



Real Madrid midfielder Mesut Ozil (L) celebrates his goal with teammate Sami Khedira (C) during their Primera Liga encounter against Mallorca at Bernabeu on Sunday.

Real hit 100

AFP, Madrid



Champions Real Madrid beat Mallorca 4-1 on Sunday to break the 100-point barrier on the final day of La Liga season as Villarreal sensationally slipped through the relegation trapdoor.

Mesut Ozil scored twice while Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema also hit the target as Jose Mourinho's Real smashed Barcelona's previous record of 99 points from the 2009-10 season.

The Santiago Bernabeu was given the first chance to celebrate Mourinho's maiden Spanish title with 'los blancos' and resonated with a celebratory atmosphere to see skipper Iker Casillas lift the trophy after the match.

Mallorca needed a win to qualify for next season's Europa League and battled hard against a Real side who claimed their 32nd Spanish title two games ago.

Ronaldo headed home an 18th-minute opener and two minutes later Benzema finished off a swift passing move after receiving a Ronaldo pass to double the lead.

Ozil produced a delightful chip for the third on 50 minutes before Chori Castro pulled one back for the side from the Balearics.

German international Ozil added his second when he guided home a long cross from Marcelo eight minutes later.

Jose Rondon scored the goal that beat Sporting Gijon 1-0 and guaranteed Malaga their first ever qualification for the Champions League.

Defeat for Sporting means they drop into the second division after four successive seasons in the top flight.

The Andalusian side started the stronger and Juan Pablo in the visitors' goal had to make an acrobatic save from Eliseu on 17 minutes.

Then Rondon hit the post with a powerful header and with the game goalless at the interval Malaga's dream was on hold.

However, it was Rondon who headed home a corner on 49 minutes

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Real Madrid	38	32	4	2	121	32	100champions
Barcelona	38	28	7	3	114	29	91
Valencia	38	17	10	11	59	44	61
Malaga	38	17	7	14	54	53	58
Atletico Madrid	38	15	11	12	53	46	56
Levante	38	16	7	15	54	50	55
Osasuna	38	13	15	10	44	61	54
Real Mallorca	38	14	10	14	42	46	52
Sevilla	38	13	11	14	48	47	50
Athletic Bilbao	38	12	13	13	49	52	49
Getafe	38	12	11	15	40	51	47
Real Sociedad	38	12	11	15	46	52	47
Real Betis	38	13	8	17	47	56	47
Espanyol	38	12	10	16	46	56	46
Rayo Vallecano	38	13	4	21	53	73	43
Real Zaragoza	38	12	7	19	36	61	43
Granada	38	12	6	20	35	56	42
Villarreal	38	9	14	15	39	53	41relegated
Sporting Gijon	38	10	7	21	42	69	37relegated
Racing Santander	38	4	15	19	28	63	27relegated

RESULTS

Racing Santander 2 (Stuani 2, Sampeiro Bustara 80) **Osasuna 4** (Balde 54, Alvaro 67, Raul Garcia 71-pen, Roversio 90)
Malaga 1 (Rondon 49)
Sporting Gijon 0
Getafe 0 **Real Zaragoza 2** (Apoño 56-pen, Helder Pestiga 90+1)
Villarreal 0 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Falcao 88)
Levante 3 (Ghezal 45, 67, Farinos 88-pen) Athletic Bilbao 0
Real Madrid 4 (Cristiano Ronaldo 19, Benzema 23, Ozil 49, 58) Real Mallorca 1 (Castro 52)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Tamudo 90) Granada 0
Espanyol 1 (Coutinho Correia 76) Sevilla 1 (Negredo 45+3)

TOP SCORERS

50: Messi (Barcelona)
46: Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
24: Falcao (Atletico Madrid)
22: Higuain (Real Madrid)
21: Benzema (Real Madrid)

to ease the nerves and send the packed Rosaleda crowd into celebration.

Algerian striker Abdelkader Ghezal scored twice to help Levante to a 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao and reward

their magnificent season with a Europa League place.

He raced onto a long ball from centre-half Gustavo Cabral to lob over the advancing Bilbao goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz on the stroke of half-time for his first.

Jose Barkero supplied him for the second and Francisco Farinos got a last minute penalty to send Levante into European competition for the first time.

At the bottom, Villarreal were relegated along with Sporting in a dramatic 90 minutes in which any two of five teams were facing the drop.

