UEFA Super Cup

**UC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup

**EURO:** UEFA European Football Championship

**WC:** FIFA World Cup

**AP:** Appearances

**GS:** Group stage

**GS1:** First group stage

**GS2:** Second group stage

**PR:** Preliminary round

**QR:** Quarter-finals

**QR1:** First qualifying round

**QR2:** Second qualifying round

**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
## AFC Ajax

### Squad list

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Nat.</th>
<th>DoB</th>
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<th>Current Season UCL²</th>
<th>Current Season League</th>
<th>All-time UCL³</th>
<th>All-time UCL²</th>
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### Coach

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**KEY: Squad list**

- Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically
- **No.** - Number, **Nat.** - Nationality
- **DoB** - Date of birth, **Pld** - Matches played, **Gls** - Goals
- **UCL¹** - Total UEFA Champions League appearances in the qualifying rounds only
- **UCL²** - Total UEFA Champions League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday
- **League** - Total appearances in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only

**NOTE:** These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition
4 - UEFA: Total appearances in UEFA club competitions including all qualifying round matches
(NOTE: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competitions defined as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup and the UEFA Intertoto Cup)
### AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha

**PRESS KIT**

### Squad list

#### AC Sparta Praha

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**Coach**

Stanislav Griga

SVK 04.11.61

- - 2 - - - - 2 - 12 -

### KEY: Squad list

Squad list is ordered by position and then numerically

**No.** - Number, **Nat.** - Nationality
**DoB** - Date of birth, **Pld** - Matches played, **Gls** - Goals

1 - UCLQ: Total UEFA Champions League appearances in the qualifying rounds only
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**Date** | **Match** | **Res** | **Lineups**
---|---|---|---
14/09/2005 | AC Sparta Praha v AFC Ajax | 1-1 | **Sparta**: Blažek, Sivok, Zelenka, Poborský, Slepička (Matušovič 49), Lukáš, Kisel, Petráš, Pospěch, Poláček (Došek 79), Kadlec  
**Ajax**: Vonk, Trabelsi, Grygera, Galásek (Heitinga 93), Maduro, Pienaar (Rosales 80), Babel, Sneijder, Emanuelson, Lindenbergh, Rosenberg (Charisteas 76) |
14/09/2005 | Arsenal FC v FC Thun | 2-1 | **Arsenal**: Almunia, Ashley Cole, Pirès, Ljungberg (Hleb 81), Reyes (Owusu-Abeyie 81), Van Persie, Lauren, Fabregas (Bergkamp 73), Gilberto, Campbell, Touré  
**Thun**: Jakupovic, Gonçalves, Milicevic, Bernardini, Adriano (Gelson 57), Gerber (Leandro 73), Orman, Aegerter, Lustrinelli (Omar 87), Ferreira, Hodzic  |
27/09/2005 | FC Thun v AC Sparta Praha | 1-0 | **Thun**: Jakupovic, Leandro, Gonçalves, Milicevic, Adriano (Gelson 83), Deumi, Orman (Gerber 46), Aegerter, Lustrinelli (Sen 79), Ferreira, Hodzic  
**Sparta**: Blažek, Hašek, Sivok, Zelenka (Došek 84), Slepička (Herzán 60), Petrouš, Kisel, Petráš, Poláček, Kadlec |
27/09/2005 | AFC Ajax v Arsenal FC | 1-2 | **Ajax**: Vonk, Grygera, Galásek, Charisteas (Rosenberg 57), Pienaar, Babel, Vermaelen, De Jong, Emanuelson (Juanfran 85), Lindenbergh, Boukhari (Manucharyan 69)  
**Arsenal**: Almunia, Ashley Cole, Pirès (Clichy 88), Ljungberg, Reyes (Owusu-Abeyie 81), Van Persie, Fabregas, Flamini, Campbell, Touré |
18/10/2005 | AFC Ajax v FC Thun | 2-0 | **Ajax**: Stekelenburg, Trabelsi, Grygera, Galásek, Rosales (Heitinga 90), Maduro, Pienaar (Boukhari 84), De Jong, Anastasiou (Babel 82), Sneijder, Emanuelson  
**Thun**: Jakupovic, Leandro, Gonçalves, Milicevic, Gelson (Duruz 84), Adriano (Sen 74), Deumi, Orman, Aegerter, Lustrinelli (Omar 84), Ferreira |
18/10/2005 | AC Sparta Praha v Arsenal FC | 0-2 | **Sparta**: Blažek, Pergi (Matušovič 70), Zelenka, Slepička (Došek 77), Petrouš, Lukáš, Kisel, Petráš, Pospěch, Poláček, Kadlec  
**Arsenal**: Lehmann, Pirès, Reyes (Henry 15), Van Persie (Eboüé 73), Laurent, Fabregas (Owusu-Abeyie 89), Flamini, Cygan, Gilberto, Clichy, Touré |
02/11/2005 | FC Thun v AFC Ajax | 2-4 | **Thun**: Jakupovic, Leandro (Sen 81), Gonçalves, Milicevic (Adriano 42), Bernardini, Deumi, Orman (Gerber 67), Aegerter, Lustrinelli, Ferreira, Hodzic  
**Ajax**: Stekelenburg, Grygera, Heitinga, Galásek, Maduro, Pienaar, Babel, De Jong, Anastasiou, Sneijder (Boukhari 89), Emanuelson |
02/11/2005 | Arsenal FC v AC Sparta Praha | 3-0 | **Arsenal**: Almunia, Pirès (Fabregas 73), Reyes (Eboüé 83), Bergkamp, Lauren, Henry (Van Persie 66), Flamini, Gilberto, Clichy, Campbell, Touré |
22/11/2005  AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha
22/11/2005  FC Thun v Arsenal FC
07/12/2005  AC Sparta Praha v FC Thun
07/12/2005  Arsenal FC v AFC Ajax

