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ZAMBIA RUGBY SEEKS K620,000 FOR WOMEN'S 7S

ZRU president Louis Bweupe has appealed to Government, the corporate sector and well-wishers to raise K620,000 to cover travel, accommodation, training and equipment costs for Zambia's Women's Sevens team...

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FAZ TO RECEIVE UP TO US$700,000 ANNUALLY FROM CAF

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ZAMBIA RUGBY UNION SEEKS K620,000 TO FUND WOMEN'S SEVENS TEAM

By Lucky Chama



Zambia Rugby Union (ZRU) president Louis Bweupe has appealed to Government, the corporate sector and well-wishers to raise K620,000 to facilitate the Zambia Women's Sevens team's participation in the 2026 Rugby Africa Women's Sevens Cup in Nairobi, Kenya.

The tournament is scheduled for November 7–8, 2026, with Zambia drawn in Pool A alongside South Africa, Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

Bweupe said the funding was needed to meet travel and transport costs, accommodation, training camp expenses, nutrition, playing kits and training equipment as the team prepares for the continental competition.

In a sponsorship appeal, he said the players were committed to representing the country and needed financial support to compete effectively against some of Africa's leading women's rugby teams.

"We need to raise K620,000 and therefore I am making a passionate appeal to the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the corporate world and well-wishers to step forward," Bweupe said.

He said supporting the team went beyond rugby, arguing that investment in women's sport could promote the empowerment of the girl child and strengthen national pride.

"Investing in these women isn't just about rugby, it's about empowering the girl child, building national pride, and proving that Zambian sports deserve a place at the top," he said.

Bweupe expressed confidence in the team's ability to compete, saying the players understood the responsibility of representing Zambia on the continental stage.

He added that the team's ambition was to improve on its sixth-place ranking in Africa, making adequate preparations important ahead of the November tournament.

The ZRU president also referred to President Hakainde Hichilema's position that no sport should be considered minor and that all disciplines should have an opportunity to compete and receive support.

Bweupe said the President's call for stronger corporate partnerships in sport gave the union hope that its sponsorship appeal would attract the required backing.

He urged businesses and other potential partners to turn their support for sport into practical assistance that would enable the team to travel and prepare adequately.

The funds will be coordinated through the Zambia Rugby Union, which Bweupe identified as the official channel for sponsorship and support.

Zambia's participation in the tournament will provide an opportunity for the women's team to compete against South Africa, Zimbabwe and Rwanda in the group stage as it seeks to improve its standing in African rugby.

Bweupe said the team was determined to make the country proud and called on stakeholders to support the players' continental ambitions.

"Let's turn promises into action. Let's back our queens!" he said.

MWEETWA JOINS IOC BELIEVE IN SPORT AMBASSADORS FOR DAKAR 2026

By Enock Phiri



Former Zambia international Nchimunya Mweetwa will join the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Believe in Sport Ambassadors in educating young athletes about the dangers of competition manipulation at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Mweetwa, who participated in the programme at Paris 2024 and Milano Cortina 2026, will use his personal experience with match-fixing to warn young competitors about the consequences of compromising sporting integrity.

The IOC has appointed six additional athletes from around the world as Believe in Sport Ambassadors for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, which will bring together approximately 2,700 competitors.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about competition manipulation and promote integrity in sport, with ambassadors engaging young athletes throughout the Games.

Mweetwa's involvement brings a personal perspective to the campaign, as he has openly spoken about his involvement in match-fixing and will use his experience to highlight how such actions can undermine sporting careers and damage the credibility of competitions.

The six newly appointed ambassadors are Matelita Buadromo, a two-time Olympic swimmer for Fiji; Turkish volleyball Olympian Esra Gumus; Malian basketball Olympian Kady Kanouté Tounkara; South African track and field star Khotso Mokoena; Japanese baseball international Ayako Rokkaku; and Brazilian artistic gymnast Arthur Zanetti.

