RACING POST

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SPECIAL

**The ultimate guide**

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

# Who will be the kings of Europe?




- All the odds
- Guide to the 32 teams
- Key stats and formguide for matchday one
- Betting advice from Racing Post experts Mark Langdon, Steve Davies & Kevin Pullein
- Top tips from football legend Tony Cascarino, plus European gurus Gabriele Marcotti & Guillem Balague

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See inside for Champions League special prices.

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## WHO WILL LIFT THE CUP?



***Mark Langdon*** *can see English winners this season*

# CHELSEA CAN FINALLY BREAK EURO HOODOO

## Ancelotti's Blues look great value to bring Cup back to England



**LAST FIVE FINALS**

2008-09 .....Barcelona 2 (8-1) Man Utd 0
2007-08 .....Man Utd 1 (8-1) Chelsea 1
*Man Utd won 6-5 on penalties*
2006-07 .....Milan 2 (11-1) Liverpool 1
2005-06 .....Barcelona 2 (13-2) Arsenal 1
2004-05 .....Liverpool 3 (33-1) Milan 3
*Liverpool won 3-2 on penalties*

*Odds quoted were the best price to win the tournament at the start of the group stage

THE Champions League curse which has caused **Chelsea** so much pain in recent years could be lifted this season with the Blues looking an outstanding bet to claim a first European Cup success.

Chelsea have suffered horrendous luck in the competition despite reaching at least the semi-finals in five of the last six years.

Just about everything which could have gone wrong has gone wrong in the latter stages from disputed goals to penalty shootout defeats – and last year's heartbreaking semi-final exit to Barcelona was possibly the most painful of the lot.

With a better referee the Blues would have gone to the final in Rome, and a treble-winning Barcelona side needed an amazing last-gasp goal from Andres Iniesta to stop the marvellous run under previous boss Guus Hiddink.

Carlo Ancelotti has taken over from Hiddink and he could be the missing piece of the jigsaw. Having twice won the Champions League as a manager he definitely has what it takes.

Ancelotti has an incredible squad at his disposal, strong in every area and able to tactically adapt to almost any situation.

Defensively they have John Terry, Alex, Ricardo Carvalho, Jose Bosingwa, Ashley Cole and Branislav Ivanovic, while in midfield Ancelotti can call upon Michael Essien, Deco, John Obi Mikel, Frank Lampard, Michael Ballack, Joe Cole, Yuri Zhirkov and Florent Malouda.

Didier Drogba is the best forward of his type in the world and he is partnered by Premier League Golden Boot winner Nicolas Anelka. There are no weaknesses and they represent terrific value at 13-2.

Barca are worthy favourites having played such stunning football en route to becoming the first Spanish team to win the treble under the amazing influence of novice manager Pep Guardiola.

However, they are virtually half the odds of last term, and is their side that much better than 12 months ago?

Swapping Samuel Eto'o and a bucketload of cash for Zlatan Ibrahimovic was by far and away the biggest gamble of Guardiola's short career.

Ibra is a superb talent, but Barcelona's great strength was the way they harassed teams into winning possession back. The languid Swede makes Dimitar Berbatov look like Carlos Tevez in terms of workrate, and no longer will Barcelona be able to defend from the front like they did so impressively last season.

Real Madrid have been the story of the summer and they are desperate to win the Champions League after the success of great rivals Barca. The fact the final is at Real's Bernabeu home just intensifies the demand for victory.

Manuel Pellegrini's midfield is a who's who of world football with new signings Xabi Alonso, Kaka and Cristiano Ronaldo capable of dominating and destroying opposition sides in equal measure.



***Didier Drogba spearheads a superb Chelsea attack***

But there are question marks, not least can all of the Galacticos play together? The rectangle midfield of two holders and two attackers does not inspire total confidence, the defence lacks leaders and the front pairing of Raul and Karim Benzema is far from the strongest in the competition.

Manchester United have reached the final in each of the last two years. However, while the sale of Ronaldo to Real Madrid may have made sound business sense, Sir Alex Ferguson's team is undoubtedly weaker for his departure.

It was Ronaldo who claimed the Golden Boot when United went all the way in 2008, even scoring in the final. It was Ronaldo who took United past Porto when he scored that phenomenal goal from 40 yards, and it was Ronaldo who notched from a similar distance in the semi-final against Arsenal before showing his counter-attacking ability to make that tie safe at the Emirates.

He can't be replaced despite Wayne Rooney growing in stature with every 90 minutes for club and country.

Arsenal themselves are too short given how weak their squad is and they have defensive problems, although the Italian threat of Inter and Juventus is growing following an impressive summer of spending.

Both could have their supporters, but it may just take one more year of rebuilding before Italy can once again become top dogs, while Lyon could be a big price but just lack that something special to go all the way to the final.

The same cannot be said of **Liverpool** when Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres are in the ranks, and no team would enjoy a second-leg trip to Anfield where the special atmosphere lives up to the hype.

They have not started the season fantastically in the Premier League and everyone has become obsessed with the loss of Alonso to Real Madrid.

However, few have mentioned the early-campaign injuries to Martin Skrtel, Daniel Agger, Fabio Aurelio, Javier Mascherano and Alberto Aquilani, and the Merseysiders should be a much stronger unit by the business end of the competition.

### Recommendations

**Chelsea**
5pts 13-2 *Hills*
**Liverpool**
1pt 12-1 *Bet365, Betfred, Hills*

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

| LAST 6 EUROPEAN SEASONS (latest figure on the right) | | BET365 | BFRED | B SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **4**/16/W/16/SF/W | **Barcelona** | 4 | **9-2** | 4 | **9-2** | 4 | **9-2** | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7-2 |
| QF/16/16/16/16/16 | **Real Madrid** | 9-2 | **5** | **5** | 9-2 | **5** | **5** | 9-2 | **5** | **5** | 9-2 | 9-2 |
| SF/SF/16/SF/F/SF | **Chelsea** | 6 | 6 | 11-2 | 6 | 6 | **13-2** | 6 | 6 | 6 | 11-2 | 11-2 |
| 16/16/GR/SF/W/F | **Man Utd** | 15-2 | 7 | **8** | 7 | 7 | **8** | 5 | 15-2 | 6 | 13-2 | 7 |
| QF/16/F/16/QF/SF | **Arsenal** | 8 | 9 | **10** | 9 | **10** | **10** | 9 | **10** | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| **4**/W/16/F/SF/QF | **Liverpool** | **12** | **12** | 11 | 11 | 10 | **12** | 9 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| **QF**/QF/QF/16/16/16 | **Inter** | **12** | **12** | **12** | 11 | 11 | **12** | **12** | **12** | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| 16/QF/QF/-/-/16 | **Juventus** | 20 | 20 | 22 | 22 | **25** | **25** | 20 | **25** | 22 | 22 | **25** |
| 16/QF/16/QF/**SF**/QF | **Bayern Munich** | 25 | 25 | **28** | 25 | 25 | **28** | **28** | 25 | 22 | 22 | 25 |
| QF/F/SF/W/16/**32** | **Milan** | 25 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 18 | **40** | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| -/**16**/**W**/**W**/16/**GR** | **Seville** | 33 | 33 | 33 | 40 | 40 | **50** | 33 | 40 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| QF/QF/QF/16/16/16 | **Lyon** | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 40 | **50** | 40 | 40 | 40 | 33 | 28 |
| -/-/-/-/-/**32**/16 | **Atletico** | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | **66** | 50 | 40 | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| -/-/-/-/-/**32** | **Wolfsburg** | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | **100** | 66 | 66 | 50 | 40 | 50 |
| 16/**32**/**32**/-/GR/**32** | **Stuttgart** | 40 | 66 | 40 | 66 | 40 | **100** | 80 | 66 | 50 | 40 | 66 |
| -/-/-/-/-/**SF**/GR+**32** | **Fiorentina** | **100** | **100** | 66 | 80 | 50 | **100** | 66 | 66 | 50 | 50 | 80 |
| W/16/GR/16/16/QF | **Porto** | **125** | 66 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 100 | 80 | 66 | 50 | 50 | 80 |
| **QF**/-/-/**32**/**32**/GR+**32** | **Bordeaux** | 80 | 66 | 80 | 66 | 50 | **150** | 50 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 80 |
| **F**/-/**16**/**1**/**16**/**QF** | **Marseille** | **150** | 66 | 80 | 100 | 50 | **150** | 80 | 80 | 66 | 80 | 80 |
| GR/**16**/GR/GR/32/**32** | **Olympiakos** | 100 | 125 | 100 | 125 | 100 | **150** | **150** | 125 | **150** | 125 | 100 |
| -/**SF**/**32**/**QF**/**GR**/- | **AZ Alkmaar** | 125 | 100 | 100 | 125 | 80 | **200** | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 125 |
| 2Q/GR+**W**/**GR**/**32**/GR/**16** | **CSKA Moscow** | 125 | 100 | 125 | 125 | 100 | **250** | 125 | 100 | 80 | 100 | 125 |
| -/**2Q**/-/**1**/-/- | **Rubin Kazan** | 200 | 150 | 125 | 100 | 80 | **250** | 150 | 125 | 100 | 100 | 150 |
| GR/**GR**/16/**16**/**F**/2Q | **Rangers** | 150 | 200 | 200 | 200 | **250** | **250** | 150 | 150 | 150 | 125 | 200 |
| GR+**3**/**GR**/**GR**/**GR**/GR/**1** | **Besiktas** | 300 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 100 | **500** | 125 | 100 | 150 | 125 | 200 |
| GR/GR+**32**/2Q/GR/GR/GR+**SF** | **Dynamo Kiev** | 400 | 200 | 125 | 100 | 66 | **500** | 80 | 125 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| -/**GR**/-/**1**/**1**/**32** | **Standard Liege** | 200 | 150 | 200 | 250 | 150 | **500** | 200 | 150 | 150 | 200 | 200 |
| **2**/**1**/2Q/**16**/-/- | **Maccabi Haifa** | **750** | 500 | 400 | 500 | 500 | **750** | 350 | 500 | 400 | **750** | 400 |
| -/-/**1**/2Q/**32**/**1** | **Zurich** | **1000** | 500 | 400 | 500 | 250 | **1000** | 500 | 750 | 500 | 750 | 300 |
| -/-/-/-/-/**1** | **Unirea** | 750 | 500 | 300 | 1000 | 400 | **2500** | 500 | 750 | 500 | 750 | 500 |
| **3**/-/3Q+**1**/2Q/2Q/**3Q** | **Debrecen** | 1000 | 1000 | 500 | 1000 | 500 | **2500** | 750 | 750 | 500 | 750 | **1000** |
| **1**/2Q/**1**/**2Q**/1Q/**1** | **Apoel** | 1000 | 2000 | 500 | 1500 | 500 | **2500** | 500 | 1000 | 500 | 1000 | 1000 |

Each-way 1/2 1,2. NB: **Bold figures** in formguide denote round of Uefa Cup reached, all others Champions League

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# UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

## TO WIN OUTRIGHT

| | |
|---|---|
| Barcelona | 4/1 |
| Real Madrid | 9/2 |
| Chelsea | 6/1 |
| Man Utd | 15/2 |
| Arsenal | 8/1 |
| Inter Milan | 12/1 |
| Liverpool | 12/1 |
| Juventus | 20/1 |
| AC Milan | 25/1 |
| Bayern Munich | 25/1 |
| Lyon | 33/1 |
| Sevilla | 33/1 |

Others on request. Each-Way 1/2 odds 1-2

## TOP GOALSCORER

| | |
|---|---|
| Ronaldo | 8/1 |
| Messi | 9/1 |
| Drogba | 10/1 |
| Torres | 10/1 |
| Eto'o | 10/1 |
| Benzema | 14/1 |
| Ibrahimovic | 16/1 |
| Rooney | 18/1 |
| Anelka | 20/1 |
| Gerrard | 20/1 |
| Henry | 22/1 |
| Pato | 25/1 |

Others on request. Each-Way 1/4 odds 1-2-3-4

## NATIONALITY OF WINNER

| | |
|---|---|
| England | 5/4 |
| Spain | 7/5 |
| Italy | 5/1 |
| Germany | 16/1 |
| France | 25/1 |
| Any Other Nation | 50/1 |

## GROUP BETTING

### GROUP A

| | |
|---|---|
| Juventus | 11/10 |
| Bayern Munich | 5/4 |
| Bordeaux | 5/1 |
| Maccabi Haifa | 33/1 |

### GROUP B

| | |
|---|---|
| Man Utd | 2/5 |
| Wolfsburg | 7/2 |
| CSKA Moscow | 7/1 |
| Besiktas | 18/1 |

### GROUP C

| | |
|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 4/9 |
| AC Milan | 9/4 |
| Marseille | 8/1 |
| FC Zurich | 100/1 |

### GROUP D

| | |
|---|---|
| Chelsea | 4/11 |
| Atletico Madrid | 7/2 |
| FC Porto | 6/1 |
| Apoel Nicosia | 50/1 |

### GROUP E

| | |
|---|---|
| Liverpool | 8/13 |
| Lyon | 9/4 |
| Fiorentina | 5/1 |
| Debrecen | 50/1 |

### GROUP F

| | |
|---|---|
| Barcelona | 1/2 |
| Inter Milan | 15/8 |
| Rubin Kazan | 16/1 |
| Dynamo Kiev | 25/1 |

### GROUP G

| | |
|---|---|
| Sevilla | 4/5 |
| VfB Stuttgart | 7/4 |
| Rangers | 13/2 |
| Unirea Urziceni | 16/1 |

### GROUP H

| | |
|---|---|
| Arsenal | 2/7 |
| Olympiakos | 6/1 |
| AZ | 13/2 |
| Standard Liege | 11/1 |

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# TONY CASCARINO



*The former Marseille striker sees few problems for the English teams in the group stage*




*Kaka has had no problems in settling at Real Madrid and the Brazil midfielder looks a decent each-way shout to collect the Champions League Golden Boot at 40-1*

# Don't expect the big clubs to have many group difficulties

ATLETICO MADRID have got all the firepower in the world, but that's not going to stop them finishing a distant second behind Chelsea in Group D.

It's billed as a two-horse race for top spot in that section but to me Chelsea are good things at 1-2 with Betfred and Coral.

I'm going to put them in a group win double with Real Madrid – it works out at around 11-8 with Coral – and I'm also taking Betfred's 8-13 that all four Premier League teams make it into the last 16. How can they fail?

Chelsea should have no difficulty eclipsing Atletico in a group also featuring Porto and Apoel. The Cypriots are there to make up the numbers, while Porto could also be a weapon in the bet because while they are strictly sub-Chelsea class, they have enough talent going forward to nick at least a point or two off Atletico.

Atletico will score goals, of that there is no doubt. Diego Forlan, despite a rubbish time at Old Trafford, is a proven goalscorer in Spain, Sergio Aguero is class and they've also got Simao, Jose Reyes and several other decent front players.

But Chelsea are better defensively than ever under Carlo Ancelotti, especially with Michael Essien back in midfield. And Atletico defensively are awful. They have already been beaten 3-0 by Malaga in La Liga and if they are talking about Lucas Neill to replace Johnny Heitinga then you can appreciate the depth of their problems.

So qualification should be a breeze for Chelsea, and also for Real Madrid. They are 4-7 to top Group C – also featuring Milan, Marseille and Zurich – and that's a great price.

My one slight concern with Real is at the back. They've forked out fortunes on all those attacking gems in Kaka, Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema, but they are going to get nothing defensively out of the front four.

That means whoever Manuel Pellegrini picks in the defensive midfield holes – Xabi Alonso has to be a certain starter – is going to be working overtime to protect some seriously accident-prone centre-backs, including Sergio Ramos and Christophe Metzelder.

This is not yet the perfect formula – although it's going to be far too hot for the rest of the group. Milan haven't got going at all this season and I've said many, many times that French football simply isn't good enough and gets exposed too often on the big stage. Marseille don't score enough goals and will be over-run by the likes of Madrid and Milan.

Madrid will score goals and go a long way in the tournament so Kaka, at 40-1, might just be a bit of value to be top goalscorer.

As I say, all four English sides to qualify looks an absolute steal at 8-13.

Chelsea have got Group D at their mercy and you can't see Manchester United making a mess of Group C. United are in good form, have got key players like Nemanja Vidic and Rio Ferdinand fit, and shouldn't be troubled by either CSKA Moscow or Besiktas.

And Liverpool, apart from almost making a hash of qualification a couple of seasons ago, know their way into the last 16. While Lyon and Fiorentina will make it competitive, Rafa Benitez's men should still progress comfortably.

Arsenal are in a competitive section in Group H with Alkmaar, Olympiakos and Standard Liege, but again the Gunners will simply have too much class going forward.

I like Standard, managed by my old boss at Nancy, Laszlo Boloni. They are such a slick outfit and famously should have knocked Liverpool out of last season's Champions League, a match which brought Marouane Fellaini to our attention. To be fair, Boloni hasn't seen many players go from that side and they went on to retain the Belgian title.

I think they are a neat and tidy outfit who can definitely make the last 16.




***Diego Forlan is a star turn for Atletico Madrid***

## TONY'S TOP TIPS

**All four English sides to qualify**
3pts 8-13 *Betfred*

**Chelsea (1-2) & Real Madrid (4-7) to win their groups**
2pt double *Coral*

**Standard Liege to qualify from Group H**
2pts 3-1 *Boyles, Stan James, V Chandler*

**B Munich to win Group A**
2pts 7-5 *Hills*

**Kaka top goalscorer**
0.5pt each-way 40-1 *Bet365*

## Bayern have depth to see off Juventus

**GROUP A has got the bookmakers scratching their heads – Bayern Munich or Juventus?**

**Most of the layers just prefer Juve but I'm right behind Bayern at 7-5 with Hills.**

**After a slow start to the Bundesliga campaign under new manager Louis van Gaal, suddenly they've whacked champions Wolfsburg 3-0 and won 5-1 in Dortmund.**

**Talk about a statement of intent. And amazingly, Franck Ribery didn't start either game, Luca Toni couldn't get on the bench and Miroslav Klose has hardly had a look-in either, which gives you an insight into how much depth van Gaal has at his disposal.**

**Van Gaal has yet to start with his dream trident of Ribery, Arjen Robben and Mario Gomez, but when he does it will be dynamite.**

**The changes made at Munich over the summer are really exciting and Juventus look stronger, as well. Players like Diego and Melo can only enhance their set-up and it's no surprise that they are off to a 100 percent start in Serie A.**

**But no one is quite sure how Ciro Ferrara will do as a coach – he's had nothing go wrong yet – whereas van Gaal is massively experienced.**

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/2 | BARCELONA | 25/1 | BAYERN MUNICH |
| 9/2 | REAL MADRID | 28/1 | LYON |
| 11/2 | CHELSEA | 33/1 | ATLETICO MADRID |
| 7/1 | MAN UTD | 33/1 | SEVILLE |
| 8/1 | ARSENAL | 50/1 | WOLFSBURG |
| 11/1 | LIVERPOOL | 66/1 | STUTTGART |
| 11/1 | INTER MILAN | 80/1 | MARSEILLE |
| 22/1 | AC MILAN | 80/1 | FIORENTINA |
| 25/1 | JUVENTUS | 80/1 | BORDEAUX |

Each Way 1/2 odds 1,2. Others on request

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SPECIALS

Big 4 to all win their groups

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12/5 | YES | NO | 2/7 |

English Team to Progress Furthest

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/4 | CHELSEA | 7/2 | LIVERPOOL |
| 11/5 | MAN UTD | 7/2 | ARSENAL |

Win only

What Group Will the Winner Come From?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10/1 | GROUP A | 7/1 | GROUP E |
| 11/2 | GROUP B | 11/5 | GROUP F |
| 10/3 | GROUP C | 20/1 | GROUP G |
| 4/1 | GROUP D | 13/2 | GROUP H |

Win only

Winner From A Trio

| | |
|---|---|
| 10/11 | REAL MADRID, BARCELONA OR MAN UNITED |
| 13/10 | BARCELONA, MAN UNITED OR LIVERPOOL |
| 11/8 | REAL MADRID, CHELSEA OR LIVERPOOL |
| 8/5 | MAN UNITED, CHELSEA OR ARSENAL |
| 7/4 | MAN UNITED, CHELSEA OR LIVERPOOL |
| 15/8 | CHELSEA, ARSENAL OR LIVERPOOL |
| 11/5 | ARSENAL, LIVERPOOL OR MAN UNITED |

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# SPECIALS

## WINNING NATION

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | LADS | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 5-4 | 5-4 | 5-4 | **11-8** | **11-8** | **11-8** | **11-8** | 5-4 | 5-4 |
| Spain | 7-5 | 6-4 | 6-4 | 6-4 | 6-4 | **13-8** | **13-8** | 6-4 | 5-4 |
| Italy | 5 | 5 | 11-2 | 5 | 9-2 | 11-2 | **6** | **6** | **6** |
| Germany | **16** | 12 | 14 | 12 | 14 | **16** | 12 | 12 | **16** |
| France | **25** | 14 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 20 | **25** | - | 20 |
| Any other | **50** | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 14 | 14 | 10* | 20 |

*Includes France

## TO QUALIFY FOR KNOCKOUT STAGES

### GROUP A

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern Munich | 1-4 | 2-9 | **2-7** | 2-9 | 1-5 | 1-4 | 1-5 |
| Juventus | 2-9 | **1-4** | **1-4** | **1-4** | **1-4** | 2-9 | 1-5 |
| Bordeaux | 11-8 | **6-4** | 11-8 | 6-5 | **6-4** | 7-5 | **6-4** |
| Maccabi Haifa | **10** | 8 | 7 | **10** | 8 | 8 | 9 |

### GROUP B

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man Utd | 1-16 | 1-12 | 1-12 | 1-12 | **1-10** | 1-16 | 1-25 |
| Wolfsburg | 4-6 | 4-5 | 4-5 | 4-5 | 4-5 | 4-5 | **5-6** |
| CSKA Moscow | **6-4** | 11-10 | 5-4 | 21-20 | 6-5 | 6-5 | 11-8 |
| Besiktas | **9-2** | 4 | 10-3 | 4 | 7-2 | 4 | 3 |

### GROUP C

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | **1-16** | **1-16** | **1-16** | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | **1-16** |
| Milan | 2-7 | 2-7 | **4-11** | 1-3 | 1-3 | **4-11** | 1-4 |
| Marseille | **2** | 15-8 | 13-8 | 7-4 | 7-4 | 9-5 | **2** |
| Zurich | **18** | 10 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 8 |

### GROUP D

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 1-16 | **1-10** | 1-12 | 1-20 | 1-16 | 1-16 | 1-20 |
| Atletico | 4-7 | 8-13 | 4-6 | 4-6 | 4-6 | **7-10** | 4-6 |
| Porto | **6-5** | 10-11 | Evs | Evs | Evs | Evs | Evs |
| Apoel | **10** | 9 | 13-2 | 8 | 9 | 15-2 | 8 |

### GROUP E

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Liverpool | 1-8 | 1-8 | **1-7** | 1-8 | **1-7** | **1-7** | **1-7** |
| Lyon | 2-5 | 1-3 | **4-9** | 1-3 | 2-5 | 3-10 | 2-5 |
| Fiorentina | 11-8 | **6-4** | 11-10 | 7-5 | 5-4 | **6-4** | 11-8 |
| Debrecen | **10** | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 |

### GROUP F

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | **1-20** | **1-20** | **1-20** | **1-20** | 1-33 | **1-20** | 1-25 |
| Inter | 1-6 | 1-8 | **1-5** | 1-6 | 1-6 | 1-7 | 1-6 |
| Rubin Kazan | 5 | **11-2** | 5 | **11-2** | 5 | 5 | **11-2** |
| Dynamo Kiev | **13-2** | 11-2 | 5 | 4 | 11-2 | 11-2 | 11-2 |

### GROUP G

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seville | 1-7 | 1-6 | 1-6 | 1-6 | 1-6 | **1-5** | 1-6 |
| Stuttgart | 1-3 | **2-5** | 4-11 | 1-3 | 4-11 | 1-3 | **2-5** |
| Rangers | **2** | 7-4 | 7-4 | **2** | 15-8 | 7-4 | 7-4 |
| Unirea | **5** | 7-2 | 4 | 7-2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

### GROUP H

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 1-20 | **1-14** | 1-20 | 1-33 | 1-20 | 1-22 | 1-33 |
| AZ Alkmaar | **13-10** | 11-10 | 6-5 | Evs | Evs | 11-10 | 10-11 |
| Olympiakos | 6-5 | 11-10 | 5-4 | 5-4 | 5-4 | 5-4 | **6-4** |
| Standard Liege | 13-5 | 11-4 | 5-2 | **3** | **3** | 11-4 | **3** |

**GOLDEN BOOT** PAGES 16-17

# Groups should hold no fear for Premier teams

By Mark Langdon

IT has happened in five of the last six years, but Coral are still prepared to lay 4-6 about all of the English participants qualifying for the knockout stages and the advice is to lump on the Premier League's big four.

Manchester United, in 2005-06, are the only team to have blemished an otherwise perfect record with 22 of the 23 teams safely negotiating the group phase and there is nothing to suggest one will crash out early this time around.

Let's deal with the teams individually and start with Liverpool, who are arguably the most vulnerable of the quartet in a section alongside Lyon and Fiorentina.

Lyon are a decent side, but nowhere near as strong as Liverpool and with two qualifying berths the Merseysiders should still cruise into the last 16.

Fiorentina are far from being strong in terms of competing at the highest level. They gained only 68 points in Serie A last season and only just edged out Genoa for a Champions League spot. Debrecen will surely finish bottom of the pile.

United will clock up the air miles with trips to CSKA Moscow and Besiktas, but neither should cause too many problems in terms of their footballing ability.

Besiktas have failed to win four of their five domestic games and CSKA have been in turmoil.

Manager Zico has gone and been replaced by Juande Ramos, yet it may take the Spaniard time to rectify the mess in Moscow.

Chelsea are handicapped by the suspensions of Jose Bosingwa and Didier Drogba, but there is still enough talent in Carlo Ancelotti's team to make sure they finish in the top two in a group alongside Atletico Madrid, Porto and Cypriot minnows Apoel.

Atletico are a wildly inconsistent bunch, who struggle to put two decent results together, while Porto have lost a number of their key performers in the summer transfer window.

Arsenal have the easiest passage of the lot and it is difficult to see them dropping too many points from a section which also contains Standard Liege, Olympiakos and AZ Alkmaar.

Standard Liege are missing their best player Steven Defour after he picked up a serious injury on Saturday and AZ's limitations are highlighted by top scorer Mounir El Hamdaoui.

The forward failed to make the grade at Tottenham and struggled at Willem II before becoming a cult hero in Alkmaar.

Olympiakos were given gimmes in their qualifiers, and this will be far tougher than games against Slovan Bratislava and Sheriff.

**Recommendation**

**All four English teams to qualify for knockout phase**
4pts 4-6 *Coral*



*Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard should be able to guide his side through their group*

# Scottish champs look set to struggle

RANGERS have been given a decent chance of qualifying for the knockout stages of the Champions League after avoiding Europe's giants, but it could still be worth betting on Walter Smith's side to struggle in Group G, *writes Mark Langdon*.

Hills are betting on the number of points the Gers accumulate and both two points or fewer (33-1) and three to six points (11-2) appeal in a section alongside Seville, Stuttgart and Unirea.

It is difficult to see Rangers getting much on their travels given they have already been troubled at Motherwell and Hearts in the SPL this term.

Seville, boasting talent like Luis Fabiano and Fredi Kanoute, can beat Rangers home and away and Stuttgart are also a pretty strong attacking unit.

Unirea are seen as whipping boys, but that is not the case. Dan Petrescu is doing a fine job in the Urziceni hotseat and they could shock the SPL champions.

The one goalscorer match bet which appeared to be most wrong at first glance was Bet365's quote of 6-5 for Frank Lampard to notch more than England colleague Steven Gerrard.

Lampard is prolific from midfield and always gets his fair share of free kicks and penalties, but Stevie G has outscored the Chelsea man in each of the last four Champions League seasons.

**Recommendations**

**Rangers to get two points or fewer in Group G**
0.5pt 33-1 *Hills*

**Rangers to get three to six points in Group G**
0.5pt 11-2 *Hills*

## SPECIALS

**Bet365 – goalscorer match bets:** 8-11 Ronaldo v Evs Messi, 8-11 Eto'o v Evs Ibrahimovic, 4-5 Rooney v 10-11 Anelka, 8-13 Gerrard v 6-5 Lampard, 5-6 Kaka v 5-6 Arshavin; **English specials:** 9-2 all-English final, 66 all-English semi-finals.
**Betfred – highest-scoring group:** 6 Group A, 15-2 Group B, 13-2 Group C, Group D, 5 Group E, 7-2 Group F, 9 Group G, 5 Group H; **group of winning team:** 10 Group A, 11-2 Group B, 7-2 Group C, 9-2 Group D, 15-2 Group E, 3 Group F, 20 Group G, 8 Group H; **other specials:** 8-13 all four English teams to qualify, 4 all five British teams to qualify.
**Blue Square – Real Madrid stage of elimination:** 7 group stage, 3 last-16, 10-3 quarter-final, semi-final, 5 runner-up, 5 winner; **Barcelona stage of elimination:** 8 group stage, 7-2 last-16, 3 quarter-final, 7-2 semi-final, 5 runner-up, 4 winner.
**Boylesports – Real Madrid's top goalscorer:** 5-4 Ronaldo, 6-4 Benzema, 13-5 Kaka, only quoted players count.
**Coral – English specials:** 4 all four to win group, 4-6 all four to qualify from group, 4 all-English final.
**Hills – English team to win Champions League:** 4-6 no, 11-10 yes; **other specials:** 3 all-British final, 11-2 all-Spanish final **Rangers group stage points:** 33 two or fewer, 11-2 three-six, 4-6 seven-ten, 11-5 11-14, 16 15-18; **Rangers points v Seville:** 10-11 two or fewer, Evs three-four, 10 six; **v Stuttgart:** 11-10 two or fewer, 10-11 three-four, 8 six; **v Unirea:** 3 two or fewer, 8-11 three-four, 12-5 six; **Rangers specials:** 7 not to win a group match, 12 not to lose a group match, 100 lose all six group matches, 150 win all six group matches
**Ladbrokes – British team to qualify with most points:** 9-4 Chelsea, Arsenal, 5-2 Man Utd, 7-2 Liverpool, 66 Rangers; **English specials:** 6-5 English winner, 5 all-English final, 33 all-English semi-finals.
**Paddy Power – goalscorer match bet:** 4-5 S Eto'o v 10-11 Z Ibrahimovic.
**Victor Chandler – English teams to win groups:** 2-7 no, 12-5 yes; **group of winning team:** 10 Group A, 11-2 Group B, 10-3 Group C, 4 Group D, 7 Group E, 11-5 Group F, 20 Group G, 13-2 Group H.

## ENGLISH TEAM TO GO THE FURTHEST

| | BFRED | HILLS | LADS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 7-4 | 7-4 | **15-8** | 17-10 | 7-4 |
| Man Utd | 2 | **11-4** | 9-5 | 11-5 | 11-5 |
| Liverpool | **4** | 7-2 | **4** | **4** | 7-2 |
| Arsenal | 7-2 | 11-4 | **4** | 16-5 | 7-2 |

## BRITISH TEAM TO GO THE FURTHEST

| | BFRED | BLUE SQ | CORAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 7-4 | 7-4 | **15-8** |
| Man Utd | **11-4** | 12-5 | 2 |
| Arsenal | 10-3 | 3 | **7-2** |
| Liverpool | **4** | 7-2 | **4** |
| Rangers | **50** | **50** | 40 |

## STAGE OF ELIMINATION

### Manchester United

| | BFRED | BLUE SQ | CORAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group stage | **13-2** | 6 | 9-2 |
| Last 16 | 5-2 | 5-2 | **11-4** |
| Quarter-final | **11-4** | 5-2 | **11-4** |
| Semi-final | 3 | **4** | 7-2 |
| Runners-up | **7** | 6 | **7** |
| Winners | 7 | **8** | 7 |

### Chelsea

| | BFRED | BLUE SQ | CORAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group stage | 11-2 | **6** | 4 |
| Last 16 | **3** | 11-4 | **3** |
| Quarter-final | **3** | **3** | 11-4 |
| Semi-final | 11-4 | **4** | **4** |
| Runners-up | 6 | 11-2 | **13-2** |
| Winners | 6 | 11-2 | **13-2** |

### Liverpool

| | BFRED | BLUE SQ | CORAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group stage | **9-2** | 4 | 7-2 |
| Last 16 | 2 | 2 | **9-4** |
| Quarter-final | 11-4 | **3** | 11-4 |
| Semi-final | 10-3 | **4** | **4** |
| Runners-up | **10** | 8 | 9 |
| Winners | **12** | 11 | 10 |

### Arsenal

| | BFRED | BLUE SQ | CORAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group stage | **8** | **8** | 11-2 |
| Last 16 | **9-4** | 2 | 15-8 |
| Quarter-final | **5-2** | 9-4 | **5-2** |
| Semi-final | 7-2 | **4** | **4** |
| Runners-up | 8 | 7 | **9** |
| Winners | 9 | **10** | **10** |

### Rangers

| | CORAL | HILLS |
|---|---|---|
| Group stage | **4-11** | 2-5 |
| Last 16 | **11-4** | 9-4 |
| Quarter-final | 8 | **10** |
| Semi-final | 20 | **50** |
| Runners-up | 66 | **200** |
| Winners | **250** | 200 |

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# BEST PRICES FACT!

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**BEST PRICE TABLE 09/10**

| POS | TEAM | BEST PRICES |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | William Hill | 488 |
| 2 | Coral | 322 |
| 3 | Bet365 | 317 |
| 4 | Ladbrokes | 304 |
| 5 | Paddy Power | 178 |

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2009/2010

### OUTRIGHT BETTING

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9/2 | Barcelona | 50/1 | Lyon |
| 5/1 | Real Madrid | 50/1 | Sevilla |
| 13/2 | Chelsea | 66/1 | Atl Madrid |
| 8/1 | Man Utd | 100/1 | Porto |
| 10/1 | Arsenal | 100/1 | Stuttgart |
| 12/1 | Inter Milan | 100/1 | Wolfsburg |
| 12/1 | Liverpool | 150/1 | Bordeaux |
| 25/1 | Juventus | 150/1 | Marseille |
| 28/1 | Bayern Munich | 150/1 | Olympiacos |
| 40/1 | AC Milan | 200/1 | Fiorentina |

Each way one-half the odds a place 1, 2. Others on request.

### TOP GOALSCORER

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13/2 | L. Messi | 20/1 | W. Rooney |
| 8/1 | C. Ronaldo | 22/1 | D. Drogba |
| 8/1 | F. Torres | 25/1 | A. Arshavin |
| 9/1 | K. Benzema | 25/1 | G. Higuain |
| 10/1 | Z. Ibrahimovic | 25/1 | R. van Persie |
| 14/1 | N. Anelka | 25/1 | L. Lopez |
| 14/1 | S. Eto'o | 33/1 | Eduardo |
| 20/1 | S. Gerrard | 33/1 | K. J. Huntelaar |
| 20/1 | T. Henry | 33/1 | F. Lampard |
| 20/1 | Raúl | 33/1 | A. Pato |

Each way one-quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Other players on request.
Only goals from the Group Stakes onwards count.

## GROUP BETTING

| GROUP A | | GROUP B | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5/4 | Juventus | 1/3 | Man Utd |
| 7/5 | Bayern Munich | 9/2 | Wolfsburg |
| 10/3 | Bordeaux | 13/2 | CSKA Moscow |
| 33/1 | Maccabi Haifa | 16/1 | Besiktas |
| **GROUP C** | | **GROUP D** | |
| 8/15 | Real Madrid | 4/9 | Chelsea |
| 15/8 | AC Milan | 10/3 | Atletico Madrid |
| 17/2 | Marseille | 9/2 | FC Porto |
| 50/1 | FC Zurich | 50/1 | Apoel Nicosia |
| **GROUP E** | | **GROUP F** | |
| 4/7 | Liverpool | 8/15 | Barcelona |
| 9/4 | Lyon | 15/8 | Inter Milan |
| 5/1 | Fiorentina | 12/1 | Dynamo Kiev |
| 50/1 | Debreceni | 18/1 | Rubin Kazan |
| **GROUP G** | | **GROUP H** | |
| 4/6 | Sevilla | 1/4 | Arsenal |
| 2/1 | Stuttgart | 13/2 | Olympiacos |
| 11/2 | Rangers | 7/1 | AZ Alkmaar |
| 16/1 | Unirea Urziceni | 14/1 | Standard Liege |

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ACTION *Bet In-Play*

| HOME | | DRAW | AWAY |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Tonight** | | |
| 11/2 | Besiktas | (S) 13/5 | Man Utd 4/7 |
| 4/11 | Chelsea | (S) 10/3 | Porto 9/1 |
| 1/6 | Atl Madrid | (S) 6/1 | APOEL Nicosia 14/1 |
| 6/10 | Juventus | (S) 5/2 | Bordeaux 11/2 |
| 11/2 | Maccabi Haifa | (S) 14/5 | Bayern Munich 8/15 |
| 6/4 | Marseille | (S) 21/10 | AC Milan 19/10 |
| 4/5 | Wolfsburg | (S) 13/5 | CSKA Moscow 10/3 |
| 9/1 | Zurich | (S) 19/5 | Real Madrid 1/3 |
| | **Tomorrow** | | |
| 1/10 | Liverpool | (I) 15/2 | Debrecen 25/1 |
| 11/2 | Standard | (S) 14/5 | Arsenal 8/15 |
| 8/13 | Stuttgart | (S) 13/5 | Rangers 5/1 |
| 10/11 | Dynamo Kiev | (S) 9/4 | Rubin Kazan 16/5 |
| 9/5 | Inter Milan | (S) 9/4 | Barcelona 6/4 |
| 4/5 | Lyon | (S) 9/4 | Fiorentina 4/1 |
| 19/20 | Olympiacos | (S) 5/2 | AZ Alkmaar 11/4 |
| 1/5 | Sevilla | (S) 5/1 | Unirea Urziceni 14/1 |

All football prices quoted are phone/net,different odds may apply in retail.
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▪Price comparison taken from Racing Post (Saturdays) 09/08/08 - 06/06/09, (Saturdays) 08/08/09 - 12/09/09 & (Tuesdays) 11/08/09 - 08/09/09 comparing team prices covering domestic & cup fixtures and World Cup & friendlies. *Initial bet of £20 or more. Free Bet is a win single added to your account on settlement of first bet. Free Bet must be on a different event to the initial stake. Free Bet stake not included in any winnings, valid for 7 days. Correct promo code must be used. William Hill rules apply. Over 18s only. All prices subject to fluctuation. FOR ADVICE & INFORMATION VISIT WWW.GAMBLEAWARE.CO.UK

# Group A

by Mark Langdon

# BAYERN MUNICH

**Best prices**
Tournament: 28-1
Group: 7-5

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | Hans-Jorg Butt | G | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Thomas Kraft | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | Michael Rensing | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Edson Braafheid | D | 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Breno | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Martin Demichelis | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Andreas Gorlitz | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Philipp Lahm | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Christian Lell | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Daniel Van Buyten | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Holger Badstuber | M | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Alexander Baumjohann | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Hamit Altintop | M | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Thomas Muller | M | 1(4) | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 16 | Andreas Ottl | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Danijel Pranjic | M | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Franck Ribery | M | 0(3) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Bastian Schweinsteiger | M | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 | Jose Sosa | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | Anatoliy Tymoschuk | M | 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Mark Van Bommel | M | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 33 | Mario Gomez | F | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Miroslav Klose | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Ivaca Olic | F | 3(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Arjen Robben | F | 1(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Luca Toni | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

▶▶ *Figures relate to this season's domestic league matches*

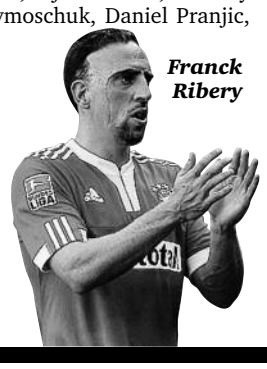
### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League quarter-final*** | | | |
| B Munich 1 Barcelona 1 | 47 | 60 | 8 |
| Barcelona 4 B Munich 0 | 9 | 40 | 13 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| B Munich 7 Sp. Lisbon 1 | 8 | 20 | 8 |
| Sp. Lisbon 0 B Munich 5 | 41 | 30 | 11 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Lyon 2 B Munich 3 | 11 | 60 | 13 |
| B Munich 3 Steaua Bucharest 0 | 57 | 30 | 12 |
| Fiorentina 1 B Munich 1 | 10 | 30 | 9 |
| B Munich 3 Fiorentina 0 | 4 | 50 | 14 |
| B Munich 1 Lyon 1 | 25 | 60 | 10 |
| Steaua Bucharest 0 B Munich 1 | 15 | 30 | 9 |

## Ribery stays put but it may not be enough

The longest-running transfer saga of the summer ended with Franck Ribery remaining at Bayern Munich, and now the Frenchman needs to prove he is worth all the fuss which saw countless clubs chasing his signature.

