

Sports

Dinkci shines as Heidenheim claim first Bundesliga victory

Moenchengladbach stage shock comeback

BERLIN: Heidenheim's on-loan midfielder Eren Dinkci scored twice in a 4-2 win against his parent club Werder Bremen on Sunday to give the promoted side their first ever Bundesliga victory. Bremen-born Dinkci, who joined Heidenheim on loan from Werder in July, scored either side of half time as the Bundesliga newcomers prevailed in one of two six-goal thrillers in the Bundesliga on Sunday. In Sunday's late game, another promoted side Darmstadt threw away a three-goal lead to draw 3-3 with Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"It's a great feeling. My first brace in the Bundesliga, and it comes against Bremen of all clubs. My whole family is

here today, so it doesn't get much better than this," Dinkci told DAZN after Heidenheim's win. The club's first top-flight win came on a weekend when coach Frank Schmidt celebrated 16 years in the dugout, making him the longest-serving coach in German league history. Schmidt took over Heidenheim in the fifth tier back in 2007, but he dismissed talk of a fairytale on Sunday. "There was nothing cheesy about today's win. It was just an awesome game of football," he said.

Tim Kleindienst gave Heidenheim an early lead from the penalty spot after Bremen's Anthony Jung threw an elbow at the ball while defending a free-kick. The home side then doubled their advan-

tage on the stroke of half-time through Dinkci, who refused to celebrate after smashing the ball past former teammate Jiri Pavlenka in the Bremen goal. The visitors looked down and out at half-time, but were given a route back by an Omar Traore handball.

Marvin Ducksch hit the resulting penalty straight at Heidenheim goalkeeper Kevin Mueller before nodding in the rebound to make it 2-1. Bremen missed a good chance to equalize through Romano Schmid before Mitchell Weiser pulled them level with a well-placed header on 64 minutes. Dinkci restored the lead four minutes later, slotting the ball into the bottom corner from the edge of the

area after a cross from Jan-Niklas Beste. Beste, who spent a year at Bremen's reserves in 2018/19, rifled in a fourth a few minutes later to seal the win.

Gladbach miracle

Later on Sunday, Borussia Moenchengladbach staged a miraculous comeback in Darmstadt, in part thanks to a controversial red card. Darmstadt started the game bottom of the table, but exploded into the first half with two goals in the first ten minutes. Marvin Mehlem picked up a looping long ball to slot home the first. Matej Maglica doubled the lead with a header two minutes later. Tim Skarke blasted in a third on the

half-volley just after the half-hour, putting Darmstadt on course for a first win of the season. The game turned early in the second half when Maglica was sent off after appearing to brush the ball with his hand in the box. "We were lucky the decision went our way because it gave us a chance to get back in the game," said Gladbach midfielder Julian Weigl after the whistle. Tomas Cvančara missed the penalty, but US international Jordan Siebatcheu Pefok pulled a goal back for Gladbach a few minutes later. Florian Neuhaus added a second from close range on 73 minutes, before Cvančara atoned with a brilliant long-range equalizer. — AFP

Trossard strikes as Arsenal end Everton curse

LIVERPOOL: Arsenal ended their six-year wait for a Premier League victory at Everton as Leandro Trossard fired the title-chasing Gunners to a 1-0 success on Sunday. Mikel Arteta's side had to work hard for their first win at Goodison Park since 2017, with Belgian forward Trossard settling a scrappy encounter midway through the second half. Arsenal were not at their fluent best but they earned their fourth win in five games this season by matching Everton's physical approach.

Arteta has warned his players they would only end their Everton curse if they are willing to put their bodies on the line and they rose to that challenge. After leaving it late to beat Manchester United in their previous game before the international break, this was another tense affair for Arsenal. But Trossard's goal lifted unbeaten the north Londoners into fourth place, two points behind leaders Manchester City as they aim to avenge last season's late collapse in the title race.

"It was a long time without a win here. We played a great game and didn't give anything away. We dominated and the score should probably have been bigger," Arteta said. "Everton haven't created a single chance. It's about intelligence but also about the fight. Against Manchester United I saw my face after and it was a bit of relief. This was enjoyment. We were patient and Leandro produced an incredible finish to win the game."

