

# Schalke in despair

AFP, Berlin



Werder Bremen and Schalke both warmed-up in poor fashion for crunch Champions League clashes on Tuesday as they were both beaten at home in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Werder Bremen are at home to Dutch side FC Twente in Group A, but they were beaten 3-2 at home by Nuremberg in the German league.

Likewise, Schalke are at Hapoel Tel Aviv in Group B, but they slumped to a 1-0 defeat at home to Leverkusen - the Royal Blues' sixth defeat in 10 games.

Bremen need to beat the Dutch titleholders at home on Tuesday at the Weserstadion to keep their dreams of the Round of 16 alive and close the gap behind Group A leaders and holders Inter Milan and second-placed Spurs.

But Bremen squandered a possible chance to go third in the German league and slumped to their fourth defeat of the season.

"After the early opening goal, we suddenly stopped being as threatening and dangerous," fumed Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf.

"In the second half, we just made it too easy for our opponents.

"We lost too much focus and we have to work much, much harder."

Bremen took an early lead when Hugo Almeida was left unmarked at the far post and Germany winger Marko Marin found him with an accurate cross and the Portugal striker headed home after just five minutes.

But Nuremberg fought back as midfielder Ilkay Guendogan scored just before the half-time

break, then fellow-midfielder Mehmet Ekiçi put the guests ahead on 47 minutes.

Nuremberg had numerous chances to extend their lead and scored their third goal when Guendogan scored his third goal in two games when he drilled in his shot on 73 minutes to compound Bremen's misery.

Werder's Claudio Pizarro pulled back a consolation goal in the 92nd minute, but it failed to save Bremen's blushes.

Later on Saturday evening,

## RESULTS

Werder Bremen 2 (Hugo Almeida 5, Pizarro 90+2) **Nuremberg 3** (Guendogan 45, 73, Ekiçi 47)  
**VfL Wolfsburg 2** (Dzeko 6, 76)  
VfB Stuttgart 0  
**Cologne 3** (Novakovic 11, 29, 84)  
Hamburg 2 (Petric 15, Son 24)  
**Kaiserslautern 3** (Tiffert 71, Nemeč 83, Lakić 88) Borussia Mönchengladbach 0  
St Pauli 1 (Zambrano 5) Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Gekas 42-pen, 70, Caio 90)  
**Schalke 0-0** Bayer Leverkusen 1

Schalke also prepared for their trip to Israel by slumping to their sixth defeat as they lost 1-0 at home to Leverkusen.

The defeat keeps them second-from-bottom in the table while Leverkusen go third after midfielder Sidney Sam hit the winner in the 65th-minute.

"This has been a difficult start," said Schalke's Spanish striker Raul.

"We are lacking a good performance in the Bundesliga. We had our chances, but we are not shooting enough goals.

"That would have given us security and confidence, but instead, we are afraid. We must continue to fight and work. With passion, we will get out of this again."

The key clash of the weekend is on Sunday when leaders

Mainz are at home to second-placed Dortmund, but Eintracht Frankfurt went fourth after their 3-1 win at St Pauli.

Veteran Greece striker Theofanis Gekas scored twice to take him onto nine goals and the league's top scorer after ten games.

Wolfsburg striker Edin Dzeko also netted twice in his side's 2-0 win over Stuttgart while Hamburg were upset 3-2 at Cologne as Slovenian striker Milivoje Novakovic scored a hat-trick.

Kaiserslautern beat Mönchengladbach 3-0 while on Sunday Hoffenheim host Hanover.

## 'Schweinsteiger is staying'

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness said Sunday he expects Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger to sign a contract extension with the Bavarian giants, rather than look for a big-money transfer in 2011.

Schweinsteiger's contract expires in 2012, but Bayern would only be able to make money by selling him at the end of this season, rather than risk losing him on a free transfer.

"Bastian knows what he has here," Hoeness told German television after Bayern's 4-2 win over Freiburg on Friday.

"He is not exactly a pauper. When our people need more money from Bayern's board, they will get it.

"We will not be petty, because we know how important he is for us."

Hoeness said he hopes to avoid a similar round of transfer poker over Schweinsteiger with Real Madrid, who have expressed interest, which Bayern endured before Franck Ribery signed a contract extension in May.



Manchester United winger Nani falls in the penalty box in the run up to the second goal in their Premiership match against Tottenham at Old Trafford on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Del Piero eyes double century

AFP, Rome

Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero has set his sights on scoring 200 league goals for Juventus after becoming their outright top marksman of all time.

Del Piero bagged his 179th Serie A goal in the 2-1 defeat of AC Milan on Saturday night, his strike proving to be the winner.

In so doing he overtook Giampiero Boniperti's previous mark of 178 Serie A strikes for the Old Lady of Turin -- he had equalled the record on October 17 against Lecce.

"Now my aim is to arrive at 200 goals, you should always set yourself new objectives," said Del Piero.

"These are special nights where the team celebrates. It's always worth three points, nothing more, but there's a special taste to winning at Milan."

## Ranieri again defends Totti

AFP, Rome

Roma coach Claudio Ranieri once again sprang to the defence of his captain Francesco Totti who could have landed himself in hot water for a furious reaction to being sent-off.

Totti got involved in an altercation with Lecce's Ruben Olivera as Mirko Vucinic was scoring Roma's second goal in a 2-0 victory on Saturday that put them back into the top half of Serie A.

TV cameras didn't capture what Totti did but having been tripped up by Olivera, he apparently pushed the Uruguayan.

Referee Andrea Gervasoni showed both players a straight red card, meaning Totti will now miss next weekend's Rome derby against league leaders Lazio.

The 34-year-old reacted by, in the words of La Gazzetta dello Sport, "losing his head" and he was seen charging after Olivera as the pair made their way down the tunnel.

## 14 massacred on football pitch

AFP, Tegucigalpa

Hooded gunmen on Saturday massacred 14 people at an amateur football match in Honduras's second city, San Pedro Sula, authorities said.

"There were 14 of them at a football field in the Felipe Zelaya housing development; some guys showed up and started firing at them. Ten of them were killed instantly," said police commissioner Leonel Saucedo.

Four more shooting victims were rushed to Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula, but died there shortly after arriving, Saucedo added.

SEE PAGE 18 COL

# Nani helps MU keep chase

AFP, London



Chelsea maintained their five-point gap at the top of the English Premier League on Saturday after coming from behind to defeat Blackburn, as Arsenal and Manchester United both won to keep pace with the reigning champions.

A Branislav Ivanovic header on 84 minutes clinched a dramatic 2-1 victory for Chelsea at Ewood Park after Nicolas Anelka had cancelled out Benjani Mwarurwari's opener for Rovers.

"We knew before this game it was going to be difficult," Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "We took a fantastic result, a fantastic three points."

It was, however, a heart-breaking defeat for Rovers, who despite hovering only one place above the relegation zone outplayed Chelsea for long periods.

"It's a bit hard to take at the moment that we lost the game," Rovers boss Sam Allardyce told Sky Sports.

"We have to take it on the chin, but for me it's about lifting the players. If we continue with that level of performance we should be all right and start picking three points up."

Arsenal also left it late to

snatch a 1-0 win over West Ham at the Emirates, finally breaking the Hammers' resistance in the 88th minute with a goal from Alex Song to see the Gunners stay in touch at the top.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger praised his side's patience in breaking down a dogged West Ham, who remain rooted to the bottom of the table.

"It was a battle where on our side we needed to be patient, intelligent, and sometimes a bit lucky," Wenger said.

"At the end of the day, our 'keep going' spirit got us through. We didn't make mistakes at the back, we kept a clean sheet."

In the late game at Old Trafford, Manchester United eased to a 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur that was overshadowed by a bizarre incident towards the end of the match which resulted in United's second goal.

With United leading through a first half Nemanja Vidic header, the match remained finely balanced as Spurs keeper Heurelho Gomes placed the ball inside the area to take what he believed was a freekick.

But as Gomes retreated in anticipation of kicking the ball, an alert Nani stepped up and toe-poked it into the Spurs net. Despite furious protests from Tottenham

players, the goal was allowed to stand by referee Mark Clattenburg.

Manchester United and Arsenal now have 20 points from 10 matches, five behind Chelsea.

While Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea celebrated wins, fourth-placed Manchester City capped a miserable week by crashing to a shock 2-1 defeat at Wolves.

City -- beaten 3-0 at home by Arsenal last Sunday --

slumped to a second consecutive loss that put a big dent in their nascent title aspirations.

City went ahead through an Emmanuel Adebayor penalty on 23 minutes, the Togolese international making no mistake from the spot after Richard Stearman had brought down David Silva.

But Wolves fought back bravely, hitting the post before Serbian midfielder Nenad Milijas levelled for Mick McCarthy's men on 30 min-

utes.

David Edwards then rifled in the second on 57 minutes and Wolves were able to keep their big-spending opponents at bay for a deserved win.

It was a dismal setback for City, who badly missed the presence of injured captain Carlos Tevez in attack.

The result is also certain to cast fresh scrutiny on City's players, who were criticised by coach Roberto Mancini prior to the match for their drinking habits.

Mancini later accused City of complacency.

"Maybe we thought it was an easy game," Mancini said. "But in football easy games don't exist. Wolves deserved to win."

Elsewhere, Everton continued their march up the table with a 1-0 victory over Stoke at Goodison Park, Nigeria's Ayegbeni Yakubu scoring his first league goal for six months as the Toffees extended their unbeaten run to five matches.

At Craven Cottage, two goals from Fulham striker Clint Dempsey set up a comfortable 2-0 victory for the Cottagers against Wigan.

Dempsey struck in the 30th and 44th minutes to give the Londoners a valuable three points, which take Mark Hughes's side into eighth position.

## RESULTS

**Arsenal 1** (Song 88) West Ham 0  
Blackburn 1 (Benjani 21) **Chelsea 2** (Anelka 39, Ivanovic 84)  
**Everton 1** (Yakubu 67) Stoke 0  
**Fulham 2** (Dempsey 30, 44) Wigan 0  
**Man Utd 2** (Vidic 31, Nani 84) Tottenham 0  
**Wolves 2** (Milijas 30, Edwards 57) Man

# Milan fall to Del Piero

AFP, Rome



Injury hit Juventus stunned AC Milan 2-1 at the San Siro on Saturday to finally ignite their scudetto hopes.

Fabio Quagliarella and Alessandro Del Piero scored the goals that took Juve up to fourth in Serie A, just two points behind Milan and three off champions Inter Milan, who won 1-0 at Genoa on Friday, before Zlatan Ibrahimovic's late consolation.

Juventus's win came amid a crippling injury crisis, made even worse as Juve lost Giorgio Chiellini in the warm-up and Paolo De Ceglie and Jorge Martinez during the game.

They ended it with right winger Simone Pepe playing at left back and defensive midfielder Momo Sissoko at right midfield.

Del Piero's goal was his 179th for Juventus and means he becomes their record goalscorer, with one more than Giampiero Boniperti.

Juve boss Luigi Delneri was understandably delighted.

"We've got seven lives, we've reclaimed an important position (one that earns Champions League qualification) but we can't rest on our laurels," he said.

"We're in the league to try to win but our aim is to improve from one Sunday to the next."

Milan boss Massimiliano Allegri said they had not deserved to lose.

"We played well, we created many chances but we gave away some opportunities by

losing the ball too easily," he said.

"We're talking about a game in which the result doesn't reflect the game on the pitch, but that's football. We didn't deserve to lose."

Ibrahimovic came close to giving Milan an early lead but his curler smacked back off the bar.

But Quagliarella opened the scoring on 24 minutes

## RESULTS

AC Milan 1 (Ibrahimovic 82) **Juventus 2** (Quagliarella 24, Del Piero 65)  
**Roma 2** (Burdisso 62,

when he met a deep De Ceglie cross with a towering header into the top corner.

Milan's Andrea Pirlo had a free-kick deflected just past the angle of post and bar before Juve countered at pace on 29 minutes after a slip by Alessandro Nesta, but Christian Abbiati scrambled Del Piero's scuffed shot around the post.

Milan finally threatened in stoppage time as a great cross from Pato into the area picked out Ibrahimovic but the Swede's header was weak and Marco Storari made an easy save.

Ibrahimovic then took down a cross from Pirlo on his chest before firing over.

Five minutes into the second period the Swede had another chance, teed up by G h a n a

Vucinic settled the game on 76 minutes after being released down the left by Totti, firing low into the far corner past goalkeeper Antonio Rosati.



PHOTO: AFP

Juventus forward Alessandro Del Piero (L) celebrates with striker Fabio Quagliarella after scoring against AC Milan in their clash at the San Siro on Saturday. Del Piero beat the record of goals scored in Serie A with his 179th goal.

# Barca, Real hit their stride

AFP, Madrid



Champions Barcelona moved back to within a point of leaders Real Madrid at the league summit with Lionel Messi and David Villa both scoring braces in a 5-0 home romp over 10-man Sevilla at Camp Nou on Saturday.

Argentine Messi scored his sixth league goal of the season on four minutes before Spanish World Cup star Villa answered his critics with a sensational second for his first league goal since late September.

Sevilla old boy Dani Alves made it 3-0 early in the second half before Messi got his fourth goal in his last two league matches and Villa completed the scoring in the final minute.

Barcelona go above Villarreal into second a point behind arch rivals Real who had to come from behind for the first time this season to defeat promoted Hercules 3-1.

"We reacted to what (Jose) Mourinho said to us at half-time," explained Real captain Iker Casillas. "I am not going to reveal what he said but it was just perfect."

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a quadruple in his last league outing and scored twice on 82 and 86 minutes to make it 10 goals in his last four league matches and 11 for the season.

Barcelona had a much tougher test against Sevilla but

were a cut above against the Kings Cup holders seizing the initiative on four minutes when Messi accepted a poor punch from goalkeeper Javi Varas to drill home.

Sevilla had chances before

Villa produced a moment of magic for his first league goal since September 22.

Messi danced between two Sevilla players before feeding Villa who cut inside on his left foot and curled a pinpoint shot

## RESULTS

Valencia 1 (Lanzaro 42-og) Real Zaragoza 1 (Lanzaro 2)  
Hercules 1 (Trezeguet 3) **Real Madrid 3** (di Maria 52, Ronaldo 82, 87)  
**Barcelona 5** (Messi 4, 64, Villa 23, 90, Alves 53) Sevilla 0



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring his second goal during the Primera Liga match against Sevilla at the Camp Nou on Saturday.

SEE PAGE 18 COL