## Primera Liga

# Draw leave Real happier





THAT'S REAL-BARCA DERBY FOR YOU: (L) World football's living legends Zinedine Zidane(front) of Real Madrid and Barcelona's Rivaldo in action and (R). an unidentified anti-globalisation activist (C) is taken from the pitch after he handcuffed himself to the goal post after the start of the game on March 16 at the Nou Camp stadium.



AFP. Barcelona

Real Madrid drew 1-1 with Barcelona at the Nou Camp stadium on Saturday meaning they will have to wait another season before contemplating another bid to end their barren streak at the famous venue

The defending Spanish champions, who last won there in October 1983, rarely showed any of the fear that previous visits to the Catalan capital have infected them with and overall they were the better team.

The draw sees Real Madrid go back to the top of the Spanish First Division, with 53 points from 30 games, although the lead may last less than 24 hours.

Valencia, who started the weekend in pole position, are second only on goal difference and visit bottom-

placed Rayo Vallecano on Sunday. Real got their reward for making the early running after 38 minutes when world record transfer signing Zinedine Zidane found the net to

Zidane has scored seven league goals this season but none will be treasured as much as this one, against Real's bitter rivals.

give them the lead.

Raul Gonzalez picked up the ball in the area and found the space to slot it through three Barcelona defenders and the Frenchman was on hand, and unmarked, to sidefoot the ball into the net.

Barcelona's Dutch international Patrick Kluivert almost equalised just a few seconds later, with Real Madrid still celebrating, but his shot went a metre wide.

The pendulum then swung the other way again after 42 minutes when Raul connected with a cross from Santiago Solari. The shot beat Barcelona goalkeeper Roberto Bonano but Raul's glee was cut short when the referee's assistant tardily ruled the Spanish international had been offside.

Barcelona got back on level terms in slightly bizarre fashion just before the hour. Xavi Hernandez unleashed a low

and hard shot from 25 metres which Real goalkeeper Cesar Sanchez failed to keep under control.

The ball squirmed out of his grasp and looped backwards over his head and into the goal, chased by the dispairing Cesar.

However it was to be the only mistake Cesar made and Real will be thankful for his efforts during a later Barcelona onslaught.

It was not only the players who contributed to the Nou Camp drama on Saturday.

The game was interrupted after just two minutes when two antiglobalisation demonstrators protesting against Barcelona staging the European Union's heads of state summit - managed to get on

They were shortly followed my another protester with signs against the pollution of a river in northern

Local police had been prepared for possible disturbances and quickly hustled the environmental activist off the pitch and into a

nearby cell. However, the anti-globalisation demonstrators managed to chain themselves to a goal post and the game only restarted after a five minutes delay, once the pair had been separated from the woodwork.

The shower of coins and other objects that rained down on the two protesters, followed by the howls of derision that accompanied their departure, suggested that few of the capacity 105,000 spectators had been converted to their cause.

Late in the game, 15 minutes from the end, two pro-ETA demonstrators also managed to get onto the Nou Camp pitch.

Again, the police acted swiftly and the game was halted only momentarily, but the fact that three seperate groups managed to make their presence felt so easily will raise some questions about Nou Camp

The draw benefited the cause of Deportivo La Coruna, who moved up to third with 51 points, after their 3-1 victory at Osasuna earlier on

Saturday Deportivo's Diego Tristan showed why he is one of the deadliest attackers in Europe at the moment, as he notched up a hattrick in barely 30 minutes

Tristan was the scourge of Real Madrid 10 days ago as Deportivo lifted the Spanish Cup, and took just five minutes to get his first goal, after he had latched on to a Lionel Scaloni pass.

His second strike came 13 minutes later from a brilliant individual effort, and his third was fired home from the penalty spot after 32 minutes, after Osasuna defender Josetxo Urtasun had brought down Juan Carlos Valeron in the box.

Tristan's triple took his goal tally for the season to 15

However, Deportivo noticably stepped off the gas in the second half with all three points in the bag and Osasuna got a consolation goal a minute from the whistle.

