

Piss off
Goetze, say
BvB fans

INTERNET, Undated

Borussia Dortmund fans showed their disgust over Mario Goetze's decision to join Bayern Munich during the Bundesliga game between the two sides on Saturday.

The Dortmund midfielder, considered one of the hottest prospects in world football, will join Bayern in the summer after the Munich giants activated his 32 million pound release clause.

The 20-year-old will, in the process, become the most expensive German player in the history of the game.

Goetze missed this weekend's clash with Bayern with a hamstring strain but is hoping to play when the two sides clash again in the Champions League final later this month.

In the stands Dortmund fans unveiled a large banner which read: "Striving for money shows how big your heart really is. Piss off Goetze," while fans taped over his name and number on replica shirts.

On the pitch tempers flared in a 1-1 draw which was anything but a friendly warm-up for the bigger clash in three weeks time.

Ajax win
third on
the trot

REUTERS, Rotterdam

Ajax Amsterdam clinched their 32nd Dutch soccer league title on Sunday after first-half goals by Kolbeinn Sigthorsson and Christian Eriksen set up a comfortable 5-0 home win over bottom side Willem II Tilburg.

With one match remaining, Ajax have 73 points, four more than PSV Eindhoven who stay on track for a Champions League qualifying berth following a 4-2 win over NEC Nijmegen.

Tilburg were relegated after suffering their 21st defeat.

Iceland's Sighorsson opened the scoring after 12 minutes with a well-executed diving header following a fine cross from Ryan Babel.

A blunder from Tilburg keeper David Meul, who let a long drive from Eriksen slip through his hands, allowed Ajax to double the lead after 25 minutes.

Viktor Fischer, Siem de Jong and Danny Hoesen scored after the interval as the capacity home crowd of 50,000 celebrated.

What to
WATCHSET Max
Indian Premier LeaguePunjab v Bangalore
Live from 8:30pm

TEN Sports

Madrid Open
First Round

Live from 5:00pm

ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News

Live from 8:30pm

STAR Sports

English Premiership

Sunderland v Stoke City



Bayern Munich forward Thomas Muller (L) and Borussia Dortmund defender Felipe Santana square-off in their ill-tempered Bundesliga clash at the Signal Iduna Park in Dortmund on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Wenger happy with
momentum

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger believes the momentum is now with Arsenal in the battle to claim a place in next season's Champions League.

Wenger's Arsenal side moved back up to third place following a 1-0 victory at relegated Queens Park Rangers, two points clear of Chelsea ahead of Rafael Benitez's side's trip to face Manchester United.

Unbeaten in eight games, they now have two games remaining and the manager believes maximum points will ensure his side finish in the top four.

"We are on a very strong run," said the manager. "We are ready for a fight and the team is highly focused to do it."

"Definitely the momentum is there. If you look at the points we have made compared to two months ago we are going for it and we make the points."

"Away from home we have won everywhere. We have also had lots of derbies and they are difficult to win."

He added: "I cannot even tell you what results I wish for from the others (Tottenham and Chelsea). A long time ago we focused on us getting the maximum points."

"We have done that nearly because we dropped two points against Everton and Manchester United but we want to win every game and we want to concentrate

on doing that."

Theo Walcott struck the decisive goal after just 20 seconds, following up his strike against Manchester United last time out for his 20th goal of the season.

It was the fastest goal of the English Premier League season.

And Wenger believes the winger's scoring return is a reflection of his growing maturity.

"He is 24 now, he is a mature player. He

RESULTS

Fulham 2 (Ruiz 70, 77) Reading 4 (Robson-Kanu 12-

pen, 62, Le Fondre 75, Karacan 83)

Norwich 1 (Holt 74-pen) Aston Villa 2

(Agbonlahor 55, 89)

QPR 0 Arsenal 1 (Walcott 1)

Swansea 0 Manchester City 0

Tottenham 1 (Bale 86) Southampton 0

West Brom 2 (Long 29, McAuley 50) Wigan 3 (Kone 39, McArthur 58, McManaman 80)

has improved his finishing, he is an improved player," said Wenger.

"His ability to resist an opponent is better, it was similar goal to the one against United."

But Wenger admitted his side had shown some nerves as they were made to work hard for the win by a Rangers side who are facing next season playing in the Championship.

Fiery warmup ends all square

RESULTS

VfB Stuttgart 0 Greuther Fuerth 2 (Sakai 51-

og, Azemi 89)

Hanover 2 (Sobiech 36, Diouf 70) Mainz 2

(Mueller 25, 79)

Werder Bremen 2 (Hunt 2, de Bruyne 24)

Hoffenheim 2 (Schiplock 85, 90+1)

Nuremberg 0 Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Toprak 26,

Kiessling 62-pen)

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Meier 30, 87, Lakic 50)

Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Schahin 78)

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Grosskreutz 11) Bayern

PHOTO: AFP

Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund both rested their stars as the Champions League final dress rehearsal ended in a 1-1 draw, but Dortmund captain Sebastian Kehl has said he expects an explosive affair in Wembley.

