



Juventus midfielder Arturo Vidal (L) goes airborne to control the ball during their Serie A encounter against Napoli in Turin on Sunday.

AFP, Rome



Undefeated Juventus closed the gap to AC Milan at the top of the Serie A table to just two points with a 3-0 win over Napoli in Turin on Sunday.

Leonardo Bonucci, Arturo Vidal and Fabio Quagliarella scored the goals as Juve capitalised on Milan's 1-1 draw at Catania the day before.

It also maintained their unbeaten run this season, which now stands at 34 games in all competitions.

Napoli's defeat means they stay fourth, three points behind Lazio in the final Champions League qualification position.

They also had Juan Zuniga sent off late on for elbowing Giorgio Chiellini.

Their main problem, though, was being guilty of giving away too many free-kicks in potentially dangerous positions.

The opening goal came early in the second period and was due in no small part to luck, although Napoli were finally made to pay for their ill-discipline.

Andrea Pirlo swung over another free-kick that Andrea Barzagli mishit, the ball falling to Mirko Vucinic, who crashed a shot off Bonucci's chest and past a stranded Morgan De Sanctis.

Now able to hit Napoli on the counter, Juve made their visitors pay as Vidal turned Hugo Campagnaro inside out and smashed a shot across De Sanctis.

Quagliarella then beat the goalkeeper at his near post with a fierce shot seven minutes from time.

New coach Andrea Stramaccioni opened his Inter Milan account with a thrilling and vital 5-4 win over Genoa at San Siro to keep alive the nerazzurri's European qualification hopes.

#### RESULTS

Bologna 1 (Sorensen 50) **Palermo 3** (Donati 68, Hernandez 76, Illic 86)  
**Cagliari 2** (Conti 11, Pinilla 54)  
Atalanta 0  
Fiorentina 1 (Ljajic 71) **Chievo 2** (Pelissier 24, Rigoni 88)  
**Inter Milan 5** (Milito 13, 27, 85-pen, Samuel 38, Zarate 74) Genoa 4 (Moretti 45, Palacio 59-pen, Gilardino 80-pen, 90-pen)  
**Juventus 3** (Bonucci 53, Vidal 75, Quagliarella 83) Napoli 0  
Lecce 0 Cesena 0  
**Roma 5** (Marquinho 25, Osvaldo 34, Simplicio 55, Boja 61, Lamela 90)  
Novara 2 (Carraciolo 17, Morimoto 77)  
**Siena 1** (Destro 70) Udinese 0

## Robben to stay with Munich

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich's Dutch star Arjen Robben is set to sign a contract extension to keep him in Bavaria until 2015, according to a report in the German daily Bild on Monday.

The 28-year-old, who signed from Real Madrid in August 2009, has a contract until 2013 but according to the tabloid he will sign an extension deal at the end of April, keeping him in Munich for at least three more years.

He is expected to sign the new contract after Bayern's final home league match of the season against VfB Stuttgart on April 28.

Robben has been in fine form for Bayern with 11 goals in the German league and three in the Champions League which have proved crucial in the last week.

## All to play for

AFP, Barcelona



Barcelona have clicked into form at just the right time, according to striker Pedro Rodriguez, but he feels they need to be wary of an AC Milan away goal in Tuesday's Champions League clash.

The reigning champions did not have it all their own way in the first leg of their quarterfinal tie at the San Siro last week where a defensively strong performance from Milan kept Barca's prolific forward line at bay and the match ended 0-0.

It guarantees a highly-charged Nou Camp for the second leg where Barcelona are favourites having already finished above the current Serie A leaders in the group stage of the competition.

But a goal for Milan would make it difficult. "This is the most important game up to now in the season and hopefully we will do enough to qualify for the semi-finals," said Pedro.

"It's going to be a tough game and we cannot be too confident against Milan because they have great players. We will see what happens and hopefully with the help of the fans it will work out well.

"We are going through our best spell of the season. We are confident and physically strong which is necessary at this key point and we will try and win everything and then see where we end up.

"Even if we are dominating the game against Milan we cannot relax because they

can score a goal at any moment and they are not an easy side to beat."

Domestically Barca have dropped points on their travels but a run of eight straight wins in the league, including a 2-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao at the weekend, has seen them reduce the gap with leaders Real Madrid to six points.

Lionel Messi has spearheaded the recovery and now has 56 goals in total so far this season.

He also set a new Champions League record in the last round with five goals in a 7-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen.

It has been an injury-plagued campaign for Pedro who came on as a substitute at the San Siro and is slowly rediscovering his eye for goal.

"I feel fine and I don't know why I am not having the luck at the moment which is what I need," he said.

"I have had a lot of injuries over the last few months which have affected my level and the most important thing right now is to support my teammates. We need to keep winning and I'm sure I will start getting the goals."

Xavi Hernandez and Carles Puyol both began the game with Bilbao on the bench so that they will be fresh for the Milan game while Cesc Fabregas is also expected to play after overcoming a shoulder injury.

Milan who drew away to an in-form Catania 1-1 on Saturday have a long injury list which is expected to include Mark van Bommel but in attack Alexandre Pato is due to travel.

