

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 Catanha 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

Roberto Martinez Tiko, who had been doubtful for the match because of a heavy cold, scored.

It was a deserved lead for the home side as Real 'keeper Iker Casillas had to pull off an early save from Joseba Etxeberria and Asier del Horno saw a shot come back off the post.

Del Horno made it 2-0 for Bilbao in the fourth minute of injury time at the end of the first half.

Fernando Morientes pulled one back after 55 minutes for Madrid with his 17th goal of the season, but Vicente Del Bosque's team were unable to grab a second as the home side held out for the three points.

Morientes had scored five in his team's 7-0 destruction of Las Palmas last weekend, but even his efforts were not enough to quell Bilbao who exacted pleasing revenge for their Spanish Cup defeat at the hands of Real Madrid earlier in the season.

At the Nou Camp, a convincing victory could have put Deportivo on top and they looked to be heading for a win when Diego Tristan, with his 12th league goal of the season, gave the visitors the lead.

However, veteran striker Luis Enrique, returning from injury, levelled for Charly Rexach's side just seven minutes later.

Substitute Gonzalez Sergio restored Deportivo's advantage with a 67th minute header before Argentinian international Javier Saviola brought the teams level for a second time six minutes later.

It was then left to Patrick Kluivert, who scored for Holland in their 1-1 friendly international draw with England in midweek, to grab the winner and the three points with a fine header just three minutes from the end.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Bosnian striker Elvir Bolic scored both goals as second from bottom Rayo Vallecano beat basement club Tenerife 2-0 while the pressure on Real Sociedad manager John Toshack was lifted when Oscar de Paula scored the only goal in a 1-0 away win at Sevilla.

Primera Liga's top six										
Spanish First Division table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):										
Valencia	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			
Athletic 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.

Bundesliga

Dortmund stay atop

Football

AFP, Berlin

Despite being held to a second consecutive draw, 1-1 at home to Schalke 04, Borussia Dortmund remain top of the *Bundesliga* after an interesting weekend's action in Germany.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen failed to capitalise on Dortmund's slip, drawing 2-2 at second-bottom St Pauli on Saturday while Bayern Munich, who bagged a point at Dortmund last week, were back to winning ways with a 2-0 away victory at SC Freiburg.

In-form Bayern midfielder midfielder Mehmet Scholl was delighted with the turnaround that should relieve a little of the pressure the European champions have been feeling.

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

Europe's best return from slumber



AFP, Paris

Treble-chasing Real Madrid will seek to put their domestic woes behind them when the European Champions League rumbles back into action after a two-month winter break on Tuesday.

The star-studded Spanish giants were the form side in Europe earlier this season and lead Group C with maximum points from two games heading into Tuesday's match at the Bernabeu against Porto.

But three defeats in their last four league outings have jolted Real's previously serene progress in a year which they hope will see them celebrate their centenary with a league, cup and European Cup treble.

On Saturday, coach Vicente Del Bosque was horrified with his team's display in a 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao, accusing his expensively assembled squad of not trying.

"Our first half performance against Athletic was dreadful. We just gave up," del Bosque said. "We tried a bit harder in the second half but by then it was too late."

"It was not the sort of performance I expect from this team."

Del Bosque's problems could be eased slightly if star striker Raul is fit to play against the Portuguese. The Spanish international has not played since picking up a thigh injury two weeks ago.

Although a visit to the Bernabeu is a daunting prospect for any team, 1987 European Cup winners Porto should at least be in a positive frame of mind after trouncing Vitoria Setubal 4-1 away last weekend.

Porto are currently third in the group, with only one point from their first two matches, and need a positive result against Real to have any hope of progressing.

In the other Group C match on Tuesday, surprise packages Sparta Prague attempt to take a big step towards a place in the quarter-finals when they play bottom-ranked Panathinaikos in the Czech capital.

For Panathinaikos' coach Sergio Marcarian, the upcoming matches with Sparta are must win games.

"We know that we must gain four points in the two matches with Sparta, otherwise things will be very difficult," he said.



PHOTO:INTERNET

Barcelona superstars Javier Saviola (R) and Rivaldo during a training session at the Nou Camp Stadium on February 18 February ahead of their European Champions League match against AS Roma next Wednesday.

While Real coach Del Bosque is hoping his team can snap out of their mid-season wobble, Arsenal hope to start transferring their domestic form into Europe when they face Bayer Leverkusen in Group D.

