



Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved (R) holds off the challenge of Torino defender Cesare Natali during their Serie A derby clash at the Stadio Comunale in Turin on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Milan slip-up again

Juve triumph in derby

AFP, Rome



AC Milan suffered another setback in their stuttering championship bid on Sunday, after being held 1-1 at home by lowly Sicilian side Catania.

The European champions' fourth draw of the season leaves them in 11th place in Serie A below the likes of Genoa, Udinese and Palermo.

Carlo Ancelotti was at a loss to understand his side's inability to win at their San Siro stadium.

"The soul searching is for tomorrow when we can see things more clearly," said Ancelotti ahead of their midweek Champions League tie at Scottish side Celtic.

"We're not in a good period. We're a little slow, we lack focus and application. There are problems, but no tensions. The atmosphere is very calm and that was the key for success last season. It will be again this year."

Catania opened through Jorge Martinez who beat 'keeper Zeljko Kalac, stepping in for the sidelined Nelson Dida, with a header at the back post inside the half-hour.

Only a Kaka penalty three minutes after the restart saved

Milan's blushes, though for the remainder of the second half Ancelotti's men came up against a brick wall as they sought out the winner.

A dramatic stoppage time goal from French striker David Trezeguet gave Juventus a hard fought 1-0 victory in their tension-filled derby at Torino late on Sunday which lifts them second behind Inter Milan.

Inter sit top with a one-point advantage after their 4-1 win at 10-man Roma on Saturday, with Fiorentina a further point behind Juventus after their 3-0 victory in the Tuscan derby with Livorno.

Trezeguet struck three minutes into injury time with his sixth goal of the season which puts him joint top of the scorers list with Inter Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

On Saturday, Inter were given a boost ahead of their Champions League tie against PSV Eindhoven midweek, as they crushed Roma, who were reduced to ten men when Frenchman Ludovic Giuly was sent off for the capital side.

Swede Ibrahimovic scored from a 29th-minute penalty to put the visitors ahead at the Olympic stadium, though Simone Perrotta equalised for Roma in the 53rd minute.

However further goals from Milan by Hernan Crespo, Julio

Cruz and then Ivan Cordoba meant Inter had scored their four with more than 20 minutes to go till full time.

For Roma, the defeat was particularly badly-timed with midweek European action looming.

Following two draws against Fiorentina (2-2) and then Juventus (2-2), Luciano Spalletti's men travel to England on Tuesday to face Manchester United in the Champions League where they had been humiliated by a 7-1 defeat in the quarterfinal, second leg of last season's competition in April.

Meanwhile, a double from Argentine striker Pablo Daniel Osvaldo helped Fiorentina to victory against long time rivals Livorno.

Osvaldo put Fiorentina ahead at the stroke of half-time in a bad tempered clash which saw the visiting coach Nando Orsi sent off for dissent during the break.

Livorno were reduced to ten men after Massimo Loviso fouled Gianpaolo Pazzini after 63 minutes, allowing Osvaldo net his second when he chested down Mario Alberto Santana's pass and fired over the goalkeeper. Santana sealed Fiorentina's win three minutes later.

Also on Sunday Lazio did little to improve their league ambitions with a 1-1 draw at Regina.

Totti's peace offering

THE GUARDIAN

Francesco Totti has sought to defuse the tensions between the supporters of Manchester United and Roma by making a personal apology to a female victim of the violence that overshadowed last season's game in the Stadio Olimpico.

In a deliberate peace initiative ahead of tomorrow's Champions League tie at Old Trafford, Totti has sent 23-year-old Carly Lyes a video message expressing regret for her treatment at the hands of the Rome carabinieri. She was among dozens of United supporters who were bated-charged inside the stadium, with television pictures showing her repeatedly being struck to the head.

She had been trying to film what was happening but her camera was snatched from her and she was beaten to the ground. "We would like to apologise for the treatment you received in Rome last season and we hope it has not damaged the opinion you and your fellow supporters have of our city," Totti tells her in the message. "We would also like to invite you to the Olympic Stadium for the game later this year and treat you as our special guest."

Lyes is one of four United fans pursuing a legal case against the Italian police. "I was presented with a replacement camera at Old

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

MU wary of backlash

AFP, Manchester



Owen Hargreaves has warned Manchester United that Roma will be thirsting for revenge in Tuesday's potentially explosive Champions League tie at Old Trafford.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side thrashed the Italians 7-1 when they met in the quarter-finals of Europe's top club competition last season.

