

Zoff beaten and mugged

INTERNET, undated

Italian legend Dino Zoff was left with a black eye after he was mugged and beaten by robbers on Monday night.

Zoff, 64, who captained Italy to victory in the 1982 World Cup and later managed the national team, was walking from his car to his home in Rome with his wife when a gang of four robbers set upon them.

After putting up a fight, both eventually handed over their mobile phones and wallets, containing approximately 1000 euros.

FA to probe coin incidents

REUTERS, London

The Football Association is to investigate two coin-throwing incidents which marred West Ham United's victory over Arsenal and Fulham's win over Everton at the weekend.

Arsenal's Dutch forward Robin van Persie was hit by a coin during Sunday's Premier League game at Upton Park, while Fulham's Danish midfielder Claus Jensen was struck by one thrown by an away fan at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

"The absolutely key thing is to identify whoever was responsible for throwing these coins and make sure they are dealt with appropriately," an FA spokesman said on Monday.

Along with studying the referees' reports, the FA will contact the clubs and ask them what steps are being taken to identify the coin-throwers.

Any police action against those responsible should be matched by the clubs "taking action against those supporters and banning them from the ground," the FA spokesman said.

Angry at the coin-throwing incident, West Ham manager Alan Pardew told reporters after Sunday's 1-0 win that "Something like this spoils our day."

"That fan should be ashamed and hopefully he has been caught on CCTV and we can never let them back in to the club."

Fulham manager Chris Coleman called for a prison sentence for the coin-thrower in Saturday's 1-0 win, telling the BBC: "I hope the offender is identified. It was a coward who threw the coin."



Schalke 04's Marcelo Bordon (R) and Bayern Munich's Claudio Pizarro are airborne for the possession of the ball during their Bundesliga match in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bayern snatch late draw

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich showed the spirit of champions coming from two goals down to secure a point in a 2-2 draw at Schalke 04 on Sunday.

Bayern looked to be heading for their fourth defeat of the season after Schalke scored twice inside the first 20 minutes but Andreas Ottl on the stroke of half-time and Dutch forward Roy Makaay restored parity.

"The first goal was vital for us as it lifted our spirits," said Bayern coach Felix Magath. "We were not in the game in the first half hour but after that we were the better team and deserved a point."

Despite salvaging a point the reigning champions will view it as a missed chance to close the gap on league leaders Werder Bremen, who drew 1-1 with Energie Cottbus on Saturday.

Cameroon striker Francis Kioyo produced an unstoppable dipping shot on 49 minutes to put Cottbus ahead before Croatian substitute Ivan Klasnic equalised on 76 minutes to rescue a point.

"That is not enough because I always want the three points," explained Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf. "We did not manage to take our chances and they made it difficult for us by packing men behind the ball."

Bayern are now third in the standings three points adrift of Bremen while Schalke remain level on points with Bayern in fourth.

VfB Stuttgart stay in second following their 4-2 win at Alemannia Aachen on Saturday.

"My team showed there is some life in them yet," said Schalke boss

Mirko Slomka. "Unfortunately we only got a point. Their goal just before the break was the turning point and they showed their class after that."

The match began with a protest from the Schalke fans who refused to support their team for the opening 19 minutes and four seconds of the match -- the length of the protest coincides with the year the club was founded, in 1904.

Upset by exits from the UEFA Cup and the German Cup, Schalke fans were silent but had something to shout about as Danish international Peter Lovenkrands put them ahead after 13 minutes.

Levan Kobiaschvili made it 2-0 seven minutes later but Bayern hit back to take a point although they have still not won in Schalke since October 1998.

In Sunday's other game Japanese international striker Naohiro Takahara scored the only

Sorin out for a month

REUTERS, Berlin

Hamburg SV's hopes of climbing out of relegation trouble have been hit by an injury to Juan Pablo Sorin, who is facing up to a month out with a thigh muscle strain.

"It seems he'll be out for three or four weeks," Hamburg team doctor Oliver Dierk told reporters ahead of the club's trip to face VfB Stuttgart in the Bundesliga on Tuesday.

Sorin had to be substituted early in the second half of Saturday's 1-0 defeat away to VfL Wolfsburg after suffering the injury.

