

## Defender joins growing Portuguese contingent in Romania



Estrela da Amadora defender Tiago Gomes is set to join Steaua Bucharest, becoming the second Portuguese to move to Romania this week after Rui Duarte's switch to FC Brasov.

Gomes, 22, has made 49 league appearances for Estrela over the last two seasons, having previously had spells with Estoril-Praia, Oriental and Odivelas ahead of moving to the Estadio Jose Gomes in 2006.

The player was thought to be close to a switch to Spanish side Malaga during the January transfer window before the deal broke down, but Gomes will now move to the Romanian capital on a one-year loan deal with last season's Liga 1 runners-up.

Steaua will have an option to sign the player, who is contracted to Estrela until 2010, on a three-year deal if Gomes impresses. The defender will complete the formalities of the move today, before returning to Portugal on holiday ahead of the club's pre-season training camp in Austria on June 16th.

### Champions League action

"I am going to take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy it to the fullest," Tiago said of the move to Steaua, who will play in the third qualifying round of the Champions League. "It's nothing like what happened with Malaga. Here everything has been sorted in a few days. There were lots of things which attracted me to Steaua, namely the Champions League."

Gomes' transfer is just the latest in a growing trend of Portuguese moving to Romania, with the most notable contingent residing at national champions CFR Cluj, who have ten on their books.

Fellow ex-Estrela defender Rui Duarte left Portugal earlier this week to join newly-promoted Brasov, who were crowned Liga II champions last term.