

Juve hard done by

REUTERS, Rome

A second-half equaliser by Marco Borriello earned struggling Genoa a 1-1 draw at Serie A leaders Juventus on Saturday, denting the champions' hopes of a second successive title.

Former Juve forward Borriello struck in the 68th minute to leave Antonio Conte's side on 49 points at the top, six clear of Napoli and Lazio who earlier suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat by Chievo Verona.

Genoa, playing for the first time under new manager Davide Ballardini, moved up to 18 points but remained third bottom as Chievo climbed to 11th place on 28 points.

The Juve match was marred by controversy over two penalties not given to the champions in the second half and Juventus striker Mirko Vucinic went unpunished for what appeared to be a clear handball in the area.

Luca Antonelli looked to have pulled Vucinic's shirt as the forward stretched for Emanuele Giaccherini's 80th-minute cross, while Andreas Granqvist sparked furious protests from Juventus when he kicked the ball on to his hand in stoppage

time but referee Marco Guida failed to award a spot-kick.

"I don't think there's much to explain, I think everyone saw the match. We saw various incidents and it's not the first time," a livid Conte told reporters.

"I accept being told that 'we made a mistake and we're sorry' but I can't accept being told 'I don't feel like I could give it'.

"If the assistant and the fourth official both say it was a penalty then the referee can't say 'I wasn't able to give it'. That isn't football.

"We'll all human beings and we can all make mistakes, but you have to take responsibility for what you do. That is a stonewall penalty and that's all there is to it."

The protests from the Juventus staff carried on in the tunnel, with Sky Sport Italia reporting that Conte, Leonardo Bonucci and injured Giorgio Chiellini harangued Guida.

Genoa president Enrico Preziosi was equally angry, saying: "There's arrogance from Conte, he assaulted the referee, I hope something is done about it.

"We didn't complain about the Vucinic's handball... Milan lost a title to the (Sulley) Muntari ghost goal (scored against Juventus last season but not given because officials failed to see it had crossed the line)."

RESULTS

Lazio 0 **Chievo 1** (Paloschi 61)
Juventus 1 (Quagliarella 54)
Genoa 1 (Borriello 68)

Torres comes to Chelsea rescue

REUTERS, London

Much-maligned striker Fernando Torres rescued FA Cup holders Chelsea from an ignominious fourth-round exit after his 83rd-minute equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw at third tier Brentford on Sunday.

The Spaniard swept home to secure a replay as Chelsea, who missed out on one Wembley appearance after losing over two legs to Swansea City in the Capital One (League) Cup semi-finals, twice needed to come from behind at Griffin Park.

Chelsea, who have lifted the trophy in four of the last six seasons, were second-best throughout the first half and went behind just before halftime when Italian Marcello Trotta lashed home.

Brazilian Oscar equalised with some fine individual skill 10 minutes into the second half but the hosts stunned their London rivals by going ahead again with Harry Forrester's penalty on 73 minutes.

Wenger wants strikers

AFP, Brighton

Arsene Wenger admits his Arsenal squad is short of firepower despite in-form Olivier Giroud's double in the 3-2 FA Cup fourth round win at Brighton.

The France striker's performance drew praise from Wenger, but the Gunners manager conceded he still lacks sufficient cover up front, particularly with Gervinho away at the African Cup of Nations with Ivory Coast.

"It's good for Giroud's confidence. He's scored four goals this week and he had a few more chances here," Wenger said.

"He gets there. He has a presence in the box, he's dangerous and his physical presence was very important."

But asked whether he had sufficient strikers, he added: "Quality-wise no, number-wise, we could be a bit short maybe. Gervinho is not here at the moment."

Walcott, who can play through the middle and then of course Giroud."

With that in mind, Wenger is expected to attempt to bring in another striker before the end of the January transfer window.

Madrid on song

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona by 12 points while city neighbours Atletico are four points ahead of them with both sides still to play on Sunday.

Ronaldo took his total for the season to 21 and will come face-to-face with top-scorer Lionel Messi on Wednesday when Real and Barcelona meet in the Spanish Cup semi-final first leg.

Afterwards Jose Mourinho's assistant, Aitor Karanka, confirmed that the Portuguese star's substitution straight after his third goal was not due to injury.

"It was just a precaution he got his goals and played his part like all the team did, the side is improving in general and we looked solid today once we got the first goal," he said.

Antonio Adan was called up to replace Iker Casillas in goal after the club captain fractured a bone in his hand in midweek in the Cup game against Valencia, although new signing Diego Lopez from Sevilla will be the likeliest long-term replacement for the Spanish captain.

