



Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney (L) shares a light moment with Portsmouth goalkeeper David James after their FA Cup fourth round tie at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday.

Mancini wants 'mean' Inter

INTERNET, undated

Roberto Mancini visits Sampdoria for the second time in four days, but warns it'll be a different game to their Coppa Italia tie.

"In order to win, we must be harder and more vicious than Samp," said the Inter Coach ahead of tonight's Marassi match.

The two teams already met on Wednesday when the Nerazzurri ran out with a comfortable 3-0 victory in the Coppa Italia semifinal.

"We mustn't make the mistake of going to Genoa believing it'll be the same kind of performance from both sides. It will be different and we need to be more clinical than we were midweek. The fact we won then means absolutely nothing."

The astonishing form his side is in at the moment makes it difficult for Mancini to pick a first choice XI.

"There is an abundance of choices and I certainly feel a little embarrassed picking one over another, seeing as the lads did so well in the Coppa, especially with some on a tactical level causing Samp real problems."

The most complicated decision is upfront, where Adriano, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Hernan Crespo are all pushing for places.

"Hernan is in good shape and, the goal he scored in the Coppa aside, he has been working well this week. However, his legs still can't sustain three matches in a week. Zlatan will definitely play."

Wednesday's encounter may have ended with a crushing 3-0 scoreline, but Fabio Quagliarella caused a lot of problems for the Inter defence and could do again.

"Quagliarella is certainly a dangerous player and his effectiveness intensifies the closer he gets to the goal," said former Sampdoria legend Mancini.

"He played the first half in a wide position due to injuries, but this time there will be players coming back and so he'll have a different tactical approach."

Much has been said of Mancini's interview with 'The Sun' newspaper in which he was quoted as being eager to join Chelsea next season.

"I never said those words, nor did I speak to anyone from that newspaper. Still, it's obviously pleasing to hear my name linked to a prestigious club, as it means I'm doing my job well."

Marseille out to get Onyewu

AFP, Paris

French side Marseille admitted on Saturday that they could battle English champions Chelsea for the signature of highly-rated American defender Oguchi Onyewu.

Marseille president Pape Diouf said that the 24-year-old Standard Liege player has been watched.

"Oguchi Onyewu is one of the players on whom we have kept an eye," said Diouf.

"He is a boy who is capable of playing in all defensive positions. He would be a reinforcement, but he's not the only one."

Onyewu has been linked this week with a move to Chelsea while fellow London side Fulham are also understood to be monitoring his progress.

Rooney spells old magic

REUTERS, London



another as Blackburn Rovers trounced Luton Town 4-0, on-loan striker Vincenzo Montella engineered Fulham's 3-0 win over Stoke City and Reading were 3-2 winners at Birmingham City.

The controversy was sparked at Old Trafford in the 12th minute when a header by United's Serbian defender Nemanja Vidic seemed to cross the line before being hooked back out by Mendes.

The irony of the clearance will not have been lost on United fans.

In January 2005, Mendes, then at Spurs, hit a stunning shot from around the halfway line, the ball was spilled by Roy Carroll and crossed a metre over the line -- before being scooped back by the then United keeper.

That league game at Old Trafford finished 0-0, triggering one of the biggest talking points of the season.

This time, United were out of luck and their fortune did not improve when a superb volley by on-loan Swedish striker Henrik Larsson was narrowly ruled out for the 83rd.

Portsmouth got an 87th minute consolation goal when a shot by Portuguese midfielder Pedro Mendes, who had earlier sparked controversy with a goal mouth clearance, took a deflection off substitute striker Nwankwo Kanu and hit the net.

Boro's draw, after leading 2-0 at halftime, was a rare surprise in Saturday's action.

Tottenham Hotspur, Blackburn Rovers, Fulham and Reading eased through after top-flight class proved too much for second division opponents, while Watford beat West Ham United 1-0 in the all-Premier League clash at Upton Park.

Spurs beat Southend 3-1, Matt Derbyshire scored two and made

we had two goals disallowed."

It was a very different affair at Ashton Gate, where Middlesbrough could easily have made a shock exit.

Boro, 2-0 up at the break through Nigerian Yakubu Aiyegbeni and Malcolm Christie, looked to be cruising until Richard Keogh pulled one back in the 53rd minute and midfielder Scott Murray levelled six minutes later.

City manager Gary Johnson told Sky Sports: "We came back from the dead... (but) the boys are a bit disappointed that we haven't nicked it in the end."

"We played okay in the first half without creating winning football, as we say, but we played that winning football in the second half and caused a real problem."

Boro manager Gareth Southgate said: "The players are very disappointed. Bristol punished us, they deserved a draw -- it's their day today. But we live to fight another day... it's a good lesson for us."

Four second division clubs

reached Monday's fifth-round draw after wins for Plymouth Argyle, Preston North End, Ipswich Town and Derby County. Norwich City were held 1-1 by third division Blackpool.

Fourth round action continues on Sunday with four ties, including Chelsea against Nottingham Forest and Arsenal at home to Bolton Wanderers.

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the second strike a fantastic chip

by the England striker from outside

the area that left keeper David James stranded.

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