



AS Roma captain Francesco Totti (L) is chased by Udinese defender Zapotocny during their Serie A match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Sunday.

TOTTI GRABS TWO MORE

Inter atop Milan

AFP, Rome



Serie A leaders Inter Milan battled back from a goal down to beat city rivals AC Milan 2-1 in a thrilling derby on Sunday.

Former Inter hero Ronaldo put AC Milan ahead before goals from Julio Cruz and Zlatan Ibrahimovic sealed victory for the reigning champions.

Inter's win eased some of the pain felt from their Champions League exit and maintained their 16-point lead at the top of the table.

Defeat for AC Milan ended their 15-game unbeaten league run and spoiled the day for their captain, Paolo Maldini. The 38-year-old defender, who has spent his entire career with AC Milan, was making his 600th Serie A appearance.

Second-placed Roma, who together with AC Milan succeeded where Inter failed and reached the quarterfinals of the Champions League, beat Udinese 3-1 at the Olympic stadium.

Roma captain Francesco Totti scored twice -- a penalty and a glancing header -- and set up Simone Perrotta for the other goal.

Totti's double took his tally for the season to 18 goals, the best record

in Italy's top division.

Inter have 73 points, followed by Roma on 57, with just 11 games left to play. Lazio claimed their fifth consecutive win with a 3-2 victory over struggling Reggina, taking their joint third with Palermo on 46 points, with a game in hand on the Sicilians. Palermo were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Fiorentina.

Empoli's push for a top-four finish was dealt a blow after they threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at home to Livorno, leaving them on 42 points, two adrift of AC Milan.

The relegation scrap between Chievo and Messina ended in a 1-1 draw, while relegation-threatened Parma ended up with the same result at Atlanta.

Ascoli claimed only their third win of the season with a 1-0 victory at Siena and Torino pulled further away from the drop zone by defeating Catania by the same score.

Ronaldo, incessantly whistled and jeered by the Inter fans for walking out on the club to join Real Madrid in 2002 after they had stuck by him during a lengthy injury crisis, admitted Inter were worthy winners.

"We were better in the first half, but Inter deserved the victory," said the 30-year-old Brazil international, who joined AC Milan from Real in the January transfer window.

Asked if his goal meant more to him as it came against his former club and

also silenced the hecklers, Ronaldo replied, "It was a derby, but for me it was just like another match."

"It's always a joy to score, and the fact that it happened today didn't make it any more special."

Inter coach Roberto Mancini refused to say that the title race was over, despite his team's commanding lead.

"I don't want to talk about the Scudetto, but if we keep going like this it will be an extraordinary season and, I think, unrepeatable," he said.

AC Milan went ahead against the run of play in the 40th minute.

Ronaldo had barely touched the ball before picking up a pass from Gennaro Gattuso and drilling an angled shot past Julio Cesar and into the bottom corner.

Gattuso almost gave AC Milan a two-goal cushion before Inter brought off Hernan Crespo and replaced him with Julio Cruz shortly after half-time.

The Argentina international took just 11 seconds to make his mark, slamming home the loose ball after Nelson Dida could only manage to get his fingertips to Ibrahimovic's low, right-wing cross.

Cruz then returned the compliment 15 minutes from time, setting up Ibrahimovic whose angled drive eluded Dida's grasp.

Larsson bids United bye

Football

AFP, London

Henrik Larsson insists he will not be persuaded to stay at Manchester United despite the injury crisis engulfing the Premiership leaders.

Larsson played the last match of his 10-week loan from Helsingborg on Saturday as United drew 2-2 at Middlesbrough in the FA Cup quar-



ter-finals.

The Swedish striker's departure could not have come at a worse time for United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who is without injured forwards Louis Saha and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer for the rest of March.

But Larsson has been adamant he would keep his word to Helsingborg and return home and he is not prepared to change his mind however tempting the offer.

"This is it," Larsson said. "I am

not 25 anymore. I am 36 this year so it is not going to happen."

"I had a chat with Sir Alex but nothing would tempt me to change my mind about leaving."

"It is a little bit sad but I knew when I signed this would be my last game."

"It has been a pleasure to be here and I will follow this team every step of the way now, keeping my fingers crossed that everything goes well."

The former Celtic star, who will fly back to Sweden after playing for a European XI in a charity match at Old Trafford on Tuesday, is certain his departure will not stop United enjoying a successful climax to the season.

"Nobody knew what the situation would be when I left," said Larsson, who headed the winning goal in United's midweek Champions League win over Lille.

"United initially signed me to cover some injuries they had at the time."

"It is unfortunate Louis got injured and Ole has had a minor operation on his knee. I know it is not good timing for me to leave now but that was the time period of the contract. These things happen."

"There is a little break coming up, which will help them, and I am confident they have enough to cope."

Roeber quits as Dortmund coach

AFP, Dortmund

Coach Juergen Roeber resigned on Monday as coach of struggling German giants Borussia Dortmund after just ten weeks in the job.

Roeber threw in the towel following the 2-0 defeat on Saturday to fellow strugglers VfL Bochum, a result that left Dortmund, the 1997 European champions, hovering just one point above the Bundesliga relegation zone.

"In this difficult situation, what is important is not individual people, but the future of the club and so I have tendered my resignation," Roeber said.

He aimed a parting shot at the players, saying: "After the defeat to Bochum I realised that not everyone in this team has fully grasped the seriousness of the situation."