Xabi Alonso was also on the bench, perhaps with the Barca tie in mind, and his absence was noticeable as the game began slowly and without rhythm on a cold morning in the Spanish capital.

Miguel Angel Moya had to be sharp in the Getafe goal to block a Ronaldo free-kick on

eleven minutes and then again to stop a shot from the same player eleven minutes later.

Adan had to block a Pablo Sarabia shot and then a Diego Castro header before the half-hour mark.

Next it was Madrid's turn to quickly break and Mesut Ozil saw a shot blocked after clever play down the left.

However, despite dominating possession, the home side could only muster a further Luka Modric shot before the interval as a well marshalled Getafe defence stood firm.

Jose Mourinho changed things around at the break introducing Sami Khedira for defender Raul Albiol and the German made an immediate impression.

His shot was acrobatically saved by Moya on 53 minutes and the keeper reacted quickly to deny Fabio Coentrao from the rebound for a great double save.

From the resulting corner Moya's luck ran out when Ramos stabbed home after the keeper was challenged by Ricardo Carvalho, Moya protested the legality of Carvalho's jump and was booked for his efforts.

Gonzalo Higuain then headed over as the lead appeared to settle Madrid into a style of play with a more attacking edge.

The second came on 62 minutes after a sweeping counter-attack saw Ozil play Ronaldo into space on the left and the Portuguese finished crisply to double the lead.

Three minutes later and from the same counter-attacking play Ronaldo made it three, finishing off a Higuain cross with a simple header.

Ronaldo grabbed his hat-trick from the penalty spot on 72 minutes after Alberto Lopo had fouled Modric and a minute later he went off to a standing ovation.



Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos celebrates scoring during their La Liga match against Getafe at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Another thriller from Roma

REUTERS, Milan

AS Roma lived up to their reputation as Serie A's most entertaining side in another high-scoring game on Sunday, this time drawing 3-3 at Bologna.

Seventh-placed Roma, who have the best attacking and second-worst defensive record in the league, twice led in the first half and trailed 3-2 early in the second before Panagiotis Tachtsidis gave them a point.

Alessandro Florenzi side-footed Roma ahead in the ninth minute from Francesco Totti's pass and former AC Milan and Fiorentina striker Alberto Gilardino levelled eight minutes later as the game got off to a flying start.

Roma immediately regained the lead when Pablo Osvaldo headed in a Miralem Pjanic cross for his 11th goal of the season but again held the lead for only eight minutes before Manolo Gabbiadini hauled Bologna back with a shot on the turn.

Bologna, who won 3-2 at Roma earlier in the season, went ahead for the first time nine minutes after the break when Cristian Pasquato took advantage of a mix-up in the Roma defence.

However, Roma salvaged a point when Tachtsidis headed in a free-kick from stalwart Totti in the 74th minute.

Coutinho signs for Liverpool

REUTERS, London

Liverpool have agreed a deal to sign Inter Milan's Brazilian attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho who is poised to travel to the Premier League club for a medical next week, the BBC reported on Saturday.

The deal for Coutinho, 20, is reported to be worth around 8.5 million pounds (\$13.4 million).

The former Brazil youth international moved on loan from Inter to La Liga's Espanyol last year having joined the Italian giants from Vasco de Gama in 2010.

Coutinho has scored twice in the Europa League this season for Inter and has made 47 appearances for the three-times European champions.

Shocks for PL sides

AFP, London



Norwich City and Queens Park Rangers joined Aston Villa on the FA Cup scrapheap after famous wins for non-league Luton Town and third-tier Milton Keynes Dons in the fourth round on Saturday.

Luton, of the fifth-tier Conference National, won 1-0 at Norwich through an 80th-minute Scott Rendell goal to become the first non-league team to eliminate top-flight opposition in 24 years.

League Cup winners in 1988 but relegated from the Football League after going into administration in 2009, Luton began the day 85 places below their opponents in the English league pyramid.

They will be only the seventh non-league team to compete in the fifth round since World War II.

"It's a lot to take in," said Luton manager Paul Buckle.

"The players were tremendous today. They held a Premier League team for 90-plus minutes."

QPR, the Premier League's bottom club, will be able to focus all their efforts on avoiding relegation after a humiliating 4-2 defeat at home to MK Dons of League One.

Although QPR manager Harry Redknapp made nine changes to his team, his starting XI still featured seven full internationals, but they fell behind in the fourth minute when Armand Traore put

through his own goal.