Winless Everton remain in the relegation zone as they face up to another relegation battle after narrowly beating the drop in the last two seasons. Sean Dyche's team headed into the game on the back of the news that the club is set to have new owners after Farhad Moshiri agreed to sell his 94 percent stake to American investment fund 777 Partners. The takeover would bring to an end the tumultuous tenure of British-Iranian Moshiri, who first invested in 2016.

Ruthless Arteta

Everton's new owners got an early glimpse into the size of the task facing them as the Toffees suffered a fourth defeat in their opening five league games for the first time since 2005-06. Arteta, a former Everton midfielder, has no such worries as Arsenal prepare for their return to the Champions League after a six-year absence against PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday.

The Spaniard was rewarded with a clean-sheet from keeper David Raya, who made his Arsenal debut following his move from Brentford as Aaron Ramsdale dropped to the bench. Raya was one of two changes, with Fabio Vieira making his first start since April in place of Kai Havertz. "It is nothing different. I have 11 players to pick and no-one is different," Arteta said of his ruthless decision to axe Ramsdale.

Gabriel Martinelli thought he had given Arsenal the lead their dominance deserved when he slotted home from close-range in the 19th minute, but his effort was disallowed for offside against Eddie Nketiah in the build-up. Gabriel's pass had bounced off Everton forward Beto when Nketiah was ruled to be interfering with play, much to Arsenal's disgust. Adding insult to injury for Martinelli, the Brazilian forward limped off with a muscle injury soon after that incident. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Everton's Portuguese striker #14 Beto (left) vies with Arsenal's French defender #02 William Saliba (right) during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Arsenal at Goodison Park in Liverpool on September 17, 2023. — AFP

Last ever Champions League stage starts as City face title defense

PARIS: Manchester City begin their defense of the Champions League on Tuesday when the group stage kicks off in the last season in its current format as Europe's elite club competition gets ready for a radical change. Unveiled by UEFA in 2021 at the height of the crisis which saw a group of 12 clubs announce a breakaway Super League before promptly abandoning the project, the new-look Champions League will begin next year.

It will see the number of clubs involved in the competition proper increase from 32 to 36, with all participants going into a single league in which teams will play eight games - up from the current six - in what is known as the "Swiss system". This is therefore the last campaign, after two decades, in which the Champions League will begin with a group stage featuring eight sections of four teams, with the top two in each advancing to the last 16.

"We are convinced that the format chosen strikes the right balance and that it will improve competitive balance," said Aleksander Ceferin, the president of European football's governing body, when the changes to the Champions League were confirmed in May last year. The format that is on its way out was brought in for the 2003/04 season, ending an experiment with a second group stage. In terms of symmetry and simplicity it cannot be bettered, with half the teams advancing from the group stage to the last 16. But this is an era in which major club and international competitions keep expanding. In addition, there has been a recognition that the Champions League group stage has gone somewhat stale.

Growing gulf

The financial gulf between the continent's most powerful clubs and the rest is growing all the time, accentuated in particular by the decision to award a portion of prize money based on the position of teams in UEFA's own club ranking. That means the

Recent UEFA Champions League winners

PARIS: Recent winners of the UEFA Champions League ahead of the start of this season's group stage on Tuesday:

- 2022-23 : Manchester City (ENG)
- 2021-22 : Real Madrid (ESP)
- 2020-21 : Chelsea (ENG)
- 2019-20 : Bayern Munich (GER)
- 2018-19 : Liverpool (ENG)
- 2017-18 : Real Madrid (ESP)
- 2016-17 : Real Madrid (ESP)
- 2015-16 : Real Madrid (ESP)
- 2014-15 : Barcelona (ESP)
- 2013-14 : Real Madrid (ESP)
- 2012-13 : Bayern Munich (GER)
- 2011-12 : Chelsea (ENG)
- 2010-11 : Barcelona (ESP)
- 2009-10 : Inter Milan (ITA)
- 2008-09 : Barcelona (ESP)

team placed at number one gets over 36 million euros (\$38.4m) just for being the top-ranked side, with the amount dropping progressively so the lowest-ranked team receive only just over one million euros. Even at this elite level, there are plenty of teams who are doing little more than make up the numbers, albeit while being handsomely rewarded. It is hard to imagine Swiss side Young Boys or Serbia's Red Star Belgrade making a big impact alongside Pep Guardiola's City and RB Leipzig in Group G.

