

Falcons down  
Eagles

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Atletico stroll  
past Galatasaray

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LYME DISEASE NEVER FAR FROM THOUGHTS OF WNBA STAR Page 17



MADRID: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo fights for the ball against Shakhtar's Fred (right) during a Group A Champions League soccer match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AP

## RONALDO TREBLE EASES REAL PAST SHAKHTAR

**MADRID:** Cristiano Ronaldo moved in front of Lionel Messi as the top goalscorer in Champions League history with a hat-trick as Real Madrid opened their European campaign with a 4-0 win over 10-man Shakhtar Donetsk yesterday.

Ronaldo scored twice from the penalty spot before heading home to complete his second hat-trick in four days and take his tally in the competition to 80, three ahead of his Barcelona rival.

Karim Benzema had opened the scoring thanks to a massive error from goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov in the first-half before Taras Stepanenko was sent-off for a second bookable offence just five minutes into the second period.

However, the victory was soured by an injury to Gareth Bale as the Welshman limped off suffering from a calf muscle problem after just half an hour.

"Bale had a spasm in his calf muscle," said Madrid boss

Rafael Benitez. "We must wait a day or two to see how serious it is. He had a similar issue last year." Shakhtar boss Mircea Lucescu, meanwhile, was outraged at the decisions of referee Ivan Bebek.

"During the first 30 minutes we had quite good control, we created some opportunities. The mistake (for the first goal) proved very dear for us," he said.

"In the second-half we had a player sent-off in Stepanenko. I want them to respect us, but unfortunately during these matches against the great teams of Europe almost the same thing has happened." Shakhtar have been displaced from their home city of Donetsk for over a year due to the unstable political situation in Ukraine and weakened by the sales of Douglas Costa and Luiz Adriano since reaching the last 16 last season.

Yet, they contained Madrid reasonably well before the

floodgates opened after Stepanenko's dismissal. Bale saw an audacious back-heeled effort with his weaker right foot held by Pyatov before Benzema somehow contrived to blast over with the goal at his mercy after rounding the Ukrainian keeper. The hosts then suffered a blow as the lively Bale went down holding his left calf and hobbled off to be replaced by Mateo Kovacic.

However, the Croatian midfielder hadn't yet been introduced when Pyatov undid all of Shakhtar's previous good work by dropping a cross at Benzema's feet to allow the French international to sweep home the opener into an empty net.

The visitors' uphill task became almost impossible when Stepanenko was shown a second yellow card for a needless lunge on Sergio Ramos five minutes into the second-half.

Rafael Benitez's men were then handed another gift, this

time by the referee, who pointed to the spot despite Ronaldo's effort clearly coming off the back of Shakhtar captain Darijo Srna.

Ronaldo wasn't complaining as he dispatched the penalty confidently to move out on his own as the top goalscorer in the history of the competition.

The World Player of the Year scored again from the spot moments later for another handball as this time Marcio Azevedo was penalised. Ronaldo had struck five times during the 6-0 rout of Espanyol at the weekend and his goal glut after a slow start to the campaign continued nine minutes from time when he headed into an unguarded net after Pyatov had made a fine initial save from Marcelo. The Portuguese is now also just two goals away from equalling club legend Raul's record as Madrid's all-time leading scorer. — AFP

## BROKEN LEG FOR SHAW AS UNITED SUFFER NIGHTMARE

**EINDHOVEN:** Manchester United saw their Champions League return turn into a nightmare yesterday as they not only fell 2-1 against PSV Eindhoven but also lost full-back Luke Shaw with a double fracture of the leg in their Group B opener.

Despite an opening goal by winger Memphis Depay against his former club, United—who dominated throughout—failed to capitalise on their chances and goals from Hector Moreno and Luciano Narsingh gave the hosts victory. However, worse than the defeat was the injury to Shaw, which came just 15 minutes into the match following a crunching Moreno tackle, leaving the England international with a double fracture that requires an operation when he returns to Manchester and could put his participation at Euro 2016 next summer in jeopardy.

Shaw was wheeled off the field breathing through an oxygen mask to loud applause from PSV's fans before being substituted by Marcos Rojo for his first appearance of the season.

Around half an hour later, though, Shaw took to Twitter to vow that he would make a full recovery. "Thank you everyone for your messages, words can't describe how gutted I am, my road to recovery starts now, I will come back stronger," he tweeted.

The result continued United manager Louis Van Gaal's poor record at the Philips Stadium with Ajax, Barcelona, AZ Alkmaar and now with United, winning just twice in 11 attempts.