## Valencia jeered off

AFP, Madrid

Champions League hopefuls Valencia's poor home form continued as they drew 1-1 with local rivals Levante on Sunday and with the team jeered off the pitch, the pressure is growing on coach Unai Emery.

Having controlled the opening stages, Valencia went ahead from a neatly-worked move which was finished off by Jonas Goncalves.

But Levante, whose resilience is one of the factors for their success this season, drew level after the break with Valdo Lopes heading down a cross for Arouna Kone to fire home.

It means that Valencia have just one victory at home since Christmas.

#### RESULTS

**Atletico Madrid 3** (Salvio 24, Diego 62, Falcao 77) Getafe 0  
Valencia 1 (Jonas 35) Levante 1 (Kone 53)  
**Real Sociedad 4** (Agirretxe 6, Zurutuza 31, Griezmann 51, Vela 53)  
Rayo Vallecano 0  
Villarreal 0 Espanyol 0

## Bayern flying high

AFP, Munich



Midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger is backing Bayern Munich to finish off Olympique Marseille in Tuesday's quarterfinal, second-leg to reach the last four of the Champions League.

Schweinsteiger is suspended for the return match at Munich's Allianz Arena after picking up his third yellow card during last Wednesday's 2-0 win in France which was secured by goals from Arjen Robben and Mario Gomez.

Schweinsteiger says Munich are flying high after winning their last seven games and must finish off the French.

"At the moment, there's total desire in the team, and all credit for that," he said after Bayern's 1-0 win at Nuremberg on Saturday that left them just three points behind leaders Dortmund in the German league.

"We have to make the most of our good position in the Champions League on Tuesday thanks to victory in Marseille."

Munich hosts the Champions League final on May 19 and Bayern's fans are dreaming of winning the European title on home soil, but, providing they see off Marseille, Real Madrid are their likely semifinal opponents.

While Marseille are competing at this stage for the first time in 19 years, four-time European champions Bayern are contesting their fourth quarterfinal in six years and it showed in the first leg.

"You could say experience was the difference," said Marseille midfielder Alou Diarra, whose first-half booking means he will also miss the return leg.

The Ligue 1 outfit have failed to win any of their last nine games and confidence is low.

Without a domestic fixture last weekend, Didier Deschamps' men will have had six days to recover before the sequel in Munich and nobody in the camp is throwing in the towel.

"We have nothing left to lose," Diarra added.

"It's not mission impossible. We scored three in Dortmund in the group stage.

"Bayern drop very few points at home so it will take a big performance, but we know we have the ability to cause them problems." Bayern's former Marseille midfielder Franck Ribery says Munich must keep their discipline to see off his ex-club.

"We still have the return at home, although obviously, we're in a good position now," said Ribery.

"We're keeping it very tight at the moment, we're very disciplined, aggressive, and hard-working. It's going well and we have to keep it up."

Deschamps admitted his team have the slimmest of chances.

"We have a chance, but it's miniscule," he said. "To lose the first leg 2-0 certainly doesn't put us in the box seat.

"We need to bounce back. We will do our best to get the best possible result, knowing that Bayern are very good at home."



## What to WATCH

### TEN Cricket

Sri Lanka v England  
Second Test, Day One  
Live from 10:30am

### ESPN

Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30pm

### TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League  
Bayern Munich v Marseille  
Live from 11:30pm

### TEN Action

UEFA Champions League  
Barcelona v AC Milan  
Live from 11:30pm



## DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League  
Sk Jamal v Muktijoddha  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Ade fires Spurs

AFP, London



Emmanuel Adebayor scored twice as Tottenham Hotspur won for the first time in six Premier League matches with a 3-1 victory over Swansea that revived their push for Champions League football.

Sunday's success at their White Hart Lane home saw Tottenham draw level on points with third-placed north London rivals Arsenal.

And it also meant Spurs, currently occupying the fourth and final Champions League place on offer to English clubs, went five points clear of nearest pursuers Chelsea and Newcastle.

Rafael van der Vaart stylishly sidefooted in Spurs' opener in the 19th minute before Gylfi Sigurdsson equalised in the 69th minute.

But two late headers from Adebayor, on loan from Manchester City, sealed a much needed win for Spurs who've faltered in the Premier League ever since manager Harry Redknapp was installed as the favourite for the vacant England job following Fabio Capello's resignation in February.

Dashing Wales winger Gareth Bale, who caused Swansea problems throughout, nearly set up an opening goal for Spurs in the 12th minute but Adebayor could not convert his cross.

Then, in an open match, Neil Taylor went close for the visitors three minutes later but Spurs keeper Brad Friedel saved with his legs.

However, in the 19th minute the hosts took the lead when Luka Modric released Bale down the left and Ashley Williams cleared his cross straight into the path of Van der Vaart, who steered the ball past fellow Dutchman Michel Vorm.

After-half time, 40-year-old Friedel made a stunning save to tip Sigurdsson's 25-yard shot wide.

But Icelandic midfielder Sigurdsson, on loan from German club Hoffenheim, beat Friedel with a volley into the ground that looped over the American shot-stopper from 18 yards out.



Tottenham Hotspur striker Emmanuel Adebayor (L) heads in the third goal during their Premier League clash against Swansea City at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP