

# Bale blitz sinks Reds

Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 to lift Champions League for third time in a row

● Real Madrid's Gareth Bale scores twice in a final packed full of memorable moments

● Liverpool's Mohamed Salah was forced off with a shoulder injury

● Karim Benzema of Real Madrid opened the scoring in bizarre fashion

PA Sport | Kiev

Real Madrid beat Liverpool 3-1 to win the Champions League for a third successive season thanks to a spectacular two-goal substitute appearance from Gareth Bale and a performance to forget for Loris Karius.

Bale, who had been controversially left on the bench despite his recent good form, scored twice in a final packed full of memorable moments for good and bad reasons.

Liverpool started strongly without creating any real chances of note but were dealt a major blow when Mohamed Salah



Sergio Ramos holds the Champions League trophy aloft after Real Madrid's win



Gareth Bales scores an overhead kick to give Real Madrid the lead

went off injured in the 29th minute. The Egypt international, who has scored 44 goals in all competitions this season, hurt his left shoulder while battling for the ball with Madrid captain Sergio Ramos.

Salah attempted to continue but went down to the turf once again before he left the pitch in tears to be replaced by Adam Lallana. Soon after Dani Carvajal was forced to depart for Madrid through injury. He hurt his hamstring when he tried a backheel to Ronaldo.

Minutes before half-time Madrid thought they had taken the lead when Karim Benzema fired home from close range after Karius had parried a Cristiano Ronaldo header, but the was ruled out for offside against Ronaldo.

Moments later Benzema was influential again when he teed up Nacho who fired into the side-netting as Madrid stepped up, while the break couldn't

**3-1**  
was the final score with Bale who had been controversially left on the bench despite his recent good form, scoring twice

come soon enough for Liverpool who were reeling from the loss of their talisman.

Three minutes into the second-half Isco struck the crossbar when he should have scored but the breakthrough came in the 51st minute in unfortunate circumstances for Liverpool goalkeeper Karius.

After collecting a through ball from Toni Kroos, Karius attempted to throw the ball out only for Benzema to stretch a

leg out and poke the ball home.

It didn't take Liverpool long to get back on level terms. Dejan Lovren headed goalward from a corner and Sadio Mane nipped in front of Keylor Navas to poke home. Much of the talk prematch had been about Zinedine Zidane's decision to leave Bale on the bench, but he was introduced in the 60th minute for Isco. And he wasted no time in underlining his continued importance to Madrid with a stunning overhead kick that restored their lead within four minutes of his entrance.

Mane struck the foot of the post with a driven effort from outside the box in the 70th minute as Liverpool tried to warn Madrid that the tie was not over.

But a second mistake from Karius, who spilled a long shot from Bale into his net in the 83rd minute, sealed victory for Madrid and a 13th European Cup success.

## Dominic Thiem clinches Lyon title

● Dominic Thiem beats Gilles Simon 3-6 7-6(1) 6-1

● Thiem has eight claycourt titles in his career

Reuters | Lyon

Dominic Thiem warmed up for the French Open by winning the Lyon Open title yesterday with a gritty 3-6 7-6(1) 6-1 victory over French veteran Gilles Simon in the fi-

nal. The 24-year-old was starting at defeat while down a set and a break but dug deep to prevail in two hours 24 minutes for his 200th tour match victory and his 10th ATP title.

"I'm super happy. I fought really hard for this title," Thiem said. "I'm really happy that I won. It's always something special. It's my tenth title, which is a great number. I have a little 'decima', I think."

Thiem has eight claycourt titles in his career and is seen as one of the few players capable of denying world number one Rafa Nadal a record-extending 11th title at Roland Garros.

The Austrian snapped Nadal's year-long winning streak of 50 consecutive sets when he beat the Spaniard in the Madrid Open quarter-finals earlier this month. His tenacity and endurance will serve him well at the claycourt grand slam that begins on Sunday.

Thiem was forced to play twice on Friday, coming through a three-setter in the semi-final against Dusan Lajovic after earlier completing his quarter-final against Guillermo Garcia-Lopez which had been suspended due to fading light the previous day.

## Jos Buttler, Dom Bess keep England alive

● Jos Buttler reached 66 not out and Bess an unbeaten 55 to take England to 235-6.

BBC | London

Jos Buttler and Dom Bess both made fifties to give England a lead of 56 in the first Test against Pakistan.

The recalled Buttler and debutant Bess came together when England still needed 69 to make Pakistan bat again and shared an unbroken stand of



Dom Bess and Jos Buttler revived England's innings.

125. Buttler reached 66 not out and Bess an unbeaten 55 to take England to 235-6.

Despite 68 from captain Joe Root, a collapse of four wickets

for 19 runs had earlier left England in danger of losing by an innings inside three days.

Pakistan remain strong favourites.