The Argentine international defender, signed from Villarreal ahead of the new season, has played just six league games for Hamburg and has yet to find his best form.

Hamburg have made a rotten start to the campaign. With 10 games played they are in 15th place in the Bundesliga with just nine points. Their Champions League hopes were extinguished last week with a fourth defeat from four matches.

goal of the game as Eintracht Frankfurt defeated Borussia Mönchengladbach 1-0.

Elsewhere the pressure on SV Hamburg coach Thomas Doll shows no sign of letting up with his side falling to a 1-0 reverse at VfL Wolfsburg.

German international Mike Hanke scored after 19 minutes to leave Hamburg fourth from bottom of the table with just one win in ten games.

"I know the criticism is not going to go away but I have dealt with a lot of things in my football career and this is just another one," said Doll. "I am not thinking of resigning and will fight on. We all need to keep believing in ourselves."

Out of the domestic Cup and the Champions League -- where they have lost all four games -- it is turning into a nightmare season for Hamburg.

Lens stun PSG

AFP, Paris



Paris St Germain's hopes of remaining in the hunt for a place in Europe next season were kept in check by a 3-1 home

defeat to their bogey team, Lens, here Sunday.

A day after five-times champions Lyon were stunned 1-0 at home by Rennes, their first defeat of the season, PSG suffered a league disaster that will have comparatively more serious consequences.

Daniel Cousin proved the hero on the night for the visitors, scoring five minutes after he came on in the second half and then claiming his second goal five minutes later to hand Lens the lead after PSG had opened the scoring through Sylvain Armand in the 26th minute.

After Lens hammered their superiority home with a late strike by Olivier Thomert, it became crystal clear that Portuguese striker Pauleta, who is suspended for PSG until after the match with Le Mans next week, is more influential than first thought. Lens' fifth consecutive victory

over PSG means they move up to fourth place on 21 points, albeit 10 adrift of runaway leaders Lyon who have a nine-point advantage on second-placed surprise package Nancy.

Lens coach Francis Gillot had to endure a first half dominated by PSG, and admitted he had been forced to give his players a half-time talking-to.

"We've practically gone to sleep in the first half, we were losing all our duels and just weren't aggressive enough. I wasn't happy at half-time," he said.

"In the second half the players thankfully woke up to that fact. We began to control possession and we showed ourselves to be handy on the counterattacks.

"The fact that Daniel Cousin is back on top form was an immense help to the team."

Guy Lacombe's PSG remain 12th in the table on just 15 points, with the likes of Sochaux, Le Mans and Toulouse all above them.

Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas meanwhile launched a broadside after their setback on Saturday, pointing the finger at French league officials who he feels are against his five-times consecutive champions. Despite a late Lyon fightback

Stephane Mbia's opener for Rennes proved enough to end the leaders' bid to match a league record of 10 straight wins.

But barely three days after their midweek Champions League encounter against Dynamo Kiev, Aulas felt they might not have lost the points had they played on Sunday instead.

"Why did we play Saturday afternoon when we had to play in Kiev on Wednesday night?" said Aulas.

"Every time we make a request to the league, they refuse it with a nauseating excuse."

It was not all bad news for Lyon, though, as their closest rivals Marseille missed the chance to cut the lead to eight points after being stunned 1-0 at home by Lorient.

It was Marseille's fourth defeat in their last six league matches and has seen them lose 11 points to Lyon since starting the season neck-and-neck with their rivals.

Marseille now sit in sixth, but 11 points behind Lyon.

Monaco remain bottom after they were held 0-0 at home by Nice, although it could have been worse as Nice's Brazilian midfielder Ederson missed a penalty four minutes from time.

Inter, Palermo march on

AFP, Milan



Inter Milan and Palermo remain tied for first place in Serie A after they both recorded 2-0 home wins on Sunday, while

AC Milan suffered a humiliating defeat by the same score at Atalanta.

Javier Zanetti's first-half tap-in and an own goal from Mirko Cudini put Inter in command at the San Siro, but Ascoli might have fared better had Michele Fini not missed a 65th minute penalty.

Captain Eugenio Corini and Cristian Zaccardo were Palermo's goalscorers in a comfortable win in Sicily for the league's surprise package.

