



Serie A Chievo spoil Inter's day

Football

AFP, Rome

Party-poopers Chievo prevented Inter Milan from increasing their advantage at the top of the table to six points by beating the Italian league leaders 2-1 at the Bentegodi stadium on Saturday.

Chievo's experienced midfielder Eugenio Corini netted two first-half penalties to put the hosts in control, either side of Turkey international Okan Buruk's dismissal.

Yet despite being a man down, Inter rallied to halve the deficit in the 69th minute when Italy's leading scorer Christian Vieri grabbed his 100th goal in Serie A and his 19th of the season.

The Italy international's strike ensured a rousing finale during which penalty king Corini was sent off, but Chievo held on for another famous scalp following their home victory over AC Milan earlier in the season.

Inter's shock defeat in Verona means title rivals Juventus and AC Milan can draw level with them on 45 points should they win Sunday's matches against Parma and Lazio respectively.

In Saturday's late match, AS Roma were held to a disappointing 0-0 draw at home to Brescia.

As has been the story of Roma's season, the 2001 Scudetto winners failed to convert a number of chances and remain well adrift of a Champions League place for next season.

Inter coach Hector Cuper criticised Chievo's poor playing surface but refused to use it as an excuse for his side's inept display.

"It was worse than the San Siro was," he said, referring to Inter's own surface, which resembled a ploughed field before being relaid last month.

"The pitch was awful but it was the same for both sides."

Chievo defender Nicola Legrottaglie had to agree with Cuper.

"It was a horrible pitch, a real disaster," said the player, who is wanted by Roma for next season.

Somehow he managed to hook the ball over the bar, and with the Red Devils still seeming stunned by the miss, Arsenal took three minutes later as Brazilian midfielder Edu's free kick took a wicked deflection past Fabien Barthez in the United goal.

Arsenal began to take a grip of the tie and went 2-0 up just seven minutes after half-time.

The impressive Edu rolled the ball to Wilford, who skipped over Wes Brown's challenge and fired past Fabien Barthez.

Soon afterwards Giggs added to his misery, managed to hopelessly miscue a volley from close range, and was substituted soon afterwards.

"It was an outstanding performance," purred Wenger, whose side take on Ajax in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"We controlled the game from the first minute to the last. This win will give us confidence and belief for the rest of the season."

Ferguson tried hard to look on the bright side.

"The only good thing about bad results like today's is that it eases the programme a good bit for us," he said ruefully.

"At 2-0 down it was always going to be difficult," he added.

It also gives the Gunners sweet revenge for United's famous 1999 FA Cup semi-final win -- which propelled the Red Devils towards their own treble -- a game sealed by Ryan Giggs's wonder-goal.

PHOTO: AFP

YOU COULD'VE BEEN KINDER! Sunderland's Kevin Phillips (C) argues with the referees after their FA Cup Fifth round match against Watford at the Stadium of Light, in on February 15.

FA Cup Sorry Sunderland

Football

AFP, London

The misery continued for Premiership bottom side Sunderland, who lost 1-0 at home to First Division Watford through a controversial second half penalty in their fifth round tie on Saturday to go out of the FA Cup.

Tommy Smith's initial effort was saved by Thomas Sorenson but the referee ordered a re-take and Smith shot home the second time.

Howard Wilkinson's men attacked desperately, but to no avail.

The Sunderland boss said he felt

"cheated" by the result, although he did not just blame the penalty decision.

"I am disappointed, angry," he said.

"We wanted a cup run. It was crucial that we give them (the fans) something else to hang on to, and today was the opportunity," he lamented.

At St Mary's, despite winning 2-0, Southampton were lucky to see off First Division Norwich, who had the better of much of the tie.

With the game scoreless and just 20 minutes to go, Norwich's Paul McVeigh hit the inside of the post with a wonderful curling shot -- only to see Southampton counter attack immediately and score through Anders Svensson.

Jo Tessem then sealed Norwich's quarterfinal berth three minutes later.

Southampton manager Gordon Strachan admitted that McVeigh's near-goal was a wake-up call.

