

Hertha Berlin's Argentinian striker Christian Gimenez (R) is challenged by VFB Stuttgart defender Serdar Tasci during their Bundesliga match at the Olympia

Hertha go top



midweek UEFA Cup disappointment to go top of the Bundesliga after a 2-2 draw with VfB Stuttgart

German champions Bayern Munich slipped off the Bundesliga summit after a shock 1-0 defeat to lowly VfL Wolfsburg on Saturday and Hertha took advantage to move top on goals difference.

Hertha exited the UEFA Cup to Danish side Odense on Thursday but they remain unbeaten in the league and a hard-fought draw with Stuttgart was enough to take them to the top.

"We are top of the table but we can't be that happy," said Hertha midfielder Andreas Neuendorf. "We would rather have twelve points (instead of ten) and be second or

third in the table. Schalke 04, who crashed out of the UEFA Cup to French side Nancy, could have gone top with a point but fell to a 3-1 defeat against Baver Leverkusen.

Schalke are one of five teams locked on ten points along with Hertha, FC Nuremberg, Werder Bremen and Bayern.

"We fell apart and that should not happen," said Schalke midfielder Fabian Ernst. "We are giving our all but it is not enough at the moment."

Bayern have a perfect six points the Champions League after beating Inter Milan in midweek, but their domestic form is poor and a goal from German international forward Mike Hanke condemned them to their second defeat of the

Hanke beat the Bayern offside trap before hitting a left-footed shot past goalkeeper Oliver Kahn on 36

"We want to be regarded as a big team but a big team would beat Wolfsburg after the massive victory over Inter Milan," said Munich captain Kahn.

Bayern manager Felix Magath

was frustrated that his side were unable to penetrate a defenceminded Wolfsburg line-up

"We saw today that we have problems against teams that adopt a defensive approach," said Magath. "We made it too easy for Wolfsburg and there was a lack of harmony and creativity to break down their defence."

It was a first win of the season for Wolfsburg, managed by former Bayern defender Klaus Augenthaler, and the three points lifted them off the foot of the table.

Last season's runners-up Bremen, who were minutes from defeating European champions Barcelona in midweek, took full advantage of Bayern's slip to move second with a 3-0 thumping of Borussia Monchengladbach.

Bremen scored three goals in five action-packed first half minutes with Aaron Hunt, Christian Schulz and Brazilian Diego all on target.

"I think you could see that the Barcelona game gave us a lot of confidence," explained Bremen chief Thomas Schaaf. "Fortuntately

we scored first and that allowed us to kick on and get the three points."

Last season SV Hamburg started strongly but their torrid start to the new season continued on Saturday with a disappointing 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Hamburg, who lost 1-0 to CSKA Moscow in the Champions League in midweek, twice came from behind to level but still fall into the bottom

Hamburg are the only team in the league yet to win this season with five draws from six matches increasing the pressure on manager Thomas Doll.

"The important thing is that we came from behind twice and did not hide," said Doll. "The players deserve a lot of praise for their team

"We have a break now and it is good for us to regroup and give some of our injured players more time to come back."

Die Mannschaft on celluloid



REUTERS, Berlin

A top director who spent a year filming Germany's soccer team everywhere from hotel beds at dawn to shower-room entrances after matches has finished his epic documentary just in time for its premiere.

Soenke Wortmann, who won international plaudits for his 2003 drama "Miracle of Berne" about the 1954 West Germany team, has worked almost non-stop since the World Cup ended to turn 100 hours of raw film into a stirring documentary.

"Deutschland: Ein Sommermaerchen" (Germany: A summer fairy tale) is an electrifying mix of his fly-on-the-wall footage taken in dressing rooms, on buses and in hotels plus television clips of key scenes of Germany's matches.

It is receiving unprecedented media coverage before its redcarpet premiere in Berlin deliberately set on Oct. 3, a national holiday celebrating Germany's reunification.

