

French First Div

Sedan spank PSG

PARIS, Dec 3: Pius N'Diella hit a hat-trick as Sedan thrashed Paris St Germain 5-1 on Saturday - a result that prompted the dismissal of PSG coach Philippe Bergeroo, reports Reuters.

Nantes, named En Avant Guingamp 2-1 to take over at the top of the French first division as previous leaders Girondins Bordeaux had their 15-match unbeaten run ended 1-0 at Troyes.

"We never imagined we could suffer such a setback," said PSG general manager Laurent Perpere after he had sacked Bergeroo.

"We could have waited a little longer had it been a small defeat or a draw, but tonight we reached the bottom and we were unable to bounce back anymore."

"It was better to stop all this now. The players don't have confidence in themselves anymore. We are scared to play."

Perpere said he was considering offering the job to former player and coach Luis Fernandez who led PSG to the 1996 European Cup's Winners' Cup.

Perpere he said he wanted the issue resolved before the Champions League match at Galatasaray on Wednesday.

Struggling PSG have taken only one point from their last six league games and also been beaten by Deportivo Coruna in the Champions League.

N'Diella opened the scoring for Sedan in the third minute but PSG equalised through Laurent Robert, who lifted his tally to 11 goals from 18 games.

N'Diella slotted home two more goals in before Moussa N'Diaye made it 4-1 in the 72nd minute and Cedric Mionnet added a late fifth.

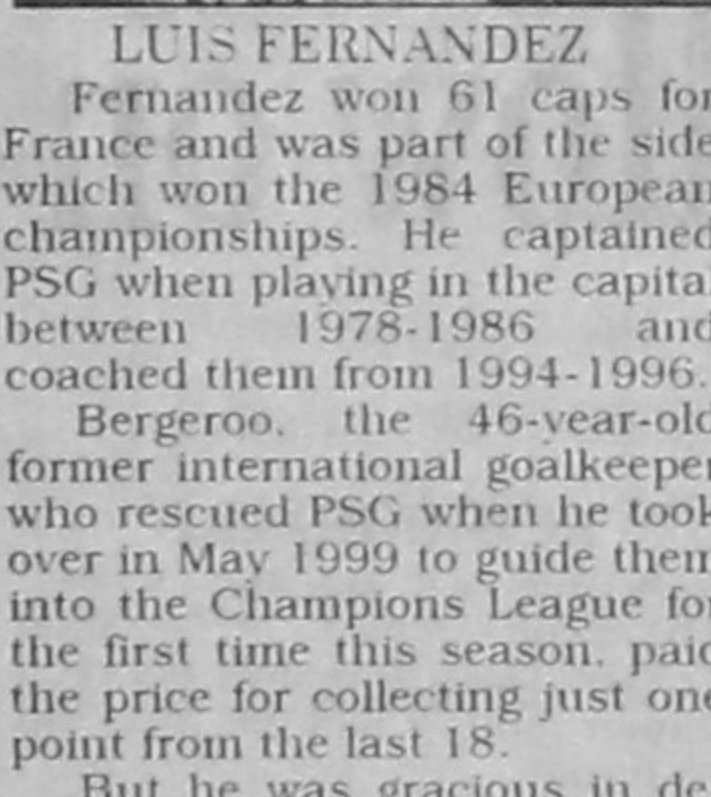
Sedan moved from third to second on 33 points, level with Nantes who had to wait for an 80th minute penalty by Eric Carriere to seal victory.

The sides also have the same goal difference but Nantes went top on goals scored. Bordeaux dropped to third.

"We are the first side to complete five consecutive victories since the season started," boasted Nantes captain Mickael Landreau.

Fernandez returns as coach

PARIS, Dec 3: Luis Fernandez has been named coach of crisis-ridden Paris Saint Germain, replacing Philippe Bergeroo who was sacked following the capital side's 5-1 defeat at Sedan Saturday, reports AFP.



LUIS FERNANDEZ

Fernandez won 61 caps for France and was part of the side which won the 1984 European championships. He captained PSG when playing in the capital between 1978-1986 and coached them from 1994-1996.

Bergeroo, the 46-year-old former international goalkeeper who rescued PSG when he took over in May 1999 to guide them into the Champions League for the first time this season, paid the price for collecting just one point from the last 18.

