

Barcelona, Liverpool, Bayern and Atletico reach Champions League quarter-finals

AFP | Paris, France

Barcelona hit Newcastle United for seven to reach the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday, while Liverpool overturned a first-leg deficit to beat Galatasaray in their last-16 tie and both Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid advanced to the next round.

Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski both scored twice as La Liga leaders Barcelona tore apart Newcastle at the Camp Nou, winning 7-2 in the second leg of their last-16 encounter to progress 8-3 on aggregate.

A spectacular match saw Anthony Elanga twice score for Newcastle inside the opening half-hour to cancel out goals by Raphinha and Marc Bernal.

However, the Catalans went back in front when Lamine Yamal converted a penalty deep in first-half stoppage time to make it 3-2 on the night, and they never looked back.

Fermin Lopez ran through for 4-2 early in the second half before Lewandowski added a quick-fire double either side of the hour mark, and Raphinha completed the scoring in the 72nd minute.

"The confidence that we got in the second half was good to see," said Barca coach Hansi Flick.

It was a chastening defeat for Newcastle and just the third time since 1955 that an English team has conceded at least eight goals on aggregate in a European tie -- one of the other occasions was this week, when Chelsea lost 8-2 on aggregate to Paris Saint-Germain.

"When the game was effectively over we didn't react well to that, so it became a very difficult second half," said Newcastle coach Eddie Howe.

It was also just the third time Barcelona have scored seven in a Champions League game, and Flick's side can now look



Liverpool's Brazilian goalkeeper #01 Alisson (L) makes a save next to Liverpool's French forward #22 Hugo Ekitike (C) during the UEFA Champions League, round of 16 second leg football match between Liverpool and Galatasaray at Anfield in Liverpool, north-west England



Atletico Madrid's Argentine forward #19 Julian Alvarez attempts to control the ball during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 second leg football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Atletico Madrid at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London

forward to an all-Spanish quarter-final next month against Atletico.

Diego Simeone's men lost 3-2 on the night to Tottenham Hotspur in London, but progressed 7-5 on aggregate thanks to their 5-2 victory last week.

Randal Kolo Muani headed in

on the half-hour to give Spurs the lead on the night and suggest a stunning comeback in the tie was possible.

A superb Julian Alvarez strike just after half-time doused the home side's hopes, even if a fine Xavi Simons effort put Tottenham back in front.



Barcelona's Brazilian forward #11 Raphinha (L) celebrates his team's seventh goal with Barcelona's Spanish defender #18 Gerard Martin during the UEFA Champions League last 16 second leg football match between FC Barcelona and Newcastle United at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona



Bayern Munich's German midfielder #42 Lennart Karl celebrates scoring the 3-0 goal with his teammates including Bayern Munich's German midfielder #20 Tom Bischof (R) during the UEFA Champions League, Round of 16 2nd-leg football match between FC Bayern Munich and Atalanta in Munich, southern Germany

David Hancko headed in Atletico's second on the night, before Simons converted a last-minute penalty for his second of the game as Spurs rescued some pride by ending a run of eight matches without a win.

Half-centuries for Kane, Salah

Liverpool were too good for Galatasaray, overturning a 1-0 first-leg deficit against the Turkish side with a comprehensive 4-0 win at Anfield.

Arne Slot's side went ahead on 25 minutes through a lovely first-time finish at a corner from Dominik Szoboszlai.

Mohamed Salah then had a poor penalty saved in first-half stoppage time, but the Egyptian made up for that in style after the break.

He laid on two goals in the space of three minutes, one for Hugo Ekitike and the other for Ryan Gravenberch.

Salah then scored the fourth himself just after the hour, curling a superb effort into the far corner from the edge of the area from a Florian Wirtz lay-off.

It was his 10th club goal this season was also his 50th in the Champions League, and it sealed a 4-1 aggregate victory which takes the Reds through to a quarter-final against PSG.

That will be a repeat of a last-16 tie a year ago which PSG won on penalties -- the French club have won four knockout ties against English opponents since the start of 2025.

"We could (have) won 10-0, but we did a good job. We can be proud," said Ekitike.

Bayern's progress against Atalanta was never in doubt after their 6-1 win in the first leg in Italy, and they followed that with a 4-1 success in Munich.

Harry Kane opened the scoring with a retaken first-half penalty -- his initial effort had been saved -- and then added a brilliant second on 54 minutes.

The brace took the Englishman to a half-century of Champions League goals, as he joined Salah and Thierry Henry on that overall mark -- Kane has done it in 66 games compared to 97 for Salah.

Teenager Lennart Karl got Bayern's third and Luis Diaz the fourth, with Lazar Samardzic pulling one back as the Germans progress 10-2 on aggregate -- they now face Real Madrid in a heavyweight showdown.

"We don't fear anyone," Kane told DAZN when asked about the prospect of that tie.

'Surreal' for F1 world champion Norris to have Tussauds waxwork

London, United Kingdom

Formula One world champion Lando Norris has said it feels "surreal" he will soon be joining other sports stars and celebrities by having a waxwork likeness unveiled at London's Madame Tussauds.

The 26-year-old British driver has been working with the design team at the nearly 200-year-old attraction to create a detailed replica of Norris from helmet to toe.

Norris, born and raised in



The new figure of Norris will feature in Madame Tussauds London's Culture Capital zone, alongside fellow British Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton, and other sports stars including Cristiano Ronaldo, Mo Salah and Anthony Joshua.

Somerset, southwest England, burst onto the Formula One stage in 2019 and last year the McLaren driver won his maiden Formula One world title.

"It's pretty surreal to think I'll have a figure in Madame Tussauds, it's such a big honour," said Norris. "Working with the artists has been awesome, and seeing all the detail they've put into the figure is really impressive. I can't wait for fans to come and see the finished figure in London this summer."

Pogacar targets elusive Milan-San Remo as Van der Poel defends crown

Milan, Italy

Tadej Pogacar and Mathieu van der Poel are set to face off for the first time this season on Saturday as cycling's pre-eminent one-day riders vie for glory at the 298km long Milan-San Remo.

The first "Monument" race of the year homes into view with both world champion Pogacar and last year's winner Van der Poel already showing hot form in Italy.

Pogacar claimed his fourth victory, and third in as many years, at Strade Bianche earlier this month, while Van der Poel won two stages in the Tirreno-Adriatico last week.

The 27-year-old sat out both Paris-Nice and Tirreno-Adriatico in preparation for Milan-San Remo, a rare race in which he can't just blow away the competition with long-range attacks.

India to host 2028 world indoor athletics champs - Coe

AFP | Torun, Poland

The eastern Indian state of Odisha will host the world indoor championships in 2028, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe announced Thursday.

"The World Athletics Council this morning awarded the



The World Indoor Athletics Championships are held on a 200-metre indoor track, which is half the length of a standard outdoor track, making races tighter and often faster-paced due to sharper bends.

next two editions of the event, the world indoor championships, to Odisha in India in 2028 and Astana, Kazakh-

stan, in 2030," Coe said ahead of the world indoors in Torun, Poland.

The selection of Odisha, formerly known as Orissa, is the first time the world's most populous nation has hosted a major World Athletics event. The city of Bhubaneswar in Odisha is home to

the Kalinga Stadium Complex which boasts an indoor stadium.

Amdavad, the city also known as Ahmedabad -- in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat -- has been confirmed as host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, which will feature a full track and field

programme. When Amdavad was confirmed for the Commonwealths, Coe said at the time that India was "already expressing interest in hosting major global athletics events, and the long-term aspiration to host a World Athletics Championships -- and one day the Olympic Games".