

Primera Liga Celta slip up

Football

AFP, Madrid

Valencia, who went back to the top of the Spanish league on Saturday, stayed proudly in that position on Sunday after Celta Vigo were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Malaga.

Celta, with top scorer 11-goal Henrique Catana in their ranks, dominated the match with Malaga but couldn't find the killer touch despite creating numerous openings.

Valencia had moved to the top taking advantage of defending champions Real Madrid's shock 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao.

Valencia were in debt to Argentine star Pablo Aimar who scored with just nine minutes left of their match at near-neighbours Villareal to give them a 1-1 draw and a point to take them to the top.

Meanwhile, Barcelona twice came from behind to beat fellow championship hopefuls Deportivo La Coruna 3-2 with Dutch international striker Patrick Kluivert scoring the winner just three minutes from the end at the Nou Camp.

Valencia now have 44 points with Real Madrid in second spot on 43. Barcelona also have 43 points and the same goal difference as Madrid but are third having scored fewer goals.

Villarreal had dominated the opening stages of their game with Valencia and took a deserved lead through Rodolfo Arruabarrena in the 53rd minute.

But Aimar, who had come on as a second half substitute, levelled proceedings as Valencia took advantage of having an extra man following Manuel Victor's red-card in the 57th minute.

There were seven players booked in the match but Valencia won't mind as the draw means they now have a one point advantage over Madrid who went into their game at Bilbao without influential international Raul who was injured.

The defending champions fell behind after 29 minutes when

Primera Liga's top six

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

	26	11	11	4	30	22	44
Real Madrid	26	12	7	7	49	30	43
Barcelona	26	12	7	7	42	23	43
Celta Vigo	26	10	12	4	42	27	42
Betis	26	11	9	6	27	22	42
Atletico Bilbao	26	11	9	6	37	36	42

Trezeguet set to become hottest?

Football

AFP, London

French international striker David Trezeguet is being lined up for a world record 50-million-pound (71-million-dollar) move to Arsenal, it was reported here Sunday.

Antonio Caliendo said the Juventus star has been targeted by a number of top clubs in Europe, but is "very excited" about the prospect of a move to the English Premiership club coached by fellow Frenchman Arsene Wenger.

"David is well aware other clubs would like to sign him as well - such as Barcelona and Real Madrid," Caliendo told the News of the World.

"But his preference as a player is to be in the Premier League, playing for Arsene Wenger."

The reports said that Caliendo met Wenger at a secret meeting in London on Thursday.

"My meeting with Arsene went very well. We're happy with Arsenal's offer, now it's up to both

clubs to conclude the deal."

Juventus director general Luciano Moggi told Caliendo to mind his own business later Sunday.

Moggi, in charge of the club's transfer policy, said: "Caliendo could have saved himself the bother: with Arsenal we don't need intermediaries."

"We are such good friends that we don't need other contacts should we want to do business with them."

Juventus sold Trezeguet's fellow French international Thierry Henry to Arsenal in 1999.

Trezeguet, who scored the golden goal which made France European champions at Italy's expense in 2000, has been in outstanding form for Juventus this season and scored for the club in the 2-1 win against Fiorentina on Saturday. It was his 15th goal of the season.

If Trezeguet does move to London, he would join French internationals Henry, Sylvain Wiltord, Patrick Vieira and Robert Pires.



Luis Felipe Scolari (L), the Brazilian national coach speaks to the press while Catalonia Soccer Federation President Jaume Roure (R), listens during the International Fair "Planet Soccer" in Barcelona on February 17.

Ronaldo yes, Romario?



AFF, Barcelona

Brazil coach Felipe Scolari confirmed that Ronaldo would be in his World Cup 2002 squad but he was less than flattering over the chances of veteran striker Romario here on Sunday.

"Ronaldo will definitely be there," Scolari said.

"He's almost there technically, almost back to his best. Physically he has a way to go though," he added.

Ahead of the 1998 World Cup the prospect of a "RoRo" (Romario and Ronaldo) front line was widely

awaited, a scenario that ended when Romario was dropped from the final 22.

But the evergreen striker, 36, claimed this week his call up would be "justice" and that he was the best Brazilian in his position. A belief Scolari appeared to pour cold water on.

"I'm not sure I'll be taking Romario to the World Cup because it's my responsibility to take the best players," Scolari said.

But there is growing public support in Brazil to recall Romario, widely credited with a major role in Brazil's 1994 World Cup win in the United States, and the top scorer in Brazil this season.

"We'll keep an eye on him," said a seemingly unconvinced Scolari

who has only selected him once, a 1-0 defeat in a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay in Montevideo.

The tough-talking coach was in upbeat mood about several other prospects though.

Spain-based Brazil stars Rivaldo, Roberto Carlos and Denilson were guaranteed places in the final 23, Scolari, who is in Europe to check on the availability of Brazilians there for World Cup warm-ups, told a press conference here.

On Wednesday Scolari was in Paris where he watched world champions France beat Romania 2-1 in the company of 21-year-old Ronaldinho, also tipped to make the Brazil squad for South Korea and Japan.

Goodison Park.

Everton, who last won the cup in 1995 when they beat Manchester United 1-0, now face a tricky trip to Gresty Road for the replay.

In the remaining fifth-round match on Sunday, Newcastle play First Division leaders Manchester City at St James's Park.

Chelseas's deadly strike duo Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Eidur Gudjohnsen grabbed a goal apiece and substitute Mikael Forssell came off the bench to add a late third as the Londoners bounced back from Richard Cresswell's early opener.

FA Cup Chelsea sail into quarters

Football

AFF, London

Chelsea advanced to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup on Sunday after coming from behind to grind out a 3-1 win over First Division Preston at Stamford Bridge.

In other ties League Cup finalists Tottenham overcame Second Division Tramore 4-0 at White Hart Lane to book their place in the last eight while First Division strugglers Crewe held Everton to a 0-0 draw at

"I'll try to be back for the last day of Italian championship as I owe to," Baggio added.

"That was definitely a victory for Ottmar Hitzfeld," he said in defence of his under pressure coach.

Baggio still dreams

World Cup

INTERNET, Rome

Roberto Baggio still believes in his World Cup dream. The striker revealed the following in yesterday's TV show:

"I will be back to action. I am keen to play at the upcoming World Cup and my dream motivates me to do my best after this unimportant injury."

Brescia forward said he is looking forward to Trapattoni's WC squad announcement.

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