



THERE GOES THE BAYERN CLASH: Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo lies on the ground after straining his right thigh against Racing de Santander at the Sardinero stadium, in Santander on March 6.

Primera Liga

Ronaldo blow for Real

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid made do with a point on Saturday in a 1-1 draw at Racing Santander to cement their title credentials but could be without Ronaldo for next week's Champions League tie with Bayern Munich as the Brazilian star limped off with a thigh injury.

"I won't play on Wednesday. I've got a problem behind the leg," Ronaldo said after going off in the 71st minute.

Real, who rested Spain international Raul on Saturday as he is getting over an ankle knock, will now look to rush him back to ensure they do not face German giants Bayern with a blunted attack having drawn the first leg 1-1 in Munich.

"We can only say it's a muscular problem," Real doctor Alfonso Del Corral told Cadena Ser radio, revealing the player, who went into Saturday's encounter with 11 goals in his last 12 starts, would have a test on the injury Sunday.

"He will miss the match against Bayern, the one against Zaragoza in the league next weekend and maybe the final of the Spanish Cup against Zaragoza on March 18," Del Corral said.

Going into the match with an eight-point lead over nearest rivals Valencia, Carlos Queiroz's galacticos could afford to sit back and soak up some early pressure and could even have snatched all three points had Yossi Benayoun not slid in to level smartly just after Santiago Solari's 28th-minute opener.

The point leaves Real on 60 points from 27 games but Valencia closed the gap to six points as they hurtled onto 54 after squashing third-placed Deportivo La Coruna 3-0 at the Mestalla.

Deportivo collapsed after Mauro Silva was sent off for a foul on Pablo Aimar to gift the 2002 champions the lead.

Ruben Baraja had already missed a second-minute penalty before Vicente Rodriguez smacked home another spotkick following Silva's misdeemeanour.

Aimar then went off injured and could miss his side's upcoming UEFA Cup tie with Genclerbiligi of Turkey.

Football

AFP, Madrid

But despite his absence a Juan Sanchez header and a clincher by Vicente wrapped things up in the dying moments.

Midtable Santander put Real under early pressure but it was Real who had the ball in the next on six minutes, although Ronaldo was clearly offside.

The visitors and title favourites

Phenomenon could be back in two weeks

REUTERS, Madrid

Superstar Ronaldo will be out for around two weeks with a thigh muscle tear he suffered on Saturday but the injury is not as serious as the player first feared. Real Madrid doctor Alfonso del Corral officially ruled the Brazilian out of Wednesday's Champions League game against Bayern Munich after seeing the results of a scan performed on Sunday morning.

After limping out of Saturday's 1-1 draw against Racing Santander in apparent agony, the player dubbed the 'phenomenon' had said he was worried he might be facing a long spell on the sidelines but Del Corral said he was confident the recovery would be relatively quick.

"It could have been a lot worse," Del Corral said on Real Madrid's website. "If the muscle damage had been bigger we'd be looking at four to six weeks out."

"As it is we believe the problem can be cured in two weeks. That recovery time could be shorter but it will be very difficult."

"He'll definitely miss the games against Bayern Munich in the Champions League and Real Zaragoza in the league next weekend and his presence in the King's Cup final (on March 17) is extremely doubtful."

"Our aim is to get him back fit for the game against Athletic Bilbao (on the weekend of March 20-21). We're not going to rush him into a return."

finally stepped up a gear and took the lead in the 28th minute.

Portuguese international Luis Figo motored down the right and found Ronaldo, who played the ball back to mercurial Frenchman Zinedine Zidane, who appeared to be standing offside as Figo made the initial pass.

Zidane quickly played the ball square to Solari, who fired unerringly low past former Manchester United keeper Ricardo.

But within four minutes Racing were level, a Fernando Moran freekick from the left eluding everyone until Benayoun slid in to score from close range in the confusion.

The second half was a largely low-key affair enlivened briefly when Santander had a penalty appeal turned down after Uruguayan Mario Rigueiro appeared to dive in the area.

Real had Meja dismissed in injury time for a second bookable offence.

Elsewhere, Osasuna missed a chance to move into the top six after a 1-1 home stalemate against Real Sociedad, for whom former Juventus and Sheffield Wednesday man Darko Kovacevic scored a late leveler.