Despite not cashing in on their star asset, Bayern boss Louis van Gaal was still able to go on a spending splurge which has seen established internationals such as Ivica Olic, Arjen Robben, Anatoliy Tymoschuk, Daniel Pranjic, Mario Gomez and Edson Braafheid arrive at the Allianz Arena.



*Franck Ribery*

However, the problem (as always with Bayern) is the egos are as gigantic as the wage packets, and van Gaal's biggest task will be to somehow build team unity following a disappointing campaign last season.

Bayern finished second in the Bundesliga and were bashed by Barca in the Champions League quarter-finals, and it is difficult to see any improvement even with Ribery still on board.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Europe | 16 | QF | 16 | QF | **SF** | QF |
| Domestic | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Juventus:** Nov 05 A 1-2, Oct 05 H 2-1, Nov 04 H 0-1, Oct 04 A 0-1
**Bordeaux:** May 96 A 3-1, May 96 H 2-0
**Maccabi Haifa:** None

# JUVENTUS

**Best prices**
Tournament: 25-1
Group: 6-4

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Gianluigi Buffon | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Antonio Chimenti | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Alexander Manninger | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Lorenzo Ariaudo | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Martin Caceres | D | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | Fabio Cannavaro | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Giorgio Chiellini | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Fabio Grosso | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Zdenek Grygera | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 33 | Nicola Legrottaglie | D | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 19 | Cristian Molinaro | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Jonathan Zebina | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Mauro Camoranesi | M | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Paolo De Ceglie | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Diego | M | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Felipe Melo | M | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | Claudio Marchisio | M | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 39 | Luca Marrone | M | 0(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Christian Poulsen | M | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Hasan Salihamidzic | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Mohamed Sissoko | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Tiago | M | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Amauri | F | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | Alessandro Del Piero | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Sebastian Giovinco | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Vincenzo Iaquinta | F | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | David Trezeguet | F | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League last 16*** | | | |
| Juventus 2 Chelsea 2 | 19 | 95 | 6 |
| Chelsea 1 Juventus 0 | 13 | 40 | 14 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Juventus 0 BATE Borisov 0 | 90 | 50 | 16 |
| Zenit 0 Juventus 0 | 90 | 50 | 10 |
| Real Madrid 0 Juventus 2 | 17 | 60 | 16 |
| Juventus 2 Real Madrid 1 | 5 | 10 | 4 |
| BATE Borisov 2 Juventus 2 | 17 | 60 | 7 |
| Juventus 1 Zenit 0 | 76 | 30 | 11 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Artmedia 1 Juventus 1 | 14 | 30 | - |
| Juventus 4 Artmedia 0 | 7 | 20 | - |

## Confidence high that Old Lady can deliver

Juventus last tasted Champions League success in 1996, but there is genuine belief in Turin that this could be the year for the Old Lady to rise to the top of the European football.

There has been significant investment this summer, with tasty playmaker Diego an eye-catching capture from Werder Bremen.

The Brazilian has been compared to former Juve greats Roberto Baggio and Michel Platini and will be one of the players to watch in the tournament, while compatriot Felipe Melo will look after the defensive side in midfield.



*Felipe Melo*

Italian internationals Fabio Grosso and Fabio Cannavaro have arrived to add steel to the rearguard and the quarter-finals will be the minimum requirement for such a talented squad.

The appointment of inexperienced manager Ciro Ferrara to replace Claudio Ranieri is questionable, although treble-winners Barcelona didn't do badly with a novice gaffer last term.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Europe | 16 | QF | QF | - | - | 16 |
| Domestic | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 Serie B | 3 | 2 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**B Munich:** Nov 05 H 2-1, Oct 05 A 1-2, Nov 04 A 1-0, Oct 04 H 1-0
**Bordeaux:** None
**Maccabi Haifa:** None

# BORDEAUX

**Best prices**
Tournament: 150-1
Group: 5-1

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cedric Carrasso | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Abdoulaye Keita | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Ulrich Rame | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Mathieu Chalme | D | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2 | Michael Ciani | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Henrique | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Franck Jurietti | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Diego Placente | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Marc Planus | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Ludovic Sane | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Benoit Tremoulinas | D | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Alou Diarra | M | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Fernando | M | 1(4) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Yoann Gourcuff | M | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Paul-Bastien Lasne | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Jaroslav Plasil | M | 3(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | Gregory Sertic | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Abdou Traore | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Wendel | M | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Yoan Gouffran | F | 1(3) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | David Bellion | F | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Fernando Cavenaghi | F | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Marouane Chamakh | F | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | Jussie | F | 1(4) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Henri Saivet | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

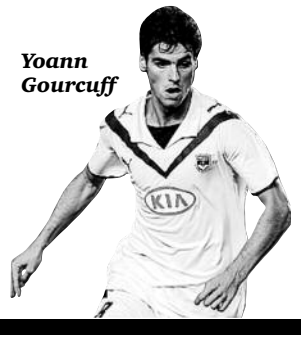
| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| Galatasaray 4 Bordeaux 3 | 1 | 60 | 13 |
| Bordeaux 0 Galatasaray 0 | 90 | 60 | 5 |
| ***Champions League group stage*** | | | |
| Roma 2 Bordeaux 0 | 61 | 40 | 7 |
| Bordeaux 1 Chelsea 1 | 60 | 85 | 4 |
| CFR Cluj 1 Bordeaux 2 | 6 | 50 | 14 |
| Bordeaux 1 CFR Cluj 0 | 54 | 95 | 7 |
| Bordeaux 1 Roma 3 | 18 | 85 | 6 |
| Chelsea 4 Bordeaux 0 | 14 | 10 | 8 |

## Not easy for French champions to advance

There are flat-track bullies in every sport and Bordeaux seem to have excelled in the art of beating the smaller teams.

Laurent Blanc's side failed to win half of their 18 games against their fellow top-half teams in Ligue 1 last season, yet they were still able to take the title in France from perennial champions Lyon.

But there are very few easy matches in the Champions League and Bordeaux struggled in European competition last term.



*Yoann Gourcuff*

They were eliminated from the Champions League group phase in a section which contained Chelsea, Roma and Cluj and then went out of the Uefa Cup at the last-32 stage to Galatasaray.

The loss of defensive linchpin Souleymane Diawara is unlikely to help matters, although retaining the services of Yoann Gourcuff and Marouane Chamakh are considerable boosts for Blanc.

Gourcuff, labelled the new Zidane, is a superb talent, but this is a difficult section for Bordeaux to advance from.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Europe | QF | - | - | **32** | **32** | 32+GR |
| Domestic | 12 | 15 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**B Munich:** May 96 H 1-3, May 96 A 0-2
**Juventus:** None
**Maccabi Haifa:** None

# MACCABI HAIFA

**Best prices**
Tournament: 750-1
Group: 66-1

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Nir Davidovitch | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Amir Edree | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Haim Ziskind | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Alon Harazi | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Jorge Teixeira | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Dekel Keinan | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Shai Maimon | D | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Tshepo Masilela | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Eyal Meshumar | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Ali Otman | D | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | Talb Tawatha | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | John Culma | M | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Eyal Golasa | M | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Gustavo | M | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Biriam Kayal | M | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | Lior Rafaelov | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Tiago | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Israel Zaguri | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Shlomi Arbeitman | F | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Vladimir Dvalishvile | F | 2(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Muhamad Ghadir | F | 0(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Yaniv Katan | F | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Eial Strahman | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Maccabi Haifa 3 Salzburg 0 | 31 | 30 | 7 |
| Salzburg 1 Maccabi Haifa 2 | 22 | 50 | 13 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Maccabi Haifa 4 FK Aktobe 3 | 8 | 60 | 12 |
| FK Aktobe 0 Maccabi Haifa 0 | 90 | 10 | 6 |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Glentoran 0 Maccabi Haifa 4 | 9 | 20 | - |
| Maccabi Haifa 6 Glentoran 0 | 37 | 20 | - |

▶▶**Key to European records:**
1GR= eliminated in first group phase, 2GR=second group phase, 32= last 32, 16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, RU=runner-up, W=won.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

## European dream may turn into nightmare

It is a miracle that Maccabi Haifa are even in the Champions League proper and their dream run to the group phase is unlikely to go any further.

Elisha Levy's outfit trailed 3-0 at home to Kazakhstan's Aktobe in the second leg of their third qualifying round before storming back to record a famous 4-3 win.

Home and away triumphs over Salzburg in the final qualifying round suggests the Aktobe performance can be attributed to a mad 15 minutes, but now they must play impeccably just to stand a chance of finishing in third spot and taking their European adventure past Christmas.

Striker Vladimir Dvalishvili, a Georgian international, was the star signing from Skonto Riga which tells you all you need to know about a club lacking quality individuals in every area of the pitch.

The Greens overcame Olympiakos and Manchester United at home in the Champions League in 2002, but don't expect too many miracles this time around.

However, striker Shlomi Arbeitman is confident. "We are excited to be facing the likes of Bayern, Juventus and Bordeaux, but we have a great coach who knows how to get us ready," he said.

"Why shouldn't we think positive? If Haifa managed to beat Manchester United and Olympiakos in 2002-03, we can beat any team. Don't rule us out too early."

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Europe | **2R** | **1R** | 2Q | **16** | - | - |
| Domestic | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Bayern Munich:** None
**Juventus:** None
**Bordeaux:** None

## GROUP A

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern Munich | 5-4 | 5-4 | 6-5 | 11-10 | 5-4 | **7-5** | 5-4 | 6-5 | 11-10 | 6-5 | 11-8 |
| Juventus | 11-10 | 11-8 | 11-10 | 11-8 | **6-4** | 5-4 | **6-4** | 6-5 | 5-4 | 11-10 | 11-8 |
| Bordeaux | **5** | 4 | **5** | 4 | 4 | 10-3 | 3 | **5** | **5** | 9-2 | 7-2 |
| Maccabi Haifa | 33 | 25 | 50 | 40 | 16 | 33 | 33 | 25 | **66** | **66** | 20 |

**Fixtures – today** Juventus v Bordeaux, Haifa v Bayern. **Sep 30** Bayern v Juventus, Bordeaux v Haifa. **Oct 21** Bordeaux v Bayern, Juventus v Haifa. **Nov 3** Bayern v Bordeaux, Haifa v Juventus. **Nov 25** Bordeaux v Juventus, Bayern v Haifa. **Dec 8** Juventus v Bayern, Haifa v Bordeaux.

## VERDICT

## Experienced Italians can edge strong section

MICHEL PLATINI'S decision to make it easier for champions from minor leagues to qualify for the group stages has diluted the quality in some sections, but that is most definitely not the case in this group.

Group A is one of the strongest divisions with Bayern Munich, Juventus and Bordeaux all holding legitimate chances, although Maccabi Haifa look nailed-on for bottom spot.

Juventus could be the best value at 6-4. They boast a team with four fifths of Italy's defence if you include goalkeeper Gigi Buffon and a holding midfielder in Felipe Melo, who is fast-becoming the best in the world in that position.

Diego has taken over the playmaking duties from former Juve greats such as Platini and Roberto Baggio, and the former Werder Bremen star has risen to the challenge to lead the Old Lady to a perfect start in Serie A.

Bayern look a bit short in such a hot section, while Bordeaux lack experience at the highest level.

**Recommendation**
**Juventus**
1pt 6-4 *Coral, Ladbrokes*

# Group B

*by* ***Mark Langdon***

# MANCHESTER UTD

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 8-1*
*Group: 2-5*

### *Squad details*

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Edwin van der Sar | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Ben Foster | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Gary Neville | D | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Patrice Evra | D | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 5 | Rio Ferdinand | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Wes Brown | D | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Nemanja Vidic | D | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 | Fabio Da Silva | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Rafael Da Silva | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | John O'Shea | D | 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Jonny Evans | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Owen Hargreaves | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Anderson | M | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Ryan Giggs | M | 3(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Ji-Sung Park | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Michael Carrick | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Nani | M | 3(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Paul Scholes | M | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 24 | Darren Fletcher | M | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 | Luis Antonio Valencia | M | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | Gabriel Obertan | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Michael Owen | F | 1(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Dimitar Berbatov | F | 3(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Wayne Rooney | F | 5 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 19 | Danny Welbeck | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | Federico Macheda | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### *Last season in Europe*

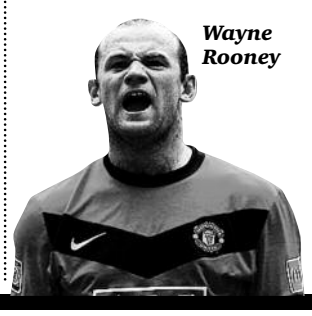
| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League final*** | | | |
| Barcelona 2 Man Utd 0 | 10 | 40 | 11 |
| ***Semi-final*** | | | |
| Arsenal 1 Man Utd 3 | 8 | 55 | 13 |
| Man Utd 1 Arsenal 0 | 17 | 10 | 4 |
| ***Quarter-final*** | | | |
| Porto 0 Man Utd 1 | 6 | 20 | 12 |
| Man Utd 2 Porto 2 | 4 | 20 | 12 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Man Utd 2 Inter 0 | 4 | 30 | 6 |
| Inter 0 Man Utd 0 | 90 | 60 | 9 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Man Utd 2 Aalborg 2 | 3 | 10 | 6 |
| Villarreal 0 Man Utd 0 | 90 | 75 | 9 |
| Celtic 1 Man Utd 1 | 13 | 10 | 17 |
| Man Utd 3 Celtic 0 | 29 | 20 | 17 |
| Aalborg 0 Man Utd 3 | 22 | 30 | 14 |
| Man Utd 0 Villarreal 0 | 90 | 40 | 5 |

## Red Devils are weaker without Twinkle Toes

Manchester United failed to become the first team to successfully defend the Champions League, and there is now another stat which suggests looking elsewhere for a possible winner.

No team in the Champions League era have ever finished runners-up and lifted the trophy the following year, with magnificent Milan (1992-94) the last side to turn tears to cheers in the next campaign.

Sir Alex Ferguson won't be concerned with the history, although he will be worried by the way United were so easily beaten by Barcelona in last season's finale in Rome.



***Wayne Rooney***

Cristiano Ronaldo left for a world-record transfer fee and Carlos Tevez crossed the Manchester divide as Fergie struggled to keep up with the inflated prices this summer.

Michael Owen and Antonio Valencia were pretty low-key reinforcements by United's lofty standards, meaning even more will be expected of talisman Wayne Rooney.

The United squad looks weaker than 12 months ago and they may struggle to break their runners-up trend.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | 16 | 16 | GR | SF | W | F |
| **Domestic** | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**CSKA Moscow:** None
**Besiktas:** None
**Wolfsburg:** None

# CSKA MOSCOW

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 250-1*
*Group: 10-1*

### *Squad details*

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Evgeni Pornazan | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Igor Akinfeev | G | 21 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 77 | Artur Nigmatullin | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Deividas Semberas | D | 16(1) | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | Sergey Ignashevich | D | 21 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 6 | Aleksei Berezutski | D | 8(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Chidi Odiah | D | 8(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 24 | Vasili Berezutski | D | 21 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 54 | Uros Cosic | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Daniel Carvalho | M | 9(1) | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 10 | Alan Dzagoev | M | 17(1) | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Pavel Mamaev | M | 19(1) | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 13 | Mark Gonzalez | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Milos Krasic | M | 13(4) | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| 22 | Evgeniy Aldonin | M | 17(2) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 23 | Nika Piliev | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Elvir Rahimic | M | 1(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Sekou Oliseh | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | Aleksandr Stolyarenko | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Maazou Moussa | F | 6(7) | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | Guilherme | F | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 56 | Ganiyu Oseni | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 89 | Tomas Necid | F | 8(11) | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 91 | Anton Zabolotni | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### *Last season in Europe*

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 16*** | | | |
| Shakhtar 2 CSKA Moscow 0 | 54 | 50 | 12 |
| CSKA Moscow 1 Shakhtar 0 | 50 | 60 | 8 |
| ***Last 32*** | | | |
| CSKA Moscow 2 Aston Villa 0 | 61 | 30 | 8 |
| Aston Villa 1 CSKA Moscow 1 | 14 | 20 | 9 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Nancy 3 CSKA Moscow 4 | 5 | 60 | 13 |
| CSKA Moscow 2 Lech Poznan 1 | 31 | 40 | 9 |
| Feyenoord 1 CSKA Moscow 3 | 14 | 75 | 11 |
| CSKA Moscow 3 Deportivo 0 | 9 | 60 | 15 |
| ***First round*** | | | |
| CSKA Moscow 1 Slaven 0 | 37 | 30 | - |
| Slaven 1 CSKA Moscow 2 | 43 | 40 | - |

## Plastic pitch could be Horses' main weapon

CSKA Moscow were one of the most attractive teams to watch when they won the 2005 Uefa Cup, but the Horses are no longer capable of galloping alongside the big guns in Europe.

Coach Valeri Gazzaev left and replacement Zico quickly followed with Juande Ramos the surprise new man to take over. He faces a tough job and must work without star forward Vagner Love after the Brazilian returned home for personal reasons.

The key playmaker of that Uefa Cup success, Daniel Carvalho, has struggled to get fit and Yuri Zhirkov was sold to Chelsea for £18m.



***Milos Krasic and new signing Mark Gonzalez (right)***

There have been eight new arrivals in Moscow, but winger Mark Gonzalez is the only one capable of making an impact in the Champions League and CSKA look one of the weaker second seeds.

Moscow's best hope of progressing will be their home form. CSKA will use the Olympic Stadium as they wait for their new arena to be built and no foreign visitors will be looking forward to a trip to play on the artificial surface.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | 2Q | GR+W | **GR** | **32** | GR | **16** |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Man Utd** None
**Besiktas** None
**Wolfsburg** None

# BESIKTAS

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 500-1*
*Group: 18-1*

### *Squad details*

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 84 | Hakan Arikan | G | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 87 | Korcan Celikay | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | Rustu Recber | G | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Matteo Ferrari | D | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Ismail Koybasi | D | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Michael Fink | D | 4(1) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Ibrahim Kas | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 58 | Ibrahim Toroman | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Ridvan Simsek | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Ekrem Dag | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | Erhan Guven | M | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 77 | Erkan Zengin | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Fabian Ernst | M | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Ibrahim Uzulmez | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Ugur Inceman | M | 1(3) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Necip Uysal | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Rodrigo Tabato | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Serdar Ozkan | M | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | Tomas Sivok | M | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 14 | Rodrigo Tello | M | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 29 | Yusuf Simsek | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Bobo | F | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Filip Holosko | F | 3(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Marcio | F | 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Nihat Kahveci | F | 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### *Last season in Europe*

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup first round*** | | | |
| Metalist 4 Besiktas 1 | 20 | 40 | - |
| Besiktas 1 Metalist 0 | 58 | 20 | - |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Besiktas 4 Siroki Brijeg 0 | 14 | - | - |
| Sikori Brijeg 1 Besiktas 2 | 19 | - | - |

**Key to European records:**
1GR= eliminated in first group phase, 2GR=second group phase, 32= last 32, 16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, RU=runner-up, W=won.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

## Brilliant boss gives the Eagles a slim chance

The Black Eagles reigned supreme in Turkey last year with Besiktas claiming a domestic league and cup double, although conquering Europe is an unlikely dream.

Money is tight, but they do at least possess a marvellous manager in Mustafa Denizli, who is the only coach to have won league titles with Turkey's big three of Besiktas, Fenerbahce and Galatasaray.

Denizli lost Edouard Cisse and Turkish international Gokhan Zan in the transfer window, but he persuaded Nihat to return to the club where he made his name as well as bagging experienced defensive stalwarts Michael Fink and Matteo Ferrari.



***Rustu***

The defence is an area of concern – Liverpool supporters will remember Besiktas losing 8-0 at Anfield when they finished bottom of their qualifying group in the 2007-08 Champions League.

Last season's run in the Uefa Cup was poor as Besiktas went out before the group phase, and only the brilliance of Denizli can see them challenge for a top-two berth.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | GR+3 | **GR** | **GR** | **GR** | GR | **1** |
| **Domestic** | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Man Utd:** None
**CSKA Moscow:** None
**Wolfsburg:** None

# WOLFSBURG

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 100-1*
*Group: 11-2*

### *Squad details*

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Diego Benaglio | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 12 | Andre Lenz | G | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Marcel Schafer | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Ricardo Costa | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Jan Simunek | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Fabian Johnson | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Alexander Madlung | D | 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Peter Pekarik | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Sascha Riether | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 43 | Andrea Barzagli | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 | Josue | M | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | Zvjezdan Misimovic | M | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | Makoto Hasebe | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Jonathan Santana | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Karim Ziani | M | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Christian Gentner | M | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | Sergej Evljuskin | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | Dennis Riemer | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Edin Dzeko | F | 4(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Obafemi Martins | F | 1(3) | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 23 | Grafite | F | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 24 | Ashkan Dejagah | F | 1(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Alexander Esswein | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### *Last season in Europe*

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| Wolfsburg 1 PSG 3 | 38 | 20 | 10 |
| PSG 2 Wolfsburg 0 | 80 | 10 | 5 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Milan 2 Wolfsburg 2 | 17 | 30 | 9 |
| Wolfsburg 3 Portsmouth 2 | 3 | 30 | 10 |
| Braga 2 Wolfsburg 3 | 6 | 70 | 12 |
| Wolfsburg 5 Heerenveen 1 | 31 | 20 | 9 |
| ***First round*** | | | |
| Rapid Bucharest 1 Wolfsburg 1 | 15 | 50 | - |
| Wolfsburg 1 Rapid Bucharest 0 | 45 | 40 | - |

## Free-scoring Wolves are sure to entertain

Wolfsburg were surprising winners of the Bundesliga last term, but there was nothing fortunate about their rise to the top in Germany.

The Wolves were a delight to watch with their gung-ho attitude. They scored 80 goals, nine more than any other team, and finished with a goal difference of plus 39.

Much-travelled forward Grafite was the top scorer in Germany with 28 goals and he is partnered by Bosnian hotshot Edin Dzeko, who was second in the charts with 26.



***Grafite***

Influential central midfielder Zvjezdan Misimovic's first instinct is to go forward and powerhouse striker Obafemi Martins has been added to the squad for good measure.

There is no doubt Wolfsburg have the potential to replace Werder Bremen as the great entertainers of the Champions League, although losing manager Felix Magath to Schalke may be enough to thwart significant progress.

However, new coach Armin Veh is no mug and Wolfsburg will be a threat in this section.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | - | - | - | - | **32** |
| **Domestic** | 10 | 9 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Man Utd** None
**CSKA Moscow** None
**Besiktas** None

## GROUP B

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Man Utd** | **2-5** | **2-5** | 2-7 | 1-4 | **2-5** | 1-3 | 2-7 | 4-11 | 2-7 | 2-9 | 2-7 |
| **Wolfsburg** | 7-2 | 9-2 | 9-2 | 5 | 4 | 9-2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **11-2** |
| **CSKA Moscow** | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 13-2 | 13-2 | **10** | 7 | **10** | **10** | 8 |
| **Besiktas** | **18** | 12 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 14 | **18** | 12 |

**Fixtures – today** Wolfsburg v CSKA, Besiktas v Man Utd. **Sep 30** CSKA v Besiktas, Man Utd v Wolfsburg. **Oct 21** CSKA v Man Utd, Wolfsburg v Besiktas. **Nov 3** Man Utd v CSKA, Besiktas v Wolfsburg. **Nov 25** Man Utd v Besiktas, CSKA v Wolfsburg. **Dec 8** Besiktas v CSKA, Wolfsburg v Man Utd.

## VERDICT

## Lethal attack should get Wolfsburg through

SIR ALEX FERGUSON was concerned with the amount of travelling his Manchester United squad will face in Group B, but he can't have many worries about the quality of opposition in CSKA Moscow and Besiktas.

United should come out on top, although a better bet may be to back Wolfsburg to qualify for the knockout phase in one of the first two positions.

The Bundesliga champions have made a sluggish start to the current campaign, but CSKA Moscow and Besiktas don't appear to have enough forward quality to take advantage of Wolfsburg's defensive woes.

CSKA have just appointed Juande Ramos as manager and are ten points off the title pace in Russia, while Besiktas have failed to win four of their five domestic matches in a sub-standard Turkish championship.

Wolfsburg, with Grafite and Edin Dezeko up front and Zvjesdan Misimovic pulling the strings, should have the firepower to pick up enough points to progress alongside clear favourites United.

**Recommendation**
**Wolfsburg to qualify**
2pt 5-6 *Victor Chandler*

# Group C

by Mark Langdon

## MILAN

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 40-1*
*Group: 13-5*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Dida | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Christian Abbiati | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Marco Storari | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Flavio Roma | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Kakha Kaladze | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Oguchi Onyewu | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Alessandro Nesta | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Gianluca Zambrotta | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Marek Jankulovski | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Thiago Silva | D | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 44 | Massimo Oddo | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Gennaro Gattuso | M | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | Clarence Seedorf | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Mathieu Flamini | M | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 | Ignacio Abate | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Andrea Pirlo | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Massimo Ambrosini | M | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49 | Davide Di Gennaro | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 77 | Luca Antonini | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Pato | F | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 9 | Filippo Inzaghi | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Klaas Jan Huntelaar | F | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Marco Borriello | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 80 | Ronaldinho | F | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| Milan 2 Werder Bremen 2 | 26 | 50 | 11 |
| Werder Bremen 1 Milan 1 | 36 | 60 | 8 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Milan 2 Wolfsburg 2 | 15 | 30 | 9 |
| Portsmouth 2 Milan 2 | 62 | 20 | 12 |
| Milan 1 Sporting Braga 0 | 90 | 0 | 7 |
| Heerenveen 1 Milan 3 | 19 | 10 | 10 |
| ***First round*** | | | |
| FC Zurich 0 Milan 1 | 70 | 0 | - |
| Milan 3 FC Zurich 1 | 45 | 20 | - |

**Key to European records:**
1Q = 1st Qualifying, 2Q = 2nd Qualfying, 3Q = 3rd Qualifying, GR= eliminated in group stage, 32= last 32, 16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, F=final , W=winners.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

# Dad's Army return for assault on Europe

Milan's Dad's Army are back after a year in the wilderness, but there are not too many expecting the Rossoneri to return with a bang.

The majority of the squad remains the same – Dida (aged 35), Giuseppe Favalli (37), Marek Jankulovski (32), Alessandro Nesta (33), Massimo Oddo (33), Gianluca Zambrotta (32), Massimo Ambrosini (32), Rino Gattuso (31), Andrea Pirlo (30), Clarence Seedorf (33) and Pippo Inzaghi (36) have all seen better days in a team which is laden with veterans.



*Alexandre Pato*

Kaka so often got them out of trouble, but he has been sold to Real Madrid and boss Carlo Ancelotti has left for Chelsea to leave novice Leonardo in the San Siro hotseat.

There is some exciting talent at his disposal. Alexandre Pato may be a superstar in time and Klaas-Jan Huntelaar deserves a crack at another big club after being bombed out by Real Madrid this summer.

However, anything further than the last 16 would be a bonus for this squad.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | QF | F | SF | W | 16 | **32** |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***
**Real Madrid** Mar 03 A 1-3, Nov 02 H 1-0
**Marseille** None
**FC Zurich** Oct 08 A 1-0, Sep 08 H 3-1

## REAL MADRID

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 5-1*
*Group: 4-7*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Iker Casillas | G | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Jerzy Dudek | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Antonio Adan | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Alvaro Arbeloa | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Pepe | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Sergio Ramos | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Marcelo | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Royston Drenthe | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Raul Albiol | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 19 | Ezequiel Garay | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Christoph Metzelder | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Fernando Gago | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Mahamadou Diarra | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Lassana Diarra | M | 1(1) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Guti | M | 1(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Xabi Alonso | M | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | Rafael van der Vaart | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Esteban Granero | M | 1(1) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Raul | F | 1(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Kaka | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Cristiano Ronaldo | F | 1(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Karim Benzema | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Ruud van Nistelrooy | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Gonzalo Higuain | F | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League last 16*** | | | |
| Liverpool 4 Real Madrid 0 | 16 | 60 | 14 |
| Real Madrid 0 Liverpool 1 | 82 | 50 | 9 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Real Madrid 3 Zenit 0 | 25 | 20 | 13 |
| BATE Borisov 0 Real Madrid 1 | 7 | 50 | 13 |
| Real Madrid 0 Juventus 2 | 17 | 60 | 16 |
| Juventus 2 Real Madrid 1 | 5 | 10 | 4 |
| Zenit 1 Real Madrid 2 | 4 | 40 | 21 |
| Real Madrid 2 BATE Borisov 0 | 11 | 35 | 11 |

# Pressure on latest batch of Galacticos to deliver

Welcome to the Galacticos part two.

Well over £200m has been splashed on new players by returning president Florentino Perez, who is determined to bring the glory days back.

Barcelona's treble last season hurt Madrid's pride and they cannot see their great rivals celebrating again this time with the final at the Bernabeu.

Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival was the biggest outlay at a world record £80m, but Kaka, Xabi Alonso, Karim Benzema, Raul Albiol, Alvaro Arbeloa and Esteban Granero made for an amazing set of signings in one transfer window.



*Cristiano Ronaldo*

The decision to appoint Manuel Pellegrini, who worked wonder at Villarreal, as the manager was sensible, but it still won't be easy to bring the talented team together.

If the side gels then the rest of Europe had better watch out, and they have been the plunge team having opened up at 10-1 last May.

Madrid have not gone past the last-16 stage since 2004 – that shocking record will surely change this season.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | QF | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| **Domestic** | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***
**Milan** Mar 03 H 3-1, Nov 02 A 0-1
**Marseille** Nov 03 A 2-1, Sep 03 H 4-2
**FC Zurich** None

## MARSEILLE

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 150-1*
*Group: 10-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | Steve Mandanda | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | Elinton Andrade | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Garry Bocaly | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Taye Taiwo | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Julien Rodriguez | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Hilton | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Gabriel Heinze | D | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | Souleymane Diawara | D | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 24 | Laurent Bonnart | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Daouda Mbow | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Edouard Cisse | M | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Benoit Cheyrou | M | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | Lucho | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Hatem Ben Arfa | M | 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Charles Kabore | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Stephane Mbia | M | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Fabrice Abriel | M | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 28 | Mathieu Valbuena | M | 0(4) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 34 | Kevin Osei | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Brandao | F | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Mamadou Niang | F | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Bakari Kone | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Fernando Morientes | F | 0(5) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup quarter-finals*** | | | |
| Marseille 1 Shakhtar 2 | 30 | 50 | 5 |
| Shakhtar 2 Marseille 0 | 39 | 20 | 12 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Ajax 2 Marseille 2 | 33 | 95 | 12 |
| Marseille 2 Ajax 1 | 19 | 85 | 7 |
| ***Last 32*** | | | |
| FC Twente 0 Marseille 1 | 24 | 90 | 10 |
| Marseille 0 FC Twente 1 | 22 | 70 | 9 |
| ***Champions League group stage*** | | | |
| Marseille 0 Atl. Madrid 0 | 90 | 50 | 13 |
| Liverpool 1 Marseille 0 | 23 | 20 | 9 |
| Marseille 3 PSV 0 | 30 | 20 | 7 |
| PSV 2 Marseille 0 | 71 | 20 | 12 |
| Atl. Madrid 2 Marseille 1 | 4 | 40 | 11 |
| Marseille 1 Liverpool 2 | 23 | 30 | 12 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Marseille 2 SK Brann 1 | 65 | 40 | - |
| SK Brann 0 Marseille 1 | 40 | 30 | - |

# Chaos and upheaval is par for course at OM

The owner died; the president was sacked; the manager left and the captain was sold – welcome to another normal off-season at Marseille.

The club is never very far from a crisis so there was no great alarm, and they were even able to tempt Didier Deschamps back as manager after he graced the club as a player in the early nineties.

Deschamps only knows success as a boss. He took Monaco to the Champions League final and restored Juventus to Serie A following the match-fixing scandal which saw them relegated.


*Manager Didier Deschamps*

Overall, the squad looks stronger than last year despite the sales of Djibril Cisse, skipper Lorik Cana and tricky wide man Karim Ziani.

Lucho Gonzalez, one of Europe's most underrated performers, has arrived from Porto, and Stephane M'Bia was one of the hottest prospects in France.

However, it is unlikely to make them a force. OM should not be too disappointed if they finish third and qualify for the Europa League.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | F | - | 16 | 1 | 16 | QF |
| **Domestic** | 7 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***
**Milan** None
**Real Madrid** Nov 03 H 1-2, Sep 03 A 2-4
**FC Zurich** None

## FC ZURICH

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 1000-1*
*Group: 100-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Johnny Leoni | G | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Rene Borkovic | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Orlando Lattmann | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 32 | Andrea Guatelli | G | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 | Veli Lampi | D | 6(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Ricardo Rodriguez | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Florian Stahel | D | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Daniel Stucki | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Philippe Koch | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Alain Rochat | D | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 21 | Heinz Barmettler | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Hannu Tihinen | D | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | Xavier Margairaz | M | 5(2) | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 7 | Silvan Aegerter | M | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 8 | Johan Vonlanthen | M | 7(1) | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 11 | Adrian Nikci | M | 3(4) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Dusan Djuric | M | 5(2) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Yassine Chikhaoui | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Milan Gajic | M | 7(2) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 23 | Almen Abdi | M | 5(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | Martin Buchel | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Tito Tarchini | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Andres Vasquez | F | 0(3) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Onyekachi Okonkwo | F | 6(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | Alexandre Alphonse | F | 4(1) | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 | Admir Mehmedi | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Marco Schonbachler | F | 0(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Emra Tahirovic | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Eric Hassli | F | 8(1) | 3 | 3 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| FC Zurich 2 Ventspils 1 | 6 | 10 | 11 |
| Ventspils 0 FC Zurich 3 | 12 | 20 | 5 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| NK Maribor 0 FC Zurich 3 | 21 | 20 | 12 |
| FC Zurich 2 NK Maribor 3 | 4 | 40 | 11 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup first round*** | | | |
| FC Zurich 0 AC Milan 0 | 70 | 0 | - |
| AC Milan 3 FC Zurich 1 | 45 | 20 | - |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Sturm Graz 1 FC Zurich 1 | 5 | 40 | - |
| FC Zurich 1 Sturm Graz 1 | 16 | 10 | - |

# Difficult to see Swiss making a big impact

FC Zurich have won the Swiss Super League in three of the past four years, but this is the first time they have managed to qualify for the Champions League proper.

Qualification victories over Maribor and Ventspils has seen Bernand Challandes's team finally reach the big time, although it is only logical to expect them to crash out at the group stage.

It's a young team – the average age of their domestic squad is just 22 – and experience at this level is minimal.


*Hannu Tihinen*

Johan Vonlanthen is the star name after arriving on loan from Salzburg where he never looked like fulfilling the potential previously shown for the Swiss national team.

West Ham supporters may remember FC Zurich captain Hannu Tihinen, while hardcore Portsmouth fans may recognise the name of goalkeeper Andrea Guatelli, who spent a short period at Fratton Park as well as a couple of games on loan at Oxford.

That really does prove just how far FC Zurich are out of their depth.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | - | 1 | 2Q | 32 | 1 |
| **Domestic** | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***
**Milan** Oct 08 H 0-1, Sep 08 A 1-3
**Real Madrid** None
**Marseille** None

## GROUP C

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Real Madrid** | 4-9 | 8-15 | 4-9 | 1-2 | **4-7** | 8-15 | 2-5 | **4-7** | 4-9 | 4-11 | 4-9 |
| **Milan** | 9-4 | 2 | 9-4 | 2 | 5-2 | 15-8 | 5-2 | 2 | 12-5 | **13-5** | 9-4 |
| **Marseille** | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 17-2 | **10** | 15-2 | 8 | **10** | **10** |
| **Zurich** | **100** | 50 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 50 | 33 | 50 | 80 | 50 | 33 |

**Fixtures – today** Zurich v Real Madrid, Marseille v Milan. **Sep 30** Milan v Zurich, Real Madrid v Marseille. **Oct 21** Real Madrid v Milan, Zurich v Marseille. **Nov 3** Milan v Real Madrid, Marseille v Zurich. **Nov 25** Real Madrid v Zurich, Milan v Marseille. **Dec 8** Zurich v Milan, Marseille v Real Madrid.