Roeber, 53, joined the club in December following the sacking of

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Romario closer to 1000

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Irrepressible striker Romario scored his second hat-trick of the year to propel Vasco da Gama to a 4-1 win over Madureira on Sunday and take his career tally, according to his own calculations, to 995 goals.

The 41-year-old former Brazil striker scored two typically opportunistic goals and a penalty in a 13-minute spell during the second half of the Carioca (Rio de Janeiro state) championship match.

Muriqui gave Madureira a shock half-time lead and Leandro Amaral equalised for Vasco early in the second half before the 1994 World

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'Terry will stay'

Football

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho insisted he has no doubts over John Terry's long-term future at Chelsea after his side's thrilling 3-3 draw with Tottenham in the FA Cup quarter-finals.

England defender Terry is reportedly unhappy at the London club's failure to progress talks over a new contract which he reportedly believes should make him the highest paid player at Stamford Bridge.

The 26-year-old currently earns 67,000 thousand pounds-a-week and his representatives are pressing for a deal worth around 60 million pounds for the next nine years.

Terry's current deal runs until 2009 although under Fifa employment regulations, he would be able to terminate his contract at the end of next season. But Mourinho is unconcerned at the prospect of losing his influential captain, who is currently sidelined with concussion sustained in the League Cup final victory over Arsenal last month.

"John has a long-term contract here until 2009 minimum," he said. "He is like me in terms of his contract so I don't know why people are talking about it. There is no problem. I said that it was done but something happened and they didn't finalise it. It would be better for him and Chelsea if he had one until 2015. But even if it takes one, two, three months to sort out, I don't see a problem."

Mourinho's equanimity over Terry's position might stem from the knowledge that he is also preparing for a future away from west London. The Portuguese has been linked with a summer move to Spain or Italy after a series of disputes with

the club's owner Roman Abramovich, although he was giving little away about his own prospects on Sunday.

The FA Cup is the only domestic trophy Mourinho has yet to win and the Blues manager was simply grateful that his hopes of success in this season's competition have not evaporated, despite a shambolic first-half performance at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Chelsea trooped off at the interval 3-1 down after a fine strike from Dimitar Berbatov, Michael Essien's own goal and a clinical finish from Hossam Ghaly, the first time Mourinho had conceded three goals

Mourinho hailed his side's spirit in adversity, although he could not hide his dismay at their dismal first-half defending. "It was a great game, but a game with mistakes," he said. "When there are six goals in a game, that is great but it must mean that there are mistakes in the defences."

"But it was a magnificent match, the spirit was great and everyone enjoyed it. We can be happy because at half-time we were out of the competition, but in the second half we had enough desire and belief to deserve a second game against them."

"I hope to have three more chances to win the FA Cup but I



JOSE MOURINHO

at home in his two-and-a-half year reign.

The Premiership champions were facing an embarrassing exit but Frank Lampard scored his second goal of the game in the 71st minute and then Salomon Kalou volleyed in a spectacular equaliser with just four minutes remaining.

would like to win it this season. "I will fight to the very end with my players to do that. At the moment we are happier than them because they had the game won

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Three-match ban for Trezeguet

AFP, Rome

Juventus striker David Trezeguet was given a three-match ban by the Italian football league's disciplinary commission on Sunday.

The 29-year-old France international was found guilty of elbowing Brescia's Fabiano Santacroce in the face in Juve's 3-1 Serie B defeat on Saturday. Trezeguet was charged with violent behaviour after trial by television.

Despite their second defeat of the season, Juventus, who were demoted to the second division from Serie A and given a nine-point penalty for their role in the Italian match-fixing scandal, remain top of the table.

MU, Chelsea kept apart

AFP, London

Manchester United and Chelsea were kept apart in Monday's FA Cup semifinal draw but must play tricky replays before a possible final meeting at the brand new Wembley stadium.

Blackburn have been drawn against the winner of the scheduled replay between Chelsea and Tottenham after they drew 3-3 at the weekend.

Watford will play Middlesbrough or Manchester United in their last four fixture and the neutral venues for the April 14/15 matches are yet to be decided.

Blackburn chairman John Williams was happy with the outcome, telling Sky Sports News: "We are happy. You take what comes -- if you are going to win it you have to

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2007 WORLD CUP MATCH SCHEDULE

The Daily Star

GROUP STAGE

Location	GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
March 13				
14	Australia v Scotland			West Indies v Pakistan
15	South Africa v The Netherlands	Sri Lanka v Bermuda	England v New Zealand	Zimbabwe v Ireland
16		India v Bangladesh		Pakistan v Ireland
17	Australia v The Netherlands	India v Bermuda	England v Canada	West Indies v Zimbabwe
18		India v Sri Lanka	New Zealand v Kenya	Zimbabwe v Pakistan
19	South Africa v Scotland	Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	New Zealand v Canada	West Indies v Ireland
20	Scotland v The Netherlands	India v Sri Lanka	England v Kenya	
21		D2 v C1		
22	Australia v South Africa	Bermuda v Bangladesh		
23				
24				
25				

Top two teams in each group advance to next stage

SUPER 8

Location	Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana	Grenada	Barbados
27 March	D2 v A1	A2 v B1	D2 v A2	C2 v B2
28	D2 v C1	D1 v C2	B1 v C1	A1 v D1
29	A1 v B2	D2 v B1	A2 v C1	B2 v D1
30	B2 v C1	D1 v A2	D1 v B1	A2 v C2
31	C2 v B1	B1 v A1	A1 v C1	D2 v B2
1 April	A1 v C2	D1 v C1	D1 v B1	V
2				
3				
4				
7				
8				
9				
10 April				
11				
12</				