Wortmann, once a thirddivision player himself, makes no attempt to conceal his growing admiration for coach Juergen Klinsmann, who allowed unlimited access for the documentary that will get a wide cinema release in 400 theatres on Thursday.

Using a small, hand-held camera, Wortmann tracked Klinsmann and the team who began as long shots but turned into feared opponents as the World Cup's hottest team on a wave of patriotism in the country that had long eschewed symbols of national pride.

"I think the team moved the whole country," Wortmann said in a recent interview with Reuters.

"It wasn't just a fleeting moment. It was such a wonderful thing and Germany's a different country now because of it. The mood was so special. I think it'll have a lasting impact."

The quickly made documentary revives that atmosphere, if only for 108 minutes. The 47year-old director was still making

final changes last week. The film has its flaws -- for example, only insiders will understand the comments made by the team psychologist and media

Wortmann also admitted he cheered so much at times that he sometimes left his camera on the bench and missed key moments. "That was rather unprofes-

sional of me," he said. Voyeurs hoping for scenes of naked players in the dressing room will be disappointed as Wortmann carefully selected sequences to show mostly towelcovered players -- even though the director could not resist

including a few bare bottoms. There is also a dearth of con-

The film is an unabashed ode to Germany and its newfound patriotism that could get lost on, perhaps bore, some foreign

Yet it offers a fascinating glimpse behind the scenes of a team as they prepare for the World Cup, gain confidence from early wins and morph into a juggernaut that eventual champions Italy only just beat in extra time in the semifinal.

"After the Italy match we lost, a lot of people were weeping in the dressing room." said Wortmann. who said he found soccer players a lot easier to film than actors. "No one told me to turn the camera off.

He includes an intriguing scene of Italy defender Marco Materazzi eagerly waiting for Germany captain Michael Ballack in a tunnel under Dortmund stadium after the match to swap jerseys

Materazzi, who in the final against France five days later got embroiled in an incident with Zinedine Zidane that led to the French captain's ejection, tries to console the dejected Ballack with hugs and kisses on the cheeks.

The film has its lighter moments.

Chancellor Angela Merkel is nervously shaking hands with the players at an informal meeting when midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger sticks his face in front of the camera with a loud stage whisper: "Hey, cut income tax rates, will you?"

Merkel overhears his gag but she then gives a serious answer when Arsenal's Jens Lehmann asks her in a surprisingly shy manner that defies his demeanour on the pitch if she "...um. er. ah planned any tax changes" that might lure him back to Germany.

Werder Bremen striker Miroslav Klose seems annoyed when a hairdresser does not know

spokesman because neither are To me that showed these are who he is, nor his team. She compounds his irritation by saying she knows all the players on Bremen's arch-rivals Bayern

> Schalke's Gerald Asamoah is shown playfully dunking a teammate in a pool with such force and speed that it is hard to identify the

Wortmann includes scenes of Klinsmann, who is also featured giving wonderful pep talks, in an uncharacteristically foul mood -because an assistant is badly beating him at table tennis.

The only real conflict is at the end when captain Ballack opposes a suggestion to hold a giant farewell party with fans in Berlin after the last match, for third place, in Stuttgart.

The players, some of whom are eager to go on holiday, argue for and against the plan before taking a vote in favour of the nowfamous farewell before a million fans -- which Ballack ended up visibly enjoying.



A picture taken 18 June 2006 shows German director Soenke Wortmann recording images behind Michael Ballack (L) and Bernd Schneider (R) during a training session in Berlin

Woodgate close to **England recall**

England manager Steve McClaren has promised Jonathan Woodgate he is on the brink of a recall to the national squad.

Woodgate was not included in McClaren's squad for this week's Euro 2008 qualifiers against Macedonia and Croatia.

