

## No Cassano yet again

SOCCERNET

Italy coach Marcello Lippi has rewarded in-form forward Giampaolo Pazzini by recalling him in a 25-man squad for this month's friendlies with Netherlands and Sweden.

Pazzini, who has scored seven goals for Sampdoria in Serie A so far this season, got the last of his three caps in June's 3-0 win over Northern Ireland in a friendly. However, Lippi has continued to ignore calls to bring back Pazzini's teammate Antonio Cassano, a reformed rebel who was regularly producing match-winning performances before a recent lull.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Morgan De Sanctis (Napoli), Federico Marchetti (Cagliari). **Defenders:** Salvatore Bocchetti (Genoa), Fabio Cannavaro (Juventus), Mattia Cassani (Palermo), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Domenico Criscito (Genoa), Fabio Grosso (Juventus), Nicola Legrottaglie (Juventus), Christian Maggio (Napoli), Gianluca Zambrotta (AC Milan). **Midfielders:** Davide Biondini (Cagliari), Mauro Camoranesi (Juventus), Antonio Candreva (Livorno), Daniele De Rossi (AS Roma), Daniele Galloppa (Parma), Marco Marchionni (Fiorentina), Angelo Palombo (Sampdoria), Andrea Pirlo (Milan). **Forwards:** Antonio Di Natale (Udinese), Alberto Gilardino (Fiorentina), Raffaele Palladino (Genoa), Giampaolo Pazzini (Sampdoria), Giuseppe Rossi (Villarreal).

## Hamburg denied at death

AFP, Berlin

Hamburg held onto second spot in the Bundesliga on Sunday despite Czech Republic striker Jiri Stajner netting a late penalty for Hanover to share the points in a 2-2 draw.

Hamburg were cruising to a 2-1 win to close the gap behind leaders Leverkusen, who beat Eintracht Frankfurt 4-0 on Friday, before Stajner was hauled down with just five minutes left.

The 33-year-old made no mistake with his shot and drilled it past Hamburg goalkeeper Frank Rost to put his side ninth while Hamburg are now three points behind Leverkusen.

The northerners share second spot with neighbours Werder Bremen, who drew 1-1 at home to Dortmund after Argentine Lukas Barrios equalised Mesut Ozil's opener for Werder.

Hamburg coach Bruno Labbadia admitted that "this is a bad result for us as the team worked hard. I told the ref he bottled it with the penalty decision" which saw Stajner go down in the area before dusting himself off to convert the penalty on 86 minutes to give the home side a share of the points.

Hamburg's ex-Germany defender Marcell Jansen opened the scoring with a superb opening goal.

The 24-year-old left-back, who is not in the Germany squad for this month's friendlies, finished the move he started after a neat pass from Dutch midfielder Eljero Elia before drilling his shot into Hanover's net on 15 minutes.

Hanover's Ivory Coast striker Didier Ya Konan, who looks set to face Germany in a friendly for his country in Gelsenkirchen on November 18, equalised with a header on 28 minutes.

But Elia put his side back in the lead on 44 minutes when he headed home after some good work from Germany wing Piotr Trochowski only for the late spotkick drama to save Hanover.

Elsewhere Sunday, bottom side Hertha Berlin slid to a 1-0 home loss to Cologne after Slovenian favourite Milivoje Novakovic netted the only goal at the Olympic Stadium.

Hertha, one win all season, are six points from safety while Cologne's success saw them exit the bottom three.

# Fergie fuming

AFP, London



Chelsea on Sunday.

Atkinson ruled that Darren Fletcher's 76th minute challenge on Ashley Cole was worthy of a foul even though the Scot appeared to win the ball and, from the resulting Frank Lampard set-piece, John Terry headed in the winner.

Ferguson's side are now five points behind leaders Chelsea and the United manager, who also claimed Didier Drogba fouled Wes Brown at the free-kick, had no doubts that Atkinson was to blame for his team's third defeat of the season.

"Clearly, Darren Fletcher's won the ball, Ashley Cole's never touched and he's jumped up in the air, and then (Didier) Drogba's pulled Brown to the ground for the goal," Ferguson said.

"The referee's position to make the decision was absolutely ridiculous, he can't see anything. He's got a Chelsea player (Joe Cole) standing right in front of him and he doesn't even move.

"That goal shouldn't have been allowed. It was a bad decision, but there's nothing we can do about it. You lose faith in refereeing sometimes, that's the way the players are talking in there. It was a bad one."

Ferguson insisted United had been the better team but he conceded they had only themselves to blame for failing to create clear-cut chances despite dominating possession.

"We dominated the game," he said. "We were

by far the better team.

"We had great opportunities to get to the edge of the box and some really good chances in and around the box, but we should be finishing it off."

"We've only ourselves to blame in that respect. But you do need a break - and we never got the break we needed."

Ferguson admitted losing at Stamford Bridge was far more significant to the title race than their recent 2-0 defeat at arch rivals Liverpool.

"The fact is Chelsea go five points clear of us," he said.

"The defeat to Liverpool didn't affect our position in the league, this affects our position in the sense that if we'd have won we'd have gone top."

While Ferguson fumed, Chelsea boss Carlo Ancelotti was able to celebrate the latest impressive result of his brief reign.

The Italian has already masterminded wins over Liverpool and United since arriving from AC Milan in pre-season and he acknowledged it was a significant victory.

"We beat a very good team, we beat the best opponent (in the league) and we are five points clear, but we know very well that the season is long. We have to maintain this atmosphere and maintain this gap," Ancelotti said.

Ancelotti felt Ferguson's decision to pack midfield with five players had turned the match into a war of attrition for long periods.

"It was a strong match but Chelsea did what we had to do," he said.

"It was a difficult match for both teams, there was no space in midfield and it was difficult to create opportunities."

# Capello rests Gerrard

AFP, London

England coach Fabio Capello avoided a row with Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez as he left Steven Gerrard out of his squad for Saturday's friendly against Brazil in Doha.

Benitez had made it clear on Sunday that he didn't think Gerrard should be selected as the Liverpool captain has missed several matches with a groin injury suffered during England's defeat in Ukraine last month.

Gerrard could play some part of Liverpool's Premier League match against Birmingham on Monday, but Capello has placated Benitez by leaving the star out of the trip to Qatar.

Despite injuries to Emile Heskey and Carlton Cole, there was still no place for Manchester United striker Michael Owen once again as Capello recalled Darren Bent.

The Sunderland striker has been in fine form this season, scoring eight goals for the Black Cats, although he missed a penalty in Saturday's defeat at Tottenham.

Rio Ferdinand, Ashley Cole, Aaron Lennon and David James are all ruled out through injury, while Aston Villa defender Stephen Warnock and Tottenham midfielder Huddlestone come in.

Warnock's international career has so far amounted to an eight minute substitute appearance in Trinidad last year, while Huddlestone is still to make his senior debut.

Capello has named a 24-man squad, although that number will reduce by one if Los Angeles Galaxy maintain their interest in the MLS play-offs on Sunday by beating Chivas USA because David Beckham would be forced to withdraw to stay with his club.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Ben Foster (Man Utd), Robert Green (West Ham), Joe Hart (Man City, on loan at Birmingham)

**Defenders:** Wayne Bridge (Man City), Wes Brown (Man Utd), Gary Cahill (Bolton), Glen Johnson (Liverpool), Joleon Lescott (Man City), John Terry (Chelsea), Matthew Upson (West Ham), Stephen Warnock (Aston Villa)

**Midfielders:** Gareth Barry (Man City), David Beckham (LA Galaxy/USA), Michael Carrick (Man Utd), Tom Huddlestone (Tottenham), Jermaine Jenas (Tottenham), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), James Milner (Aston Villa), Shaun Wright-Phillips (Man City), Ashley Young (Aston Villa)

**Forwards:** Darren Bent (Sunderland), Peter Crouch (Tottenham), Jermain Defoe (Tottenham), Wayne Rooney (Man Utd)

# Kanoute Sevilla's hero

AFP, Barcelona



Substitute Frederic Kanoute headed the winner for Sevilla who overcame a resurgent Villarreal 3-2 to keep themselves in touch with Barcelona at the top of the Spanish league on Sunday.

Villarreal proved tough competition though and responded to Luis Fabiano's opener after nine minutes with goals from Robert Pires and David Fuster.

Fabiano equalised almost immediately and then Kanoute, still not fully fit and starting the game on the bench, scored a crucial winner to maintain the four-point distance from the champions.

Sevilla coach Manolo Jimenez felt his team was not as sharp as they should have been after playing in the Champions League in midweek.

"We can have no excuses about playing in three competitions and it is now that we have to show how strong we are. We need to be able to change the chip quickly and be concentrated," he said.

Valencia's star-studded strike force were responsible for a 3-1 victory over Real Zaragoza.

Juan Mata put Valencia ahead after 17 minutes with David Villa and Pablo Hernandez also adding

to the lead before half-time.

