

European scene

Football

AFP, Paris

They may have been on the ropes, but anyone expecting two of the giants of European football to collapse into a heap and throw in the towel were in for a rude awakening at the weekend.

In Spain, Barcelona crushed Tenerife 6-0 and kept coach Charly Rexach in his job while, in Germany, European champions Bayern Munich won their first league match since November beating title rivals Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 to keep up their hopes of hanging onto their Bundesliga crown.

PRIMERA LIGA

Barcelona had gone into the match with struggling Tenerife in an unaccustomed ninth place in the table.

To make matters worse, they had also faced revelations that five of the squad had allegedly indulged in a "drunken orgy" with a number of women in a Madrid hotel the night before their defeat against Osasuna last week.

But Barcelona answered their critics in the most impressive way as Dutch international striker Patrick Kluivert hammered four goals to take his side into sixth place in the table.

Barca were then left in debt to city neighbours Espanyol who came from behind to see off previous leaders Real Madrid 2-1.

Raul hit his 11th of the season to give the defending champions the lead in the first minute, but Enrique de Lucas and Raul Tamudo grabbed the three points for fourth-from-bottom Espanyol against a Madrid side missing the talents of Zinedine Zidane who was out injured.

Celta Vigo lead on goal difference from Real after winning 1-0 at Real Mallorca.

BUNDESLIGA

In Germany, Bayern Munich followed Barcelona's comeback example as Brazilian striker Giovane Elber scored his ninth goal of the season and Stefan Effenberg converted a penalty in the 2-0 win over title pretenders Leverkusen in front of 43,000 fans at the Olympic Stadium.

Bayern, who hadn't won for seven league matches, knew that defeat would have left them 11

points off the pace - but the win keeps them in fourth spot, six points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund who drew 1-1 with Wolfsburg.

Interestingly, Bayern and Borussia meet at the Olympic Stadium next week. Kaiserslautern remain third after a 1-0 win at Cologne.

"It was a vital victory, because we're back in with a chance of the title," said Elber.

"I'm also happy with how we played. We were on fire and we played better football. If we can now defeat St. Pauli and Dortmund in our next games, we have a really good

chance of the title."

SERIE A
ons Fiorentina did their best to get their season back on track leading table toppers AS Roma 2-0 before settling for a point in a 2-2 draw.

Goals from Domenico Morleo and Adriano left the cash-strapped home side looking good for a shock win but the defending champions showed true grit with second half goals from Antonio Cassano and Emerson preserving a wafer-thin one-point lead over Inter Milan and

Juventus. Juventus posted their sixth consecutive Serie A win at home to Lecce, prevailing 3-0 thanks to goals from Antonio Conte, David Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero to move level in second with Inter, held 0-0 at the San Siro by Torino on Saturday night.

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Sibierski's ninth minute strike.

Goal-hungry Lyon, who sit in second place, kept in hot pursuit with a convincing 4-1 mauling of lowly Metz, who have now spiralled into the relegation zone.

Paris St Germain, in third, could only draw 0-0 at Montpellier while in Sunday's only mathic resurgent champions Nantes, who had slipped to bottom spot for a spell, trounced Marseille 3-1.

Primera Liga's top six

Spanish league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Celta Vigo	23	10	10	3	42	25	40
Real Madrid	23	11	7	5	40	26	40
Valencia	23	10	9	4	27	20	39
Alaves	23	12	3	8	23	19	39
Deportivo	23	11	4	8	35	30	37
Real Betis	23	10	7	6	25	21	37

Bundesliga's top six

German league table after weekend's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Dortmund	20	13	4	3	34	14	43
Leverkusen	20	13	3	4	46	26	42
Kaiserslautern	20	13	2	5	41	25	41
Bayern	20	11	4	5	37	16	37
Bremen	20	11	3	6	33	23	36
Schalke 04	20	10	5	5	30	22	35

Serie A's top six

Italian league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

AS Roma	21	12	8	1	33	14	44
Inter Milan	21	12	7	2	36	17	43
Juventus	21	12	7	2	41	15	43
Chevo	21	11	4	6	39	31	37
AC Milan	21	8	9	4	3	0	32
Bologna	21	9	5	7	22	22	32

French top six

French league table after Sunday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Lens	23	15	6	2	40	15	51
Lyon	23	13	4	6	45	24	43
PSG	24	9	12	3	31	1	7
39							
Auxerre	22	10	9	3	29	20	39
Troyes	22	10	5	7	28	22	35
Lille	23	9	8	6	27	23	35

STAR MOVIES

7:00am Action : Mission To Mars

9:00 Comedy : Benny And Joon

11:00 Comedy : Big Bully

12:45pm Thriller : The Crush

2:30 Comedy : Celci B. Demented

4:15 Comedy : Chapter 2

6:15 Comedy : Just A Little Harmless Sex

7:45 Thriller : Motel

9:30 Drama : He Got Game

11:45 Comedy : Hostile Hostages

STAR GOLD

7:00am Bidaai (Jeetendra, Leena Chandavarkar)

10:30 Bollywood News

11:00 Geet Bahar

11:30 Farar (Dev Anand, Geeta Bali)

3:00pm Bollywood News

4:00 Navrang (Mahipal, Sandhya)

7:00 Geet Bahar

7:30 Mangal Masti Kismat (Biswajeet, Babita)

11:00 Bollywood News

11:30 Karz Chukana Hai (Govinda, Juhi Chawla)

STAR WORLD

6:30am Rock From The Sun

7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

8:00 MacGyver

9:00 That 70's Show

9:30 Dharma & Greg

10:00 Chicago Hope

11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show

12:00pm Everybody Loves Raymond

12:30pm Frasier

1:00 Caroline In The City

1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful

2:00 Mork & Mindy

2:30 Happy Days

3:00 Baywatch

4:00 The Simpsons

4:30 3rd Rock From The Sun

5:00 Star News Asia

5:30 Friends

STAR VIJAY

6:27am Udaya Geetham

6:30 Samarpam

6:40 Agni Sakshi

7:00 Star News English

8:00 Star News English

9:00 Star News English

10:00 Star News English

11:30 Star News English

12:00pm Sports Tonight

STAR VIJAY

6:30 Star News English

7:00 Star News English

8:00 Star News English

9:00 Star News English

10:00 Star News English

11:30 Star News English

12:00pm Sports Tonight

STAR VIJAY

6:30 Star News English

7:00 Star News English

8:00 Star News English

9:00 Star News English

10:00 Star News English

11:30 Star News English

12:00pm Sports Tonight

STAR VIJAY</b