

Arsenal FC - AS Roma

MATCH PRESS KIT

Arsenal Stadium, London

Tuesday 24 February 2009 - 20.45CET

Matchday 7 - First knockout round, first leg



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

Match background

AS Roma will be looking to make it third time lucky when they visit England for the first leg of their first knockout round tie against Arsenal FC.

- Luciano Spalletti's side saw their UEFA Champions League hopes founder on English soil in the two previous campaigns – with successive quarter-final losses to Manchester United FC – but they will seek a change of fortune against the Gunners and can draw confidence from the fact they pipped another London club, Chelsea FC, to first place in their section in the group stage.
- Roma advanced to the last 16 for the third consecutive campaign as winners of Group A with a record of W4 D0 L2. Although they lost 1-0 at Chelsea, they took maximum points from their two other away fixtures at FC Girondins de Bordeaux and CFR 1907 Cluj with two 3-1 wins.
- Arsenal, for their part, finished second behind FC Porto in Group G with a record of W3 D2 L1. Yet Arsène Wenger's men are unlikely to enter the tie with any sense of inferiority given their 22-match unbeaten run at home in the UEFA Champions League – a sequence that includes seven victories and five draws at the Arsenal Stadium, their home since 2006/07.
- That record may make worrying reading for fans of a Roma side who have suffered five consecutive defeats on English soil over the past four seasons.
- Overall, the Giallorossi have registered just one win and eight reverses in 12 matches in England, although they did emerge with a 1-1 draw from their one previous visit to north London to face Arsenal in the second group stage of the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League. That sole victory came at Liverpool FC in the UEFA Cup fourth round second leg on 22 February 2001, but was not enough to keep Roma in the competition after a 2-0 defeat at home.
- An Antonio Cassano strike in first-half stoppage time earned Roma a share of the spoils that evening at Highbury, after Patrick Vieira's 12th-minute header for the hosts.
- The full lineups for that fixture on 11 March 2003 were:
Arsenal: David Seaman, Lauren (Nwankwo Kanu), Martin Keown, Pascal Cygan, Giovanni van Bronckhorst, Sylvain Wiltord (Fredrik Ljungberg), Gilberto Silva, Patrick Vieira, Robert Pirès, Dennis Bergkamp (Francis Jeffers), Thierry Henry.
Roma: Ivan Pelizzoli, Christian Panucci, Aldair, Walter Samuel, Vincent Candela, Cafu, Emerson, Damiano Tommasi, Francisco Lima, Francesco Totti, Antonio Cassano (Vincenzo Montella).



- Arsenal had opened that phase of the 2002/03 competition by beating Roma 3-1 at the Stadio Olimpico through a Thierry Henry hat-trick, yet neither they nor Fabio Capello's Roma side managed to make it through to the last eight.
- Arsenal's home record against Italian opposition is W5 D4 L2. Moreover, they have an impressive record of five successes in six previous two-legged encounters against Serie A sides, including last season's 2-0 aggregate triumph against AC Milan at this stage of the UEFA Champions League.
- The Gunners' most famous victory against an Italian outfit came when they defeated Parma FC 1-0 in the final of the 1993/94 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup. However, they lost the following season's UEFA Super Cup 2-0 on aggregate to Milan.
- Roma have won three and lost five of their previous eight two-legged ties against English teams.
- Nobody associated with the Giallorossi will want reminding of their 7-1 defeat by Manchester United in the 2006/07 UEFA Champions League quarter-final at Old Trafford, and they also lost twice at the same ground last season, going down 1-0 in the group stage and again in the last eight.
- Roma may draw some encouragement from their most recent match against Premier League opposition – their 3-1 defeat of Chelsea at the Stadio Olimpico on 4 November.
- As coach of AS Monaco FC, Wenger got the better of Roma in the quarter-finals of the 1991/92 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, his team prevailing 1-0 at home after a stalemate in the Italian capital. Monaco went on to reach the final where they lost to Werder Bremen.
- That was Wenger's only success against Serie A opposition during his time at Monaco, with whom he suffered semi-final defeats against UC Sampdoria in the 1989/90 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and Milan in the 1993/94 UEFA Champions League.
- Arsenal defender Mikaël Silvestre was in the Manchester United side that defeated Roma 1-0 in the second leg of their 2007/08 quarter-final at Old Trafford.
- Roma's Norway left-back John Arne Riise appeared as a late substitute in former club Liverpool FC's 4-2 defeat of Arsenal in last season's UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg.
- Overall Riise spent seven seasons with Liverpool prior to moving to Rome last summer. He made 17 appearances and scored two goals against Arsenal, with Liverpool winning four of those games (none in London) and losing eight.
- Roma defender Philippe Mexès appeared in the AJ Auxerre side that won 2-1 at Arsenal in the first group stage of the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League, albeit after a 1-0 home reverse against Wenger's team.
- Roma's long-serving forward Vincenzo Montella scored five goals for Fulham FC during a loan spell with the London club during the second half of the 2006/07 season.
- Roma midfielder Simone Perrotta was born to Italian parents in the town of Ashton-under-Lyme in Great Manchester, the birthplace of England's 1966 FIFA World Cup hero Sir Geoff Hurst.
- The second leg will take place at the Stadio Olimpico on 11 March.

Match facts

Arsenal

UEFA milestones

- Jack Wilshere became the youngest player to represent Arsenal in UEFA club competition when he came on as a substitute in the 1-0 win against FC Dynamo Kyiv on Matchday 5 aged 16 years and 329 days. Wilshere also became the fifth youngest player to appear in the UEFA Champions League, a record held by Celestine Babayaro who was 16 years and 87 days when he started for RSC Anderlecht against FC Steaua București in 1994.
- Mikaël Silvestre's next appearance in the UEFA Champions League will be his 75th.

UEFA Champions League statistics

- Denilson is the only member of the Arsenal squad to have played all eight games in the competition this season, including qualifying. Carlos Vela featured in every group-stage fixture, although only Denilson played every minute.

Disciplinary information

- Robin van Persie's next yellow card will incur a suspension.

Latest domestic information

• Saturday 21 February: Arsenal FC 0-0 Sunderland AFC

Arsenal were held to a draw for the fifth time in six matches in all competitions, and their third successive goalless stalemate in the Premier League. Debutant Andrei Arshavin twice went close early on while Nicklas Bendtner and Van Persie also threatened, before substitute Vela sliced the last opening of the match wide.

• "The team give everything and want to do well; the attitude is very, very good in the final third," said Arsène Wenger. "At the moment we aren't as efficient as we could be for different reasons, sometimes because our game is not vertical enough and sometimes we aren't relaxed enough in our finishing. Our passing sometimes isn't incisive enough."

- Arsenal are unbeaten in 12 Premier League matches, although only five of those have ended in wins.
- Arsenal have not lost since Matchday 6, a run of 13 matches in all competitions.
- Arsenal have drawn eight of their last 13 games starting with the 1-1 draw at Middlesbrough FC on 13 December. However, the problem of not converting draws into wins is not alien to Wenger's side, who were held seven times in ten outings between February and April last season.
- Having failed to score in only one of their last 28 games in all competitions prior to Matchday 4, Arsenal have drawn blanks in nine of their last 23 matches.
- Manuel Almunia and Gaël Clichy – who made his 150th start for Arsenal against Sunderland – are ever-present in the league this season.
- Fifteen of the 25 Premier League goals the Gunners have conceded this season have come in the last 30 minutes of matches.
- Although Arsenal have slipped to fifth in the league, there was better news in the FA Cup, with Wenger's men through to the fifth round after seeing off Plymouth Argyle FC (3-1) and then Cardiff City AFC in a replay following a goalless draw first time around. Eduardo da Silva scored twice on his comeback after a year out as the Gunners won 4-0, although he also picked up a hamstring strain that will rule him out for a fortnight.
- "This was the best day of my life because I've proved I can play football again," said Eduardo, whose career was threatened by the compound fracture of the left fibula and dislocated ankle he suffered at Birmingham City FC on 23 February 2008. He had returned to action in a reserve game on 16 December and made a substitute appearance for Croatia against Romania on 11 February, setting up the decisive goal for Niko Kranjčar in a 2-1 friendly victory.
- In the FA Cup fifth round on 8 March, Arsenal will meet Burnley FC, the second-tier side that ended their League Cup ambitions at the quarter-final stage in December, beating the Gunners 2-0.

