



Argentina legend Diego Maradona (C) prepares to dink goalkeeper Edgar Estrada "El Gato" (L) during a Showbol match against Guatemala at the Cementos Progreso stadium in Guatemala City on Sunday.

## MARSEILLE HUMILIATED

# Wiltord rescues Lyon

AFP, Paris



Champions Lyon scored two last-minute goals to snatch a point at home to Sochaux on Saturday, denying their visitors a place in the French league's top three.

Sochaux took a 2-0 lead in the first half through goals from Alvaro Santos and a Karim Ziani penalty before the half-hour mark.

Lyon's Czech striker Milan Baros reduced the arrears just before the break but when Sébastien Grax restored the visitors' two-goal advantage four minutes from time, the game seemed to be over.

But a Sylvain Wiltord strike in the last minute followed by Brazil midfielder Juninho's stoppage-time penalty rescued a point for the five-in-a-row champions and stretched their lead at the top to 14 points.

Lyon coach Gerrard Houllier was understandably relieved at the

final whistle.

"At 3-1, to come back like that, you've got to tip your hat to the players," he said. "It's like a semi-victory but we put ourselves in difficulty."

Sochaux coach Alain Perrin was fuming.

"I'm very frustrated. These are dropped points because when you're winning 3-1 with three minutes left to play you should be able to see out the match," he said.

"But everyone knows that late goals are Lyon's specialty."

Toulouse took over third place after drubbing Marseille 3-0 at home.

A Johan Elmander double and a third from Achille Emana proved Marseille's undoing as they dropped from fifth to sixth in the table.

Toulouse have been in strong form recently, recording victories over Lyon and Champions League outfit Lille since the turn of the year.

They have actually been the best side in the league since January 1 but coach Eli Baup was not getting carried away.

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Match-winner Elmander was less reserved.

"It was a stunning performance, one of the best matches we've played," he said.

"Marseille are a great team with great players but today, we all played at 100 per cent and that's what made the difference."

Toulouse went in front when Elmander outstripped the Marseille's strike for the visitors after Florent Balmont and Nicolas Piestan were both dismissed.

That body blow before halftime was followed by a knock-out strike just after the break as Elmander turned Ronald Zubar and hit a cross shot into the far corner of the net for 2-0 on 40 minutes.

Marseille switched from 4-4-2 to 4-3-3 as they sought to end their four-match winless streak but to no avail.

Paulo Cesar released Emana with a stunning pass and he beat Carrasco on 62 minutes to put the result beyond any doubt.

Marseille coach Albert Emon could not hide his disappointment.

"We managed to score with every chance we had and it was a flattering result," he admitted.

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"We lacked aggression and presence in the physical battles," he said. "We didn't play as a team and that's what we needed to do. I'm very sorry to all those who follow and love this club."

Relegation-threatened Nice climbed out of the drop zone and heaped more misery on Lille with a 2-1 victory at home after both sides were reduced to 10 men.

Bakari Kone scored a brace either side of Yohan Cabaye's strike for the visitors after Florent Balmont and Nicolas Piestan were both dismissed.

It completed a miserable week for Lille who dropped to fifth following the result, hot on the heels of their controversial Champions League defeat to Manchester United and subsequent failed appeal to UEFA.

Sedan remained bottom despite an impressive 2-0 win at Rennes

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"We're going through an extensive process and we're developing a list of suitable candidates."

"Ideally, we would like someone full-time so they could be totally dedicated to the role."

The newspaper said former Liverpool manager Houllier is expected to join interim national coach Graham Arnold for Australia's Asian Cup campaign in Thailand in an advisory role.

Houllier was on the FFA's wish list after Hiddink left the Australian job to coach Russia last year, it said.

Arnold is reportedly fielding offers from Dutch club Roda JC. A Dutch newspaper also reported that the former Socceroos striker had rejected the NAC Breda coach job for this season.

Arnold was in Dubai with the Australian Olympic team this weekend and could not be contacted, the Sunday Telegraph said.

Both teams are battling to stay out of the relegation zone but Chievo ran out easy winners with Albanian striker Erjon Bogdani's first-half double and a goal just after the break by Matteo Brighi.

Palermo came out with more determination after the break, drawing level just before the hour when defender Marco Pisano burst into the area, held off his marker and slid the ball across the box for Aimo Diana to sidefoot home at the far post.

At the other end of the table, Torino slumped to their sixth defeat in a row after losing 3-0 at Chievo Verona.

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Palermo spent most of the first half pushed back into their area as the home side went on the attack.

Their keeper, Alberto Fontana, made two good saves to keep out early shots by Cristiano Doni and Antonio Bernardini, but Atalanta went ahead in the 13th minute when Riccardo Zampagna turned Luca Ariatti's low cross into the roof of the net.

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