



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo goes wild after scoring the opening goal against Deportivo Coruna during their Primera Liga encounter at Bernabeu on Sunday.

Bayern slump goes on

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich's Bundesliga slump continued on Sunday when they suffered their second straight league defeat as they were beaten 2-0 at second-placed Dortmund.

After Bayern lost 2-1 to new leaders Mainz last weekend, this was Louis van Gaal-coached Munich's third defeat of the season from seven games and leaves them 12th in the table - 13 points from the leaders.

"We didn't make the most of our chances, especially in the first-half," fumed Bayern captain Mark van Bommel.

"We made life difficult for ourselves."

"It's nonsense to say we couldn't stand the pressure, our mistakes led to the goals."

"Dortmund didn't get better during the game, we just got worse."

"Anyone who doesn't want to fight for us needs to get off the pitch."

Dortmund took the lead when striker Lucas Barrios scored his fourth goal of the season after he pounced on a loose ball and his shot took a deflection off defender Holger Badstuber's foot and into the back of the net on 52 minutes.

Turkey midfielder Nuri Sahin compounded Bayern's misery when he curled in a freekick on 60 minutes. Barrios nearly claimed his second when he beat Bayern's goalkeeper, but the ball rebounded off the goalpost on 69 minutes.

Dortmund stay second and with 18 points and this is their sixth straight victory. Leverkusen equalised when Swiss striker Eren Derdiyok scored in the 78th minute.

The result leaves Bremen 13th in the league and Leverkusen fourth. Earlier, ten-man Stuttgart

Helmes, who has been left out of the squad for this month's Euro 2012 qualifiers, scored his second goal in three league games when he netted in the 16th minute.

Werder Bremen equalised when striker Hugo Almeida scored from a free-kick on 53 minutes and Germany winger

suffered their sixth Bundesliga defeat from seven on Sunday as they were beaten 2-1 by Frankfurt.

The guests took the lead when veteran Greece striker Theofanis Gekas scored with a header on 18 minutes before Brazilian defender Chris scored the second from a corner on 68 minutes.

To compound Stuttgart's misery, captain Matthieu Delpierre was sent off on 84 minutes when he let his frustrations get the better of him as he tackled Frankfurt's Patrick Ochs and hacked the ankle long before the ball.

The hosts fought hard in the hectic closing stages as Russian striker Pavel Pogrebnyak scored his fifth goal of the season for Stuttgart less than a minute after Delpierre's dismissal.

The result is Stuttgart's third straight league defeat and their sixth of the season and their next league game is against second-from-bottom Schalke on October 16.

Italy recall Zambrotta

AFP, Rome

Veteran AC Milan full-back Gianluca Zambrotta is amongst four changes to the Italy squad for this month's Euro 2012 qualifiers against Northern Ireland and Serbia.

Coach Cesare Prandelli recalled the 33-year-old alongside his club team-mate striker Marco Borriello, Genoa full-back Domenico Criscito and Lazio midfielder Stefano Mauri.

Defenders Lorenzo De Silvestri of Fiorentina and Stuttgart's Cristian Molinaro as well as midfielder Riccardo Montolivo of Fiorentina and Juventus striker Fabio Quagliarella miss out from the squad picked for last month's qualifiers against Estonia and Faroe Islands.

Italy lead Group C following their two victories last month.

They play away to Northern Ireland on Friday before hosting Serbia in Genoa the following Tuesday October 12.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Antonio Mirante (Parma), Salvatore Sirigu (Palermo), Emiliano Viviano (Bologna)
Defenders: Luca Antonelli (Parma), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Cesare Bovo (Palermo), Mattia Cassani (Palermo), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Domenico Criscito (Genoa), Daniele Gastaldello (Sampdoria), Gianluca Zambrotta (AC Milan)
Midfielders: Daniele De Rossi (Roma), Andrea Lazzari (Cagliari), Claudio Marchisio (Juventus), Riccardo Montolivo (Fiorentina), Angelo Palombo (Sampdoria), Stefano Mauri (Lazio), Simone Pepe (Juventus)
Attackers: Antonio Cassano (Sampdoria), Alberto Gilardino (Fiorentina), Giampaolo Pazzini (Sampdoria), Marco Borriello (AC Milan), Giuseppe Rossi (Villarreal/ESP)

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Six-shooter Real

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid took full advantage of a slip-up by Barcelona with a sparkling 6-1 victory over Deportivo Coruna to climb above their arch-rivals into third place in the La Liga standings on Sunday.

Real coach Jose Mourinho had warned that an opponent would soon pay for his side's recent goal drought and Depor were the whipping boys on a rain-sodden night at the Bernabeu.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Mesut Ozil, Angel Di Maria and Gonzalo Higuain put Real 4-0 ahead

Juan Rodriguez scored a consolation for the visitors and Ronaldo raced on to Xabi Alonso's pass to complete the rout as Real doubled their season's goal tally to 12 from six matches.

"We have to be happy with what was a very complete performance," Real midfielder Xabi Alonso said in a television interview.

"It was important to get the early goal and we're happy for the forwards above all."

Barca had earlier failed to capitalise on a clinical Lionel Messi strike at home to Real Mallorca and the champions conceded a soft goal just before halftime to draw 1-1 at the Nou Camp.

Real have 14 points, two behind leaders Valencia, who secured their place at the top for another week when Aritz Aduriz and Vicente netted in a 2-1 home win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Villarreal are second on 15 after they recorded a fifth successive victory by beating Racing Santander 2-0 thanks to goals from Nilmar and Giuseppe Rossi.