In the second half, Valencia had further chances but the only goal came from Zaragoza midfielder Abel Aguilar.

"It was not a very fluid game but we were able to control it and get the win," said Valencia coach Unai Emery.

The win leaves Valencia in fourth place, five points behind leaders Barcelona.

Spending Gijon have their eyes set on a place in Europe after beating Espanyol 1-0 thanks to an early goal from Mate Bilic.

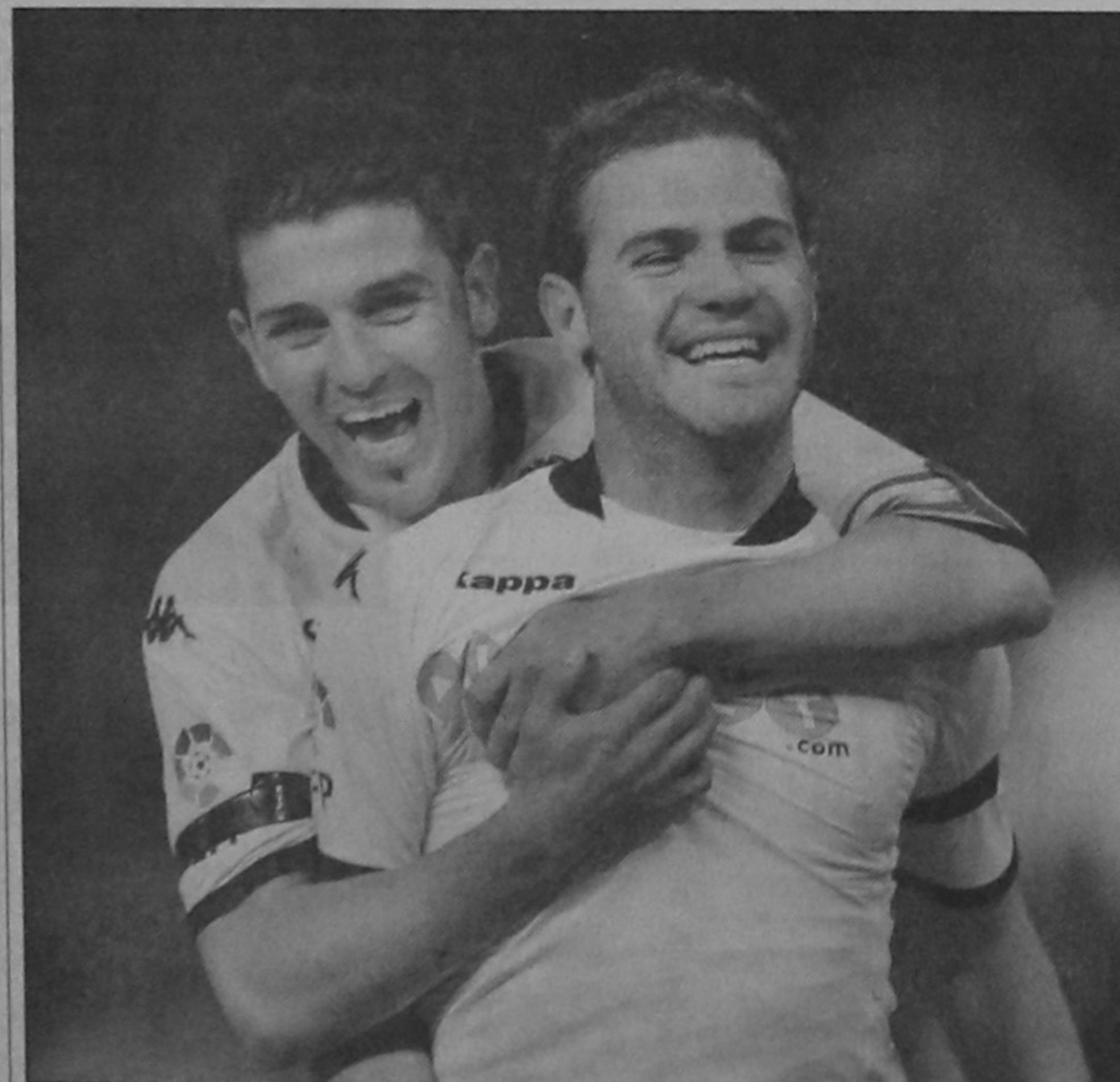
Espanyol travelled to Gijon on the back of a seven-match unbeaten run but they conceded after just three minutes with Bilic deflecting a Diego Castro shot over the line.

