

# Man United Go Crashing Out Of Champions League Football

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, Manchester United travelled to Spain to take on Sevilla in the first leg of their Champions' League round of 16 clash.

It ended 0-0 in the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán stadium after 90 minutes. José Mourinho's side were clearly outplayed, evidenced in the statistics – Sevilla had 25 shots and eight on target, where Man Utd had six shots and only one on target.

When they played the second leg at Old Trafford 20 days later, it was a stalemate at half time. The second half was lit up by a stunning performance by Wissam Ben Yedder.

He was brought on as a sub by manager Vincenzo Montella in the 72' minute and it only took him two minutes to fire a shot into the bottom right corner of David de Gea's goal.



*Ben Yedder (centre) scores his first goal of the night*

Four minutes later he grabbed another. His scrappy header was directed into the goal after an unfortunate mistake by de Gea. This meant a down and out United side needed 3 goals to win – they would have gone out on away goals rule had it finished 2-2.

Lukaku provided a consolation for José Mourinho in the 84' minute, but the result was inevitable with Sevilla F.C. coming out as victors.

## Man Utd 2-1 L'Pool

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, just three days before they played Sevilla, United faced 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Liverpool, who were only 2 points behind them.

It was youngster Marcus Rashford who opened the scoring for the Red Devils within the first quarter of an hour. Romelu Lukaku 'bullied' Dejan Lovren (as he did for the whole game) and won the header from a long ball by de Gea, nodding it on in behind the Liverpool defence. Rashford then beat Trent Alexander-Arnold to the ball and chopped it 90 degrees behind his leg, Ronaldo style, before unleashing an absolutely thundering strike into the far bottom corner. Loris Karius, the keeper, had no chance. 10 minutes later, Lukaku once again won the header, rising above Lovren and again it ran through, this time for Juan Mata whose shot was blocked by Klopp's new signing Virgil Van Dijk. However it deflected into the path of Marcus Rashford who was able to convert with the help of an Alexander-Arnold deflection. Liverpool didn't even score their goal – it came from Eric Bailly misjudging a Mané cross and deflecting it off his heel into his own net.

## Newcastle 3-0 Southampton

Struggling Southampton travelled to St. James' Park to take on Newcastle – a side you wouldn't guess had only this season been promoted. Within two minutes, Perez won the ball back and flicked it over a Southampton midfielder. Shelvey then played a long, lofted pass through to loanee Kenedy who chested it down and poked in a volley from 10 yards.

Newcastle's second goal was a very simple one – Perez played it through for Dwight Gayle, who unselfishly squared it for Kenedy to get his second.

Newcastle weren't finished though, as in the 57' minute Ritchie was played the ball on the edge of the box before expertly tucking it away into the bottom left corner, wrapping up the three points for the Magpies.

## Stoke 0-2 Man City

Runaway leaders Manchester City faced Stoke City, who were in the relegation zone (easy pickings for Pep's side). They never really needed to get past second gear, though, *cruising* to an easy, decisive victory. Gabriel Jesus played a pinpoint through ball to Raheem Sterling, and he picked out David Silva in the middle with a low cross. Silva got another in the second half when the ball was lifted into the middle by Jesus – it bounced at an awkward height but David Silva showed his experience by coolly poking the ball past Butland under pressure from him and a defender. Stoke drift further away from safety, putting a bleak look on their future.