The Londoners have hit a purple patch in the English Premiership, and are unbeaten since mid-December, with a superb away record fuelling the run.

But Arsenal's away record in Europe over the past couple of seasons has been a different story, with the Gunners losing eight of their last nine Champions League fixtures away from Highbury.

Against Bundesliga hopefuls Leverkusen, Arsene Wenger's side are likely to face another stern defensive test, which could prompt

the wily Frenchman into recalling veteran skipper Tony Adams.

Adams returned from a four-month injury lay-off at the weekend, scoring in Arsenal's 5-2 FA Cup win over Gillingham - and Wenger admits he is tempted into giving the former England captain his second start in four days.

"I don't know what I will do about that. The question mark I have now is Tony Adams or not Tony Adams."

His other options at centre-back with Martin Keown and Oleg Luzhny unavailable are Igors Stepanovs and Gilles Grimandi.

Wenger, who has urged his side not to be 'timid' at the start of European away matches, has Giovanni van Bronckhorst - who could take over at left-back from Brazilian Juan - and Lauren avail-



PHOTO:INTERNET

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?



AFP, 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 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.

FA Cup

Chelsea sail into quarters

Football

AFP, 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 Tranmere 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

Goodison Park.

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

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

Chelsea'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.

able for Tuesday.

Group D's other game on Tuesday will see new Italian league leaders Juventus entertain a Deportivo La Coruna still smarting from defeat against Barcelona on Saturday.

Juventus, 2-1 victors over Fiorentina on Saturday afternoon, inched clear in the *Serie A* title race and have striker David Trezeguet in prime form to face the Spaniards.

French international Trezeguet netted his 15th goal of the season against Fiorentina, and with Alessandro Del Piero also getting on the scoresheet, Deportivo's defence could be in for a busy night in Turin.

Deportivo coach Javier Irureta has set his team the target of winning all their remaining matches in Group D, where all four sides are level on three points going into this week's games.

Irureta has a full squad to choose from but uncertainty surrounds who is likely to be preferred in attack, with the Deportivo coach pondering the partnership of Diego Tristan and Valeron or the Dutch-Brazilian pairing of Roy Makaay and Djalminha.

FIXTURES	
European Champions League second phase fixtures this week (1945 GMT):	
TUESDAY	
Group C	Real Madrid (Spa) v Porto (Por)
Group D	Sparta Prague (Cze) v Panathinaikos (Gre)
Group D	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Arsenal (Eng)
Group D	Juventus (Ita) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
WEDNESDAY	
Group A	Boavista (Por) v Bayern Munich (Ger)
Group B	Nantes (Fra) v Manchester United (Eng)
Group B	Barcelona (Spa) v Roma (Ita)
Group B	Liverpool (Eng) v Galatasaray (Tur)

French First Division

Lyon batter PSG

AFP, Paris

Lyon climbed to within two points of French league leaders Lens and dealt a shattering blow to Paris Saint Germain's title aspirations with a crushing 3-0 victory over the capital side on Sunday.

Lens had already been held to a surprise 1-1 draw by basement dwellers Lorient on Saturday, and the results have left the title race wide open after Lens had enjoyed an eight point lead a month ago.

Lens are still top with 52 points from 25 games, Lyon second on 50 from 26 and Auxerre climbed to third Saturday with 45 points from 24 games virtue of a 2-1 away win at Troyes.

An own-goal from PSG captain Frederic Dehu, a poacher's classic from Brazilian hit-man Sonny Anderson and a 20-yard strike from Juninho buried the visitors in an action-packed second-half at Lyon.

PSG were already 1-0 down and were simply run ragged after the sending off of Gabriel Heinze with 20 minutes to go. They are now ten points off the chase for the title and will struggle to make one of the two automatic Champions League spots for next season.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

37 Mid-month date

1 Upper-case, for short

5 The whole enchilada

8 Ones' performances

12 Character actor Jack

13 Imagine

14 Fairy tale

15 He has his reason

17 Ollie's partner

18 Saw footures

19 Dry cleaner's concerns

21 Body parts

24 Biz magazine

25 Fighting force

28 Mortgage

30 Cartesian conclusion

33 Ovine remark

34 Houston's place

35 Altar constellation

36 Early bird?

DOWN

1 Hibernian

2 Lotion

3 Senate employee

4 Shoe-maker's head?

5 "— was place?"