Only six months later, Roma have the chance to regain some pride at the scene of one of most humiliating defeats in their history.

United midfielder Hargreaves watched that game on television with his then Bayern Munich teammates, but he will be in the firing line when Roma return to Manchester for the Group F fixture.

The England international is set to make his European debut for the Premier League champions after recovering from a thigh strain and is determined to ensure United guard against a backlash.

"There will be no repeat of the 7-1," Hargreaves said. "Those results possibly happen once every three or four years in the entire competition. It is just not going to happen again."

"We have put ourselves in a good position by winning in Lisbon. Now, we have three home

games to play. If we win those we will be comfortably into the next round. Roma is the next stepping stone towards that.

"I am sure they will try to come and avenge what happened last season but I expect us to win the game."

Big European matches at Old Trafford have a special atmosphere, but there will be an added spice to the occasion after the crowd trouble that blighted both meetings between the clubs last season.

United fans were attacked by Roma hooligans and Italian police during the first leg in Rome and there were skirmishes outside Old Trafford before the return.

Security is certain to be high and both teams will need to keep their cool to avoid inflaming the situation.

Hargreaves's ability to cope with the biggest matches was one of the main reasons Ferguson was so determined to sign him and the Canadian-born star can't wait to sample the atmosphere.

"I have had a lot of experience at Bayern Munich and been successful in the Champions League, so I am very excited about playing in this competition with United," he said.

"I have heard the European nights at Old Trafford are very special, so I am looking forward to that. The atmosphere against Chelsea last week was exceptional and I look forward to a similar atmosphere, if not better, against Roma."

The principle threat to United's hopes of continuing their 100 per cent start in Europe is Francesco Totti and the Italian striker will be motivated by a desire to erase the memory of the saddest night of his career.

Totti has been Roma's captain and talisman for over a decade, as well as helping Italy win last year's World Cup.

His dazzling reputation was further bolstered last season as he claimed 26 goals for Roma to earn the European Golden Boot, awarded to the continent's top scorer.

But the 31-year-old was completely anonymous as Roma slumped to that dismal defeat in Manchester.

Luciano Spalletti's side crumbled under the pressure of an overwhelming performance that Ferguson was moved to describe as United's best in Europe during his 21-year reign at Old Trafford.

Totti was devastated by the loss and would love nothing better than to exact a measure of revenge.

Roma endured a miserable preparation for what promised to be their toughest assignment in the group stage when they were thrashed 4-1 at home by Inter Milan on Saturday.

Despite Hargreaves's caution, Roma's run of three games without a win will only strengthen United's belief that they are the cream of the crop in Group F.

Toshack hits out at Mourinho

INTERNET, undated

Wales boss John Toshack has launched a bizarre attack on Jose Mourinho.

Despite winning two Premier League titles and three domestic cups during his time as Chelsea manager, Mourinho's tenure at Stamford Bridge ended in abrupt fashion in the wake of their 1-1 draw with Rosenborg a fortnight ago.

His departure has been widely lamented, particularly by Blues fans, yet Toshack has accused him of 'throwing in the towel'.

In his weekly column in Spanish daily Marca, he writes: "The Special One threw in the towel."

"They say he left 48 hours before the game against Manchester United, taking his reports on (Sir Alex) Ferguson's team with him and leaving the new coach and his players high and dry."

"If that's true, it doesn't say much for him. When the going gets tough the tough get going - and Mourinho has disappointed me enormously."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Bremen wait on duo

AFP, Bremen

Werder Bremen are waiting on the fitness of goalkeeper Tim Weise and striker Boubacar Sanogo as they prepare for Wednesday's Champions League clash with Olympiakos.

The pair picked up injuries in Saturday's 8-1 Bundesliga rout of Arminia Bielefeld and are doubtful for the Group C game at the Westerstadium.

"Ivory Coast international Sanogo scored two first-half goals before he was taken off early in the second-half with a hip injury, while Weise has a thigh strain."

"It does not look as though those two will be able to play. Tim is carrying a thigh injury and Boubacar's hip injury is too painful," said Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf.

But there is some good news for Bremen - German international

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Giggs set for new deal

AFP, London

Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs looks certain to stay with the Premier League champions after Sir Alex Ferguson hinted he will sign a new contract.