Strikes from Ryan Lowe, Ryan Harley and Darren Potter put the visitors 4-0 up by the 56th minute, before Jay Bothroyd and Fabio da Silva claimed a pair of consolation goals for QPR.

Premier League leaders Manchester United enjoyed a much more straightforward fourth-round assignment, sweeping past Fulham 4-1 at Old Trafford to reach the fifth round with ease.

Veteran midfielder Ryan Giggs gave United the lead in the third minute, planting a penalty in the bottom-left corner after Aaron Hughes had been penalised for handball.

United stepped up the pace early in the second period, with Wayne Rooney claiming a neatly taken goal in the 50th minute before a quick-fire Javier Hernandez double put the game to bed.

Hughes replied with a 77th-minute header for Fulham, who welcome United to Craven Cottage in the league next weekend.

Arsenal needed a late Theo Walcott goal to record a 3-2 win at second-tier Brighton and Hove Albion, conquerors of Newcastle United in the previous round.

Olivier Giroud twice gave Arsenal the lead, taking his tally to four goals in two games, but Brighton hit back to equalise on each occasion through headers from Ashley Barnes and Argentine debutant Leonardo Ulloa.

Arsenal had the last word, however, with Walcott netting in the 85th minute to spare Arsene Wenger's men the inconvenience of a replay.

RESULTS

Bolton 1 (Sordell 27) **Everton 2** (Pienaar 18, Heitinga 90)
Brighton 2 (Barnes 33, Ulloa 62)
Arsenal 3 (Giroud 16, 56, Walcott 85)
Derby 0 **Blackburn 3** (Kazim-Richards 44, Dann 66, Rhodes 71)
Huddersfield 1 (Novak 74-pen)
Leicester 1 (Wood 82)
Hull 0 **Barnsley 1** (Dagnall 70)
Macclesfield 0 **Wigan 1** (Gomez 7-pen)
Man Utd 4 (Giggs 3-pen, Rooney 50, Hernandez 52, 66) Fulham 1 (Hughes 77)
Middlesbrough 2 (Jurtkiewicz 83, 90)
Aldershot 1 (Hylton 89)
Norwich 0 **Luton 1** (Rendell 80)
QPR 2 (Bothroyd 83, Fabio 90) **Milton Keynes Dons 4** (Traore 4-og, Lowe 40, Harley 50, Potter 56)
Reading 4 (Hunt 6, 50, Leigertwood 40, McCleary 54) Sheffield Utd 0

Leverkusen hold on to second

AFP, Berlin



Bayer Leverkusen reclaimed second place in the Bundesliga from defending champions Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, despite being held to a goalless draw at gritty Freiburg.

Leverkusen's draw means league leaders Bayern Munich, who are at VfB Stuttgart on Sunday, can extend their lead

to 11 points if they earn their 15th win in 19 league games this season.

Unbeaten in their last five games, Freiburg, eighth in the league, outplayed Leverkusen on occasion, backed up by the stats as they finished with more possession, shots on goal and corners, but failed to break the deadlock.

Germany striker Stefan Kiessling, the league's top scorer with 13 goals, and midfielder Andre Schuerrle both went close, while at the other end Freiburg's Karim Guede had a chance in the dying stages after coming off the bench.

Leverkusen host Dortmund, who beat Nuremberg 3-0 on Friday, next Sunday in a mouth-watering clash.

RESULTS

Borussia Moenchengladbach 2 (Juanan 6-og, Herrmann 14) Fortuna
Duesseldorf 1 (Schahin 50-pen)
Hannover 96 2 (Abdellaoue 3, Diouf 38) VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Madlung 46)
Augsburg 0 Schalke 04 0
Greuther Fuerth 0 **Mainz 05 3** (Szalai 53, 83, Malli 65)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Lanig 35, Aigner 67) Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 65)



Channel 9

BPL
Chittagong Kings v Sylhet Royals
Live from 2:00pm
Barisal Burners v Duroto Rajshahi
Live from 6:00pm
STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Sevilla v Granada
Live from 2:30am (Tuesday)
STAR Cricket
Australia v Sri Lanka
Second T20 (D/N)



BPL
Chittagong Kings v Sylhet Royals
Time: 2:00pm
Barisal Burners v Duroto Rajshahi
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: M A Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
Bangladesh Premier League
Soccer Club, Feni v Abahani
Time: 2:45pm
Venue: Feni Stadium
Sk Jamal v Team BJMC
Time: 4:30pm