

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL:

# We'll only be trying great if we beat Barca

**FREDDIE LJUNGBERG** last night vowed to claim a place in history for Arsenal on Wednesday.

And the Swedish midfielder insisted only hoisting the European Cup will secure Arsenal's place among the all-time greats. Ljungberg helped the Gunners to the domestic Double in 2002 and was part of their record-breaking unbeaten season in 2003-04.

He emphasised his desire to help the club stamp their authority on the continental game when he said: "Beating Barcelona and winning the Champions League would confirm us as one of the biggest in Europe, a truly great team."

## Form

"We have always been respected as one of the top teams in England, but until now we haven't been able to reproduce that form in Europe. To win on Wednesday would put us up there with the very best."

## FREDDIE LJUNGBERG ANOTHER SPORTS WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Ljungberg has won two titles and three FA Cups since moving to Highbury from Swedish side Halmstad, just after Arsenal's previous domestic Double in 1998.

Now the 29-year-old is hoping to turn the Stade de France into the Parc de Triomphe with victory over red-hot favourites Barcelona.

It would be a perfect fillip for the Sweden international before he flies off to Germany for the World Cup final – and a June 20 date with England in Cologne.

Ljungberg (right) added: "It's every player's dream to win the Champions League."

"To do it would rank with the greatest achievements in my career, like doing the Double with Arsenal."

It would be fantastic. We are used to going into matches as big favourites but I don't care if we are the underdogs for this one.

"If we win on Wednesday people can call us whatever they want – it won't matter."

Ljungberg is certainly not feeling any inferiority complex.

## Record

And after dumping out Real Madrid, Juventus and Villarreal without conceding a goal in a record 10 games en route to Paris, why should he?

The Swede said: "Barcelona are a very good side with great individual players. But our best eleven are a match for any team,

anywhere in the world. "We are playing really well and are full of confidence after putting out some of the biggest teams around."

Now Ljungberg is convinced the campaign will end in glory. He said: "It has been a season of transition for Arsenal and we had a hard winter when results were just not good enough."

"But we have finished the season more strongly and in good form. Of course, no one is happy just finishing fourth in the League."

"At this club you expect to be challenging for the title and we haven't done that this year."

"But we still have a chance to make it a great season and trust me, we can do it! We can win in Paris, I'm sure of it."

BOB BEASLEY

## ROAD TO THE FINAL

### ARSENAL

#### Group Stage:

Arsenal 2	FC Thun 1
Ajax 1	Arsenal 2
Sparta Prague 0	Arsenal 2
Arsenal 3	Sparta Prague 0
FC Thun 0	Arsenal 1
Arsenal 0	Ajax 0

#### Last 16

Real Madrid 0	Arsenal 1
Arsenal 0	Real Madrid 0

#### Quarter-final

Arsenal 2	Juventus 0
Juventus 0	Arsenal 0

#### Semi final

Arsenal 1	Villarreal 0
Villarreal 0	Arsenal 0

### BARCELONA

#### Group Stage

Wolverhampton 0	Barcelona 2
Barcelona 4	Udinese 1
Barcelona 5	Barcelona 0
Barcelona 5	Parma 0
Barcelona 3	Wolverhampton 1
Udinese 0	Barcelona 1

#### Last 16

Chelsea 1	Barcelona 2
Barcelona 1	Chelsea 1

#### Quarter-final

Benfica 0	Barcelona 0
Barcelona 2	Benfica 0

#### Semi final

AC Milan 0	Barcelona 1
Barcelona 0	AC Milan 0

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