Deportivo's Hector Berenquer del Pino fouled Gerardo Rivero in the area and Australian striker John Aloisi converted the resulting pen-

"This game showed the importance that we still attach to the Spanish league," said Deportivo coach Javier Irureta, who made seven changes to the side that beat English Premiership side Arsenal 2-0 in the European Champions League on Tuesday.

## *Primera Liga*'s top six Spanish league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

for, against, points):

Real Madrid	30	15	8	7	57	32	53
Valencia	29	14	11	4	35	22	53
Deportivo La Coruna	30	15	6	9	45	35	51
Real Betis	29	13	10	6	34	25	49
Barcelona	30	13	8	9	49	29	47
Celta Vigo		29	11	12	6	47	3 4
45							

# **Magnificent Montella**

Football

AFP, Rome

Another glowing performance from AS Roma striker Vincenzo Montella gave the defending champions a 3-1 win over Atalanta to help them soar a provisional three points clear at the top of Serie A here Saturday.

Italian international Montella, who scored a record four goals in last week's 5-1 Rome derby victory over Lazio, this time had to settle for two of his side's three goals at Rome's Olympic stadium.

However Montella even played a role in Roma's third goal, forcing Atalanta defender Massimo Carrera to slide the ball into his own net.

Cristiano Doni's late consolation was about the only moment of cheer for the visiting supporters from Bergamo who are not yet safe from relegation.

Roma, who have seven games left, thus lead title challengers Inter Milan and Juventus by three and four points respectively although both those outfits will play their games in

But after 18 minutes it was Montella who came up with the

Montella had his wits about him as he got a touch to a freekick from Brazilian Assuncao which flew past Atalanta goalkeeper Massimo Taibi before embarking on his trademark 'airplane' celebration.

Before a half hour had elapsed it was 2-0. Cassano did well to turn the ball into the middle and although Montella claimed the goal it was a despairing lunge by Atalanta defender Carrera that turned the ball

After the interval Roma continued to dominate and Cafu's header struck the bar after the Brazilian latched on to a fine cross by Delvecchio.

And after 68 minutes it was 3-0 to Roma with Montella again on song.

Brazilian defender Aldair played the ball forward to Cassano whose cushioned header found Montella and the Italian international fired past



The great Pele tries "Cu Ju", a traditional Chinese version of football, during his visit to the Great Wall on March 17.

## **CUP CORNER**



REUTERS, Beijing

Pele believes China can buck the odds against them advancing to the second stage in their debut World Cup finals appearance this year because their coach Bora Milutinovic has led four different teams there

before.

"The Chinese team has a coach with much experience and that is the most important guarantee of China advancing," Chinese state media

quoted Pele as saying.

The "soccer king" Pele and "magical coach" Milutinovic, as Chinese media refer to them, scaled the Great Wall together on Saturday as the former Brazilian international continued a promotional tour in China ahead of the Japan/South Korea World Cup which begins on May 31.

Nigeria, the United States, Costa Rica and Mexico all made the second stage of the World Cup finals with Milutinovic at the helm but soccer pundits say under-skilled and inexperienced China are a different story.

China are grouped with Brazil, Costa Rica and Turkey in the first round. But Milutinovic brushed aside Pele's optimism.

"Each time before the World Cup, Pele always says Bora's team will definitely make gains. No matter whether it is Mexico or Costa Rica, he always says the same thing," the Guangzhou-based Yangcheng Evening News quoted Milutinovic as saying.

## **ITALIANS WON'T CELEBRATE!**

Italian football reacted in disappointment Sunday at the new ruling that outlaws the exposure of message t-shirts by players, usually after they score a goal.

In this year's World Cup players will be booked should they celebrate a goal in such a fashion after the ruling by FIFA's international board with only blank t-shirts considered an acceptable dress code.

In Italy - where the craze was said to have been started by former

Juventus striker Fabrizio Ravanelli - footballers frequently lift up their jerseys after scoring to reveal a t-shirt with a message that can be political And the general feeling was that a little bit of football tradition had died.

Gazzetta dello Sport headlined: "The t-shirts have been silenced". It devoted half a page to the story while its principal rival Corriere dello Sport said: "Celebrations stopped, messages on t-shirts banned."

