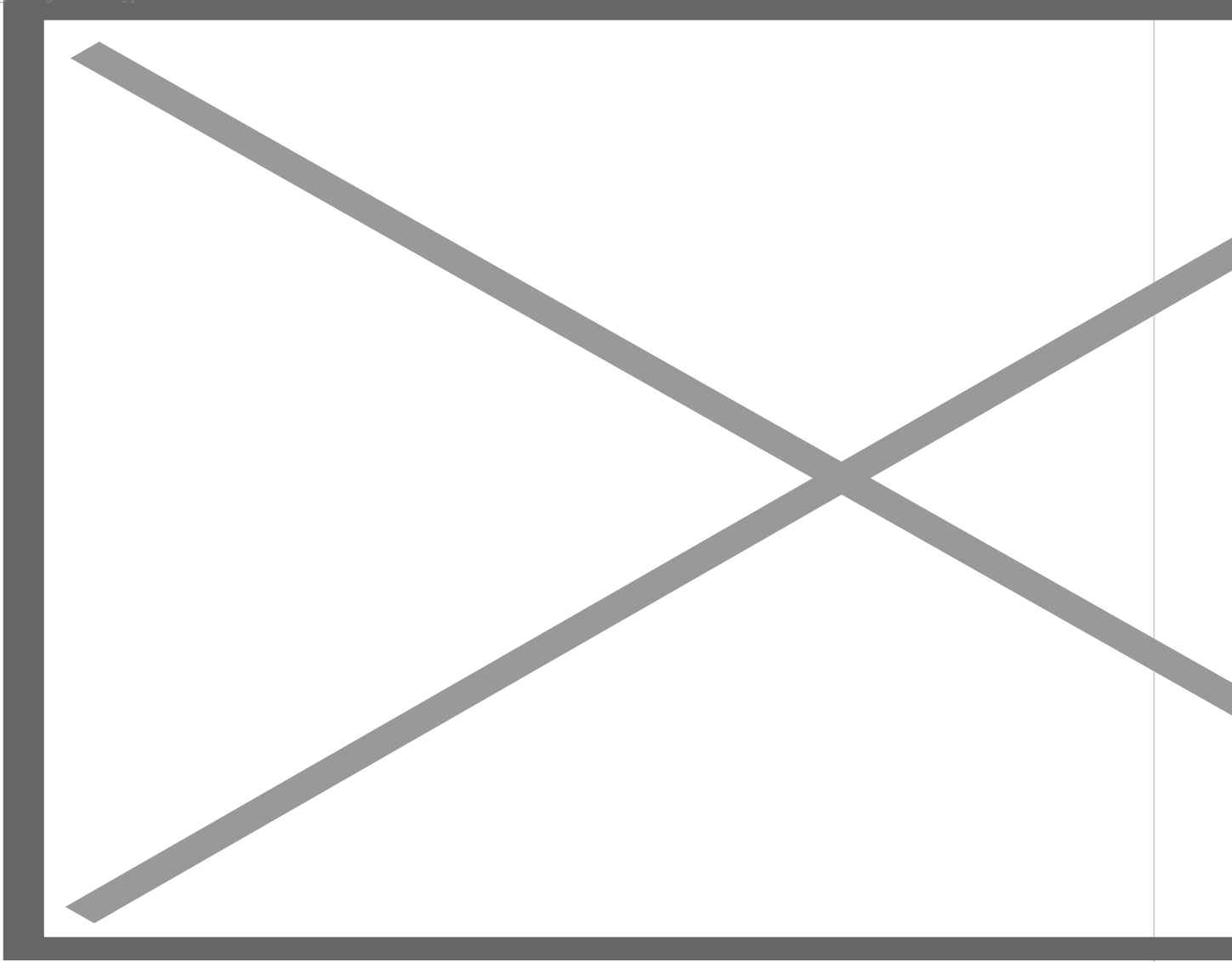


Real Madrid unblemished in Champions League and Sevilla in the pot

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Madrid, December 13 (PL).- The good news today for Spanish soccer is the qualification as leaders of Real Madrid and Real Sociedad in the Champions League, with a black spot.

Only the elimination of Sevilla in the group stage without winning a match, tarnished the result of the Madrid and San Sebastian clubs, after the Merengues beat Union Berlin 3-2 and the Basque team drew goalless with Inter Milan.

In truth, the "white house" went to a game of formality because it had assured the first place in the C key of the competition, although it was surprising that coach Carlo Ancelotti risked starting players, who were not rested, including the English star Jude Bellingham.

Berlin took the lead after 46 minutes through a mistake by Austrian center-back David Alaba that ended in a Kevin Volland goal. It was not until the 61st minute that Joselu equalized and then took the lead in the 72nd minute.

However, despite Real Madrid's almost total dominance, the German capital side levelled the scores, and Alex Kral equalized in the 85th minute after a defensive blunder outside the box. There was still time for Dani Ceballos to make it 3-2 in the 89th minute.

Six wins, 18 points and now it's time to look forward to the draw for the round of 16, which will also include Real Sociedad, with a meritorious campaign after topping Series D with 12 points, the same as Inter, but with a better goal average.

Imanol Aguacil's team, with players who offer great performances such as midfielder Mikel Merino, French defender Robin Le Normand and attackers Mikel Oyarzábal and Japanese Take Kubo, among others, is sixth in Spain's LaLiga and seems to be on track for a season of good results.

-SEVILLA, BLACK MARK

The black mark of this stage of the Champions League, given that both Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have also secured their tickets to the round of 16, is Sevilla, repeating the performances of the previous competition in which they were sunk for a long time.

In extremis, the Andalusian side recovered in the final stretch of the domestic competition thanks in large part to the work of coach José Luis Mendilibar, who also won the Europa League title.

However, Sevilla's poor start in LaLiga took its toll on Mendilibar, who was replaced by Uruguayan Diego Alonso, who so far has not been able to get the team, which includes veterans such as Sergio Ramos and Croatian Ivan Rakitic, among others, out of the negative hole.

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