

Real Madrid face Man City, PSG draw Chelsea in Champions League last 16

Reigning champions PSG face Chelsea while Arsenal draw Leverkusen in last 16

● Arsenal to face German champions Bayer Leverkusen

● Newcastle United draw Barcelona

● Liverpool take on Galatasaray

AFP | Madrid

Real Madrid and Manchester City will face off in a Champions League knockout tie for the fifth season running after being drawn yesterday to play each other in the last 16, while reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain will take on Chelsea.

The Spanish giants, record 15-time European champions, will host City in the first leg at the Santiago Bernabeu next month before travelling to England for the return the following week.

The clubs have already played each other this season, with Pep Guardiola's City winning 2-1 in Madrid in December during the league phase, in which the Premier League club finished eighth and Real ninth.

That allowed City, Champions League winners in 2023, to advance straight to the last 16 while



UEFA Champions League Cup is displayed next to a screen bearing the results of the draw

Madrid had to come through the knockout phase play-offs, in which they beat Benfica 3-1 on aggregate.

This is the eighth season in which the teams have played each other since 2012. Real beat City in the knockout phase play-offs last season, and in the quarter-finals on the way to winning the trophy in 2024. They also emerged victorious in the

semi-finals in 2022 with City winning at the same stage the following year.

PSG will be at home to Chelsea in the first leg after qualifying for this stage with a 5-4 aggregate win over Ligue 1 rivals Monaco in the play-offs. Chelsea progressed straight to the last 16 after finishing sixth in the league phase.

The sides played each other in

the knockout stages in three consecutive years from 2014 to 2016, with Chelsea winning the first of those confrontations in the quarter-finals and PSG triumphing in the last 16 in the following two.

Their last encounter came in July's Club World Cup final in the United States, when Chelsea won 3-0 against last season's European champions.

Chelsea have been coached

since January by Liam Rosenior, who had previously come up against PSG in Ligue 1 as coach of Strasbourg.

Arsenal face Leverkusen, Newcastle play Barcelona

There is a record total of six English clubs in the last 16. None will play each other in the last 16 but there are two potential all-English quarter-finals.

Liverpool will have a last-16 rematch against Galatasaray, the Turkish giants having defeated the Anfield club 1-0 in September in the league phase.

The winner of that tie will play either PSG or Chelsea in the quarter-finals, meaning there is a chance Liverpool will get the opportunity to avenge their defeat by the Parisians on penalties a year ago.

Meanwhile, Newcastle United will take on Barcelona with the first leg at St James' Park -- the Spanish side won 2-1 there during the league phase in September.

Tottenham Hotspur were drawn to play Atletico Madrid, with the winners of that tie then facing Newcastle or Barcelona in the last eight.

Arsenal, who finished first in the league phase, will come up against Bayer Leverkusen and if they win that would then be huge favourites in a quarter-final against Bodo/Glimt or Sporting

of Portugal.

The last-16 meeting with Sporting is the Norwegian upstarts' reward for knocking out last season's beaten finalists Inter Milan in the play-offs.

German champions Bayern Munich will play Atalanta, the sole Italian club left in the competition.

The first legs will take place on March 10 and 11, with the second legs a week later. The teams who qualified directly for this stage after finishing in the top eight in the league phase will all be at home in the return matches.



This is the eighth season since 2012 that Real Madrid and Manchester City have faced each other, and the fifth consecutive campaign they have met in the knockout stages, becoming a modern Champions League rivalry

Beating Dortmund 'a mini title', says Bayern's Kompany



Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany

AFP | London

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany said the scale of the Bundesliga match at Borussia Dortmund on Saturday means victory would be like winning "a mini title".

Bayern are eight points clear at the top of the table and can take a major step towards defending their Bundesliga crown with a win today.

It is a rematch of the 2013 Champions League final and 'Der Klassiker' has emerged as a growing rivalry between the country's two biggest football

powers.

Dortmund let a two-goal first-leg lead slip to crash out of the Champions League at Atalanta on Wednesday, but beating Bayern would keep alive their slim hopes of a trophy this season.

"It's a 'Klassiker'. For me, it's always a title in its own right, even if people say we can't win anything more now," Kompany said yesterday.

"The truth is, these games are also important to the masses, so it's also a smaller title. I don't want to forget that. And that's why winning there is an absolute priority for us."

Al Khaldiya, Muharraq Advance To King's Cup Semis

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

The King's Cup quarter-finals lived up to expectation last night as league leaders Al Khaldiya defeated A'ali Club 2-0 and second-placed Muharraq overcame Al Shabab 3-0 to punch their tickets to the semi-finals. Both sides showed their class when it mattered, keeping their cup ambitions firmly on track.

At Bahrain National Stadium, holders Al Khaldiya maintained their fine run under newly appointed Tunisian coach Lassad Al Chabbi. They struck in the fifth minute against A'ali, with Moroccan defender Ayman Dairani -- on loan from Wydad Athletic Club -- stooping low to head home a free-kick from compatriot Saiffedine Bouhra.

The holders thought they had doubled their advantage in the 35th minute after Bouhra was brought down in the box. In an audacious move, Bouhra rolled his penalty sideways to Congolese forward Joel Beya, who tried to finish, but the effort was ruled out for offside. Undeterred, Al Khaldiya sealed the result in the 67th minute when a slick move in the final third released Beya, who made no mistake to secure a deserved 2-0 win and send Al Chabbi's



Muharraq clinches victory as Arthur Rezende pumps his fists



Ayman Dairani celebrates after giving Al Khaldiya an early advantage

men into the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, at Khalifa Sports City Stadium, Muharraq looked determined to make amends for their Khalid bin Hamad Cup final defeat. Portuguese coach Fernando Manuel de Jesus Santos saw his team control long stretches against Al Shabab, led by Mohammed AlMuqla, whose side struggled to create clear chances.

After a goalless first half, Mu-

harraq found the breakthrough in the 55th minute through Edimar Ribeiro da Costa, who dummed two challenges before delicately dinking the ball into the net. The Red Wolves doubled their advantage in the 70th minute as Sofyan Mahrouk's cross found Algerian forward Sami Frioui, who headed home under no pressure. In stoppage time, Brazilian Arthur Rezende

sealed the 3-0 win with a sensational long-range strike, leaving goalkeeper Rashed Aldoseri helpless.

The final two quarter-final ties take place tonight, with Al Ahli facing First Division side Al Ettifaq, while Bahrain Club meet reigning Khalid bin Hamad Cup winners Riffa. Both matches kick off at 9pm to complete the semi-final line-up.