UEFA Champions League squad list changes

• In:

Amaury Bischoff
Emmanuel Frimpong
Conor Henderson

• Out:

Francis Coquelin
Rui Fonte (Crystal Palace FC, loan)
Gavin Hoyte (Watford FC, loan)
Henri Lansbury (Scunthorpe United FC, loan)
Abu Ogogo (Barnet FC, loan)
Paul Rodgers (Northampton Town FC, loan)
Jay Simpson (West Bromwich Albion FC, loan)
Rene Steer (Gillingham FC, loan)

- Arshavin agreed a "long-term contract" with Arsenal in January, but is ineligible for the UEFA Champions League as he was ever-present for FC Zenit St. Petersburg in the group stage.

Injury news

- Emmanuel Adebayor – out since 8 February (hamstring)
- Eduardo da Silva – out 23 February 2008 to 16 February (broken leg), and since 16 February (hamstring)
- Cesc Fàbregas – out since 21 December (knee)
- Tomáš Rosický – out since 26 January 2008 (hamstring)
- Mikaël Silvestre – out since 3 January (thigh muscle)
- Theo Walcott – out since 18 November (dislocated shoulder)
- Abou Diaby – out since 31 January (thigh)

• Rosický trained with a football for the first time in over a year at the beginning of February, and Wenger believes he could be back by mid-March. The Czech international has a long-standing problem with his left hamstring, undergoing operations on a tendon injury in May and November.

Miscellaneous

- On 11 February Adebayor was named African Footballer of the Year.
- Arsenal raised over €225,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust on 21 December, the day of their 1-1 draw with Liverpool. Players and directors all contributed a day's wages to the charity, while visiting captain Steven Gerrard also donated a signed shirt for auction.

Roma

UEFA milestones

- None

UEFA Champions League statistics

- Doni, John Arne Riise, Daniele De Rossi and Mirko Vučinić have appeared in all six games in this season's competition, with Doni and De Rossi playing every minute.
- Roma managed 23 shots on target in the group stage, the lowest of the 16 teams in the first knockout round.
- The Italian club won 20 corners, fewer than any other side in the last 16.

Disciplinary information

- De Rossi will incur a suspension with his next yellow card.

Latest domestic information

• Sunday 22 February: AS Roma 1-0 AC Siena (Taddei 63)

Rodrigo Taddei scored the only goal against his former club as Roma bounced back from a shock 3-0 defeat by Atalanta BC last time out. Following a flat first half, the Giallorossi upped the tempo after the break and took the lead when Taddei curled in with his right foot. Siena reacted well, though, Doni making two good saves as Roma held on.

• Luciano Spalletti said: "We did not give Siena many chances while their goalkeeper was tested on several occasions. We played well in the second half, showing great desire, and travel to London knowing that we are up against tough opponents. But I'm sure my players will give their all, like they did today."

• Shorn of De Rossi and Simone Perrotta through suspension, Spalletti fielded right-back Marco Motta in midfield alongside David Pizarro and Matteo Brighi. Vučinić, who is recovering from a knee injury, was not risked so Júlio Baptista and Taddei played just behind Francesco Totti in attack. Riise returned at left-back after a three-week injury layoff.

• Juan (thigh) and Cicinho (knee) were both withdrawn in the second half with knocks, allowing Souleymane Diamoutene and Filipe to come on for their club debuts.

• Taddei became the 14th different player to score for Roma in Serie A this term when he opened his account against Siena.

• Thirteenth when they rounded off their group-stage campaign with victory against FC Girondins de Bordeaux, Roma have continued to pick teams off in Serie A ever since, seven wins in eleven outings helping them move into contention for a top-four spot. Their aspirations of retaining the Coppa Italia are over, however, after a 2-1 quarter-final defeat by FC Internazionale Milano on 21 January.

• Starting with the 3-1 victory against Chelsea FC on 4 November, Roma have won 15 of their last 21 games in all competitions.

- The Giallorossi's defeat at Atalanta on 15 February was their eighth Serie A reverse this term, double what they suffered in the whole of last season when they finished runners-up to Inter.
- Roma had to wait until 23 November for their first Serie A away win in seven attempts this season, beating US Lecce 3-0. Spalletti's team lost each of the first five games on their travels, and their overall record away from home reads: four wins, seven losses and two draws.
- Roma have shipped 31 goals already this season, only six fewer than they conceded in the whole of last term. They have been at their most vulnerable in the 15 minutes either side of half-time, shipping 20 goals between the 30-minute and hour marks.
- Totti is eleventh in Serie A's all-time leading scorers' list with 171 goals, three fewer than former Giallorossi striker Amedeo Amadei.

Injury news

- Cicinho – out 8-21 February (knee)
- John Arne Riise – out 28 January to 11 February (knee)
- Marco Cassetti – out since 28 January (thigh)
- Jérémy Menez – out since 3 February (thigh)
- Max Tonetto – out 26 November to 14 January, and 14 January to 1 February (achilles)
- Riise and Cicinho both returned against Siena after knee injuries. The latter sustained his as he scored the opener in the 3-0 victory against Genoa CFC, while Riise was injured against US Città di Palermo, a game in which yet another full-back, Cassetti, tore a right thigh muscle, ruling him out for two to three months.

UEFA Champions League squad list changes

• In:

Souleymane Diamoutene (US Lecce, on loan)
Marco Motta (Udinese Calcio, on loan)

• Out:

Christian Panucci

- Italy Under-21 captain Motta has joined Roma on loan until the end of the season, making his debut in the Genoa victory on 8 February. The Giallorossi have the option of signing him on a permanent basis in the summer for €7m, while €3m will secure Diamoutene's long-term services.
- Stefano Okaka Chuka has been loaned out to Serie B side Brescia Calcio.

Miscellaneous

- Five Roma players turned out at the Arsenal Stadium on 10 February for a friendly international between Brazil and FIFA World Cup holders Italy. Juan and former Gunner Júlio Baptista both appeared for the South American side, 2-0 victors, while Alberto Aquilani, De Rossi and Simone Perrotta featured for the Azzurri.
- In January Vučinić was named Montenegrin Player of the Year for the third time in a row, while De Rossi finished runner-up to Alessandro Del Piero as Italian Player of the Year.
- On 16 February Rome hosted a ceremony to announce that ticket sales for the 2009 UEFA Champions League final will begin on 2 March – exclusively on uefa.com. The showpiece will take place at the Stadio Olimpico on Wednesday 27 May.