But the England boss saw him produce another excellent performance for Middlesbrough at Sheffield United on Sunday. Former Boro boss McClaren

said: "He was very close to this

squad and he's one who we are looking at." The England boss wants to see Woodgate string more games

sequence of injuries plagued his last two seasons at Real Madrid. McClaren said: "He has a good opportunity at Middlesbrough. It's

together after a nightmare

his home town and he's playing well at the moment. "But his games have been lim-

ited and he has to build up that kind of fitness over a season." Woodgate, 26, won the last of his

five England caps in Sweden in March 2004. It was the same game when Scott Parker last played for his country and the Newcastle

squad this week. Woodgate's form since joining his hometown club Middlesbrough on loan from Madrid has been

midfielder is back in the England

impressive. He has started four consecutive Premiership games and will present McClaren with a selection problem in central defence if his progress

Bent replaces Johnson

REUTERS, London

England have called up Charlton Athletic striker Darren Bent to replace the injured Andy Johnson for their Euro 2008 qualifiers against Macedonia and Croatia.

"Andy's out of the games against Macedonia and Croatia with a hamstring injury which he picked up in the last minute against Manchester City on Saturday," England coach Steve McClaren said on Monday.

"It's a real blow because he's made a massive impact already with Everton this season and I've been hugely impressed by him. He's got such a great attitude and is a constant threat to any

"We're fortunate that we are able to call Darren up from the inder-21's. He's already got experience of been involved in several senior squads and he's a player with excellent ability and a real goal threat."

England, who top Group E after winning both their opening matches, host Macedonia on Oct. 7 and play Croatia four days later in Zagreb

'C'Ron can be great'

AFP, London

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson believes Cristiano Ronaldo can become one of his club's all-time greats.

Portugal winger Ronaldo was in

majestic form as United went top of the Premiership with a 2-0 home win against Newcastle on Sunday. He set up the opening goal for

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who also got the second for his first home league goals for over three years, and tormented Newcastle throughout the match with his skill and pace. Former Sporting Lisbon star Ronaldo was close to leaving Old

Trafford for Real Madrid in pre-

season after the English media was

critical of his part in United teammate Wayne Rooney's sending off in the World Cup quarterfinal. But Ferguson's assistant Carlos Quieroz persuaded Ronaldo to stav and the United boss is confident he can go on to emulate the success of United legends like George Best,

Bobby Charlton and Eric Cantona. Ferguson said: "Nothing fazes Cristiano. He has been marvellous all season and, while it is difficult to say with any certainty, maybe what happened to him at the World Cup could turn out to be a defining moment in his career.

"I could see the potential for greatness the first time I saw him in training and he has a great future ahead of him. Newcastle boss Glenn Roeder

admitted his side had no answer to Ronaldo and said: "Everyone, and I mean everyone, is finding it hard to cope with Cristiano Ronaldo. "Along with Wayne Rooney and

Thierry Henry, he is undoubtedly one of the most dangerous players in the Premiership.'

'Torres a cheat'

on Sunday.



'cheat' after the two clubs' 1-1 draw here Torres was accused of feigning an injury after Sergio Ramos' flailing arm

appeared to hit him. The Real defender, and Torres' Spanish international colleague, picked up his second yellow card and was sent off midway through the second half.

"He (Torres) invented a foul in front of the referee. If he's had been hit with an elbow then that would have deserved a red card but the way he threw his hands up to his face, he was just trying to trick the referee," said a furious Capello.

cheats should be sanctioned. That's what I always said when I was in Italy. "The linesman was near and he

referee and everyone else. These

"It's cheating to try and trick the

could have assisted the referee but you have to take care with the

Marseille

notched up a 3-

0 home victory

over Toulouse

on Sunday to

heels of high-

flying Lyon in

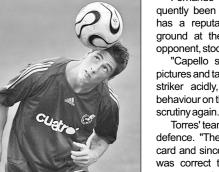
the French

cards in a derby. "Guti was consistently kicked and in the end he couldn't carry on but Sergio didn't do anything and was sent off." added Capello bemoaning the injustice of the decision compared to



"But the one who also tricked the referee should also be banned,' added Capello, well aware that Sergio Ramos is likely to receive the mandatory one-match ban for being

Champions League. some of the fouls inflicted on his own



FERNANDO TORRES

Despite Sergio Ramos' dismissal,

Real hung on to salvage a draw although they were jeered from the pitch by the same supporters who had cheered them on Tuesday after their 5-1 victory over Dynamo Kiev in the

Fernando Torres, who has frequently been booked for diving and has a reputation for falling to the ground at the merest touch of an

opponent, stood his ground for once. "Capello should look at the TV pictures and talk less." said the Atletico striker acidly, well aware that his behaviour on the pitch will come under

Torres' teammates also leapt to his defence. "The foul merited a vellow card and since he already had one it was correct that he was sent off," commented Atletico's Argentine midfielder Maxi Rodriguez.