**Sparta:** Blažek, Hašek, Pergl, Zelenka, Petrouš (Jesliček 80), Lukáš, Petráš, Pospěch, Poláček (Slepička 59), Kadlec, Matušovič

**KEY:** Match-by-match lineups


*(NOTE: In the group stage, the group winners and runners-up advance to the UEFA Champions League knockout stage, the eight third-placed teams move into the UEFA Cup third round, and the eight fourth-placed teams are eliminated.)*
AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha
PRESS KIT

### Booking list - Group B

#### AC Sparta Praha

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**KEY:** Booking list

- **Y** - Booked, **R** - Sent off, **Y/R** - Yellow + Direct Red
- **###** - 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.
### Player statistics

**AFC Ajax**

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**Goalkeepers**

- **Defenders**
  - No. 2: Hatem Trabelsi - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 3: Zdenek Grygera - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 4: Johnny Heitinga - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 5: Julien Escudé - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 15: Thomas Vermaelen - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 19: Urby Emanuelson - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 31: Emanuel Boakye - 90 90 90 90 90 90
  - No. 33: Robbert Schilder - 90 90 90 90 90 90

**Midfielders**

- No. 6: Tomáš Galásek - 8(+) 89(-) 90 90 90 90
- No. 8: Hedwiges Maduro - 90 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 10: Steven Pienaar - 90 82(-) 80(-) 90 84(-) 90 90
- No. 16: Nigel de Jong - 90 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 18: Wesley Sneijder - 14(+) 28(+) 90 90 90 90
- No. 21: Olaf Lindenbergh - 90 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 22: Juanfran - 5(+) 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 34: Stanley Aborah - 90 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 37: Per Weihrauch - 90 90 90 90 90 90

**Forwards**

- No. 7: Mauro Rosales - 10(+) 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 9: Angelo Charisteas - 14(+) 14(+) 57(-) 90 90 90
- No. 11: Ryan Babel - 76(-) 90 90 90 8(+) 90 90
- No. 17: Yannis Anastasiou - 82(-) 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 24: Markus Rosenberg - 88(-) 90 76(-) 33(+) 90 90 90
- No. 27: Edgar Manucharyan - 21(+) 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 28: Nourdin Boukhari - 90 62(-) 69(-) 6(+1) 1(+1) 90 90
- No. 32: Vurnon Anita - 90 90 90 90 90 90
- No. 36: Javier Martina - 90 90 90 90 90 90

**KEY: Lineups**

- Lineups are ordered by position and then numerically.
- **No.** - Jersey number
- (-) - Denotes player substituted
- (+) - Denotes player introduced
- (*) - Denotes player dismissed
- (+/-) - Denotes player introduced and substituted
## Player statistics