Squad list

Arsenal

No.	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Manuel Almunia	ESP	19.05.1977	31	-	2	-	5	-	26	-	20	-	25	-
21	Łukasz Fabiański	POL	18.04.1985	23	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	9	-
24	Vito Mannone	ITA	02.03.1988	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
53	Wojciech Szczyński	POL	18.04.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
3	Bacary Sagna	FRA	14.02.1983	26	-	2	-	2	-	24	-	9	-	33	-
5	Kolo Touré	CIV	19.03.1981	27	-	-	-	3	-	18	-	55	2	59	2
10	William Gallas	FRA	17.08.1977	31	-	2	2	4	1	20	2	54	3	71	5
18	Mikaël Silvestre	FRA	09.08.1977	31	-	-	-	4	-	10	1	74	2	80	2
20	Johan Djourou	SUI	18.01.1987	22	-	2	-	4	-	10	-	7	-	11	-
22	Gaël Clichy	FRA	26.07.1985	23	-	2	-	5	-	26	1	26	-	30	-
27	Emmanuel Eboué	CIV	04.06.1983	25	-	2	-	4	-	19	1	28	1	40	1
34	Kyle Bartley	ENG	22.05.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Thomas Cruise	ENG	09.03.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	Jay Thomas	ENG	27.12.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
2	Abou Diaby	FRA	11.05.1986	22	-	-	-	3	1	15	1	11	3	16	3
4	Cesc Fàbregas	ESP	04.05.1987	21	-	1	-	5	-	15	1	39	6	44	10
7	Tomáš Rosický	CZE	04.10.1980	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	9	59	10
8	Samir Nasri	FRA	26.06.1987	21	-	1	1	3	-	21	5	7	-	32	2
15	Denilson	BRA	16.02.1988	21	-	2	-	6	-	25	3	10	-	13	-
16	Aaron Ramsey	WAL	26.12.1990	18	-	1	-	4	1	6	-	4	1	5	1
17	Alexandre Song	CMR	09.09.1987	21	-	1	-	5	1	21	-	10	1	12	1
19	Jack Wilshere	ENG	01.01.1992	17	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	2	-
28	Amaury Bischoff	FRA	31.03.1987	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
37	James Dunne	ENG	18.09.1989	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	Kieran Gibbs	ENG	26.09.1989	19	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
43	Fran Mérida	ESP	04.03.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
47	Mark Randall	ENG	28.09.1989	19	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
56	Emmanuel Frimpong	ENG	10.01.1992	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
57	Conor Henderson	ENG	08.09.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
9	Eduardo	CRO	25.02.1983	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	25	10
11	Robin van Persie	NED	06.08.1983	25	*	2	-	4	2	22	9	30	8	46	9
12	Carlos Vela	MEX	01.03.1989	19	-	-	-	6	-	10	-	6	-	6	-
14	Theo Walcott	ENG	16.03.1989	19	-	2	1	3	1	13	1	16	3	20	4
25	Emmanuel Adebayor	TGO	26.02.1984	24	-	2	1	3	3	22	8	34	7	48	12
26	Nicklas Bendtner	DEN	16.01.1988	21	-	2	1	5	1	19	3	11	3	13	4
44	Rhys Murphy	ENG	06.11.1990	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Sanchez Watt	ENG	14.02.1991	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach															
-	Arsène Wenger	FRA	22.10.1949	59	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	111	-	162	-

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Roma

No.	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
12	Pietro Pipolo	ITA	27.02.1986	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Artur	BRA	25.01.1981	28	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
27	Julio Sergio	BRA	08.11.1978	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Doni	BRA	22.10.1979	29	-	-	-	6	-	22	-	25	-	27	-
Defenders															
3	Cicinho	BRA	24.06.1980	28	-	-	-	5	-	21	1	14	-	14	-
4	Juan	BRA	01.02.1979	30	-	-	-	3	-	20	2	21	4	33	6
5	Philippe Mexès	FRA	30.03.1982	26	-	-	-	5	-	19	1	28	-	51	-
15	Simone Loria	ITA	28.10.1978	30	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	1	-	1	-
17	John Arne Riise	NOR	24.09.1980	28	-	-	-	6	-	19	-	66	3	94	4
21	Souleymane Diamoutene	MLI	30.01.1983	26	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12	-
22	Max Tonetto	ITA	18.11.1974	34	-	-	-	3	-	6	-	18	-	23	-
36	Riccardo Brosco	ITA	03.02.1991	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	Alessandro Crescenzi	ITA	25.09.1991	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
77	Marco Cassetti	ITA	29.05.1977	31	-	-	-	2	-	13	-	17	1	17	1
Midfielders															
7	David Pizarro	CHI	11.09.1979	29	-	-	-	3	-	14	2	26	3	33	3
8	Alberto Aquilani	ITA	07.07.1984	24	-	-	-	3	-	14	2	17	-	25	1
11	Rodrigo Taddei	BRA	06.03.1980	28	-	-	-	5	-	20	1	19	3	29	4
13	Marco Motta	ITA	14.05.1986	22	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	6	-
14	Filipe	BRA	28.05.1987	21	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
16	Daniele De Rossi	ITA	24.07.1983	25	*	-	-	6	-	23	1	29	3	42	4
19	Júlio Baptista	BRA	01.10.1981	27	-	-	-	5	2	18	6	19	4	27	9
20	Simone Perrotta	ITA	17.09.1977	31	-	-	-	5	-	18	2	25	2	35	3
33	Matteo Brighi	ITA	14.02.1981	28	-	-	-	5	3	22	1	7	3	13	3
35	Andrea Bertolacci	ITA	11.01.1991	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	Marco D'Alessandro	ITA	17.02.1991	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
9	Mirko Vučinić	MNE	01.10.1983	25	-	-	-	6	3	18	8	20	8	20	8
10	Francesco Totti	ITA	27.09.1976	32	-	-	-	5	2	14	6	40	13	70	23
23	Vincenzo Montella	ITA	18.06.1974	34	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	23	2	57	13
24	Jérémy Menez	FRA	07.05.1987	21	-	-	-	3	-	19	2	3	-	9	-
89	Stefano Okaka Chuka	ITA	09.08.1989	19	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	7	-
Coach															
-	Luciano Spalletti	ITA	07.03.1959	49	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	26	-	45	-

Head coach

Arsenal FC: Arsène Wenger

Date of birth: 22 October 1949

Nationality: French

Playing career: AS Mutzig, FC Mulhouse, AS Vauban, RC Strasbourg

Coaching career: RC Strasbourg (assistant coach), AS Cannes (assistant coach), AS Nancy-Lorraine, AS Monaco FC, Nagoya Grampus Eight, Arsenal FC

Arsène Wenger was never covered in glory as a player, but has more than made up for that lack of success in his time as a coach, turning Arsenal FC into one of Europe's top teams thanks to his incredible eye for a bargain and an astute footballing mind.

Born in Strasbourg, Wenger worked at RC Strasbourg and AS Cannes before AS Nancy-Lorraine offered him his big break. He impressed sufficiently to be offered the job as coach of AS Monaco FC in 1987. Within a year Monaco scooped the French championship and Wenger the Manager of the Year award. He reportedly turned down France and FC Bayern München to continue at Monaco, although he did subsequently move on to Japan and enjoy tremendous success with Nagoya Grampus Eight.

Appointed by Arsenal in September 1996, Wenger became the first foreigner to win the Premiership in 1998, adding the first of four FA Cup triumphs to boot. The Gunners lost the 2000 UEFA Cup final to Galatasaray SK but claimed another double in 2002, and in 2004 played some thrilling attacking football en route to becoming the first team since 1889 to negotiate a top-flight season unbeaten. Wenger, given the freedom of Islington for his domestic success in north London, nearly topped all of his achievements by taking Arsenal to the 2006 UEFA Champions League final, only for FC Barcelona to come from behind to win 2-1. Arsenal's move to their new stadium later that year was also instigated by Wenger.

AS Roma: Luciano Spalletti

Date of birth: 7 March 1959

Nationality: Italian

Playing career: AC Entella Chiavari 1914, Spezia Calcio 1906, FC Esperia Viareggio, Empoli FC

Coaching career: Empoli FC, UC Sampdoria, Venezia Calcio, Udinese Calcio (twice), Ancona Calcio, AS Roma

A hard-working midfielder in his playing days, Luciano Spalletti has remained faithful to the same mentality since starting his coaching career in 1993/94 at his former club Empoli FC. Spalletti enjoyed immediate success with successive promotions; in his first full season, he led the Tuscan club to Serie B before taking them to Serie A the following campaign. After a good first term in the top flight, Spalletti left to join UC Sampdoria but was sacked 28 games into the 1998/99 season. It was the beginning of a difficult period for Spalletti, who had brief stays at Venezia Calcio, Udinese Calcio and Ancona Calcio before returning to Udinese in summer 2002.

