

RESULTS

SERIE A

Brescia 3 (Dallamano 3, Eder 28, Caracciolo 43-pen) Palermo 2 (Pastore 22, Balzaretti 83)

Catania 2 (Mascara 12-pen, Antenucci 82-pen) Parma 1 (Giovino 90)

Genoa 1 (Destro 6) **Chievo 3** (Moscaredelli 45, Marcolini 56, Pellissier 74)

Juventus 3 (Marchisio 43, Pepe 50, Quagliarella 67) Sampdoria 3 (Pozzi 36, 73, Cassano 64)

Lazio 3 (Mauri 68, Rocchi 75, Hemanes 90-pen) Bologna 1 (Mudingayi 78)

Lecce 1 (Di Michele 9) Fiorentina 0

Napoli 2 (Cavani 30, Cannavaro 87) Bari 2 (Barreto 12, Castillo 88)

Inter Milan 2 (Lucio 7, Eto'o 67) Udinese 1 (Floro Flores 31)

Cagliari 5 (Conti 8, Matri 23-pen, 47, Acquafresca 38, Lazzari 88) AS Roma 1 (De Rossi 18)

Cesena 2 (Bogdani 31, Giaccherini 44) AC Milan 0

LA LIGA

Getafe 4 (Gavilan 5, 90, Colunga 10, Arizmendi 90) Levante 1 (Jorda 13)

Sporting Gijon 2 (Botia 47, Castro 86-pen) Mallorca 0

Real Zaragoza 3 (Edmilson 40, Perez 68, Herrera 80) **Malaga 5** (Fernando 1, 27, Juanmi 7, 29, Quincy 34)

Villarreal 4 (Rossi 23, 55-pen, Valero 31, Nilmar 77) Espanyol 0

Barcelona 0 **Hercules 2** (Valdez 26, 58)

Valencia 1 (Maduro 47) Racing Santander 0

Real Madrid 1 (Carvalho 48) Osasuna 0

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Llorente 88)

Athletic Madrid 2 (Forlan 10, Tiago 80)

PREMIERSHIP

Birmingham 0 Liverpool 0

Arsenal 4 (Koscielny 24, Chamakh 58, Song 78, Vela 83)

Bolton 1 (Elmander 44)

Everton 3 (Pienaar 39, Cahill 90, Arteta 90) Man Utd 3 (Fletcher 43, Vidic 47, Berbatov 66)

Fulham 2 (Dembele 49, 90) Wolves 1 (Van Damme 10)

Man City 1 (Vieira 55) Blackburn 1 (Kalinic 25)

Newcastle 0 **Blackpool 2** (Adam 45-pen, Campbell 90)

West Brom 1 (Brunt 41)

Tottenham 1 (Modric 27)

West Ham 1 (Parker 85) **Chelsea 3** (Essien 2, 83, Kalou 18)

Wigan 1 (Alcaraz 87) Sunderland 1 (Gyan 66)

BUNDESLIGA

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Sahin 50, Kagawa 67) VfL Wolfsburg 0

Hamburg 1 (Mathijsen 61)

Nuremberg 1 (Pinola 82-pen)

Borussia Moenchengladbach 0

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Koehler 24, Gekas 36, 64, Ochs 50)

Freiburg 2 (Cisse 58, Schuster 71) VfB Stuttgart 1 (Pogrebnyak 27)

Hanover 96 2 (Ya Konan 20, Abdellaoue 50) Bayer Leverkusen 2



Manchester United star Wayne Rooney (R) kicks the ball as teammate Gary Neville looks on during a training session at Carrington yesterday ahead of their tonight's Champions League clash against Glasgow Rangers.

Blues surge clear

AFP, London



Chelsea maintained their perfect start to the Premier League season on Saturday as a dramatic injury time fightback saw a Wayne Rooney-less Manchester United throw away victory at Everton.

Two goals from Michael Essien and a Salomon Kalou strike helped the Blues to a 3-1 win over West Ham at Upton Park as Carlo Ancelotti's men preserved their two-point lead at the top of the table.

Ancelotti played down his team's flying start to the season, which has seen them open up an early four-point lead over perennial title rivals Manchester United.

"It means nothing," Ancelotti said. "We've started better than Manchester United, but it will be a long race. I said last year that the race is only decided at the end of the season. I will say the same this year."

