

Atalanta land a knockout punch

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ATLETICO MADRID claimed the final spot in the Champions League last 16 with a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow, after Atalanta completed an impressive comeback in Group C to qualify.

Bayern Munich sealed consecutive victories over Tottenham with a 3-1 success at the Allianz Arena, while Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus also finished their group campaigns on winning notes. Diego Simeone's Atletico went into their game knowing defeat, coupled with a Bayer Leverkusen win against Juve, would see them dumped out. Kieran Tripper had a second-minute penalty brilliantly saved by Lokomotiv goalkeeper Anton Kochenkov at the Wanda Metropolitano, but Joao Felix made no mistake from the spot a quarter of an hour later.

Atletico wasted a string of chances and Alvaro Morata had a goal ruled out by VAR for offside.

But their place in the knockout rounds was secured when centre-back Felipe volleyed home Koke's cross after a short corner routine.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his second Champions League goal of the season as Juve, who were already sure of top spot, saw off Leverkusen 2-0 in Germany in the other Group D game.

Substitute Paulo Dybala was the creator of the 75th-minute opener, crossing low for Ronaldo to tap in a record-extending 128th goal in the competition, before Gonzalo Higuain's injury-time clincher.

Champions League debutants Atalanta claimed a famous 3-0 triumph at Shakhtar Donetsk to qualify with Manchester City despite having lost their first three games. The Italian outfit, who finished third in Serie A last season, conceded 11 goals in their opening three matches, but drew with City at the San Siro before beating Dinamo Zagreb to keep their hopes alive. Timothy Castagne stabbed in the crucial first goal in the 66th minute, before Mario Pasalic found the net shortly after Shakhtar full-back Dodo was controversially sent off in Kharkiv.

Robin Gosens grabbed an injury-time third as Shakhtar tired, sparking wild Atalanta celebrations in front of the visiting fans.

Dinamo needed to beat



Atalanta celebrate their historic win against Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday. Reuters

English champions City to progress, but despite taking an early lead through Dani Olmo, were sent packing by a Gabriel Jesus hat-trick before teenage midfielder Phil Foden wrapped a 4-1 win for Pep Guardiola's side.

Jose Mourinho's Tottenham failed to exact revenge on

Bayern Munich for their 7-2 humbling in London in the reverse Group B fixture.

Kingsley Coman put Bayern ahead as they looked to bounce back from successive Bundesliga defeats, although Ryan Sessegnon marked his first Spurs start with a goal to equalise. But Thomas

Mueller, on as a substitute for the injured Coman, and Philippe Coutinho ensured the Bavarian giants became the first German side to win all six group games.

Youseff El Arabi's late penalty saw Olympiakos edge past Red Star Belgrade 1-0 and pip their opponents to a place in the

Atalanta are making their first appearance in European football's premier club competition thanks to a surprising third-place Serie A finish.

Europa League last 32.

PSG run riot

Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, Mauro Icardi and Edinson Cavani all scored as PSG thrashed Galatasaray 5-0 at the Parc des Princes.

Thomas Tuchel's French champions had already wrapped up top spot in Group A ahead of Real Madrid, but ran riot in the capital. Icardi and Pablo Sarabia put PSG in control at the break, before Neymar and Mbappe teed each other up for second-half strikes and Cavani came off the bench to score a penalty.

Real Madrid also rounded off the group stage in style by beating a spirited Club Brugge 3-1 with goals from Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior and Luka Modric.

Indomitable spirit

Atalanta is the first club in the history of the CL to reach the knockouts despite losing their first three group-stage games. Here are a few talking points on the 112-year-old Italian club.

DEFYING ODDS

Atalanta have been relegated thrice in the last 20 years (2003, 2005 and 2010). They still have managed to qualify for Europe's most elite competition with a third-place finish in the Serie A.

GOLDEN RUN

Between March and May this year, the Italian side hit a purple patch. The Gasperini-coached club had a run of 13 unbeaten matches. They also reached the Coppa Italia finals but were defeated 0-2 by Lazio.

INADEQUATE FACILITIES

The Italians are forced to play their home games at Milan's San Siro, 55km from Bergamo because their stadium does not meet UEFA's requirements.

56 Number of years since Atalanta have a major trophy (Italian Cup). In 1963, Angelo Domenghini scored a hat-trick in their 3-1 win against Torino.

Bergamo because their stadium does not meet UEFA's requirements.

A JOURNEYMAN LEADER

Atalanta is Gian Piero Gasperini's seventh club since starting his managerial career in 2003. Gasperini leads a team of several outcasts, namely former Middlesbrough midfielder De Roon and ex-Aston Villa 'keeper Gollini.

We believed at half-time because if there was a draw, a different result would prevent us from qualifying to the knockout stages. After that second draw in the game in Zagreb we started believing- GIAN PIERO GASPERINI, ATALANTA MANAGER