Spalletti steered Udinese to sixth- and seventh-placed finishes before writing his name into the club's history as the first coach to guide Udinese to UEFA Champions League football with a fourth place in 2004/05. That June, however, Spalletti answered a call from AS Roma, who had avoided relegation on the last day of term and had been struggling to fill the gap left by Fabio Capello. He signed a two-year contract.

After a difficult opening to 2005/06, Spalletti managed to gain the faith of the Roma squad. Without injured captain Francesco Totti, Roma set a record of consecutive Serie A wins (eleven) and came fifth before the Italian match-fixing tribunal punished Juventus, AC Milan and ACF Fiorentina. That resulted in the Giallorossi moving up to second, earning them an automatic UEFA Champions League place. After a knockout stage berth was secured, Roma handed Spalletti a new contract until 2011 and he rewarded them with another second place in Serie A and Coppa Italia glory. The following year, they were pipped to the Italian title by FC Internazionale Milano yet again but reached another UEFA Champions League quarter-final.

Match officials

Referee	Claus Bo Larsen (DEN)
Assistant referees	Henrik Sonderby (DEN), Anders Norrestrand (DEN)
Fourth official	Nicolai Vollquartz (DEN)
UEFA Delegate	Sofoklis Pilavios (GRE)
UEFA Referee observer	Francesco Bianchi (SUI)

Referee

Name	Nat.	Date of birth	UCL	UEFA
Claus Bo Larsen	DEN	28.10.1965	25	55

Very little gets past Danish referee Claus Bo Larsen although you would expect little else from a man who works as a customs clearance manager by profession.

Born on 28 October 1965 in Odense, Larsen blew his first whistle at the age of 16, made his domestic debut in 1991 and earned his FIFA badge in 1996. He cut his international teeth working in qualifiers for youth championships and presided over games in all UEFA club competitions including the now defunct UEFA Cup Winners' Cup. Having taken charge of the 1998 Danish Cup final in which Brøndby IF defeated FC København 4-1, the following summer he jetted off to Nigeria for the FIFA U-20 World Cup before impressing as the man in the middle when Australia took on New Zealand in Adelaide in a typically heated encounter. A keen table-tennis player who officiated at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Larsen enjoyed a high-profile assignment during the 2004/05 season – the UEFA Cup semi-final between AZ Alkmaar and Sporting Clube de Portugal.

The married father-of-three continued where he left off in 2005/06, flying to Montevideo for the FIFA World Cup play-off match between Uruguay and Australia and has since established himself as a regular in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup, also featuring frequently in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying. He again took charge of the Danish Cup final, between Brøndby and Esbjerg fB, in 2008, and refereed five UEFA Champions League games including the quarter-final first leg between Fenerbahçe SK and Chelsea FC. He then refereed FC Zenit St. Petersburg's victory against Manchester United FC in the 2008 UEFA Super Cup.

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
23.08.2000	UCL	QR3	TSV 1860 München - Leeds United AFC	0-1	Munich
13.11.2002	UCL	GS1	FC Dynamo Kyiv - Juventus	1-2	Kiev
26.02.2003	UCL	GS2	Newcastle United FC - Bayer 04 Leverkusen	3-1	Newcastle
12.03.2003	UCL	GS2	Manchester United FC - FC Basel 1893	1-1	Manchester
26.11.2003	UCL	GS1	Chelsea FC - AC Sparta Praha	0-0	London
23.11.2004	UCL	GS	AS Monaco FC - Liverpool FC	1-0	Monaco
28.09.2005	UCL	GS	FC Schalke 04 - AC Milan	2-2	Gelsenkirchen
22.08.2006	UCL	QR3	FK Crvena Zvezda - AC Milan	1-2	Belgrade
31.10.2006	UCL	GS	FC Spartak Moskva - FC Internazionale Milano	0-1	Moscow
21.11.2006	UCL	GS	Arsenal FC - Hamburger SV	3-1	London
24.10.2007	UCL	GS	Beşiktaş JK - Liverpool FC	2-1	Istanbul
27.11.2007	UCL	GS	Manchester United FC - Sporting Clube de Portugal	2-1	Manchester
20.02.2008	UCL	1/8	Arsenal FC - AC Milan	0-0	London
02.04.2008	UCL	QF	Fenerbahçe SK - Chelsea FC	2-1	Istanbul
22.10.2008	UCL	GS	Club Atlético de Madrid - Liverpool FC	1-1	Madrid
25.11.2008	UCL	GS	FC Zenit St. Petersburg - Juventus	0-0	St Petersburg

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

Date	Comp.	Stage	Match	Res.	Venue
09.09.1997	U21	QR	England - Moldova	1-0	Wycombe
24.11.1998	UCUP	R3	Bologna FC - Real Betis Balompié	4-1	Bologna
21.10.1999	UCUP	R2	FC Steaua Bucureşti - West Ham United FC	2-0	Bucharest
21.08.2001	UIC	F	Aston Villa FC - FC Basel 1893	4-1	Birmingham
18.10.2001	UCUP	R2	AC Milan - PFC CSKA Sofia	2-0	Milan
17.03.2005	UCUP	1/8	Parma FC - Sevilla FC	1-0	Parma
23.02.2006	UCUP	1/16	AS Roma - Club Brugge KV	2-1	Rome
29.08.2008	SCUP	F	Manchester United FC - FC Zenit St. Petersburg	1-2	Monaco

Domestic information

Arsenal FC (Premier League)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	16/08/08	West Bromwich Albion FC (H)	1-0	Nasri 4
League	23/08/08	Fulham FC (A)	0-1	
League	30/08/08	Newcastle United FC (H)	3-0	Van Persie 18(pen), 41, Denilson 59
League	13/09/08	Blackburn Rovers FC (A)	4-0	Van Persie 8, Adebayor 45, 81(pen), 90
League	20/09/08	Bolton Wanderers FC (A)	3-1	Eboué 26, Bendtner 27, Denilson 87
Cup	23/09/08	Sheffield United FC (H)	6-0	Bendtner 31, 42, Vela 44, 50, 87, Wilshere 57
League	27/09/08	Hull City AFC (H)	1-2	Own goal 51
League	04/10/08	Sunderland AFC (A)	1-1	Fàbregas 90
League	18/10/08	Everton FC (H)	3-1	Nasri 48, Van Persie 70, Walcott 90
League	26/10/08	West Ham United FC (A)	2-0	Own goal 75, Adebayor 90
League	29/10/08	Tottenham Hotspur FC (H)	4-4	Silvestre 37, Gallas 46, Adebayor 64, Van Persie 68
League	01/11/08	Stoke City FC (A)	1-2	Clichy 90
League	08/11/08	Manchester United FC (H)	2-1	Nasri 22, 48
Cup	11/11/08	Wigan Athletic FC (H)	3-0	Simpson 42, 66, Vela 70
League	15/11/08	Aston Villa FC (H)	0-2	
League	22/11/08	Manchester City FC (A)	0-3	
League	30/11/08	Chelsea FC (A)	2-1	Van Persie 59, 62
Cup	02/12/08	Burnley (A)	0-2	
League	06/12/08	Wigan Athletic FC (H)	1-0	Adebayor 16
League	13/12/08	Middlesbrough FC (A)	1-1	Adebayor 17
League	21/12/08	Liverpool FC (H)	1-1	Van Persie 24
League	26/12/08	Aston Villa FC (A)	2-2	Denilson 40, Diaby 49
League	28/12/08	Portsmouth FC (H)	1-0	Gallas 81
Cup	03/01/09	Plymouth (H)	3-1	Van Persie 47, 85, Bendtner 50
League	10/01/09	Bolton Wanderers FC (H)	1-0	Bendtner 84
League	17/01/09	Hull City AFC (A)	3-1	Adebayor 30, Nasri 82, Bendtner 86
Cup	25/01/09	Cardiff (A)	0-0	
League	28/01/09	Everton FC (A)	1-1	Van Persie 90
League	31/01/09	West Ham United FC (H)	0-0	
League	08/02/09	Tottenham Hotspur FC (A)	0-0	
Lineups: Almunia, Sagna, Touré, Gallas, Clichy (Gibbs 87), Eboué, Song, Denilson, Nasri, Adebayor (Bendtner 38), Van Persie				
Cup	16/02/09	Cardiff (H)	4-0	Eduardo 20, 60(pen), Bendtner 34, Van Persie 89
Lineups: Fabiański, Sagna, Touré, Gallas, Gibbs, Nasri (Ramsey 67), Denilson, Song, Vela (Bischoff 74), Eduardo (Van Persie 67), Bendtner				
League	21/02/09	Sunderland AFC (H)	0-0	
Lineups: Almunia, Sagna, Gallas, Touré, Clichy (Gibbs 85), Nasri, Denilson, Song (Eboué 78), Arshavin (Vela 63), Bendtner, Van Persie				
League	28/02/09	Fulham FC (H)		
League	03/03/09	West Bromwich Albion FC (A)		
League	14/03/09	Blackburn Rovers FC (H)		
League	21/03/09	Newcastle United FC (A)		
League	04/04/09	Manchester City FC (H)		
League	11/04/09	Wigan Athletic FC (A)		
League	19/04/09	Liverpool FC (A)		
League	26/04/09	Middlesbrough FC (H)		
League	02/05/09	Portsmouth FC (A)		
League	09/05/09	Chelsea FC (H)		
League	16/05/09	Manchester United FC (A)		