## VERDICT

# Big spending Real should show their quality

REAL MADRID have spent more money than any other club in world football this summer, and they can make their quality count by winning Group C.

The Galacticos could have problems keeping teams out in the latter stages, but there is little to fear from Milan and Marseille, who are fading forces at this level.

It is hard to think of a better midfield than Real Madrid's. You have the passing of Xabi Alonso, the aggression of Lassana Diarra, the dribbling of Cristiano Ronaldo and the all-round quality of Kaka.

Milan have suffered from a lack of significant investment in recent years and now rely on ageing players as well as having to cope with the departures of Kaka and inspirational boss Carlo Ancelotti to Champions League rivals Madrid and Chelsea.

Marseille failed to score in four of their six group games last season and there has been little improvement this summer, while it would be a miracle if FC Zurich won the section.

**Recommendation**
**Real Madrid**
3pts 4-7 *Coral, Paddy Power*

# Group D

by **Mark Langdon**

## CHELSEA

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 13-2*
*Group: 1-2*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Petr Cech | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Ross Turnbull | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | Henrique Hilario | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Branislav Ivanovic | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Ashley Cole | D | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | Ricardo Carvalho | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Jose Bosingwa | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | John Terry | D | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 33 | Alex | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Juliano Belletti | D | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | Sam Hutchinson | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Michael Essien | M | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Frank Lampard | M | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Joe Cole | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | John Mikel Obi | M | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Michael Ballack | M | 4(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Florent Malouda | M | 3(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Yuri Zhirkov | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Deco | M | 2(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Didier Drogba | F | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 21 | Salomon Kalou | F | 2(2) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | Daniel Sturridge | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | Nicolas Anelka | F | 3(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League semi-final*** | | | |
| Chelsea 1 Barcelona 1 | 9 | 95 | 12 |
| Barcelona 0 Chelsea 0 | 90 | 40 | 12 |
| ***Quarter-finals*** | | | |
| Chelsea 4 Liverpool 4 | 19 | 50 | 8 |
| Liverpool 1 Chelsea 3 | 6 | 30 | 15 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Juventus 2 Chelsea 2 | 19 | 85 | 6 |
| Chelsea 1 Juventus 0 | 12 | 40 | 14 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Chelsea 2 CFR Cluj 1 | 40 | 40 | 7 |
| Bordeaux 1 Chelsea 1 | 60 | 85 | 4 |
| Roma 3 Chelsea 1 | 34 | 35 | 11 |
| Chelsea 1 Roma 0 | 77 | 40 | 7 |
| CFR Cluj 0 Chelsea 0 | 90 | 40 | 6 |
| Chelsea 4 Bordeaux 0 | 14 | 10 | 8 |

## Ancelotti has skills to bring Cup to London

Chelsea have been a model of consistency in the Champions League and now they have appointed a manager who they believe can land them a first European Cup.

The Blues have reached at least the semi-finals in five of the last six years without ever going all the way – something which could change with Carlo Ancelotti at the Stamford Bridge helm.

Ancelotti has already lifted the Champions League (or European Cup as it was then known) as a player, and more relevantly, twice as a manager.

The Italian has the knowledge and the tools at his disposal to repeat what he did with Milan in London.

Yuri Zhirkov was the only high-profile signing of the summer, although the squad was already strong in every department with virtually two players for every position.

No team from London has ever got their hands on the Champions League, but Chelsea have the potential to hand out some serious capital punishment this season.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | SF | SF | 16 | SF | F | SF |
| **Domestic** | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Porto** Mar 07 H 2-1, Feb 07 A 1-1, Dec 04 A 1-2, Sep 04 H 3-1
**Atletico** None
**Apoel Nicosia** None



***Ashley Cole***

## PORTO

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 125-1*
*Group: 9-2*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Helton | G | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Beto | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Nuno | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Bruno Alves | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Fucile | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Rolando | D | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Alvaro Pereira | D | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 16 | Maicon | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Cristian Sapunaru | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Miguel Lopes | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | David Bruno | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Raul Meireles | M | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | Fredy Guarin | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Fernando Belluschi | M | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Diego Valeri | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Cristian Rodriguez | M | 0(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Mariano Gonzalez | M | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 | Tomas Costa | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Fernando | M | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 41 | Alexandre Freitas | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | Ricardo Dias | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | Amorim | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Falcao | F | 3(1) | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Hulk | F | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Silvestre Varela | F | 3(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Ernesto Farias | F | 1(3) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 47 | Andre Jesus | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League quarter-final*** | | | |
| Porto 0 Man Utd 1 | 6 | 20 | 12 |
| Man Utd 2 Porto 2 | 4 | 20 | 12 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Porto 0 Atl Madrid 0 | 90 | 40 | 15 |
| Atl Madrid 2 Porto 2 | 3 | 40 | 8 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Porto 2 Arsenal 0 | 38 | 20 | 6 |
| Fenerbahce 1 Porto 2 | 18 | 60 | 11 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Porto 2 | 21 | 65 | 12 |
| Porto 0 Dynamo Kiev 1 | 27 | 20 | 11 |
| Arsenal 4 Porto 0 | 31 | 20 | 19 |
| Porto 3 Fenerbahce 1 | 11 | 30 | 7 |

## Portuguese Dragons may have lost their fire

Sometimes you can become a victim of your own success and that seems to be the case for perennial Portuguese champions Porto.

Last season's run to the Champions League quarter-finals saw their talented squad come to the attention of richer clubs, who cherry-picked the best players.

Top scorer, both at home and in Europe, Lisandro Lopez went to Lyon along with marauding left-back Aly Cissokho, while key playmaker Lucho Gonzalez was sold to Marseille.

There is a real South American flavour to the new arrivals – of Jesulado Ferreira's 12 signings there are four Argentinians and a Uruguyan, a Colombian and a Brazilian.

Radamel Falcao looks an excellent capture from River Plate and the incredibly powerful Hulk remains at the club, but this may be a campaign of transition.

Porto have won both the Uefa Cup and the Champions League in the past six years, but it is difficult to see the Dragons roaring this time.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | W | 16 | GR | 16 | 16 | QF |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Chelsea** Mar 07 A 1-2, Feb 07 H 1-1, Dec 04 H 2-1, Sep 04 A 1-3
**Atletico** Mar 09 H 0-0, Feb 09 A 2-2
**Apoel Nicosia** None



***Raul Meireles***

## ATLETICO

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 66-1*
*Group: 7-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sergio Asenjo | G | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Roberto | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Juan Valera | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Antonio Lopez | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Mariano Pernia | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Juanito | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | Tomas Ujfalusi | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Alvaro Dominguez | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Luis Perea | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Pablo Ibanez | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Leandro Cabrera | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Ignacio Camacho | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Raul Garcia | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Jose Manuel Jurado | M | 1(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Maxi Rodriguez | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Paulo Assuncao | M | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 19 | Jose Reyes | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Simao | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Cleber Santana | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Diego Forlan | F | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Sergio Aguero | F | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Florent Sinama Pongolle | F | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Shirts |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off 09/10*** | | | |
| Atl Madrid 2 Panathinaikos 0 | 3 | 75 | n/a |
| Panathinaikos 2 Atl Madrid 3 | 36 | 20 | n/a |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Shirts |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League last 16*** | | | |
| Porto 0 Atl Madrid 0 | 90 | 40 | 15 |
| Atl Madrid 2 Porto 2 | 3 | 40 | 8 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Marseille 0 Atl Madrid 0 | 90 | 50 | 13 |
| Atl Madrid 2 PSV 1 | 14 | 30 | 12 |
| Liverpool 1 Atl Madrid 1 | 37 | 40 | 13 |
| Atl Madrid 1 Liverpool 1 | 14 | 30 | 8 |
| Atl Madrid 2 Marseille 1 | 4 | 40 | 11 |
| PSV 0 Atl Madrid 3 | 9 | 50 | 10 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Atl Madrid 4 Schalke 0 | 22 | 95 | - |
| Schalke 1 Atl Madrid 0 | 30 | 115 | - |

## Super strikers could be let down by defence

Atletico Madrid had the honour of being the only team not to lose a match in last season's Champions League, but they still failed to go beyond the last 16.

They were seen as the dark horses 12 months ago and once again go into the competition with a reputation of being dangerous opponents for any outfit.

And their phenomenal front four should be feared. Diego Forlan and Kun Aguero are arguably the best strike partnership in club football and the South American duo get excellent service from clever wide men Maxi Rodriguez and Simao.

However, they are almost certainly too inconsistent to go all the way. Atletico are known for their erratic form and sometimes the defence can make shocking errors.

Things have not changed over the summer judging by a 3-0 loss to Malaga on the opening day of La Liga despite the arrival of excellent young goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo and Betis centre-back Juanito.

***Kun Aguero (right) and Diego Forlan***



***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | - | - | - | **32** | 16 |
| **Domestic** | 7 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 4 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Chelsea** None
**Porto** Mar 09 A 0-0, Feb 09 H 2-2
**Apoel Nicosia** None

## APOEL NICOSIA

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 2,500-1*
*Group: 66-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Michalis Morfis | G | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Dionisios Chiotis | G | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Paulo Jorge | D | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Boban Grncarov | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Joost Broerse | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 19 | Marios Elia | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Christos Kontis | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | Nuno Morais | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Demetris Kyriakou | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Savvas Poursaitides | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | K. Charalambides | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Kamil Kosowski | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Marinos Satsias | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Helio Pinto | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Nektarios Alexandrou | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Altin Haxhi | M | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Chrysostomos Michail | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Andreas Charalambous | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Adrian Sikora | F | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Andreas Papathanasiou | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Jean Paulista | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Marcin Zewlakow | F | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Nenad Mirosavljevic | F | 0(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 37 | Mario Breska | F | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Shirts |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Apoel Nicosia 3 FC Copenhagen 1 | 2 | 50 | 9 |
| FC Copenhagen 1 Apoel Nicosia 0 | 54 | 55 | 7 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Partizan Belgrade 1 Apoel Nicosia 0 | 3 | 105 | 7 |
| Apoel Nicosia 2 Partizan Belgrade 0 | 49 | 50 | 8 |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Apoel Nicosia 3 Streymur 0 | 42 | 0 | 6 |
| Streymur 0 Apoel Nicosia 2 | 11 | 30 | 7 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Shirts |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup first round*** | | | |
| Schalke 1 Apoel Nicosia 1 | 6 | 40 | - |
| Apoel Nicosia 1 Schalke 4 | 25 | 20 | - |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Red Star Belgrade 3 Apoel Nicosia 3 | 54 | - | - |
| Apoel Nicosia 2 Red Star Belgrade 2 | 8 | - | - |
| ***First qualifying round*** | | | |
| Apoel Nicosia 1 Pelista Bitola 0 | 83 | - | - |
| Pelista Bitola 0 Apoel Nicosia 0 | 90 | - | - |

## Parking the bus might be Apoel's only option

Apoel are seen as the rank outsiders in the competition, but the Cypriot champions will want to prove they deserve their spot in Europe's premier club competition.

Anorthosis did Cyprus proud last season, taking six points from a group which included Inter and Werder Bremen, and now it's up to the team from Nicosia to show the standard of football on the island is improving rapidly.

Ivan Jovanovic's team have impressed in the qualifiers, overcoming Partizan Belgrade and FC Copenhagen, although the competition obviously gets even tougher from now.

Former Polish international Marcin Zewlakow, who scored in the 2002 World Cup, is possibly the most famous name in a team where defensive unity is the key.

Don't expect much adventure from a team who will rely on a blanket defence, and given the quality of the opposition forwards they will have to nullify in Group D, it is probably just as well Apoel enjoy parking the bus in front of Dionisis Chiotis's goal.

***Keeper Dionisis Chiotis***



***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | **1** | 2Q | **1** | **2Q** | 1Q | **1** |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Chelsea** None
**Porto** None
**Atletico** None

## GROUP D

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Chelsea** | 4-11 | **1-2** | 1-3 | 2-7 | **1-2** | 4-9 | 1-4 | 4-9 | 1-3 | 2-7 | 2-7 |
| **Atletico** | 7-2 | 3 | 7-2 | 4 | 10-3 | 10-3 | **9-2** | 3 | 4 | **9-2** | **9-2** |
| **Porto** | 6 | 9-2 | 13-2 | **7** | 4 | 9-2 | **7** | 6 | 6 | 6 | 13-2 |
| **Apoel** | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 40 | **66** | 40 | 50 |

**Fixtures – today** Atletico v Apoel, Chelsea v Porto. **Sep 30** Porto v Atletico, Apoel v Chelsea. **Oct 21** Porto v Apoel, Chelsea v Atletico. **Nov 3** Apoel v Porto, Atletico v Chelsea. **Nov 25** Porto v Chelsea, Apoel v Atletico. **Dec 8** Chelsea v Apoel, Atletico v Porto.

### VERDICT

## Atletico could be value to reach the next round

CHELSEA'S undignified Champions League exit last season means they cannot be considered certainties to finish top of Group D this term.

Didier Drogba carries a three-match suspension into this campaign and Jose Bosingwa will miss the first two games of the European season following those disgraceful scenes at Stamford Bridge in May.

Carlo Ancelotti probably has the squad at his disposal to make sure the Blues are first past the post, but at the odds on offer it could be worth looking elsewhere for value.

It's going to be pretty close between Porto and Atletico Madrid for a qualifying spot (assuming the Blues take a top-two berth), but slight preference is for the Spanish side despite their poor start to the domestic campaign.

Atletico's Diego Forlan and Kun Aguero come alive for the big matches, while Porto are going to have to prove they can cope with a number of high-profile departures this summer. Apoel should finish bottom.

**Recommendation**
**Atletico Madrid to qualify**
1pt 7-10 *Totesport*

# Group E

by Steve Davies

## LIVERPOOL

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 12-1*
*Group: 8-11*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Diego Cavalieri | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Pepe Reina | G | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 44 | David Martin | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Glen Johnson | D | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Daniel Agger | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Fabio Aurelio | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Sotiris Kyrgiakos | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Jamie Carragher | D | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 32 | Stephen Darby | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | Martin Kelly | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Phillip Degen | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 37 | Martin Skrtel | D | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 38 | Andrea Dossena | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Alberto Aquilani | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Steven Gerrard | M | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Albert Riera | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Yossi Benayoun | M | 3(2) | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Javier Mascherano | M | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | Lucas | M | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Jay Spearing | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Damien Plessis | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | Nathan Esscleston | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Fernando Torres | F | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | Andriy Voronin | F | 0(5) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Dirk Kuyt | F | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Ryan Babel | F | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | David N'Gog | F | 0(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | David Amoo | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League quarter-finals*** | | | |
| Chelsea 4 Liverpool 4 | 19 | 50 | 8 |
| Liverpool 1 Chelsea 3 | 6 | 30 | 15 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Liverpool 4 Real Madrid 0 | 16 | 60 | 14 |
| Real Madrid 0 Liverpool 1 | 82 | 50 | 9 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| PSV 1 Liverpool 3 | 36 | 50 | 4 |
| Liverpool 1 Marseille 0 | 23 | 20 | 9 |
| Liverpool 1 Atl Madrid 1 | 37 | 40 | 13 |
| Atl Madrid 1 Liverpool 1 | 14 | 30 | 8 |
| Liverpool 3 PSV 1 | 4 | 10 | 4 |
| Marseille 1 Liverpool 2 | 23 | 30 | 12 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Liverpool 1 Standard Liege 0 | 90 | 30 | - |
| Standard Liege 0 Liverpool 0 | 90 | 30 | - |

## Reds a major force if key duo can keep fit

Liverpool reached the final in 2006-07, the semis a year later and quarter-finals last season and Rafa Benitez will be hoping the downward trend is reversed this time around.

Qualification shouldn't be an issue for the five-time winners but come the business end of the tournament, the one given for further progress is that Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres are fit and firing.



*Glen Johnson*

The Reds have far less spending power than many of their big rivals and had to finance the purchases of Glen Johnson and Alberto Aquilani by offloading Alvaro Arbeloa and Xabi Alonso. Should injuries strike, it's unlikely Benitez will have the funds to finance a January patch-up.

But it is still a hugely experienced, very strong, very pacy and nicely-balanced squad who will do all their best work through the middle, especially when Gerrard and Torres play together.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | **4** | W | 16 | F | SF | QF |
| **Domestic** | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Lyon** None
**Fiorentina** None
**Debreceni** None

## LYON

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 50-1*
*Group: 5-2*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Hugo Lloris | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Joan Hartock | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Remy Vercoutre | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Francois Clerc | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Cris | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Jean- Alain Boumsong | D | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Anthony Reveillere | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Aly Cissokho | D | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | Anderson | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Lamine Gassama | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Mathieu Bodmer | M | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Kim Kallstrom | M | 2(2) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Michel Bastos | M | 4(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Miralem Pjanic | M | 3(2) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | Ederson | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Timothee Kolodziejczak | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Jean Makoun | M | 4(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Cesar Delgado | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Romain Beynie | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | Maxime Gonalons | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Jeremy Toulalan | M | 3(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Lisandro | F | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Sidney Govou | F | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Bafetimbi Gomis | F | 4(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | Ishak Belfodil | F | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Anderlecht 1 Lyon 3 | 26 | 20 | 5 |
| Lyon 5 Anderlecht 1 | 8 | 40 | 12 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League last 16*** | | | |
| Barcelona 5 Lyon 2 | 25 | 60 | 8 |
| Lyon 1 Barcelona 1 | 7 | 60 | 12 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Lyon 2 Bayern Munich 3 | 11 | 60 | 13 |
| Fiorentina 1 Lyon 2 | 15 | 50 | 15 |
| Lyon 2 Steaua 0 | 44 | 50 | 5 |
| Steaua 3 Lyon 5 | 8 | 20 | 9 |
| Bayern Munich 1 Lyon 1 | 25 | 60 | 10 |
| Lyon 2 Fiorentina 2 | 11 | 50 | 16 |

## Puel has a tough task after massive overhaul

Lyon's progress is incredibly hard to forecast after a summer of upheaval.

Out went their heartbeat, Juninho and Karim Benzema, (imagine Liverpool losing Gerrard and Torres) and coach Claude Puel was forced to almost start from scratch.

Puel is already on slightly thin ice having guided Les Gones to a disappointing third place in Ligue 1 last season, but he has boldly reinvented the club with different sytems for different occasions, and there is an opportunity for fringe players like Kim Kallstrom and Miralem Pjanic to stake claims and they were hugely impressive qualifiers against Anderlecht.



*Jean Makoun*

Puel was well aware that top-drawer signings were needed, and Argentinian striker Lisandro Lopez has made an encouraging start alongside Bafetimbi Gomis, who looks a transformed player from the one who had a shocker at Euro 2008.

Another Brazilian, Michel Bastos, moved from Lille to take over the creative duties from Juninho.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | QF | QF | QF | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Liverpool** None
**Fiorentina** Nov 08 A 2-1, Sep 08 H 2-2
**Debreceni** None

## FIORENTINA

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 100-1*
*Group: 6-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sebastien Frey | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Vlada Avramov | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 90 | Andrea Seculin | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Per Kroldrup | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Dario Dainelli | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Alessandro Gamberini | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Juan Vargas | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Cesare Natali | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Manuel Pasqual | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Gianluca Comotto | D | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 29 | Lorenzo De Silvestri | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Marco Donadel | M | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Cristiano Zanetti | M | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Riccardo Montolivo | M | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 19 | Massimo Gobbi | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Martin Jorgensen | M | 0(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Mario Santana | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Marco Marchionni | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Steven Jovetic | F | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Jose Ignacio Castillo | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Adrian Mutu | F | 0(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Alberto Gilardino | F | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Fiorentina 1 Sporting Lisbon 1 | 35 | 60 | 1 |
| Sporting Lisbon 2 Fiorentina 2 | 6 | 75 | 12 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| Ajax 1 Fiorentina 1 | 61 | 50 | 15 |
| Fiorentina 0 Ajax 1 | 60 | 40 | 5 |
| ***Champions League group stage*** | | | |
| Steaua 0 Fiorentina 1 | 66 | 70 | 7 |
| Fiorentina 1 Lyon 2 | 15 | 50 | 15 |
| Fiorentina 1 Bayern Munich 1 | 10 | 30 | 9 |
| Bayern Munich 3 Fiorentina 0 | 4 | 50 | 14 |
| Fiorentina 0 Steaua 0 | 90 | 20 | 5 |
| Lyon 2 Fiorentina 2 | 11 | 50 | 16 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Slavia Prague 0 Fiorentina 0 | 90 | 10 | - |
| Fiorentina 2 Slavia Prague 0 | 3 | 10 | - |

## Strikers are the key if Viola are to challenge

The Viola squeezed into the Champions League courtesy of a fourth-placed finish in Serie A and crept into the group stage after beating Sporting Lisbon on away goals.

Hardly spellbinding stuff, especially after last season when they failed to win a home tie in the Champions League and couldn't get beyond the round of 32 in the Uefa Cup. Yet for all that, under the guidance of Fiorentina legend Cesare Prandelli the club and its supporters remain confident.



*Alberto Gilardino*

For success to be achieved, Alberto Gilardino and Adrian Mutu need to combine as well as they did last term – 33 goals between them in the league.

The attacking intent is obvious with Marco Marchionni recruited to fly down the right, while Juan Manuel Vargas will do likewise down the left, but they need to adequately replace Felipe Melo and the solid Alessandro Gamberini will have to orchestrate an ocasionally fragile back four.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | - | - | - | **SF** | **32**+G |
| **Domestic** | 6 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 4 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Liverpool** None
**Lyon** Nov 08 H 1-2, Sep 08 A 2-2
**Debreceni** None

## DEBRECEN

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 2,500-1*
*Group: 100-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Vukasin Poleksic | G | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Djordje Pantic | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 87 | Istvan Verpecz | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Istvan Szucs | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Laszlo Bodnar | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Adam Komlosi | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Norbert Meszaros | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Marcell Fodor | D | 3(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | Csaba Bernath | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 24 | Mirsad Mijandinoski | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Leandro | M | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | Luis Ramos | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Tibor Dombi | M | 0(4) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Laszlo Rezes | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Zoltan Kiss | M | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55 | Peter Szakaly | M | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 77 | Peter Czvitkovics | M | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 81 | Attila Katona | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Gergely Rudolf | F | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Vinicius | F | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | Adamo Coulibaly | F | 3(2) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | Lorant Olah | F | 3(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Debreceni 2 Levski Sofia 0 | 13 | 60 | 13 |
| Levski Sofia 1 Debreceni 2 | 12 | 20 | 11 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Debreceni 1 Levadia Tallinn 1 | 70 | 85 | 11 |
| Levadia Tallinn 0 Debreceni 1 | 70 | 50 | 7 |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Kalmar 3 Debreceni 1 | 13 | 105 | 9 |
| Debreceni 2 Kalmar 0 | 73 | 20 | 9 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Debreceni 2 Young Boys 3 | - | - | - |
| Young Boys 4 Debreceni 1 | - | - | - |
| ***Second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Debreceni 1 Shakhtar Karaganda 0 | - | - | - |
| Shakhtar Karaganda 1 Debreceni 1 | - | - | - |

**Key to European records:**
1GR= eliminated in first group phase,
2GR=second group phase, 32= last 32,
16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals,
RU=runner-up, W=won.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

## Unfancied minnows face a baptism of fire

Hungary's reigning champions have been nailed on for bottom spot in this section by pretty much anybody with an opinion.

But that's slightly too easy given the relative anonymity of Andras Herczeg's side, who managed to avoid any of the big guns lurking during three roller-coaster rounds of qualifying.

What we do know is that it's a side built around domestic players, one or two of whom are on their national team's radar, notably defenders Laszlo Bodnar, Zoltan Szelesi and Norbert Meszaros, which hints at one area of relative strength.



*Jozsef Varga*

Another, striker Gergely Rudolf, has started the campaign well alongside Adamo Coulibaly, who has come out of the Belgian Second Division this summer to play up front in Europe's best competition.

Skipper Zoltan Kiss anchors a midfield embellished by the trickery of Honduran midfielder Luis Ramos.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | **3** | - | 3Q+**1** | 2Q | 2Q | **3Q** |
| **Domestic** | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Liverpool** None
**Lyon** None
**Fiorentina** None

## GROUP E

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Liverpool** | 8-13 | 8-13 | 4-6 | 4-6 | **8-11** | 4-7 | 8-15 | **8-11** | 8-13 | 8-13 | 8-13 |
| **Lyon** | 9-4 | 2 | 2 | 15-8 | 9-4 | 9-4 | **5-2** | **5-2** | 12-5 | 19-10 | **5-2** |
| **Fiorentina** | 5 | **6** | 5 | 5 | 9-2 | 5 | 5 | 7-2 | 9-2 | 11-2 | 4 |
| **Debrecen** | 50 | 50 | 80 | **100** | 25 | 50 | 50 | 40 | **100** | **100** | 50 |

**Fixtures – tomorrow** Liverpool v Debrecen, Lyon v Fiorentina. **Sep 29** Fiorentina v Liverpool, Debrecen v Lyon. **Oct 20** Liverpool v Lyon, Debrecen v Fiorentina. **Nov 4** Fiorentina v Debrecen, Lyon v Liverpool. **Nov 24** Debrecen v Liverpool, Fiorentina v Lyon. **Dec 9** Liverpool v Fiorentina, Lyon v Debrecen.

## VERDICT

## Not much value in backing Reds to be No. 1

IT'S hard to argue with the layers' view that it will be Liverpool, followed by Lyon, into the last 16.

Fiorentina were in the same section as Lyon last season and finished five points worse off having lost to the French side at home.

Clearly Lyon are rebuilding minus the outstanding Karim Benzema and Juninho, but they have made some shrewd signings, whereas there is nothing jaw-dropping about the line-up at Cesare Prandelli's disposal.

They are also being sidetracked by the ongoing Adrian Mutu row with Chelsea, a laughable situation, but one that won't have the Viola smiling if their Romanian predator gets a suspension.

Hungarian first-timers Debrecen appear to be the whipping boys and are handicapped by having to play their home games in Budapest, some 150 miles away.

Liverpool have topped their group in three of the past four campaigns and are as short as 8-15 with Ladbrokes to finish ahead this time as well. That might make Coral and Paddy Power's 8-11 appeal but not enormously.

**Recommendation**
No bet

# Group F

*by* ***Steve Davies***

## BARCELONA

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 9-2*
*Group: 8-15*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Victor Valdez | G | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Jose Pinto | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Ruben | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Daniel Alves | D | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Gerard Pique | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Rafael Marquez | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Carles Puyol | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Gabriel Milito | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Maxwell | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Eric Abidal | D | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Xavi Hernandez | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Andres Iniesta | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Seydou Keita | M | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 16 | Sergio Busquets | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Yaya Toure | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Andreu Fontas | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Jeffren | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Zlatan Ibrahomovic | F | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Lionel Messi | F | 0(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Bojan Krkic | F | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Thierry Henry | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Pedro Rodriguez | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | Jonathan Soriano | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League final*** | | | |
| Barcelona 2 Man Utd 0 | 10 | 40 | 11 |
| ***Semi-final*** | | | |
| Chelsea 1 Barcelona 1 | 9 | 95 | 12 |
| Barcelona 0 Chelsea 0 | 90 | 40 | 12 |
| ***Quarter-final*** | | | |
| B Munich 1 Barcelona 1 | 47 | 60 | 8 |
| Barcelona 4 B Munich 0 | 9 | 40 | 13 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Barcelona 5 Lyon 2 | 25 | 60 | 8 |
| Lyon 1 Barcelona 1 | 7 | 60 | 12 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Barcelona 2 Shakhtar 3 | 31 | 70 | 10 |
| Sp. Lisbon 2 Barcelona 5 | 14 | 55 | 6 |
| Barcelona 1 Basle 1 | 62 | 10 | 9 |
| Basle 0 Barcelona 5 | 4 | 20 | 11 |
| Shakhtar 1 Barcelona 2 | 45 | 80 | 9 |
| Barcelona 3 Sp. Lisbon 1 | 21 | 20 | 8 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Wisla Krakow 1 Barcelona 0 | 52 | 20 | - |
| Barcelona 4 Wisla Krakow 0 | 17 | 20 | - |

## Barca are keen to put rivals in their place

They won the title in style last season, aren't any weaker this time around, but are only just favourites due to Real Madrid's summer spending spree.

And this Barca unit, so expertly led by Pep Guardiola, will love the opportunity to put Madrid and the rest in their place.

Guardiola has brought in three new faces – defenders Dymytro Chygrinskiy and Maxwell, plus Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic in a swap deal for Samuel Eto'o.

***Zlatan Ibrahimovic***



That means the Catalans' sumptuous midfield, boasting the likes of Spain internationals Xavi and Andreas Iniesta, is still intact, while Bojan Krkic is tipped to be ready to challenge Thierry Henry up front. And, of course, they still have the attacking flair of 22-year-old Leo Messi, the little genius who thrives on the big occasion.

Another bonus is that Rafa Marquez has recovered fully from knee surgery just in time for the European assault, so Guardiola has a really solid group of defenders to pick from.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | **4** | 16 | W | 16 | SF | W |
| **Domestic** | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Inter** Feb 03 A 0-0, Feb 03 H 3-0
**Dynamo Kiev** None
**Rubin** None

## INTER

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 12-1*
*Group: 5-2*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Francesco Toldo | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Julio Cesar | G | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Paolo Orlandoni | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Ivan Cordoba | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Javier Zanetti | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Lucio | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Maicon | D | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Marco Materazzi | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 | Walter Samuel | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | Cristian Chivu | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 39 | Davide Santon | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Dejan Stankovic | M | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Ricardo Quaresma | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Thiago Motta | M | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | Wesley Sneijder | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Sulley Ali Muntari | M | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Patrick Vieira | M | 2(1) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 19 | Esteban Cambiasso | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Joel Chukwuma Obi | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Mancini | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 52 | Antonio Esposito | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Samuel Eto'o | F | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | David Suazo | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Diego Milito | F | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 45 | Mario Balotelli | F | 0(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Man Utd 2 Inter 0 | 4 | 30 | 6 |
| Inter 0 Man Utd 0 | 90 | 60 | 9 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| W Bremen 2 Inter 1 | 63 | 40 | - |
| Inter 0 Panathinaikos 1 | 69 | 20 | 11 |
| Anorthosis Fam. 3 Inter 3 | 14 | 0 | 11 |
| Inter 1 Anorthosis Fam. 0 | 44 | 10 | 15 |
| Inter 1 W Bremen 1 | 14 | 60 | 7 |
| Panathinaikos 0 Inter 2 | 27 | 30 | - |

**Key to European records:**
1GR= eliminated in first group phase, 2GR=second group phase, 32= last 32, 16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, RU=runner-up, W=won.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

## Mourinho desperate to get past the quarters

Inter have been Italian champions for the last four seasons but their recent domestic success hasn't been mirrored in Europe.

Since the competition was altered six years ago Internazionale have not gone past the quarter-final stage, and they have been dumped out in the last 16 in each of the last three years.

It's a record that Jose Mourinho is under huge pressure to end and this summer the ex-Chelsea boss delivered a statement of intent.

***Samuel Eto'o***



It was all change in attack with prolific La Liga marksmen Samuel Eto'o and Diego Milito recruited (Milito having also showed he can cut it in Serie A by twice top-scoring at Genoa). Thiago Motta and Wesley Sneijder provide some overdue dynamism in midfield, and Lucio was signed to anchor an often wobbly back four.

A 4-0 hammering of Milan last month during which, shock of shocks, this often dour unit turned on the style, has also boosted morale ahead of the campaign.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | **QF** | QF | QF | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| **Domestic** | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Barcelona** Feb 03 H 0-0, Feb 03 A 0-3
**Dynamo Kiev** Dec 93 A 1-1, Sep 03 H 2-1
**Rubin** None

## DYNAMO KIEV

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 500-1*
*Group: 25-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Oleksandr Shovkovski | G | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Stanislav Bogush | G | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Betao | D | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | Goran Sablic | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Pape Diakhate | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Taras Mykhalyk | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Andriy Nesmachnyi | D | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 29 | Vitaliy Mandzyuk | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | Yevgen Khacheridi | D | 5(1) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 44 | Leandro Almeida | D | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Badr El Kaddouri | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Tiberiu Ghioane | M | 0(4) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Ognjen Vukojevic | M | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 8 | Oleksandr Aliev | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Roman Eremenko | M | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Serhiy Kravchenko | M | 1(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Oleh Gusev | M | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | Gerson Magrao | M | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 | Ayila Yussuf | M | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | Milos Ninkovic | M | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Andriy Shevchenko | F | 0(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Artem Milevski | F | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | Artem Kravets | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 70 | Andriy Yarmolenko | F | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup semi-final*** | | | |
| Shakhtar 2 Dynamo Kiev 1 | 17 | 60 | 5 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Shakhtar 1 | 22 | 30 | 8 |
| ***Quarter-final*** | | | |
| Dynamo Kiev 3 Paris St-Germain 0 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| Paris St-Germain 0 Dynamo Kiev 0 | 90 | 0 | 6 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Metalist 3 Dynamo Kiev 2 | 29 | 20 | 6 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Metalist 0 | 54 | 30 | 11 |
| ***Last 32*** | | | |
| Valencia 2 Dynamo Kiev 2 | 34 | 50 | 10 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Valencia 1 | 8 | 75 | 4 |
| ***Champions League group stage*** | | | |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Fenerbahce 0 | 20 | 40 | 4 |
| Arsenal 1 Dynamo Kiev 0 | 87 | 75 | 9 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Porto 2 | 21 | 75 | 12 |
| Porto 0 Dynamo Kiev 1 | 27 | 20 | 11 |
| Fenerbahce 0 Dynamo Kiev 0 | 90 | 60 | 10 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Arsenal 1 | 64 | 50 | 11 |

## Sheva returns to help end awful Euro record

Andrei Shevchenko has returned home as Dynamo Kiev seek the spark that will end their wretched Champions League record.

Dynamo are consistent underachievers at this level, but buoyed by taking the league title back from Shakhtar, reaching the Uefa Cup semi-finals and starting the season in fine form, perhaps there is a greater air of confidence this time.

Certainly the return of Shevchenko to partner international team-mate Artem Milevskiy forms a respectable front two, but the limitations appear to be further back.

***Midfielder Milos Ninkovic***



Valeriy Gazzayev has a trio of Brazilians to call upon but it says much about the gnarled 55-year-old's outlook that two of them, Betao and Leandro Almeida, are defenders.

The other, Gerson Magrao, might just provide some imagination in midfield, but this still looks like a massively one-dimensional outfit that will endeavour to be as hard to beat as last season with realistic hopes only of pipping Rubin for third.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | G | G+**32** | 2Q | G | G | G+**SF** |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Barcelona** None
**Inter** Dec 03 H 1-1, Sep 03 A 1-2
**Rubin** None

## RUBIN KAZAN

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 250-1*
*Group: 20-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sergei Kozko | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Nukri Revishvili | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 77 | Sergei Ryzhikov | G | 21 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 3 | Cristian Ansaldi | D | 18 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 4 | Cesar Navas | D | 20 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 9 | Lasha Salukvadze | D | 5(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Vitali Kaleshin | D | 11(1) | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 24 | Aleksei Popov | D | 4(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 76 | Roman Sharonov | D | 18 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 5 | Petr Bystrov | M | 4(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Macbeth Sibaya | M | 18 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 7 | Sergei Semak | M | 21 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 15 | Aleksandr Ryazantsev | M | 8(5) | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 16 | Christian Noboa | M | 13(2) | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 23 | Evgeni Balyaykin | M | 4(9) | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 32 | Andrei Gorbanets | M | 4(5) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 42 | Rafal Murawski | M | 0(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 61 | Gokdeniz Karadeniz | M | 16(2) | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| 88 | Alan Kasaev | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Alejandro Dominguez | F | 14(3) | 13 | 5 | 0 |
| 11 | Aleksandr Bukharov | F | 14(2) | 13 | 2 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

***Rubin did not qualify for Europe last season***

**Key to European records:**
1GR= eliminated in first group phase, 2GR=second group phase, 32= last 32, 16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, RU=runner-up, W=won.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

## Debutants should not be instantly dismissed

Russian first-timers Rubin are in the group stage by right having been crowned domestic champions in 2008.

It's ten months since they won their first Premier League crown but it clearly wasn't a fluke as they are top again as the 2009 campaign reaches its climax.

It means Kurban Berdyev's side will be battle-ready and they'll look forward to welcoming Inter and Barcelona, the latter facing a seven-hour flight and sub-zero temperatures in the capital city of Tatarstan.

***Sergey Semak***



It's Berdyev's ninth year in charge of a side driven by 33-year-old former Russia captain Sergei Semak. For goals they look to Alejandro Dominguez – they had Savo Milosevic and Sergei Rebrov last year but neither remains – and the Argentinian is prolific.

A side capable of beating the Moscow teams and Zenit merit respect and given the travelling they do domestically and the fact that their record away has been better than at home in the last two seasons, they should relish trips to Kiev, Milan and Barca.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | **2Q** | - | **1** | - | - |
| **Domestic** | 3 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Barcelona** None
**Inter** None
**Dynamo Kiev** None

## GROUP F

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Barcelona** | 1-2 | **8-15** | 2-5 | 1-2 | 2-5 | **8-15** | 4-11 | 1-2 | 1-2 | 4-9 | 2-5 |
| **Inter** | 15-8 | 2 | **5-2** | 15-8 | **5-2** | 15-8 | **5-2** | 2 | 11-5 | 2 | **5-2** |
| **Rubin Kazan** | 16 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 18 | **20** | 16 | 14 | 18 | 16 |
| **Dynamo Kiev** | **25** | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 16 |

**Fixtures – tomorrow** Inter v Barcelona, Dynamo v Rubin. **Sep 29** Rubin v Inter, Barcelona v Dynamo. **Oct 20** Barcelona v Rubin, Inter v Dynamo. **Nov 4** Rubin v Barcelona, Dynamo v Inter. **Nov 24** Barcelona v Inter, Rubin v Dynamo. **Dec 9** Inter v Rubin, Dynamo v Barcelona.

## VERDICT

IT'S the most clear-cut section of the lot with Barca 1-20 to qualify and Inter 1-5 to do likewise.

And it is difficult to see the top two not prevailing. In the last three seasons Kiev have won just two out of 18 group matches and scored a paltry 13 goals, while this is uncharted territory for Rubin.

## Nerazzurri could be vulnerable on away trips

Yet Inter continue to be deified – because they are Italian and managed by Jose Mourinho – despite a Champions League record in 2008-09 that read played eight, won two. They should have romped through an easy group but almost made a mess of it, and were woeful against Manchester United.

