

2014 Champions League

FC Wisconsin's Champions League kicked off Monday, January 6th featuring 4 teams comprised of a mix of players from the club's U15-U18 boys NPL and WDA teams. The 8 week long league provides additional developmental opportunities for individual players, fosters club camaraderie through mixed age group teams and aims for competitive fun both for players and coaches alike.

The following weekly Champions League reports come courtesy of League Director and Coach Jake Provan:

3 and 4th Place Playoff and Championship Summary:

Chelsea vs Real Madrid, 3rd and 4th Place Playoff Match

Real Madrid moved the ball swiftly and efficiently forward to earn a two to one half time lead. Chelsea responded with an early goal in the second half to level the game quickly, but Real Madrid had a responsive goal of its own to again go ahead by three goals to build a sizable lead with 18 minutes remaining in the match. The game finished 6-3 with a brilliant game by goal keeper Ben Elhert who made many saves to keep Real Madrid on top. Elhert, despite a ankle injury late in the game earned man of the match.

Marseilles vs AC Milan, Championship Match

AC Milan started in its typically dominant fashion building a 4-0 by the end of the second half. Ellenhausen continued his goal scoring terror with multiple goals for AC Milan. Yet, the tables quickly turned after the half as Marseilles scored four unanswered goals of their own in the first five minutes of the second half making it a entirely different match (for about five minutes). AC Milan came back with seven unanswered goals of their own to build a daunting task for Marsielles to formulate a comeback run. The lead proved too formidable for Marsielles. AC Milan earned the right to be league Champions.

Ellenhausen earns the golden boot and the league MVP award for FC Wisconsin's first annual Champions League. Alex Hoffstetter named top Goal Keeper!

Congratulations to Champions AC Milan (pictured below) and congratulations to all the teams, players, and coaches that made this league a productive, enjoyable, and huge success!



Week 6 Summary:

Chelsea vs Real Madrid

Real Madrid looked like a new and improved squad to start the week 6 campaign. Chelsea scored early in the match, but Real quickly answered with three goals of their own to gain one maybe its first lead in during the first half this season. The acquisition of Christian Ellihausen paid off quickly. Real established a five goal lead at the half.

Chelsea made great halftime tactical adjustments and scored seven unanswered goals to take the lead with 3:52 remaining in the match. Penetration thru the middle, a better organized defense, and quicker counter attacks allowed Chelsea to steal the match. Alex Hoffstetter, Chelsea GK, earned man of the match for his dazzling saves.

Marseilles vs AC Milan

The match started with goals being quickly exchanged in this furiously paced match. AC Milan seemed to be more consistent in front of goal and built a 3-2 lead at the half. Both goal keepers made an equally great number of saves to keep the game close as well. Better finishing could have be the answer for the Marseilles side.

AC Milan kicked off the second half with a goal scored by Israel Betancourt within the first 18 seconds. AC Milan continued to apply pressure in front of Marseilles goal throughout the match. Marseilles answered with conviction and earned a 5-4 victory providing AC Milan with its first loss of the season.

Todor earns the man of the match with his game winning goal.

Playoff Preview

AC Milan secures first seed and Marseilles secures second seed due to an advantage in goal differential over Chelsea. Real Madrid will remain the fourth seed.

Week 5 Summary:

Real Madrid vs AC Milan Week 5

AC Milan continues there scoring campaign opening Week 5 with two early goals to build a solid lead to start the match. Real Madrid looked to rely on counter attacks in response to the two early AC Milan goals, but the counter attacking strategy proved ineffective. AC Milan demonstrated quick transition to defense to alleviate any counter attempted. Goals continued to pour in throughout the game with Real Madrid's inability to answer. Jake Apazeller went on loan late in the first half and scored within 30 seconds of entering the match for Real Madrid.

A goal keeper swap was made at halftime in attempt to abate AC Milan's scoring drive. "...this coach will self-destruct," said Real Madrid Manager, McCreary. He appeared to have more grey hairs (in his hair and goatee) after the conclusion of the match. Halftime chat must have worked as Real started the second half with 3 unanswered goals closing the gap within one goal with 13:21 left in the second half. Final 11-7 for undefeated AC Milan. Betancourt was nominated "Man or the Match" for his hat trick.

Breaking Transfer News:

The unimaginable transfer occurred in week 5. AC Milan's Christian Ellihausen, the Champions League top scorer and point leader, received an offer he could not refuse and was transferred to Real Madrid. Can he be Real's savior? AC Milan picks up GK Ben Elhert, in a goal keep exchange with Real Madrid. Real acquires Brandon Cook in the exchange. This could turn the turn the tables throughout the league. The Ellihausen deal contains a clause that if AC Milan plays in the Championship match, AC Milan has the right to use him on loan.

Marseilles vs Chelsea Week 5

Marseilles Michael Lesar started the match with a quick goal in the first minute for Marseilles. Chelsea hasn't found the remedy for a slow transition to defense. Goals were exchanged back and forth with another even battle between these two sides resembling their previous match-up that ended in a 1-1 draw in Week 2. Half-time score reflected the even battle with a 3-2 score in Marseilles' favor. Chelsea quickly scored in the first minute of the second half to level. Ellihausen, on loan, scored quickly after leveling the game to provide Chelsea with its first lead of the game, but that lasted only a

minute. Chelsea snuck away with 7-6 victory off a game winning goal score with only 12 seconds remaining. Jake earned "Man of the Match." Chelsea and Marseilles are once again tied for second, however Marseilles has the advantage in goal differential.