But he was gracious in defeat and admitted that his sacking was "logical" given the team's recent run of results.

"I won't be the first coach to be sacked, nor will I be the last," he said on French TV Saturday night following the PSG defeat.

He added: "The interest of the team must be looked after, and all things considered it (his sacking) is a logical end to my term here."

Vampetta's ultimatum

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 3: Brazilian international midfielder Vampetta has hit struggling Italian giants Inter Milan with an ultimatum claiming he would leave the club if he didn't see a return to first team action before the New Year. Brazil's press reported on Saturday, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old former PSV Eindhoven player was called up for international duty for the Brazil-Venezuela World Cup 2002 qualifier in October and has failed to break back into Marco Tardelli's Inter side since.

"For now I don't want to leave, but I'll go anywhere where my football is appreciated if I don't play before the end of the year."

"I want to play, the bench is no use to me," said the man who once posed naked in a gay magazine.

Vampetta, a regular international, arrived at Milan last season in a 15 million dollar deal with the club he describes as "the team of my heart" Corinthians, who are said to be interested in re-signing him.

Serie A

Atalanta conquered



MILAN, Dec. 3: Goals from Sabri Lamouchi and Sergio Conceicao ensured Parma defeated Atalanta 2-0 on Saturday to end the Bergamo-based side's proud record as the last unbeaten outfit in the Italian First Division, reports AFP.

Frenchman Lamouchi's early strike and Portugal's Conceicao's late solo effort settled the encounter on a day which also saw defending Italian champions Lazio defeat Reggina 2-0 with goals from Marcelo Salas and Hernan Crespo.

The day's biggest winners, however, could be Serie A leaders AS Roma who are already three points ahead of second-placed Atalanta and now will stretch their First Division lead if they beat Perugia on Sunday when the remainder of the weekend programme will be played.

"All credit to Atalanta who played better than us tonight. They are the best team we have played all season but we won all the same," said Parma coach Alberto Malesani.

His opposite number Giovanni Favaroni said: "We have many chances to get a good result but we just could not score. The first defeat had to come some time and we lost to a very good team."

Parma, who go provisionally third, dominated the first 15 minutes but just when it looked as though Atalanta had weathered the storm Parma took the lead.

Frenchman Johan Micoud was the instigator, finding his compatriot Lamouchi with a precise pass and Lamouchi took full advantage, netting a fine goal.

That shocked the Bergamo-based visitors into action and at last they began to threaten the Parma goal.

First veteran striker Maurizio Ganz shot just wide and then Fausto Rossini had a goalbound shot deflected behind by another of Parma's extensive French contingent, fullback Lilian Thuram.

The second half saw Parma on top early on with a freekick by Conceicao well saved by Ivan Pelizzoli while at the other end Atalanta's Damiano Zenoni went close.

But Atalanta stepped up the pace and Ganz should have equalised from a close-range header but Parma goalkeeper

Gianluigi Buffon pulled off the save of the match.

Buffon made another fine save from Zenoni, playing alongside twin brother Cristian, minutes later as Atalanta continued to press.

But Conceicao, who won the title with Lazio last season, ended any doubts to the outcome when he scored eight minutes from time with a fine run and shot that went in off the post.

Earlier at Rome's Olympic Stadium goals either side of the interval from Chilean striker Salas and his Argentinian partner

replaced by Luca Marchegiani. Peruzzi could miss the Leeds match.

It was only a matter of time before the second goal came and this time Salas was the provider.

Eleven minutes into the second period the Chilean played a precision pass to Crespo, Lazio's expensive summer acquisition from Parma, and the Argentinian forward beat former Manchester United goalkeeper Taibi with an emphatic finish.

In injury time Taibi pulled off a penalty save from Inzaghi after Reggina's Portuguese defender

Marco Caneira had been sent off.

Inzaghi had retaken the kick after Taibi had saved Crespo's first attempt only for referee Alberto Castellani to order it to be retaken.

For the second consecutive week Reggina chairman Pasquale Foti insisted the job of coach Franco Colomba was safe.

"Colomba is untouchable," said Foti. "We will go forward with him."

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