Giggs's current contract expires at the end of this season but United manager Ferguson is determined to keep the 33-year-old at Old Trafford for at least one more campaign.

"With the way Giggs looks after himself, he could go on until infinity. You just don't know," Ferguson told the News of the World.

The Welsh star is closing in on Sir Bobby Charlton's United appearance record of 759 games. He is 35 games behind Charlton and Ferguson sees no reason why

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

My future is Red: C'Ron



INTERNET, undated

Cristiano Ronaldo wants to stay with Manchester United for 'many more years'.

The Portugal winger signed a lucrative contract extension last season which commits him to the Old Trafford outfit until 2012.

Yet there are still many who feel the lure of Real Madrid or Barcelona will one day prove too much for the 22-year-old to resist.

However, in his new book 'Moments', which is released this week, the Madeira-born star insists he has no thoughts of moving elsewhere and is determined to become a United icon.

"At the exact moment I put on the Red Devils shirt, I felt sure Manchester United was the ideal club for me, for my development as a player and a person," he said.

"Four years have passed since I first walked onto the Old Trafford pitch. Today I consider it one of my homes."

"Without a lie, I can declare that I feel immense pride and joy at representing this great world club."

"Here at Manchester United is where I feel happy. So much so that I have no problem in saying that I would like to stay here for many more years."

Ronaldo's achievements last season, when he scored an incredible 23 goals during a campaign that ended with the first Premier League title triumph of his time at the club, were honoured by virtually every individual accolade it was possible to win.

Aside from becoming only the second player to win both PFA Player and Young Player of the Year awards in the same season, Ronaldo also scooped the Football Writers' gong, plus Manchester United players' and supporters' player of the year.

And, after scoring winning goals against old club Sporting Lisbon and, on Saturday, Birmingham already this term, it seems probable he will be nominated for the FIFA World Player of the Year trophy as well.

While AC Milan's brilliant Brazilian Kaka is favourite to lift the award, Ronaldo feels a nomination would be a cause for immense satisfaction.

However, he does not view individual accolades to be above any success he might win with his club.

"To be nominated as the best footballer in the year would be a dream come true," he said.

"However, I do not live with that obsession. Whatever has to happen will happen naturally, as a consequence of my evolution."

"If Manchester United is doing well, I will do well; the greater the success of United, the greater the success of each of its players."

Schuster's happy homecoming

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid coach Bernd Schuster enjoyed a successful return to former club Getafe on Sunday with a Sergio Ramos goal seeing the

champions reclaim top spot in the Spanish first division with a 1-0 win over their local neighbours.

Incredibly Getafe, who Schuster left in the summer to join Real, had never lost at home in the league to Real but Ramos's goal on 65 minutes ended that run as Real moved a point clear of Villarreal at the summit.

Villarreal, trounced 5-0 by Real at the beginning of September, had briefly replaced Barcelona, now two points behind Real, at the top following a 1-0 triumph over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday which was their 13th league victory in their last 14 outings.

Schuster singled out central defensive pair Fabio Cannavaro and Sergio Ramos for praise as they prevented a Getafe equaliser.

"The defence was sensational. Fabio Cannavaro and Sergio Ramos saved us as they have done so often in the past," said Schuster.

"The fact is we are winning games. Of course we want to play better but when you are playing every three days the important thing is to win."

Valencia also have the winning habit and recorded their fifth victory on the spin with a 1-0 win over Recreativo Huelva on Sunday.

David Villa scored after just five minutes to put Valencia in front and they held the lead until the finish to move one point behind leaders Real.

Valencia's next test is against Chelsea in the Champions League

on Wednesday and Villa admitted revenge for last season's painful quarterfinal defeat, when Chelsea scored a late winner, was on their minds.

"We want to do well against Chelsea because of what happened last season," said Villa.

"We are playing well and continue to win matches - hopefully nothing changes against Chelsea."

Dutch international winger Arjen Robben made his first league start in Real colours as Schuster changed his system to a 4-3-2-1

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Work cut out for Stuttgart

AFP, Paris



Ronaldinho's return after what was whispered to be an enforced team sidelining by Barcelona is likely to spell bad news for German champions VfB Stuttgart.

The 2006 Bundesliga winners have won only three of their eight league games and host the 2006 European champions knowing they will have to produce a stellar performance if they want to score a major upset.

Ronaldinho should be championing at the bit after a three-game absence for Barcelona which, officially, was because of a leg injury - although reports suggest he was sidelined because of his late night partying.