6 Meadow feature

7 Concern of 9-Down

8 Lazy woman?

9 His work is a grind

10 Bank trans-action

11 Roadside lodgings

16 Greek letter

Solution time: 27 mins.

STAIRS

ASHTON

GODSPELL

HEWLETT

FIBERGLASS

LATINO

AGITATOR

GODSPELL

HALE JAMES

KOMODO

FEARS

TINNS

WIND

ROLE

JOE

SLIP

DANGER

NOR

GIFF

DAM

GOURMAND

AREA

SEWN

Serie A

Inter back with Vieri

Football

AFP, Milan

Christian Vieri scored twice as Inter Milan emerged from a three-week slumber to defeat Verona 3-0 and move joint second in the Italian First Division Sunday.

Vieri, who also set up his side's opener for midfielder Cristiano Zanetti, was outstanding as Inter went level with champions AS Roma who lost ground after being held 0-0 at Brescia.

But it is Juventus, 2-1 victors over Fiorentina on Saturday afternoon, who have proved the biggest winners of the weekend, moving to the summit by one-point over Roma and Inter in what is now clearly a three-way fight for the title.

Roma, who had led at the start of the weekend, used all their attacking options but could not find a way through against Brescia for whom this will be a vital point in their battle against relegation.

Their Argentinian forward Gabriel Batistuta was guilty of the most glaring miss.

Brescia had legitimate complaints about the officiating, notably when match referee Paolo Bertini seemed set to caution Roma's



PHOTO:INTERNET

Inter Milan ace Christian Vieri exults after scoring his second goal against Verona at Milan on February 17.

Brazilian defender Aldair only to refrain when he realised he was already on a yellow card.

"I thought the referee handled the game well," said Roma coach Fabio Capello. "Brescia made it very hard for us and we could not find the way forward."

Verona, a much-improved outfit after avoiding relegation in a play-off last season, made it hard for Inter in the early stages but just after the half-hour mark Inter hit the front.

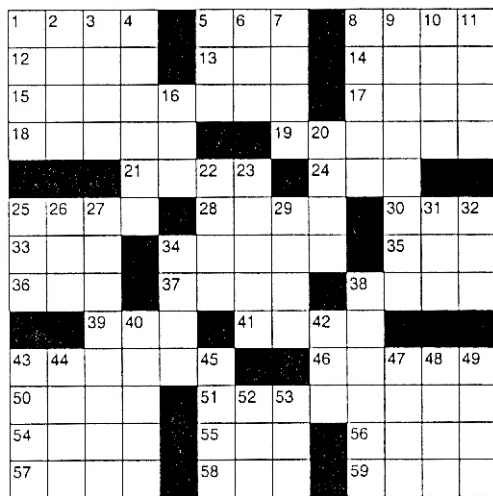
Vieri's cushioned header set up his fellow Italian international Zanetti whose shot beat Verona's Russian goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatullin, making his debut as a 20th-minute substitute for Fabrizio Ferron.

It was a landmark goal for Zanetti who netted for the first time in Serie A even though he has played in that division for Fiorentina, Inter, Cagliari and Roma.

After the interval Vieri headed home a corner from Dutchman Clarence Seedorf and minutes later made it 3-0 with a neat finish, his 16th goal in 15 league appearances this year, ending his club's mini-slump of three matches without victory.

Inter president Massimo Moratti had a sly dig at the critics who had said Inter's crisis was due to Vieri's dip in form - he had not scored for two matches.

Serie A's top six										
Italian First Division table ahead of evening match between Lazio and Chievo (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):										
Juventus	23	13	8	2	43	16	47			
Inter Milan	23	13	7	3	40	19	46			
AS Roma	23	12	10	1	33	14	46			
Bologna	23	11	5	7	25	23	38			
Chievo	22	11	4	7	40	33	37			
AC Milan	23	8	11	4	31	24	35			



CRYPTOQUIP

T Z Q M F X M C V S F G F X G X V
V P Z V V P S G Q I G H P V X T S
G F F S M F G V G X Z F M T S
H Z X Z C V S Q Z I I
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF YOU GET A
HAIRPIECE THAT IS FRIGHTFULLY SCARY,
DO YOU HAVE THE DEVIL TOUPEE?

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: V equals T

The Cryptiquip 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.