Arsenal FC - AS Roma

MATCH PRESS KIT

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Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers					
League	24/05/09	Stoke City FC (H)							
Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	
1	Manchester United FC	26	19	5	2	46	11	62	
2	Liverpool FC	26	15	10	1	43	18	55	
3	Chelsea FC	26	15	7	4	45	15	52	
4	Aston Villa FC	26	15	6	5	40	25	51	
5	Arsenal FC	26	12	9	5	38	25	45	
6	Everton FC	26	11	8	7	34	28	41	
7	Wigan Athletic FC	26	9	8	9	26	24	35	
8	Fulham FC	25	8	9	8	24	22	33	
9	West Ham United FC	26	9	6	11	32	34	33	
10	Manchester City FC	26	9	5	12	43	35	32	
11	Sunderland AFC	26	8	7	11	27	33	31	
12	Bolton Wanderers FC	26	9	3	14	29	38	30	
13	Hull City AFC	26	7	8	11	32	48	29	
14	Tottenham Hotspur FC	26	7	7	12	28	32	28	
15	Newcastle United FC	26	6	10	10	33	42	28	
16	Portsmouth FC	26	7	7	12	29	43	28	
17	Stoke City FC	26	6	7	13	23	42	25	
18	Blackburn Rovers FC	25	5	8	12	28	42	23	
19	Middlesbrough FC	26	5	8	13	18	36	23	
20	West Bromwich Albion FC	26	6	4	16	24	49	22	

AS Roma (Serie A)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	31/08/08	SSC Napoli (H)	1-1	Aquilani 29
League	13/09/08	US Città di Palermo (A)	1-3	Baptista 8
League	20/09/08	Reggina Calcio (H)	3-0	Panucci 45, Aquilani 51, Perrotta 90
League	24/09/08	Genoa Cricket and Football Club (A)	1-3	De Rossi 28
League	28/09/08	Atalanta BC (H)	2-0	Panucci 17, Vučinić 31
League	05/10/08	AC Siena (A)	0-1	
League	19/10/08	FC Internazionale Milano (H)	0-4	
League	26/10/08	Udinese Calcio (A)	1-3	Totti 75(pen)
League	01/11/08	Juventus (A)	0-2	
League	08/11/08	Bologna FC (A)	1-1	Totti 68
League	16/11/08	S.S. Lazio (H)	1-0	Baptista 50
League	23/11/08	US Lecce (A)	3-0	Vučinić 10, Juan 38, Totti 48
League	30/11/08	ACF Fiorentina (H)	1-0	Totti 59
League	06/12/08	AC Chievo Verona (A)	1-0	Menez 69
League	14/12/08	Cagliari Calcio (H)	3-2	Totti 39, Perrotta 76, Vučinić 90
Cup	17/12/08	Bologna FC (H)	2-0	Vučinić 83, 86
League	21/12/08	Calcio Catania (A)	2-3	Vučinić 73, Menez 77
League	11/01/09	AC Milan (H)	2-2	Vučinić 22, 72
League	14/01/09	UC Sampdoria (H)	2-0	Baptista 21, 53
League	18/01/09	Torino FC (A)	1-0	Baptista 90
Cup	21/01/09	FC Internazionale Milano (A)	1-2	Taddei 61
League	25/01/09	SSC Napoli (A)	3-0	Mexès 18, Juan 32, Vučinić 50
League	28/01/09	US Città di Palermo (H)	2-1	Totti 24, Brighi 45
League	01/02/09	Reggina Calcio (A)	2-2	Pizarro 45, 55
League	08/02/09	Genoa Cricket and Football Club (H)	3-0	Cicinho 27, Vučinić 47, Baptista 90
Lineups: Doni, Cicinho (Motta 31), Juan, Mexès, Tonetto, Taddei, De Rossi, Perrotta, Brighi, Vučinić (Baptista 60), Totti (Aquilani 79)				
League	15/02/09	Atalanta BC (A)	0-3	
Lineups: Doni, Juan, Motta, Mexès, Tonetto, Pizarro (Baptista 57), De Rossi, Perrotta, Brighi, Vučinić, Totti				
League	21/02/09	AC Siena (H)	1-0	Taddei 63
Lineups: Doni, Cicinho (Filipe 73), Juan (Diamoutene 46), Motta, Mexès, Riise, Pizarro, Taddei, Baptista, Brighi, Totti (Montella 82)				
League	01/03/09	FC Internazionale Milano (A)		
League	07/03/09	Udinese Calcio (H)		
League	15/03/09	UC Sampdoria (A)		
League	21/03/09	Juventus (H)		
League	05/04/09	Bologna FC (H)		
League	11/04/09	S.S. Lazio (A)		
League	19/04/09	US Lecce (H)		
League	26/04/09	ACF Fiorentina (A)		
League	03/05/09	AC Chievo Verona (H)		
League	10/05/09	Cagliari Calcio (A)		
League	17/05/09	Calcio Catania (H)		
League	24/05/09	AC Milan (A)		
League	31/05/09	Torino FC (H)		

Arsenal FC - AS Roma

MATCH PRESS KIT

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Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	FC Internazionale Milano	25	18	5	2	44	18	59
2	Juventus	25	15	5	5	41	21	50
3	AC Milan	25	14	6	5	42	25	48
4	ACF Fiorentina	25	14	3	8	37	24	45
5	Genoa Cricket and Football Club	25	12	8	5	36	25	44
6	AS Roma	25	13	4	8	37	31	43
7	Cagliari Calcio	25	11	4	10	32	27	37
8	Atalanta BC	25	11	3	11	31	27	36
9	US Città di Palermo	25	11	3	11	32	31	36
10	SSC Napoli	25	10	5	10	32	29	35
11	S.S. Lazio	25	10	5	10	35	37	35
12	Udinese Calcio	25	8	7	10	34	37	31
13	Calcio Catania	25	8	6	11	24	30	30
14	UC Sampdoria	25	7	8	10	24	29	29
15	AC Siena	25	7	6	12	19	26	27
16	Bologna FC	25	5	8	12	27	40	23
17	Torino FC	25	5	8	12	25	39	23
18	US Lecce	25	4	10	11	22	39	22
19	AC Chievo Verona	25	4	8	13	18	35	20
20	Reggina Calcio	25	3	8	14	20	43	17

UEFA information

Protecting football's values

UEFA President Michel Platini has made an impassioned plea for the safeguarding of football's essential values against a series of dangers threatening the game's fabric, in a speech to the European Parliament in Brussels. Mr Platini advocated the idea of financial fair play to guarantee, among other things, competitive balance in European competitions. He insisted that football should not be treated as an economic activity, and that sport's specific nature should be recognised. Furthermore, the UEFA President called, among other things, for a halt to the trafficking of young footballers, with a ban on the international transfer of footballers under the age of 18. "Football extends beyond borders, football irons out differences, and football unleashes passions," said Mr Platini. "Football, the sport that has brought me to where I am today and has given me the greatest emotions of my life, both positive and traumatic, is in danger ... the values that football represents are in danger."

UEFA priorities

UEFA has been highlighting its priority activities for 2009 in the wake of the latest meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee in Nyon, Switzerland: improving financial fair play in UEFA competitions; protecting young footballers; and progressing with preparations for UEFA EURO 2012™ in Poland and Ukraine. These three pillars will remain at the top of the European governing body's agenda over the coming months.

Fans first

Fans will come first at this season's UEFA Champions League final in Rome. European club football's showpiece occasion at the Stadio Olimpico in the Italian city on 27 May will see 50,000 tickets for the 67,000-capacity venue go to football fans, while free transport will be available for supporters holding match tickets for a three-day period. Tickets for the game will go on sale to the general public via uefa.com on 2 March.

Anti-racism conference

Raising awareness of racism and discrimination, and proposing positive and practical solutions for addressing these problems in the game and in society, are the main objectives of the forthcoming Unite Against Racism conference in Warsaw, Poland, on 3 and 4 March. The event is being staged by UEFA, the players' union FIFPro and the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network, UEFA's long-standing partner in the campaign to banish intolerance and discrimination from football. The Polish Football Association is hosting the conference, to which 250 delegates have been invited from associations, leagues, clubs, players, non-governmental organisations, the media and the world of politics. "Tackling racism and discrimination is an important social priority for UEFA and a range of initiatives have already been undertaken to identify problems, encourage action and ensure the right sanctions are imposed," UEFA said. "UEFA now wants to create an opportunity to review progress and renew its call for action. In particular, UEFA wants to record positive developments and in view of UEFA EURO 2012™, look at the challenges facing the game in the east and what more the European football family can do."

Final venues

London's Wembley Stadium and the Fußball Arena München will hold the 2011 and 2012 UEFA Champions League finals, with Dublin's Lansdowne Road and Bucharest's National Stadium the venues for the 2011 and 2012 UEFA Europa League showcases. The UEFA Executive Committee decided on the host venues for the two major UEFA club competitions at its meeting in Nyon in January.

Trophy tour

Football fans in several African countries will have the chance to see the world-famous UEFA Champions League trophy when it goes on tour in February, March and April. The tour will give supporters in Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and South Africa the opportunity to see and touch the coveted trophy which has been contested by the world's greatest players and teams for more than five decades. Celebrated players connected with the UEFA Champions League will accompany the Trophy Tour. Previous UEFA Champions League Trophy Tours have taken place in Asia and Latin America in 2007 and 2008 respectively, and were a huge success.

This year's African Tour dates are:

26-28 February: Lagos (Nigeria)

11-12 March: Algiers (Algeria)

26-28 March: Cairo (Egypt)

10-12 April: Cape Town (South Africa)

17-19 April: Johannesburg (South Africa)

Match-by-match lineups - Arsenal FC

Group Stage

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
FC Porto	6	4	0	2	9	8	12
Arsenal FC	6	3	2	1	11	5	11
FC Dynamo Kyiv	6	2	2	2	4	4	8
Fenerbahçe SK	6	0	2	4	4	11	2

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
17.09.2008	Dynamo Kyiv - Arsenal	1-1	Valeri Lobanovskiy, Kiev
Goals: 1-0 Bangoura 64 (pen) , 1-1 Gallas 88			
Arsenal: Almunia, Sagna (Eboué 78), Fàbregas, Touré, Gallas, Van Persie (Vela 84), Walcott, Denilson, Song (Bendtner 70), Clichy, Adebayor			
30.09.2008	Arsenal - Porto	4-0	Arsenal Stadium, London
Goals: 1-0 Van Persie 31, 2-0 Adebayor 40, 3-0 Van Persie 48, 4-0 Adebayor 71 (pen)			
Arsenal: Almunia, Sagna, Fàbregas, Touré, Nasri (Eboué 65), Gallas, Van Persie (Bendtner 65), Walcott (Vela 72), Denilson, Clichy, Adebayor			
21.10.2008	Fenerbahçe - Arsenal	2-5	Sükrü Saraçoğlu, Istanbul
Goals: 0-1 Adebayor 10, 0-2 Walcott 11, 1-2 Silvestre 19 (o.g.) , 1-3 Diaby 22, 1-4 Song 49, 2-4 Güiza 78, 2-5 Ramsey 90+4			
Arsenal: Almunia, Diaby (Ramsey 73), Fàbregas, Nasri, Walcott (Djourou 84), Denilson, Song, Silvestre, Clichy, Adebayor (Vela 86), Eboué			
05.11.2008	Arsenal - Fenerbahçe	0-0	Arsenal Stadium, London
Goals: -			
Arsenal: Fabiański, Fàbregas, Touré, Nasri, Van Persie, Denilson, Ramsey (Diaby 60), Silvestre (Song 83), Djourou, Clichy, Bendtner (Vela 60)			
25.11.2008	Arsenal - Dynamo Kyiv	1-0	Arsenal Stadium, London
Goals: 1-0 Bendtner 87			
Arsenal: Almunia, Fàbregas, Gallas, Van Persie, Vela (Wilshere 77), Denilson, Ramsey (Bendtner 69), Song, Silvestre, Djourou, Clichy			
10.12.2008	Porto - Arsenal	2-0	Estádio do Dragão, Porto
Goals: 1-0 Bruno Alves 39, 2-0 Lisandro 54			
Arsenal: Almunia, Diaby (Gibbs 60), Gallas, Vela, Denilson, Ramsey (Wilshere 59), Song (Randall 79), Silvestre, Djourou, Bendtner, Eboué			

Match-by-match lineups - AS Roma

Group Stage

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
AS Roma	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
Chelsea FC	6	3	2	1	9	5	11
FC Girondins de Bordeaux	6	2	1	3	5	11	7
CFR 1907 Cluj	6	1	1	4	5	9	4

Date	Match	Result	Stadium/Venue
16.09.2008	Roma - CFR Cluj	1-2	Stadio Olimpico, Rome
Goals: 1-0 Panucci 17, 1-1 Juan Culio 27, 1-2 Juan Culio 49			
Roma: Doni, Panucci (Loria 47), Cichinho, Aquilani, Vučinić, Taddei (Montella 77), De Rossi, Riise (Totti 52), Baptista, Tonetto, Cassetti			
01.10.2008	Bordeaux - Roma	1-3	Stade Chaban-Delmas, Bordeaux
Goals: 1-0 Gourcuff 18, 1-1 Vučinić 64, 1-2 Baptista 71, 1-3 Baptista 83			
Roma: Doni, Panucci, Cichinho, Mexès, Aquilani (Okaka Chuka 63), Vučinić (Brighi 84), Taddei, De Rossi, Riise, Perrotta, Menez (Baptista 51)			
22.10.2008	Chelsea - Roma	1-0	Stamford Bridge, London
Goals: 1-0 Terry 77			
Roma: Doni, Panucci, Cichinho, Mexès, Aquilani (Perrotta 61), Vučinić, Totti, Taddei (Menez 81), De Rossi, Riise (Tonetto 82), Brighi			
04.11.2008	Roma - Chelsea	3-1	Stadio Olimpico, Rome
Goals: 1-0 Panucci 34, 2-0 Vučinić 48, 3-0 Vučinić 58, 3-1 Terry 75			
Roma: Doni, Panucci, Cichinho, Juan, Mexès, Pizarro, Vučinić (Riise 88), Totti (Baptista 62), De Rossi, Perrotta (Taddei 72), Brighi			
26.11.2008	CFR Cluj - Roma	1-3	CFR, Cluj-Napoca
Goals: 0-1 Brighi 11, 0-2 Totti 23, 1-2 Y. Koné 30, 1-3 Brighi 64			
Roma: Doni, Juan, Mexès, Totti (Vučinić 81), Taddei, De Rossi, Baptista, Perrotta (Pizarro 90), Tonetto (Riise 86), Brighi, Cassetti			
09.12.2008	Roma - Bordeaux	2-0	Stadio Olimpico, Rome
Goals: 1-0 Brighi 61, 2-0 Totti 79			
Roma: Doni, Panucci, Juan, Mexès, Totti (Vučinić 87), De Rossi, Riise, Baptista, Perrotta (Pizarro 89), Menez (Cichinho 80), Brighi			

Competition facts

UEFA Champions League knockout stage: Did you know?

- Teams have recovered from a first-leg deficit to go through to the next stage on 21 occasions, including Chelsea FC in the 2007/08 quarter-finals. The biggest losing margin a side has overturned was achieved by RC Deportivo La Coruña in the 2003/04 quarter-finals when they fought back from a 4-1 defeat at AC Milan to win 4-0 at home.
- Fifteen ties have been decided on the away goals rule, including five where the triumphant team lost the first leg.
- Manchester United FC hold the record for the biggest first-leg lead with a 4-0 home success against FC Porto in the 1996/97 quarter-finals, eventually going through by that margin after a goalless return.
- Nine ties have now gone to penalties. Five of these were finals – 1996, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2008. The first two-legged tie decided on spot-kicks was PSV Eindhoven's 4-2 win against Olympique Lyonnais on 13 April 2005 after a 2-2 aggregate draw.
- In all, 16 ties have required extra time including, in 2007/08, Fenerbahçe SK's win against Sevilla FC, FC Schalke 04's triumph over Porto in the first knockout round and Manchester United's final victory against Chelsea, with all three ties eventually being settled on penalties. So far seven ties have been decided by extra time alone: four quarter-finals, two first knockout round encounters and last season's semi-final between Chelsea and Liverpool FC.
- Real Madrid CF have extended their record for knockout stage qualification in successive seasons. The 2008/09 campaign is the twelfth straight season since 1997/98 that they made it beyond the group stage, keeping them ahead of Manchester United, who appeared nine times in a row between 1996/97 and 2004/05. Overall, Real Madrid have now played in the knockout stage 13 times, one more than United and two more than FC Bayern München.
- The 2004/05 first knockout round encounter between Lyon and Werder Bremen featured more goals (12) over its two legs than any previous UEFA Champions League knockout tie as Lyon defeated Bremen 10-2.
- There has never been a knockout tie ending goalless after two legs. Nine have finished 1-0 on aggregate, most recently Manchester United's narrow victory against FC Barcelona in the 2007/08 semi-finals.
- Clarence Seedorf is the only player to win the European Champion Clubs' Cup with three clubs (AFC Ajax 1995, Madrid 1998, Milan 2003, 2007). Liverpool's Bob Paisley (1977, 1978, 1981) is the only coach to win three times.
- Ottmar Hitzfeld (BV Borussia Dortmund 1997, Bayern 2001) and Ernst Happel (Feyenoord 1970, Hamburger SV 1983) are the only coaches to win the trophy with two clubs.
- Only five capital cities have been home to teams that have won the European Cup: Madrid (Real Madrid), Belgrade (FK Crvena Zvezda), Bucharest (FC Steaua Bucureşti), Amsterdam (Ajax) and Lisbon (SL Benfica).
- Rome was awarded the 2009 UEFA Champions League final after a decision by the UEFA Executive Committee at its meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia in October 2006. The Stadio Olimpico, home of AS Roma and S.S. Lazio, previously held European Cup finals in 1977, 1984 and 1996 – Liverpool winning the first two games and Juventus the last – and was also the venue for the 1990 FIFA World Cup final between West Germany and Argentina. Other major events at the stadium include the 1987 IAAF World Championships in athletics and the 1960 Olympic Games, for which it was constructed in 1953.

UEFA Champions League: Did you know?

- S.S. Lazio goalkeeper Marco Ballotta became the oldest player to compete in the UEFA Champions League in 2007/08 when he featured against Olympiacos CFP on Matchday 1 aged 43 years and 168 days. The record was previously held by Alessandro Costacurta, the AC Milan defender who played against AEK Athens FC in 2006/07 aged 40 years and 211 days. Ballotta was 43 years 252 days when he featured against Real Madrid on Matchday 6.
- Laurent Blanc is the oldest player to score in the competition, aged 36 years and 339 days, having found the net for Manchester United in their 3-2 defeat of Olympiacos on 23 October 2002.
- Celestine Babayaro is the youngest player to have appeared. He was 16 years and 87 days when he started for RSC Anderlecht against FC Steaua Bucureşti on 23 November 1994. He was then sent off in the 37th minute.

Last updated: 05.01.2009

Team facts

Arsenal FC

UEFA club competition milestones

- In the 2005/06 season, Arsenal advanced to the European Champion Clubs' Cup final for the first time although they had previously been involved in both UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup finals.
- Arsenal played in three UEFA Cup Winners' Cup finals, triumphing in the 1993/94 season when they overcame Parma FC 1-0 thanks to Alan Smith's 22nd-minute goal. The other finals ended in narrow defeats by Valencia CF and Real Zaragoza in 1979/80 and 1994/95 respectively.
- Following their elimination from the 1999/2000 UEFA Champions League at the end of the group stage, Arsenal advanced to the UEFA Cup final only to lose on penalties to Galatasaray SK at Copenhagen's Parken Stadium.

UEFA Champions League milestones

- Their finest UEFA Champions League campaign culminated on 17 May 2006 with a 2-1 defeat by FC Barcelona, after Sol Campbell had given the London club the lead in Paris.

UEFA club competition honours

- UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1993/94

Ten-year record

- 2007/08:** UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
- 2006/07:** UEFA Champions League – first knockout round
- 2005/06:** UEFA Champions League – runners-up
- 2004/05:** UEFA Champions League – first knockout round
- 2003/04:** UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
- 2002/03:** UEFA Champions League – second group stage
- 2001/02:** UEFA Champions League – second group stage
- 2000/01:** UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
- 1999/00:** UEFA Cup – finalists (having transferred from the UEFA Champions League first group stage)
- 1998/99:** UEFA Champions League – group stage

2007/08 season

Domestic record: Arsenal finished third in the English Premier League, four points behind champions Manchester United FC – and seven ahead of fourth-placed Liverpool FC – although the Gunners had topped the table for much of the season. It was, however, an improvement on their last two campaigns where they had come fourth. They were eliminated in the fifth round of the FA Cup after a 4-0 loss to United.

European record: The English club comprehensively defeated AC Sparta Praha in the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round to make the group stage for the tenth season in succession. After winning their first three games, Arsenal recorded a draw followed by an away loss to Sevilla FC and finished second in Group H to their Spanish rivals. They met AC Milan in the first knockout round and had to settle for a goalless draw in London but won 2-0 in Italy to set up a quarter-final meeting with fellow English side Liverpool FC. Arsène Wenger's men then went down 5-3 on aggregate after a dramatic second leg at Anfield.

Records

UEFA club competition

- Biggest win
7-0: Arsenal FC v SK Slavia Praha
23.10.2007, UEFA Champions League group stage
- Biggest home win
7-0: Arsenal FC v SK Slavia Praha (see above for details)
- Biggest away win
0-7: R. Standard de Liège v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

- Heaviest defeat

0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano
17.09.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage
4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC
22.11.2000, UEFA Champions League second group stage
3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC
07.11.2000, UEFA Champions League first group stage
2-5: Arsenal FC v SK Spartak Moskva
29.09.1982, UEFA Cup first round second leg

- Heaviest home defeat

0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)
2-5: Arsenal FC v SK Spartak Moskva (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat

4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC (see above for details)
3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

- Biggest win

7-0: Arsenal FC v SK Slavia Praha (see above for details)

- Biggest home win

7-0: Arsenal FC v SK Slavia Praha (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

1-5: FC Internazionale Milano v Arsenal FC
25.11.2003, 2003/04 UEFA Champions League group stage
0-4: PSV Eindhoven v Arsenal FC
25.09.2002, 2002/03 UEFA Champions League first group stage

- Heaviest defeat

4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC (see above for details)
3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC (see above for details)
0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

- Heaviest home defeat

0-3: Arsenal FC v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat

4-1: FC Spartak Moskva v Arsenal FC (see above for details)
3-0: FC Shakhtar Donetsk v Arsenal FC (see above for details)

Last updated: 05.01.2009

AS Roma

UEFA club competition milestones

- This is Roma's 25th season in UEFA club competition following their debut in the 1969/70 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first round. They have twice lost out in UEFA finals – the 1983/84 European Champion Clubs' Cup and the 1990/91 UEFA Cup.

UEFA Champions League milestones

- Roma are in their sixth campaign, having had to wait until the 2001/02 edition for their bow. Last season's run to the quarter-finals was their second appearance in the knockout stage.

UEFA club competition honours

- N/A

Ten-year record

2007/08: UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
2006/07: UEFA Champions League – quarter-finals
2005/06: UEFA Cup – Round of 16
2004/05: UEFA Champions League – group stage
2003/04: UEFA Cup – third round
2002/03: UEFA Champions League – second group stage
2001/02: UEFA Champions League – second group stage
2000/01: UEFA Cup – fourth round
1999/00: UEFA Cup – fourth round
1998/99: UEFA Cup – quarter-finals

2007/08 season

Domestic record: Roma ended up three points adrift of champions FC Internazionale Milano and so finished as runners-up behind the Nerazzurri for the third consecutive season. However, Inter could not extend their domestic dominance to the Coppa Italia as Roma overcame their rivals in the final for the second time in as many campaigns to draw level with Juventus as the competition's most successful club with nine wins.

European record: The Giallorossi finished five points behind Group F winners Manchester United FC but four ahead of third-placed Sporting Clube de Portugal with a record of three wins and two draws from their six matches. Real Madrid CF were defeated 2-1 in each leg of the first knockout round to set up another last-eight tie with United. Roma were unable to avenge their 8-3 aggregate defeat of the previous season, however, bowing out of the competition 3-0 overall.

Records

UEFA club competition

- Biggest win
7-0: AS Roma v NK Gorica
28.09.2000, UEFA Cup first round second leg
7-0: AS Roma v Vitória FC
16.09.1999, UEFA Cup first round first leg
- Biggest home win
7-0: AS Roma v NK Gorica (see above for details)
7-0: AS Roma v Vitória FC (see above for details)
- Biggest away win
1-4: FC Dynamo Kyiv v AS Roma
27.11.2008, UEFA Champions League group stage
0-3: Valencia CF v AS Roma
26.02.2003, UEFA Champions League second group stage
0-3: Hamburger SV v AS Roma
07.12.2000, UEFA Cup third round second leg
1-4: NK Gorica v AS Roma
14.09.2000, UEFA Cup first round first leg
1-4: FC Wacker Innsbruck v AS Roma
16.09.1992, UEFA Cup first round first leg
- Heaviest defeat
7-1: Manchester United v AS Roma
10.04.2007, UEFA Champions League quarter-finals second leg
- Heaviest home defeat
0-3: AS Roma v Real Madrid CF
08.12.2004, UEFA Champions League group stage
0-3 (forfeit): AS Roma v FC Dynamo Kyiv
15.09.2004, UEFA Champions League group stage
0-3: AS Roma v Real Madrid CF
17.02.2002, UEFA Champions League first group stage

Arsenal FC - AS Roma

MATCH PRESS KIT

Tuesday 24 February 2009 - 20.45 CET

Arsenal Stadium, London

- Heaviest away defeat

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

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

- Biggest win

4-0: AS Roma v FC Shakhtar Donetsk

12/09/2006, UEFA Champions League group stage

- Biggest home win

4-0: AS Roma v FC Shakhtar Donetsk (see above for details)

- Biggest away win

1-4: FC Dynamo Kyiv v AS Roma (see above for details)

0-3: Valencia CF v AS Roma (see above for details)

- Heaviest defeat

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

- Heaviest home defeat

0-3: AS Roma v Real Madrid CF (see above for details)

0-3: AS Roma v FC Dynamo Kyiv (see above for details)

0-3: AS Roma v Real Madrid CF (see above for details)

- Heaviest away defeat

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

Last updated: 05.01.2009

Legend

:: All-time statistics

The all-time record of the competing clubs in UEFA club competition.

UEFA club competition: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competition defined as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (1960-1999), the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup (1973 -), the UEFA Intertoto Cup and the European/South American Cup (1960-2004). Matches in the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup and the 1972 Super Cup are included only for information as these were not held under UEFA auspices, while the FIFA Club World Cup is excluded.

:: Squad list

The eligible list of players ordered first by playing position and then numeric order.

Current season - UCLQ: Total UEFA Champions League appearances in qualifying rounds only.

Current season - UCL: Total UEFA Champions League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday.

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

All-time - UCL: Total appearances in the UEFA Champions League from the 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

All-time - UEFA: Total appearances in UEFA club competition (as defined above) including all qualifying round matches. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

Age: based on the date press kit was last updated

BL: Booking list (*: misses next match if booked, S: suspended, #: suspended for at least one match)

:: Match officials

The match officials appointed to officiate the fixture.

UCL: Total matches officiated in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in UEFA club competition including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCLC: European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

UCUP: UEFA Cup • **UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup

SCUP: UEFA Super Cup • **UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship

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

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

U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship

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

U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship • **U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship

:: Competition stages

F: Final

GS: Group stage

GS1: First group stage

GS2: Second group stage

KO1: First knockout round

PR: Preliminary round

QF: Quarter-finals

QR: Qualifying round

QR1: First qualifying round

QR2: Second qualifying round

FT: Final tournament

QR3: Third qualifying round

R1: First round

R2: Second round

R3: Third round

R4: Fourth round

SF: Semi-finals

1/8: Eighth-finals

1/16: Sixteenth-finals

1st: first leg

2nd: second leg

P-O: Play-off

:: Other Abbreviations

AP: Appearances

Comp.: Competition

D: Drawn

DoB: Date of birth

GA: Goals against

GF: Goals for

L: Lost

Nat.: Nationality

N/a: Not Applicable

No.: Number

Pld: Matches played

Pos.: Position

Pts: Points

R: Sent off (red card)

Res.: Result

W: Won

Y: Booked

Y/R: Sent off (yellow card then direct red)

:: Statistics

(-) : Denotes player substituted

(*) : Denotes player dismissed/sent off

(+) : Denotes player introduced

(+/-) : Denotes player introduced and substituted

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