And now, of course, they are minus Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Inter are obviously going to be looking to their home form to get them through but any slips leave them at the mercy of excursions behind the old iron curtain, to Kiev and Kazan, and those cannot be foregone conclusions given their recent past.

The Nerazzurri are 1-5 to qualify, which is no kind of price. In fact, the value bet is probably the 100-30 from Blue Square that they don't.

**Recommendation**

**Inter Milan not to qualify**
1pt 100-30 *Blue Square*

# Stoppage time saver

Ladbrokes.com

*If a goal is scored in 2nd half stoppage time we will refund all losing Correct Score, Half Time/Full Time & Last Goalscorer bets - up to £100**

*there's never been a better time to place a bet*

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE — BET IN PLAY

TONIGHT, KICK OFF 7.45PM, LIVE ON SKY SPORTS

**5/1 Besiktas 4/7 Manchester United 11/4 Draw**

| Besiktas | Correct Score | Man Utd |
|---|---|---|
| 9/1 | 1-0 | 5/1 |
| 25/1 | 2-0 | 11/2 |
| 16/1 | 2-1 | 7/1 |
| 100/1 | 3-0 | 10/1 |
| 66/1 | 3-1 | 10/1 |
| 66/1 | 3-2 | 28/1 |
| 7/1 | 0-0 | 7/1 |
| 11/2 | 1-1 | 11/2 |
| 14/1 | 2-2 | 14/1 |

| Half Time / Full Time | |
|---|---|
| 9/1 | Besiktas - Besiktas |
| 14/1 | Besiktas - Draw |
| 25/1 | Besiktas - Man Utd |
| 11/1 | Draw - Besiktas |
| 9/2 | Draw - Draw |
| 7/2 | Draw - Man Utd |
| 28/1 | Man Utd - Besiktas |
| 14/1 | Man Utd - Draw |
| 11/8 | Man Utd - Man Utd |

| 1st Player to Score▲ | |
|---|---|
| 7/2 | Rooney |
| 9/2 | Berbatov |
| 9/1 | Nihat |
| 10/1 | Holosko |
| 10/1 | Giggs |
| 11/1 | Nani |
| 16/1 | Fletcher |
| 16/1 | Vidić |
| 7/1 | No G'scorer |

▲EACH-WAY FIRST GOALSCORER ONE-THIRD THE ODDS 1,2,3,4,5.
OTHERS ON REQUEST. ENHANCED PRICES AVAILABLE ON NET & PHONE.

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE — BET IN PLAY

TONIGHT, KICK OFF 7.45PM, LIVE ON SKY SPORTS

**4/11 Chelsea 8/1 Porto 7/2 Draw**

| Chelsea | Correct Score | Porto |
|---|---|---|
| 11/2 | 1-0 | 12/1 |
| 5/1 | 2-0 | 40/1 |
| 7/1 | 2-1 | 28/1 |
| 8/1 | 3-0 | 100/1 |
| 10/1 | 3-1 | 100/1 |
| 28/1 | 3-2 | 100/1 |
| 8/1 | 0-0 | 8/1 |
| 6/1 | 1-1 | 6/1 |
| 16/1 | 2-2 | 16/1 |

| Half Time / Full Time | |
|---|---|
| 4/5 | Chelsea - Chelsea |
| 20/1 | Chelsea - Draw |
| 50/1 | Chelsea - Porto |
| 7/2 | Draw - Chelsea |
| 5/1 | Draw - Draw |
| 18/1 | Draw - Porto |
| 28/1 | Porto - Chelsea |
| 16/1 | Porto - Draw |
| 16/1 | Porto - Porto |

| 1st Player to Score▲ | |
|---|---|
| 7/2 | Anelka |
| 5/1 | Lampard |
| 9/1 | Ballack |
| 11/1 | Malouda |
| 12/1 | Hulk |
| 14/1 | Essien |
| 16/1 | Belluschi |
| 25/1 | Terry |
| 8/1 | No G'scorer |

▲EACH-WAY FIRST GOALSCORER ONE-THIRD THE ODDS 1,2,3,4,5.
OTHERS ON REQUEST. ENHANCED PRICES AVAILABLE ON NET & PHONE.

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNER 2009/10

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/1 | Barcelona | 9/1 | Arsenal | 22/1 | AC Milan | 50/1 | Atlético Madrid | 80/1 | Dynamo Kiev |
| 9/2 | Real Madrid | 9/1 | Liverpool | 28/1 | Bayern Munich | 50/1 | Bordeaux | 80/1 | Marseille |
| 5/1 | Manchester Utd | 12/1 | Inter | 33/1 | Sevilla | 66/1 | Fiorentina | 80/1 | Porto |
| 6/1 | Chelsea | 20/1 | Juventus | 40/1 | Lyon | 66/1 | Wolfsburg | 80/1 | Stuttgart |

EACH-WAY 1/2 THE ODDS A PLACE 1,2. OTHERS ON REQUEST.

## UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TOP GOALSCORER 2009/10

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8/1 | Cristiano Ronaldo | 12/1 | Samuel Eto'o | 16/1 | Nicolas Anelka | 22/1 | Robin van Persie |
| 10/1 | Karim Benzema | 12/1 | Wayne Rooney | 16/1 | Thierry Henry | 25/1 | Gonzalo Higuaín |
| 10/1 | Didier Drogba | 12/1 | Fernando Torres | 16/1 | Michael Owen | 25/1 | Klaas-Jan Huntelaar |
| 10/1 | Lionel Messi | 14/1 | Zlatan Ibrahimovic | 20/1 | Steven Gerrard | 25/1 | Alexandre Pato |

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# Group G

*by* ***Steve Davies***

## SEVILLE

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 50-1*
*Group: 10-11*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andres Palop | G | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | Javi Varas | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Federico Fazio | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Ivaca Dragutinovic | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Sebastien Squillaci | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Julien Escude | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | Sergio Sanchez | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Fernando Navarro | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | Lolo | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Aldo Duscher | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Adriano | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Didier Zakora | M | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Renato | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Tom De Mul | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Ndri Romaric | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Abdoulay Konto | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Jose Carlos | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Jesus Navas | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Arouna Kone | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Luis Fabiano | F | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Frederic Kanoute | F | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 15 | Ernesto Chevanton | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Diego Capel | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Alvaro Negredo | F | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Lautaro Acosta | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

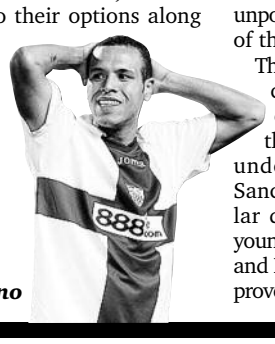
| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup group stage*** | | | |
| Sampdoria 1 Seville 0 | 75 | 60 | 11 |
| Seville 3 Partizan Belgrade 0 | 32 | 20 | 9 |
| Standard Liege 1 Seville 0 | 38 | 50 | 11 |
| Seville 2 VfB Stuttgart 0 | 15 | 20 | 14 |
| SV Salzburg 0 Seville 2 | 38 | 40 | - |
| Seville 2 SV Salzburg 0 | 6 | 60 | - |

## Lethal strikeforce can fire Spaniards further

The best bit of transfer non-business of the summer? Surely Seville managing to hang on to Brazilian hitman Luis Fabiano.

A deal with Milan collapsed and Juventus came a-sniffing, but the Confederations Cup top goalscorer has stayed in Seville and that's a colossal plus for Manolo Jimenez.

Not only that, but the club also won the race to sign Real Madrid's outstanding Alvaro Negredo, who scored 19 for Almeria last term, and he adds to their options along with Fredi Kanoute.



***Luis Fabiano***

Seville are on the up. The Uefa Cup winners of 2006 and 2007, they finished fifth two seasons back and third last time and the irony is that Jimenez remains incredibly unpopular with huge swathes of the crowd.

The signing of Didier Zokora certainly didn't boost his opinion poll rating, though snaffling Spanish under-21 defender Sergio Sanchez was a more popular deal. Big seasons from young talents like Jesus Navas and Diego Capel will also improve the fortunes of Jimenez.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | **16** | **W** | **W** | 16 | **GR** |
| **Domestic** | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Rangers** None
**Stuttgart** None
**Unirea** None

## RANGERS

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 250-1*
*Group: 7-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Allan McGregor | G | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Neil Alexander | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | David Weir | D | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | Sasa Papac | D | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 16 | Steven Whittaker | D | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | Kirk Broadfoot | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Madjid Bougherra | D | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 26 | Steven Smith | D | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Maurice Edu | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Padro Mendes | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Lee McCulloch | M | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Steven Davis | M | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Kevin Thomson | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 11 | Jerome Rothen | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | DaMarcus Beasley | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Kris Boyd | F | 3(1) | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Nacho Novo | F | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Steven Naismith | F | 3(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Kenny Miller | F | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 27 | Kyle Lafferty | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45 | Rory Loy | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | Andrew Little | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 63 | Archie Campbell | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League second qualifying round*** | | | |
| FBK Kaunas 2 Rangers 1 | 33 | - | - |
| Rangers 0 FBK Kaunas 0 | 90 | - | - |

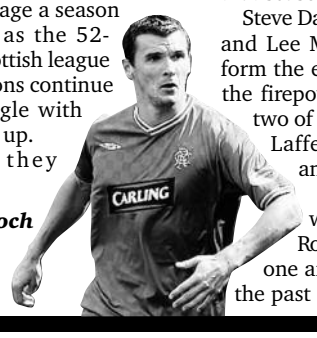
## Lack of signings is not helping bid to step up

Rangers go into Europe unbeaten since March but such relative success doesn't always count for that much.

The strength – or lack of it – in the Scottish game means the likes of Motherwell, Hamilton and Falkirk are the lame warm-up acts for bill-topping Champions League nights and the gulf in class means the Gers suffer accordingly.

They couldn't even get through the qualifiers last year, and went out in the group stage a season earlier, as the 52-time Scottish league champions continue to struggle with the step up.

That they reached the 2008 Uefa Cup final was extremely encouraging and Walter Smith will stand by his 4-5-1 in-yer-face approach that so riled opposition coaches during that season.



***Lee McCulloch***

Steve Davis, Pedro Mendes and Lee McCulloch should form the engine room, with the firepower permed from two of Kenny Miller, Kyle Lafferty, Nacho Novo and Kris Boyd.

31-year-old left-winger Jerome Rothen has been their one and only signing in the past 12 months.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | G | **G** | 16 | **16** | **F** | 2Q |
| **Domestic** | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Seville** None
**Stuttgart** Nov 07 A 2-3, Sep 07 H 2-1, Nov 03 A 0-1, Sep 03 H 2-1
**Unirea** None

## STUTTGART

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 100-1*
*Group: 2-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jens Lehmann | G | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | Alexander Stolz | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Ricardo Osorio | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Khalid Boulahrouz | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Serdar Tasci | D | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 | Georg Niedermeier | D | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Arthur Boka | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Matthieu Delpierre | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Ludovic Magnin | D | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 27 | Stefano Celozzi | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Christian Trasch | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Jan Simak | M | 1(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Thomas Hitzlsperger | M | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Timo Gebhart | M | 4(1) | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 19 | Roberto Hilbert | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Aleksandr Hleb | M | 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Elson | M | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 28 | Sami Khedira | M | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Zdravko Kuzmanovic | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Ciprian Marica | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Cacau | F | 4(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Pavel Pogrebnyak | F | 4(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Stuttgart 0 FCU Poli 0 | 90 | 30 | - |
| FCU Poli 0 Stuttgart 2 | 27 | 50 | - |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| Stuttgart 1 Zenit 2 | 42 | 40 | 2 |
| Zenit 2 Stuttgart 1 | 2 | 50 | 10 |
| ***Uefa Cup group stage*** | | | |
| Stuttgart 3 Standard Liege 0 | 5 | 10 | 6 |
| Sampdoria 1 Stuttgart 1 | 8 | 60 | 13 |
| Stuttgart 2 Partizan Belgrade 0 | 77 | 30 | 8 |
| Seville 2 Stuttgart 0 | 15 | 20 | 14 |
| ***Uefa Cup first round*** | | | |
| Stuttgart 2 Cherno More 2 | 48 | 80 | - |
| Cherno More 1 Stuttgart 2 | 42 | 20 | - |
| ***Uefa Cup second qualifying round*** | | | |
| Gyori Eto 1 Stuttgart 4 | - | - | - |
| Stuttgart 2 Gyori Eto 1 | - | - | - |

## Babbel's overhaul still has some crucial flaws

Former Liverpool defender Markus Babbel surely could not have expected such a dramatic impact in first-team coaching.

Babbel was appointed Stuttgart coach last November with the team in 11th place in the Bundesliga and by the time the campaign was over they were in a Champions League place.

They duly beat Romanian outfit Timisoara in the final round of qualifiers to at least prove they can prosper without striker Mario Gomez, whose exit was a huge setback.



***Pavel Pogrebnyak***

Russian striker Pavel Pogrebnyak is Gomez's direct replacement, while Alex Hleb has also returned to add some more attacking input.

There is lots of international quality in defence – Khalid Boulahrouz, Serdar Tasci and Arthur Boka – while the familiar face of Jens Lehmann stands tall behind the lot of them.

The midfield looks less authoritative and Babbel also has the problem of finding a team and sticking with it because he has a reputation as a tinkerer.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | 16 | **32** | **32** | - | GR | **32** |
| **Domestic** | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Seville** None
**Rangers** Nov 07 H 3-2, Sep 07 A 1-2, Nov 03 H 1-0, Sep 03 A 1-2
**Unirea** None

## UNIREA

***Best prices***
*Tournament: 2,500-1*
*Group: 33-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Giedrius Arlauskis | G | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 74 | Daniel Tudor | G | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | George Galamaz | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Epaminouda Nicu | D | 3(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Pablo Brandan | D | 3(2) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | Bruno Fernandes | D | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Valeriu Bordeanu | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Vasile Maftei | D | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Ersin Mehmedovic | M | 2(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Dino Todoran | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Sorin Paraschiv | M | 3(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Serban Varga | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Razvan Paduretu | M | 4(1) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Ricardo Vilana | M | 3(2) | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 21 | Tiberiu Balan | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Sorin Frunza | M | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 32 | Iulian Apostol | M | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 20 | Laurentiu Marinescu | M | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Marius Bilasco | F | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Marius Onofras | F | 0(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Raul Rusescu | F | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Antonio Semedo | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Daniel Stan | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Cristian Danalache | F | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup first round*** | | | |
| Unirea 0 Hamburg 2 | 27 | 50 | - |
| Hamburg 0 Unirea 0 | 90 | 30 | - |

**Key to European records:**
1Q = 1st Qualifying, 2Q = 2nd Qualfying, 3Q = 3rd Qualifying, GR= eliminated in group stage, 32= last 32, 16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, F=final , W=winners.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

## Surprise package face mammoth challenge

Unirea are the ultimate surprise package of the Champions League.

Formed in 1954, they reached the top flight only three years ago, yet last season won the Romanian Premier and now find themselves jousting with Europe's elite.

Coached by ex-Chelsea right-back Dan Petrescu, the Wolves of Baragan are a genuinely homespun outfit without a single superstar, but big on team spirit and playing football on the floor.

The squad is made up mainly of Romanians, of whom only Vasile Maftei and Iulian Apostol are close to the international scene.



***Dan Petrescu***

They go for a no-nonsense approach at the back but an absence of any recognised firepower might be a major disadvantage. Marius Bilasco and Raul Rusescu are their likeliest starters, but none of their quartet of possible forwards have ever reached double figures in a single top-flight campaign in Romania.

Other negatives? They will play their home matches in Bucharest, 55 kilometres away, and they lost a pre-season friendly to Plymouth.

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | - | - | - | - | **1** |
| **Domestic** | n/a | n/a | n/a | 10 | 5 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Seville** None
**Rangers** None
**Stuttgart** None

## GROUP G

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Seville** | 4-5 | 4-6 | 4-6 | 5-6 | **10-11** | 4-6 | 8-11 | 5-6 | 8-11 | 5-6 | 4-5 |
| **Stuttgart** | 7-4 | **2** | 15-8 | 7-5 | 7-4 | **2** | 15-8 | 15-8 | 9-5 | 6-4 | 6-4 |
| **Rangers** | 13-2 | 13-2 | 13-2 | **7** | 5 | 11-2 | 5 | 11-2 | 6 | 6 | **7** |
| **Unirea** | 16 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 16 | **33** | 16 | **33** | 25 | **33** |

**Fixtures – tomorrow** Stuttgart v Rangers, Seville v Unirea. **Sep 29** Unirea v Stuttgart, Rangers v Seville. **Oct 20** Rangers v Unirea, Stuttgart v Seville. **Nov 4** Unirea v Rangers, Seville v Stuttgart. **Nov 24** Rangers v Stuttgart, Unirea v Seville. **Dec 9** Stuttgart v Unirea, Seville v Rangers.

## VERDICT

## Classy Seville have enough talent to stand out

SEVILLE have to be the class act and Coral's 10-11 could be worth snapping up, especially as they start at home to the group's perceived outsiders Unirea and will shorten with a win.

This is the third time Stuttgart and Rangers have been grouped together and they've cancelled each other out on both previous occasions, with home advantage proving decisive in all four games.

Both clubs look to have far less going for them than the Spanish outfit, who possess the group's star striker in Luis Fabiano and a host of gifted players in support.

They need to recreate the home domination during their days of Uefa Cup glory, but for that to happen it's crucial the fans get off Manolo Jimenez's back.

The battle for second could be close, with **Unirea** hard to rule out even if they aren't playing at home. Mind you, they've already won this season at Steaua's ground, which is where they will be pitching up.

If they can take advantage of Rangers' negativity and nick a home win off Stuttgart they could conceivably trip over the line.

### Recommendations

**Seville** 2pts 10-11 *Coral*
**Unirea to qualify** 1pt 5-1 *Bet365*

# GOLDEN BOOT

## PENALTY TAKERS AND CLUB TOP SCORERS

| | *Last season's top league scorer** | *Probable penalty taker* |
|---|---|---|
| **Apoel Nicosia** | M Zewlakow 11 | N Mirosavljevic, C Michail |
| **Arsenal** | R van Persie 11 | R van Persie |
| **Atletico Madrid** | D Forlan 32 | D Forlan |
| **AZ Alkmaar** | M El Hamdaoui 23 | unknown |
| **Barcelona** | L Messi 23 | L Messi |
| **Bayern Munich** | L Toni 14 | M Klose, F Ribery |
| **Besiktas** | Bobo 11 | unknown |
| **Bordeaux** | F Cavenaghi 13 | F Cavenaghi |
| **Chelsea** | N Anelka 19 | F Lampard |
| **CSKA Moscow** | A Dzagoev 8 | A Dzagoev |
| **Debrecen** | G Rudolf 15 | G Rudolf, L Olah |
| **Dynamo Kiev** | O Aliev 13 | O Aliev |
| **Fiorentina** | A Gilardino 19 | A Mutu |
| **Inter** | M Balotelli 8 | S Eto'o/D Milito |
| **Juventus** | A Del Piero 13 | A Del Piero, Diego |
| **Liverpool** | S Gerrard 16 | S Gerrard |
| **Lyon** | J Makoun 6 | L Lopez |
| **Maccabi Haifa** | L Rafelov 8 | unknown |
| **Manchester United** | W Rooney 12 | W Rooney |
| **Marseille** | M Niang 14 | M Niang |
| **Milan** | A Pato 15 | Ronaldinho |
| **Olympiakos** | L Galletti 14 | L Galletti |
| **Porto** | E Farias 10 | Falcao, Hulk |
| **Rangers** | K Boyd 27 | K Boyd |
| **Real Madrid** | G Higuain 22 | C Ronaldo |
| **Rubin Kazan** | A Bukharov, K Gokdeniz 6 | D Dominguez |
| **Seville** | F Kanoute 18 | F Kanoute |
| **Standard Liege** | M Bezua 16 | M Jovanovic |
| **Stuttgart** | Cacau, Khedira 7 | Elson, T Gebhart |
| **Unirea** | D Onofras, M Bilasco 8 | M Bilasco |
| **Wolfsburg** | Grafite 28 | Grafite |
| **Zurich** | A Abdi 18 | J Vonlanthen, A Abdi |

*Top scorer list only includes players still with club

## RECENT TOP SCORERS

### 2008-09

| *Goals* | | *Best odds* |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | **L Messi** Barcelona | 20-1 |
| 7 | **M Klose** Bayern Munich | 33-1 |
| 7 | **S Gerrard** Liverpool | 50-1 |
| 6 | **L Lopez** Porto | N/O |

### 2007-08

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | **C Ronaldo** Man Utd | 25-1 |
| 6 | **D Drogba** Chelsea | 14-1 |
| 6 | **S Gerrard** Liverpool | 66-1 |
| 6 | **F Torres** Liverpool | 20-1 |
| 6 | **L Messi** Barcelona | 25-1 |

### 2006-07

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10 | **Kaka** Milan | 80-1 |
| 6 | **D Drogba** Chelsea | 50-1 |
| 6 | **R v Nistelrooy** R Madrid | 12-1 |
| 6 | **F Morientes** Valencia | 66-1 |
| 6 | **P Crouch** Liverpool | 66-1 |

### 2005-06

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | **A Shevchenko** Milan | 9-1 |
| 7 | **Ronaldinho** Barcelona | 40-1 |
| 6 | **D Trezeguet** Juventus | 28-1 |
| 6 | **S Eto'o** Barcelona | 8-1 |

### 2004-05

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | **R v Nistelrooy** Man Utd | 10-1 |
| 7 | **R Makaay** B Munich | 10-1 |
| 7 | **Adriano** Inter | 20-1 |
| 6 | **S Wiltord** Lyon | N/O |
| 6 | **H Crespo** Milan | 33-1 |
| 6 | **A Shevchenko** Milan | 12-1 |

# RELIANT

## Arsenal hitman can strike gold by plundering weak opponents

By Mark Langdon

WHAT do the last five Champions League Golden Boot winners – Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka, Andrei Shevchenko and Ruud van Nistelrooy – have in common, apart from being exceptional footballers?

They were never behind in their quest for the goalscoring gong after the group phase – in other words this is a market where you must look for runners with the potential to do damage against the smaller teams in the group phase.

Coming from off the pace has been virtually impossible – Fernando Morientes was the last to do so for Monaco in 2003-04 – and even then the Spaniard was only one behind going into the knockout stages.

Arsenal have the easiest group of all the fancied sides with home and away matches to enjoy against Standard Liege, AZ Alkmaar and Olympiakos, and given the lack of quality in the opposition it is surprising to see **Robin van Persie** being quoted at a mouthwatering 33-1.

The Dutchman does not have a particularly fantastic record in the competition with goal tallies of 1-2-1-2-4, but more often that not he has been seen as the second striker to Thierry Henry or Emmanuel Adebayor.

Van Persie is now the focal point of Arsene Wenger's 4-3-3 formation and he is a huge price considering he is the lone striker, with the likes of Andrei Arshavin and Cesc Fabregas supplying the ammunition.

The fact RVP takes penalties and the majority of free kicks just adds weight to the theory he could gain cheap goals early on.

Seville, although it is not reflected in the group odds, also have a lovely section against Stuttgart, Rangers and Romanian new boys Unirea and their front



*Robin van Persie is now the focus o*

totesport

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Champions League 2009/10 Outright

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4/1 | Barcelona | 40/1 | Stuttgart |
| 9/2 | Real Madrid | 40/1 | Wolfsburg |
| 11/2 | Chelsea | 50/1 | Fiorentina |
| 13/2 | Man Utd | 50/1 | Porto |
| 9/1 | Arsenal | 66/1 | Bordeaux |
| 11/1 | Inter Milan | 80/1 | Marseille |
| 11/1 | Liverpool | 100/1 | AZ Alkmaar |
| 22/1 | AC Milan | 100/1 | CSKA Moscow |
| 22/1 | Bayern Munich | 100/1 | Rubin Kazan |
| 22/1 | Juventus | 125/1 | Besiktas |
| 33/1 | Atletico Madrid | 125/1 | Olympiakos |
| 33/1 | Lyon | 125/1 | Rangers |
| 33/1 | Sevilla | 150/1 | Dinamo Kiev |

*Each-way one-half the odds a place 1-2. Others on request.*

English Team To Progress The Furthest

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/10 | Chelsea | 16/5 | Arsenal |
| 11/5 | Man Utd | 4/1 | Liverpool |

*Win only.*

Which Group Will Produce The Winner?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11/4 | Group F | 15/2 | Group H |
| 18/5 | Group C | 17/2 | Group E |
| 9/2 | Group D | 10/1 | Group A |
| 6/1 | Group B | 18/1 | Group G |

*Win only.*

Group Stage Opening Fixtures

| HOME | | DRAW | | AWAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Tonight* | | |
| †1/6 | Atl. Madrid | 11/2 | APOEL Nicosia | 16/1 |
| †6/1 | Besiktas | 3/1 | Man Utd | 1/2 |
| †1/3 | Chelsea | 18/5 | Porto | 9/1 |
| †9/1 | FC Zurich | 4/1 | Real Madrid | 3/10 |
| †8/15 | Juventus | 11/4 | Bordeaux | 6/1 |
| †5/1 | Maccabi Haifa | 3/1 | Bayern Munich | 8/15 |
| †11/8 | Marseille | 11/5 | AC Milan | 2/1 |
| †4/5 | Wolfsburg | 5/2 | CSKA Moscow | 7/2 |

champions league enhanced midweek multiples

5/2 Arsenal, Chelsea, Man Utd & Liverpool all to win

10/3 Atl. Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla & R. Madrid all to win

Top Goalscorer

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/1 | L. Messi | 16/1 | T. Henry |
| 7/1 | C. Ronaldo | 18/1 | D. Forlan |
| 7/1 | F. Torres | 20/1 | S. Gerrard |
| 8/1 | K. Benzema | 22/1 | D. Berbatov |
| 8/1 | S. Eto'o | 22/1 | K.J. Huntelaar |
| 12/1 | D. Drogba | 22/1 | A. Pato |
| 12/1 | Z. Ibrahimovic | 25/1 | L. Lopez |
| 14/1 | W. Rooney | 25/1 | Raul |
| 16/1 | N. Anelka | 25/1 | R. van Persie |

*Each-way one-quarter the odds a place 1-2-3-4. Others on request.*

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*Tomorrow*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| †20/21 | Dinamo Kiev | 12/5 | Rubin Kazan | 14/5 |
| †15/8 | Inter Milan | 23/10 | Barcelona | 7/5 |
| †1/9 | Liverpool | 7/1 | Debrecen | 25/1 |
| †3/4 | Lyon | 13/5 | Fiorentina | 18/5 |
| †20/21 | Olympiakos | 5/2 | AZ Alkmaar | 11/4 |
| †1/6 | Sevilla | 11/2 | Unirea Urziceni | 16/1 |
| †5/1 | Standard Liege | 3/1 | Arsenal | 8/15 |
| †4/7 | Stuttgart | 11/4 | Rangers | 5/1 |

*All prices subject to fluctuation.*

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# T ROBIN



*f Arsenal's free-scoring attack*

two of **Fredi Kanoute** and Luis Fabiano could really take advantage of such weak opponents.

Fabiano is absolutely fabulous for Brazil, but Kanoute is the king as far as Seville are concerned and 66-1 is a top price for a player with so much ability.

The former West Ham and Tottenham man is vastly superior to the player we saw in the Premier League. In the last three campaigns he has scored 55 La Liga goals, and Kanoute is also on spot-kick duty.

The last three Champions League winners have provided the tournament's top scorer, so it is worth looking at the higher echelons of the outright market to find a player to add to the portfolio.

Real Madrid, Chelsea and Barcelona all have the potential to share the goals around, but the Catalans score such a huge number that one of their three forwards will have every chance of landing the Golden Boot.

New recruit Zlatan Ibrahimovic has never scored a Champions League knockout goal and makes



*Fredi Kanoute*

no appeal, while Thierry Henry is tempting at bigger prices but manager Pep Guardiola may not always select the ageing forward.

Instead, look to last season's hero **Lionel Messi**, who topped the charts with nine goals and could get even more opportunities now he does not have to share penalties with the departed Samuel Eto'o.

### Recommendations

**R van Persie**
2.5pts e-w 33-1 *Boyle, V Chandler*
**L Messi**
1pt win 10-1 *Ladbrokes*
**F Kanoute**
0.5pt e-w 66-1 *Totesport*

## TOP GOALSCORER

| LAST 3 YEARS | | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17/31/18 | **C Ronaldo** Real Madrid | **8** | 13-2 | **8** | 7 | 15-2 | **8** | **8** | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 14/10/23 | **L Messi** Barcelona | 9 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 15-2 | 13-2 | **10** | 8 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| 5/20/17 | **K Benzema** Real Madrid | **14** | 12 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| 15/24/14 | **F Torres** Liverpool | 10 | 7 | 12 | 8 | **14** | 8 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 12 |
| 11/16/30 | **S Eto'o** Inter | 10 | **16** | 14 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| 15/17/25 | **Z Ibrahimovic** Barcelona | **16** | 12 | 14 | 12 | **16** | 10 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 14/12/12 | **W Rooney** Man Utd | 18 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 14 | **20** | 12 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 12 |
| 11/10+1/19 | **N Anelka** Chelsea | **20** | **20** | **20** | 16 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 16 | **20** |
| 20/8/5 | **D Drogba** Chelsea | 10 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 12 | **22** | 10 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 12 |
| 10/12/19 | **T Henry** Barcelona | 22 | 16 | **25** | 20 | 20 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 22 |
| 7/11/16 | **S Gerrard** Liverpool | 20 | 16 | 22 | 16 | **25** | 20 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| 12/15/0+9 | **D Berbatov** Man Utd | 28 | 25 | 28 | 25 | 25 | **33** | 28 | 25 | 25 | 22 | 20 |
| -/9/15 | **A Pato** Milan | 25 | 20 | 28 | 25 | 25 | **33** | 25 | 25 | 25 | 22 | **33** |
| 5/11/7 | **R van Persie** Arsenal | 28 | 25 | 22 | **33** | 25 | 25 | 22 | 20 | 25 | 25 | **33** |
| 8/24/10 | **L Lopez** Lyon | 28 | **33** | 25 | 25 | 25 | **33** | 25 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 25 |
| -/10/6+6 | **A Arshavin** Arsenal | **33** | **33** | 28 | 25 | 25 | 25 | **33** | 28 | **33** | **33** | **33** |
| 19/16/32 | **D Forlan** Atl Madrid | **33** | 25 | 25 | 25 | **33** | **33** | **33** | **33** | 25 | 18 | **33** |
| 8/15/16 | **Kaka** Real Madrid | **40** | 25 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 33 | 33 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 33 |
| 21/34/6+8 | **K-J Huntelaar** Milan | 33 | 33 | **40** | 33 | 28 | 33 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 22 | 33 |
| 21/15/24 | **D Milito** Inter | 25 | 25 | 22 | 33 | 25 | **40** | 33 | 28 | 33 | 28 | 33 |
| 16/11/10 | **F Lampard** Chelsea | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 28 | 33 | 33 | **40** | 33 |
| 5/8+2/8 | **G Higuain** Real Madrid | 33 | 33 | **40** | 28 | - | 25 | 25 | **40** | 33 | 28 | 33 |
| 21/25/16 | **R van Nistelrooy** Real Madrid | - | 33 | **40** | **40** | - | - | - | 22 | - | 33 | **40** |
| 0/11/8 | **M Owen** Man Utd | 28 | 33 | **40** | 28 | **40** | **40** | 16 | 28 | 33 | 28 | **40** |
| 6/19/17 | **S Aguero** Atl Madrid | **40** | 25 | 33 | 20 | 33 | **40** | **40** | 33 | 33 | 33 | **40** |
| 7/18/18 | **Raul** Real Madrid | **40** | 25 | **40** | 25 | 33 | 20 | **40** | **40** | **40** | 25 | **40** |
| 2/11/13 | **F Inzaghi** Milan | 40 | 33 | 40 | 40 | **50** | - | - | 40 | 40 | 40 | **50** |
| 10/24/8 | **L Fabiano** Seville | **50** | 40 | 28 | 33 | 28 | 33 | **50** | 40 | **50** | 40 | 40 |
| 31/16/24 | **L Toni** Bayern Munich | 33 | **50** | **50** | **50** | **50** | **50** | **50** | 40 | 40 | 33 | 40 |
| 14/19/24 | **M Gomez** Bayern Munich | 50 | 50 | 50 | 33 | 40 | **66** | 50 | 40 | 50 | 28 | 50 |
| 25/13/10 | **M Klose** Bayern Munich | 50 | 50 | 33 | 40 | 40 | **66** | 50 | 40 | 33 | 33 | 50 |
| n/a/21/13 | **A Del Piero** Juventus | - | 40 | **66** | 50 | 50 | - | - | 40 | 40 | 40 | 50 |
| 21/16/18 | **F Kanoute** Seville | 40 | 40 | 25 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 50 | 50 | **66** | 40 |
| n/a/4/0 | **Eduardo** Arsenal | 50 | 33 | 33 | 33 | **66** | 33 | 50 | 33 | - | 33 | 33 |
| 10/16/9 | **B Gomis** Lyon | 50 | 40 | **66** | 50 | 40 | 50 | - | 50 | - | 40 | 50 |
| 14/8/12 | **V Iaquinta** Juventus | - | 40 | 50 | 50 | 40 | **66** | 50 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 50 |
| 5/14/10 | **I Olic** Bayern Munich | 40 | **66** | **66** | 40 | 50 | **66** | 40 | 50 | - | 40 | 50 |
| 12/7/19 | **A Gilardino** Fiorentina | **66** | 50 | 50 | **66** | - | **66** | - | **66** | - | 50 | **66** |
| n/a/20/1 | **D Trezeguet** Juventus | - | **66** | - | **66** | 50 | **66** | 50 | 50 | - | **66** | **66** |
| 5/11/9 | **F Ribery** Bayern Munich | 50 | **66** | **66** | **66** | 50 | **66** | **66** | 50 | **66** | **66** | **66** |
| 13/13/12 | **Diego** Juventus | 66 | **80** | 50 | 66 | 40 | 66 | - | 50 | - | - | 33 |
| 12/3/12 | **D Kuyt** Liverpool | 40 | 40 | **80** | 66 | - | - | - | 50 | - | 66 | 33 |
| 2/7/3 | **C Fabregas** Arsenal | 66 | - | 66 | 66 | - | 40 | 66 | 50 | - | **80** | 66 |
| 7/4/2 | **A Robben** Bayern Munich | 40 | 66 | **80** | 40 | 50 | - | - | **80** | - | 66 | 66 |
| 16/17/13 | **A Mutu** Fiorentina | 50 | 66 | **80** | **80** | 66 | - | - | **80** | - | 50 | **80** |
| -/10/2 | **B Krkic** Barcelona | 66 | - | 66 | - | 33 | - | **100** | 66 | - | - | 50 |

Each-way 1/4 1,2,3,4. Form figures show club league goals scored in last three season. Others on request



# Group H

by Steve Davies

## ARSENAL

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 10-1*
*Group: 4-11*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Manuel Almunia | G | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | Lukasz Fabianski | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Bakari Sagna | D | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 5 | Thomas Vermaelen | D | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | William Gallas | D | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Mikael Silveste | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Johan Djourou | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Gael Clichy | D | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Emmanuel Eboue | D | 2(2) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 | Abou Diaby | M | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | Cesc Fabregas | M | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Tomas Rosicky | M | 0(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Samir Nasri | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Denilson | M | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Aaron Ramsey | M | 0(3) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Alex Song | M | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 19 | Jack Wilshere | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Fran Merida | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Eduardo | F | 1(3) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Robin van Persie | F | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | Carlos Vela | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Theo Walcott | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Andrei Arshavin | F | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 52 | Nicklas Bendter | F | 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Arsenal 3 Celtic 1 | 28 | 50 | 5 |
| Celtic 0 Arsenal 2 | 43 | 40 | 5 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League semi-final*** | | | |
| Arsenal 1 Man Utd 3 | 8 | 55 | 13 |
| Man Utd 1 Arsenal 0 | 17 | 10 | 4 |
| ***Quarter-final*** | | | |
| Arsenal 3 Villarreal 0 | 10 | 75 | 6 |
| Villarreal 1 Arsenal 1 | 10 | 40 | 19 |
| ***Last 16*** | | | |
| Roma 1 Arsenal 0 | 9 | 30 | 20 |
| Arsenal 1 Roma 0 | 37 | 50 | 3 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Porto 2 Arsenal 0 | 39 | 20 | 6 |
| Arsenal 1 Dynamo Kiev 0 | 87 | 75 | 9 |
| Arsenal 0 Fenerbahce 0 | 90 | 50 | 8 |
| Fenerbahce 2 Arsenal 5 | 10 | 50 | 2 |
| Arsenal 4 Porto 0 | 31 | 20 | 19 |
| Dynamo Kiev 1 Arsenal 1 | 64 | 50 | 11 |

# Gunners' attack could ease pressure on boss

THE pressure is on Arsene Wenger to deliver some silverware after four barren seasons.

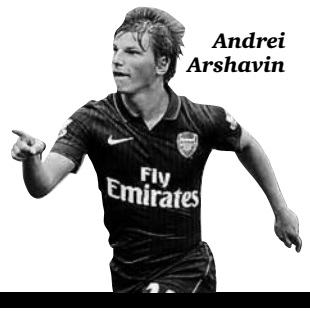
The 2005-06 Champions League runners-up have had this trophy in their sights on more than one occasion over the past decade but keep finding one club too good.

They qualified this season with a 5-1 thrashing of Celtic but a mixed start to their league campaign has renewed concerns over Wenger's transfer inactivity.

The only key changes in personnel have been the sales of Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor and the recruitment of Thomas Vermaelen, though Wenger would argue that Andrei Arshavin is like a new boy having only arrived in February.

And Arshavin is a huge cog in Arsenal's famed attacking wheel that can also feature the likes of Eduardo, Robin van Persie, Theo Walcott and a fit-again Tomas Rosicky, all held together by Cesc Fabregas.

At the back William Gallas remains on a short fuse and top-notch delivery at set-plays can leave them exposed.