Athletic Bilbao beat Racing Santander 2-0 to condemn the home side to their third consecutive defeat.

Racing showed the greater desire and were controlling the midfield through Jose Moraton and Mehdi Lacen but crucially they lacked a cutting edge.

When Carlos Gurpegui headed home against the run of play Racing's confidence quickly evaporated and they struggled to battle back.

The victory was for Athletic when Lacen fed Ion Velez in the area and Andoni Iraola converted the spot-kick.



Valencia winger Juan Mata (R) celebrates with teammate David Villa after his goal against Zaragoza in their Primera Liga match at the Mestalla on Sunday.



Lyon striker Miralem Pjanic (C) volleys home during their Ligue 1 match against Marseille at the Stade Gerland on Sunday.

## IN BRIEF

### Beckham to miss Brazil match

AFP, Paris

David Beckham will miss England's trip to Doha to play Brazil on Saturday following Los Angeles Galaxy's 1-0 win over Chivas USA 1-0 on Sunday to win their Major League Soccer Western Conference semi-final series, 3-2 on aggregate.

The win means that Galaxy will host the Houston Dynamo, who beat Seattle Sounders FC earlier Sunday, in the Western Conference final next week ruling out Beckham's participation in the glamour friendly.

The Western Conference winner will play the winner of the Eastern Conference final between Chicago Fire and Real Salt Lake in the MLS Cup final.

### Portugal include injured Ronaldo

AFP, Lisbon

Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz on Sunday announced a 23-man squad, including a nominally injured Cristiano Ronaldo, to face Bosnia in their November 14 and November 18 World Cup playoff games.

Queiroz has called on Ronaldo, despite the opposition of the player's club Real Madrid, who estimate their star will be out of action for at least two more weeks as he recovers from an ankle injury which has forced him to miss the club's last seven matches.

Ronaldo initially injured his right ankle in Real's 3-0 Champions League victory over Marseille at the end of September and aggravated the problem while playing for Portugal on October 10.

Queiroz says that the national team's doctors will examine him and see if he can play some kind of a role, even from the bench.

Two new names in the squad are Benfica's Fabio Coentrao and Chelsea keeper Hilario while Ricardo Costa, a defender with German champions Wolfsburg, is back after a two-year absence.

### The quest for pearly whites

INTERNET, undated

A controversial late goal settled the top-of-the-table Barclays Premier League clash between the Blues and the Reds at Stamford Bridge yesterday, but one supporter was more concerned with his pearly whites.

As Chelsea substitute Salomon Kalou prepared to make his entrance onto the field to face Manchester United, the fan was caught on camera brushing his teeth.

Footage was promptly posted on YouTube by several different users and within hours more than 1,000 people had viewed the bizarre antics, according to the Daily Telegraph.

Later on BBC Radio 5 Live, football phone-in host DJ Spoony raised the question: 'Why has he got a toothbrush in the stadium? And more importantly, why is he brushing his teeth in the stadium?'

Spoon added: 'So you're in the football stadium, you have had your pie, you brush your teeth, I mean where do you rinse, or gargle?'

# Lyon in ten-goal thriller

AFP, Paris



French title contenders Lyon and Bordeaux both suffered a bumpy ride on Sunday as reigning champions Bordeaux went down 2-0 at Lille only to stay top as Lyon drew 5-5 with Marseille in an extraordinary game.

After momentous midweek showings saw both clubs advance to the second phase of the Champions League on Sunday they shredded their own nerves and those of their fans.

Laurent Blanc's men dislodged Lyon last season last season after seven championship wins on the bounce, and stayed top with 25 points from 12 matches despite second-half Lille goals from Yohan Cabaye and Florent Balmont from the penalty spot handing the Girondins their third reverse of the campaign.

Lyon should have gone two points clear but were left aghast by Stephane M'Bia's injury-time goal for Marseille, the final action of a rollercoaster of a game.

Marseille were kicking themselves despite M'Bia's effort as they could easily have moved into the top six having led 4-2 with ten minutes to go.

Miralem Pjanic fired Lyon into a third-minute lead but Souleymane Diawara levelled on 11 only for veteran Sidney Govou to fire Lyon back in front three minutes later.

Benoit Cheyrou made it 2-2 moments before the interval and two minutes after the restart Bak Kone had Marseille in front.

Brandao's acrobatic flick 11 minutes from time appeared to have sealed it for the southerners, France's only European champions after their 1993 European Cup triumph.