Inter and Palermo are level on 24 points after 10 matches played, four clear of third-placed Roma who fought back from a goal down to win 3-1 at home to Fiorentina.

Brazilian Rodrigo Taddei scored twice for Roma after Daniele De Rossi had cancelled out Tomas Ujfalusi's opener.

Fiorentina, who started on minus 15 points for their role in the Italian match-fixing scandal, remain second from bottom on zero points.

Inter coach Roberto Mancini admitted Ascoli were tricky opponents.

"They are a team that plays well away from home and close you down quickly," he told Sky Sports Italia.

"We were too slow in the first 20-25 minutes, but overall I thought we fully deserved to win."

Palermo coach Francesco Guidolin was delighted to see his side keep a clean sheet after leaking 15 goals in their previous nine games.

"That was the most pleasing aspect and shows that we are learning fast," he said.

"We've let in too many goals lately, and this will strengthen our confidence."

Newly-promoted Atalanta claimed a major scalp by beating AC Milan in Bergamo.

Nicola Ventola put Atalanta ahead with a sweetly-struck half-volley shortly after half time, before Andrea Sorncin scored in injury time with his first ever Serie A goal.

Weighted down by an eight-point penalty for match-fixing, AC Milan have won just once in their last seven matches and are 17 points off the pace.

Ivory Coast striker Ibrahima Bakayoko grabbed the winner for Livorno in their 1-0 win against Udinese which put them level on 16 points with Atalanta and Siena.

Siena drew 2-2 with Parma on Saturday.

Chievo are still looking for their first win after being held to a goalless draw at home to Cagliari, while Torino against Messina and Empoli against Lazio both ended in 1-1 draws.

Inter took 41 minutes to break the deadlock against Ascoli.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic dribbled to the left by-line and cut the ball back for Hernan Crespo, and he knocked it back across the six-yard box for his Argentine compatriot Zanetti to slot home.

Inter then increased their lead eight minutes after the break.

Ibrahimovic sprung Ascoli's offside trap with a superbly-timed pass to set up Luis Figo, and his low cross, which was meant for Crespo, was turned into his own net by Cudini.

Ascoli could have reopened the contest when Maicon was judged to have handled Daniele Galoppa's shot, but Julio Cesar pulled off an excellent stop to keep out Fini's spot-kick.

In the second of Saturday's matches, Catania snatched a 1-0 win at Reggina.

Reggina remain bottom on minus three points having started on minus 15 points for their match-fixing involvement.

Anger drives Henry!

Football

INTERNET, undated

Thierry Henry believes anger is the force which motivates him at Arsenal.

The Frenchman revealed that he has to get fired up before every match he plays in order for him to produce his best form, and likened the feeling to a boxer stepping into the ring.

"If I had to sum up my personality I would use the word anger," Henry told the News of the World.

"I don't mean that in a negative way, it's not destructive fury. It's the kind of anger a boxer is required to draw on before he steps in the ring.

"That's how I see myself -- a man of passion and anger who puts his heart and soul into life."

Henry is still seething about his disallowed goal in the 1-0 UEFA Champions League to CSKA Moscow last month, when the referee adjudged that he had handled the ball before netting.

"The Champions League has infuriated me this season and I can't even discuss the goal the Spanish referee ruled out in Moscow," he fumed.

"We lost when we should have

won a point and there is no way that the goal should have been disallowed.

"I am a born winner and I'm never happy with anything other than victory."

Arsene Wenger, meanwhile, has said that he may agree to Jose Antonio Reyes' wish to stay at Real Madrid if the move is in the best interests of Arsenal.

The Spanish winger joined Real on a season-long loan as part of the deal which took Julio Baptista in the opposite direction.

Reyes has now expressed his desire to make the move permanent, and issued a reminder about how he struggled to adapt to the Premiership and English life in general.

Wenger commented: "Not only Reyes can make that decision -- what will guide me is firstly the interest of the club.

"If that interest coincides with the interest of Reyes, then I am even happier."

"I like Reyes. He is a very nice boy and he was not unhappy with the team."

"He just never really settled here with the English style of life, and that comes out in his statement."

Carletto's ref fury

INTERNET, undated



Milan Coach Carlo Ancelotti has slammed Italian referees after his side's 2-0 defeat to Atalanta.