AS Roma skipper Francesco Totti is renowned for his tendency to celebrate goals with messages and admitted in remarks reported by Gazzetta dello Sport: "There is nothing we can do now - we will just have to comply with the International Board." In Italy players have used t-shirts to make protests, say, against French

nuclear testing while Lazio's Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic unveiled a shirt saying: "Peace, not war" when NATO started bombing his

Others unveil messages to their wives, children or in honour of a personal idol. Torino's Cristiano Lucarelli likes to reveal a picture of late Communist revolutionary Che Guevara while Lecce's Alessandro

Conticchio's favourite image is a garish t-shirt of controversial rocker Marilyn Manson. Teams sometimes co-ordinate a t-shirt message to honour a comrade who is in distress, unveiling t-shirts after a goal encouraging a colleague

facing a long injury lay-off not to lose heart while Brescia players recently honoured their team-mate Vittorio Mero who had been killed in a car crash the week before The ruling does not affect the wearing of t-shirts over the jersey before

the start of the match. The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) routinely enjoins its players to

support what it considers worthy causes by wearing message t-shirts as they enter the field These are usually non-political in nature, such as promoting cancer

research or organ transplants although last month the FIGC sanctioned a protest against the verdict of an Islamic sharia court in Nigeria which sentenced a woman Safiya Husaini to be stoned to death for adultery The FIGC said that the t-shirt worn by all Serie A and B players with the

message "Who will cast the first stone?" was humanitarian not political.

## **INJURY CHEATS** NOT ALLOWED!

Zermatt, Switzerland
FIFA has told referees to crack down hard on players diving or feigning injury at this year's World Cup finals, it was reported here Saturday. Speaking at a meeting of the world governing body's International Board, FIFA secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen said players could

expect to be punished severely for diving.

"Feigning is our number one problem," said Zen-Ruffinen. "We will be holding a seminar for referees in Seoul next week where this issue will be

"We must be tough on this for the good of sport and fairplay," Zen-

Ruffinen was quoted by Swiss agency SportInformation as saying.

## Netherlands in October 1999.

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31 Complaint

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37 Chew the

38 California

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44 Aussie

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5 Upper

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Graham

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Solution time: 23 mins.

ingredient

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

YVECZHE: "BM LAXRRZG-

SY PCHSPZP VDZ FSDECHR

BZ." GXLEXD: "CE'P VAA

MXSD FZVG.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DENTISTS AND MANICURISTS DON'T MERELY ARGUE. FACT IS, THEY FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals R

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.

# Premiership

# **MU** class too much

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United twice came from behind to defeat West Ham 5-3 and regain the lead of the English Premiership as Newcastle were held 2-2 at home to lowly Ipswich on

Alex Ferguson's defending champions secured another vita three points thanks to second-half goals from Paul Scholes, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and David Beckham at Upton Park. United taking the lead twice in the opening 45 minutes through Steve

Lomas and Freddy Kanoute, before Beckham and Nicky Butt equalised Jermain Defoe was West Ham's

Man Utd	31	20	4	7	78	40	64
Liverpool	31	18	8	5	52	26	62
Arsenal	29	17	9	3	58	31	60
Newcastle	30	17	5	8	54	40	56
Chelsea	30	14	11	5	58	30	53
Leeds	29	12	12	5	39	29	48

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English Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost goals for, goals against, points):										
Man Utd Liverpool	31 31	20 18	4 8	7 5	78 52	40 26	64 62			

## Premiershin's ton six

goals for, goals against, points):								
	Man Utd	31	20	4	7	78	40	64
	Liverpool	31	18	8	5	52	26	62
	Arsenal	29	17	9	3	58	31	60
	Newcastle	30	17	5	8	54	40	56
	Chelsea	30	14	11	5	58	30	53
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other scorer The win puts United two points clear of second-placed Liverpool who ground out a 2-1 away win over Middlesbrough in Saturday's early

match. Third-placed Arsenal can leapfrog over Liverpool into second place with a victory at Aston Villa on Sunday.