The group brings experience from the Olympic Games and other major international competitions. Mokoena won silver in the long jump at Beijing 2008 after competing at four Olympic Games, while Zanetti claimed gold in the rings at London 2012 and silver at Rio 2016.

Gumus represented Türkiye at London 2012, Buadromo competed at London 2012 and Rio 2016, Kanouté Tounkara featured at Beijing 2008, and Rokkaku is a four-time women's baseball World Cup winner.

The ambassadors will form part of the IOC's Athlete Education Programme (AEP), which will cover key issues including mental health, safe sport, injury prevention, anti-doping and the prevention of competition manipulation.

Through interactive learning activities, young athletes and members of their entourages will examine hypothetical situations involving betting, match-fixing and the sharing of confidential information.

The sessions will encourage participants to consider the consequences of different decisions and learn how to respond appropriately when faced with situations that could threaten sporting integrity.

Gumus said the programme would help young competitors understand the challenges they could encounter as they pursue sporting careers.

"The Youth Olympic Games are about inspiring the next generation, and I am proud to contribute to that mission as a Believe in Sport Ambassador," she said.

She added that young athletes deserved the knowledge and tools to navigate difficult situations and compete with confidence and integrity.

Mokoena also emphasised the importance of ethical decision-making, noting that sport depends on integrity, fairness, respect and trust.

The ambassadors will be available throughout the Games to answer questions and share their experiences, helping young competitors make informed decisions during their sporting journeys.

The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games will combine competition with education aimed at preparing young athletes for elite sport and life beyond it.

Mweetwa's participation will give young competitors an opportunity to hear first-hand about the risks associated with match-fixing and the importance of protecting the integrity of sport.


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DEFENDING CHAMPIONS MOROCCO THRASH ZAMBIA 7-0

By Lucky Chama



Zambia suffered a heavy 7-0 defeat to defending champions Morocco in their second Group A match at the TotalEnergies CAF Futsal Africa Cup of Nations Morocco 2026 on Wednesday.

Morocco produced a dominant display at the Moulay Abdellah Sports Hall in Rabat, with Idriss Raiss El Fenni scoring four goals as the hosts secured their second consecutive victory in the tournament.

El Fenni put Morocco ahead in the third minute before doubling the lead a minute later. He completed his hat-trick in the ninth minute to leave Zambia facing an uphill task early in the encounter.

Yanis Ahmed Erraddaf extended Morocco's advantage in the 12th minute as the hosts maintained their attacking pressure heading into the break.

El Fenni added his fourth goal of the match in the 21st minute, further strengthening Morocco's control of the contest.

Soufiane Charraoui made it 6-0 in the 37th minute before Zambia suffered another setback when Hendricks Chisanga was sent off in the 38th minute for a reckless foul on Charraoui.

Morocco capitalised on their numerical advantage, with Youssef Jouad scoring in the 40th minute to complete the emphatic victory.

The result handed Morocco a second consecutive win as the defending champions continued their pursuit of a fourth continental title.

Despite the defeat, Zambia remain second in Group A following Libya's 2-2 draw against Algeria in the other match played on Wednesday.

Libya had taken the lead in the 12th minute through Ibrahim Lemhammel before Abdulhakim Rashid doubled their advantage in the 29th minute.

Algeria reduced the deficit in the 34th minute through Ali Skender Sichaib, setting up a tense finish.

Libya's Ahmed Abdelhafide was sent off in the 38th minute after receiving a second yellow card, and Algeria immediately took advantage of their numerical superiority.

Samyr Teffaf converted the resulting free-kick in the 39th minute to level the score and rescue a point for Algeria.

The draw left both Libya and Algeria still searching for their first victories of the competition, while Zambia retained their position behind Morocco in the group standings.

Zambia will now look to secure progression to the semi-finals in their remaining group fixture. A draw or victory in their next match would secure qualification, according to the current group situation.

The Copper Bullets will need to respond after the heavy loss to Morocco as they seek to remain in contention for a place in the knockout stages.