"We went: 'Oh, we nearly went out of the cup there, and we went up another 20 percent,'" he said.

Sheffield United had the easiest time of it in their all-First Division game against Wallsall, winning comfortably 2-0 at home with goals from Tommy Mooney and Peter Ndlovu.

On Sunday, last season's defeated finalists Chelsea visit Stoke City, while Leeds United face a tough test at Crystal Palace and Wolverhampton Wanderers are at home to third division Rochdale.

The misery continued for Premiership bottom side Sunderland, who lost 1-0 at home to First Division Watford through a controversial second half penalty in their fifth round tie on Saturday to go out of the FA Cup.

Tommy Smith's initial effort was saved by Thomas Sorenson but the referee ordered a re-take and Smith shot home the second time.

Howard Wilkinson's men attacked desperately, but to no avail.

The Sunderland boss said he felt

Wenger takes advantage!

Football

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger and Sir Alex Ferguson traded bitter accusations after Arsenal dumped Manchester United out of the FA Cup 2-0 in a bad-tempered fifth round tie at Old Trafford.

Gunners boss Wenger accused United of intimidation, while Ferguson in turn claimed the visitors had succeeded in trying to "bully" referee Jeff Winter through mass protests.

What to WATCH

ESPN

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

The game on Saturday between the perennial foes and rivals for the Premiership title had looked like boiling over in the opening 10 minutes, which saw three bookings and a pair of mass confrontations between the sides' players.

"They tried to intimidate us but we kept our heads," said Wenger of the opening period, which saw a series of crunching tackles by United players.

"It was a composed performance. We didn't react to them and the new pitch meant we could come out of their physical challenges with short passes," he said.

But Ferguson insisted that Winter had been pushed around by Arsenal.

"You need the referee to be able to handle it and he reacted badly," he fumed.

"He allowed the Arsenal players to bully him. There were nine or 10 players around him all the time as if every tackle was a massacre."

"When you get people the size of Patrick Vieira and Sol Campbell round you it doesn't do the game any good."

Ferguson's comments have a decided edge of cheek to them, given that his side have in the past been roundly criticised for protesting to referees en masse in much the same way.

The victory gives Arsenal a clear psychological advantage in the Premiership race and keeps them on track for a theoretical treble of league, FA Cup and Champions League.

It also gives the Gunners sweet revenge for United's famous 1999 FA Cup semi-final win -- which propelled the Red Devils towards their own treble -- a game sealed by Ryan Giggs's wonder-goal.

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

But this time the Welsh winger went from hero to zero with an astonishing miss which proved a pivotal moment.

With half an hour gone, Giggs broke free and dribbled well past David Seaman and Sol Campbell, leaving the goal gaping from 18 yards (metres).

Somehow he managed to hook the ball over the bar, and with the Red Devils still seeming stunned by the miss, Arsenal took three minutes later as Brazilian midfielder Edu's free kick took a wicked deflection past Fabien Barthez in the United goal.

Arsenal began to take a grip of the tie and went 2-0 up just seven minutes after half-time.

The impressive Edu rolled the ball to Wilford, who skipped over Wes Brown's challenge and fired past Fabien Barthez.

Soon afterwards Giggs added to his misery, managed to hopelessly miscue a volley from close range, and was substituted soon afterwards.

"It was an outstanding performance," purred Wenger, whose side take on Ajax in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"We controlled the game from the first minute to the last. This win will give us confidence and belief for the rest of the season."

Ferguson tried hard to look on the bright side.

"The only good thing about bad results like today's is that it eases the programme a good bit for us," he said ruefully.

"At 2-0 down it was always going to be difficult," he added.

It also gives the Gunners sweet revenge for United's famous 1999 FA Cup semi-final win -- which propelled the Red Devils towards their own treble -- a game sealed by Ryan Giggs's wonder-goal.

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

What to WATCH

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 8:00 am
UEFA Champions League
Deportivo La Coruna vs AC
Milan

Repeat at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi

Sport Nes
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Follow Through Day 8
WC Cricket Programme
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportsline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

<p