As the Brazilian midfielder prepares to get back to dazzling opposition defences, elsewhere there will be a moment to spare for remembering absent friends.

Romanian giants Steaua

Bucharest signalled their return to Europe's elite two weeks ago with a 2-1 defeat to Champions League new boys Slavia Prague.

Steaua's credentials will face a somewhat stiffer test when they host English giants Arsenal in the absence of emblematic former

coach Cheorghe Hagi.

Romanian legend Hagi resigned days after Steaua's defeat to Slavia citing his inability to work under the pressure of club owner Gigi Becali.

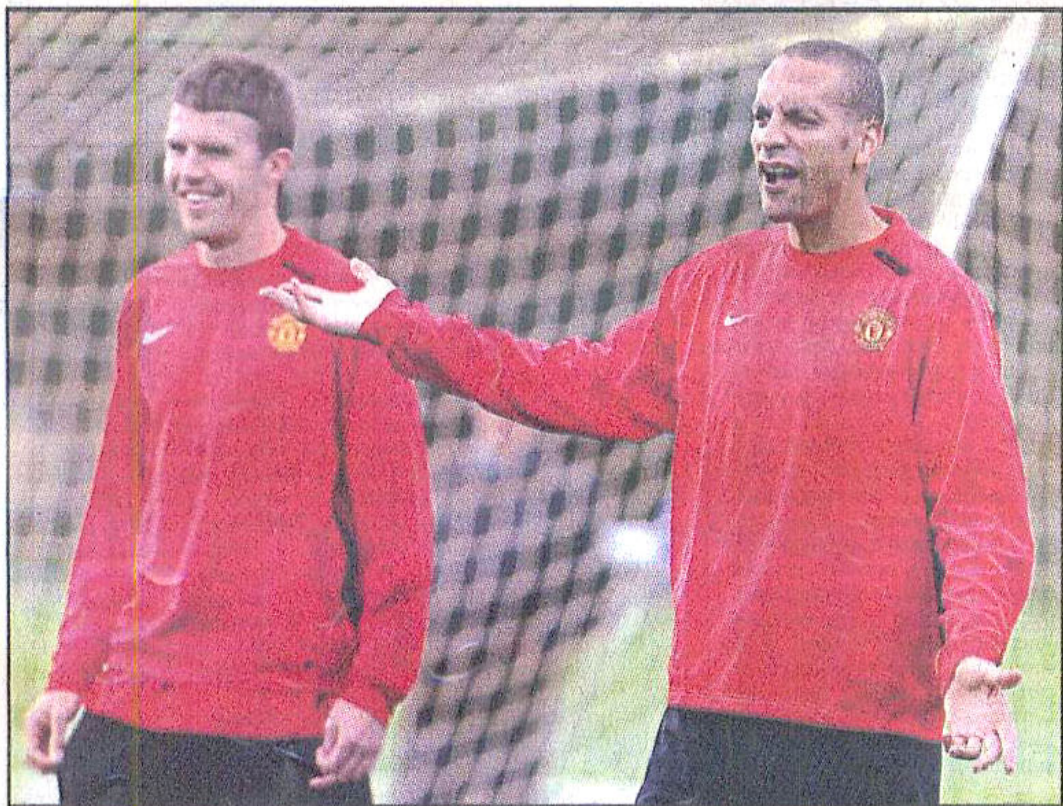
"I've had enough. It's torture at Steaua," Hagi was reported as saying a day after the club's 2-1

Group H defeat to Slavia.

Hagi perhaps jumped ship at the right time, given Arsenal's glittering form.

Arsenal are top of the English Premier League with a two-point lead on champions Manchester

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand (R) shares a joke alongside midfielder Michael Carrick during a training session at Carrington in Manchester on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

FIXTURES	
Lyon (FRA) v Rangers (SCO)	
Stuttgart (GER) v Barcelona (ESP)	
Manchester United (ENG) v Roma (ITA)	
Dynamo Kiev (UKR) v Sporting Lisbon (POR)	
Inter Milan (ITA) v PSV Eindhoven (NED)	
CSKA Moscow (RUS) v Fenerbahce (TUR)	
Steaua Bucharest (ROM) v Arsenal (ENG)	
Sevilla (ESP) v Slavia Prague (CZE)	



Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos points to the heavens after scoring the winning goal against Getafe in their Primera Liga clash at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez in Getafe on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP