Bullish Bayern clinch title

AFP, Berlin



Munich a 3-1 win at relegated Hertha Berlin on Saturday that sealed the Bavarian giants' 22nd German league title.

Bayern had already opened up an effectively insurmountable three-point lead over title rivals Schalke and ended the season five points clear.

Having also scored twice on his debut last August, Robben's double means he finishes with 16 league goals for the season.

The 26-year-old cost Bayern 24 million euros from Real Madrid, but has been worth every penny after a stellar season that saw him play a huge part in getting Bayern to the Champions League final against Inter Milan on May 22.

At Berlin's Olympic Stadium, Croatia striker Ivica

ROLL OF HONOUR

2010: Bayern Munich 2009: Vfl Wolfsburg

2008: Bayern Munich

2007: VfB Stuttgart

2006: Bayern Munich

the season on 20 minutes by drilling Robben's pass into the bottom-right corner. Berlin fought back when

Olic put Munich ahead when

he hit his 11th league goal of

Adrian Ramos levelled on 59 minutes before Robben curled home a shot on 74 minutes and then added his second with a simple tap-in three minutes from time.

Schalke were already assured of second place and an automatic place in next season's Champions League. They finished their campaign with a 0-0 draw against Mainz.

Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who is set to be Germany's

STANDINGS

Bayern Munich

Werder Bremen

VfB Stuttgart

VfL Wolfsburg

Eintracht Frankfurt

Borussia M'gladbach 34

Hamburg

Mainz 05

Hoffenheim

Cologne

Freiburg

Hanover 96

Nuremberg

VfL Bochum

Hertha Berlin

Borussia Dortmund 34

13 13

Schalke 04

number one at next month's World Cup, saved a penalty from midfielder Miroslav Karhan on 75 minutes after bringing down Andreas

Werder Bremen will have the chance to join Schalke and Bayern in the Champions League after finishing third in the league thanks to a 1-1 draw with Hamburg, which entitles them to a place in the play-off

Ivanschitz.

round.

Peru striker Claudio Pizarro opened the scoring on 59 minutes with a superb strike from a pass by Clemens Fritz before Hamburg's Dutch striker Ruud van

70 (champs)

47

42

33

64 28 - relegated

56 24 - relegated

Nistelrooy equalised in the 82nd minute.

Bayer Leverkusen qualified for a Europa League place for next season after a 1-1 draw at Borussia Moenchgladbach saw them finish fourth.

Borussia Dortmund will join them in the old UEFA Cup competition as they finished fifth despite losing 3-1 at Freiburg.

Stuttgart, who flirted with relegation before the arrival of Christian Gross as manager last December, completed their fairytale comeback when they finished sixth to claim the last European place with a 1-1 draw at Hoffenheim.

Defending champions

TOP SCORERS

- Edin Dzeko (VfL Wolfsburg)
- Stefan Kiessling (Bayer Leverkusen)
- Lucas Barrios (Borussia Dortmund)

Kevin Kuranyi

Claudio Pizarro

(Werder Bremen)

(Schalke 04) Arjen Robben (Bayern Munich),

Wolfsburg completed a disappointing season with a 3-1 win over Frankfurt that left them

RESULTS

Hertha Berlin 1 (Ramos 59) Bayern Munich 3 (Olic 20, Robben 74, 87)

Hoffenheim 1 (Vukcevic 44) VfB Stuttgart 1 (Cacau 19)

Werder Bremen 1 (Pizarro 59) Hamburg 1 (van Nistelrooy 82)

Freiburg 2 (Idrissou 60, Cisse 70, 90+4) Borussia Dortmund 1 (Barrios 47)

Mainz 05 0 Schalke 04 0

Borussia M'gladbach 1 (Brouwers 55) Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Helmes 34)

VfL Bochum 0 Hanover 96 3 (Bruggink 9, Hanke 23, Pinto 45)

Nuremberg 1 (Ottl 88) Cologne 0

VfL Wolfsburg 3 (Misimovic 21, Riether 30, Dzeko 34) Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Fenin 86)

Players of Bayern Munich celebrate with the championship shield after beating Hertha Berlin in the final day of the Bundesliga season at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on Saturday.

eighth in the table.

In the fight to avoid the second division. drop, Hanover, whose captain Robert Enke tragically committed suicide last November, preserved their Bundesliga status with a 3-0 win at Bochum that sent Hertha will now be relegated

Nuremberg beat Cologne 1-0, but it was not enough to save them from a relegation showdown.

Bochum and bottom side

Dutch title with AZ Alkmaar

and now the Bundesliga with

Bayern won their 22nd

winning rhythm, which is

their opponents into the and Nuremberg finish in 16th, which means they will face second division Augsburg in a two-legged play-off next Wednesday and Sunday for the right to a place in the Bundesliga.

Ramos keeps up hope

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos insists his side have not given up hope of lifting this season's title and said they would take their hats off to Barcelona if the champions retained their title with victory at home to Valladolid next weekend.

"We are happy with the final score, but sad that Barcelona earned another win in Seville," said Ramos.

"It was impossible not to keep an eye on the other match. The league is at stake. We had a comfortable lead and we were hoping for a final push by Sevilla.

"Our goal is to make it to 98 points and I know we will accomplish it. All we can do is congratulate Barcelona if they make it to 99."

Real are at relegationthreatened Malaga on the final day of the season while Barcelona are at home to Valladolid who are also fight-

ing to save their lives. "The tension of knowing that you depend on others doesn't allow you to focus as best you can, but we came out to win in the second half," said

defender Alvaro Arbeloa. "We know it will be hard, but we have one match left. As long as there is still some hope left we will fight until the end.

"There is slight hope that Mr Clemente (Javier Clemente is the Valladolid coach) can lend us a hand by parking one or two buses (in front of the goal)."

Kuranyi moves to Dynamo Moscow

AFP, Berlin

Schalke's German striker Kevin Kuranyi said Sunday he was leaving the Bundesliga outfit for a reported three-year deal with Russia's Dynamo Moscow that would see him more than double his salary.

The 28-year-old Brazilianborn star, one of the Bundesliga's top scorers this season with 18 goals, confirmed numerous press reports that he was heading to the Russian side, currently 10th in their championship.

"After carefully weighing all the arguments and following several discussions, I have decided to transfer to Russia with Dynamo Moscow," Kuranyi said in a "letter to fans" posted on his Internet

"There is of course a financial aspect," he added, with press reports saying he could expect to earn in the region of six million euros (eight million dollars) per year, more than double his current wage

packet.

BARCA-MADRID LOCKED IN BATTLE

Final day to decide all

AFP, Madrid



The Spanish league title will go down to a thrilling final day of the season with champions Barcelona holding a onepoint lead over Real Madrid after a tense 3-2 win at Sevilla on Saturday. Real defeated 10-man

34 5 9 20 34

Athletic Bilbao 5-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu although it was not as easy as the scoreline suggested with three goals in four minutes turning the tide.

Barcelona have 96 points, a point ahead of Real, and host Valladolid at Camp Nou on the final day of the season while Real travel to Malaga.

Barca for his 32nd goal of a terrific season and chance early on. Bojan Krkic bagged a second on 28 minutes. Pedro Rodriguez added a third in the second

half before Frederic Kanoute (68) and Luis Fabiano (71) stunned the visitors with quick goals and Barca had to hold on for a nervy win that, in truth, should have been comfortable.

Real went past 100 goals for the season with a 5-1 rout of Bilbao although they were helped by

"There is slight hope that Mr Clemente (Javier Clemente is the Valladolid coach) can lend us a hand by parking one or two buses (in front of the goal)."

Alvaro Arbeloa

the dismissal of Fernando Amorebieta after 21 minutes.

Cristiano Ronaldo made it five goals in three games with a 22nd minute penalty for his 26th goal of the season only for Francisco Yeste to equalise before half-time.

A goal blitz saw Gonzalo Higuain, Sergio Ramos, Karim Benzema and Marcelo score in the final 13 minutes as Real prevented Barcelona from winning the league for one more weekend.

Barcelona had won their last three meetings against Sevilla scoring 11 goals and not conceding any so the omens were good although Sevilla had knocked them out of this season's Kings Cup.

With five minutes gone Barca got the dream start with Maxwell releasing Messi who was just onside and the Argentine controlled and fired past Andres Palop for his 32nd goal of the season.

It was a huge shot in the arm and Barca dominated proceedings up to the second goal on 28 minutes through Bojan.

Maxwell slipped a pass to Bojan who shrugged off his marker to fire home and Pep Guardiola was off the susbtitutes bench pumping his first in glee.

Messi missed a sitter to make it 3-0 before the

interval but at half-time Barcelona knew they would be champions with Real locked 1-1 against Bilbao. Palop pulled off a wonder save to deny Messi in the second half and Sevilla then shook the

champions with Kanoute and Fabiano scoring

inside a matter of minutes. Real knew they couldn't slip up against Bilbao and 33-year-old Guti started in what could be final appearance at the Bernabeu with reports that he will end his 15-year association with the club and join Turkish side Galatasaray.

All eyes were on Ronaldo after his hat-trick Lionel Messi scored a fifth minute opener for against Mallorca and he headed over a good

The Portuguese star was involved again on 21 minutes as his goalbound shot was handled by Amorebieta and Bilbao were handed a double punishment as Amorebieta was red-carded and Real were awarded a penalty.

Ronaldo converted for his 26th league goal and Bilbao were expected to cave in with one **SEE PAGE 18 COL 4**

RESULTS

Getafe 2 (Soldado 26, Leon 56) Malaga 1 (Fernando 90)

Sporting Gijon 1 (De las Cuevas 57) Atletico Madrid 1 (Ibrahima 71)

Valladolid 2 (Baraja 56, Nauzet 78-pen)

Racing Santander 1 (Christian 28) Sevilla 2 (Kanoute 68, Fabiano 71)

Barcelona 3 (Messi 5, Bojan 28, Pedro 62) Tenerife 2 (Bertran 15, Nino 90) Almeria 2 (Piatti 17, Crusat 80)

Villarreal 2 (Rossi 10, Llorente 18) Valencia 0 Xerez 3 (Francis 22, Michel 68, Calvo 74)

Real Zaragoza 2 (Herrera 66, Gabi 76) Espanyol 2 (Forlin 49, Osvaldo 51) Osasuna 1 (Vadocz 5)

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Riki 68) Real Mallorca 0

Real Madrid 5 (Ronaldo 22-pen, Higuain 77, Ramos 79, Benzema 80, Marcelo 88) Athletic Bilbao 1 (Yeste 41)

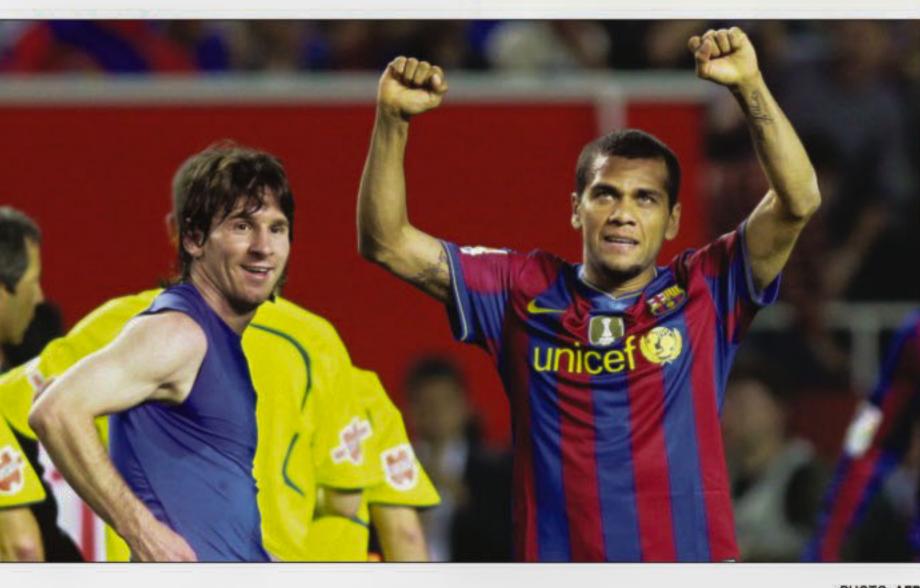


PHOTO: AFP Barcelona wing-back Dani Alves celebrates after winning their Primera Liga match against Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan on Saturday.

IN BRIEF

Van Basten set for Milan?

AFP, Rome

Former Netherlands coach and AC Milan striker Marco van Basten on Saturday dropped a huge hint that he may take over from Leonardo as coach of the Italians next season.

Leonardo is in the first year of a two-year deal but speculation has been rife for some weeks now that the powers that be at the San Siro are unsatisfied with his tenure and will terminate his contract in the close

Milan are third in the Serie A table and, barring defeat in the last two games, will almost certainly finish there.

But they reached only the second round of the Champions League, where they were thrashed 7-2 on aggregate by Manchester United, and the quarter-finals of the Coppa

The season has been something of a failure given that a little over a month ago they had several chances to go top of the table, only to lose or draw each time.

And van Basten, who also played for and coached Ajax, is one of the names in line to take over from Leonardo should he leave.

Talking to regional television in Lombardy he said: "We will talk about this when the time is right, now is not the time."

Lehmann hangs up gloves

AFP, Berlin

Flamboyant ex-Germany goalkeeper Jens Lehmann ended his 22-year career on Saturday as he played his final Bundesliga match for Stuttgart in a 1-1 draw with Hoffenheim.

The 40-year-old ex-Arsena

shot-stopper has hung up his gloves and will be a TV pundit for next month's World Cup, having grabbed the headlines here for falling out with fans, team-mates and even ballboys over the last two years. This was his 394th German

league game and he also played

Blues and then the Bundesliga

for Schalke 04 (1988-98), AC Milan (1998) and Borussia Dortmund (1998-2003). Lehmann made his debut for Schalke in 1988 and won the 1997 UEFA Cup with the Royal

with Dortmund in 2002. He made his name during five years at Premier League side Arsenal and was notably sent off for fouling Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o after only 18 minutes of the 2006 Champions League final which Arsenal lost.

He won both the FA Cup and the Premier League title with the North London giants.

Van Gaal toasts success

Bayern.

AFP, Berlin



Ga admitted he was delighted his side dominated the German Milan. league this season after he

collected his third national league title with four different season," said Van Gaal as Having won the Dutch Germanleaguetitle.

league with Ajax in 1994, 1995 and 1996, Van Gaal won the Spain's La Liga twice with Barcelona in 1998 and 1999 before winning last season's



Bayern Munich manager Louis van Gaal toasts his side's success with a swig of champagne following their Bundesliga triumph in Berlin on Saturday.

yet to come. "We have the most points,

the best attack."

Having taken Bayern's helm in July 2009, Van Gaal is The facts speak for themnow one step closer to the selves. treble with the German Cup Bayern lost just four league final still to come against matches this term, the best

but also the best defence and

Werder Bremen on Saturday record in the Bundesliga and before the Champions League their 20th victory on Saturday final on May 22 against Inter was another league best. Munich collected 44 yellow

"It matters to me that we cards all season, the lowest were best in everything this number in the Bundesliga and scored the most league goals

with 72. Having forged Munich's "It is good that we won array of stars into a formidable here: it means we keep the unit this season, pay-back time came in Berlin shortly important for our big games after the final whistle as Bayern's squad, armed with huge glasses of beer, hunted

> the coach to give him a soak-Tradition decrees in Germany that the coach of the winning Bundesliga team is drenched in beer after the final whistle on the last day of the season and the Dutchman

> Van Gaal finished the festivities drenched as captain Mark van Bommel emptied his glass over him. "Five or six of them came

was no exception.

after me, I did quite well initially, I wasn't completely soaked," said the 58-year-old.

"But I dropped my guard a little, and they came back at me. It's wonderful."

Webber rules Barcelona

AFP, Barcelona



his first victory of the season and the third of his career on Sunday when he cruised to a sumptuous triumph for Red Bull in the Spanish Grand Prix.

The 33-year-old Australian,

Webber

secured

starting from his third pole position, made the most of that advantage to hold his place in the crush on the opening lap, resisting all attacks at the first corner, and streaking clear of the field.

It was his first win since last year's Brazilian Grand Prix after he had become the first Australian victor since Alan Jones in 1981 when he claimed his maiden win in Germany and will have injected priceless belief in his bid to challenge for the championship.

Webber came home 24 seconds clear of home hero two-times champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso of Ferrari, who profited from two dramatic late incidents to climb from fourth and give the big Catalan crowd good rea-

son to celebrate. Briton Lewis Hamilton of

McLaren looked certain to finish second until he suffered a puncture on his penultimate lap of the 66-laps contest and crashed off the track, his front left wheel almost wrenched off his car.

This gave Alonso his second place and also enabled Webber's Red Bull teammate German Sebastian Vettel to take third despite having to take an additional pit-stop in the closing stages after he had gone off into a gravel trap.

These late rare incidents were among very few to punc-

Grand Prix on Sunday.

tuate what turned out, predictably, to be a largely processional race at the Circuit de

Seven-times champion German Michael Schumacher, 41, came home fourth ahead of fifth-placed defending champion Briton Jenson Button in the second

Catalunya.

McLaren. Brazilian Felipe Massa was sixth in the second Ferrari ahead of German Adrian Sutil

of Force India, in seventh, Pole

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PHOTO: AFP Red Bull driver Mark Webber is ecstatic after winning the Spanish