

## SERIE A

## Identical wins for top two

## Football

REUTERS, Milan

A late strike from Uruguayan Ruben Olivera gave Juventus a controversial 1-0 win at Chievo Verona on Sunday to leave them level with Serie A leaders AC Milan, who hung on for a 1-0 win over Sampdoria.

A 65th-minute header from Brazilian Kaka left Milan level with Juventus on 63 points, while third-placed Inter Milan trailed 16 behind following a 1-1 at Lazio on Saturday.

David Di Michele scored a hat-trick for Udinese as they enjoyed a shock 5-1 win at Palermo while Gianfranco Zola inspired Cagliari to a 3-0 victory over AS Roma -- scoring his side's opener and creating the second.

Juve's victory was hotly disputed with Chievo having a 'goal' ruled out and substitute Olivera and Chievo defender Alessandro Potenza both sent off two minutes from the end.

Following a poor first half, Chievo felt they should have had the lead five minutes after the restart when Sergio Pellissier rattled a shot against the underside of the cross-bar.

Although television replays showed the ball had clearly crossed the line, the referee and linesman ignored Chievo's demands for a goal.

Three minutes from the end, substitute Olivera, on for Alessandro Del Piero, pounced after poor Chievo defending to fire Juventus a left-foot shot and give the lead.

Olivera's celebrations were cut short though a minute later when he clashed with Potenza, twice grabbing his head, and both players were sent off.

The Pellissier shot is bound to re-open the debate about the use of electronic detectors in Italian football where there have been calls to introduce 'tennis style' line sensors.

Juve coach Fabio Capello admitted that such technology

would have given the goal to Chievo.

Milan have now notched up nine successive victories, including their two Champions League wins over Manchester United, and six of them have ended with a 1-0 scoreline in their favour.

The champions went close to a first-half opener when Rui Costa's deflected shot struck the cross-bar but Milan, who had to replace defenders Alessandro Nesta and Paolo Maldini due to injuries, also suffered scares.

In the 62nd minute Belarusian Vitali Kuzov, formerly with Milan, struck the post with a shot from inside the area but three minutes later Milan were ahead.

Kaka peeled away to the back post and met a splendid Andrea Pirlo cross with a perfectly placed header to beat Francesco Antonioli.

Roma's hopes of making a place in the Champions League are fading fast with Luigi Del Neri's side now nine points away from fourth place after a humiliating defeat in Sardinia.

Former Chelsea forward Zola put Cagliari in front in the 24th minute, latching on to a clearance from Roma defender Matteo Ferrari and firing home with a low drive.

The 38-year-old Zola set up Cagliari's second with a free-kick, which was slotted home by Mauro Esposito.

Three minutes after the break David Suazo made it 3-0 for the Sardinians and when Roma had their Italy international midfielder Daniele De Rossi sent off for a tackle from behind on Suazo, the

## TOP SIX

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

	Milan	28	19	6	3	47	17	63
Juventus	28	19	6	3	46	16	63	
Inter	28	10	17	1	50	33	47	
Sampdoria	28	14	5	9	31	21	47	
Udinese	28	13	6	9	41	28	45	
Palermo	28	11	10	7	31	26	43	

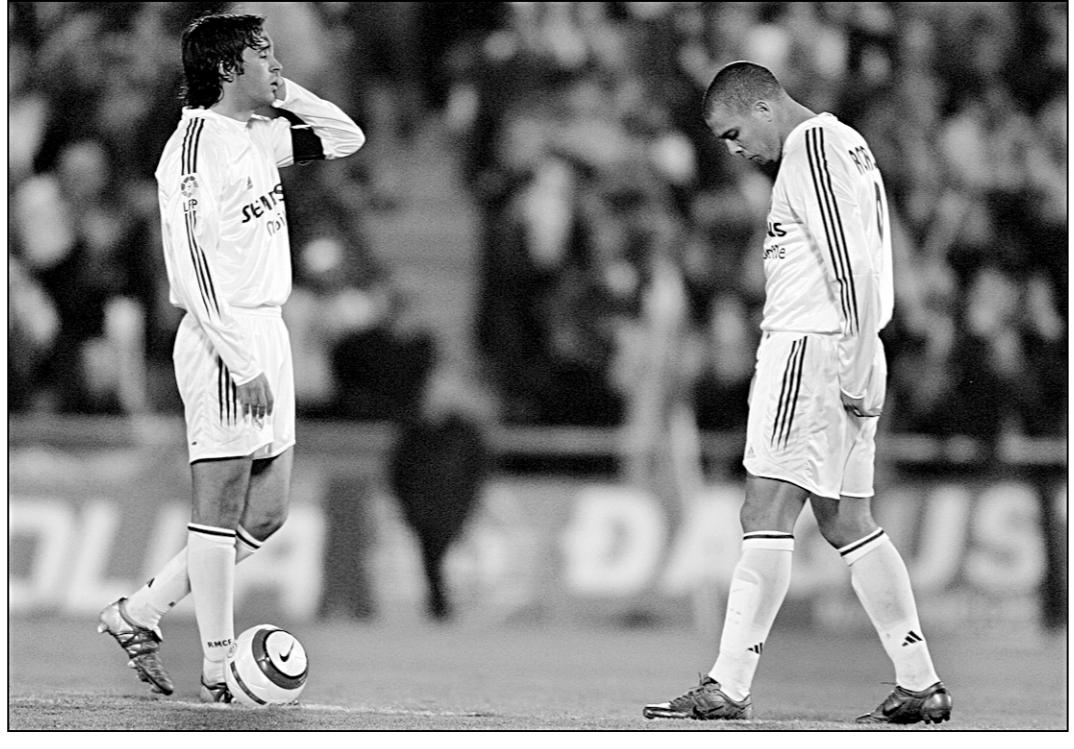


PHOTO: AFP  
NO WAY BACK: Real Madrid superstars Ronaldo (R) and Raúl prepare to restart the game after conceding the second goal against Getafe at the Alfonso Perez Munoz Coliseum in Getafe on March 13.

PREVIEW: INTER V PORTO

LIVE ON ESPN FROM 1:30AM BST (V)

## No second chances

## UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan and Porto have had an extra week to prepare for Tuesday's Champions League knockout round second leg but neither has used it well.

The first game ended 1-1 in Portugal and the return was held over as Inter's city neighbours AC Milan, who share the San Siro stadium, were also drawn at home for their second-leg match.

The additional preparation has hardly helped Champions League holders Porto, whose coach Jose Couceiro must get his players over a 4-0 defeat by Nacional Madeira, their worst home loss for 30 years.

Inter battled to a 1-1 draw at Lazio on Sunday but were unimpressive, only getting back into the game after the Rome side were reduced to 10 men.

"We will definitely have to play better than at Lazio," said Inter coach Roberto Mancini. "It will have to be a different Inter for what is a vitally important game for us."

Inter's entire season hangs on

Tuesday's match.

They are out of the Serie A title race, 16 points behind leaders AC Milan, but have reserved their best performances for Europe.

"They are different matches in the Champions League and this is like a final," Inter midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron said.

"We can't have a repeat our perfor-

Inter Milan (probable): 1-Francesco Toldo; 13-Ze Maria, 11-Sinisa Mihajlovic, 23-Marco Materazzi, 4-Javier Zanetti; 5-Emre Belozoglu, 14-Juan Sebastian Veron, 19-Esteban Cambiasso, 25-Dejan Stankovic; 10-Adriano, 30-Obafemi Martins (or 32-Christian Vieri).  
Porto: 99-Vitor Baia; 22-Georgios Seitaridis, 5-Ricardo Costa, 2-Jorge Costa, 8-Nuno Valente, 33-Raul Meireles, 18-Maniche Ribeiro, 6-Costinha, 16-Diego, 10-Ricardo Quaresma, 77-Benito McCarthy. Referee: Terje Haage (Norway)

mance at Lazio though -- it would be suicide if we allow Porto to run the match," the Argentine added.

Form is not the only worry for Mancini, with Colombian defender

Ivan Cordoba and left back Giuseppe Favalli suspended.

Mancini is hoping Marco Materazzi recovers from a nasty cut received on Saturday to line up alongside Sinisa Mihajlovic in the centre of defence.

The Inter coach also has worries in attack where Nigerian Obafemi Martins and Italy international Christian Vieri are struggling for fitness and Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba is sidelined.

Friday's defeat knocked Porto off the top of the Portuguese standings and they now lag three points behind Benfica.

"We have to lift our heads and fight to get past this moment. Facing Inter I hope that Porto is able to react and get a good result," said Couceiro, Porto's third coach this season.

Couceiro can turn to charismatic captain Jorge Costa and Brazilian playmaker Diego, who both missed the first match through suspension.

Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano, whose mother was kidnapped on Friday in her home town of Campinas, has not been included in the travelling squad.

## PRIMERA LIGA

## Real disaster

## Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid slumped to a 2-1 defeat at lowly Getafe as the 29-times Spanish champions fell 11 points behind league leaders and bitter rivals Barcelona in the race for the title.

After winning seven straight games following the arrival of Wanderley Luxemburgo as coach, Madrid have now won only once in their last five league outings.

Luxemburgo decided to take the brunt of the blame himself after the game.

"The main person at fault is me," said the former Brazil boss.

"We have to carry on working because we have to maintain our place in order to qualify for next season's Champions League."

"But winning the league now is going to be very difficult. I don't have any explanations for what happened out there. Getafe fought, played and my team just stood by and watched them do it. They were deserved winners."

Real's latest loss comes in the wake of their Champions League departure at Juventus on Wednesday, and they now face the prospect of a second successive season without a trophy.

"If we are not going to win the league then we are going to lose with dignity. We are going to fight

until the end of the season and then we will face the critics when it is all over," added Luxemburgo.

However, Luxemburgo knows that his and his team's detractors are unlikely to wait that long.

"I didn't see any real spirit from my players and that they have to change," said Luxemburgo.

Raul Albiol opened the scoring for Getafe six minutes before the break, after being on hand to make

most of a dreadful sliced clearance by Real's Spanish international Ivan Helguera.

Albiol was booked for ripping his shirt off in delight at his first goal for Getafe after moving from Valencia last summer -- but there was a particular reason for his joy.

He missed the first half of the season after being involved in a bad car crash while moving his possessions

to the Spanish capital's southern suburbs and was in a coma for several days.

There were initially fears for his life but Albiol made a remarkable recovery.

Adding to the fairytale of Getafe's first league visit from the Spanish giants, their second goal came from Riki Sanchez four minutes after the break.

Riki is a former Real reserve who was discarded last summer.

Santiago Solari got a consolation goal for Real with a stunning left foot volley a minute from time but by then it was too late to save their blushes.

Barcelona restored some pride after their own exit from the Champions League by cruising to a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday, thanks to goals from Deco and Ludovic Giuly.

Diego Forlan, who was memorably nicknamed 'Diego Forlorn' during his hapless time at Manchester United, continued his renaissance as he got his 17th goal of the season in Villarreal's 4-1 win over Espanyol earlier on Sunday.

Espanyol slipped to fifth but were spared sliding further when Sevilla surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Real Zaragoza with Gabriel Milito heading the only goal of the game after 33 minutes.

Atletico Madrid continue their recent revival with a 1-0 win over reigning Spanish champions Valencia, Spanish international Fernando Torres scoring with a powerful header after 13 minutes.

## TOP SIX

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

	Barcelona	28	20	5	3	53	18	65
Real	28	17	3	8	48	25	54	
Villarreal	28	13	8	7	48	26	47	
Espanyol	28	13	6	9	35	33	45	
Betis	28	12	9	7	45	36	45	
Sevilla	28	12	7	9	32	33	43	

## Zanetti guarded about Ronaldo return

## INTERNET SOURCE

Inter Milan Argentinean captain Javier Zanetti has hinted there could still be some ill-feeling from Ronaldo's move to Real Madrid over three years ago.

Return to the San Siro has been mooted for the Brazilian superstar and Zanetti said: "At the time, the Nerazzurri fans deserved better from Ronaldo and his attitude when he left for Real Madrid.

"But if he was to return, I am sure he would do his best for Inter," said the Inter veteran.

## FA CUP

## Kluivert carries Magpies to semis

## Football

AFP, Newcastle

Patrick Kluivert was the scourge of the Dutch compatriot Martin Jol with the winner as Newcastle edged out their Premiership rivals Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 to book a place in the FA Cup semi-finals.

Newcastle completed a full-house of top flight teams in Monday's draw for the last four

thanks to Kluivert's 11th goal of the season early in the first half.

It ensured the Tyneside club reached the penultimate stage of the competition for the fourth time in seven years.

The hosts broke the deadlock when skipper Alan Shearer cut back an inviting low cross which the un-marked Kluivert, who was substituted 20 minutes from the end after pulling up with a recurrence of a groin injury, swept home from close range.

But when Streak was caught at second slip off Kallis, it started another slide in which the last four wickets fell for six runs in 16 balls.

Kallis limped off with what appeared to be a recurrence of a hip flexor injury after his first spell of six overs. But he returned after tea and his second spell was crucial, as he took two wickets to seal Zimbabwe's fate. He finished with two for 20.

Zondeki took his first Test wickets in the first innings of the Centurion Test, taking three for 66, and he had to lead the attack in the second innings, with Charl Langeveldt out of action with a back injury and two other bowlers, Andre Nel and Jacques Kallis having suffered injuries in the first innings.

For Zimbabwe, who were defeated inside two days in the first

## Zondeki zaps Zimbabwe

## Cricket

AFP, Centurion

Retiring Russian chess champion Gary Kasparov said Monday he was turning his talent for strategy away from the gameboard and toward Russian politics, to challenge the "dictatorship" of President Vladimir Putin.

"What needs to happen is the creation of a nationwide organization, a political party that will challenge Putin's dictatorship in every aspect of our life", Kasparov, the former world champion and outspoken liberal, told BBC Radio.

## SA squad for Windies tour

AFP,