



PHOTO: AP
Inter Milan superstar Adriano holds his head as he is carried away on a stretcher after injuring his knee during the match against Fiorentina, at the San Siro stadium in Milan on March.

SERIE A

Milan stay on par

Football

AFP, Milan

AC Milan rejoined Juventus at the top of Serie A with a 2-0 win over Roma for the reigning champions' eighth consecutive league victory and their 10th in all competitions.

After a goalless first-half, Hernan Crespo put Milan ahead with a superb header before winning a penalty which Andrea Pirlo converted.

AC Milan and Juventus both have 66 points with just nine games of the season left to play.

Juventus, who along with Milan are through to the quarter-finals of the Champions League, beat Reggina 1-0 on Saturday in Turin where Alessandro Del Piero scored the only goal.

Milan broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute at the Olympic stadium.

Georgian defender Kakha Kaladze crossed from the left to the back post where Crespo outjumped Christian Panucci and planted a firm header wide of Roma keeper Giancarlo Curci.

Roma fell further behind eight minutes later when Panucci blocked Crespo's goalbound header with his

hand to concede a penalty. Panucci was shown the red card and Pirlo coolly slotted the spot-kick into the top corner.

Earlier Sunday, Inter Milan defeated Fiorentina 3-2 at the San Siro to strengthen their position in third place.

All of Inter's goals were scored by South Americans. Argentine midfielder Esteban Cambiasso gave them the lead with a right-footed volley, before Giampaolo Pazzini equalised for the visitors with an acrobatic scissor kick.

Argentinian Juan Sebastian Veron restored Inter's advantage with a rasping right-footed drive eight minutes after the break, before Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba headed the home side's third goal.

Cordoba then put through his own net three minutes from time to give Inter a few anxious moments before the final whistle.

Inter's win was soured by a right knee injury to Adriano. The Brazilian striker, who scored a hat-trick in Tuesday's Champions League win against Porto that took Inter through to the last eight, was carried off in the 43rd minute after colliding heavily with Enzo Maresca, although early reports said the injury was not serious.

Inter have 50 points from their 29 matches played, two more than Udinese who won 2-1 at home to Lecce. Sampdoria fell one place to fifth after losing 2-1 at home to bottom club Atalanta.

Livorno threw away a 2-0 lead in their 3-3 draw with Cagliari, while Parma also shared six goals at home to Palermo.

Sergio Pellissier scored twice as Cagliari improved their chances of surviving relegation with a 3-1 home win over fellow strugglers Brescia, while Messina drew 0-0 at home to Bologna.

Siena boosted their hopes of surviving the drop with a battling 1-0 home victory over Lazio on Saturday, the Tuscan club's first win since February 20.

TOP SIX

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

Milan	29	20	6	3	49	17	66
Juventus	29	20	6	3	47	16	66
Inter	29	11	17	1	53	35	50
Udinese	29	14	6	9	43	29	48
Sampdoria	29	14	5	10	32	23	47
Palermo	29	11	11	7	34	29	44

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Everton kept hold of that prized fourth place on 51 points despite their defeat, but the lead was cut to four points over fifth-placed Liverpool and to five points over Bolton Wanderers with eight games to play.

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