Celta Vigo, having just lost by the odd goal in five to Arsenal in the Champions League ten days earlier, were steamrollered 5-1 at home by Espanyol for whom Raul Tamudo was twice on target.

Sunday's main highlight will see Barcelona go in search of a seventh straight victory at home to Real Mallorca.

Both sides will soon be pitting their wits against British opposition in the UEFA Cup with Barca having been drawn in midweek against Celtic and Mallorca to take on English Premiership outfit Newcastle.

TOP SIX

Spanish league standings after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Real	27	18	6	3	55	30	60
Valencia	27	16	6	5	50	20	54
Deportivo	27	15	5	7	43	23	50
Barcelona	26	13	7	6	42	30	46
Bilbao	26	11	8	7	33	29	41
Atletico	26	11	7	8	32	31	40

Serie A

Juve thank Nedved

Football

AFP, Rome

A goal from European footballer of the year Pavel Nedved sealed a remarkable comeback by reigning Serie A champions Juventus from two goals down to a 3-2 victory at Brescia on Saturday.

Nedved's 75-minute shot sealed all three points for Juventus after they had been trailing 2-0 at half time, to leapfrog Roma into second place and stay three points behind leaders AC Milan who both play Sunday.

Brescia got on the scoreboard after three minutes following a slipup by Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon which allowed Stefano Mauri to hit into an empty net, and Andrea Caracciolo tapped in a short pass from Roberto Baggio after 39 minutes.

The hosts looked set for a repeat of last year's 2-0 win over Juventus.

But back after the break the champions got on the scoreboard after eight minutes when Fabrizio Miccoli converted a penalty.

A minute later Marco Di Vaio found the equaliser from Nedved.

Juventus' comeback was sealed when Nedved himself smashed home a corner kick, with the home side

Earlier, a late goal by Matteo Ferrari lifted relegation-threatened Modena to a 2-2 draw at home in a tough derby against Parma.

TOP SIX

Italian football league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, for, against, points):

Milan	23	18	4	1	44	13	58
Juventus	24	17	4	3	50	27	55
Roma	23	16	5	2	51	10	53
Lazio	23	12	4	7	33	23	40
Parma	23	11	6	6	33	30	39
Inter	23	10	6	7	39	23	36

FA Cup

Elite duo through to semis

Football

REUTERS, London

Big guns Arsenal and Manchester United marched into the FA Cup semi-finals on Saturday, brushing aside fellow premier league opposition.

Holders Arsenal turned up the heat for an impressive 5-1 win in their quarter-final at Portsmouth. Manchester United came from behind to beat Fulham 2-1 at Old Trafford with goals from Ruud van Nistelrooy.

On Sunday in the remaining ties, first division Millwall host second division Tranmere and Sunderland meet fellow first division side Sheffield United.

Arsenal stole the show with a brilliant display at Portsmouth.

Two goals each from Thierry Henry and Freddie Ljungberg and a scrambled effort by Kolo Toure,

all in the first 57 minutes, sank Portsmouth.

A late consolation effort from veteran Teddy Sheringham was all that the outclassed home side had to show for their efforts.

At Old Trafford, Manchester United shrugged off conceding an early penalty to reach the semis for the first time since 1999.

Contented manager Alex Ferguson said: "We played well. There was a good shape and determination about us."

Fulham got their penalty on 23 minutes when Roy Keane, playing as a central defender, was dispossessed and Wes Brown was obliged to upend Luis Boa Morte. Steed Malbranque converted the spot kick.

But two minutes later Ryan Giggs's whipped cross was turned into the net for a Van Nistelrooy equaliser from close range.

The Dutchman grabbed the winner 17 minutes into the second

half when young Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo burst down the right and crossed for Van Nistelrooy to finish again from close range.

United's next task is the Champions League first knockout round second-leg match against Porto on Tuesday when they need to overturn a 2-1 deficit.

PREMIERSHIP

In the only premier league match of the day, Birmingham beat Bolton 2-0 to move level on points with fourth-placed Newcastle, raising hopes of a UEFA Cup spot.