But Bobby Robson's Newcastle slipped further off the pace when they were held 2-2 by Ipswich at St James' Park

Former England captain Alan Shearer - who equalised two minutes from time - missed a last minute penalty for the Magpies in a drama filled game against Robson's former

scoring either side of an equaliser from Newcastle's French midfielder Laurent Robert. Elsewhere Chelsea defender William Gallas scored his second goal in seven days as the

Marcus Bent was the goal hero

for George Burley's 'Tractor Boys',

Londoners beat relegation strug-glers Sunderland 4-0 at Stamford Bridge. In-form forward Eidur Gudjohnsen made sure of the points for Claudio Ranieri's Blues, scoring

on 73 minutes with a perfectly

weighted lob. Mikael Forssell continued the rout in the dying minutes, exchanging passes with Graeme Le Saux before uncorking an unstoppable 25-yarder that flew in into the Sunderland net, Italian midfielder Sam Dalla Bona made it 4-0 in injury

At the other end of the table, Dave Bassett's relegation certainties Leicester snatched a draw from the jaws of victory when they squandered a 2-0 lead against Southampton at St Mary's.

Bolton slipped further into the relegation zone when they crashed 3-1 at home to John Gregory's Derby, who remain one place behind Wanderers and one place of the bottom despite the win. Earlier Liverpool had moved to

top spot briefly after grinding out an important 2-1 win away at

Middlesbrough England striker Emile Heskev's 11th goal of the season sent Liverpool on their way before John Arne Riise appeared to wrap up the points with six minutes remaining. Middlesbrough set up a nervous

finish however when England clear," said Moratti. defender Gareth Southgate headed home in the 89th minute, but Liverpool held out.

## Roma coach Fabio Capello. "This is very good news for us and very bad news for our opponents."

Vincenzo Montella (2nd from L) of AS Roma wrong-foots Atalanta custodian

Italian football league table after Saturday's match (played, won, drawn, lost,

Serie A's top six

Massimo Taibi (R) to score his second goal at Rome on March 16.

his starting line-up again with Montella paired with Marco Delvecchio and teenage prodigy Antonio Cassano in the role of n Totti hehi Capello had said he would rest

Capello had chosen to omit

Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta from

"Montella is just in magnificent

form, he is focused and technically he

has never been better," said AS

goals for, against, points):

Inter Milan

Juventus

Bologna

AC Milan

hand on Sunday.

Totti ahead of Tuesday's Champions League decider in Liverpool although it was not clear if Batistuta's omission was with the match at Anfield in mind.

# Cuper has Ronaldo in his plans

## Football

REUTERS, Rome

hinted on Saturday.

Brazil forward Ronaldo could play for Inter Milan against Valencia in the UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg next week, coach Hector Cuper

Ronaldo returned from Brazil last week, where he had spent the last month recovering from a thigh problem, and has since trained with the Interfirst team.

Inter coach Cuper, who rested

fellow forward Christian Vieri for last week's 1-1 draw against his former club, hinted that the twice World Player of the year may figure in Spain.

"Why not be optimistic?" Cuper

told the Gazzetta Dello Sport website. "I won't say that he will play for 90 minutes but I have seen enough of Ronaldo in training to say that he

"Apart from his goals, I have

seen his agility in training and that has pleased me.' Meanwhile Inter Milan President Massimo Moratti could be on a collision course with Brazil after refusing to confirm that Ronaldo will

may come on.

March 27.

Moratti is concerned that rushing Ronaldo back too soon will result in a recurrence of his injuries, which have kept him out for the best part of two years. "Coach (Luis Felipe) Scholari

cannot absolutely rush Inter, that's

be made available for Brazil's

friendly against Yugoslavia on

"It's only Cuper, listening to the advice of the medical staff, who will have the last word. Patience is important.

Cuper added: "I can't say it would be a mistake because in a week everything is possible. Before March 27 there's still time and it's likely that he'll have played for us by

Doni, who will join Juventus this

summer, got his name on the score-

sheet when he netted for the visitors

after 86 minutes, the 16th of the

season for the Italian international

who has forced his way into Giovanni

Trapattoni's likely World Cup squad

this season, but it was scant consola-

spot with Roma before the weekend

expect all three points when they visit

struggling Lecce while Juventus host

Verona at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

On Sunday Inter, who shared top

Ronaldo has not played since picking up a thigh strain in Inter's 3-2 win over Piacenza in December last year and he last played for his country in a friendly against the