

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.

Football

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.

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.

state summit - managed to get on the pitch. They were shortly followed by another protester with signs against the pollution of a river in northern Spain.

some questions about Nou Camp security. 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.

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.

Xavi Hernandez unleashed a low and hard shot from 25 metres which Real goalkeeper Cesar Sanchez failed to keep under control.

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 Josexo Urtasun had brought down Juan Carlos Valeron in the box.

Tristan's triple took his goal tally for the season to 15. However, Deportivo noticeably 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.

Zidane has scored seven league goals this season but none will be treasured as much as this one, against Real's bitter rivals. Raul Gonzalez picked up the ball in the area and found the space to hit 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

was blocked by the goalkeeper. 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.

Deportivo's Hector Berenguer del Pino fouled Gerardo Rivero in the area and Australian striker John Aloisi converted the resulting penalty.

Primera Liga's top six table with columns for team, played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points.

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 Saturday.

The Hammers had twice rocked 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

Premiership's top six table with columns for team, played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points.

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.

Large advertisement for a product or service, partially obscured by text.

Serie A 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.

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



Vincenzo Montella (2nd from L) of AS Roma wrong-foots Atalanta custodian Massimo Taibi (R) to score his second goal at Rome on March 16.

Serie A's top six

Serie A's top six table with columns for team, played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points.

hand on Sunday. "Montella is just in magnificent form, he is focused and technically he has never been better," said AS Roma coach Fabio Capello. "This is very good news for us and very bad news for our opponents."

On Sunday Inter, who shared top spot with Roma before the weekend, expect all three points when they visit struggling Lecce while Juventus host Verona at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

Cuper has Ronaldo in his plans

Football

REUTERS, Rome

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

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 then."

Crossword puzzle by Eugene Sheffer with clues and a solution time of 23 mins.



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

CUP CORNER

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

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.

ITALIANS WON'T CELEBRATE!

Milan 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.

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.

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.

Cryptoquip puzzle with a grid and clues.