The Rossoneri are now 17 points behind League leaders Inter after their third defeat in four Serie A matches.

But although the tactician admits that there are problems that his side needs to solve, there are some factors that claims he has no control over.

"I'm very angry, this is the third or fourth time this season that we are penalised by the referee," said Ancelotti, referring to several penalty claims that were turned down by Tiziano Pieri during the match at the Stadio Azzurri d'Italia.

"What is taking place is under everyone's eyes is clear. There have been too many negative episodes over the last 10 days.

"We were denied yet another penalty (for a foul on Daniele

Bonera), which could have changed the match and there was a strange call in the second half made on Yoann Gourcuff.

"I like to think these things happen by chance, I believe in this system, and we have to have faith and hope. But unfortunately, they are happening to us with increasing frequency."

Ancelotti was ready to take some of the blame for the defeat to the Bergamaschi, but believes that the main reason for the Rossoneri's struggles is down to the men in black.

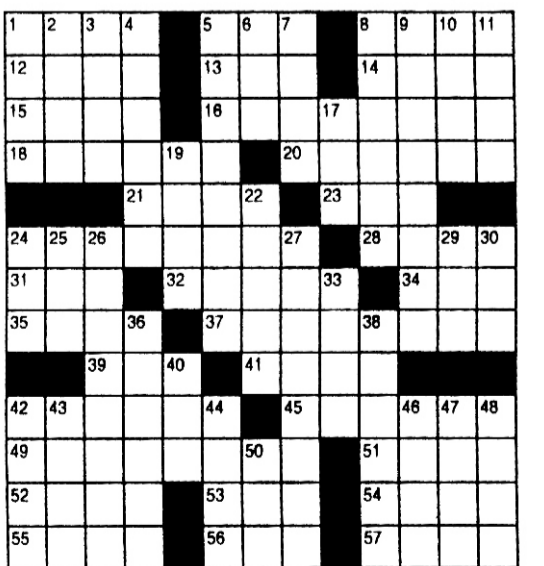
"We have problems carrying out our game, but there are also other issues here," insisted the former Juventus boss.

"It is not a good situation for us at the moment, so we have to work harder paying attention to the problems we can solve."

"However, others have to ensure that games are refereed in a correct way. Furthermore, they didn't even reduce our point deduction -- I can only say things are strange."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Astringent 5 Flop 8 Part of TWIMC 12 Bean curd 13 Part of 'to be' 14 Atmosphere 15 Reed instrument 16 Snitch 18 Cohabitant, to the Census Bureau 20 Large flatfish 21 Costello and Brock 23 Comm. device 24 Endless 28 Tidy 31 Goddess (Lat.) 32 Appomattox victor 34 Round Table address 35 Possesses



CRYPTOQUIP

LI WLMWAWMYRJBIIYJM

H A H P N R G H Q F H N I Y L Q R W L

P H R B F W Q U T W L L R B J H .

W Q T H R G U S I P W Q U H J S .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAD A FEW IDEAS ABOUT BREATHING IN AIR, I SUPPOSE THEY WOULD BE INSPIRING THOUGHTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals N

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

DOWN 1 Resting on 2 Timber wolf 3 Extra-terrestrial 24 Altar space-craft 4 Swiss cereal 5 Rum cocktail with a cover 6 Grecian vessel 7 Adroit 8 President Harding 9 Least likely to boast 10 Sandwich one 11 Shopping venue 17 Formerly stylish 19 Protracted 22 Be upright 24 Affirmative 25 Fresh 26 Imaginary 27 Surrounded with a cover 29 Melody 30 Attempt 33 Measuring strip 36 Out of the shade 38 Item in cookie 52-Across 40 Greek vowel 42 'The Piper of Hamelin' 43 Aware of 44 Luminary 46 Sweater material 47 Commotions 48 Draft animals' frame 50 Id counterpart

Solution time: 24 mins.

SWING HOTBED SKIDDOD ABOARD PICABO HERNIA ANKH SONS KEY OPEN EAR TRAFELS BUFF TILLAGERIOLE ABLE GARY TUB POT OVEN EIRE ANGORA KENNEL SCHUSS LACKEY SETTLE EITHYL