Villarreal lost 1-0 at home to Atletico Madrid for whom Radamel Falcao scored with two minutes remaining to condemn last season's Europa League semi-finalists to the second-tier for the first time since 1998-99.

Marco Ruben and Marcos Senna went close from distance in a first-half in which the team battling relegation were the stronger.

All seemed under control until Falcao headed home and almost immediately a goal from Raul Tamudo for Rayo Vallecano at home to Granada turned things around completely.

Until that stage, Rayo Vallecano were in the relegation zone and 60 seconds from the drop.

Barton says sorry

AFP, Manchester



Joey Barton apologised for his red card at Manchester City but the controversial QPR midfielder insisted he was only reacting to provocation from Carlos Tevez.

Barton was dismissed in the 55th minute after an off-the-ball incident in which he elbowed Tevez in the face after the City striker had hit out at him.

He exacerbated that foolish action by kicking City striker Sergio Aguero after being shown a red card by referee Mike Dean and is likely to face an extended ban next season after two more moments of madness in a career scarred by similar incidents.

QPR eventually lost 3-2 after conceding

two stoppage-time goals and Barton conceded he had let his teammates down but, with Mark Hughes' side safe from relegation following Bolton's draw with Stoke, he quickly pointed the finger at Tevez.

"Can do nothing but apologise to the players and the fans. Still don't think its a sending off," he wrote.

"The head was never gone at any stage, once I'd been sent off, one of our players suggested I should try to take 1 of theirs with me...Never worked but god loves a trier.

"Think a few people are forgetting Tevez started the fracas by throwing a punch to the head...?"

"Right am off for a bit. Gonna enjoy QPR still being a Premiership club with all my teammates."

Fergie congratulates City neighbours

AFP, Sunderland



In congratulating new Premier League champions Manchester City, Sir Alex Ferguson reminded them that they have a long way to go before they can be considered Manchester United's equals.

The United manager could not resist comparing his club's reputation as serial winners with City, who have lifted the title for the first time in 44 years.

While Ferguson grudgingly acknowledged City had legitimate

cause for celebration, he insisted the blue half of Manchester still had plenty to do before they could rival United's history.

"They can go on as much as they like -- that's what you would expect -- but the history of our club stands us aside," Ferguson said.

"We don't need to worry about that. I think we have a rich history, better than anyone and it'll take them a century to get to our level of history."

Even at 70, Ferguson is determined to be the man who tries to halt City's attempt to repeat their success next season.

"We accept challenges. We are good

not an easy league. It's the hardest league in the world, and anybody that wins it deserves it.

"At the start of the season, if I remember correctly, I said 82 points would probably win the league this season and we are seven points ahead of that. But look, it doesn't matter, we've lost the league.

"It is a cruel way to have the title ripped away, but I've had a lot of ups and downs in my 25 years here.

"There will be times when we can sit back and say we did this wrong, we did that wrong, but 89 points would have won the league most seasons."

Wayne Rooney scored United's goal at Sunderland and, with City trailing to Queens Park Rangers, they believed they had won at the final whistle.

Thirteen seconds later, City scored their winner and the championship had crossed the city.

Ferguson said: "All we had to do was concentrate on our job and that's what we did, but you are going to get certain types of reaction from the crowd.

"We knew five minutes' extra time was being played at City. Our game had three minutes' stoppage time and you don't know what can happen in the extra two minutes, but they got that break and won the game.

"We should take credit because of the fact we had so many injuries and coped with them very well. We have some young players and they have now experienced what happened here today.

"Hopefully in seven or eight years they will be at Manchester United and the experience is good for them -- even if it's a bad one.

"They're a good bunch of lads. The younger players will remember today because sometimes a bad experience is even better for you.

"When you've got a certain character and a good purpose about you, then you shouldn't fear the future and I don't think these lads will."

Italy name provisional Euro squad

AFP, Rome

Italy coach Cesare Prandelli on Sunday named a 32-man squad for Euro 2012 which starts in Poland and Ukraine next month.

The provisional squad, which features Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli, will be trimmed to 23 on May 29.

Five uncapped players have been included -- Mattia Destro, Emanuele Giaccherini, Ezequiel Schelotto, Marco Verratti and Angelo Ogbonna.

