

Real Madrid face formidable PSG test

Nyon, Switzerland

Holders Real Madrid will have to overcome a sizeable obstacle when the Champions League resumes in February after Monday's draw pitted the 12-times winners against Paris St Germain.

Bidding for a third successive title in Europe's elite club competition, Real paid a heavy price for not winning their

group as they were drawn with the big-spending Parisians who were tipped as many people's favourites ahead of the draw in Nyon.

Five-times champions Barcelona will face English champions Chelsea, one of five Premier league clubs in the draw.

Tottenham Hotspur, who topped their group ahead of

Real Madrid thanks to a 3-1 victory at Wembley, will face Serie A champions and last seasons' runners-up Juventus.

Manchester City, who clocked up a record 14th successive Premier League victory on Sunday, are now listed as favourites after being handed a last-16 clash with Swiss club Basel.

Five-times winners Bayern

Munich, who finished below PSG in the group, will be happy with a two-legged clash with Turkish outsiders Besiktas.

Europa League champions Manchester United take on Sevilla, Liverpool will meet Porto and AS Roma's reward for winning their group ahead of Chelsea is a tricky tie against Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk.

The Champions League has

proved beyond even the vast riches available to PSG and last season they were stunned in the last 16 by Barcelona, losing the second leg 6-1 after beating the Spanish side 4-0 in the French capital.

A clash with Real is hardly what they would have desired at such an early stage but with Neymar and Edinson Cavani having scored six goals apiece

in the group, they will be hopeful - if they can keep Real's nine-goal Cristiano Ronaldo quiet.

"This could have been the final, given the power of the two clubs. The last 16 is a bit early, we could say. Logically, we are both challengers for the trophy," Emilio Butragueno, Real's director of institutional relations, said. (*Reuters*)

Suarez, Messi maintain Barca's La Liga lead

Madrid

Barcelona restored their lead at the top of La Liga to five points as Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi struck in the final 20 minutes to edge out 10-man Villarreal 2-0 on Sunday.

Daniel Raba's red card on the hour mark for a wild lunge on Sergio Busquets handed Barca the initiative.

And their pressure told when Suarez rounded off a fine team move before Messi blasted home a second to get the Catalans back to winning ways after successive draws with Valencia and Celta Vigo.

"In the second half after the sending-off we had more chances to

win the game," Suarez told *Movistar*.

"They played a very good game tactically and we weren't precise enough, but in the second half we came out with a different mentality to take the three points."

Valencia remain Barca's closest challengers five points back, but Atletico Madrid also maintained their title charge with a 1-0 win at Real Betis to stay six points off the top.

Real Madrid are eight points behind in fourth and Barca will have the chance to go into El Clasico away at Real in two weeks' time with an 11-point lead over their rivals. (*AFP*)



Messi, in an action against Villarreal

Mourinho in post-match fracas



Mikel Arteta covers his face as he arrives at Manchester City training on Monday.

Manchester

Police officers and stewards had to separate up to 20 players and members of staff from Manchester United and City after an extraordinary bust-up in which bottles and punches were thrown and Mikel Arteta, one of Pep Guardiola's assistants, was left with blood streaming down his face.

The incidents have prompted an inquiry from the Football Association, which has asked both clubs for their observations after establishing that the referee did not witness what happened. The governing body could sanction clubs and/or players or staff. Greater Manchester police will launch an investigation if they receive a complaint but will not act unilaterally. As of Monday morning they had not received a complaint from United, City or any alleged victim.

Arteta's eyebrow was split open during a melee in a narrow corridor outside City's dressing room and there were unconfirmed reports that another member of Guardiola's backroom staff needed medical treatment after a confrontation sparked by José Mourinho apparently telling the victorious players to keep their music down. (*theguardian*)

Champions League Round of 16 draw

1st leg: Feb 13/14, 20/21 Head-to-head 2nd leg: Mar 6/7, 13/14

Juventus ITA Finalist Winner 1985, 1996	First meeting Last season Best finish	Tottenham ENG Group stage Semi-final 1962
Basel SUI Group stage Quarter-final 1974	First meeting	Manchester City ENG Last 16 Semi-final 2016
Porto POR Last 16 Winner 1987, 2004	W0-D2-L2	Liverpool ENG Did not play 5-time winner
Sevilla ESP Last 16 Quarter-final 1958	First meeting	Manchester Utd ENG Did not play Winner 1968, 99, 2008
Real Madrid ESP Winner 12-time winner	W2-D2-L2	Paris St-Germain FRA Last 16 Semi-final 1995
Shakhtar Donetsk UKR Did not play Quarter-final 2011	W3-D0-L1	Roma ITA Did not play Final 1984
Chelsea ENG Did not play Winner 2012	W4-D5-L3	Barcelona ESP Quarter-final 5-time winner
Bayern Munich GER Quarter-final 5-time winner	W2-D0-L0	Besiktas TUR Group stage Quarter-final 1987

QUARTER-FINALS Apr 3/4, 10/11 SEMI-FINALS Apr 24/25, May 1/2 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL May 26, Olympic Stadium, Kyiv

Source: UEFA, Gracenote

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Europa League Last 32 draw

1st Leg: Feb 15 2nd Leg: Feb 22

Borussia Dortmund GER	-	Atalanta ITA
Nice FRA	-	Lokomotiv Moscow RUS
FC Copenhagen DEN	-	Atletico Madrid ESP
Spartak Moscow RUS	-	Athletic Bilbao ESP
AEK Athens GRE	-	Dynamo Kyiv UKR
Celtic SCO	-	Zenit St. Petersburg RUS
Napoli ITA	-	RB Leipzig GER
Red Star Belgrade SRB	-	CSKA Moscow RUS
Olympique Lyon FRA	-	Villarreal ESP
Real Sociedad ESP	-	Red Bull Salzburg AUT
Partizan Belgrade SRB	-	Viktoria Plzen CZE
Steaua Bucharest ROM	-	Lazio ITA
Ludogorets Razgrad BUL	-	AC Milan ITA
Astana KAZ	-	Sporting CP POR
Ostersund SWE	-	Arsenal ENG
Olympique Marseille FRA	-	Sporting Braga POR

ROUND OF 16 Mar 8/15 QUARTER-FINALS Apr 5/12 SEMI-FINALS Apr 26/May 3 EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL May 16, Lyon

Source: UEFA

Picture: Getty Images

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