City should stroll through to the last 16, racking up goals in the process, and they begin as favorites to retain a trophy they won in June by beating Inter Milan 1-0 in the final in Istanbul. That success saw City finally win the competition they had been chasing since the Abu Dhabi-led takeover of 2008 that transformed the club. "This project is to want more, more ambition," said Spanish midfielder Rodri after scoring the winner for City in last season's final.

So who can stop them?

It surely will not be the champions of Switzerland or Serbia, or a Leipzig team who lost their star defender, Josko Gvardiol, to City during the close season. Record 14-time winners Real Madrid are

Most European Cup/Champions League wins per club

- Real Madrid (Spain) - 14 (1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022)
- AC Milan (Italy) - 7 (1963, 1969, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003, 2007)
- Liverpool (England) - 6 (1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005, 2019)
- Bayern Munich (Germany) - 6 (1974, 1975, 1976, 2001, 2013, 2020)
- Barcelona (Spain) - 5 (1992, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2015)
- Ajax (Netherlands) - 4 (1971, 1972, 1973, 1995)
- Manchester United (England) - 3 (1968, 1999, 2008)
- Inter Milan (Italy) - 3 (1964, 1965, 2010) — AFP

always contenders in the Champions League, although Carlo Ancelotti's team find themselves in a difficult group alongside Napoli, Braga and newcomers Union Berlin.

Bayern Munich have reinforced in attack with the signing of Harry Kane, while Paris Saint-Germain have lost Neymar and Lionel Messi but kept Kylian Mbappe and strengthened around him. Both of their seasons will be defined, as ever, by their performances in the Champions League. Arsenal will hope to make an impression on their return to the Champions League for the first time since 2016/17, while Saudi ownership has propelled Newcastle United back into the competition after two decades away.

However, they find themselves in a section along with PSG, AC Milan and Borussia Dortmund. UEFA might have been less inclined to change the format of the Champions League format if their competition featured groups like that more often. "It's hard and challenging but I think there's some great European games for us to experience and great places to visit for our supporters," said the Newcastle manager Eddie Howe after the draw. His team begin away to seven-time European champions Milan on Tuesday. — AFP

UEFA Champions League

AC Milan v Newcastle	19:45
beIN Sports HD 2	
beIN Sports HD 1 English	
beIN Sports 1 FR	
BSC Young Boys v Leipzig	19:45
beIN Sports HD Xtra 1	
Man City v Crvena Zvezda	22:00
beIN Sports HD 3	
beIN Sports 1 FR	
Barcelona v Royal Antwerp	22:00
beIN Sports HD 4	
beIN Sports 3 FR	
Shakhtar Donetsk v Porto	22:00
beIN Sports Fr 6 HD max	
beIN Sports HD Xtra 2	
PSG v Borussia Dortmund	22:00
beIN Sports HD 1	
beIN Sports HD 1 English	
beIN 4K HDR	

AFC Champions League

Yokohama Marinos v Incheon United	13:00
beIN Sports AFC HD	
Ulsan Hyundai v Pathum United	13:00
beIN Sports	
Kaya FC v Taishan	15:00
beIN Sports AFC 2 HD	
Johor Darul m v Kawasaki Frontale	15:00
beIN Sports AFC 1 HD	
Pakhtakor Tashkent v Al-Ain	17:00
beIN Sports AFC HD	
Ahal FC v Al Fayha	19:00
beIN Sports AFC 2 HD	
FC Istiklol Dushanbe v Al Duhail SC	19:00
beIN Sports AFC 1 HD	
Persepolis v Al Nassr	21:00
Abu Dhabi Sports Asia 2	
Alkass Nine HD	
beIN Sports AFC HD	

Classifieds

Clinics & Hospitals

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
lbn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Change of Name

I'm Balu Krishnamumari, holder of Indian Passport No. T8986396, resident of Kakaravariipalli, Chakrampeta, Penagalur mandal. YSR Dist. A.P. India, have changed my name Krishnamumari to Krishna Kumari (given name) and Balu (surname) in all of my dealings and documents. (#4229) 19/9/2023

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