*Andrei Arshavin*

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | QF | 16 | F | 16 | QF | S-F |
| **Domestic** | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Alkmaar** None
**Olympiakos** None
**Standard Liege** None

## AZ ALKMAAR

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 200-1*
*Group: 8-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Joey Didulica | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Erik Heijblok | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Sergio Romero | G | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Kew Jaliens | D | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 | Hector Moreno | D | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Sebastien Pocognoli | D | 3(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 | Niklas Moisander | D | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | David Mendes da Silva | M | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Stijn Schaars | M | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Maarten Martens | M | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Kees Luijckx | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Ragnar Klaven | M | 2(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Simon Poulsen | M | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Pontus Wernbloom | M | 3(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | Nick van der Velden | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Brett Holman | M | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Gill Swerts | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 30 | James Holland | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Morten Nielsen | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Jeremain Lens | F | 2(2) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Ari | F | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Mounir El Hamdaoui | F | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | Moussa Dembele | F | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Graziano Pelle | F | 0(1) | 1 | 0 | 1 |

### Last season in Europe

*Alkmaar did not qualify for Europe last season*

**Key to European records:**
1Q = 1st Qualifying, 2Q = 2nd Qualfying, 3Q = 3rd Qualifying, GR= eliminated in group stage, 32= last 32,
16=last 16, QF=quarter-finals, SF=semi-finals, F=final , W=winners.
*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

# Koeman's kids may be out of their depth

RONALD KOEMAN, twice a Champions League winner as a player, has more modest ambitions masterminding AZ Alkmaar's first campaign.

Koeman succeeded Louis van Gaal in May and has made few changes to a squad that won the Eredivisie last season.

What it means is that a team who were unashamedly attacking in 2008-09 may well be the same again this term and a youthful defence faces a real working over.

Defenders Hector Moreno, Sebastian Pocognoli, Ragnar Klavan and Niklas Moisander are all 23 or younger, so will need to enlist the help of Oranje midfielders Stijn Schars and Mendes de Silva, especially now that snappy Demy de Zeeuw has moved to Ajax.

The Dutch champions are an attractive proposition going forward. Moussa Dembele is tricky, Jeremain Lens blisteringly quick and top scorer Mounir El Hamdaoui has an eye for goal. And at 25 the Moroccan is one of the older outfield players.

They are an adventurous outfit but their youthfulness and inexperience could be a minus.


*Ronald Koeman*

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | **S-F** | **32** | **Q-F** | **G** | - |
| **Domestic** | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Arsenal** None
**Olympiakos** None
**Standard Leige** None

## OLYMPIAKOS

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 150-1*
*Group: 10-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Leonidas Panagopoulos | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 71 | Antonis Nikopolidis | G | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Kyriakos Papadopoulos | D | 0(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Didier Domi | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Olof Mellberg | D | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Giorgos Galitsios | D | 0(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Michal Zewlakow | D | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Raul Bravo | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | Avraam Papadopoulos | D | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | Leonardo | D | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Tasos Pantos | D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 35 | Vassilis Torosidis | D | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Ieroklis Stoltidis | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Luciano Galletti | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Oscar Gonzalez | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Jaouad Zairi | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Andreas Vasilogiannis | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Dudu | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Enzo Maresca | M | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Cristian Ledesma | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Aristidis Soiledis | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Giannis Papadopoulos | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Matt Derbyshire | F | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Diogo | F | 1(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | Kostas Mitroglou | F | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### This season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Champions League play-off*** | | | |
| Olympiakos 1 Sheriff Tiraspol 0 | 82 | 20 | 7 |
| Sheriff Tiraspol 0 Olympiakos 2 | 46 | 30 | 11 |
| ***Third qualifying round*** | | | |
| Olympiakos 2 Slovan Bratislava 0 | 25 | 40 | 13 |
| Slovan Bratislava 0 Olympiakos 2 | 2 | 40 | 14 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| St Etienne 2 Olympiakos 1 | 45 | 70 | 5 |
| Olympiakos 1 St Etienne | 12 | 70 | 12 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Olympiakos 4 Hertha Berlin 0 | 55 | 40 | 12 |
| Metalist Kharkiv 1 Olympiakos 0 | 88 | 40 | 8 |
| Olympiakos 5 Benfica 1 | 1 | 20 | 8 |
| Galatasaray 1 Olympiakos 0 | 25 | 80 | 8 |

# Fans will demand an impressive campaign

SUCH are the demands in Greek football that ex-Newcastle player Temuri Ketsbaia is under fire.

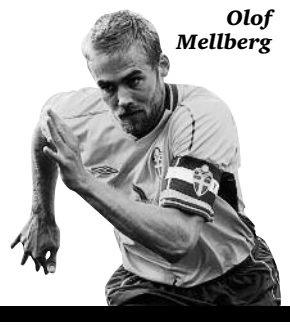
He got his team through two rounds of qualifiers without conceding a goal but the football they play isn't great and as a former midfielder with bitter Athens rivals AEK, he will never be popular.

The man who guided Anorthosis to the group stage last season is pleading for more time but he'll need a decent start to their campaign.

You can see why they haven't conceded a goal in six matches. World Cup veterans Olof Mellberg and Michel Zewlakow, plus highly-rated Greek international Avraam Papadopoulos, are the pillars of a powerful back five.

Further forward they need to get Brazilian playmaker Dudu on the ball but there is a real dearth of firepower.

Olympiakos' passionate fans have roared their team to five successive league titles, but they can turn on the team – and especially the coach – quickly if a game doesn't go to plan.


*Olof Mellberg*

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | GS | **16** | GS | GS | 16 | **32** |
| **Domestic** | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Arsenal** None
**Alkmaar** None
**Standard Liege** None

## STANDARD LIEGE

**Best prices**
*Tournament: 500-1*
*Group: 16-1*

### Squad details

| | | Pos | App | Gls | Yel | Red |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kristof Van Hout | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Jesse Soubry | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Anthony Moris | G | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38 | Sinan Bolat | G | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 | Reginal Goreux | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Victor Ramos | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Ricardo Rocha | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Felipe | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Cedric Collet | D | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Landry Mulemo | D | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | Marcos Camozzato | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Mohamed Sarr | D | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | Eliaquim Mangala | D | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Rami Gershon | D | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Wilfried Dalmat | M | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Steven Defour | M | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | Gregory Dufer | M | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Benjamin Nicaise | M | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Arnor Angeli | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Axel Witsel | M | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | Hiraç Yagan | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Tiago | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez | M | 2(1) | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Andrea Mbuyi Mutombo | M | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Dieudonne Mbokani | F | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 10 | Igor De Camargo | F | 4(1) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 20 | Moussa Traore | F | 1(3) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | Milan Jovanovic | F | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Gohi Bi Cyriac | F | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Last season in Europe

| | 1st goal | Bookings | Corners |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Uefa Cup last 32*** | | | |
| Standard Liege 1 Braga 1 | 79 | 80 | 6 |
| Braga 3 Standard Liege 0 | 17 | 40 | 8 |
| ***Group stage*** | | | |
| Stuttgart 3 Standard Liege 0 | 5 | 10 | 6 |
| Standard Liege 3 Sampdoria 0 | 23 | 60 | 7 |
| Partizan Belgrade 0 Standard Liege 1 | 36 | 70 | 6 |
| Standard Liege 1 Seville 0 | 38 | 50 | 11 |
| ***First round*** | | | |
| Standard Liege 2 Everton 1 | 22 | 20 | 9 |
| Everton 2 Standard Liege 2 | 9 | 50 | 9 |
| ***Champions League third qualifying round*** | | | |
| LIverpool 1 Standard Liege 0 | 90 | 30 | - |
| Standard Liege 0 Liverpool 0 | 90 | 30 | 6 |

# Belgian champions can make impression

THE Belgian champions were eyecatching in 2008-09 when they retained the title and were also a whisker away from toppling Liverpool over two legs in the Champions League.

Laszlo Boloni's men went on to impress in the Uefa Cup with wins against Everton, Seville and Sampdoria the highlights and they are off to an unbeaten start after six league games.

The Reds are an attractive outfit under Boloni and possess bags of firepower – Igor De Camargo and Dieumerci Mbokani are a real handful, while Milan Jovanovic's record of a goal every other game over three seasons in Liege is impressive. The Serb has already notched five times in seven this season.

Two negatives. They haven't replaced American centre-back Oguchi Onyewu and Steven Defour, the heartbeat of the side, misses the group campaign with a broken ankle.

However, Axel Witsel, banned domestically until November for shattering the leg of Anderlecht's Marcin Wasilewski, is available.


*Milan Jovanovic*

***Recent club record***

| | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Europe** | - | **GS** | - | **1** | **1** | **32** |
| **Domestic** | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

*Figures in bold signify Uefa Cup.*

***European meetings with group opponents in last ten seasons***

**Arsenal** None
**Alkmaar** None
**Olympiakos** None

## GROUP H

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arsenal** | 1-3 | **4-11** | 1-4 | 1-5 | **4-11** | 1-4 | 2-9 | 2-7 | 3-10 | 1-4 | 2-9 |
| **AZ Alkmaar** | 13-2 | 6 | 13-2 | 13-2 | 6 | 7 | **8** | 6 | 9-2 | 6 | 6 |
| **Olympiakos** | 11-2 | 6 | 9 | **10** | 11-2 | 13-2 | 9 | 15-2 | **10** | 8 | 9 |
| **Standard Liege** | 11 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 14 | **16** |

**Fixtures – tomorrow** Olympiakos v AZ, Standard v Arsenal. **Sep 29** Arsenal v Olympiakos, AZ v Standard. **Oct 20** AZ v Arsenal, Olympiakos v Standard. **Nov 4** Arsenal v AZ, Standard v Olympiakos. **Nov 24** AZ v Olympiakos, Arsenal v Standard. **Dec 9** Olympiakos v Arsenal, Standard v AZ.

**VERDICT**

# Liege more than capable of following Arsenal

YOU can throw a cap over the three teams chasing second spot.

The presumption is that Arsenal will dot up and they are the class act in this section notwithstanding the occasional fret over defensive lapses.

The Gunners have qualified from the first group phase each year since 2000 and can do so again under hands and heels.

If you share the opinion that there isn't a lot to separate the rest, then the value may well be Standard Liege at 3-1 to qualify.

The Jupiler League isn't quite as strong as the Dutch or Greek domestic leagues but there is not a great deal in it and Standard were hugely impressive in their European forays last term.

Steven Defour's injury is a blow but Alkmaar and Olympiakos have also got major selection problems and their managers, unlike Laszlo Boloni, are under immense pressure to start producing some good results.

Standard play Arsenal at home at the best time – no Andrei Arshavin or Eduardo – and anything off the Gunners this week will see their odds cut.

**Recommendation**

**Standard Liege to qualify**
1pt 3-1 *Boylesports, S James, V Chandler*

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# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2009-2010

## Champions League - Outright

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4/1 | Barcelona | 11/1 | Inter Milan |
| 5/1 | Real Madrid | 18/1 | AC Milan |
| 13/2 | Chelsea | 25/1 | Bayern Munich |
| 7/1 | Man Utd | 25/1 | Juventus |
| 10/1 | Arsenal | 40/1 | Atl Madrid |
| 10/1 | Liverpool | 40/1 | Lyon |

Each-way 1/2 the odds a place 1-2. Others on request.

## Champions League - Winning Nationality

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11/8 | England | 14/1 | Germany |
| 6/4 | Spain | 18/1 | France |
| 9/2 | Italy | 20/1 | Any other Nation |

Win Only.

## Best British Club

Which British team will go the furthest in the 09/10 Champions League?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15/8 | Chelsea | 4/1 | Liverpool |
| 2/1 | Man Utd | 40/1 | Rangers |
| 7/2 | Arsenal | | |

Dead Heat Rules Apply. Win Only.

## English Team Specials

| | |
|---|---|
| 4/1 | All English Final |
| 4/1 | All 4 English teams to win their Group |
| 4/6 | All 4 English teams to Qualify from their Group |

## Champions League - Top Goalscorer

Who will score the most goals in Champions League 09/10?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15/2 | L. Messi | 25/1 | D. Milito |
| 15/2 | Ronaldo | 25/1 | Kaka |
| 12/1 | D. Drogba | 25/1 | L. Lopez |
| 12/1 | K. Benzema | 25/1 | R. Van Persie |
| 14/1 | F. Torres | 25/1 | S. Gerrard |
| 14/1 | S. Eto'o | 28/1 | KJ. Huntelaar |
| 14/1 | W. Rooney | 28/1 | L. Fabiano |
| 16/1 | N. Anelka | 33/1 | Bojan |
| 16/1 | Z. Ibrahimovic | 33/1 | D. Forlan |
| 20/1 | T. Henry | 33/1 | F. Kanoute |
| 25/1 | A. Arshavin | 33/1 | F. Lampard |
| 25/1 | A. Pato | 33/1 | Raul |
| 25/1 | D. Berbatov | 33/1 | S. Aguero |

Each-way 1/4 the odds a place 1-2-3-4. Others on request.

## Group Betting - Winner

Who will win the group?

### Group B

| | |
|---|---|
| 2/5 | Manchester Utd |
| 4/1 | VFL Wolfsburg |
| 13/2 | CSKA Moscow |
| 16/1 | Besiktas |

### Group D

| | |
|---|---|
| 1/2 | Chelsea |
| 10/3 | Atletico Madrid |
| 4/1 | FC Porto |
| 50/1 | Apoel |

### Group E

| | |
|---|---|
| 8/11 | Liverpool |
| 9/4 | Lyon |
| 9/2 | Fiorentina |
| 25/1 | Debreceni |

### Group H

| | |
|---|---|
| 4/11 | Arsenal |
| 11/2 | Olympiakos |
| 6/1 | AZ Alkmaar |
| 12/1 | Standard de Liege |

**Above 4 markets.** Win Only.

All above prices are subject to fluctuation.

## Tonight's Live Champions League Matches

| HOME | | DRAW | AWAY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/7 | Juventus | 11/4 | Bordeaux | 5/1 |
| 11/2 | Maccabi Haifa | 3/1 | B. Munich | 1/2 |
| 5/1 | Besiktas | 11/4 | Man Utd | 4/7 |
| 4/5 | Wolfsburg | 13/5 | CSKA Moscow | 10/3 |
| 10/1 | FC Zurich | 7/2 | Real Madrid | 1/3 |
| 7/5 | Marseille | 23/10 | AC Milan | 15/8 |
| 1/5 | Atl Madrid | 5/1 | Apoel Nicosia | 14/1 |
| 4/11 | Chelsea | 10/3 | FC Porto | 9/1 |

## Tomorrow's Live Champions League Matches

| HOME | | DRAW | AWAY | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1/8 | Liverpool ITV | 13/2 | Debrecen | 22/1 |
| 8/11 | Lyon | 5/2 | Fiorentina | 4/1 |
| 10/11 | Dynamo Kiev | 12/5 | Rubin Kazan | 3/1 |
| 15/8 | Inter Milan | 23/10 | Barcelona | 7/5 |
| 2/9 | Sevilla | 5/1 | Unirea Urziceni | 12/1 |
| 8/13 | Stuttgart | 13/5 | Rangers | 5/1 |
| Evs | Olympiakos | 12/5 | AZ Alkmaar | 11/4 |
| 5/1 | Standard Liege | 11/4 | Arsenal | 4/7 |

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# TRADING POST

## GROUP A

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Bayern | 2.2 | 2.64 |
| Juventus | 2.3 | 2.66 |
| Bordeaux | 5.8 | 8.4 |
| Maccabi Haifa | 34 | 100 |

## GROUP B

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Man Utd | 1.33 | 1.48 |
| Wolfsburg | 4.5 | 5 |
| CSKA | 9 | 10 |
| Besiktas | 12 | 17 |

## GROUP C

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 1.5 | 1.63 |
| Milan | 3 | 4.1 |
| Marseille | 8 | 13 |
| FC Zurich | 44 | 108 |

## GROUP D

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 1.4 | 1.63 |
| Atletico | 4 | 5 |
| Porto | 5.5 | 7 |
| Apoel | 25 | 34 |

## GROUP E

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Liverpool | 1.7 | 1.9 |
| Lyon | 3.1 | 3.9 |
| Fiorentina | 6.4 | 8.2 |
| Debrecen | 100 | 500 |

## GROUP F

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Inter | 2.6 | 4.2 |
| Dynamo | 12 | 24 |
| Rubin Kazan | 14 | 26 |

## GROUP G

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Seville | 1.72 | 2 |
| Stuttgart | 3 | 3.5 |
| Rangers | 7 | 10 |
| Unirea | 21 | 60 |

## GROUP H

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 1.3 | 1.45 |
| AZ Alkmaar | 7 | 12 |
| Olympiakos | 8 | 18 |
| Standard | 15 | 25 |

## TONIGHT'S LIVE GAMES

### BESIKTAS v MAN UTD

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Besiktas | 7.4 | 8 |
| Man Utd | 1.55 | 1.57 |
| Draw | 4.3 | 4.5 |

### CHELSEA v PORTO

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 1.41 | 1.43 |
| Porto | 10.5 | 11.5 |
| Draw | 4.7 | 4.9 |

**TONIGHT'S PREVIEWS** PAGES 27-31

# Europe's dark horses look good trade opportunities

By Mark Langdon

IT is difficult to see any outsiders winning the Champions League, but there are a couple of dark horses who may feature in the latter stages and could be seen as potential excellent back-to-lay opportunities.

The beauty of the exchanges is you can trade your position without necessarily putting in any further investment, and backing Lyon and Seville at big prices could be the best route to gaining an edge in this season's competition.

Lyon have invested well this summer and selling Karim Benzema to Real Madrid could be the best thing has happened to the French club.

They now have a much better team rather than one star individual. Lisandro Lopez, who scored six goals in last season's Champions League, is set to be a great signing, while Michel Bastos, Bafetibi Gomis and Aly Cissokho also strengthen a team which was in desperate need of a makeover.

OL should be able to finish above Fiorentina and Debrecen and make the last 16 alongside Liverpool, and it would be a surprise if Claude Puel's team did not trade at a considerably shorter price at some stage over the next few months.



*Seville's Javier Chevanton (centre) and Jesus Navas (right)*

The same is true of Seville, who have been handed a peach of a draw alongside Rangers, Stuttgart and Unirea.

Manuel Jimenez's team were good enough to finish third in La Liga last term and that is strong form considering they proved better than the likes of Atletico Madrid, Villarreal and Valencia.

Luis Fabiano and Fredi Kanoute provide terrific forward options, while Alvaro Negredo is a superb replacement should anything happen to the two strikers.

They are a young team with scope for improvement, particularly as sporting director Ramon Rodriguez is widely regarded as the best in the business at spotting talent.

Jesus Navas, Diego Capel, Diego Perotti and Federico Fazio are boys with big futures, and a quarter-final spot is a realistic target for a slick Seville outfit.

### Recommendations

**Lyon back to lay**
1pt at 52 *Betdaq*
**Seville back to lay**
1ptat 52 *Betdaq*

## BACK AND LAY PRICES

| | BACK BETDAQ | LAY BETDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Real Madrid | 6.2 | 6.4 |
| Chelsea | 7.2 | 7.4 |
| Man Utd | 10 | 11 |
| Arsenal | 11.5 | 12 |
| Liverpool | 13 | 14 |
| Inter | 12.5 | 13 |
| Juventus | 24 | 26 |
| Milan | 43 | 47 |
| Bayern | 29 | 33 |
| Lyon | 52 | 60 |
| Seville | 52 | 70 |
| Wolfsburg | 108 | 150 |
| Atletico | 66 | 86 |
| Stuttgart | 215 | 345 |
| Porto | 200 | 270 |
| Marseille | 200 | 255 |
| Bordeaux | 220 | 255 |
| Fiorentina | 260 | 335 |
| Olympiakos | 250 | - |
| Rubin Kazan | 590 | - |
| AZ Alkmaar | 265 | 320 |
| CSKA | 440 | 450 |
| Rangers | 560 | 570 |
| Dynamo | 690 | 700 |
| Standard | 990 | 1000 |
| Besiktas | 910 | 1000 |
| FC Zurich | 995 | 1000 |
| Unirea | 995 | 1000 |
| Apoel | 995 | 1000 |

All prices taken at 3pm yesterday







# VIEW FROM THE CONTINENT




***Milan will be desperate for some inspiration from Ronaldinho (left) in a tough group***

## Milan are a mess and Marseille may reap the benefits



***Gabriele Marcotti***
*Italy correspondent*

THIS is a rebuilding season at Milan and that doesn't augur well for a long Champions League campaign.

The Ancelotti reign is over, Leonardo is at the helm, and early-season performances are worrying.

A 4-0 humiliation by Inter and a 0-0 draw at Livorno is hardly great form to take into the competition, and it's quite possible that they won't qualify from Group C, a section likely to be dominated by Real Madrid. Milan are second favourites but **Marseille** are better value at 2-1 to go through.

You shouldn't really expect too much from a club who have lost their best player – and one of the world's best players – during the summer.

Leonardo will hope that Ronaldinho rediscovers a spark that has been missing, but Kaka's absence is a huge worry.

Didier Deschamps seems to tick a lot of boxes in French football and you know that his Marseille team will be well organised and physically impressive.

Juventus are better equipped than Milan this season and ought to get out of Group A without too much difficulty.

Already Juve fans are anointing Diego as the world's greatest player, but it's going to take the likes of him and Felipe Melo time to settle in. Diego doesn't even play against Bordeaux this week because of a hamstring problem and he's not their only absentee.

I think, at the prices, **Bayern Munich** are the better pick for that section. I like Louis van Gaal and I like some of his signings.

Melo's presence at Juventus might not be felt for a while but his absence at Fiorentina could well be, and the Viola are going to struggle to live with Liverpool and Lyon in Group E.

They are also suffering because of this ridiculous dispute over Adrian Mutu and the money he's supposed to owe Chelsea. The situation is a farce but Fiorentina could be the big losers here and end up hugely reliant on Alberto Gilardino to keep them in the hunt.

Group F is a fascinating showdown between Inter and Barcelona and they meet in round one at the San Siro.

I'm tempted to lay Barca for the group for a trade later because I don't see them winning in Milan. Better still, jump all over the 2-1 Bet365 have put up by **Inter** for Wednesday's match. They have to be shorter than that.

There's a lot in common between Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho – both dashing, the same taste in suits. They even swap players.

Barca have probably got the better of the Ibrahimovic/Eto'o deal but you can't argue with how Eto'o has started at his new club.

Ibra has certainly guaranteed himself a spicy reception with his comments about how the club only started to win things when he arrived, and he has left behind a very capable side.

Mourinho has bought well with players like Lucio and Wesley Sneijder and Inter look far more comfortable playing with a style that has been missing for a couple of seasons. The Special One was left with no choice about how Inter approached the season and it could be a real thriller to open up proceedings against a Barca team who are never dull.

### Recommendations

**Marseille to qualify**
2-1 *Bet365, Victor Chandler*
**Bayern Munich to win Group A**
7-5 *Hills*
**Inter to beat Barcelona**
2-1 *Bet365, Ladbrokes*

## Seville can dominate a weak group



***Guillem Balague***
*Spain correspondent*

THERE is a mentality in Spain that unless you are foreign you can't be a good coach. **Seville** boss Manolo Jimenez knows all about that theory.

He has worked wonders at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan since Juande Ramos left, guiding the club to fifth and third place respectively and getting them into the Champions League.

Yet still he finds himself having to please the fans all the time, and I'm backing him to make them very happy indeed by leading them to the top of Group G.

I'm amazed they are 10-11 because this looks a weak section with Stuttgart, Rangers and Unirea the opposition.

They may not be the finished article in defence but they boast real attacking options and have one of the best strikers in the world in Luis Fabiano, who warmed up for the first round of matches with two goals in Saturday's 4-1 win against Zaragoza.

All four Spanish teams should qualify, with only Atletico Madrid of the four likely to make it through as a group runner-up behind Chelsea.

The problem is that their starting line-up is a very good one – the front three of Simao, Forlan and Aguero is as good as anything in Europe – but the club is in turmoil and similar enough in style to Porto for you to ignore odds-on about Atletico qualifying.

I just prefer Real Madrid to go further than Barcelona. Real are doing everything right at the moment – they were superb against Espanyol on Sunday – with the small problem of how to integrate Cristiano Ronaldo, whose selfishness isn't best appreciated by the players around him.

Rather than being a team of Galacticos it's a team of top players who can play together with so many possibilities and they will only get stronger.

In contrast, I know for a fact that Guardiola wants to manage in England and that could become unsettling at Barcelona, where there are presidential elections next season. Until then, it's unlikely Guardiola will sign a new contract at Camp Nou.

**Liverpool** are the outsiders of the four British teams to go the furthest, yet we know from recent seasons that they are ideally equipped for Europe.

The loss of Xabi Alonso was a big blow but they held on to Javier Mascherano and the crucial thing is that Steven Gerrard and Fernando Torres continue to operate together.

They always seem to peak towards the spring, usually when they are out of the title race, and they will be in the last four, I'm convinced of that.

I'll resist an outright tip just now – I'll assess the market better in January when the prices of the big clubs won't have changed that much but it may be easier to discount one or two. Outsiders don't win the Champions League.

### Recommendations

**Seville to win Group G**
1pt 10-11 *Coral*
**Liverpool to be furthest progressing English club**
1pt 4-1 *Betfred, Ladbrokes*



***Seville coach Manolo Jimenez deserves plenty of credit***

# BEHIND ENEMY LINES

# Layers aren't scared of

| | 1 Who will win the Champions League and why? | 2 Which of the fancied runners are you happy to lay? | 3 Who are the best outsiders? | 4 Which team are the worst result in your outright book? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bet365** Steve Freeth | **Arsenal** have been knocking on the door recently in Europe and even Arsene Wenger can't complain about the group they're in. They were pulled apart by Man United last season but are a stronger unit this time around | **Barcelona**. Punters loved them last year – the bank manager can vouch for that! They've had plenty of football over the last couple of seasons and Ibrahimovic may unsettle things in the dressing room | **Lyon**. They were over-reliant on Karim Benzema and his departure could be a blessing in disguise. It looks like they have a few goals in them and they could easily get out of Group E | You can understand punters backing **Real Madrid** from double-figure prices into near favouritism and Ancelotti's appointment had them backing Chelsea too |
| **Betfred** Paul Johnston | **Chelsea**. Mainly down to their start in the Premier League and Carlo Ancelotti's Champions League pedigree | **Real Madrid**. We have already laid them at big prices and are still prepared to lay them now. We believe the Galacticos will have trouble gelling in their first season together | **Bayern Munich**. We fancy them to easily get out of their group and if they can keep a fully-fit team we can see them going very far in the competition | **Inter**, but we are happy to lay them with their recent Champions League record |
| **Blue Square** Alan Alger | **Chelsea** represent the best value out of the more likely winners. They look solid in every department | We think **Real Madrid** just have to be a lay, certainly until we have seen more of how the Galacticos can play together. Well-organised sides like Chelsea and Liverpool will still get the better of them | **Stuttgart** have a good draw so look to have a decent chance of progressing to the knockout stages. We also quite like **Lyon**, who look rejuvenated with the signings of Lisandro and Bastos | Currently **Real Madrid**, closely followed by Arsenal, which we are reasonably happy with! |
| **Boylesports** Gerry Markey | **Barcelona.** In my opinion they are still Europe's best and they should guarantee a good run for your money | **Real Madrid**. First they pillage the rest of Europe for their best players at any cost, then they win the dream final on home soil. It would just be wrong wouldn't it? | To win I'll go for **Arsenal** who can beat anyone on their day. As surprise semi-finalists I'll go for **CSKA Moscow** | **Real Madrid**. Like most layers we were filled in during the summer as Los Galacticos waved the cheque book |
| **Coral** Nick Goff | **Barcelona** again. They have kept the backbone of the side who were comfortably the best in the competition last year and are the team they all have to beat again | **Manchester United**. The best team in England at beating poor sides but without a top-class ball-winner they struggle against top sides. Look at their record in big four matches last term and the Champions League final | **Bayern Munich** always have to be respected. They had a decent run last season and have improved their squad. They're sure to give you a run for your money at a big price | **Real Madrid**. They're the only team punters have wanted all summer. Every time they signed a player we laid them |
| **Hills** Martin Ramshaw | **Barcelona** are even stronger than last season and look well equipped to become the first club to win back-to-back Champions League titles | **Real Madrid** have the potential to leak goals and with so many new superstars looking to gel, this may not be their season | It's very hard to see a surprise in the outright market, but perhaps the underrated Spanish duo of **Seville** and **Atletico Madrid** could go well | After their spending spree, **Real Madrid** have been by far the most popular selection and are our worst result. We have also seen some interest in Porto and Inter |
| **Ladbrokes** John Jones | **Barcelona**. The holders' squad was impressive even without their summer acquisitions | **Arsenal**. Arsene Wenger's men haven't got the strength in depth needed to sustain a challenge | **Bordeaux**. They have enjoyed a good start to their domestic campaign. They are in a tough group but could spring a few surprises | **Real Madrid** |
| **Paddy Power** Sean McCormick | **Barcelona** have strengthened their defence this year with the signing of Dmytro Chygrynskiy. Ibrahimovic adds a new dimension up front. Chelsea are an ageing team and Real Madrid will need time to gel | **Liverpool**. Xabi Alonso is a huge loss for them and they have started poorly in the Premier League. I think they may find it tough to progress from the group stages | **Bayern Munich**. They have a new manager (Louis van Gaal) and have managed to keep hold of Franck Ribery. They have also added the likes of Mario Gomez, Arjen Robben, Anatoliy Tymoschuk and Ivica Olic | **Arsenal** have attracted a lot of interest |
| **Sporting Index** Colin Campbell | **Chelsea**. They have the strongest squad in the competition and have been unfortunate in the last couple of years | **Barcelona**. Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a poor replacement for Samuel Eto'o and has upset the balance and rhythm of the team | **Juventus** have bought shrewdly over the summer and have built a talented squad | Bizarrely, **Liverpool** |
| **Stan James** Paul Rixon | **Chelsea**. They are impressive defensively, were unlucky last year and Ancelotti knows how to win this | **Real Madrid**. They've not made the quarter-finals for years, have spent too much money at the wrong end of the pitch and won't be contesting the final on their home patch in May | **Seville** should have no problems getting through their group and have the quality to get a result against anyone on their day in the knockout stages | **Real Madrid**. As the money came for each Galactico so punters were glad to part with their cash. We were only too willing to lay them |
| **Totesport** Paul Lowery | **Chelsea** have been unlucky on a number of occasions now, and with the guidance of Ancelotti and a formation that suits the European game they could well go all the way | Italian football has fallen behind in recent years and despite the Special One being in charge at **Inter**, I think they are overrated in the market | **Atletico Madrid** have a great chance of progressing past the group stages and can beat anyone on their day. They will be very tough to beat at the Vicente Calderon, a notoriously hostile stadium | **Real Madrid**. Every time they splashed the cash on a new Galactico, our outright book took a hammering, but they will need to gel and tighten up at the back if they are to go all the way |
| **Victor Chandler** Nick Blezard | It's hard call but I think **Barcelona** are worthy favourites to lift the trophy again. With the likes of Messi and Iniesta they have all the tools to unlock any defence and would love to win the trophy at the Bernabeu | **Milan** are not good enough, along with **Liverpool** and **Arsenal**, who don't have the spending power to compete with the very best | **Bayern Munich** are coming back to their best and if Robben remains injury-free they could have a great run. Juventus will also go well in that group and I prefer them to the other Italian sides | We have laid **Real Madrid** and **Chelsea** but not for huge amounts |

## THE ODDS-COMPILERS' VERDICTS

# Real's new Galacticos

| 5 Who will be the Golden Boot winner and why? | 6 Who is the best group bet? | 7 Which British team will go furthest and why? | 8 Will all the English teams qualify from their groups? | 9 What's your nap for matchday one? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Diego Milito** looks a fair each-way bet. It looks like he's on penalty duty for Inter as well | **Inter** to win Group F | **Arsenal** are a shoo-in to get out of their group and Andrei Arshavin isn't cup-tied this time around | You'd expect so with all being odds-on to win their respective groups, although it may not be plain sailing for Liverpool | **Inter** to beat Barcelona |
| **Lionel Messi**, a player who is now on top of his game. Now he is Barca's penalty-taker we can see him getting the award again. At a bigger price **Edin Dzenko** at Wolfsburg could be a good each-way shout | **Lyon**. The shrewd signings Lopez, Gomis and Bastros should see them overcome Liverpool | **Chelsea**, for the reasons already mentioned. We can see them winning the Champions League and they now have players that are at the peak of their careers | Going on previous seasons you would have to say yes. Nevertheless, if Liverpool can't keep either Gerrard or Torres fit and with the start they have had they may find it hard to qualify. | **AZ Alkmaar** away to Olympiakos. AZ have started their domestic league a month before Olympiakos so we can see them being a much fitter and stronger team |
| We think there may be good value in backing **Robin van Persie** each-way as Arsenal have a relatively easy group draw. They'll need those early goals though as they could struggle to make the semis | **Lyon** are not a bad bet, it's a tough group for Liverpool and the French may just pip them to top spot | **Chelsea**. They look well-organised under Ancelotti and the players will want it more than ever. We think Manchester United and Arsenal will struggle to make the semi-finals | It would be a huge shock if they didn't – the team with the tough draw are Liverpool but they'll surely make second spot at the very least! | At a nice price we'll go with **Bordeaux** to turn over Juventus at the Stadio delle Alpi |
| **Zlatan Ibrahimovic**. The spearhead of the best team in Europe at a juicy price? Yes please | **CSKA Moscow** to qualify from their group. They're a steady, experienced side with a good home record and are in with Champions League virgins Wolfsburg | **Chelsea**. Probably the least likely of the four teams to be surprised in the early stages with Champions League glory possibly being Ancelotti's top priority | Almost certainly. As the gap continues to grow between the powers of European football it will be a shock of gigantic proportions if one of the English teams slips up | **Marseille** to beat Milan. It's more of a negative towards Milan than about being confident about Marseille's ability |
| **Samuel Eto'o** is decent each-way value. He's a goalscoring machine and Inter can have a very good run this year thanks to Jose Mourinho's astute summer signings | Just take on the English sides, they're all too short. Only two of the four won their groups last season and with such a tight title race likely any of the managers would take second place now, even if it means a harder draw | It depends who avoids Barca for the longest. I think **Liverpool** will peak after Christmas when Aquilani has settled in. If they're off the pace in the title race they may focus on Europe while the others contest the league | Yes they will, but at least a couple of them may have to settle for second spot | Wolfsburg have not looked the same side early this season as the one that won the title last term and **CSKA Moscow** are a spot of value to get a win in Germany |
| **Lionel Messi**. With 15 goals in the previous two Champions League campaigns, the odds available look decent value. At a bigger price, Lisandro Lopez should bag a few for Lyon | **Seville** should have no problems in what looks a very straightforward Group E | **Chelsea**. Carlo Ancelotti knows what it takes to go well in this tournament. Only the transfer embargo may prevent the Blues going all the way | Yes. The four English teams will have no problems reaching the latter stages. Excluding Barca and Real Madrid, they are well ahead of the rest of the field | **Manchester United** to have no problem disposing of Besiktas. This game isn't a cliched 'tough trip to Turkey' |
| **Wayne Rooney**. He will always get chances and should relish the opportunity to emerge from Ronaldo's shadow | **Chelsea** to win their group | **Manchester United**. Losing Ronaldo is a blow but they've got experience of winning the competition and should be the nation's flag-bearers | Yes. They should have no problems | **Barcelona** to win at Inter |
| **Robin van Persie**. Arsenal look to have the easiest group and he could knock in quite a few | **Lyon** to win group E | **Chelsea**. They have kept the same squad as last year and have become so consistent in the Champions League | Chelsea, Man Utd and Arsenal should all qualify with ease. Liverpool will find it much more difficult but they should also qualify | **Manchester United to draw** away to Besiktas |
| **Luis Fabiano** of Seville could make hay in a horrendously poor-looking group at a very generous price | **Juventus** to win Group A | **Chelsea**, as they should probably win the whole thing | It's hard to see anything other than all four progressing with relative ease | **Rubin Kazan** to beat Dynamo Kiev |
| **Fernando Torres** should score plenty in the group stages at the very least | **Seville** to win what is arguably the worst group in the history of the Champions League | **Chelsea**. They have been regular semi-finalists over the last few years, have an experienced, though ageing, side and they can go all the way to Madrid | Yes and readily. It will be a massive shock if one of the Premier League's big four fail to reach the last 16 and perhaps the format needs a revamp | If **Arsenal** can't win in Belgium they should stay there |
| If Chelsea are to go all the way they will be relying heavily on their star strikeforce. However, as Drogba may begin to tire after the African Nations Cup, I'll go for **Nicolas Anelka** | After spending a lot of money in the summer and vastly improving, I think **Lyon** have a chance of edging Liverpool out in Group E. It's a competitive group, but the firepower of Lisandro Lopez makes them value | After tipping **Chelsea** to win the tournament I'd have to go with them! I wouldn't rule out an all-British final again though | Yes. If I had to stick my neck on the line and pick one team to fall at the first hurdle, I would say Liverpool have the toughest group | I'd have to say that **Barcelona** to win at Inter would represent a good bet |
| Somebody who manages to smash load of goals in against one of the minnows. So you couldn't discount **Wayne Rooney** if he starts all Manchester United's games | **Manchester United** at 2-5 seem a class above the rest of their group and will probably be odds-on favourites in five out of their six games | **Chelsea** and **Manchester United** are still way ahead of Arsenal and Liverpool | The only potential problems could be for Liverpool going to Florence, which could be hard game for them, while Lyon have spent plenty over the summer and should give Liverpool problems in both games | **AZ Alkmaar** are a good price against a poor Olympiakos side |

# SPREADWISE

# Berlusconi's problems could help line punters' pockets

By Mark Langdon

MILAN were once the biggest attraction in Europe, but they are no longer the best team in their own city, never mind the Champions League, and this could be a tough campaign for the Rossoneri.

You can sell Milan at 18 with Sporting Index and we won't lose unless the Italians make the quarter-finals, which looks a decent trade given the summer of turmoil at the club.

Leonardo takes over the managerial reins from Carlo Ancelotti and what a tough job he has on his hands. Kaka, so often the saviour for Milan, has been sold to Real Madrid and there has not been significant investment for quality replacements.

Controversial owner Silvio Berlusconi has got his hands full running the country in his day job as Italy's prime minister, and it is difficult for him to be spending vast amounts of money on his football club when the world is in a financial crisis.

However, that does not help Milan, who are in desperate need of fresh blood as their ageing squad shows little sign of ever being broken up.

There were nearly riots when it looked as if Milan's only outfield signing was going to be average centre-back Oguchi Onyewu and that fan pressure seemed to pay off when Klaas-Jan Huntelaar was snapped up from Real Madrid.

But Huntelaar is not even first choice for the Dutch national team, where he plays second fiddle to Dirk Kuyt, and Madrid were suitably unimpressed by his ability in a short stint to get rid as soon as they possibly could.

The Hunter may yet come good, but the jury is most definitely out and it may be that he scored so many goals for Ajax because the Dutch championship is so soft.

