

Basel Shock Manchester United

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Manchester United missed a chance to reach the Champions League knockout stages with a match to spare for the first time since 2014 after a late goal condemned them to a 1-0 defeat at Basel in a pulsating Group A clash on Wednesday.

Midfielder Michael Lang tucked in an 89th minute winner for the Swiss side after Raoul Petretta found him with a pinpoint low cross at the far post, giving United's stand-in keeper Sergio Romero no chance.

Basel's late triumph created a complicated scenario ahead of the last round of games but United are still almost assured of progressing.

They need only to avoid defeat by more than six goals at home to CSKA Moscow to be sure of avoiding an

embarrassing relegation to the second-tier Europa League, which they won last season.

United are still top of the section with 12 points from five games, three ahead of second-placed Basel and third-placed CSKA, who kept alive their hopes of reaching the last 16 with a 2-0 home win over Benfica earlier in the day.

United defender Daley Blind blamed himself for Basel's late winner, saying that he had been too late in covering the dangerous Lang.

Yet his manager Jose Mourinho, frustrated that his side had not completed the job and complaining that United had wasted the chance to be five goals ahead by halftime, was adamant the Dutchman should not be made a scapegoat.

"It is not fair for Blind to blame himself. He had a very positive game. We have to blame everyone on the pitch because we had so many chances," Mourinho said.

"We don't need to win the (final group) match, we don't even need to draw, but obviously we will try to win."

(Reuters)



Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini in action

Lyon roars with run-out to slow England in Ashes

London

England's James Vince was left kicking himself after he was spectacularly run out close to an Ashes debut century, as Australia struck late to leave the first Test finely balanced after day one yesterday.

Captain Joe Root and Alastair Cook both fell cheaply before the tourists reached 196 for four when bad light ended an attritional, rain-affected day at Brisbane's Gabba ground.

Vince top-scored as the tourists went along slowly, blunting Australia's much-vaunted pace attack at a venue dubbed 'The Gabba'.

But Australia loosened England's hard-earned advantage when they dismissed Vince late on, just prior to the key wicket of Root who went lbw to Pat Cummins.

At stumps, Dawid Malan was batting on 28 along with Moeen Ali, whose 13 included the day's only six.

Vince, on 83, scampered for a quick single off Josh Hazlewood but a brilliant off-balance throw from Nathan Lyon prowling in the covers caught him well out of his ground.

It was a moment of triumph for the spinner, who is normally taciturn but who gained notoriety for telling the tourists that Australia aimed to "end careers" in the Ashes series.



Australia's David Warner dives to stop the ball during the first day

"It was a good piece of fielding. In hindsight I wouldn't have taken the run, but it was a good pick-up and throw to be fair," Vince said.

"I'm sure lying in bed I'll have a few thoughts about it (missing out), but at the same time if you had offered me scoring 80-odd I probably would have taken it."

Vince, who was earlier put down by recalled wicketkeeper Tim Paine off Lyon, led a fighting English rearguard with Mark Stoneman after the

early loss of Cook.

It took a special piece of fielding from Lyon to end Vince's 170-ball, four-hour vigil and give the Australians hope on a rugged first day on an unresponsive Gabba pitch.

Eighteen runs later, Root fell leg before wicket to Cummins for 15 off 50 balls after a review, in another huge scalp for the toiling Australians.

"In terms of a fast bowler's wicket, it's pretty much the dream wicket. One of the

most satisfying I've ever got," Cummins said.

If the ball is swinging, to set him up with a couple of overs of out-swing, then try to bowl one big in-swing, it probably only comes off one in a hundred times.

"But when it does it's pretty special."

Australia have a formidable record at the intimidating Gabba, where they have not lost a Test match since 1988, and where England haven't won in 31 years. (AFP)

Tolisso leads Bayern over Anderlecht 2-1 in Group B



Bayern's Arjen Robben, left, shoots the ball

Brussels

Corentin Tolisso set up one goal and scored another to give Bayern Munich a 2-1 win over Anderlecht on Wednesday in Group B of the Champions League.

After a lethargic first half, Bayern — which had already advanced to the last 16 — went ahead in the 51st minute with a lightning attack that left Robert Lewandowski with a simple tap in after Tolisso's assist.

Anderlecht scored its first goal in the Champions League campaign when Sofiane Hanni latched onto a header from Lukasz Teodorczyk and slotted

home from close range in the 63rd.

Tolisso turned finisher in the 77th when he headed home a cross from the right. Still, it was a flattering win for Bayern, which was sleepwalking through much of the game against a mediocre opponent.

"We cannot be happy with this," Bayern defender Jerome Boateng said. "It was our worst game in a long time."

The result kept the German champion in second place, three points behind Paris Saint-Germain which beat Celtic 7-1 in the other group game. Bayern still has an

outside chance to win the group if it can overturn a 3-0 defeat by PSG earlier in the campaign, when the two sides met again in the final game on December 5.

Bayern got some bad news just after halftime when Arjen Robben asked to be replaced following a rash tackle from Uros Spajic that left him clutching his thigh with an apparent muscle injury.

Anderlecht came into the game without a single point or a goal. Even so, forward Teodorczyk had three clear chances in the first half hour. (AP)