Barca have 13 in fourth, one ahead of Sevilla. Alvaro Negredo scored one and created another to inspire the Andalusians to a 3-1 home win over Atletico Madrid on new coach

Gregorio Manzano's home debut.

With the Real faithful sporting transparent plastic raincoats, Mourinho's Portuguese compatriot Ronaldo set Real on their way against Depor in the fourth minute.

The former World Player of the Year, who has had a difficult start to the season, headed powerfully past goalkeeper Manu from a corner.

New fan favourite Ozil weaved into a scoring position and drilled home in the 24th and Di Maria finished off a swift break with a spectacular header 10 minutes later.

He turned provider for Higuain eight minutes into the second period, lifting a cross over Manu for his Argentina team mate to volley into the empty net.

Barca were stunned 2-0 at home by promoted Hercules last month and Mallorca, coached by former Barca player Michael Laudrup, checked the Catalans' title defence again.

Messi celebrated picking up his European Golden Shoe trophy by scoring the opening goal, curling a shot into the corner of the net from just outside the penalty area.

After Messi went close to doubling Barca's lead, Mallorca midfielder Gonzalo Castro forced a fine save from Victor Valdes on a rare foray by the visitors and they were level from the resulting corner.

Gerard Pique and Gabriel Milito failed to clear and Emilio Nsue powered a header

into the net. The goal unsettled the champions and Pierrick Webó and Nsue had chances to give the Balearic Islanders a shock lead.

The home side regrouped and poured forward in search of a winner but were guilty of over-elaboration.

Barca coach Pep Guardiola, who played in the same side as Laudrup in the early 1990s, conceded the champions were unlikely to match last season's record points tally of 99.

"We should have closed off the match and we have squandered two points," he told a news conference.

"The points total we achieved last season is very tough to do and I don't think we'll reach it again this time," he added.



PHOTO: AFP

Football or wrestling? Bayern Munich striker Thomas Mueller (R) and Dortmund midfielder Nuri Sahin fight for the ball during their Bundesliga tie in Dortmund on Sunday.

Derby of Italy ends goalless

REUTERS, Milan



Inter Milan drew 0-0 with bitter Serie A rivals Juventus on Sunday after the two tired sides failed to end a San Siro stalemate despite decent chances.

The result meant champions Inter finished the weekend in second spot, two points behind new leaders Lazio who beat Brescia 1-0 in Rome to move on to 13 points from six games.

Inter had the best opportunity when Marco Storari kept out Maicon's header from a Wesley Sneijder free kick but seventh-placed Juve will feel they deserved the point.

Inter coach Rafael Benitez, in his first "Derby of Italy", named the same side which beat Werder Bremen 4-0 in the Champions League in mid-week so fit-again striker Diego Milito had to be content with starting on the bench.

enced Jonathan Biabiany was injured on the half-hour mark so the Argentine came on and had two good chances, one from a cross from the again excellent Samuel Eto'o.

Juventus also had a slight surprise in their starting lineup with Fabio Quagliarella being preferred to talisman Alessandro Del Piero and the striker had three decent sniffs at goal.

The build-up to the match between Inter, who have won the last five league titles, and Juve, Italy's best supported and most successful domestic club, had been dominated by continuing rows over the 2006 match-fixing scandal and fans were hyped up.

Minor trouble between supporters was reported outside the not-quite-packed San Siro before kickoff but the encounter on the pitch was rather tame.

Juve's new winger Milos Krasic forced Julio Cesar into two smart saves although Vincenzo Iaquinta was rightly ruled offside when he netted

the Serbia's cross.

Lazio hit top spot earlier on Sunday, after Stefano Mauri netted just before the break when Hernanes, bought from Sao Paulo and already looking like one of the Serie A signings of the season, used his trickery to release the recalled Italy midfielder.

"We have to reach 40 points before anything else, no joking," experienced coach Edy Reja told Sky, still fearing another relegation dogfight for the 1974 and 2000 champions.

Palermo's new Slovenian

midfielder Josip Ilicic has also made a big impression in his first weeks in Italy and scored his first league goal with a spectacular left-footed shot to set up a 2-1 win at struggling Fiorentina.

It was a day for midfielders breaking forward and Marek Hamsik made third-placed Napoli's pressure tell by bagging the second-half opener in a 2-0 home victory over AS Roma, who were runners-up last term but now lie second from bottom.

Claudio Ranieri's Roma beat Inter at home last weekend for their first win of the campaign but they threatened little in Naples where the home side doubled their lead through Juan's own goal.

Luca Toni headed home deep into stoppage time to give Genoa a 2-1 home win over Bari while Sampdoria drew 1-1 at Bologna.

Chievo drew 0-0 with Cagliari and Lecce beat Catania 1-0 before Serie A stopped for the international break.

RESULTS
Lecce 1 (Corvia 36) Catania 0
Bologna 1 (Britos 64) Sampdoria 1 (Portanova 45-og)
Chievo 0 Cagliari 0
Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 58) **Palermo 2** (Ilicic 20, Pastore 37)
Genoa 2 (Palacio 36, Toni 90) Bari 1 (Barreto 52-pen)
Lazio 1 (Mauri 45) Brescia 0
Napoli 2 (Hamsik 72, Juan 83-og) AS Roma 0



PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba (C, back) opens the scoring against Arsenal during their Premier League clash at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.