Alexandre Pato is the only genuine top-class talent at the club with Alessando Nesta coming towards the end of his career and Ronaldinho only showing glimpses of the ability which once made him the best player on the planet.

Ronaldinho helped Pato to score twice in an opening-day victory at Siena in Serie A, but it has been downhill ever since. The Rossoneri were thumped 4-0 by Inter and followed that with a disappointing 0-0 draw at Livorno.

If Milan don't wake up soon we could make the maximum profit from a sell because Real Madrid look certain for a top-two finish in Group C and Marseille are no mugs.

**Recommendation**
**Sell Milan on outright index**
2pts at 18 *Sporting*

## REF WATCH

***Zurich v Real Madrid***
**M Atkinson (England)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 08 | BATE Borisov 2 Juventus 2 | 60 |

***Wolfsburg v CSKA Moscow***
**Stephan Lannoy (France)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Nov 08 | BATE Borisov 0 Zenit 2 | 35 |

***Marseille v Milan***
**Claus Larsen (Denmark)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Apr 09 | Man Utd 1 Arsenal 0 | 10 |
| Apr 09 | Liverpool 1 Chelsea 3 | 30 |
| Feb 09 | Arsenal 1 Roma 0 | 50 |
| Nov 08 | Zenit 0 Juventus 0 | 50 |
| Oct 08 | Atl Madrid 1 Liverpool 1 | 30 |
| Sep 08 | Steaua 0 B Munich 1 | 30 |

***Juventus v Bordeaux***
**Tom Henning Ovrebo (Norway)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| May 09 | Chelsea 1 Barcelona 1 | 95 |
| Apr 09 | Villarreal 1 Arsenal 1 | 40 |
| Mar 09 | Barcelona 5 Lyon 2 | 95 |
| Nov 08 | Inter 0 Panathinaikos 1 | 20 |
| Nov 08 | Celtic 1 Man Utd 1 | 10 |
| Oct 08 | Atl Madrid 2 Marseille 1 | 40 |

***Chelsea v Porto***
**Konrad Plautz (Austria)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Apr 09 | Man Utd 2 Porto 2 | 20 |
| Feb 09 | Villarreal 1 Panathinaikos 1 | 40 |
| Nov 08 | Aalborg 2 Celtic 1 | 10 |
| Nov 08 | Dynamo Kiev 1 Porto 2 | 75 |
| Sep 08 | Marseille 1 Liverpool 2 | 30 |

***Besiktas v Manchester Utd***
**Nicola Rizzoli (Italy)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Nov 08 | Marseille 3 PSV Eindhoven 0 | 20 |
| Oct 08 | Sporting Lisbon 2 Basle 0 | 40 |

***Maccabi Haifa v Bayern Munich***
**Damir Skomina (Slovenia)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Oct 08 | PSV Eindhoven 2 Marseille 0 | 20 |

***Atletico Madrid v Apoel Nicosia***
**Craig Thomson (Scotland)**
**Champions League 2008-09**

| Date | Match | Bks |
|---|---|---|
| Sep 08 | W Bremen 0 Anorthosis Fam. 0 | 60 |

**KEVIN PULLEIN'S VIEW** PAGE 30

## LAST SEASON'S KNOCKOUT RESULTS

**Final**

**Barcelona** ..... (1) **2-0** (0) ..... **Man Utd**
Eto'o 10
Messi 70
*Shirts 19, Corners 11(4/7), Bookings 40(10/30)*

**Semi-finals**

**Chelsea** ..... (1) **1-1** (0) ..... **Barcelona**
Essien 9 — Iniesta 90
*Agg 1-1, Barcelona win on away goals*
*Shirts 13 (5/8), Corners 12(6/6), Bookings 95(40/55)*

**Arsenal**..... (0) **1-3** (2) ..... **Man Utd**
van Persie pen 76 — Park 8
Ronaldo 11, 61
*Man Utd win 4-1 on agg*
*Shirts 38(11/27), Corners 13(7/6), Bookings 55(30/25)*

**Man Utd**..... (1) **1-0** (0) ..... **Arsenal**
O'Shea 18
*Shirts 22, Corners 4(4/0), Bookings 10(10/0)*

**Barcelona**..... (0) **0-0** (0) ..... **Chelsea**
*Corners 12, Bookings 40(20/20)*

**Quarter-finals**

**Arsenal**..... (1) **3-0** (0) ..... **Villarreal**
Walcott 10
Adebayor 60
van Persie pen 69
*Arsenal win 4-1 on agg*
*Shirts 50, Corners 6 (3/3), Bookings 75(20/55)*

**Porto** ..... (0) **0-1** (1) ..... **Man Utd**
Ronaldo 6
*Man Utd win 3-2 on agg*
*Shirts 10, Corners 12, Bookings 20(0/20)*

**B Munich** ..... (0) **1-1** (0) ..... **Barcelona**
Ribery 47 — Keita 73
*Barcelona win 5-1 on agg*
*Shirts 22 (7/15), Corners 8 (4/4), Bookings 60(40/20)*

**Chelsea** ..... (0) **4-4** (2) ..... **Liverpool**
Drogba 52 — Aurelio 19
Alex 57 — Alonso pen 28
Lampard 76, 89 — Lucas 81
Kuyt 82
*Chelsea win 7-5 on agg*
*Shirts 130 (60/70), Corners 8 (4/4), Bookings 50(30/20)*

**Barcelona**..... (4) **4-0** (0) ..... **B Munich**
Messi 9, 38
Eto'o 12, Henry 43
*Shirts 43, Corners 13(12/1), Bookings 40(20/20)*

**Liverpool** ..... (1) **1-3** (1) ..... **Chelsea**
Torres 6 — Ivanovic 39, 62
Drogba 67
*Shirts 24(9/15), Corners 15(6/9), Bookings 30(10/20)*

**Man Utd**..... (1) **2-2** (1) ..... **Porto**
Rooney 15 — Rodriguez 4
Tevez 85 — M Gonzalez 89
*Shirts 63 (42/21), Corners 12 (4/8), Bookings 20(0/20)*

**Villarreal** ..... (1) **1-1** (0) ..... **Arsenal**
Senna 10 — Adebayor 66
*Shirts 44 (19/25), Corners 19 (8/11), Bookings 40(0/40)*

**Last 16**

**Barcelona**..... (4) **5-2** (1) ..... **Lyon**
Henry 25, 27 — Makoun 44
Messi 40 — Juninho 48
Eto'o 43, Keita 90
*Barcelona win 6-3 on agg*
*Shirts 87(62/25), Corners 8 (7/1), Bookings 95(10/85)*

**Man Utd**..... (1) **2-0** (0) ..... **Inter**
Vidic 4
Ronaldo 49
*Man Utd win 2-0 on agg*
*Shirts 22, Corners 6 (3/3), Bookings 30(10/20)*

**Porto** ..... (0) **0-0** (0) ..... **Atl Madrid**
*Agg 2-2, Porto win on away goals*
*Corners 14, Bookings 40(20/20)*

**Roma** ..... (1) **1-0** (0) ..... **Arsenal**
Juan 9
*AET 1-0, Agg 1-1, Arsenal win 7-6 on pens*
*Shirts 4, Corners 20, Bookings 30(20/10)*

**B Munich** ..... (4) **7-1** (1) ..... **Sp. Lisbon**
Podolski 8, 34 — Joao Moutinho 42
Anderson Polga og 39
Schweinsteiger 43
Van Bommel 74
Klose pen 82
Muller 90
*B Munich win 12-1 on agg*
*Shirts 145 (117/28), Corners 8 (5/3), Bookings 20(0/20)*

**Juventus** ..... (1) **2-2** (1) ..... **Chelsea**
Iaquinta 19 — Essien 45
Del Piero pen 74 — Drogba 83
*Chelsea win 3-2 on agg*
*Shirts 35 (19/16), Corners 6 (5/1), Bookings 95(55/40)*

**Liverpool** ..... (2) **4-0** (0) .... **Real Madrid**
Torres 16
Gerrard pen 28, 47
Dossena 88
*Liverpool win 5-0 on agg*
*Shirts 37, Corners 14 (10/4), Bookings 60(30/30)*

**Panathinaikos** (0) **1-2** (0) ..... **Villarreal**
Mantzios 55 — Ibagaza 49
Llorente 70
*Villarreal win 3-2 on agg*
*Shirts 53 (26/27), Corners 9 (6/3), Bookings 10(0/10)*

**Chelsea** ..... (1) **1-0** (0) ..... **Juventus**
Drogba 13
*Shirts 11, Corners 14 (5/9), Bookings 40(10/30)*

**Real Madrid** .... (0) **0-1** (0) ..... **Liverpool**
Benayoun 82
*Shirts 15, Corners 9 (7/2), Bookings 50(20/30)*

**Sporting Lisbon** (0) **0-5** (1) ..... **B Munich**
Ribery 41, pen 63
Klose 57
Toni 84, 90
*Shirts 50, Corners 11 (5/6), Bookings 30(20/10)*

**Villarreal** ..... (0) **1-1** (0) **Panathinaikos**
Rossi pen 67 — Karagounis 59
*Shirts 43 (22/21), Corners 12 (10/2), Bookings 40(20/20)*

**Arsenal**..... (1) **1-0** (0) ..... **Roma**
van Persie pen 37
*Shirts 11, Corners 3 (1/2), Bookings 50(20/30)*

**Atl Madrid** ..... (2) **2-2** (1) ..... **Porto**
Maxi 4 — Lisandro 22, 72
Forlan 45
*Shirts 36 (18/18), Corners 8 (2/6), Bookings 40(20/20)*

**Inter**..... (0) **0-0** (0) ..... **Man Utd**
*Corners 9 (3/6), Bookings 60(40/20)*

**Lyon**..... (1) **1-1** (0) ..... **Barcelona**
Juninho 7 — Henry 67
*Shirts 22 (8/14), Corners 12 (4/8), Bookings 60(30/30)*

## LAST SEASON'S GROUP STANDINGS & RESULTS

**GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roma | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 12 |
| Chelsea | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 11 |
| Bordeaux | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 7 |
| CFR Cluj | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 4 |

**Results:** Roma 1 CFR Cluj 2, Chelsea 4 Bordeaux 0, Bordeaux 1 Roma 3, CFR Cluj 0 Chelsea 0, Chelsea 1 Roma 0, Bordeaux 1 CFR Cluj 0, Roma 3 Chelsea 1, CFR Cluj 1 Bordeaux 2, CFR Cluj 1 Roma 3, Bordeaux 1 Chelsea 1, Roma 2 Bordeaux 0, Chelsea 2 CFR Cluj 1.

**GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panathinaikos | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Inter | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| W Bremen | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| Anorthosis Fam. | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 6 |

**Results:** Panathinaikos 0 Inter 2, W Bremen 0 Anorthosis Fam. 0, Inter 1 W Bremen 1, Anorthosis Fam. 3 Panathinaikos 1, Inter 1 Anorthosis Fam. 0, Panathinaikos 2 W Bremen 2, Anorthosis Fam. 3 Inter 3, W Bremen 0 Panathinaikos 3, Inter 0 Panathinaikos 1, Anorthosis Fam. 2 W Bremen 2, W Bremen 2 Inter 1, Panathinaikos 1 Anorthosis F. 0.

**GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 8 | 13 |
| Sporting Lisbon | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 12 |
| Shakhtar | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 9 |
| Basle | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 1 |

**Results:** Basle 1 Shakhtar 2, Barcelona 3 Sporting Lisbon 1, Shakhtar 1 Barcelona 2, Sporting Lisbon 2 Basle 0, Basle 0 Barcelona 5, Shakhtar 0 Sporting Lisbon 1, Barcelona 1 Basle 1, Sporting Lisbon 1 Shakhtar 0, Shakhtar 5 Basle 0, Sporting Lisbon 2 Barcelona 5, Barcelona 2 Shakhtar 3, Basle 0 Sporting Lisbon 1.

**GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Liverpool | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 14 |
| Atl Madrid | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 12 |
| Marseille | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| PSV Eindhoven | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 3 |

**Results:** Marseille 1 Liverpool 2, PSV 0 Atl Madrid 3, Atl Madrid 2 Marseille 1, Liverpool 3 PSV 1, Atl Madrid 1 Liverpool 1, PSV 2 Marseille 0, Liverpool 1 Atl Madrid 1, Marseille 3 PSV 0, Liverpool 1 Marseille 0, Atl Madrid 2 PSV Eindhoven 1, Marseille 0 Atl Madrid 0, PSV Eindhoven 1 Liverpool 3.

**GROUP E**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man Utd | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 10 |
| Villarreal | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| Aalborg | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 14 | 6 |
| Celtic | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 |

**Results:** Celtic 0 Aalborg 0, Man Utd 0 Villarreal 0, Aalborg 0 Man Utd 3, Villarreal 1 Celtic 0, Man Utd 3 Celtic 0, Villarreal 6 Aalborg 3, Celtic 1 Man Utd 1, Aalborg 2 Villarreal 2, Aalborg 2 Celtic 1, Villarreal 0 Man Utd 0, Man Utd 2 Aalborg 2, Celtic 2 Villarreal 0.

**GROUP F**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B Munich | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 14 |
| Lyon | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 10 | 11 |
| Fiorentina | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| Steaua | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 1 |

**Results:** Lyon 2 Fiorentina 2, Steaua 0 B Munich 1, B Munich 1 Lyon 1, Fiorentina 0 Steaua 0, Steaua 3 Lyon 5, B Munich 3 Fiorentina 0, Lyon 2 Steaua 0, Fiorentina 1 B Munich 1, B Munich 3 Steaua 0, Fiorentina 1 Lyon 2, Lyon 2 B Munich 3, Steaua 0 Fiorentina 1.

**GROUP G**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Porto | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 12 |
| Arsenal | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 11 |
| Dynamo Kiev | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Fenerbahce | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 2 |

**Results:** Porto 3 Fenerbahce 1, Dynamo Kiev 1 Arsenal 1, Arsenal 4 Porto 0, Fenerbahce 0 Dynamo Kiev 0, Porto 0 Dynamo Kiev 1, Fenerbahce 2 Arsenal 5, Dynamo Kiev 1 Porto 2, Arsenal 0 Fenerbahce 0, Fenerbahce 1 Porto 2, Arsenal 1 Dynamo Kiev 0, Porto 2 Arsenal 0, Dynamo Kiev 1 Fenerbahce 0.

**GROUP H**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| Real Madrid | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 12 |
| Zenit | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| BATE Borisov | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 3 |

**Results:** Juventus 1 Zenit 0, Real Madrid 2 BATE Borisov 0, Zenit 1 Real Madrid 2, BATE Borisov 2 Juventus 2, Zenit 1 BATE Borisov 1, Juventus 2 Real Madrid 1, BATE Borisov 0 Zenit 2, Real Madrid 0 Juventus 2, Zenit 0 Juventus 0, BATE Borisov 0 Real Madrid 1, Real Madrid 3 Zenit 0, Juventus 0 BATE Borisov 0.

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100:75:50:25:10:0

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25:10:0

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25:10:0

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| Milan | 11.5-13 |
| Marseille | 6.5-8 |
| FC Zurich | 1-2.5 |

25:10:0

### Group D index

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Chelsea | 19-20.5 |
| Atletico | 11-12.5 |
| Porto | 7-8.5 |
| Apoel | 0.5-2 |

25:10:0

### Group E index

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Liverpool | 17-18.5 |
| Lyon | 11-12.5 |
| Fiorentina | 8.5-10 |
| Debrecen | 1-2.5 |

25:10:0

### Group F index

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Barcelona | 18.5-0 |
| Inter | 11.5-13 |
| Rubin Kazan | 4-5.5 |
| Dynamo Kiev | 3.5-5 |

25:10:0

### Group G index

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Seville | 17-18.5 |
| Stuttgart | 11.5-13 |
| Rangers | 4-5.5 |
| Unirea | 3.5-5 |

25:10:0

### Group H index

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Arsenal | 19.5-21 |
| AZ Alkmaar | 8-9.5 |
| Olympiakos | 6.5-8 |
| Standard Liege | 3-4.5 |

25:10:0

### Besiktas v Manchester United
**Sky Sports 2, 7.45pm**

| Pullein ratings | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Man Utd/Besiktas (h) 1.0 | 0.9-1.1 |
| Total goals 2.6 | 2.4-2.6 |
| Shirt numbers | 32-35 |
| Bookings index 40 | 40-44 |
| Total corners 10.8 | 10.75-11.25 |
| Time of first goal 38 | 37-40 |
| Time of first Besik goal 65 | 64-67 |
| Time of first Man U goal 45 | 46-49 |
| Total goal minutes 130 | 121-131 |
| Multi-corners 27 | 28.5-31.5 |
| Shirt sup (M/B) | 10-13 |
| Booking sup (B/M) 4 | 4-8 |
| Corners sup (M/B) 2.0 | 2-3 |
| Besiktas 25:10 index 5.8 | 5.5-7 |
| Man Utd 25:10 index 17.9 | 16.5-18 |
| Besiktas performance | 19-23 |
| Man Utd performance | 61-65 |
| Hotshots | 30-33 |

**Performance scoring system:** 25 win, 10 draw, 15 per goal, 10 clean sheet, 10 per woodwork strike (rebounds into play), 3 per corner, -5 per yellow card, -15 per red card.

**Hotshots (25 per goal/8 per non-runner):** Nihat, Fink, Rooney, Berbatov

### Player goal minutes

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Rooney | 25-28 |
| Berbatov | 21-24 |
| Owen | 21-24 |
| Kahveci | 9-12 |
| Bobo | 8-11 |
| Holosko | 8-11 |
| Nobre | 8-11 |
| Nani | 6-9 |
| Giggs | 6-9 |
| Park | 6-9 |
| Valencia | 6-9 |
| Scholes | 5-8 |
| Carrick | 5-8 |
| Fletcher | 5-8 |
| Simsek | 5-8 |
| Anderson | 5-8 |
| Vidic | 4-7 |
| Fink | 3-6 |
| Tello | 3-6 |
| Dag | 2-4 |
| Ferdinand | 2-4 |
| Ozkan | 2-4 |
| O'Shea | 1-3 |
| Evans | 1-3 |
| Inceman | 1-3 |
| Brown | 1-3 |
| Kas | 1-3 |
| Evra | 0.5-2 |
| Neville | 0.5-2 |
| Sivok | 0.5-2 |
| Ernst | 0.5-2 |
| Guven | 0-1 |

### Chelsea v Porto
**Sky Sports Xtra, 7.45pm**

| Pullein ratings | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Chelsea/Porto 1.4 | 1.45-1.65 |
| Total goals 2.7 | 2.7-2.9 |
| Shirt numbers | 48-51 |
| Bookings index 37 | 37-41 |
| Total corners 10.3 | 10.25-10.75 |
| Time of first goal 36 | 35-38 |
| Time of first Chels goal 40 | 40-43 |
| Time of first Porto goal 69 | 68-71 |
| Total goal minutes 136 | 136-146 |
| Multi-corners 27 | 27-30 |
| Shirt sup (C/P) | 34-37 |
| Booking sup (P/C) 10 | 7-11 |
| Corners sup (C/P) 3.1 | 3-4 |
| Chelsea 25:10 index 19.8 | 19-20.5 |
| Porto 25:10 index 4.1 | 3.5-5 |
| Chelsea performance | 74-78 |
| Porto performance | 13-17 |
| Hotshots | 38-41 |

**Hotshots (25 per goal/8 per non-runner):** Anelka, Lampard, Hulk, Falcao

### Player goal minutes

| | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Anelka | 28-31 |
| Lampard | 23-26 |
| Sturridge | 19-22 |
| Kalou | 14-17 |
| Malouda | 10-13 |
| Ballack | 10-13 |
| Deco | 8-11 |
| Zhirkov | 8-11 |
| Essien | 7-10 |
| Falcao | 6-9 |
| Hulk | 6-9 |
| Belletti | 6-9 |
| Terry | 5-8 |
| Farias | 5-8 |
| Varela | 3-6 |
| Ivanovic | 3-6 |
| Alex | 3-6 |
| Rodriguez | 2-4 |
| Belluschi | 2-4 |
| Mariano | 2-4 |
| Carvalho | 2-4 |
| A Cole | 2-4 |
| Meireles | 1-3 |
| Mikel | 1-3 |
| Alves | 0.5-2 |

### Other matches
**Sky Sports interactive, 7.45pm**

| Pullein ratings | Sporting Index |
|---|---|
| Atletico/Apoel 2.0 | 1.8-2 |
| Total goals 3.2 | 3.2-3.4 |
| Bookings index | 34-38 |
| Atletico mini | 39-42 |
| Apoel mini | 6-9 |

**Mini-performance scoring system:** 15pts win, 10 per goal, 5 draw, 5 clean sheet & -15 per red card.

| | |
|---|---|
| Real Madrid/Zurich (h) 1.6 | 1.5-1.7 |
| Total goals 3.3 | 3.2-3.4 |
| Bookings index | 34-38 |
| Zurich mini | 21-25 |
| Real Madrid mini | 72-76 |
| Juventus/Bordeaux 1.0 | 1-1.2 |
| Total goals 2.6 | 2.4-2.6 |
| Bookings index | 40-44 |
| Juventus mini | 28-31 |
| Bordeaux mini | 8-11 |
| B Munich/M Haifa (h) 1.2 | 1-1.2 |
| Total goals 3.0 | 2.8-3 |
| Bookings index | 38-42 |
| Maccabi Haifa mini | 10-13 |
| Bayern Munich mini | 29-32 |
| Marseille/Milan 0.1 | 0.1-0.3 |
| Total goals 2.4 | 2.2-2.4 |
| Bookings index | 36-40 |
| Marseille mini | 44-48 |
| Milan mini | 30-34 |
| Wolfsburg/CSKA 0.7 | 0.6-0.8 |
| Total goals 2.7 | 2.7-2.9 |
| Bookings index | 38-42 |
| Wolfsburg mini | 25-28 |
| CSKA mini | 13-16 |
| Homes/aways | 1.4-2.2 |
| Total goals | 22.2-23 |

# ODDS, FORM & STANDINGS

## HOW THEY BET ON THIS WEEK'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCHES

### Today

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

| Bet365 | Betfred | Blue Square | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Paddy Power | Stan James | Tote | VC | Home | Best draw | Away | Bet365 | Betfred | Blue Square | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Paddy Power | Stan James | Tote | VC | Best % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2-11 | **1-5** | **1-5** | 2-11 | **1-5** | 1-6 | **1-5** | 1-6 | 1-6 | 1-6 | 2-13 | [3]Atl Madrid | 6-1 | Apoel Nicosia | 14-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 | **16-1** | 14-1 | 14-1 | 12-1 | **16-1** | 10-1 | **16-1** | 14-1 | 103 |
| **13-2** | 11-2 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 11-2 | 5-1 | 11-2 | 9-2 | 6-1 | 5-1 | [1]Besiktas | 3-1 | Man Utd | 8-15 | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | 1-2 | **4-7** | 102 |
| 4-11 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 1-3 | 1-3 | 1-3 | **2-5** | [2]Chelsea | 15-4 | Porto | 8-1 | **9-1** | 7-1 | 8-1 | **9-1** | **9-1** | 8-1 | 17-2 | 8-1 | **9-1** | 17-2 | 102 |
| 9-1 | **10-1** | 15-2 | 15-2 | **10-1** | 9-1 | 8-1 | 7-1 | 7-1 | 9-1 | 9-1 | [3]FC Zurich | 9-2 | Real Madrid | 3-10 | **1-3** | **1-3** | **1-3** | **1-3** | **1-3** | **1-3** | **1-3** | 2-7 | 3-10 | 3-10 | 102 |
| 4-7 | 4-7 | 4-7 | 4-7 | 4-7 | 6-10 | **8-13** | 8-15 | 1-2 | 8-15 | 8-15 | [3]Juventus | 11-4 | Bordeaux | 11-2 | 5-1 | 9-2 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 11-2 | 5-1 | 11-2 | 11-2 | **6-1** | 11-2 | 103 |
| **6-1** | **6-1** | 5-1 | 11-2 | 11-2 | 11-2 | **6-1** | 11-2 | 11-2 | 5-1 | 5-1 | [3]M. Haifa | 3-1 | B Munich | 1-2 | **8-15** | 1-2 | **8-15** | 1-2 | **8-15** | 1-2 | 1-2 | 1-2 | **8-15** | 1-2 | 104 |
| 7-5 | 11-8 | 11-8 | 7-5 | 7-5 | **6-4** | **6-4** | 7-5 | 11-8 | 11-8 | 13-10 | [3]Marseille | 23-10 | Milan | **21-10** | 2-1 | 15-8 | 15-8 | 15-8 | 19-10 | 15-8 | 9-5 | 7-4 | 2-1 | 9-5 | 103 |
| 4-5 | 4-5 | 3-4 | **5-6** | 4-5 | 4-5 | 4-5 | 8-11 | 8-11 | 4-5 | 7-10 | [3]Wolfsburg | 13-5 | CSKA Moscow | **7-2** | **7-2** | **7-2** | 16-5 | 10-3 | 10-3 | **7-2** | **7-2** | 10-3 | **7-2** | **7-2** | 104 |

### Tomorrow

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

| Bet365 | Betfred | Blue Square | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Paddy Power | Stan James | Tote | VC | Home | Best draw | Away | Bet365 | Betfred | Blue Square | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Paddy Power | Stan James | Tote | VC | Best % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Evs** | 10-11 | 10-11 | **Evs** | 10-11 | 10-11 | 10-11 | 10-11 | **Evs** | 20-21 | **Evs** | [3]Dynamo Kiev | 12-5 | Rubin | 3-1 | 3-1 | 11-4 | 11-4 | 3-1 | **16-5** | 3-1 | 3-1 | 3-1 | 14-5 | 12-5 | 103 |
| **2-1** | 7-4 | 17-10 | 7-4 | 15-8 | 9-5 | **2-1** | 9-5 | 15-8 | 15-8 | 7-4 | [3]Inter | 23-10 | Barcelona | 7-5 | **6-4** | **6-4** | **6-4** | 7-5 | **6-4** | 7-5 | **6-4** | 7-5 | 7-5 | 7-5 | 104 |
| 1-10 | **1-8** | **1-8** | **1-8** | **1-8** | 1-10 | **1-8** | **1-8** | 1-10 | 1-9 | **1-8** | [4]Liverpool | 8-1 | Debrecen | **25-1** | 20-1 | 18-1 | 20-1 | 22-1 | **25-1** | 20-1 | 20-1 | 22-1 | **25-1** | 14-1 | 104 |
| **4-5** | **4-5** | **4-5** | 8-11 | 8-11 | **4-5** | 8-11 | 3-4 | **4-5** | 3-4 | 4-6 | [3]Lyon | 13-5 | Fiorentina | 15-4 | 7-2 | 16-5 | **4-1** | **4-1** | **4-1** | **4-1** | 15-4 | 7-2 | 18-5 | **4-1** | 103 |
| 21-20 | **11-10** | 20-21 | 21-20 | Evs | 19-20 | 10-11 | 21-20 | Evs | 20-21 | Evs | [3]Olympiakos | 5-2 | AZ Alkmaar | 11-4 | 12-5 | 13-5 | 13-5 | 11-4 | 11-4 | **3-1** | 5-2 | 11-4 | 11-4 | 12-5 | 101 |
| **2-9** | 1-5 | **2-9** | **2-9** | **2-9** | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-6 | **2-9** | [3]Seville | 11-2 | Unirea | 12-1 | 14-1 | 10-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 | 14-1 | 14-1 | 11-1 | 12-1 | **16-1** | 10-1 | 103 |
| **6-1** | 11-2 | 9-2 | 5-1 | 5-1 | 11-2 | 11-2 | 11-2 | **6-1** | 5-1 | **6-1** | [1]Standard Liege | 3-1 | Arsenal | 1-2 | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | 8-15 | 8-15 | 8-15 | 1-2 | 8-15 | **4-7** | 103 |
| **8-13** | 4-7 | **8-13** | **8-13** | **8-13** | **8-13** | **8-13** | **8-13** | **8-13** | 4-7 | 4-7 | [2]Stuttgart | 11-4 | Rangers | **5-1** | **5-1** | 17-4 | 9-2 | **5-1** | **5-1** | **5-1** | **5-1** | **5-1** | **5-1** | **5-1** | 105 |

▸▸Underlined prices indicate firms that are best-priced about the draw.

**Key to live matches** – **1** Sky Sports 2; **2** Sky Sports Xtra; **3** Sky Sports Interactive; **4** ITV 1. Kick-offs 7.45pm unless stated.

**Prices shown are those available to online/telephone customers. Some firms' shop prices may differ.**

## THIS SEASON'S EUROPEAN STANDINGS

HOME **BELGIUM** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | St. Truiden | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 14 |
| 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 3 | Gent | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 13 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | Anderlecht | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 13 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | FC Bruges | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 3 | STAN. LIEGE | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | K V Kortrikj | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | Mechelen | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 |

HOME **CYPRUS** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | AEL Limassol | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Apoll.Limassol | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | O. Nicosia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Aris Limassol | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | APOP Pathos | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | APEP | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | Enosis | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Anorthosis | 0 | 1 | 0§ | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | APOEL | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 |

HOME **ENGLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | CHELSEA | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 15 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | MAN UTD | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 12 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | Man City | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | Tottenham | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 12 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 3 | LIVERPOOL | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | Aston Villa | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | Sunderland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | Stoke | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | ARSENAL | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Fulham | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | Wigan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Burnley | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | West Ham | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | Blackburn | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Birmingham | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | Wolves | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | Hull | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | Bolton | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 7 | Everton | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | Portsmouth | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

HOME **FRANCE** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | BORDEAUX | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 13 |
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | LYON | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 13 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | Montpellier | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | MARSEILLE | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | Paris St-G. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 10 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | Rennes | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | Monaco | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Boulogne | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | Nancy | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

HOME **GERMANY** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | Hamburg | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 13 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | B Leverkusen | 2 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 13 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | Schalke | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | E. Frankfurt | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | B MUNICH | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | W Bremen | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | Hoffenheim | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | Mainz | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | M'gladbach | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 7 | WOLFSBURG | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | Hannover | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | STUTTGART | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | Nuremberg | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | B. Dortmund | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | Bochum | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | Freiburg | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | Hertha Berlin | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | FC Cologne | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

HOME **GREECE** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Panathinaikos | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Aris Salonika | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | AEK Athens | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Asteras T. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | PAOK Salonika | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | OLYMPIAKOS | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Ioannina | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | Iraklis Salonika | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

HOME **HOLLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 7 | PSV Eindhoven | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 14 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | Feyenoord | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 14 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | FC Twente | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 14 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | Ajax | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 13 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | AZ ALKMAAR | 2 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 5 | 12 |
| 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Den Haag | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | FC Utrecht | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | NAC Breda | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 10 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | VV Venlo | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | Heracles | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |

HOME **HUNGARY** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | Videoton F. | 3 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 15 |
| 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | Ujpest Dozsa | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 14 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | MTK | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 14 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | Gyori ETO | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 13 |
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | DEBRECEN | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| 7 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 3 | Lombard-Papa | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 |

HOME **ISRAEL** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | M. HAIFA | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | MS Ashdod | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | M. Tel Aviv | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | H. Haifa | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | H. Tel Aviv | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Beitar J'salem | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Bnei Yehuda | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

HOME **ITALY** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | Genoa | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | JUVENTUS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | Sampdoria | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | INTER | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | FIORENTINA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | Lazio | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | Udinese | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | Palermo | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Parma | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | MILAN | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | Siena | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | Chievo | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Bari | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

HOME **PORTUGAL** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | Braga | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 12 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 | Benfica | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 10 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | PORTO | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Rio Ave | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | Sporting Lisbon | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Uniao Leiria | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Olhanense | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |

HOME **ROMANIA** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | FC Brasov | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 14 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | UNIREA | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 13 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | Pandurii | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Din. Bucharest | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 10 |
| 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | Steaua | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 10 |
| 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | CFR Cluj | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 |

HOME **RUSSIA** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 7 | RUBIN | 7 | 3 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 46 |
| 21 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 9 | Spartak M. | 5 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 13 | 40 |
| 21 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 8 | CSKA MOSC. | 6 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 36 |
| 21 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 7 | Lok. Moscow | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 35 |
| 21 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 6 | Zenit | 3 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 16 | 34 |
| 21 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 9 | FC Moscow | 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 34 |

HOME **SCOTLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | RANGERS | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | Celtic | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | Dundee Utd | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 |

HOME **SPAIN** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | BARCELONA | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | REAL MADRID | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Valencia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Ath. Bilbao | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Mallorca | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | Malaga | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | Getafe | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | SEVILLE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Deportivo | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Tenerife | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Zaragoza | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Sporting Gijon | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |

HOME **SWITZERLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 4 | Young Boys | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 22 |
| 9 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 5 | Lucerne | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 16 |
| 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 5 | Neuc. Xamax | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| 9 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 7 | FC ZURICH | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 15 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 3 | St Gallen | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 13 |
| 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 8 | FC Sion | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 12 |

HOME **TURKEY** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2 | Galatasaray | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 15 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | Fenerbahce | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 15 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | Eskisehirspor | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | Manisaspor | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | Diyarbakirspor | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Trabzonspor | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | G'birligi Ankara | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | Bursaspor | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | Gaziantepspor | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | Antalyaspor | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | BESIKTAS | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 |

HOME **UKRAINE** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2 | DYNAMO KIEV | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 16 |
| 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | Shakhtar | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 13 |
| 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | Tavriya Simf. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 13 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Metalist | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 12 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 2 | Karpaty Lvov | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | Dnipro | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | Illichivets | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 |

## LAST SEASON'S FINAL EUROPEAN STANDINGS

HOME **CYPRUS (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 7 | Apoel Nicosia | 9 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 69 |
| 26 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 4 | O. Nicosia | 10 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 14 | 64 |
| 26 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 8 | Anorthosis | 10 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 11 | 62 |
| 26 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 12 | AEL Limassol | 7 | 0 | 6 | 20 | 18 | 43 |

HOME **ENGLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 16 | 2 | 1 | 43 | 13 | Man Utd | 12 | 4 | 3 | 25 | 11 | 90 |
| 38 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 41 | 13 | Liverpool | 13 | 4 | 2 | 36 | 14 | 86 |
| 38 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 33 | 12 | Chelsea | 14 | 2 | 3 | 35 | 12 | 83 |
| 38 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 16 | Arsenal | 9 | 7 | 3 | 37 | 21 | 72 |
| 38 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 20 | Everton | 9 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 17 | 63 |
| 38 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 27 | 21 | Aston Villa | 10 | 2 | 7 | 27 | 27 | 62 |
| 38 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 28 | 16 | Fulham | 3 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 18 | 53 |
| 38 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 21 | 10 | Tottenham | 4 | 4 | 11 | 24 | 35 | 51 |
| 38 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 23 | 22 | West Ham | 5 | 7 | 7 | 19 | 23 | 51 |
| 38 | 13 | 0 | 6 | 40 | 18 | Man City | 2 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 32 | 50 |
| 38 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 18 | Wigan | 4 | 4 | 11 | 17 | 27 | 45 |
| 38 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 15 | Stoke | 2 | 4 | 13 | 16 | 40 | 45 |
| 38 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 21 | Bolton | 4 | 3 | 12 | 20 | 32 | 41 |
| 38 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 26 | 29 | Portsmouth | 2 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 41 |
| 38 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 22 | 23 | Blackburn | 4 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 37 | 41 |
| 38 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 21 | 25 | Sunderland | 3 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 29 | 36 |
| 38 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 36 | Hull | 5 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 28 | 35 |
| 38 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 29 | Newcastle | 2 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 30 | 34 |
| 38 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 17 | 20 | Middlesbro | 2 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 37 | 32 |
| 38 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 26 | 33 | West Brom | 1 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 34 | 32 |

HOME **FRANCE** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 12 | Bordeaux | 10 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 22 | 80 |
| 38 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 35 | 22 | Marseille | 12 | 6 | 1 | 32 | 13 | 77 |
| 38 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 32 | 15 | Lyon | 10 | 3 | 6 | 20 | 14 | 71 |
| 38 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 26 | 8 | Toulouse | 6 | 8 | 5 | 19 | 19 | 64 |
| 38 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 34 | 20 | Lille | 5 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 19 | 64 |
| 38 | 12 | 2 | 5 | 29 | 17 | Paris St-G. | 7 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 21 | 64 |
| 38 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 28 | 14 | Rennes | 4 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 20 | 61 |
| 38 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 12 | Auxerre | 8 | 1 | 10 | 17 | 23 | 55 |
| 38 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 22 | 19 | Nice | 6 | 4 | 9 | 18 | 22 | 50 |
| 38 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 20 | Lorient | 5 | 8 | 6 | 26 | 27 | 45 |
| 38 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 26 | 23 | Monaco | 4 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 45 |
| 38 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 27 | 18 | Valenciennes | 0 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 24 | 44 |
| 38 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 13 | Grenoble | 4 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 24 | 44 |
| 38 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 24 | 17 | Sochaux | 2 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 31 | 42 |
| 38 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 19 | 19 | Nancy | 5 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 28 | 42 |
| 38 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 18 | 21 | Le Mans | 4 | 6 | 9 | 25 | 33 | 40 |
| 38 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 23 | St Etienne | 2 | 3 | 14 | 15 | 33 | 40 |
| 38 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 22 | 17 | Caen | 2 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 32 | 37 |
| 38 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 21 | 25 | Nantes | 4 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 29 | 37 |
| 38 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 17 | 34 | Le Havre | 3 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 33 | 26 |

HOME **GERMANY** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 51 | 13 | Wolfsburg | 5 | 5 | 7 | 29 | 28 | 69 |
| 34 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 45 | 23 | B Munich | 8 | 5 | 4 | 26 | 19 | 67 |
| 34 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 34 | 14 | Stuttgart | 7 | 4 | 6 | 29 | 29 | 64 |
| 34 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 14 | Hertha Berlin | 7 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 27 | 63 |
| 34 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 13 | Hamburg | 6 | 2 | 9 | 22 | 34 | 61 |
| 34 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 34 | 11 | B. Dortmund | 7 | 5 | 5 | 26 | 26 | 59 |
| 34 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 30 | 18 | Hoffenheim | 6 | 5 | 6 | 33 | 31 | 55 |
| 34 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 26 | 15 | Schalke | 5 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 20 | 50 |
| 34 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 31 | 22 | B Leverkusen | 8 | 2 | 7 | 28 | 24 | 49 |
| 34 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 43 | 22 | W Bremen | 2 | 5 | 10 | 21 | 28 | 45 |
| 34 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 31 | 25 | Hannover | 2 | 3 | 12 | 18 | 44 | 40 |
| 34 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 25 | FC Cologne | 7 | 1 | 9 | 21 | 25 | 39 |
| 34 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 26 | 29 | E. Frankfurt | 3 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 31 | 33 |
| 34 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 28 | Bochum | 2 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 27 | 32 |
| 34 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 27 | M'gladbach | 3 | 3 | 11 | 16 | 35 | 31 |
| 34 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 19 | 27 | Cottbus | 2 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 30 | 30 |
| 34 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 22 | Karlsruhe | 3 | 1 | 13 | 12 | 32 | 29 |
| 34 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 26 | Arminia | 2 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 30 | 28 |