Goals from Mikael Forsell (26th) and Bryan Hughes (69th) clinched the points for Birmingham who earlier in the week beat League Cup winners Middlesbrough 3-1

The 'Rock' melts

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has said he is "looking forward to a normal life" after agreeing a deal with major club shareholder John Magnier over the breeding rights to champion race horse Rock of Gibraltar.

Ferguson, who has agreed a deal worth 2.5 million pounds (3.7 million dollars) with Magnier, told British broadsheet the Sunday Times: "We have all decided to move on."

"This has been a tough time for the families of all those involved and I am just looking forward to getting back to a normal life," the Scot added.

"While we were working this out, I spoke personally with John Magnier and that helped. And I am glad that it has been an amicable settlement."

Ferguson, 62, is set to make an official statement confirming the peace deal on Monday.

Many will interpret the settlement as a major climb down on Ferguson's part and a huge victory for Irish businessman Magnier, 55, given that the United boss had been suing for 110 million pounds (198 million dollars).

Rock of Gibraltar's lifetime breeding rights were estimated in total at 250 million pounds (450 million dollars) when the horse retired in 2003.

After Monday's statement is released, satellite broadcaster Sky is set to air a pre-recorded interview with Ferguson where he will reportedly explain that the dispute with Magnier was sparked by a misunderstanding on his part.

"Both parties had to compromise to get it settled and I am satisfied," Ferguson, who also paid tribute to the role played by Dermot Desmond, a friend of Magnier.



PHOTO: AFP

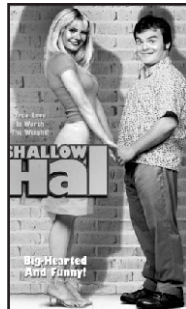
CHILDREN OF THE SOCCER GOD! Argentine football legend Diego Maradona hugs some Bolivian children during the inauguration of the Club Aurora football school in Cochabamba, Bolivia on March 6. Maradona was the guest of honour at the school's opening.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO: 11:45 pm: **Dangerous Liaisons.** Genre: Drama / Romance. Glenn Close, John Malkovich, Michelle Pfeiffer. Set in France around 1760-1770. The Marquise de Merteuil needs a favour from her ex-lover, Vicomte de Valmont. Her ex-husband is planning on marrying a young, virtuous, woman called Cecile de Volanges. The Marquise would like Valmont to seduce Cecile before her wedding day. Meanwhile Valmont has a conquest of his own in mind, Madame de Tournel, a beautiful, married, and God fearing woman.



Star Movies: 7:00 pm: **Shallow Hal:** Genre: Comedy / Drama / Romance. Gwyneth Paltrow, Jack Black, Jason Alexander. Following the advice of his dying father, Hal dates only women who are physically beautiful. One day, however, he runs into self-help guru Tony Robbins, who hypnotizes him into recognizing only the inner beauty of women. Hal thereafter meets Rosemary, a grossly obese woman whom only he can see as a vision of loveliness. But will their relationship survive when Hal's equally shallow friend undoes the hypnosis?

PICK OF THE DAY



Gattaca
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Drama / Sci-Fi / Thriller
Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman, Jude Law, Gore Vidal
Gattaca Corp. is an aerospace firm in the future. During this time society analyzes your DNA and determines where you belong in life. Ethan Hawke's character was born with a congenital heart condition which would cast him out of getting a chance to travel in space.

11:45	Dangerous Liaisons	4:30	My Left Foot	5:00	Popular Mechanics for Kids: Sci-Fi	10:30	World's Best: World's Best Palaces
12:00	Big Game	7:00	Big Game	5:30	Travellers: New Orleans	11:30	FBI Files: Criminal Enterprise
12:30	Romantic Mondays	9:30	Romantic Mondays	6:30	Adventure Crazy: California Crusin		
1:30	Krantiveer (Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia)	11:30	200 Cigarettes	7:00	Treks in a Wild World: Trekking in Dominican Republic		
5:30	Prem (Sanjay Kapoor, Tabu)	3:30	Wild Discovery: Great Siberian Grizzly	7:30	Wild Discovery: The Hyena Lady		
9:30	Aag (Govinda, Shilpa Shetty, Sonali Bendre)	4:30	Let's Dance and Eat: Hiary in New York/Jackson In New York	8:30	Classic Discovery: Gladiatrix: Savage Sister		
11:30	Small Time Obsession	9:30	Battlefield Detectives: Charge of The Light Brigade				
2:00	Imaginary Crimes						

7:00	Sree Ramkrishna	7:30	Friends				
7:30	Antakshari	8:00	Just Shoot Me				
8:00	Serial-Jug	8:30	That '70s Show				
8:30	Serial Tarpor Chand	9:00	Everybody Loves Raymond				
	Uthlo						
9:00	Serial Swapner Rang Nil	9:30	Grounded For Life				
10:00	Election Spl. Live Doshtai	10:00	Frasier				
		10:30	Third Watch				
		11:30	Baywatch				

STAR MOVIES

12:15	Till Human Voices Wake Us						
2:00	Dead Heat						
3:30	A Woman Hunted						
5:15	O Brother Where Art Thou?						
7:00	Shallow Hal						
9:00	The Hitcher						
7:45	Nightwaves						

STAR GOLD

9:00	Biwi Ho To Aisi						
12:30	Damini						
4:30	Mehndi						
8:00	Starlooks Countdown						
8:30	Gunah						

STAR PLUS

6:00	Hum Saath Aath Hain						
7:30	Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan						
8:00	Shaka Laka Boom Boom						
8:30	Krishna Arjun						
9:00	Kasauti Zindagi Kay						
9:30	Des Mein Nikkila Hoga Chand						
10:30	Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki						
11:00	Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi						

TARA BANGLA

12:00	Asche Tara Jomche Para						
12:30	Swapner Rang Nil Rpt.						
2:00	Taka Na Sona Rpt.						
2:30	Angana Live						
4:00	State Govt. Lottery						
4:30	Tarpor Chand Uthlo Rpt.						
5:00	Serial Probaho						
5:00	Norite Fonte						
6:00	Taka Na Sona						

STAR WORLD

5:00	Whose Line Is It Anyway						
5:30	Miami Vice						
6:30	The Simpsons						
7:00	Home Improvement						

7:30	Friends						
8:00	Just Shoot Me						
8:30	That '70s Show						
9:00	Everybody Loves Raymond						
9:30	Grounded For Life						
10:00	Frasier						
10:30	Third Watch						
11:30	Baywatch						

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

3:30	Perfect Mothers						
	Perfect Predators						
4:30	Cheating Death (Aka Dangerous)						
5:30	Monkey Business						
6:00	Mission Wild						
6:30	Dogs With Jobs						
7:00	Toyota World Of Wildlif						
7:30	Search For The First Dog: Quest To Find Out Original						
	Elephant Vision						
8:30	Young Global Hot Shots						
9:30	Self-Portrait						

ESPN

12:30	Spanish Football League Valencia Cf Vs Deportivo LA Coruna (R)						
5:00	Harsha Online Mark Waugh (R)						
6:00	Snooker Thorsten Hohmann Vs Oliver Ortmann (T)						
7:00	Zimbabwe Vs Bangladesh 2nd Odi Highlights (R)						
8:30	Sportscenter India (L)						
9:00	English Premier Football League 2003/04 London England Arsenal Fc						

	Vs Charlton Athletic (R)						
11:00	Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (R)						
11:30	Sportscenter India (R)						

STAR SPORTS

12:30	Super 12 Rugby 2004 Brisbane Australia Queensland Reds Vs Crusaders Round 3 (T)						
2:30	Outdoor Quest Sabah Malaysia Highlights #1 (T)						
3:30	Crickit Gold (R)						
6:30	Tennis Classic Scottsdale Az Usa Final (R)						
8:00	Sportline (L)						
8:30	Spanish Football League (S)						
10:30	Sportline (R)						
11:00	C Boxing Hour Muhammad Ali: The Young Champion (R)						
12:00	Hitz (R)						

TEN SPORTS

12:30	SL v Aus :1st Test, Day 1 (1st Session)						
1:10	SL v Aus :1st Test, Day 1 (Lunch)						
5:30	SL v Aus :1st Test, Day 1 (2nd Session)						
6:00	Gamer TV						
6:30	ICC Cricket World Qualifier: India v New Zealand						