The former Netherlands coach, who took over the reins at Old Trafford last year, saw his run of bad luck continue in the southern Dutch city with PSV tenaciously clinging on to a narrow lead for an historic win. The 21-year-old Depay struck in the 41st minute when fellow Dutchman Daley Blind slid him in to slice past two PSV defenders and then find the back of PSV goalkeeper Jeroen Zoet's net with a crisp left-foot finish.

As promised, Depay celebrated his goal in front the fans who used to revere him, but United's fortunes were short-lived when PSV struck back just before half-time.

Mexico defender Moreno's header from a Maxime Lestienne corner glanced off Blind's head, before beating David de Gea's and Ashley Young on the line.

PSV laid their cards on the table in the second half, with right wing Luciano Narsingh heading in a beautifully-timed Lestienne cross past De Gea to find the left hand corner of the United goal.

Although Depay impressed throughout the first half, United were rail-roaded by PSV's dogged defence.



NETHERLANDS: PSV's Hector Moreno (down) tackles Manchester United's Luke Shaw (up) during the Champions League Group B soccer match. — AP

PSV's defence was up against the wall but impressed with their rigorous resistance, while United's French multi-million pound signing Anthony Martial several times failed to capitalise in front of goal.

Despite a furious United onslaught in the second half, led by Young, PSV's defensive formation held firm to open their account with maximum points.

The Philips Stadium erupted in huge celebrations at the final whistle with PSV celebrating a successful return to the competition for the first time since the 2008/09 season. It was also PSV's first Champions League victory over United since 2000. — AFP

## JUVENTUS STOP ROT WITH COMEBACK WIN OVER CITY

**MANCHESTER:** Italian champions Juventus cast their early-season woes aside by beating in-form Manchester City 2-1 in their opening Champions League Group D fixture at the Etihad Stadium yesterday.

Last season's beaten finalists, Juve have lost two and drawn one of their first three Serie A games and went behind in the 57th minute when Vincent Kompany pressured Giorgio Chiellini into scoring an own goal. The Juventus centre-back protested with justification that he had been fouled, but his side drew level 13 minutes later through Mario Mandzukic before Alvaro Morata curled home a fine 81st-minute winner.

After five straight wins in the Premier League, it was a first setback of the season for Manuel Pellegrini's City, whose home form has bedevilled them in their unsuccessful attempts to progress beyond this tournament's last 16 in the last four seasons. They have won only three of their last 12 home games in the competition and find themselves on the back foot already ahead of their next match away to Borussia Moenchengladbach on September 30.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri admitted on the eve of the game that his side had been scarred by their dismal domestic form and he will have been alarmed to see their defences breached inside two minutes. Fernandinho drove forward from midfield and slipped a pass into the path of Raheem Sterling, whose low shot was blocked by Gianluigi Buffon.

Both sides were largely reduced to pot shots in the first period, however, Fernandinho going closest for City with a wicked 25-yard effort that drew a collective intake of breath from the home fans.

The hosts spent the first part of the second period inside their own half, but in the

57th minute they broke through in circumstances that left Juventus fuming at Slovenian referee Damir Skomina.

David Silva's left-wing corner appeared to have been headed in by Kompany, but replays revealed that the Belgian had in fact pressured Chiellini into heading the ball into his own net.

Suddenly Juve were all at sea, Buffon producing a superb double-save to thwart first Sterling and then Silva, before beating away an effort from Wilfried Bony.

The action quickly switched to the other box and Buffon's opposite number Joe Hart was obliged to parry a scuffed shot from Stefano Sturaro.

It had been a quiet night for former Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba, who was jeered after slicing a volley wide, but in the 70th minute he created the equaliser with a glorious, arcing left-wing cross that the airborne Mandzukic touched home.

After five Premier League clean sheets, it was the first goal City had conceded this season. City had been readying £54 million (\$83.3 million, 73.5 million euros) record signing Kevin De Bruyne and he came on for Sterling, before Kompany was unexpectedly taken off, with Nicolas Otamendi going on for his debut. Kompany wore a glum expression as he took his seat on the bench and his mood was not improved when the ball bounced off Aleksandar Kolarov and into the path of Morata, who curled a superb left-foot shot in off the left-hand post.

Sergio Aguero, surprisingly named on the bench after Pellegrini had ruled him out of the game with a knee injury, made a late entrance, but the closest City came to an equaliser was a Yaya Toure curler that Buffon acrobatically palmed behind. — AFP