FAZ TO RECEIVE UP TO US$700,000 ANNUALLY FROM CAF

By Lucky Chama



The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) is set to receive up to US$700,000 annually from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) following a 33 percent increase in financial subventions to its 54 member associations.

CAF president Patrice Motsepe announced the increase, which raises the annual allocation from the current cumulative amount of up to US$525,000 to US$700,000, as the continental football governing body steps up investment in football development across Africa.

The latest adjustment represents a significant increase in CAF's financial support to its member associations, with the annual subvention having risen from US$200,000 in 2021 to US$400,000, then US$525,000, and now up to US$700,000.

According to CAF, the latest allocation represents a 250 percent increase compared with the amount provided in 2021.

The additional funding is intended to help member associations strengthen football development structures, invest in youth and women's football, improve administration and governance, and establish sustainable programmes that create opportunities for players, coaches, referees and other stakeholders.

For FAZ, the increased allocation presents an opportunity to strengthen football development programmes in Zambia, including grassroots football, women's competitions, youth structures and administrative capacity.

Motsepe said the increase formed part of CAF's commitment to making football across Africa's 54 member associations world-class and financially self-sustaining.

CAF has also announced increased funding for its zonal unions, whose annual subventions will rise by 20 percent from US$750,000 to US$900,000.

The continental body further increased its allocation to the African Clubs Association (ACA) from US$400,000 to US$500,000.

The revised funding structure comes as CAF continues to emphasise investment in the development and administration of football across the continent.

The increase in annual subventions is expected to provide member associations with additional resources to improve their operations and expand programmes aimed at developing the game at different levels.

However, the impact of the additional funding will depend on how individual associations allocate and manage the resources to address their respective development priorities.

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TRIATHLON ZAMBIA ORGANISES TECHNICAL TRAINING TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY

By Lucky Chama



Triathlon Zambia (TZ) is conducting a two-day technical training programme aimed at strengthening the skills of local administrators and enthusiasts as the sport seeks to build capacity and promote sustainable development in the country.

The training, taking place on October 15–16, 2026, at Golden Peacock Hotel, is being facilitated by South African-based World Triathlon facilitator Retief Freysea, who is in Zambia to share his knowledge and experience with local stakeholders.

Ahead of the programme, Triathlon Zambia paid a courtesy call on the National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ), with the visit highlighting efforts to strengthen technical knowledge and improve the administration of the sport.

Triathlon Zambia was represented by Acting Vice President Chansa Musonda and General Secretary Tuseko Newton, accompanied by Freysea.

In separate Facebook posts, Triathlon Zambia and NSCZ said the programme would provide an opportunity for administrators and enthusiasts to acquire skills needed to support the sport's continued growth.

NSCZ described the training as an important opportunity for local officials to improve their competencies and contribute to the development of triathlon in Zambia.

The initiative is expected to strengthen local capacity, enhance administration and help establish a stronger foundation for the sport's future development.

Triathlon Zambia said programmes of this nature were essential in developing knowledgeable officials and creating the conditions for sustained progress as participation in the sport grows.

Freysea brings extensive knowledge and experience in triathlon, which he is expected to share with participants during the two-day programme.

The training forms part of efforts to equip local administrators and enthusiasts with the technical knowledge and skills required to support the sport's development and improve the management of its activities.

The courtesy call on NSCZ also provided an opportunity for engagement between the national sports body and Triathlon Zambia as the association pursues capacity-building initiatives.

The programme is expected to contribute to the development of skilled local officials who can support triathlon's growth and strengthen its administration in Zambia.

THIERRY TAHURA LEADS FANS' VOTE FOR 2026 ZHA PREMIER LEAGUE GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

By Enock Phiri

Thierry Tahura has emerged as the fans' top choice in the race for the 2026 Zambia Hockey Association (ZHA) Premier League Goalkeeper of the Year award after collecting 290 votes.

Tahura secured 56 per cent of the total fan vote to finish ahead of Robson Kunda, who received 108 votes (21 per cent), while Jackson Njobvu completed the top three with 86 votes (16 per cent).

The results mark the conclusion of the supporters' voting phase, with fans making their choices known in the race for one of the league's prestigious individual honours.

Tahura's strong showing places him at the front of the fan-selected rankings, but the final outcome remains undecided.

Under the award's voting system, fans account for 70 per cent of the overall vote, while coaches contribute the remaining 30 per cent.



The coaches' votes will therefore play a decisive role in determining who ultimately claims the 2026 Goalkeeper of the Year award.

With the supporters having completed their part, attention now turns to the coaches as the competition enters its final stage.

FAZ DENIES REPORTS OF PHYSICAL ASSAULT ON PRESIDENT MWEEMBA

By Lucky Chama



The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has dismissed as false and unfounded social media reports alleging that its president, Keith Mweemba, was physically assaulted during Tuesday's match between Zambia and Uganda at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola.

FAZ General Secretary Charles Chakatazya said Mweemba was neither physically attacked nor abused during the reported disturbance at the stadium.

In a press statement issued on Wednesday, Chakatazya urged social media users to act responsibly and refrain from circulating unverified information that could damage the reputation of the Association and its leadership.

"We wish to refute reports circulating on social media alleging that the FAZ President was attacked by a group of individuals at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium. At no point was he physically assaulted or abused," Chakatazya said.

He explained that the only incident occurred at half-time when two individuals allegedly forced their way into the VVIP Lounge, demanding to be allowed entry.

"The only disappointing issue which happened at half time was where two individuals forced their way into the VVIP Lounge and demanded that they also deserved to be allowed inside," he said.

Chakatazya said the incident caused confusion but was later contained after police intervened and restored order.

He also criticised individuals who create online content for monetisation, accusing some of using FAZ and its leadership to generate engagement through unsubstantiated claims.

The FAZ general secretary expressed disappointment that attention had shifted to the alleged incident instead of celebrating the Copper Queens' victory over Uganda and their progression to the next round of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic qualifiers.

"Under normal circumstances, a national team's victory should be a moment of celebration. The Copper Queens have won and progressed to the next round, yet some individuals have chosen to focus on unsubstantiated claims rather than acknowledge this achievement. Are they happy or sad that we won?" he wondered.

Chakatazya warned that FAZ would not hesitate to take appropriate action against individuals who spread misinformation on social media or use the platforms to bring the Association and its leadership into disrepute.

He urged those responsible for circulating the reports to desist from misleading the public and exercise greater responsibility when sharing information online.


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FIFA TO OFFER EXTRA £2.6BN FOR FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

By BBC Sport



Fifa is set to propose a $3.4bn (£2.6bn) increase in the amount of money it hands out for football development across the world.

World football's governing body wants to release the money from its reserves in a move which would more than double the level of planned distribution funding for 2027-2030.

It says it has been able to release the extra cash because of the commercial success of this summer's World Cup.

The proposal will be made at a meeting of Fifa's council on Thursday and comes at a time when the organisation is under pressure following president Gianni Infantino's aborted Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE) plan.

Infantino wanted to sell stakes in the World Cup and other competitions to private investors but faced huge criticism for the proposal, with Uefa, Concacaf and the Asian Football Confederation questioning his position.

Uefa and Concacaf wrote to Infantino in September calling on Fifa to pay at least $10m (£7.5m) from its cash reserves to each of the 211 member associations.
In a letter then sent to Fifa's six continental confederations, Infantino - who will be standing for re-election for a fourth time in March 2027 - said he would support "the greatest level of additional funding that can responsibly be

GREEN BUFFALOES PAIR HAMAYANGWE AND CHISONGO WIN MIDLANDS OPEN MIXED DOUBLES TITLE

By Enock Phiri



Green Buffaloes duo Nakalanga Hamayangwe and Isabel Chisongo were crowned 2026 Midlands Open Tennis Championships mixed doubles champions after defeating Abednego Kunda of Zambia Correctional Services and Beatrice Phiri of Red Arrows, popularly known as WTA, in the final at Lusaka Tennis Club.

The Buffaloes pair secured a 6-3, 6-4 victory to cap a commanding campaign as mixed doubles made its return to the championships after a lengthy absence.

Hamayangwe and Chisongo showed consistency and composure throughout the competition, overcoming three challenging rounds before delivering in the final.

Their campaign began with a 6-2, 7-6(3) victory over Dickson Phiri of Zambia Correctional Services and Mirriam Zulu of Justennis. After taking the opening set comfortably, the pair had to dig deep in the second-set tie-break to secure their place in the next round.

They continued their impressive run with a 6-3, 6-2 quarter-final win over Blessing Mwale and Mukuka Mwenya before defeating Mwamba Malunga and Hope Kanyama 6-3, 6-3 in the semi-finals.

Their opponents, Kunda and Phiri, also produced a series of hard-fought performances on their way to the final.

The pair opened with a thrilling 6-4, 5-7, [14-12] victory over Green Buffaloes representatives Maxwell Nkhata and Ruth Nyirenda, surviving a tense match tie-break after the teams shared the first two sets.

They then overcame Red Arrows' Grant Banda and Green Buffaloes' Natasha Nalungwe 6-3, 6-2 in the quarter-finals.

Their biggest test came in the semi-finals against top seeds Jordan Mwale and Christabel Chisongo. Kunda and Phiri recovered from dropping the second set to claim a 6-4, 5-7, [10-7] victory and book their place in the championship match.

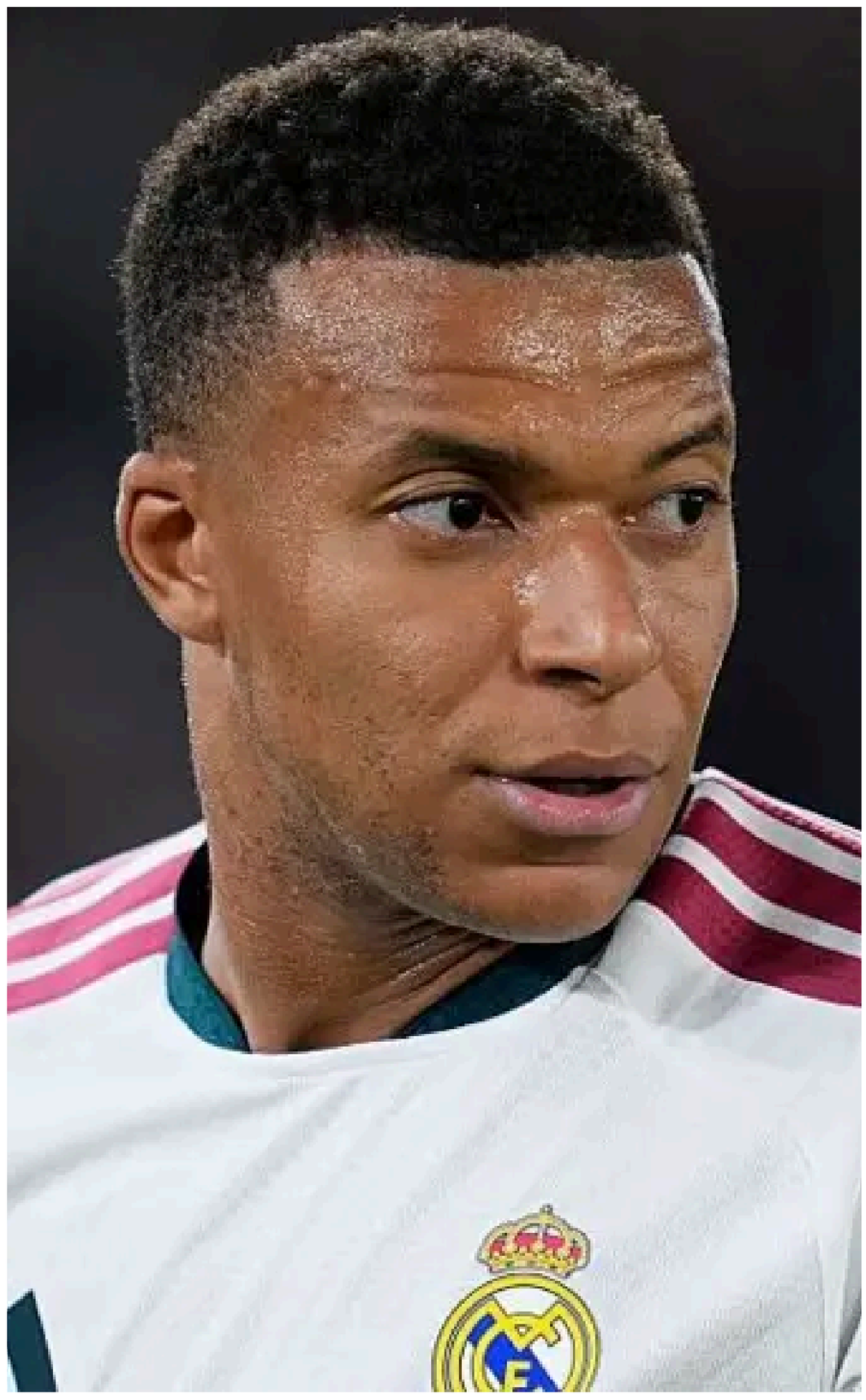
However, Hamayangwe and Chisongo proved too strong in the final, winning in straight sets to secure the mixed doubles crown for Green Buffaloes.

The return of mixed doubles added another competitive dimension to the 2026 Midlands Open Tennis Championships, with closely contested matches and dramatic tie-breaks highlighting the quality of the field.

The result also marked a successful campaign for Hamayangwe and Chisongo, who held their nerve in key moments to finish the tournament as champions.

REAL MADRID PRODUCE STUNNING LATE FIGHTBACK TO DOWN ROMA

By BBC Sport



Real Madrid produced a sensational recovery from 3-1 down to score three late goals and snatch a superb Champions League win over Roma on Jose Mourinho's return to the Stadio Olimpico.

Mourinho guided Roma to the Conference League title in 2021-22 and then to the Europa League final the following season, with the home fans producing a number of banners celebrating their former boss.

But Mourinho's current side Real looked to be heading for defeat when they fell two goals behind in the 83rd minute.

However, substitutes Carlos Espi and Endrick scored to make it 3-3 before Antonio Rudiger converted a dramatic close-range 90th-minute winner.

Mourinho's changes proved crucial as Roma could not cope with corners from another substitute, Arda Guler, and crumbled late on.

Espi scored five minutes after coming on when he converted a rebound after Endrick's header had been parried. The Brazil forwarded then headed in from Guler's corner before Rudiger steered in another Guler set-piece with a close-range volley.

It was a remarkable finish to a thrilling match.

The hosts had taken a deserved lead in the 20th minute when Marten de Roon produced a first-time 20-yard shot from Matias Soule's pass. However, Real were only behind for five minutes.

Kylian Mbappe, making his 100th Champions League appearance, saw his strike take a deflection off Gianluca Mancini with the ball looping up and over goalkeeper Pierluigi Gollini for his 72nd goal in the competition.

But two goals in a six-minute spell in the second half from Donyell Malen looked to have taken the game away from Real.

The Dutch striker, who played for Aston Villa in 2025, made it 2-1 when Vinicius Jr carelessly gave the ball away with an attempted flick and Malen's shot went in via a deflection off Real captain Federico Valverde.

It soon became 3-1 with Malen finishing coolly. The goal was originally flagged offside, but a check by the video assistant referee showed Valverde had played him onside.

Roma boss Gian Piero Gasperini made a number of defensive substitutions in a bid to hold on to the win, before Mourinho's changes flipped the game.

Real, six points behind leaders Barcelona in La Liga, have now won both of their Champions League games, while Roma have one point after a draw and this loss.

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