Manchester United missed the chance to keep the pressure on Chelsea after Everton scored twice in stoppage time to scramble a 3-3 draw against Sir Alex Ferguson's men in Saturday's early game at Goodison Park.

United had appeared to be cruising to victory after goals from Darren Fletcher,

Nemanja Vidic and Dimitar Berbatov had cancelled out Steven Pienaar's first half opener.

However a late header from Tim Cahill and shot from Mikel Arteta gave Everton an improbable share of the points to leave United four points behind Chelsea -- and Ferguson fuming.

"Football can do that to you," Ferguson said. "In a game of a completely comfortable position we've thrown it away - simple as that. We had chances to bury Everton and we didn't do it."

Arsenal stayed in touch at the top with a 4-1 rout of 10-man Bolton at the Emirates, with summer signings Laurent Koscielny and Marouane Chamakh both getting on the scoresheet for Arsene Wenger's side.

Koscielny had fired the Gunners into a 1-0 lead on 24 minutes but Wanderers hit back through Johan Elmander on the stroke of half time after good work by South Korea international Lee Chong-Yong.

Moroccan international Chamakh restored Arsenal's lead however, capitalising on good work from skipper Cesc Fabregas.

Bolton's task was made harder when Gary Cahill was given a straight red card for a wild lunge on Chamakh before goals from Alex Song and Carlos Vela sealed the points.

Wenger meanwhile said Arsenal's refusal to be unsettled by a physical Bolton team was proof of his team's growing resilience.

"We have had two games, at Blackburn and today, which we certainly would not have taken six points from two years ago," Wenger said. "The players can handle these situations."

At Eastlands, Manchester City's faltering form continued as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Blackburn Rovers.

A dreadful mix-up between England goalkeeper Joe Hart and Kolo Toure saw City fall behind, Nikola Kalinic sneaking in to put Blackburn 1-0 up.

However City got back on level terms early in the second half when former French international Patrick Vieira netted a vital equaliser for Roberto Mancini's multi-millionaires.

City boss Mancini refused to blame Hart for his blunder.

"This is a fluke, it can happen in football but I hope after today we finish making gifts to the opponent. It can happen. Joe Hart is a good goalkeeper," Mancini stressed.

Blackpool earned their second victory of the season -- and second away from home -- with a 2-0 defeat of Newcastle at St James Park.

A Charlie Adam penalty and a late goal on the counter from DJ Campbell helped Ian Holloway's Tangerines to all three points.

Ghanaian international Asamoah Gyan saw his Sunderland career get off to a dream start as he rose from the substitutes bench to rifle in the opener at Wigan before Antolin Alcaraz earned a 1-1 draw for the home side.

Gyan, a 13-million-pound signing from Rennes, volleyed home a Jordan Henderson cross for the Black Cats, who recovered from the first half dismissal of Lee Cattermole to thwart the Latics.

Tottenham handed new signing Rafael van der Vaart a debut at the Hawthorns but were held 1-1 by West Bromwich Albion. Luka Modric put Spurs 1-0 up but departed injured after 32 minutes before Chris Brunt levelled for the Baggies.

Two goals from Moussa Dembele helped Fulham fight back from 1-0 down to secure a 2-1 win over Wolves at Craven Cottage.

The Cottagers were rocked by a 10th-minute goal from Wolves defender Jelle Van Damme before Belgian forward Dembele struck in the 49th and 90th minutes to give Mark Hughes team their first win of the season.

However, Fulham's joy was tempered by a broken leg suffered by Bobby Zamora which could keep the England striker sidelined for up to four months.

Becks wants to play for England

AFP, London

David Beckham has not ruled out the possibility of resurrecting his England career after making a successful return from injury for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The 35-year-old icon took to the field for the first time in six months on Saturday, coming on as a substitute in the Galaxy's 3-1 defeat of Major League Soccer rivals Columbus Crew.

England manager Fabio Capello created a controversy last month after indicating Beckham was too old to feature in his plans for the Euro 2012 qualifying campaign.

But Beckham told Sky Sports News in an interview he still wanted to be considered by Capello.

"I'd like to be available to play for England," Beckham said. "If I'm fit then I'm sure the (England) manager will consider me."

