

Beat: Sports

## UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE REVIEW

### EUROPA REVIEW

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**USPA NEWS** - AS Roma held on to a lone goal lead against Bayer Leverkusen, while Juventus earned a last-gasp equalizer at home against Sevilla in the first leg of their UEFA Europa League semi-final ties.

AS Roma held on to a lone goal lead against Bayer Leverkusen, while Juventus earned a last-gasp equalizer at home against Sevilla in the first leg of their UEFA Europa League semi-final ties. It would seem like the 1990s, when Italian teams dominated Europe. With five of the six semifinalists in the three European club competitions, Juventus and AS Roma would both look to ride on this new Italian wave. Sevilla might be going through a rough patch domestically, but they eliminated Manchester United in grand style in the quarterfinals.

They are the record winners of this competition. And to many, they are the favorites to win it again this time. Leverkusen are in their first European semi-final since 2001/02, thanks to Xabi Alonso, who has overseen a steady improvement since he was appointed to his first senior role in October.

A lot is at stake at this point, and the second leg promises a lot more drama. Jose Mourinho is gunning for his second European title in back-to-back seasons. Xabi Alonso will be hoping to get one over his former manager. Sevilla would fancy a seventh Europa League title, and Juventus are looking to explore a new foray. There's all to play for next Thursday.

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