Italy are in Group C with holders Spain, Republic of Ireland and Croatia.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers:

Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Salvatore Sirigu (Paris Saint Germain/FRA), Morgan De Sanctis (Napoli), Emiliano Viviano (Palermo)

Defenders:

Cristian Maggio (Napoli), Domenico Criscito (Zenit St. Petersburg/RUS), Ignazio Abate (AC Milan), Federico Balzaretto (Palermo), Davide Astori (Cagliari), Salvatore Bocchetti (Rubin Kazan/RUS), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Andrea Barzagli (Juventus), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Andrea Ranocchia (Inter Milan), Angelo Ogbonna (Torino)

Midfielders:

Andrea Pirlo (Juventus), Claudio Marchisio (Juventus), Emanuele Giaccherini (Juventus), Daniele De Rossi (Roma), Thiago Motta (Paris Saint Germain/FRA), Antonio Nocerino (AC Milan), Riccardo Montolivo (Fiorentina), Ezequiel Schelotto (Atalanta) Luca Cigarini (Atalanta), Alessandro Diamanti (Bologna), Marco Verratti (Pescara)

Strikers:

Antonio Cassano (AC Milan), Mario Balotelli (Manchester City/ENG), Sebastian Giovinco (Parma), Antonio Di Natale (Udinese), Mattia Destro (Siena), Fabio Borini (Roma)

Crazy last few minutes

AFP, London



Arguably the Premier League's greatest season came to a sensational conclusion on Sunday as Manchester City won the title thanks to two stoppage-time strikes in a 3-2 victory over QPR. Elsewhere, Arsenal and Tottenham secured places in the top four, while Bolton were relegated.

"This is an incredible moment. We wanted this title and we deserve to win this title. I have never seen anything like it. Five minutes from the end I didn't think we could win this game. It was a crazy season and a crazy last few minutes."

- Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini on an incredible title triumph.

"I want to say it is the best moment of my life but if I'm honest then I would say please never again this way. Miracles do happen in Manchester. Only this time it's on this side of the road."

- Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany on the nerve-shredding finale.

"When we were losing 2-1 I thought we were going to lose. But right now I'm dreaming and I don't want to wake up. When you believe in yourself you win. We have fantastic players, and for this club it is a great step forward. Europe's next."

- Pablo Zabaleta, scorer of City's first goal, savours a dream finish.

"Nobody expected that. Everybody expected City to win, but they did it against 10 men for half an hour and with five extra minutes to help them. I congratulate City on winning the league. Anybody who wins it deserves it, because it's a long haul. It wasn't our turn today."

- Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, whose side won 1-0 at Sunderland but were pipped for the title on goal difference, stunned by City's late victory.

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Man City	38	28	5	5	93	29	89champions
Man Utd	38	28	5	5	89	33	89
Arsenal	38	21	7	10	74	49	70
Tottenham	38	20	9	9	66	41	69
Newcastle	38	19	8	11	56	51	65
Chelsea	38	18	10	10	65	46	64
Everton	38	15	11	12	50	40	56
Liverpool	38	14	10	14	47	40	52
Fulham	38	14	10	14	48	51	52
West Brom	38	13	8	17	45	52	47
Swansea	38	12	11	15	44	51	47
Norwich	38	12	11	15	52	66	47
Sunderland	38	11	12	15	45	46	45
Stoke	38	11	12	15	36	53	45
Wigan	38	11	10	17	42	62	43
Aston Villa	38	7	17	14	37	53	38
QPR	38	10	7	21	43	66	37
Bolton	38	10	6	22	46	77	36relegated
Blackburn	38	8	7	23	48	78	31relegated
Wolves	38	5	10	23	40	82	25relegated

TOP SCORERS

30 goals: van Persie (Arsenal)
27 goals: Rooney (Manchester United)
23 goals: Aguero (Manchester City)
17 goals: Adebayor (Tottenham Hotspur), Dempsey (Fulham), Yakubu (Blackburn Rovers)
16 goals: Ba (Newcastle United)

at that," said Ferguson, after a 1-0 win at Sunderland on Sunday did not prove enough to claim top spot.

But he was gracious in his praise of City's achievement, saying: "On behalf of Manchester United, I would like to say congratulations to our neighbours.

"It's a fantastic achievement. This is

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Do you think Richard Pybus is a good choice as Bangladesh coach?

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SET Max
Indian Premier League
Delhi v Punjab
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



DAY'S EVENT
Bangladesh Premier League
Muktijoddha v Soccer Club, Feni
Time: 4:15pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium