

Lyon win record fifth crown

AFP, Paris

Lyon were crowned French champions for a record fifth successive year on Saturday after their closest pursuers Bordeaux were beaten 3-2 at Lille.

The champions did not even have to kick a ball to ensure victory as they clinched the title with five games in hand and ahead of Sunday's trip to Paris Saint Germain.

Lyon have now an unbeatable 14-point advantage on Bordeaux as Lille move up to third position.

Lille came out fighting in front of their home crowd with Mathieu Bodmer and Peter Odemwingie giving the hosts a two-goal advantage in the first six minutes of play.

Bodmer found the net after two minutes when he finished off a long free-kick from Mathieu Chalme.

It was then the turn of Odemwingie four minutes later when Bodmer headed the ball in his direction and the Nigerian outfoxed Brazilian defender Carlos Henrique to leave Bordeaux captain Ulrich Rame beaten in goal.

The visitors pulled one back after 16 minutes with Jean-Claude Dardeville converting a penalty after a foul by the Lille goalie Tony Sylva.

But Odemwingie was on target again after 31 minutes profiting from bad clearance by the Bordeaux defence to finish off with a superb volley.

Bordeaux's fortunes picked up in the second half with Brazilian Denilson setting up Julien Faubert for a strike past Sylva which reduced the deficit after 62 minutes.

But Lille kept pressing with Odemwingie missing his chance for a hat-trick when he found himself alone on front of Rame after 67 minutes but failed to finish off.

Oram steadies

FROM PAGE 12

	O	M	R	W
Prince c Styris b Mills	9			
De Villiers b Franklin	27			
Boucher c Fleming b Martin	18			
Pollock c Styris b Mills	24			
Boje lwb b Franklin	23			
Steyn c Mills b Martin	13			
Ntini not out	1			
Extras: (b-6, lb-4, nb-7, w-3)	20			
Total: All out in 95.4 overs	276			
Fall of wkt: 1-16, 2-95, 3-119, 4-130, 5-177, 6-197, 7-229, 8-233, 9-274.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	18	7	43	4
Franklin	18	3	75	4
Martin	22.4	4	66	2
Oram	14	7	27	0
Vettori	18	2	44	0
Astle	5	2	11	0
NEW ZEALAND: Firstinnings				
Marshall b Ntini	6			
Fulton c Boucher b Pollock	14			
Fleming c and b Ntini	0			
Styris c Gibbs b Ntini	17			
Astle c Boucher b Steyn	4			
Oram not out	57			
McCullum c Boje b Kallis	31			
Vettori not out	45			
Extras: (lb-7, nb-6)	13			
Total: (For 6 wkt in 43 overs)	187			
Fall of wkt: 1-8, 2-12, 3-32, 4-38, 5-45, 6-89.				
To bat: J Franklin, K Mills, C Martin, Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	11	2	41	3
Steyn	13	1	74	1
Pollock	12	3	37	1
Kallis	6	1	23	1
Boje	1	0	5	0
Umpires: M. Benson (ENG), D. Harper (AUS).				

Tajikistan

FROM PAGE 12

Nosirov, Khujamov, Irgashev (Saïdov, 77th), Makhmudov (Dzhabarov, 75th), Rabimov, Rabiev, Hakimov and Muhidinov.

SRI LANKA: Thilakaratne, Sanjaya, Steinwall, Fuard, Wasanthaka, Rohan, Izzadeen, Chathura, Rajitha (Gunaratne, 85th), Channa (Karu, 78th) and Jayasuriya (Ratnayaka, 65th).

Referee: Hedayat Mombini (Iran).

He did his cause no harm

Sunday albeit his fourth goal in five matches was controversial. John Arne Riise's long throw was chested on to Fowler and fellow striker Djibril Cisse, clearly standing in an offside position, pulled out from touching the ball at the last second.

That allowed the onrushing Fernando Monentes to square the ball to Fowler and the former England forward sidefooted home past Brad Friedel on the half-hourmark.

Victory was Liverpool's sixth in a row and saw them consolidate third position on 73 points.

That left them three behind second-placed Manchester United, who have a game in hand, while Rovers remained sixth and in the hunt for a UEFA Cup spot.

Liverpool hero Fowler, who returned for a second spell at Anfield after a January transfer window move from Manchester City, has been trying to persuade manager Rafael Benitez to extend his contract at the end of the season.

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