But Lyon rallied and netted three goals in ten mad minutes - Lisandro Lopez twice on target - once from the spot - before Michel Bastos drilled home for 5-4.

M'Bia then bundled home off home defender Jeremy Toulalan as the clock ticked down as coaches Claude Puel and Didier Deschamps looked on incredulously from their dugouts.

The last ten-goal thriller in the French league came more than 50 years ago when Lille drew at Nice.

Bordeaux coach Laurent Blanc was furious with his side's limp showing in Lille.

"I can't understand why my team just didn't show up. It was incomprehensible. We went from a very high level Tuesday (in winning at Bayern Munich) to being very feeble Sunday," he said.

Lille counterpart Rudi Garcia was delighted with a win which lifted his inconsistent side into midtable.

"It's a reward for the work the players have been putting in since the start of the season. We are getting on the right track," said Garcia.

Lille's opening goal came on 70 minutes after they had soaked up spells of early pressure from the leaders, Pierre-Alain Frau combining well with Gervinho and although the former's shot was blocked Cabaye bundled home the rebound.

Balmont's spot kick three minutes from time after Mickael Ciani brought down Guinean forward Larsen Toure clinched the points.



Inter Milan forward Samuel Eto'o mocks the away crowd after scoring during their crunch Serie A clash against AS Roma at the San Siro in Milan on Sunday.

# Inter held by Roma

AFP, Rome



Inter Milan's lead at the top of Serie A was cut to five points after their five-game winning streak came to an end following a 1-1 draw against Roma on Sunday.

A subdued Inter went behind early on to Mirko Vucinic's header as Roma had the better of the opening period.

Inter coach Jose Mourinho threw caution to the wind at half-time, lining his side with four attackers, but despite Samuel Eto'o's 48th-minute equaliser, there was no grandstand finish for the tired-looking champions.

"I didn't like the game at all - it was pretty awful," admitted Mourinho.

"The only thing we can take from it is a point which is fine as Roma are a quality side. We were there for the taking tonight but unfortunately they looked like they were happy with a draw."

Roma coach Claudio Ranieri was pleased with the performance but angry with the tactics of his opponents.

"We played well, created chances but were fouled so we should have worn armour," he complained.

With Juventus and AC Milan both winning, the race for the scudetto is very much back on, while Roma, on 15 points, moved up a place to 13th.

Roma began purposefully and should have taken the lead after two minutes.

Vucinic was put clean through by a combination of Daniele De Rossi and Jeremy Menez passes, but took an age to shoot and was robbed by Lucio.

The Montenegrin made amends after 13 minutes, meeting a long, crossfield ball from Marco Motta to loop a perfect 15-yard header over Julio Cesar and into the corner to give the visitors the lead.

Inter, starting without talisman Wesley Sneijder, almost hit back four minutes later when Diego Milito cleverly worked space in the box but Julio Sergio, replacing the injured Doni between the posts, acrobatically turned aside the

Argentine's effort.

Roma were dealt a blow when their captain De Rossi was forced to leave the field following an aerial collision with Patrick Vieira.

But the Giallorossi continued to search for a second and were almost rewarded when John Arne Riise fired inches wide from distance on 37 minutes.

Mourinho brought on Sneijder and a third forward in Marco Balotelli at the break, and within three minutes of the restart Inter were level.

Eto'o collected a precise Thiago Motta pass, turned and finished sweetly with his left foot into the far corner.

Roma, runners-up to Inter three times in the past four seasons, refused to lie down and only a sprawling save from Cesar prevented Menez from capping a fine display with a goal on 63 minutes.

The Brazilian goalkeeper was brought into action again after 80 minutes blocking substitute Ricardo Faty's awkward shot as Inter ended the match on the back foot.

Earlier, AC Milan moved into third after surviving late pressure to defeat Lazio 2-1 at the Stadio Olimpico.

Brazilians Thiago Silva and Pato buried headers in the 21st and 35th minutes, and although Zaraté responded in the 64th minute, it was not enough to prevent the Rossoneri from extending their unbeaten run to seven matches.

Milan moved to 22 points, two behind second-place Juventus, who thrashed Atalanta 5-2 on Saturday.

"When we're on top, we look great but when we're under pressure, we suffer - that's the risk when you play with an attacking line-up," said coach Leonardo.

"We are probably still a bit unbalanced as a team so we need to learn how to put a side away."

An 84th-minute strike from Peruvian Juan Vargas for Fiorentina against Udinese saw the Viola move fourth, level on 21 points with stuttering Sampdoria, who were sunk 2-0 at Cagliari.