Week 4 Summary:

Chelsea vs AC Milan

AC Milan continues to dominate the Champions League showing no mercy to a Chelsea side that was battling to secure a second place position. AC Milan, consistent with every match, scored early and built a sizable lead that seemed too daunting for the Chelsea side. AC Milan's pace, passing, and shooting accuracy gives them the edge over all other Champions League sides. AC Milan's Elliehausen orchestrated a dominant game by scoring more goals than the entire Chelsea team and finished with a personal, team, and league record of 6 goals and 5 assists for a total of 17 points in a single match. The press has no choice but to once again select Elliehausen as Man of the Match. He now leads the league with 44 points over doubling the next closest, Apazeller at 20 points. Final 13-5 for AC Milan.

Chelsea's Jake Apezeller is quoted as "our team needs to defend as a unit and be overall fitter (more fit)."

Marseilles vs Real Madrid

Marseilles, determined to solely secure second place over Chelsea, started the match with a goal in the first minute of play getting off to a quick start, ironically the goal score was by Jake Apazeller on loan from Chelsea. This match proved a more even battle than the first as goals were evenly exchanged; Marseilles finishing with a 4-3 lead at half. The game remained close up until the final whistle. Marseilles barely held on to win 9-8.

Marseilles' Ivan Khamenka earned Man of the Match posting 4 goals on the stat line.

Real Madrid looks to week 5 to find its first victory while Marseilles sneaks ahead of Chelsea for second place. Chelsea surely to be disappointed as several of its players were on loan to Marseilles for week 4.

Week 3 Summary:

Undefeated AC Milan met Marseilles for the 3rd leg of the FC Wisconsin Champions League. Marseilles put on a hard fought battle the first half with goals being exchanged back and forth despite AC Milan's first minute set piece goal. The half time score was nearly even, but the overall difference that pulled AC Milan way with a 14-7 victory was Christian Elliehausen who dominated the scoreboard with 4 goals and 2 assists. He is the overall league point leader with 27 points and once again earned "Man of the Match."

Chelsea faced a Real Madrid team that is in much need of its first victory. The energy level was high on both sides, but Chelsea seemed to control much of the match with solid possession and an early lead that Chelsea never relinquished. Jake Apezeller demonstrated his offensive prowess with 4 goals and 2 assists of his own making him man of the match.

Undefeated AC Milan sits alone at the top of the table after week 3. Marseilles and Chelsea are tied at second place with 1-1-1 overall matching records, and Real Madrid is still in search of its first Victory. Perhaps the Real side maybe looking to make of few trades during the transfer window.

Week 2 Summary:

Chelsea met Marseilles in the second leg of the FC Wisconsin Champions league and it proved to be a hard fought, even battle. Marseilles got on the score sheet first thanks to Marseilles' Michael Lesar with an assist from Reedan Abid. Chelsea's McVeigh leveled the score late in the first half. Play was constantly back and forth and the 1-1 score at half reflected both teams efforts. Marseilles scored early in the second to once again take the lead. Alex Hofstetter of Chelsea made several brilliant saves to keep Chelsea in the battle. Chelsea scored with about 5 minutes remaining in the second half and the score ended in a deserved 2-2 draw. Alex Hofstetter earned the Man of the Match for his incredible saves to keep Chelsea in contention.

In the second match, AC Milan proved to be all out dominant from the starting whistle, building a quick 5-1 lead. Real Madrid found a rhythm late in the first half and closed the gap to 5-3 before the half time whistle. AC Milan once again started in a dominant fashion in the second half with two goals within the first two minutes of the second half eventually building a 9 goal lead. Despite Real Madrid's 3 goals in the second half, they could not answer AC Milan's scoring power. The match ended with a convincing 12-6 victory of AC Milan. Christian Elliehausen earned Man of the Match with an impressive 5 goals and 2 assists making him the overall league point leader with 15 points.

Week 1 Summary:

Two exciting matches were played the first evening of Champions League with close scores at halftime for both matches. In the 7pm match, Marseilles vs Real Madrid, the score was level at 5-5, however Marseilles stepped on the offensive gas the second half scoring 6 unanswered goals. Counter attacking became Marseilles strength in the second half in addition to a quality transition with numbers back to defend. Marseilles Todor Andonov was named Man of the Match with an impressive 4 goals and 2 assists making him the overall league leader in points @ 10 points earned.

The second match, Chelsea vs AC Milan, Chelsea possessed a first half lead of 5-4. AC Milan increased the defensive pressure in the second half eliminating the build-up success Chelsea established in the first half of play. Chelsea seemed to display tired legs in the second half and that let to AC Milan scoring 3 goals in the second half to pull way with a 7-5 victory. Israel Betancourt earned Man of the Match with posting 2 goals and 1 assist for 5 points.

Week 2 should prove to provide another week of level battles for all four squads.