Nevertheless, whoever is right or wrong, it will make for some tense times when the Spanish squad get together in the coming days ahead of their trip to play Sweden in the Euro 2008 qualifiers next Saturday.

Real and Atletico both have three men each in the squad, which includes Sergio Ramos and Fernando Torres.

Marseille hot on Lyon's heels



championship.

Lyon battled to a 1-0 win on a vaterlogged pitch at Sochaux on Saturday to earn their 22nd point out of a possible 24. Lyon manager Gerard Houllier

praised their efforts in tough conditions but Marseille cut their lead to just three points thanks to goals from Taye Taiwo, Habib Bamogo and Lorik Cana. Marseille had bounced back admirably from two defeats -- 2-1 at Nantes and then from their midweek

side Mlada Boleslav, even though key player Franck Ribery had been sus-Marseille went ahead in the 45th minute when Taiwo found the net after Mamadou Niang got the better of three

defenders and then backheeled to his

in Marseille on Sunday.

ACROSS

1 Bankroll

4 Clear the

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8 Incursion

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12 Literary

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17 Roast

18 Park

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19 Recede

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UEFA Cup exit at the hands of Czech

Taiwo controlled the ball before hitting a fierce shot past Toulouse keeper Nicolas Douchez.

Then in the second minute of firsthalf injury time. Bamogo doubled Marseille's advantage. Mickael Pagis got hold of the ball in Toulouse's half and found Bamogo who made no Two minutes after the break. Cana

hit a third for Marseille from just by the

penalty spot, though in the ensuing minutes Toulouse's Nicolas Dieuze headed the ball on to the post from a Marseille coach Albert Emon said: 'We had a little bit of luck but we knew how to capitalise on it. We have won 3-

0 against opponents who are not easy

but we have enough mental and

physical energy to make the differ-Houllier had made six changes to the starting-11 which won 3-0 at Steaua Bucharest in Champions League action in midweek and it proved to be a match in which the five-times French champi-

Houllier said afterwards he was proud of his players for the way they played, particularly because of the difficult conditions after a big storm had

flooded the pitch. 'You normally see a flamboyant, dominant Lyon who pass the ball around well but tonight was different,"

"This away game was played against a very motivated team in difficult weather conditions which prevented us from playing our usual

"Considering that, I think we played a superb match. I must congratulate my players for their intelligence in adapting to the conditions and for the effort they showed." Lyon's breakthrough came from a

mistake in the 78th minute. A poor back pass by Sochaux's Dusko Tosic fell into the path of Sylvain Wiltord, who had only come on moments earlier, and he made no mistake to put the ball past Sochaux keeper Teddy Richert.

In other matches on Sunday, Nancy beat Lens 2-1, Auxerre had a 1-0 victory over Nantes, and hapless Paris Saint Germain fell 1-0 at St

PSG lost out to an Araujo Ilan goal in the 38th minute which leaves the club seventh from bottom with just two wins from eight matches so far.

Marseille defender Taye Taiwo celebrates his strike against Toulouse during their French L1 match at the Velodrome

By Eugene Sheffe

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CRYPTOQUIP HSUV RPKUPVU XVRDGEER

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BGF-DWVU BSGFGBDUF? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GORILLA IS AT A SUIT SHOP FOR A FITTING, MIGHT THE TAILOR USE AN APE MEASURE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals H

The Cryptoguip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for informally another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the 49 Slapstick puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.