

UEFA CUP - The rise of the Russian bear

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ZENIT FC is the worthy winner of the Uefa Cup. This is the first time in the history of team from St. Petersburg....

...and they complete with the best way an incredible year. The Russian champions won with two goals (2-0) Glasgow Rangers in the UEFA Cup final at the City of Manchester stadium.

Zenit became the second Russian team in four seasons who lift the trophy after CSKA Moscow in 2005.

The Russians overcame Villarreal and Olympique Marseille in the early knockout rounds before making the rest of Europe sit up with a 4-1 quarter-final, first-leg demolition of Bayer Leverkusen in Germany.

Zenit coach Dick Advocaat said the UEFA Cup final was the most important game of the season for his club, who have made an indifferent start to the defence of their Russian title.

The foundations for their fine UEFA Cup run have been laid on a rock-solid defence that has conceded just two goals in eight matches since they parachuted into the competition after finishing third in their Champions League group.