Beckham would almost certainly have played in his fourth World Cup this year but was ruled out after snapping an achilles tendon while playing for AC Milan in March.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid star admitted he feared he might never play again after the injury.

Perez plans to cover Bernabeu

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid plan to cover their famous Santiago Bernabeu stadium in the heart of the Spanish capital, the club's president Florentino Perez has said.

The nine-time European champions envisage fitting a roof as part of an extensive upgrade to the venue built in 1947, Perez told Real Madrid's annual general meeting.

"The upgrade must convert the stadium into an icon of sports architecture. We must be leaders in everything, even in our facilities," he was quoted as saying in the local media.

Perez did not say when the works to renovate the stadium would begin, saying only that "it will not be easy".

The stadium, named after a former Real chairman, has undergone several upgrades since it first opened its doors and can now accommodate over 80,000 fans. It attracts about 700,000 tourists each year.

The venue staged last season's Champions League final in which Inter Milan beat Bayern Munich.

Tricky tie for Inter

AFP, Paris



AFP, Paris

The opening shots of the 2010/2011 Champions League campaign are fired this week with tricky assignments lying in wait for Inter Milan and the main contenders to the Italian holders' coveted crown.

Group stage action gets underway Tuesday with Inter away to Dutch champions FC Twente in what promises to be a rigorous examination of their capability to become the first back-to-back winners since AC Milan in 1989-90.

Inter, with Rafael Benitez succeeding Jose Mourinho in the San Siro hotseat, received an early season bodyblow last month when coming unstuck 2-0 to Atletico Madrid in the European SuperCup in Monaco.

After that former Liverpool boss Benitez will be looking for a firm statement of intent from his new team in a Group A that also comprises competition newboys Tottenham.

The English Premier League side take their first dip into the world's most lucrative club competition with a testing trip away to Bundesliga outfit Werder Bremen.

Spurs travel to Germany without injured striker Jermain Defoe, the hat-trick getter in

England's 4-0 Euro 2012 qualifier win over Bulgaria, as well as captain Ledley King, Michael Dawson, and possibly playmaker Luca Modric.

Bremen go into the tie with a spring in their step after holding German champions Bayern Munich to a goalless draw at the weekend.

In Group B Sir Alex Ferguson crosses swords with a team from his youth as Rangers visit Old Trafford to take on Manchester United.

Ferguson grew up near Ibrox in Govan and was a former player with the Scottish champions.

Three-time winners United and Rangers were drawn together at the same stage of the competition in 2003/2004 with Ferguson's side winning 3-0 at home and 1-0 at Ibrox.

United will welcome back Wayne Rooney, who sat out Saturday's 3-3 draw at his old club Everton with Ferguson preferring to protect his striker from all the barracking he was

set to receive by home fans over the lurid allegations swirling around him about his private life.

Tuesday's menu also sees 2009 winners Barcelona, humbled by minnows Hercules 2-0 in the Spanish league on Saturday, hosting Greek outfit Panathinaikos and Copenhagen up against Russian league winners Rubin Kazan in Group D.

In Group B last season's semifinalists Lyon face Schalke while Hapoel Tel-Aviv are at Benfica.

FIXTURES

Twente (NED) v Inter Milan (ITA), Werder Bremen (GER) v Tottenham (ENG), Lyon (FRA) v Schalke (GER), Benfica (POR) v Hapoel Tel-Aviv (ISR), Man Utd (ENG) v Rangers (SCO), Bursaspor (TUR) v Valencia (ESP), Barcelona (ESP) v Panathinaikos (GRE), Copenhagen (DEN) v Rubin

Barca, Milan shamed

AFP, Paris

Barcelona and AC Milan, with 10 European Cup and Champions League titles between them, suffered embarrassing defeats at the weekend as Europe's formbook was turned upside down.

Spanish champions Barcelona slumped to a shock 2-0 home defeat at the hands of Hercules, who are in the top flight for the first time in 13 years, while, in Italy, Cesena, also a promoted team, stunned Milan 2-0.

Paraguayan forward Nelson Haedo Valdez, signed from Borussia Dortmund, grabbed both Hercules goals to hand Barcelona their first home defeat since May 23, 2009.

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, who must pick his side up for Tuesday's Champions League opener against Panathinaikos at Camp Nou, refused to make excuses for the Hercules setback with the match coming after a two-week interval for Euro 2012 qualifiers.

"There have always been international breaks and we didn't fail to win because of that," said Guardiola.

"I see how the players work every day and I don't have any doubts about this team."

Defeat was also a bitter disappointment for Argentina's Javier Mascherano who was making his Barcelona debut following his 22-million-euro signing from Liverpool.



Hercules striker Nelson Valdez (L) celebrates one of his two goals with teammates during their Primera Liga tie against Barcelona at Nou Camp on Saturday.

Bayern fire blanks

AFP, Berlin



AFP, Berlin

Defending champions Bayern Munich were held to a dull goalless draw by Werder Bremen on Saturday as both sides prepared for next week's Champions League opening games with mediocre performances.

Bremen host Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday while Bayern take on AS Roma on Wednesday, but neither side were impressive at Munich's Allianz Arena.

Bremen squandered clear second-half chances when Austrian striker Marko Arnautovic and Germany midfielder Tim Borowski both fired just off target as Werder gave debuts to new signings Wesley and Mikael Silvestre.

Bayern coach Louis van Gaal played Germany striker Miroslav Klose as centre-forward behind Ivica Olic, but it was his second-half replacement Toni Kroos who came closest to scoring, twice testing Bremen 'keeper Tim Wiese.

The result leaves both sides in mid-table on four points.

Earlier Saturday, Germany captain Michael Ballack suffered a further setback on his return from injury when he was forced to limp out of Bayer Leverkusen's 2-2 draw at 10-man Hanover.

Hanover's Ivory Coast striker Didier Ya Konan had earlier scored his second goal in three games when the 26-year-old capitalised on a rare mistake in Leverkusen's defence and slotted his shot home on 20 minutes.

Hanover were reduced to 10 men after just

36 minutes when Austrian defender Emanuel Pogatetz was shown a second yellow card and the subsequent red when he sent Leverkusen's Arturo Vidal flying with a dangerous tackle.

The hosts scored their second goal when Norway striker Mohammed Abdellaoue was left unmarked at a corner and headed home on 50 minutes.

Leverkusen's Swiss striker Eren Derdiyok scored on 62 minutes just two minutes after coming off the bench before Patrick Helmes scored from a free-kick in the 89th minute as Leverkusen fought back.

In the tense closing stages, Hanover coach Mirko Slomka, who turns 43 on Sunday, was sent to the stands for arguing with the linesman.

The result leaves Leverkusen in mid-table and Hanover third behind leaders Hoffenheim.

Hamburg drew 1-1 at home to Nuremberg which leaves them second in the table.

In the day's other matches, Stuttgart lost 2-1 at Freiburg to suffer their third defeat of the season while Eintracht Frankfurt routed Gladbach 4-0.

Ex-England manager Steve McClaren is still looking for his first win of the season as his Wolfsburg side lost 2-0 at Dortmund whose Japanese midfielder Shinji Kagawa scored his first Bundesliga goal.

On Friday, Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer conceded a late own goal as Hoffenheim kept up their dream start to the season to claim their third-straight victory with a 2-0 win over Schalke.

Deadlock over Robben

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge revealed Saturday there has been no resolution in the compensation fight with the Dutch football association over the World Cup injury to winger Arjen Robben.

Robben is not expected to play again until next year having aggravated a torn muscle in his left thigh which he picked up helping the Dutch reach the final of the World Cup.

Rummenigge has demanded compensation and the Bundesliga champions have met with the Dutch to discuss the loss of Robben, but without result so far.

"Our team doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt has clearly documented what we see is the violation of Arjen Robben," Rummennigge told Sky after Bayern were held to a goalless draw by Bremen on Saturday in the German league.

"We want to offset the financial loss."

Rummennigge said both parties had exchanged their points of view and had agreed to continue the talks.

"It is clear that FIFA will not create a precedent with Arjen Robben," said Rummennigge. Robben was first injured in a World Cup warm-up game on June 5 against Hungary, but remained in the Dutch squad despite tearing a muscle and eventually played in the tournament after intensive rehabilitation.



Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien celebrates the third goal against West Ham United during their Premier League encounter at Upton Park on Saturday.