### AC Sparta Praha

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**Forwards**

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<td>60(-)</td>
<td>77(-)</td>
<td>31(+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ondřej Herzán</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>30(+)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ondřej Biro</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Jiří Jeslínek</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10(+)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Miroslav Matušovič</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41(+)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20(+)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY: Lineups**

Lineups are ordered by position and then numerically

No - Jersey number

(-) - Denotes player substituted

(+) - Denotes player introduced

(*) - Denotes player dismissed

(+-) - Denotes player introduced and substituted
Danny Blind

Danny Blind is in his first full season as coach of AFC Ajax, the club with whom he performed with such style and distinction over 13 years. Blind was handed the reins at the ArenA with two months of last season remaining and could do little to close the gap to runaway champions PSV Eindhoven, although Ajax did fend off AZ Alkmaar to seal a return to the UEFA Champions League.

Blind retired from playing in 1999 after appearing in 537 Dutch top-flight matches for Ajax. He joined the club's technical staff and in February 2003 was appointed head of the highly successful youth department, impressing enough to land the top job when it was vacated by Ronald Koeman in March 2005. Like Koeman, Blind is an esteemed former Dutch international, winning many of his 41 caps as right-back in a defence marshalled by Koeman in the centre.

Born in August 1961, Blind matured into Ajax's defensive cornerstone after joining from Sparta Rotterdam. With Ajax, he won 16 trophies, including five Dutch championships and three Dutch Cups. The club also excelled in Europe, winning the UEFA Cup in 1992 and 1996, a season after Blind's crowning glory when he captained Ajax to a European Champion Clubs' Cup final defeat of AC Milan. Only an injury in 1987, when the club won the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, denied him a clean sweep of continental titles.

Stanislav Griga

Slovakian Stanislav Griga was appointed as Jaroslav Hrebík's successor at Czech champions AC Sparta Praha after the club made a disappointing start to this season. Sparta had lost four of their first seven league matches and taken just one point from their opening two UEFA Champions League group games.

Griga is already a familiar face at Sparta, having joined the club as a striker in 1981 and left eight years later after scoring 120 league goals. He also played for Feyenoord and SK Rapid Wien and scored eight goals in 34 international appearances, a tally which includes Czechoslovakia's run to the quarter-finals of the 1990 FIFA World Cup.

He started his coaching career in his home town at MŠK Žilina and then led FC Trencín, ŠK Slovan Bratislava, FK ZTS Dubnica and also the Slovakian Under-21 national team. He crossed the border to the Czech Republic to coach FC Slovan Liberec, guiding them to fifth place in the Czech league in 2004/05 despite starting the season with a six-point deduction. He left the club in the summer of 2005, and was unattached when Sparta came in for him.
Referee
Valentin Ivanov (RUS)

Assistant referees
Evgeni Volnin (RUS), Nikolai Golubev (RUS)

Fourth official
Aleksandr Gvardis (RUS)

UEFA Delegate
Michał Listkiewicz (POL)

UEFA Referee observer
Johann Hantschk (AUT)

UEFA Media Officer
Margus Luik (EST)

Valentin Ivanov was born in Moscow on 4 July 1961, and is still based in the Russian capital. A physical education teacher by profession, he began refereeing in 1989, was a top-division referee four years later, and joined the FIFA international list in 1997. After various European assignments at youth level, Ivanov moved swiftly up the refereeing ladder with his designation for the UEFA European Under-21 Championship final round in Slovakia in 2000. After some impressive displays, he was duly rewarded with regular fixtures in the FIFA World Cup, UEFA EURO 2004™ and the UEFA Champions League.

This culminated in his appointment for his biggest matches to date - the FIFA Confederations' Cup final between Cameroon and France in Paris in the summer of 2003, and the annual European/South American Cup match between CA Boca Juniors and AC Milan in Yokohama.

Last season, Ivanov took charge of six UEFA Champions League matches and three World Cup qualifiers before rounding 2005 off in fine style with a commanding performance in the World Cup qualifier between Wales and England and FC Porto's Champions League meeting with FC Internazionale Milano.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comp.</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.09.2000</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS1</td>
<td>SC Heerenveen - Valencia CF</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>Heerenveen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.02.2003</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS2</td>
<td>AFC Ajax - Arsenal FC</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.08.2003</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>QR3</td>
<td>AFC Ajax - Grazer AK</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.08.2004</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>QR3</td>
<td>PSV Eindhoven - FK Crvena Zvezda</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>Eindhoven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UEFA Champions League Other matches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comp.</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.10.2000</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS1</td>
<td>Helsingborgs IF - Rosenborg BK</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Helsingborg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.03.2001</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS2</td>
<td>Manchester United FC - SK Sturm Graz</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.09.2001</td>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>GS1</td>
<td>BV Borussia Dortmund - Liverpool FC</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>Dortmund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha
PRESS KIT

31.10.2001 UCL GS1 Bayer 04 Leverkusen - Olympique Lyonnais 2-4 Leverkusen
20.03.2002 UCL GS2 RC Deportivo La Coruña - Bayer 04 Leverkusen 1-3 La Coruna
13.08.2002 UCL QR3 Boavista FC - AJ Auxerre 0-1 Porto
02.10.2002 UCL GS1 AEK Athens FC - Real Madrid CF 3-3 Athens
23.10.2002 UCL GS1 RC Lens - RC Deportivo La Coruña 3-1 Lens
26.11.2002 UCL GS2 FC Basel 1893 - Manchester United FC 1-3 Basle
19.03.2003 UCL GS2 Bayer 04 Leverkusen - UC Inter Nazionale Milano 0-2 Leverkusen
07.05.2003 UCL SF AC Milan - FC Internazionale Milano 0-0 Milan
17.09.2003 UCL GS1 Juventus - Galatasaray SK 2-1 Turin
04.11.2003 UCL GS1 S.S. Lazio - Chelsea FC 0-4 Rome
09.03.2004 UCL 1/8 Manchester United FC - FC Porto 1-1 Manchester
23.03.2004 UCL QF AC Milan - RC Deportivo La Coruña 4-1 Milan
28.09.2004 UCL GS Real Madrid CF - AS Roma 4-2 Madrid
20.10.2004 UCL GS Panathinaikos FC - Arsenal FC 2-2 Athens
02.11.2004 UCL GS FC Internazionale Milano - Valencia CF 0-0 Milan
08.03.2005 UCL 1/8 Olympique Lyonnais - Werder Bremen 7-2 Lyon
13.04.2005 UCL QF Juventus - Liverpool FC 0-0 Turin
24.08.2005 UCL QR3 Rangers FC - Anorthosis Famagusta FC 2-0 Glasgow
19.10.2005 UCL GS FC Porto - FC Internazionale Milano 2-0 Porto