HOME **GREECE (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 33 | 8 | Olympiakos | 9 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 6 | 71 |
| 30 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 23 | 5 | PAOK Salonika | 7 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 11 | 63 |
| 30 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 8 | Panathinaikos | 7 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 10 | 61 |
| 30 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 9 | AEK Athens | 3 | 11 | 1 | 19 | 15 | 55 |
| 30 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 22 | 15 | Larissa | 6 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 49 |

HOME **HOLLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 38 | 7 | AZ Alkmaar | 11 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 15 | 80 |
| 34 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 40 | 13 | FC Twente | 8 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 18 | 69 |
| 34 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 41 | 9 | Ajax | 8 | 2 | 7 | 33 | 32 | 68 |
| 34 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 41 | 15 | PSV Eindhoven | 8 | 4 | 5 | 30 | 18 | 65 |
| 34 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 41 | 22 | Heerenveen | 6 | 4 | 7 | 25 | 35 | 60 |
| 34 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 14 | FC Groningen | 6 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 22 | 56 |
| 34 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 34 | 21 | Feyenoord | 4 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 25 | 45 |
| 34 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 21 | 22 | NAC Breda | 6 | 3 | 8 | 23 | 32 | 45 |
| 34 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 27 | 19 | FC Utrecht | 3 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 25 | 44 |
| 34 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 27 | 19 | Vitesse Arn. | 4 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 43 |
| 34 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 25 | 19 | NEC Nijmegen | 4 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 21 | 42 |
| 34 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 22 | 32 | Willem II | 4 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 26 | 37 |
| 34 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 19 | Sp. Rotterdam | 2 | 4 | 11 | 20 | 47 | 35 |
| 34 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 18 | Den Haag | 3 | 3 | 11 | 20 | 40 | 32 |
| 34 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 22 | 17 | Heracles | 1 | 4 | 12 | 13 | 36 | 32 |
| 34 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 25 | Roda JC | 2 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 33 | 30 |
| 34 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 28 | De Graafschap | 2 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 30 | 30 |
| 34 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 27 | 27 | FC Volendam | 1 | 5 | 11 | 11 | 40 | 29 |

HOME **HUNGARY (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 43 | 17 | Debrecen | 11 | 1 | 3 | 27 | 12 | 68 |
| 30 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 35 | 14 | Ujpest Dozsa | 5 | 6 | 4 | 26 | 24 | 59 |
| 30 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 22 | 11 | Szombathelyi | 7 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 53 |
| 30 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 21 | Zalaegerszeg | 5 | 3 | 7 | 21 | 23 | 52 |

HOME **ITALY** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 37 | 16 | Inter | 11 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 16 | 84 |
| 38 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 39 | 12 | Milan | 8 | 5 | 6 | 31 | 23 | 74 |
| 38 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 38 | 19 | Juventus | 10 | 5 | 4 | 31 | 18 | 74 |
| 38 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 39 | 19 | Genoa | 7 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 68 |
| 38 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 14 | Fiorentina | 7 | 3 | 9 | 24 | 24 | 68 |
| 38 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 35 | 23 | Roma | 5 | 5 | 9 | 29 | 38 | 63 |
| 38 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 36 | 18 | Udinese | 5 | 5 | 9 | 25 | 32 | 58 |
| 38 | 14 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 25 | Palermo | 3 | 5 | 11 | 15 | 25 | 57 |
| 38 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 12 | Cagliari | 4 | 4 | 11 | 25 | 38 | 53 |
| 38 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 23 | 24 | Lazio | 7 | 1 | 11 | 23 | 31 | 50 |
| 38 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 17 | Atalanta | 3 | 5 | 11 | 17 | 31 | 47 |
| 38 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 16 | Napoli | 2 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 29 | 46 |
| 38 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 33 | 21 | Sampdoria | 3 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 31 | 46 |
| 38 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 18 | Siena | 3 | 3 | 13 | 15 | 26 | 44 |
| 38 | 11 | 1 | 7 | 24 | 22 | Catania | 1 | 6 | 12 | 17 | 29 | 43 |
| 38 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 23 | Chievo | 5 | 6 | 8 | 20 | 26 | 38 |
| 38 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 27 | 31 | Bologna | 3 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 31 | 37 |
| 38 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 21 | 25 | Torino | 1 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 36 | 34 |
| 38 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 23 | 27 | Reggina | 3 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 35 | 31 |
| 38 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 20 | 28 | Lecce | 2 | 5 | 12 | 17 | 39 | 30 |

HOME **PORTUGAL (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 23 | 7 | Porto | 12 | 2 | 1 | 38 | 11 | 70 |
| 30 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 29 | 13 | Sporting Lisbon | 9 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 7 | 66 |
| 30 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 23 | 14 | Benfica | 8 | 4 | 3 | 31 | 18 | 59 |
| 30 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 24 | 14 | Nacional (Por) | 7 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 18 | 52 |
| 30 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 10 | Braga | 5 | 8 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 50 |
| 30 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 17 | 17 | Leixoes | 7 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 45 |

HOME **ROMANIA (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 26 | 11 | Unirea | 11 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 9 | 70 |
| 34 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 12 | FCU Poli | 6 | 6 | 5 | 25 | 26 | 67 |
| 34 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 32 | 7 | Din. Bucharest | 7 | 3 | 7 | 24 | 23 | 65 |
| 34 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 25 | 7 | CFR Cluj | 6 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 19 | 59 |
| 34 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 15 | FC Vaslui | 6 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 22 | 57 |

HOME **RUSSIA (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 12 | Rubin | 10 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 14 | 60 |
| 30 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 13 | CSKA Mosc. | 9 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 11 | 56 |
| 30 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 15 | Din. Moscow | 4 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 14 | 54 |
| 30 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 10 | Amkar Perm | 8 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 51 |
| 30 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 32 | 22 | Zenit | 6 | 7 | 2 | 27 | 15 | 48 |
| 30 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 33 | 16 | Kryliya Sovetov | 3 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 48 |
| 30 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 16 | Lok. Moscow | 8 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 16 | 47 |
| 30 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 20 | 19 | Spartak M. | 5 | 7 | 3 | 23 | 20 | 44 |

HOME **SCOTLAND** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 44 | 15 | Rangers | 11 | 6 | 2 | 33 | 13 | 86 |
| 38 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 48 | 13 | Celtic | 10 | 6 | 3 | 32 | 20 | 82 |
| 38 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 28 | 18 | Hearts | 5 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 19 | 59 |
| 38 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 17 | Aberdeen | 5 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 23 | 53 |
| 38 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 25 | 24 | Dundee Utd | 6 | 6 | 7 | 22 | 26 | 53 |
| 38 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 27 | Motherwell | 6 | 3 | 10 | 22 | 24 | 48 |
| 38 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 23 | 23 | Hibernian | 5 | 7 | 7 | 19 | 23 | 47 |
| 38 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 22 | Kilmarnock | 5 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 26 | 44 |
| 38 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 18 | 20 | Hamilton | 5 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 33 | 41 |
| 38 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 20 | Falkirk | 3 | 7 | 9 | 18 | 32 | 38 |
| 38 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 21 | St Mirren | 6 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 31 | 37 |
| 38 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 27 | Inverness CT | 6 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 31 | 37 |

HOME **SPAIN** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 61 | 14 | Barcelona | 13 | 3 | 3 | 44 | 21 | 87 |
| 38 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 49 | 29 | Real Madrid | 11 | 1 | 7 | 34 | 23 | 78 |
| 38 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 28 | 20 | Seville | 10 | 5 | 4 | 26 | 19 | 70 |
| 38 | 13 | 1 | 5 | 47 | 23 | Atl Madrid | 7 | 6 | 6 | 33 | 34 | 67 |
| 38 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 33 | 25 | Villarreal | 6 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 29 | 65 |
| 38 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 47 | 26 | Valencia | 6 | 4 | 9 | 21 | 28 | 62 |
| 38 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 30 | 18 | Deportivo | 6 | 4 | 9 | 18 | 29 | 58 |
| 38 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 28 | 23 | Malaga | 7 | 3 | 9 | 27 | 36 | 55 |
| 38 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 33 | 24 | Mallorca | 5 | 3 | 11 | 20 | 36 | 51 |
| 38 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 22 | Espanyol | 4 | 6 | 9 | 18 | 27 | 47 |
| 38 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 28 | 22 | Racing | 7 | 2 | 10 | 21 | 26 | 46 |
| 38 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 27 | 20 | Almeria | 2 | 3 | 14 | 18 | 41 | 46 |
| 38 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 28 | 29 | Ath. Bilbao | 3 | 6 | 10 | 19 | 33 | 44 |
| 38 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 27 | 22 | Osasuna | 2 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 25 | 43 |
| 38 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 22 | 17 | Valladolid | 4 | 2 | 13 | 24 | 41 | 43 |
| 38 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 24 | 37 | Sporting Gijon | 6 | 0 | 13 | 23 | 42 | 43 |
| 38 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 27 | 23 | Getafe | 3 | 8 | 8 | 23 | 33 | 42 |
| 38 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 24 | 25 | Real Betis | 6 | 4 | 9 | 27 | 33 | 42 |
| 38 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 23 | 22 | Numancia | 1 | 2 | 16 | 15 | 47 | 35 |
| 38 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 17 | 29 | Recreativo | 4 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 28 | 33 |

HOME **SWITZERLAND (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 37 | 14 | FC Zurich | 11 | 4 | 3 | 43 | 22 | 79 |
| 36 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 53 | 20 | Young Boys | 10 | 3 | 5 | 32 | 26 | 73 |
| 36 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 39 | 15 | Basle | 10 | 2 | 6 | 33 | 29 | 72 |
| 36 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 32 | 21 | Grasshoppers | 4 | 7 | 7 | 25 | 27 | 50 |

HOME **TURKEY (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 12 | Besiktas | 9 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 18 | 71 |
| 34 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 10 | Sivasspor | 6 | 6 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 66 |
| 34 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 23 | 14 | Trabzonspor | 10 | 3 | 4 | 31 | 20 | 65 |
| 34 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 42 | 17 | Fenerbahce | 6 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 19 | 61 |
| 34 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 35 | 18 | Galatasaray | 7 | 3 | 7 | 22 | 21 | 61 |

HOME **UKRAINE (top)** AWAY

| Pl | W | D | L | F | A | | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 7 | Dynamo Kiev | 12 | 1 | 2 | 35 | 12 | 79 |
| 30 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 30 | 8 | Shakhtar | 7 | 4 | 4 | 17 | 8 | 64 |
| 30 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 23 | 14 | Metalist | 9 | 3 | 3 | 21 | 11 | 59 |
| 30 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 11 | Metalurg D. | 5 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 16 | 49 |

## TODAY'S ASIAN HANDICAPS

**Start given (-) or received (+) by away team**

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Atlet v Apoel** | +2 | - | - | - | - | - | +1.75 | - | +1.75 | - | +1.75 |
| **Atletico** | 2.03 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.82 | - | 1.8 | - | 1.81 |
| **Apoel Nicosia** | 1.73 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.06 | - | 2 | - | 2.04 |
| **Besiktas v MU** | -0.75 | - | - | - | - | - | -1 | - | -1 | - | -1 |
| **Besiktas** | 2.17 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.92 | - | 1.8 | - | 1.92 |
| **Man Utd** | 1.66 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.96 | - | 2 | - | 1.93 |
| **Chel v Porto** | +1.5 | - | - | - | - | - | +1.25 | - | +1.25 | - | +1.25 |
| **Chelsea** | 2.24 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.04 | - | 1.95 | - | 1.99 |
| **Porto** | 1.61 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.84 | - | 1.83 | - | 1.86 |
| **Zurich v Real** | -1.75 | - | - | - | - | - | -1.5 | - | -1.25 | - | -1.5 |
| **Zurich** | 1.69 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.96 | - | 2.1 | - | 1.98 |
| **Real Madrid** | 2.13 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.92 | - | 1.72 | - | 1.87 |
| **Juve v Bord** | +0.75 | - | - | - | - | - | +1 | - | +1 | - | +1 |
| **Juventus** | 1.71 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.06 | - | 2 | - | 2.12 |
| **Bordeaux** | 2.1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.82 | - | 1.8 | - | 1.73 |
| **Macc v Bayern** | -1.25 | - | - | - | - | - | -1 | - | -1 | - | -1 |
| **Maccabi Haifa** | 1.74 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.06 | - | 2 | - | 2.06 |
| **B Munich** | 2.01 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.82 | - | 1.8 | - | 1.79 |
| **Mars v Milan** | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | +0.25 | - | +0.25 | - | +0.25 |
| **Marseille** | 1.67 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.04 | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| **Milan** | 2.16 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.84 | - | 1.8 | - | 1.85 |
| **Wolfs v CSKA** | +0.5 | - | - | - | - | - | +0.5 | - | +0.75 | - | +0.75 |
| **Wolfsburg** | 1.8 | - | - | - | - | - | 1.78 | - | 2.1 | - | 2.08 |
| **CSKA Moscow** | 2.1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2.1 | - | 1.72 | - | 1.77 |

▸▸ Asian handicaps explained, see RPSPORT page 88

## THIS WEEK'S FORMGUIDE

### Today

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

#### GROUP A

| **JUVENTUS** +3.05 | v | **BORDEAUX** +1.41 |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 2-0 Lazio | | (h) 1-0 Grenoble |
| (a) 3-1 Roma | | (a) 0-0 Marseille |
| (h) 1-0 Chievo | | (h) 4-0 Nice |
| *(h) 2-0 Lazio* | | (a) 3-2 Sochaux |
| *(a) 3-0 Siena* | | (h) 4-1 Lens |
| *(h) 2-2 Atalanta* | | *(a) 1-0 Caen* |

| **M. HAIFA** | v | **B MUNICH** -1.20 |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 3-1 H. Ramat Gan | | (a) 5-1 B. Dortmund |
| (a) 3-1 Hap. Ra'anana | | (h) 3-0 Wolfsburg |
| (h) 3-0* SV Salzburg | | (a) 1-2 Mainz |
| (h) 2-1 Hapoel Acre | | (h) 1-1 W Bremen |
| (a) 2-1* SV Salzburg | | (a) 1-1 Hoffenheim |
| (h) 4-3* Aktobe Lento | | *(h) 2-1 Stuttgart* |

#### GROUP B

| **BESIKTAS** | v | **MAN UTD** +2.41 |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 0-3 Galatasaray | | (a) 3-1 Tottenham |
| (h) 0-0 Gaziantepspor | | (h) 2-1 Arsenal |
| (a) 0-0 G'birligi Ankara | | (a) 5-0 Wigan |
| (h) 2-0 Antalyaspor | | (a) 0-1 Burnley |
| (a) 1-1 Ist. Buyuksehir | | (h) 1-0 Birmingham |
| *(h) 3-0 G'birligi Ankara* | | (a) 2-2* Chelsea |

| **WOLFSBURG** -1.05 | v | **CSKA MOSC.** |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 2-3 B Leverkusen | | (h) 3-0 Kryliya Sovetov |
| (a) 0-3 B Munich | | (a) 0-1 R. Rostov |
| (h) 2-4 Hamburg | | (h) 2-1 Khimki |
| (a) 3-1 FC Cologne | | (a) 1-2 Lok. Moscow |
| (h) 2-0 Stuttgart | | (h) 1-0 Amkar Perm |
| *(h) 5-1 W Bremen* | | (a) 3-2 Tom Tomsk |

#### GROUP C

| **FC ZURICH** | v | **REAL MADRID** +0.86 |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 4-3 Grasshoppers | | (a) 3-0 Espanyol |
| (a) 1-1 FC Aarau | | (h) 3-2 Deportivo |
| (h) 2-1* Ventspils | | *(a) 1-2 Osasuna* |
| (h) 4-0 Lucerne | | *(h) 1-3 Mallorca* |
| (a) 3-0* Ventspils | | *(a) 2-3 Villarreal* |
| (a) 3-3 FC Sion | | *(a) 0-3 Valencia* |

| **MARSEILLE** +0.72 | v | **MILAN** -0.95 |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 2-1 Le Mans | | (a) 0-0 Livorno |
| (h) 0-0 Bordeaux | | (h) 0-4 Inter |
| (a) 1-1 Rennes | | (a) 2-1 Siena |
| (h) 1-0 Lille | | *(a) 2-0 Fiorentina* |
| (a) 2-0 Grenoble | | *(h) 2-3 Roma* |
| *(h) 4-0 Rennes* | | *(a) 1-2 Udinese* |

#### GROUP D

| **ATL MADRID** -2.00 | v | **APOEL NICOSIA** |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 1-1 Racing | | (h) 0-0 AE Paphos |
| (a) 0-3 Malaga | | (a) 3-4 APOP Pathos |
| (h) 2-0* Panathinaikos | | (h) 3-1* Copenhagen |
| (a) 3-2* Panathinaikos | | (a) 0-1* Copenhagen |
| *(h) 3-0 Almeria* | | (a) 0-1* Partizan Belg. |
| *(a) 4-1 Ath. Bilbao* | | (h) 2-0* Partizan Belg. |

| **CHELSEA** +1.94 | v | **PORTO** |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 2-1 Stoke | | (h) 4-1 Leixoes |
| (h) 3-0 Burnley | | (a) 3-1 Naval |
| (a) 2-0 Fulham | | (h) 3-0 Nacional |
| (a) 3-1 Sunderland | | (a) 1-1 Pacos Ferreira |
| (h) 2-1 Hull | | *(h) 1-1 Braga* |
| (h) 2-2* Man Utd | | *(a) 4-1 Trofense* |

### Tomorrow

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

#### GROUP E

| **LIVERPOOL** -0.93 | v | **DEBRECEN** |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 4-0 Burnley | | (a) 1-0 Paksi SE |
| (a) 3-2 Bolton | | (h) 3-1 Nyiregyhaza |
| (h) 1-3 Aston Villa | | (h) 2-0* Levski Sofia |
| (h) 4-0 Stoke | | (a) 2-1* Levski Sofia |
| (a) 1-2 Tottenham | | (h) 2-1 Szombathelyi |
| *(h) 3-1 Tottenham* | | (h) 1-0* Levadia Tallinn |

| **LYON** +1.23 | v | **FIORENTINA** +0.50 |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 1-0 Lorient | | (h) 1-0 Cagliari |
| (h) 3-1 Nancy | | (h) 1-0 Palermo |
| (a) 3-1* Anderlecht | | (h) 1-1* Sp Lisbon |
| (a) 3-0 Auxerre | | (a) 1-1 Bologna |
| (h) 5-1* Anderlecht | | (a) 2-2* Sp Lisbon |
| (h) 1-0 Valenciennes | | *(h) 0-2 Milan* |

#### GROUP F

| **DYNAMO KIEV** | v | **RUBIN** |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 3-1 Metalurg D. | | (h) 5-1 Saturn |
| (a) 1-1 Vorskla Poltava | | (a) 3-0 Spartak M. |
| (h) 3-1 Illichivets | | (a) 3-0 Din. Moscow |
| (a) 3-1 Kryvbas | | (h) 4-0 Terek Grozny |
| (h) 6-0 Tavriya Simf. | | (a) 3-1 FC Moscow |
| (h) 5-0 Ch. Odessa | | (h) 2-0 Spartak Nalchik |

| **INTER** +0.92 | v | **BARCELONA** +0.66 |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 2-0 Parma | | (a) 2-0 Getafe |
| (a) 4-0 Milan | | (h) 2-0 Sporting Gijon |
| (h) 1-1 Bari | | (n) 0-0* Shakhtar |
| (n) 1-2* Lazio | | (h) 3-0* Ath. Bilbao |
| *(h) 4-3 Atalanta* | | (a) 2-1* Ath. Bilbao |
| *(a) 1-2 Cagliari* | | *(a) 1-1 Deportivo* |

#### GROUP G

| **SEVILLE** -0.39 | v | **UNIREA** |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 4-1 Zaragoza | | (h) 1-0 Alba Iulia Apulum |
| (a) 0-2 Valencia | | (a) 4-1 Otelul Galati |
| *(a) 2-0 Numancia* | | (h) 0-0 FCU Poli |
| *(h) 1-0 Deportivo* | | (a) 1-0 Steaua |
| *(a) 0-0 Osasuna* | | (h) 1-0 Rapid Buch. |
| *(h) 3-1 Mallorca* | | (a) 0-2 CFR Cluj |

| **STUTTGART** -3.50 | v | **RANGERS** +0.08 |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 1-3 Hamburg | | (a) 0-0 Motherwell |
| (h) 0-0 Nuremberg | | (h) 4-1 Hamilton |
| (h) 0-0* FCU Poli | | (a) 2-1 Hearts |
| (a) 1-1 B. Dortmund | | (h) 4-1 Falkirk |
| (a) 2-0* FCU Poli | | *(n) 1-0* Falkirk* |
| (h) 4-2 Freiburg | | *(a) 3-0 Dundee Utd* |

#### GROUP H

| **OLYMPIAKOS** | v | **AZ ALKMAAR** |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 0-0 Kavala | | (a) 1-2 Den Haag |
| (a) 2-0 Larissa | | (h) 2-1 Willem II |
| (h) 1-0* FC Sheriff | | (a) 2-0 Heerenveen |
| (a) 2-0* FC Sheriff | | (a) 6-0 RKC Waalwijk |
| (h) 2-0* Slov. Bratislava | | (h) 2-0 Sp. Rotterdam |
| (a) 2-0* Slov. Bratislava | | (a) 2-3 Heracles |

| **STANDARD LIEGE** | v | **ARSENAL** -0.40 |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 3-0 Mechelen | | (a) 2-4 Man City |
| (a) 1-1 Anderlecht | | (a) 1-2 Man Utd |
| (h) 1-1 Charleroi | | (h) 3-1* Celtic |
| (a) 5-1 Roeselare | | (h) 4-1 Portsmouth |
| (a) 1-1 Germinal | | (a) 2-0* Celtic |
| (h) 2-2 St. Truiden | | (a) 6-1 Everton |






CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
CASHBACK

15TH & 16TH SEPTEMBER 2009

IF ANY OF THIS WEEK'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCHES FINISH IN A **DRAW**, BOYLESPORTS WILL REFUND LOSING SINGLE FIRST, LAST, ANYTIME GOALSCORER & SCORECAST BETS ON THAT PARTICULAR MATCH*

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# TODAY'S MATCHES

*Verdicts by* ***Mark Langdon***

## Juventus v Bordeaux

*7.45pm, live on Sky Sports Interactive*

**Best prices 8-13 Juventus, 6-1 Bordeaux, 11-4 Draw**

*Laurent Blanc*



### TEAM NEWS

Giorgio Chiellini is suspended and Diego is ruled out with a muscle problem. Mo Sissoko is also sidelined, while Zdenek Grygera, Claudio Guadino and Alex Del Piero are doubtful.

Mathieu Chalme returns from suspension and is part of a 21-man squad which is free of injury.

### TOP SCORERS (League-Champ Lge)

**Juventus** Diego 2-0, Caceres 1-0, Melo 1-0, Iaquinta 1-0, Trezeguet 1-0

**Bordeaux** Gourcuff 4-0, Chamakh 3-0, Diarra 1-0, Gouffan 1-0, Jussie 1-0, Wendel 1-0

**Current league positions**
Juventus 2nd, Bordeaux 1st

### LAST SIX MATCHES

| Juventus | | Bordeaux |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 2-0 | Lazio | (h) 1-0 Grenoble |
| (a) 3-1 | Roma | (a) 0-0 Marseille |
| (h) 1-0 | Chievo | (h) 4-0 Nice |
| *(h) 2-0* | *Lazio* | (a) 3-2 Sochaux |
| *(a) 3-0* | *Siena* | (h) 4-1 Lens |
| *(h) 2-2* | *Atalanta* | *(a) 1-0 Caen* |

*Cup match

## Tight encounter appears likely

**TWO in-form teams meet in Turin and it could be a tight affair when Juventus host Bordeaux in one of the more interesting games this evening.**

**Juve have a 100 per cent winning record under boss Ciro Ferrara, triumphing in five outings. The Old Lady are also prolific scorers having found the net in their last 28 matches, but the injury to new Brazilian signing Diego is a massive blow tonight.**

**Bordeaux are also flying – they are unbeaten in their last 17 Ligue 1 matches and 16 of those have ended in victory for Laurent Blanc's team.**

**Key playmaker Yoann Gourcuff was the catalyst behind their championship success last term and he has carried on where he left off with the former Milan man scoring ten goals in his last 12 games.**

**However, Juve rock Felipe Melo is capable of keeping tabs on Gourcuff and it would be no surprise if it was a tight 90 minutes.**

**Recommendation**
**Under 2.5 goals** 1pt 3-4 *Bet365*

## Maccabi Haifa v Bayern Munich

*7.45pm, live on Sky Sports Interactive*

**Best prices 6-1 M Haifa, 8-15 B Munich, 3-1 Draw**

*Arjen Robben*



### TEAM NEWS

Tiago is ruled out because of injury and John Jairo Culma is suspended.

Miroslav Klose, Luca Toni, Mark van Bommel, Martin Demichelis and Andreas Gorlitz have not travelled to Israel because of injury.

### TOP SCORERS (League-Champ Lge)

**M. Haifa** Arbeitman 4-3, Dvalishvile 2-5, Katan 1-2, Golasa 1-2, Ghadir 0-3, Bello 0-2, Refaelov 0-1

**B Munich** Gomez 3-0, Muller 2-0, Robben 2-0, Olic 1-0, Ribery 1-0, Schweinsteiger 1-0

**Current league positions**
Maccabi Haifa 1st, Bayern Munich 5th

### LAST SIX MATCHES

| M. Haifa | | B Munich |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 3-1 | H Ramat Gan | (a) 5-1 B. Dortmund |
| (a) 3-1 | Hap Ra'anana | (h) 3-0 Wolfsburg |
| (h) 3-0* | SV Salzburg | (a) 1-2 Mainz |
| (h) 2-1 | Hapoel Acre | (h) 1-1 W Bremen |
| (a) 2-1* | SV Salzburg | (a) 1-1 Hoffenheim |
| (h) 4-3* | Aktobe Lento | *(h) 2-1 Stuttgart* |

*Cup match

## Bayern's class should be telling

**BAYERN MUNICH have dazzled either side of the international break and they should be able to make a winning start away to Maccabi Haifa tonight.**

**The pressure was growing on boss Louis van Gaal following a start of four points from as many Bundesliga games, but successive wins (3-0 v Wolfsburg and 5-1 Borussia Dortmund) have suddenly got people talking about FC Hollywood as potential Champions League winners.**

**It's far too early for that, but players with the ability of Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery should have far too much quality for a very limited Maccabi Haifa outfit.**

**Maccabi Haifa have lost only once in 28 domestic matches, but this is an obvious step up in class.**

**One area of concern for van Gaal will be defensively where Bayern have managed just one clean sheet this term and it is worth chancing that Maccabi could get on the scoresheet.**

**Recommendation**
**Bayern Munich to win 2-1** 1pt 15-2 *Blue Square*

## Wolfsburg v CSKA Moscow

*7.45pm, live on Sky Sports Interactive*

**Best prices 5-6 Wolfsburg, 7-2 CSKA Moscow, 13-5 Draw**

*Juande Ramos*



### TEAM NEWS

Thomas Kahlenberg has not been included in Wolfsburg's Champions League squad because of injury.

Mark Gonzalez is ruled out with a thigh injury for CSKA Moscow.

### TOP SCORERS (League-Champ Lge)

**Wolfsburg** Misimovic 3-0, Grafite 2-0, Martins 2-0, Dzeko 1-0

**CSKA Moscow** Dzagoev 5-0, Krasic 5-0, Necid 5-0, Ignashevich 3-0, Maazou 3-0, Love 3-0

**Current league positions**
Wolfsburg 10th, CSKA Moscow 3rd

### LAST SIX MATCHES

| Wolfsburg | | CSKA Moscow |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 2-3 | B Leverkusen | (h) 3-0 Kryliya Sovetov |
| (a) 0-3 | B Munich | (a) 0-1 R. Rostov |
| (h) 2-4 | Hamburg | (h) 2-1 Khimki |
| (a) 3-1 | FC Cologne | (a) 1-2 Lok Moscow |
| (h) 2-0 | Stuttgart | (h) 1-0 Amkar Perm |
| *(h) 5-1* | *W Bremen* | (a) 3-2 Tom Tomsk |

*Cup match

## Goals could be on the agenda

**BACKING over 2.5 goals blind in Wolfsburg matches has been a passport to profit for well over a season and there is no reason to abandon the winning system against CSKA Moscow tonight.**

**Wolfsburg played 34 games en route to claiming the Bundesliga crown last term and 27 of those (79 per cent) finished with at least three goals.**

**It was even more exciting in the German Cup with all four games going over 2.5 with an incredible 23 goals scored in just 360 minutes.**

**There was no sign of a more defensive nature in the Uefa Cup either.**

**Five of the six games in the tournament proper ended in over 2.5 goals and following the trend at 9-10 tonight looks a decent punt.**

**Wolfsburg have played seven games this term and six of those produced over 2.5 goals, while CSKA Moscow also have an adventurous coach in Juande Ramos.**

**Recommendation**
**Over 2.5 goals** 2pts 9-10 *Bet365*

## FC Zurich v Real Madrid

*7.45pm, live on Sky Sports Interactive*

**Best prices 10-1 FC Zurich, 1-3 Real Madrid, 9-2 Draw**

*Raul Albiol*



### TEAM NEWS

FC Zurich are likely to be without Heinz Barmettler, Yassine Chikhaoui and Marco Schonbachler.

Sergio Ramos is still injured and Ezequiel Garay, Mahamadou Diarra and Rafael van der Vaart are not in the squad. Raul Albiol should shake off a minor ankle sprain.

### TOP SCORERS (League-Champ Lge)

**FC Zurich** Vonlanthen 4-3, Hassli 3-1, Margairaz 3-1, Djuric 2-2, Alphonse 2-0

**Real Madrid** Ronaldo 2-0, Diarra 1-0, Guti 1-0, Granero 1-0, Raul 1-0

**Current league positions**
FC Zurich 4th, Real Madrid 2nd

### LAST SIX MATCHES

| FC Zurich | | Real Madrid |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 4-3 | Grasshoppers | (a) 3-0 Espanyol |
| (a) 1-1 | FC Aarau | (h) 3-2 Deportivo |
| (h) 2-1* | Ventspils | *(a) 1-2 Osasuna* |
| (h) 4-0 | Lucerne | *(h) 1-3 Mallorca* |
| (a) 3-0* | Ventspils | *(a) 2-3 Villarreal* |
| (a) 3-3 | FC Sion | *(a) 0-3 Valencia* |

*Cup match

## Zurich face a daunting task

**THERE was a confident swagger to Real Madrid's performance on Saturday and the fact Manuel Pellegrini was able to successfully rotate a number of his squad must bode well for the future.**

**The likes of Cristiano Ronaldo will be fully rested and ready to prove to the world that the Galacticos mean business, which is bad news for tonight's opponents, FC Zurich.**

**Real Madrid should be bankers for maximum points and they are also a confident selection to cover the 1.5-goal Asian handicap start.**

**Pellegrini's team were cosy 3-0 winners at Espanyol on Saturday, when Ronaldo came off the bench to score, so why should Zurich fare any better?**

**The Swiss side have kept just two clean sheets in their last nine and are already seven points off the title pace after nine games of their campaign.**

**Grasshoppers knocked three goals past Zurich on Saturday and they don't have any Galacticos.**

**Recommendation**
**Real Madrid -1.5 Asian handicap** 3pts 1.92 *Ladbrokes*

## Marseille v Milan

*7.45pm, live on Sky Sports Interactive*

**Best prices 6-4 Marseille, 21-10 Milan, 23-10 Draw**

*Rino Gattuso*



### TEAM NEWS

Bakari Kone and Garry Bocaly are unlikely to be fit.

Rino Gattuso has travelled, but is still doubtful. Marco Borriello, Davide Di Gennaro, Christian Abbiati and Daniele Bonera are unavailable.

### TOP SCORERS (League-Champ Lge)

**Marseille** Niang 3-0, Brandao 2-0, Cheyrou 1-0

**Milan** Pato 2-0

**Current league positions**
Marseille 4th, Milan 10th

### LAST SIX MATCHES

| Marseille | | Milan |
|---|---|---|
| (a) 2-1 | Le Mans | (a) 0-0 Livorno |
| (h) 0-0 | Bordeaux | (h) 0-4 Inter |
| (a) 1-1 | Rennes | (a) 2-1 Siena |
| (h) 1-0 | Lille | *(a) 2-0 Fiorentina* |
| (a) 2-0 | Grenoble | *(h) 2-3 Roma* |
| *(h) 4-0* | *Rennes* | *(a) 1-2 Udinese* |

*Cup match

## Poor Rossoneri look vulnerable

**MILAN usually start the Champions League in fantastic style, but their excellent match-day one record could come to an end in Marseille this evening.**

**The Rossoneri have been victorious in their opening fixture the last seven times they have qualified for the Champions League, a run which dates back to 1996.**

**However, this is quite possibly the worst Milan team in that period and new boss Leonardo has got a huge job on his hands to restore them to their former glories.**

**Ronaldinho was abysmal in Saturday's drab 0-0 draw at Livorno and his team-mates were not much better in the recent 4-0 reverse against city rivals and arch-enemies Inter.**

**The big question is: Are Marseille good enough to take advantage?**

**It's a tough one to answer confidently, but Didier Deschamps is building a solid side and the hosts can take a point.**

**Recommendation**
**Draw** 1pt 23-10 *Coral*

## Atletico Madrid v Apoel Nicosia

*7.45pm, live on Sky Sports Interactive*

**Best prices 1-5 Atl Madrid, 16-1 Apoel Nicosia, 6-1 Draw**

*Maxi Rodriguez*



### TEAM NEWS

Diego Forlan is doubtful, although Maxi Rodriguez is making good progress on his muscle strain. Raul Garcia, Ignacio Camacho and Mariano Pernia are injured.

Nektarios Alexandrou serves a one-match ban, but Altin Haxhi is available again after suspension. Nenad Mirosavljevic and Joost Broerse are injury doubts.

### TOP SCORERS (League-Champ Lge)

**Atl Madrid** Aguero 0-2, Jurado 1-0, Forlan 0-1, Maxi Rodriguez 0-1

**Apoel Nicosia** Mirosavljevic 1-3, Zewlakow 0-3, Michael 0-2, Jorge 1-0

**Current league positions**
Atl Madrid 18th, Apoel Nicosia 9th

### LAST SIX MATCHES

| Atl Madrid | | Apoel Nicosia |
|---|---|---|
| (h) 1-1 | Racing | (h) 0-0 AE Paphos |
| (a) 0-3 | Malaga | (a) 3-4 APOP Pathos |
| (h) 2-0* | Panathinaikos | (h) 3-1* Copenhagen |
| (a) 3-2* | Panathinaikos | (a) 0-1* Copenhagen |
| *(h) 3-0* | *Almeria* | (a) 0-1* Partizan Belg |
| *(a) 4-1* | *Ath. Bilbao* | (h) 2-0* Partizan Belg |

*Cup match

## Jurado can rise to the occasion

**ATLETICO MADRID have made a shaky start to their La Liga campaign and those who get involved at short prices are unlikely to be in for a comfortable evening when they take on Cypriot visitors Apoel.**

**The Spanish side have already lost 3-0 at Malaga and Saturday's 1-1 home draw with Racing does not inspire confidence.**

**The fact that Diego Forlan is an injury doubt just adds to the concerns, although on paper Atletico should still be good enough for maximum points.**

**Apoel have also had a sluggish start to life in their domestic league and one point from two matches does not bode well for their hopes of causing a massive shock.**

**All things considered, this does not look a great betting heat, but those gagging for a punt could do worse than take Atletico's exciting youngster Jurado to score first at 14-1 after he notched on Saturday.**

**Recommendation**
**Jurado to score first** 0.5pt each-way 14-1 *Coral*

BETFRED

THE BONUS KING

## GROUP BETTING

**GROUP A**
Bayern Munich ..... 5/4
Juventus ..... 11/8
Bordeaux ..... 4/1
Maccabi Haifa ..... 25/1

**GROUP B**
Man Utd ..... 2/5
Wolfsburg ..... 9/2
CSKA Moscow ..... 6/1
Besiktas ..... 12/1

**GROUP C**
Real Madrid ..... 8/15
AC Milan ..... 2/1
Marseille ..... 8/1
FC Zurich ..... 50/1

**GROUP D**
Chelsea ..... 1/2
Atletico Madrid ..... 3/1
Porto ..... 9/2
Apoel Nicosia ..... 50/1

**GROUP E**
Liverpool ..... 8/13
Lyon ..... 2/1
Fiorentina ..... 6/1
Debrecen ..... 50/1

**GROUP F**
Barcelona ..... 8/15
Inter Milan ..... 2/1
Dynamo Kiev ..... 14/1
Rubin Kazan ..... 16/1

**GROUP G**
Sevilla ..... 4/6
Stuttgart ..... 2/1
Rangers ..... 13/2
Unirea ..... 20/1

**GROUP H**
Arsenal ..... 4/11
AZ Alkmaar ..... 6/1
Olympiakos ..... 6/1
Standard Liege ..... 10/1

## OUTRIGHT BETTING

Barcelona ..... 9/2
Real Madrid ..... 5/1
Chelsea ..... 6/1
Manchester United ..... 7/1
Arsenal ..... 9/1
Liverpool ..... 12/1
Inter Milan ..... 12/1
Juventus ..... 20/1
Bayern Munich ..... 25/1
Ac Milan ..... 28/1
Lyon ..... 33/1
Sevilla ..... 33/1
Atletico Madrid ..... 40/1

EW: 1/2 1,2 OTHERS ON REQUEST




## TOP GOALSCORER

13/2 Cristiano Ronaldo
7/1 Lionel Messi
7/1 Fernando Torres
12/1 Zlatan Ibrahimovic
12/1 Karim Benzema
12/1 Didier Drogba
14/1 Wayne Rooney
16/1 Steven Gerrard
16/1 Thierry Henry
16/1 Samuel Eto'O
20/1 Nicolas Anelka
20/1 Alexandre Pato
25/1 Kaka
25/1 Sergio Aguero
25/1 Diego Forlan
25/1 Robin Van Persie
25/1 Diego Milito
25/1 Dimitar Berbatov
25/1 Raul
33/1 Eduardo
33/1 Ruud Van Nistelrooy
33/1 Micheal Owen
33/1 Andrei Arshavin
33/1 Lisandro Lopez
33/1 Frank Lampard
33/1 Klaas Jan Huntelaar
33/1 Filipo Inzaghi
40/1 Amauri
40/1 Bafetimbi Gomis
40/1 Vincenzo Iaquinta
40/1 Luis Fabiano
40/1 Alessandro Del Piero
40/1 Vagner Love
40/1 Dirk Kuyt

EW: 1/4 1,2,3,4 OTHERS ON REQUEST




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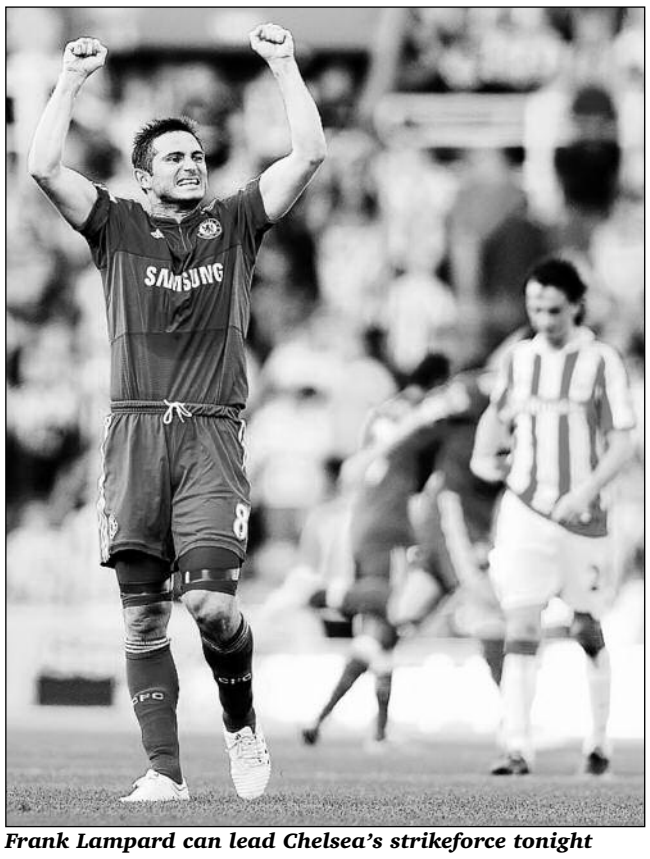
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# GROUP D

## CHELSEA v PORTO

SKY SPORTS Xtra 7.45pm



*Frank Lampard can lead Chelsea's strikeforce tonight*

# Portuguese looking to end Premier League hell

By Mark Langdon

PORTO must have been watching the Champions League draw hoping they avoided the English clubs, but there was no such luck for the Dragons with a trip to Chelsea first up in Group D.

