

Germany 3-1 Poland



Germany's midfielder Mesut Ozil vies for the ball

Berlin
Striker Mario Goetze scored twice to seal Germany's 3-1 win over Poland last night as the hosts avenged last year's away defeat to top their Euro 2016 qualifying group.

Having lost the corresponding fixture 2-0 in Warsaw last October -- Germany's first defeat to their neighbours in 19 matches -- the world champions gained sweet revenge by knocking Adam Nawalka's Poland from top of Group D.

It was Poland's first defeat in seven Euro 2016 qualifiers and this was an impressive display from the Germans after several below-par performances last season.

All four goals came from

Bayern Munich players as Thomas Mueller gave Germany an early lead, then Goetze made it 2-0 before Poland captain Robert Lewandowski pulled one back with a diving header as it finished 2-1 at the break.

Mueller and Goetze then combined for Germany's third on 82 minutes to kill off hopes of a late Poland equaliser.

Georgia's 1-0 home win over Scotland, who Germany play in Glasgow on Monday, and Ireland's 4-0 thumping of minnows Gibraltar means Germany are top with 16 points while Ireland go third with 12, one ahead of the Scots.

Poland host Gibraltar in Warsaw on Monday having

routed the part-timers 7-0 away last year. Germany coach Joachim Loew sprang a surprise before kick-off by naming Liverpool midfielder Emre Can at right-back to give the 21-year-old his debut.

The game started at a high-paced tempo in Frankfurt and Germany scored off their first clear chance.

A superb exchange of passes with Karim Bellarabi put Cologne left-back Jonas Hector in behind the defence and he squared for Mueller to fire home on 12 minutes.

The hosts doubled their lead six minutes later when World Cup final winner Goetze cut in from the left and unleashed a fierce drive, which gave Poland's Swansea City

goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski little chance just inside the near post.

Poland were rewarded for a sustained period of pressure when left winger Kamil Grosicki powered down the left wing, with Can out of position, curled in a superb cross and Lewandowski powered the ball home with a superb diving header on 36 minutes.

Early in the first half, Loew brought on Ilkay Gundogan for Bellarabi, who provided a superb pass to Goetze and the Bayern man hit the post on 57 minutes.

Germany settled the matter when Mueller's fierce drive bounced off Fabianski's legs and Goetze tucked away the rebound.

'Lack of experience' killed the De Gea deal

Madrid

David de Gea's transfer from Manchester United to Real Madrid broke down at the last minute due to the Premier League club management's "lack of experience", Real president Florentino Perez claimed.

And although Real have been chasing the goalkeeper for more than a year as a long-term replacement for Iker Casillas, Perez refused to confirm they would make a second move for de Gea when the transfer window reopens in January.

Madrid seemed set to conclude the long-running transfer saga late on Monday's deadline day with a deal worth between 30 million (\$33.9 million) and 40 million euros and Costa Rica goalkeeper Keylor Navas joining United.

But Spanish league sources



De Gea

confirmed the player had not been registered and Madrid admitted they had sent the required documentation after the window closed at midnight local time (2200 GMT).

Madrid had accused United of sending the documents after the Spanish deadline had passed.



Ireland's forward Robbie Keane celebrates after scoring a goal during the Euro 2016 qualifying football match against Gibraltar yesterday

11/11 Djokovic downs Seppi to reach US Open last 16



Djokovic returns a shot to Seppi

New York

Top seed Novak Djokovic defeated Italy's Andreas Seppi for the 11th time in 11 meetings to reach the US Open fourth round yesterday.

The world number one and 2011 champion triumphed 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 as the 28-year-old inched closer to a sixth final in New York.

Djokovic, who also recorded his 31st successive win over Italian opponents, goes on to face either Belgian 14th seed David Goffin or Spain's number 23 Roberto Bautista Agut for a place in the quarter-finals.

The Serb star had dropped just 10 games in his first two rounds, not facing a break point, but was pushed hard by 25th seed Seppi, who knocked Roger Federer out of the Australian Open in January.

He dropped serve for the first time in the second set and was broken again as he served for the match in the 10th game of the third.

But the 31-year-old Seppi was unable to capitalise on his break and handed the advantage straight back to the world number one in the 11th game.

"I had to hang in there and try and play at my pace," said Djokovic.

"He was aggressive and went for backhands down the line."

"I just had to stay patient and wait for my opportunities which is easier said than done."

Djokovic ended with 11 aces and 37 winners but will look to reduce the error count of 31 in the fourth round, where victory would put him into a 25th consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final.