

## SPORTS

# PSG tear apart Real

● Angel Di Maria double helps PSG ease to win against Real Madrid

● PSG played without Neymar, Mbappe and Cavani

AFP | Paris

Angel Di Maria scored twice against his former club as Paris Saint-Germain shrugged off the absences of Neymar and Kylian Mbappe and thrashed Real Madrid 3-0 on Wednesday to get off to the perfect start in their latest bid for Champions League success.

Di Maria beat Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois at his near post to put PSG ahead in the 14th minute at the Parc des Princes, but it was his second goal just after the half-hour mark that really lit up this encounter.

The Argentine, who starred for Real for four years and won the Champions League with them in 2014 before making an ill-fated move to Manchester United, gave Courtois no chance with a shot on his left foot from 20 yards out that arrowed into the corner.

Thomas Meunier added the gloss to the score-line at the death but it was Di Maria who had cleared the way for his side, stepping up in the absences of the injured Mbappe and Edinson Cavani as well as the suspended Neymar.

After a summer dominated by the saga of whether the world's most expensive player would leave the club, here was a reminder that the French cham-



Angel Di Maria of Paris Saint Germain, scores a goal

“What upset me is that we did not put enough intensity in the game and at that level of competition”

ZINEDINE ZIDANE

pions have others capable of winning such games.

These two clubs are trying to recover some of their lustre after disappointing campaigns in Europe last season, but for PSG this result is a measure of revenge for their defeat at the hands of Real in the last 16 of the previous year.

They remain unbeaten at home in the Champions League group stage since 2004 and they are already in control of Group A before facing Galatasaray and Club Brugge, who drew 0-0 in Belgium on Wednesday.

Real remain far from convincing since Zinedine Zidane's return to the club for a second spell as coach and the 13-time European Cup winners have won only twice in five outings so far this season.

There is still much work to be done if they are to go deep in this competition again after being humbled by Ajax in the last 16 last spring.

#### Hazard makes little impact

They had a Gareth Bale goal disallowed for handball after a VAR review just after going two behind, while Eden Hazard struggled to make an impact on his first start since his 100 million-euro (\$110 million) move from Chelsea.

Madrid were also handicapped by the absences of Sergio Ramos, Nacho and Marcelo in defence as well as Ballon d'Or winner Luka Modric from their midfield. Mauro Icardi made his first start for the home side after

his arrival on loan from Inter, but his fellow countryman Di Maria stole the show.

PSG, confusingly wearing white while the visitors wore dark blue, opened the scoring in the 14th minute when Di Maria latched onto a Juan Bernat cutback from the left byline and fired in, although Courtois should have done better.

Hazard shot just wide at the other end moments later and Bale curled a free-kick over the bar from the edge of the area after he had been fouled.

Just after that, in the 33rd minute, Di Maria took a touch and smashed a shot into the right corner of the net to make it 2-0.

Then came Bale's disallowed goal, and the Welshman came close again in first-half stoppage time, yet the Spanish giants created little in the second half apart from a Karim Benzema goal that was ruled out for off-side.

## Dynamic Dinamo hand Atalanta sour Champions League debut



GNK Dinamo Zagreb's Bruno Petkovic in action with Atalanta's Rafael Tolo

Reuters | Zagreb

Dinamo Zagreb made a perfect start to their Champions League Group C campaign when a majestic performance gave the Croatian side a 4-0 home win over Italian rivals Atalanta on Wednesday.

Midfielder Marin Leovac fired Dinamo ahead in the 10th minute before a Mislav Orsic hat-trick sent Atalanta reeling on their debut in Europe's premier club competition.

The score did not flatter the home side as they missed several chances to win by a bigger margin, having ripped into the visitors with crisp one-touch passing and darting raids down both flanks.

Atalanta barely threatened and missed their best chance after the damage had already been done, as Dinamo keeper Dominik Livakovic pulled off a magnificent save to deny Duvan Zapata.

Leovac opened the flood-

gates when he slid in to meet a perfect Petar Stojanovic pass from the right and blasted it into the roof of the net from close range, with Atalanta keeper Pierluigi Gollini a mere bystander.

Leovac turned provider in the 31st minute after he left his marker for dead on the left flank and squared the ball back to Orsic, who side-footed it sweetly into the bottom left corner of the net from the edge of the penalty area.

Another raid by Stojanovic produced the third goal in the 42nd minute, as Arijan Ademi met the right back's deep cross at the far post and headed it back for Orsic to nod in the ball from two metres.

Livewire Orsic completed a memorable night with a superb finish from 16 metres in the 68th minute, applying a perfect first touch to control a lofted pass into his stride before driving an unstoppable shot past Gollini.

## Herrera completes Atletico comeback against Juve

AFP | Madrid

Hector Herrera grabbed a dramatic point on his Atletico Madrid debut with a late header that saw his side come back from two goals down to draw 2-2 in their Champions League opener against Juventus on Wednesday.

Herrera came off the bench to crash home Kieran Trippier's last-minute corner and complete the comeback after Juve had gone ahead through Juan Cuadrado's superb strike seconds after the break and a bullet header from Blaise Matuidi on 65 minutes.

Stefan Savic gave the home

fans hope when he pulled one back for Atletico five minutes after Frenchman Matuidi had doubled the away side's lead.

“I'm happy to have made my first appearance and to have helped the team. This side is known for how it always fights to the end,” said Herrera to TV broadcaster Movistar.



Atletico Madrid's Mexican midfielder Hector Herrera scores a goal



Cristiano Ronaldo had scored a hat-trick against Atletico in last year's Champions League to eliminate the Spanish club at the last-16 stage

“A draw against a team like Juventus isn't bad at all. We wanted to win the match but a draw is a good result given the quality of the opposition.”

Both sides now trail Lokomotiv Moscow in Group D thanks to the Russians' 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen after a result that left Maurizio Sarri's Juve disappointed they didn't get more from an impressive second-half display.

“I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth

now because we felt we had the game in our hands,” said Sarri.

“We need more attention and focus on set-pieces. We will work on that.”

#### Towering Atletico

Cuadrado had flashed Juve into the lead two minutes after the restart with an exceptional strike after good work from Gonzalo Higuain, who rolled a neat pass that allowed the Colombian to smash home the opener.

Jose Maria Gimenez then passed up a good chance to level when he blasted over Koke's pull-back, and the away side capitalised when Matuidi charged onto Alex Sandro's cross and thumped his header past Jan Oblak.

The hosts got back into the game almost immediately when Savic headed home a towering Gimenez's perfect knockdown, and they were then pleading for a penalty with seven minutes left when referee Danny Makkelie waved away their appeals despite Matthijs de Ligt kicking the ball onto an unsuspecting Leonardo Bonucci's hand.

## Haas confirm Grosjean in unchanged 2020 F1 lineup



Romain Grosjean

Reuters | Singapore

French driver Romain Grosjean will stay at Haas next season with Dane Kevin Magnussen in an unchanged lineup for a fourth straight year, the Formula One team announced on Thursday.

Magnussen, 26, already had a contract for 2020 while 33-year-old Grosjean had faced an uncertain future at the U.S.-owned outfit.

“I've always stated that it was my desire to remain... and keep building on the team's accomplishments,” Grosjean said in a statement at the Singapore Grand Prix.