The Portuguese Super Liga champions have been to England on 13 occasions and they have never won, losing 11 and drawing twice against Manchester United.

One of those stalemates came last season when Porto played exceptionally well at Old Trafford in the quarter-final first leg and were unfortunate to only go away with a 2-2 draw.

Porto eventually lost 3-2 on aggregate to United, but that run to the last eight highlighted the talent in Jusualdo Ferreira's squad and a number of wealthier clubs have taken their best talent.

Lucho Gonzalez, Lisandro Lopez and Aly Cissokho were all significant departures and it is going to take time for Porto to become a European force again.

It's a different story domestically where Porto are expected to win the title and rarely disappoint. They have taken ten points from their four games this season and are unbeaten in Super Liga matches since November 2008 (a run of 27 outings, 21 of which ended in victory for Porto).

New signing Falcao has made an immediate impression, scoring in all four games and becoming the first Porto player ever to open the campaign by scoring in four successive matches.

Hulk and Cristian Rodriguez return from injury to support Falcao, while the midfield is decent with Fernando and Raul Meireles worthy of their place at Europe's top table.

However, is their defence – Bruno Alves apart – ready to stop Chelsea? Porto have kept only one clean sheet in four domestic fixtures this season and it was only 12 months ago that Ferreira's team came to London and were battered 4-0 by Arsenal.

Chelsea may not be as slick as the Gunners at full tilt, but they have scored at least two Premier League goals in their last nine games in England's top flight.

## PROBABLE LINE-UPS




Figures relate to age, league appearances (as sub), goals, yellow and red cards. *Possible pen taker

## OTHER PLAYERS

| Chelsea | | | | | | Porto | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Player | Age | App | G | Y | R | Player | Age | App | G | Y | R |
| 13 Michael Ballack | 32 | 4(1) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 19 Ernesto Farias | 29 | 1(3) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 Daniel Sturridge | 20 | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 Diego Valeri | 23 | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 Juliano Belletti | 33 | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 M Gonzalez | 28 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 Ross Turnbull | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 Tomas Costa | 24 | 0(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 Sam Hutchinson | 20 | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 C Sapunaru | 25 | 0(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| N/A Fabio Borini | N/A | 0(0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 Nuno | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| N/A Jeffery Bruma | N/A | 0(0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 Maicon | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**March 6 2007, Champions League**
Chelsea ..... (0) **2-1** (1) .....Porto
Robben 48 — Quaresma 15
Ballack 79
*Corners 5 (5/0), Bookings 50 (20/30)*

**February 21 2007, Champions League**
Porto ..... (1) **1-1** (1) .....Chelsea
Raul Meireles 12 — Shevchenko 16
*Corners 7 (3/4), Bookings 50 (10/40)*

**December 7 2004, Champions League**
Porto ..... (0) **2-1** (1) .....Chelsea
Diego 60, McCarthy 85 — Duff 33
*Bookings 30 (10/20)*

**September 29 2004, Champions League**
Chelsea ..... (1) **3-1** (0) .....Porto
Smertin 7 — McCarthy 68
Drogba 50
Terry 70
*Bookings 60 (30/30)*

## LAST FOUR MATCHES

### Chelsea

**Premier League**
Stoke ..... (1) **1-2** (1) .....Chelsea
Abdoulaye Faye 32 — Drogba 45, Malouda 90
*Shirts 51 (25/26), Corners 18 (4/14), Bookings 60 (30/30)*

**Premier League**
Chelsea ..... (1) **3-0** (0) .....Burnley
Anelka 45, Ballack 47
Ashley Cole 52
*Shirts 55, Corners 11 (10/1), Bookings 10 (0/10)*

**Premier League**
Fulham..... (0) **0-2** (1) .....Chelsea
Drogba 39, Anelka 76
*Shirts 50, Corners 11 (4/7), Bookings 0*

**Premier League**
Sunderland..... (1) **1-3** (0) .....Chelsea
Bent 18 — Ballack 52, Lampard pen 61, Deco 70
*Shirts 52 (11/41), Corners 15 (1/14), Bookings 40 (20/20)*

### Porto

**Portugal**
Porto ..... (4) **4-1** (0) .....Leixoes
Varela 20, Hulk 24, Rolando 34, Falcao 41 — Pouga 76
*Shirts 67 (52/15), Bookings 40 (10/30)*

**Portugal**
Naval..... (0) **1-3** (1) .....Porto
Rolando og 75 — Falcao 8, Varela 61, Farias 77
*Shirts 59 (14/45), Bookings 20 (10/10)*

**Portugal**
Porto ..... (0) **3-0** (0) .....Nacional
Falcao pen 66, Rolando 72, Rodriguez 86
*Shirts 33. Bookings 70 (10/60)*

**Portugal**
Pacos Ferreira .... (1) **1-1** (0) .....Porto
Rolando og 12 — Falcao 78
*Shirts 23 (14/9), Bookings 55 (10/45)*

## MATCH MARKETS

### Total goals

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Over 2.5 | 9-10 | 5-6 | 10-11 | 10-11 | - | - | **47-50** | 5-6 | 10-11 | 5-6 | 9-10 |
| Under 2.5 | 9-10 | 5-6 | 4-5 | 4-5 | - | - | **47-50** | 5-6 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 4-5 |

### Double result

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chel-Chel | 17-20 | 8-11 | 10-11 | 5-6 | 5-6 | 10-11 | 4-5 | **Evs** | 5-6 | 4-5 | 9-10 |
| Chel-Draw | **20** | 18 | **20** | 18 | 18 | 16 | **20** | 18 | 14 | 18 | 17 |
| Chel-Porto | 66 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 50 | **100** | 40 | 40 | 66 |
| Draw-Chel | 10-3 | 10-3 | 10-3 | 10-3 | **7-2** | 11-4 | **7-2** | 11-4 | 10-3 | 3 | **7-2** |
| Draw-Draw | 6 | 6 | 11-2 | 6 | 6 | 9-2 | 5 | 5 | **13-2** | **13-2** | 11-2 |
| Draw-Porto | **20** | 18 | 16 | **20** | 16 | 14 | 18 | 16 | **20** | 16 | 19 |
| Porto-Chel | 25 | **28** | **28** | **28** | **28** | 22 | **28** | 22 | 25 | **28** | **28** |
| Porto-Draw | **20** | 12 | **20** | 18 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 14 | 16 | 14 |
| Porto-Porto | 16 | 16 | 14 | **18** | 12 | 14 | 16 | 17 | **18** | 14 | 17 |

### Correct score

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea 1-0 | 11-2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9-4 | 5 | 11-2 | 9-2 | 5 | 5 | **6** |
| Chelsea 2-0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **11-2** | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9-2 | 5 | 5 |
| Chelsea 2-1 | 7 | 7 | **8** | 15-2 | 15-2 | 15-2 | 13-2 | 7 | **8** | 7 | 15-2 |
| Chelsea 3-0 | **8** | 15-2 | 15-2 | **8** | 15-2 | 15-2 | 15-2 | 15-2 | 15-2 | 7 | 15-2 |
| Chelsea 3-1 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 10 | **12** | 9 | 9 |
| Chelsea 3-2 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 24 | 30 | **40** | 28 | 28 |
| Chelsea 4-0 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 16 | **19** | 14 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Chelsea 4-1 | 20 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 21 | 16 | 21 | 20 | **25** | 18 | 16 |
| Chelsea 4-2 | 40 | 40 | 33 | 50 | 41 | 40 | 39 | 60 | **66** | 50 | 40 |
| Chelsea 5-0 | 33 | 25 | 25 | **40** | 26 | 33 | 27 | 35 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| Chelsea 5-1 | 40 | 25 | 28 | **50** | - | 33 | 29 | **50** | **50** | 33 | 33 |
| Porto 1-0 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 12 | **19** | 18 | 18 | 14 | 12 |
| Porto 2-0 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 49 | **70** | 50 | 40 | 40 |
| Porto 2-1 | 25 | **28** | 22 | 25 | 25 | **28** | 24 | 25 | **28** | **28** | **28** |
| No goalscorer | **12** | 15-2 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 15-2 | 7 |
| Draw 1-1 | **8** | 6 | **8** | 15-2 | 15-2 | 13-2 | 7 | 7 | **8** | 7 | 13-2 |
| Draw 2-2 | 20 | 16 | **25** | 22 | 21 | 18 | 21 | 20 | **25** | 20 | 18 |
| Draw 3-3 | 50 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 71 | 100 | 79 | 125 | **150** | 50 | 100 |

### First goalscorer

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anelka C | **9-2** | 7-2 | 7-2 | 7-2 | **9-2** | 10-3 | 7-2 | 4 | 3 | 7-2 | 4 |
| Lampard C | 5 | 11-2 | 5 | 5 | **6** | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 11-2 | 5 |
| Kalou C | 11-2 | 4 | 5 | 5 | **6** | 11-2 | 5 | **6** | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Sturridge C | 11-2 | 9-2 | **6** | 9-2 | 5 | - | 11-2 | 11-2 | **6** | 9-2 | 11-2 |
| J Cole C | - | 8 | 7 | 6 | - | 8 | 7 | 8 | **9** | 6 | 7 |
| Malouda C | 10 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 8 | **11** | 9 | 7 | 7 | 15-2 |
| Ballack C | 10 | 8 | **11** | 8 | 8 | **11** | 9 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Falcao P | 11 | 10 | 11 | - | 9 | 9 | **12** | 11 | - | 9 | 10 |
| Hulk P | 17-2 | 9 | **12** | 10 | 10 | 11 | **12** | **12** | - | **12** | 9 |
| Farías P | 12 | 10 | **14** | 10 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| Deco C | 17-2 | 7 | 12 | 9 | **14** | 12 | 9 | **14** | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| Essien C | 12 | 12 | **16** | 14 | **16** | 14 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 14 | 14 |
| Zhirkov C | 10 | **16** | 14 | - | 14 | **16** | 14 | 14 | **16** | - | - |
| Varela P | 12 | 12 | 16 | 14 | **20** | 14 | - | 16 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Rodriguez P | 12 | 14 | 18 | 14 | **20** | 16 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 14 |
| Belluschi P | **20** | 14 | **20** | 16 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| Terry C | 14 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 20 | 20 | **25** | 20 | 18 | 16 | 20 |
| Belletti C | 18 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 20 | **28** | 20 | 20 |
| Mariano P | **28** | 16 | 22 | 14 | 20 | 20 | - | 22 | 10 | 14 | - |
| Alex C | 18 | 25 | 25 | 18 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 20 | **33** | 18 | 20 |
| Guarín P | 18 | 28 | 28 | 25 | - | 25 | 20 | **33** | 18 | 25 | 25 |
| Meireles P | 18 | 25 | 25 | 22 | 20 | 25 | 20 | **33** | 20 | 22 | 22 |
| Mikel C | 25 | 16 | 25 | 22 | **40** | 25 | 33 | 28 | 16 | 22 | 22 |
| Ivanovic C | 20 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 25 | **40** | 28 | 33 | 25 | 28 |
| Valeri P | **33** | 16 | 28 | - | 20 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 14 |
| Carvalho C | 25 | 28 | 33 | 28 | 25 | 33 | 33 | 33 | **40** | 28 | 33 |
| A Cole C | 25 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | **40** | 20 | 33 | 28 | 33 | 33 |
| Pereira P | - | 25 | 33 | 33 | 25 | 25 | 33 | **40** | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| Alves P | **40** | 28 | 25 | 25 | 33 | 25 | 25 | **40** | 33 | 25 | 22 |
| Hutchinson C | **40** | **40** | - | 33 | - | - | 33 | **40** | - | 33 | **40** |
| Costa P | **50** | 25 | 40 | 25 | - | 33 | 20 | 40 | 20 | 25 | 33 |
| Fernando P | **50** | 20 | 33 | 28 | 25 | 40 | 33 | 40 | - | 28 | 33 |
| Miguel Lopes P | - | 50 | - | - | - | 40 | - | **66** | - | 40 | 40 |
| Sapunaru P | 50 | **66** | 50 | 50 | 33 | - | 50 | **66** | 40 | 50 | **66** |
| Fucile P | 66 | 50 | 66 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 33 | **80** | - | 50 | 50 |
| Maicon P | **80** | 50 | 66 | 66 | - | 40 | 50 | 66 | 40 | 66 | 66 |
| No goalscorer | **12** | 15-2 | 8 | 10 | 15-2 | 17-2 | 8 | 10 | 15-2 | 15-2 | 7 |

Each-way 1/3 1,2,3,4,5 (Boyle, Stan James & VC win only; Blue Sq 1/3 1,2,3,4; Tote 1/3 1,2,3,4,5,6,7; Bet365 & Coral 1/3 on unlimited scorers). Others on request

## MATCH BETTING

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 4-11 | 1-3 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 4-11 | 1-3 | 4-11 | 1-3 | 1-3 | 1-3 | **2-5** |
| Porto | 8 | 15-2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 17-2 | 8 | **9** | 17-2 |
| Draw | **15-4** | 3 | 10-3 | 7-2 | 3 | 3 | 7-2 | **15-4** | 10-3 | 18-5 | 14-5 |

Best-price percentage: 102

## MARK LANGDON'S VERDICT

### Lampard value to notch first

**CHELSEA have a perfect record in their last ten Premier League matches and there will be many punters prepared to lump on the Blues at short prices when Porto come to Stamford Bridge.**

**However, the suspension of Didier Drogba must be a concern for favourite backers and there may be other ways better served to supporting Carlo Ancelotti's team without having to get involved at prohibitive odds.**

**Porto's defence is easily the weakest part of their team – they have kept only one clean sheet this season – and they usually leak goals in England.**

**The Dragons have been to Old Trafford, Anfield and the Emirates in a two-year period and conceded ten goals in just three visits to these shores.**

**Drogba would have destroyed Porto, but now the goalscoring burden will have to fall on the shoulders of Nicolas Anelka and Salomon Kalou. However, neither inspires total confidence on a consistent basis at this level and Frank Lampard could be the man to get the Blues going.**

**Lampard has notched just once for Chelsea in competitive action this term as he gets used to a new formation, but he will come good soon.**

**Recommendation**

**F Lampard first goalscorer**
0.5pt each way 6-1 *Coral*

## TEAM NEWS

**Chelsea**

Didier Drogba and Jose Bosingwa are both banned, while Alex, Deco, Yuri Zhirkov, Joe Cole and Paulo Ferreira are injured.

**Porto**

Miguel Lopes, Beto, Sebastian Prediguer, Ricardo Dias, Silvestre Varela and Orlando Sa have not travelled to west London.

## 2009-10 STATS

| Chelsea | | Porto |
|---|---|---|
| 15 | Points from last five league games | 11 |
| 30 | Points from last ten league games | 26 |
| WdWWWdWWWW | Last ten homes/aways (latest on right) | WWWWWWWWDW |
| 2.5 | Average goals scored in home/away league games | 2.0 |
| 0.5 | Average goals conceded in home/away league games | 1.0 |
| 11.4 | Average corners gained | n/a |
| 2.8 | Average corners conceded | n/a |
| 11.0 | Average corners gained home/away | n/a |
| 2.5 | Average corners conceded home/away | n/a |
| 12.0 | Average bookings points (10 per yellow, 25 per red) | 13.75 |

## BOOKINGS

| Referee/Team | Games | Yellows | Reds | Average Make-up |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Konrad Plautz (Aus) | 5 | 14 | 1 | 33.0 |
| Chelsea | 12 | 28 | 2 | 27.5 |
| Porto | 10 | 15 | 1 | 17.5 |

Stats refer to last two Champions League competitions

## KEY STAT

**Porto are unbeaten in their last four Champions League away matches. They have scored two goals in each of those four games**

# KEVIN PULLEIN



*The Soccer Boffin reckons the French league's reputation is undeserved*

# French sides better equipped than they are given credit for



***Juventus could find Bordeaux trickier opposition than expected when the sides meet tonight***

FRENCH club football is not as weak as it is sometimes portrayed, and it might be possible to exploit misapprehensions in today's Champions League Group A fixture between Juventus and Bordeaux.

Back **Bordeaux** on an Asian handicap of +1 at 1.85 – 17-20 in fractional odds – with Bet365. If Bordeaux win or draw, your bet will be successful. If they lose by one goal, your stake will be returned. And if they lose by two or more goals, your bet will be unsuccessful.

So far this century there have been 11 Champions League fixtures between Italian clubs at home to French clubs. Four times the French lost by two or more goals, once they lost by one goal and six times they drew or won.

If you think those encouraging figures were entirely attributable to Lyon, think again. True, Lyon won at Inter and Fiorentina and drew at Roma, but there were other commendable results, too: Lille won at Milan and Nantes won at Lazio, while PSG drew at Milan and Bordeaux themselves drew at Fiorentina.

The reasoning behind this bet is not that Bordeaux are much better than people think, or that Juventus are much worse, just that the imbalance in ability between them might not be quite as large as is imagined.

The overall results of French clubs and Italian clubs in the Champions League in recent seasons suggests that fair odds about Bordeaux on an Asian handicap of +1 away to Juventus should be at least a little bit shorter than 1.85 – perhaps around 1.80. Juventus, at the moment, are the second-best team in Italy. Bordeaux, at the moment, are the best team in France. In other words, they are not untypical representatives of their countries.

Juventus, it must be acknowledged, have started well in Serie A. They were impressive two weeks ago in victory away to Roma, and effective on Saturday during a win on the same ground against Lazio. New coach Ciro Ferraro, for a long time a Juve defender, was a member of Marcello Lippi's backroom staff when Italy won the World Cup in 2006 and then worked behind the scenes in Turin.

But Bordeaux have also started well in Le Championnat. Laurent Blanc's sides were new to the Champions League last season but improved as the games went on, eventually drawing at home to Chelsea and then enjoying most possession in a must-win final fixture before conceding against the run of play away to Roma. Though much less attractive to watch than Lyon in their prime, Bordeaux might still be able to avoid an emphatic defeat tonight in Turin.

The Champions League is the best and most prominent club competition in the world, so it was disappointing yesterday that bookmakers were not offering match odds for markets other than those relating to goals.

It is quite possible that if prices are released today somebody will underestimate the number of cards likely to be shown in the evening's glamour tie between Marseille and Milan.

Neither team is badly-behaved normally, big games do not often produce exceptionally large make-ups in the Champions League, and the referee is the usually calm Claus Bo Larsen. In spread betting terms, it is debatable whether expectations should be any higher than 38.

Think back over recent winners of the Champions League and then answer these questions. Were the winners always the best team in Europe that season? No. Were they always one of the very best? Nearly always, yes.

Not much separates the top few clubs on the continent. Arguably, a list of the leading contenders for this season's competition in order of merit would go something like this: Barcelona, Manchester United, Chelsea, Real Madrid, Liverpool, Inter, Arsenal, Juventus, Milan and Bayern Munich.

In spread betting terms, there is probably less than half a goal separating all of them. Even tonight, the action might be a bit more competitive than some people anticipate when Juventus entertain more lowly Bordeaux.

**Recommendation**

**Bordeaux +1 on Asian handicap**
1pt 1.85 *Bet365*
▶▶*Asian handicaps explained, RPSPORT page 88*

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# GROUP B

## BESIKTAS v MANCHESTER UNITED

SKY SPORTS 2 7.45pm

# In-form United strong favourites in Istanbul

By Dan Childs

MANCHESTER UNITED have won on only one of their last four visits to Istanbul but layers fully expect them to account for Turkish champions Besiktas in tonight's Group B clash at the Inonu Stadium.

The Red Devils were trimmed from a best-priced 8-13 to 4-7 for an away victory after producing an excellent performance in Saturday's 3-1 triumph over Tottenham at White Hart Lane.

The manner of United's success over Spurs – they controlled possession for long periods, and looked comfortable after being reduced to ten men – will have gone a long way towards answering the club's critics.

But, with the start of the Champions League and a Manchester derby following hot on the heels of their north London victory, there is no time for complacency.

Sir Alex Ferguson will almost certainly tinker with his team selection as he aims to keep key players fresh for forthcoming battles but he will be wary of giving too much respect to tonight's opponents.

Besiktas fulfilled the role of whipping boys when they suffered an 8-0 defeat to Liverpool in November 2007 – their last Champions League match against English opposition.

But the team are a completely different proposition in front of their passionate home supporters.

Their 2007 Champions League campaign featured impressive home victories over Liverpool and Marseille (both 2-1).

And, having finished ten points ahead of traditional Turkish heavyweights Fenerbahce and Galatasaray in last season's domestic title race, they are clearly heading in the right direction.

If Besiktas were to take anything away from this evening's match, United would have slight concerns over their qualification propects.

It is less than four years since United failed to qualify from an innocuous looking section featuring Villarreal, Lille, and Benfica. And, with free-scoring Germans Wolfsburg and dangerous Russians CSKA Moscow also housed in Group B, there is plenty of work to be done in the current qualification process.

## MATCH BETTING

| | BET365 | BETFRED | BLUE SQ | BOYLE | CORAL | HILLS | LADS | POWER | S JMS | TOTE | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Besiktas | **13-2** | 9-2 | 11-2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 11-2 | 9-2 | 6 | 5 |
| Man Utd | 8-15 | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | 1-2 | **4-7** | **4-7** | **4-7** | 1-2 | **4-7** |
| Draw | 11-4 | 12-5 | 13-5 | 14-5 | 5-2 | 12-5 | 11-4 | 13-5 | 13-5 | **3** | 5-2 |

Best-price percentage: 102

## MATCH MARKETS

### Total goals

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Over 2.5 | 21-20 | Evs | Evs | Evs | - | - | **28-25** | Evs | Evs | Evs | Evs |
| Under 2.5 | 3-4 | 8-11 | 8-11 | 8-11 | - | - | **19-25** | 8-11 | 8-11 | 8-11 | 8-11 |

### Double result

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bes-Bes | **14** | 10 | 10 | 11 | 17-2 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| Bes-Draw | **16** | **16** | 14 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 14 | **16** | 14 | **16** | 13 |
| Bes-Man U | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 25 | **28** |
| Draw-Bes | **16** | 11 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| Draw-Draw | 9-2 | 9-2 | 9-2 | **11-2** | 5 | 4 | 9-2 | 4 | 9-2 | 9-2 | 5 |
| Draw-Man U | 10-3 | 3 | 10-3 | 3 | 10-3 | 3 | 7-2 | 3 | 10-3 | 3 | **4** |
| Man U-Bes | 66 | 33 | 40 | 40 | 33 | 40 | 28 | **75** | 33 | 33 | 40 |
| Man U-Draw | **16** | 12 | 14 | 14 | **16** | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Man U-Man U | 5-4 | 5-4 | 11-8 | **7-5** | 11-8 | 6-5 | 11-8 | 11-8 | 11-8 | Evs | **7-5** |

### Correct score

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Besiktas 1-0 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 9 | **13** | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| Besiktas 2-0 | 33 | 20 | 25 | 33 | 20 | 33 | 25 | **40** | 25 | 28 | 25 |
| Besiktas 2-1 | **22** | 18 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 18 |
| Besiktas 3-0 | 100 | 80 | 100 | 100 | 80 | 100 | 100 | **175** | 100 | 66 | 80 |
| Besiktas 3-1 | **80** | **80** | 50 | 50 | **80** | 66 | 66 | **80** | **80** | 50 | 66 |
| Besiktas 3-2 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 50 | 66 | 66 | 66 | **75** | 66 | 66 | 50 |
| Man Utd 1-0 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **11-2** | 5 | 9-2 | 5 | 9-2 | 5 | **11-2** | 5 |
| Man Utd 2-0 | 11-2 | **6** | 11-2 | 11-2 | 5 | 5 | 11-2 | 11-2 | 11-2 | 5 | 11-2 |
| Man Utd 2-1 | 13-2 | 7 | **15-2** | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Man Utd 3-0 | 10 | 10 | **11** | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| Man Utd 3-1 | 11 | 10 | **12** | **12** | 11 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| Man Utd 3-2 | 28 | 25 | 28 | 28 | **33** | 28 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 28 |
| Man Utd 4-0 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 28 | 22 | **33** | 20 | 28 | 22 | 28 |
| Man Utd 4-1 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | **28** | 25 | 25 | 18 | 25 |
| Man Utd 4-2 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 40 | **66** | 40 | 50 | 50 |
| No goalscorer | 7 | 6 | 7 | 17-2 | 7 | 15-2 | 7 | 17-2 | 8 | **9** | 13-2 |
| Draw 1-1 | **13-2** | 11-2 | 11-2 | **13-2** | 6 | 6 | 11-2 | 6 | 11-2 | 11-2 | 11-2 |
| Draw 2-2 | **18** | 14 | 16 | 16 | **18** | 16 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 16 |
| Draw 3-3 | 66 | 66 | 50 | 80 | **100** | 80 | 66 | **100** | 66 | 66 | 80 |

### First goalscorer

| | B365 | Bfred | Bl Sq | Boyle | Coral | Hills | Lads | Power | S Jms | Tote | VC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rooney M | 4 | 7-2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | **9-2** | 7-2 | 4 | 7-2 | 4 | 4 |
| Owen M | 9-2 | 4 | 5 | 9-2 | 5 | **11-2** | 9-2 | 5 | 9-2 | 9-2 | 5 |
| Berbatov M | 5 | 9-2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | **11-2** | 9-2 | 5 | 5 | **11-2** | 5 |
| Macheda M | **15-2** | 11-2 | 13-2 | 11-2 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 13-2 | 11-2 | 7 |
| Kahveci B | **10** | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | **10** | 9 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Bobo B | **10** | 7 | **10** | 9 | - | **10** | **10** | 9 | 8 | **10** | 9 |
| Nobre B | - | 15-2 | **10** | **10** | 8 | 9 | **10** | **10** | 9 | **10** | **10** |
| Nani M | 10 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 9 | **11** | 10 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Holosko B | 10 | 8 | **11** | 8 | 15-2 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Giggs M | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 9 | **11** | 10 | 10 | **11** | 8 | **11** |
| Valencia M | 9 | 12 | 12 | 10 | **14** | 12 | **14** | 12 | 11 | 10 | 12 |
| Park M | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | **14** | **14** | **14** | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Scholes M | **16** | 12 | 14 | 14 | **16** | 14 | **16** | 14 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Carrick M | 12 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 | **18** | 16 | 14 | 16 |
| Fletcher M | 16 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 16 | 16 | **18** | 16 | 16 | **18** |
| Tello B | - | **18** | **18** | 16 | 16 | 12 | **18** | **18** | 16 | 16 | **18** |
| Gibson M | **20** | **20** | - | 18 | **20** | - | 16 | **20** | **20** | 18 | - |
| Zengin B | - | 12 | **22** | - | - | 20 | - | 18 | 16 | - | 16 |
| Anderson M | **22** | 16 | 18 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 18 |
| Vidic M | 16 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 16 | 20 | **25** | 18 | 20 |
| Dag B | **33** | 20 | 20 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 25 | 25 |
| Ozkan B | **33** | 16 | 25 | - | 20 | 20 | 18 | 25 | 18 | - | 20 |
| O'Shea M | 25 | 25 | 25 | **33** | 25 | **33** | 25 | **33** | **33** | **33** | - |
| Ferdinand M | **33** | **33** | **33** | 28 | **33** | - | 25 | **33** | **33** | 28 | **33** |
| Rafael M | **33** | 28 | **33** | **33** | **33** | **33** | **33** | **33** | - | **33** | 28 |
| Sivok B | 25 | 25 | **40** | 28 | 28 | 25 | 18 | 33 | 33 | 28 | 28 |
| Fabio M | 25 | - | 28 | - | 33 | **40** | 28 | 33 | - | 33 | - |
| Fink B | **40** | 22 | 28 | 22 | 20 | 20 | 33 | 28 | 22 | 22 | 25 |
| Inceman B | **40** | 20 | - | 33 | 33 | 25 | 18 | 28 | 22 | 33 | 28 |
| Evans M | 25 | 25 | 33 | 33 | 33 | **40** | 33 | 33 | 28 | 33 | 28 |
| Ernst B | **40** | 20 | - | 33 | **40** | 33 | 25 | 33 | 22 | 33 | 25 |
| Evra M | **40** | 33 | 33 | **40** | 25 | **40** | 33 | **40** | 28 | **40** | 33 |
| Brown M | 40 | 33 | 40 | 40 | 40 | **50** | 33 | 40 | 15-2 | 40 | 40 |
| Kas B | 50 | **66** | 50 | 25 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 40 |
| No goalscorer | 7 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 13-2 | 15-2 | 7 | 7 | 8 | **9** | 13-2 |

Each-way 1/3 1,2,3,4,5 (Boyle, Stan James & VC win only; Blue Sq 1/3 1,2,3,4; Tote 1/3 1,2,3,4,5,6,7; Bet365 & Coral 1/3 on unlimited scorers.) Others on request



*Wayne Rooney has been in top form in the Premier League*

## DAN CHILDS'S VERDICT

# Red Devils to have the edge

**MANCHESTER UNITED have been chalked up as red-hot 2-5 favourites to win Group B but they could be made to work hard for a victory over section makeweights Besiktas in the Turkish capital.**

**Trips to Istanbul no longer strike fear into the hearts of the leading English clubs but it is worth remembering that Liverpool and Chelsea have suffered Champions League defeats in the city in the last two years.**

**Besiktas will be playing at a ground at which they are used to winning – 13 of their last 18 league matches at the Inono Stadium have been won by the hosts.**

**But they will be a shade concerned by their sloppy start to the defence of their title.**

**Mustafa Denizli's charges have won only one of their five league games this season and they were trounced 3-0 in Saturday's away fixture against Galatasaray.**

**Denizli will be looking for a much more disciplined performance from his players tonight.**

**But it will be extremely difficult for his defence to contain a supremely confident Wayne Rooney.**

**The England striker's power, pace and skill were key aspects in United's 3-1 victory at Tottenham. And, if the 23-year-old continues his scoring streak tonight – he has notched four goals in three games – United will be well on their way to clinching the three points.**

### Recommendation

**Manchester Utd to win 1-0**
0.5pt 11-2 *Boylesports, Totesport*

## PROBABLE LINE-UPS

**BESIKTAS**

1 **Rustu Recber** 36 1 0 0 0

4 **Ibrahim Kas** 22 2 0 0 0 — 27 **Matteo Ferrari** 29 5 0 1 0 — 6 **Tomas Sivok** 26 5 0 3 0 — 3 **Ismail Koybasi** 20 3(1) 0 0 0

28 **Fabain Ernst** 30 5 0 0 0

17 **Ekrem Dag** 28 1(1) 0 0 0 — 14 **Rodrigo Tello** 29 4 1 1 0 — 29 **Simsek Yusuf** 34 2 0 0 0 — 15 **Rodrigo Tabato** 28 1 0 0 0

8 **Nihat Kahveci** 29 4(1) 0 0 0

**MAN UTD**

9 **Dimitar Berbatov** 28 3(2) 1 0 0 — 10 **Wayne Rooney*** 23 5 5 2 0

17 **Nani** 22 3(1) 1 0 0 — 16 **Michael Carrick** 28 2(1) 0 0 0 — 8 **Anderson** 21 2 1 0 0 — 24 **Darren Fletcher** 25 4 0 1 0

3 **Patrice Evra** 28 5 0 2 0 — 5 **Rio Ferdinand** 30 1 0 0 0 — 15 **Nemanja Vidic** 27 3 0 1 0 — 2 **Gary Neville** 34 1(1) 0 0 0

12 **Ben Foster** 26 5 0 0 0

Figures relate to age, league appearances (as sub), goals, yellow and red cards. *Possible pen taker

## OTHER PLAYERS

### Besiktas

| Player | Age | App | G | Y | R |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 **Bobo** | 24 | 1(2) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 **Filip Holosko** | 25 | 3(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 **Michael Fink** | 27 | 4(1) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 **Ugor Inceman** | 28 | 1(3) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 21 **Serdar Ozkan** | 22 | 2(1) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 44 **Erhan Guven** | 27 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

### Man Utd

| Player | Age | App | G | Y | R |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 **Antonio Valencia** | 24 | 3(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 **Michael Owen** | 29 | 1(2) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 **Jonny Evans** | 21 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 **Fabio Da Silva** | 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 **Ryan Giggs** | 35 | 3(1) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 **Paul Scholes** | 34 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

## LAST FOUR MATCHES

### Besiktas

**Turkey**
**Galatasaray** ..... (1) **3-0** (0) .....**Besiktas**
Sarp pen 4
Baros 65, 82
*Shirts 46, Bookings 70 (30/40)*

**Turkey**
**Besiktas** ..... (0) **0-0** (0) ..**Gaziantepspor**
*Bookings 50 (10/40)*

**Turkey**
**G'birligi Ankara**.. (0) **0-0** (0) .....**Besiktas**
*Bookings 20 (0/20)*

**Turkey**
**Besiktas** ..... (0) **2-0** (0).....**Antalyaspor**
Holosko 73
Tello 78
*Shirts 37, Bookings 10 (0/10)*

### Man Utd

**Premier League**
**Tottenham** ..... (1) **1-3** (2) .....**Man Utd**
Defoe 1 — Giggs 25, Anderson 41, Rooney 78
*Shirts 47 (18/29), Corners 12 (3/9), Bookings 40 (30/10)*

**Premier League**
**Man Utd**..... (0) **2-1** (1) .....**Arsenal**
Rooney pen 59 — Arshavin 40
Diaby og 64
*Shirts 35 (10/25), Bookings 90 (30/60)*

**Premier League**
**Wigan** ..... (0) **0-5** (0) .....**Man Utd**
Rooney 56, 65
Berbatov 58
Owen 85, Nani 90
*Shirts 53, Corners 8 (3/5), Bookings 40 (20/20)*

**Premier League**
**Burnley** ..... (1) **1-0** (0) .....**Man Utd**
Blake 19
*Shirts 20, Corners 13 (1/12), Bookings 30 (20/10)*

## 2009-10 STATS

| Besiktas | | Manchester Utd |
|---|---|---|
| 6 | Points from last five league games | 12 |
| 19 | Points from last ten league games | 25 |
| WLWWWDWWWd | Last ten homes/aways (latest on right) | WWLWWWWLWW |
| 1.0 | Average goals scored in home/away league games | 2.6 |
| 0.0 | Average goals conceded in home/away league games | 0.6 |
| n/a | Average corners gained | 7.8 |
| n/a | Average corners conceded | 1.8 |
| n/a | Average corners gained home/away | 8.6 |
| n/a | Average corners conceded home/away | 2.3 |
| 16.0 | Average bookings points (10 per yellow, 25 per red) | 16.0 |

## BOOKINGS

| Referee/Team | Games | Yellows | Reds | Average Make-up |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nicola Rizzoli (Ita) | 2 | 6 | 0 | 30.0 |
| Besiktas | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Man Utd | 13 | 14 | 1 | 12.7 |

Statistics refer to last two Champions League competitions

## KEY STAT

**Manchester United have kept clean sheets in 13 of their last 19 Champions League matches**

## TEAM NEWS

### Besiktas

Besiktas are bolstered by the recoveries of forwards Nihat (hamstring) and Bobo (knee), midfielder Yusuf (calf) and goalkeeper Rustu (stomach), who all took part in Saturday's 3-0 loss at Galatasaray. Central defender Ibrahim Toroman (heel) is a definite absentee.

### Manchester United

Rio Ferdinand returned to the starting line-up at Tottenham and he should continue his partnership with Nemanja Vidic at the heart of the defence. Edwin van der Sar (broken finger), Owen Hargreaves (knee), Rafael (shoulder) and Gabriel Obertan (calf) are all ruled out but Gary Neville (groin) may return.

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| Arsenal | 11.5 | 12 |
| Inter Milan | 12.5 | 13 |
| Liverpool | 13 | 14 |
| Juventus | 24 | 26 |
| Bayern Munich | 29 | 33 |
| AC Milan | 43 | 47 |

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