Other matches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comp.</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.03.1997</td>
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<td>Israel - Albania</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UIC</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>Silkeborg IF - NK Hrvatski Dragovoljac</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.09.1997</td>
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<td>PR</td>
<td>Belgium - Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.10.1997</td>
<td>U18</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Denmark - Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13.10.1997</td>
<td>U18</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>France - Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23.05.1998</td>
<td>WCHAMP</td>
<td>QR</td>
<td>Scotland - Czech Republic</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.07.1998</td>
<td>U18</td>
<td>GS - FT</td>
<td>Portugal - Lithuania</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Larnaca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.07.1998</td>
<td>U18</td>
<td>P-O 3rd</td>
<td>Portugal - Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.08.1998</td>
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<td>VPS Vaasa - Grazer AK</td>
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<td>Vaasa</td>
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<td>R1</td>
<td>Silkeborg IF - AS Roma</td>
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<td>09.06.1999</td>
<td>EURO</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Luxembourg - Poland</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.07.1999</td>
<td>UIC</td>
<td>R3</td>
<td>FC Jokerit - West Ham United FC</td>
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<td>30.09.1999</td>
<td>UCUP</td>
<td>R1</td>
<td>SK Rapid Wien - AŠK Inter Bratislava</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>06.10.1999</td>
<td>EURO</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Greece - Albania</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Athens</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.10.1999</td>
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<td>R2</td>
<td>Roda JC - VIL Wolfsburg</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>Kerkrade</td>
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<tr>
<td>29.05.2000</td>
<td>U21</td>
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<td>Spain - Croatia</td>
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<td>Trnava</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.06.2000</td>
<td>U21</td>
<td>GS - FT</td>
<td>Turkey - Italy</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
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<td>UIC</td>
<td>SF</td>
<td>SK Sigma Olomouc - FK Chmel Bíšany</td>
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<td>Olomouc</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.10.2000</td>
<td>WC</td>
<td>QR</td>
<td>Austria - Spain</td>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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<td>23.11.2000</td>
<td>UCUP</td>
<td>R3</td>
<td>FC Girondins de Bordeaux - Werder Bremen</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Bordeaux</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.02.2001</td>
<td>UCUP</td>
<td>R4</td>
<td>1. FC Kaiserslautern - SK Slavia Praha</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>Kaiserslautern</td>
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24.03.2001  WC  QR  England - Finland  2-1  Liverpool
20.11.2001  UCUP  R3  FC Girondins de Bordeaux - Roda JC  1-0  Bordeaux
28.02.2002  UCUP  R4  Servette FC - Valencia CF  2-2  Geneva
27.03.2002  FRIE.  R1  Sweden - Switzerland  1-1  Malmo
18.05.2002  FRIE.  R1  France - Belgium  1-2  Paris
12.10.2002  EURO  QR  Romania - Norway  0-1  Bucharest
29.03.2003  EURO  QR  Italy - Finland  2-0  Palermo
24.04.2003  UCUP  SF  Boavista FC - Celtic FC  0-1  Porto
19.06.2003  CONFCUP  QR1  Brazil - Cameroon  0-1  Paris
29.06.2003  CONFCUP  F  France - Cameroon  0-0  Paris
11.10.2003  EURO  QR  Germany - Iceland  3-0  Hamburg
14.12.2003  EUSA  F  AC Milan - CA Boca Juniors  1-1*(1-3)  Yokohama
22.04.2004  UCUP  SF  Newcastle United FC - Olympique de Marseille  0-0  Newcastle
17.06.2004  EURO  GS - FT  England - Switzerland  3-0  Coimbra
22.06.2004  EURO  GS - FT  Italy - Bulgaria  2-1  Guimaraes
27.06.2004  EURO  GF  Czech Republic - Denmark  3-0  Porto
13.10.2004  WC  QR  Norway - Slovenia  3-0  Oslo
26.03.2005  WC  QR  Israel - Rep. of Ireland  1-1  Tel-Aviv
04.06.2005  WC  QR  Serbia-Montenegro - Belgium  0-0  Belgrade
03.09.2005  WC  QR  Wales - England  0-1  Cardiff
12.10.2005  WC  QR  Sweden - Iceland  3-1  Solna
12.11.2005  FRIE.  R1  Netherlands - Italy  1-3  Amsterdam

KEY: Match officials
Nat. - Nationality, DoB - Date of birth
Comp. - Competition, Res - Result
1 - UCL: Total matches officiated in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. (NOTE: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition. Matches where the match official has acted as a fourth official are not included in this statistic.)
2 - UEFA: Total matches officiated in UEFA club competitions including all qualifying round matches (NOTE: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competitions defined as the European Champion Clubs’ Cup, the UEFA Cup Winners’ Cup, the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup and the UEFA Intertoto Cup. International matches or matches where the match official has acted as a fourth official are not included in this statistic.)

ECC: European Champions Clubs’ Cup / UEFA Champions League
UCUP: UEFA Cup
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners’ Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup
UC: UEFA Intertoto Cup
EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup
CONFCUP: Confederation Cup
FRIE: Friendly matches

AP:Appearances  QR: Qualifying round
GS: Group stage  R1: First round
GS1: First group stage  R2: Second round
GS2: Second group stage  R3: Third round
PR: Preliminary round  R4: Fourth round
QF: Quarter-finals  SF: Semi-finals
QR: Qualifying round  1/8: Eighth-finals
QR1: First qualifying round  1/16: Sixteenth-finals
Henry inspires Arsenal victory
(Saturday, 19 November 2005)

It rained goals in games involving teams in Group B on Friday and Saturday, with 18 in the four matches played by Arsenal FC, FC Thun, AFC Ajax and AC Sparta Praha. Thierry Henry scored twice as Arsenal overcame high-flying Wigan Athletic FC in England, while Sparta and Ajax put dismal sequences behind them to achieve victories of their own. But Thun’s woes continued with a home defeat against Neuchâtel Xamax FC.

**FC Thun 2-3 Neuchâtel Xamax FC**

Thun have now gone five games without a win in all competitions after letting slip a two-goal lead to give relegation-threatened Xamax their first away victory in nine months on Friday. The home side dominated early on, and were rewarded with two goals from Swiss international Mauro Lustrinelli after 25 and 54 minutes.

However, Thun look susceptible at the back without injured captain Andres Gerber, who will not play again this year because of his persistent achilles problem, and suspended defender Ljubo Milicevic and the visitors duly pulled themselves back into the match just after the hour. Stéphane Besle and Ansi Agolli struck within a minute of each other to level the scores, before Alexandre Rey scored a 71st-minute winner for Xamax, who had taken just one point in their previous seven visits to the Lachen stadium.

"Stupid individual mistakes cost us victory," said coach Urs Schönenberger, whose side languish in mid-table with three Swiss Super League games remaining before the winter break. "Of course, we shouldn't have lost but at least we have two weeks of preparation behind us. Regeneration was crucial for the mental and team building side even if all the players could not be there [because of international commitments]."

**Wigan Athletic FC 2-3 Arsenal FC**

Arsenal claimed their first away win of the league season on Saturday, after coming away from Wigan with maximum points. Pascal Cygan was deployed in an unfamiliar left-back position, following injuries to Ashley Cole and Gaël Clichy (both foot), which will rule them out until the new year while Aleksandr Hleb (knee) also remains sidelined.

The Gunners struck on eleven minutes when Wigan goalkeeper John Filan allowed Robin van Persie's shot to slip past him, before Thierry Henry was put through by Cesc Fabregas to open up a two-goal lead ten minutes later. Henri Camara's 28th-minute diving header reduced the arrears, but Henry struck again with a free-kick four minutes before the break. Jimmy Bullard pulled Wigan back to within a goal of the visitors in first-half added time, but the second half was goalless.

"I feel we have been mentally and physically tested by a determined, brave Wigan team," said Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger. "At times they caused us a great deal of upset, particularly in the first half, because of their commitment. But I feel my team is developing well from game to game and we are becoming a stronger force as the
season progresses."

**AFC Ajax 2-0 FC Twente**

Ajax ended a club record four-game Eredivisie goal drought to return to winning ways against Twente. The home side required an own goal from defender Daniel Majstorovic to end the scoreless run, which had lasted 443 minutes. Majstorovic inadvertently broke the deadlock with 20 minutes remaining, turning in Hatem Trabelsi's cross, before substitute Markus Rosenberg ensured Ajax's first win in five league games with an added-time goal.

Steven Pienaar missed out as he served the second part of a three-match ban, while Angelos Charisteas (concussion), Thomas Vermaelen (foot), Maxwell, Nicola Mitea, Johnny Heitinga, Kenneth Vermeer (all knee), Ryan Babel (groin), Julien Escudé (back) are all injured.

"We were lucky Rosenberg scored our second, otherwise it would have been a bit fortunate to win courtesy of an own goal," said coach Danny Blind. "It is always a relief to win again after a bad run. We played reasonably well, but were not clinical enough in front of goal. We must now try and look upwards by taking it week-by-week. First of all we must aim to get back into the top five in the table, though first place is still some way off."

**AC Sparta Praha 4-2 FC Mladá Boleslav**

Sparta ended a run of three straight losses with a thrilling home victory on Saturday. The visitors, who won both league meetings against Mladá Boleslav last season, were in contention until Miroslav Slepička scored Sparta's fourth goal in added time.

Sparta coach Stanislav Griga's search for his best team continued with captain Martin Petraš moved to the unfamiliar position of right-back, and Ondřej Herzán stationed in central midfield. Libor Došek connected with a corner to open the scoring in the 24th minute, but Pavel Simr restored parity seven minutes later with his first league goal. Tomáš Poláček found the net with a clever, lofted free-kick five minutes after the break for his fifth league goal of the season. Jaromír Blažek twice saved Sparta with brilliant stops before Herzán increased the lead with a powerful shot on 66 minutes.

Luboš Pecka caused some Sparta nerves to jangle by pulling one back for Mladá Boleslav in the 89th minute, before Slepička made the points safe with his first goal for the club. Griga was happy with the result, if not the performance. "It was a hard-fought but very important victory for us," he said. "Our defence did not play well, but fortunately the goalkeeper kept us alive."
AFC Ajax v AC Sparta Praha
PRESS KIT

Domestic league details

AFC Ajax (Holland Casino Eredivisie)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Lineups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.10.2005</td>
<td>v SC Heerenveen (H)</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>Stekelenburg, Trabelsi (Heitinga 25), Grygera, Galásek, Maduro (Vermaelen 71), De Jong, Emanuelson, Pienaar (Rosales 56), Babel, Anastasiou, Boukhari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.11.2005</td>
<td>v NEC Nijmegen (A)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>Stekelenburg, Grygera, Heitinga (Rosenberg 71), Vermaelen, Maduro, De Jong (Lindenbergh 58), Schilder, Emanuelson, Rosales, Babel, Anastasiou (Boukhari 67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.11.2005</td>
<td>v FC Twente (H)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Stekelenburg, Trabelsi, Grygera, Lindenbergh (De Jong 60), Galásek, Maduro, Sneijder, Emanuelson, Rosales (Manucharyan 87), Anastasiou (Rosenberg 60), Boukhari</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Goalscorers</th>
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<tr>
<td>20.08.2005</td>
<td>v RBC Roosendaal (A)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Rosenberg, Pienaar</td>
</tr>
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<td>28.08.2005</td>
<td>v Feyenoord (H)</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Charisteas</td>
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<td>10.09.2005</td>
<td>v Willem II (A)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Galásek, Charisteas</td>
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<td>18.09.2005</td>
<td>v AZ Alkmaar (A)</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Sneijder (2)</td>
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<td>21.09.2005</td>
<td>v ADO Den Haag (H)</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>Sneijder, Maduro</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.09.2005</td>
<td>v Roda JC (H)</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Pienaar, Charisteas (2), Galásek (pen)</td>
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<td>02.10.2005</td>
<td>v Sparta Rotterdam (A)</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>De Jong (2)</td>
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<td>v PSV Eindhoven (A)</td>
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<td>v SC Heerenveen (H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>06.11.2005</td>
<td>v NEC Nijmegen (A)</td>
<td>0-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.11.2005</td>
<td>v FC Twente (H)</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Own goal, Rosenberg</td>
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<td>27.11.2005</td>
<td>v FC Utrecht (A)</td>
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Rank Clubs | Pld | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts
1 PSV Eindhoven | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 9 | 29
2 Feyenoord     | 12 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 13 | 28
3 AZ Alkmaar    | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 34 | 13 | 26
4 RKC Waalwijk  | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 25 | 17 | 23
5 BV Vitesse     | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 18 | 20
6 AFC Ajax       | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 12 | 18
7 SC Heerenveen  | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 23 | 20 | 18
8 FC Utrecht     | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 14 | 18
9 NEC Nijmegen   | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 18
10 FC Groningen  | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 16
11 NAC Breda     | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 19 | 15
12 Heracles Almelo| 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 21 | 15
13 FC Twente     | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 14 | 13 | 14
14 Roda JC       | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 20 | 28 | 13
15 Sparta Rotterdam| 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 12
16 ADO Den Haag  | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 9
17 Willem II     | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 23 | 8
18 RBC Roosendaal| 12 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 6  | 30 | 3

KEY: Domestic league details
- Pld - Matches played, W - Won, D - Drawn, L - Lost, GF - Goals for, GA - Goals against, Pts - Points
### Domestic league details

#### AC Sparta Praha (Gambrinus Liga)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Res</th>
<th>Lineups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.10.2005</td>
<td>v SK Sigma Olomouc (H)</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Blažek, Pergl, Petrá š Luká š Kadlec, Pospěch, Hašek, Zelenka (Poláček 46), Kisel (Slepička 70), Došek, Matušovič</td>
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<tr>
<td>05.11.2005</td>
<td>v FK Jablonec 97 (A)</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Blažek, Pergl (Loučka 46), Petráš, Lukáš, Kadlec, Pospěch, Petrouš (Zelenka 69), Hašek, Poláček, Slepička, Matušovič (Došek 57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.11.2005</td>
<td>v FK Mladá Boleslav (H)</td>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>Blažek, Petráš, Petrůuš, Lukáš, Kadlec, Pospěch, Herzán (Zelenka 75), Hašek (Šimáček 81), Poláček, Došek, Matušovič (Slepička 46)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goalscorers

- 06.08.2005 v FC Viktoria Plzen (A) 2-1 Zelenka, Kisel
- 13.08.2005 v FK SIAD Most (H) 2-1 Poborský (pen), Sivok
- 20.08.2005 v FC Slovan Liberec (A) 0-2
- 29.08.2005 v 1. FC Brno (H) 1-1 Sivok
- 10.09.2005 v FC Vysocina Jihlava (H) 2-0 Zelenka (2)
- 17.09.2005 v 1. FC Slovácko (A) 0-2
- 24.09.2005 v FC Baník Ostrava (H) 0-2
- 02.10.2005 v FK Teplice (A) 1-2 Poláček
- 15.10.2005 v FK Chmel Blišany (H) 5-2 Own goal, Došek, Matušovič, Petráš, Poláček
- 23.10.2005 v SK Slavia Praha (A) 1-4 Matušovič
- 29.10.2005 v SK Sigma Olomouc (H) 1-2 Matušovič (pen)
- 05.11.2005 v FK Jablonec 97 (A) 1-2 Poláček
- 19.11.2005 v FK Mladá Boleslav (H) 4-2 Poláček, Slepička, Herzán, Došek
- 26.11.2005 v FC Zlín (A)
- 04.12.2005 v FK Marila Příbram (H)
- 11.12.2005 v FK SIAD Most (A)
- 12.02.2006 v FC Slovan Liberec (H)
- 19.02.2006 v 1. FC Brno (A)

#### Rank

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The week in UEFA

• 'Champions of Europe' awards
UEFA is celebrating 50 years of European club football throughout the season, culminating with the UEFA Champions League final in Paris on 17 May.

European football's governing body will pay tribute to players and coaches who have made a significant contribution to the success of this competition by awarding a specially-designed plaque to recognise their status as 'Champions of Europe'.

Some of these figures will be honoured on the pitch before five UEFA Champions League games this week to enable supporters to thank these icons for the many memorable moments they have offered the game of football.

The matches concerned are: FC Bayern München-SK Rapid Wien, Manchester United FC-Villarreal CF, AFC Ajax-AC Sparta Praha and Liverpool FC-Real Betis Balompié.

The list of 'Champions of Europe' and the presenter of each plaque will be distributed in the media working area and at the TV commentators' briefing approximately two hours before kick-off.

• Champions No14 - out now
Issue 14 of Champions, the UEFA Champions League official magazine, is on sale. As the group stage nears its conclusion, Champions talks to three outstanding midfielders: AC Milan's Kaká, Juventus's Patrick Vieira and FC Bayern München's Michael Ballack.

Champions also looks at the continent's greatest goalscorers, highlighting 27 Golden Boot winners. In another feature, two Dutch coaches working in Portugal - FC Porto's Co Adriaanse and Ronald Koeman of SL Benfica - reveal their individual methods.

Champions magazine appears in English and is on sale in shops and at Europe's major football stadiums.

• UEFA Champions League Technical Report
The Technical Report reviews an exciting 2004/05 season in European football's premier club competition.

Compiled by UEFA's football development division under technical director Andy Roxburgh, in conjunction with a team comprising Roy Hodgson, Gérard Houllier, Jürgen Klinsmann, György Mezey, Holger Osieck, Carlos Alberto Parreira and Jozef Venglos, it examines tactical and technical trends from last season.
Competition summary

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

• **Key dates:** The draw for the first knockout round will take place in Nyon on 16 December with matches being played on 21/22 February and 7/8 March. The draws for the quarter-finals (to be played on 28/29 March and 4/5 April), semi-finals (18/19 & 25/26 April) and final are scheduled for 17 March 2006. This season’s showpiece will be played at the Stade de France, Paris on Wednesday 17 May 2006.

• **Financial information:** UEFA has estimated that the gross budgeted income for the 2005/06 UEFA Champions League will be €598m - higher than the revenue obtained last season. 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. Clubs in the group stage will receive a starting fee of €1.6m and 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. 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. 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.

• **Deadlines:** UEFA Champions League press kits are provided to media by uefa.com. For every UEFA Champions League match, two press kits are issued: Sunday at 22:00CET with a match preview update on Monday at 22:00CET for Tuesday’s matches. For Wednesday’s matches, the press kit is issued on Monday at 22:00CET with the match preview update version published on Tuesday at 22:00CET.

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