Bayern had already been crowned Bundesliga champions four weeks ago and the point guaranteed Dortmund second place, so Saturday's German league clash at Signal Iduna Park was little more than a warm-up for the May 25 final.

An early goal by Dortmund wing Kevin Grosskreutz was cancelled out when Mario Gomez was left unmarked at the far post on 23 minutes to head Munich level.

But there was second-half drama as

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer saved Robert Lewandowski's penalty before Munich left-back Rafinha was shown a red card for elbowing Dortmund's Jakub Blaszczykowski in the face.

"It will be an all together more explosive match in three weeks' time," said Kehl.

"Today's game won't be comparable with how things will be at Wembley."

"Unfortunately, we didn't manage to win the game, despite a lot of chances."

Dortmund ended Bayern's 14-

match winning streak in the Bundesliga as Munich dropped league points for the first time since December and coach Jupp Heynckes said the midweek Champions League win at Barcelona had taken its toll.

Bayern beat the Spaniards 3-0 for a

7-0 aggregate triumph.

"After the results of the last few weeks, it wasn't easy to get back to business," said the 67-year-old, whose side is bidding to become the first German team to win the European league and cup treble.

"It was an intense game in which neither side gave anything away."

"A few people had said it would be a boring game because several Bayern players were missing, but that wasn't the case."

"I must praise the team, they

fought hard, even with 10 men and they deserved the points."

Although Bayern beat Borussia 1-0 in the German Cup quarter-finals in February, the Bavarians have failed to beat their rivals in six Bundesliga attempts -- their last league win was back in February 2010.

There is no love lost between the Bundesliga rivals and a heated argument between Bayern's director of sport Matthias Sammer and Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp broke out in the wake of Rafinha's dismissal.

Referee Peter Gagelmann had to lecture the pair to restore order.

"No one came here thinking it would be a friendly," said Klopp, whose side booked their Wembley berth with a 4-3 win on aggregate against Real Madrid in their Champions League semi-final.

"Sammer had said I should leave Rafinha alone, then I said something back, before Mr Gagelmann ordered us to shake hands."

"It was a very intense game - everyone was still in tournament mode."

"We started very well, but there were too many moments where we played far too little football."

"We got a point, the point that we needed to make sure we finish second, so we have reached a goal for the season."

Portuguese compatriot, criticised the coach in a television interview.

Pepe's comments were particularly surprising given that he and Mourinho share the same agent.

"In my opinion, maybe the coach's words (on Friday) were not entirely appropriate," he told broadcaster Canal Plus.

"We have to show a bit more respect for Iker," he added.

"Iker is a player who is part of Madrid, he is an institution. In this club and in Spain. He has to know that we the players

RESULTS

Valencia 4 (Soldado 39, Canales 44, Banega 60, Jonas 90+3-pen) Osasuna 0

Granada 1 (Ighalo 28) Malaga 0

Real Madrid 4 (Valiente 0-26, Ronald 32, 69, Kaka 48) Valladolid 3 (Oscar 7, 87, Guerra 35)

Juventus
champions
Jeers for Jose, cheers
for Iker

REUTERS, Madrid



Real Madrid fans appeared to give their backing to Iker Casillas over Jose Mourinho on Saturday when they cheered their benched goalkeeper and captain and whistled the Portuguese coach before the 4-3 win at home to Real Valladolid in La Liga.

A hero to Real fans and club captain for more than a decade, Casillas has barely featured since recovering from a broken hand, with Mourinho preferring to stick with Diego Lopez, who was brought in as cover from Sevilla in January.

Mourinho has hinted he may leave at the end of the season and he appeared to confirm reports his relationship with Casillas had broken down with a series of barbed comments in a news conference on Friday.

He said he regretted not buying Lopez earlier in his three-year stint in the Spanish capital and that he could not work with players who "think they are above the rest".

Fans at the Bernabeu on Saturday made their feelings clear when Casillas's name was roundly cheered when it was read out among the list of substitutes, while Mourinho was whistled by a significant section of the crowd.

The sense that all is not well at the club following Tuesday's elimination from the Champions League was heightened after the game when Pepe, Mourinho's

are with him."

As has become customary when Real win a league match, Mourinho sent out his assistant Aitor Karanka to give the post-match news conference on Saturday.

Asked about the fans' reaction to Mourinho, Karanka said it had to be respected.

He declined to comment on why Mourinho had unusually elected not to emerge from the dugout during the match.

"We have a Cup final and we want to give the title to our fans."

Chelsea shoot
to third spot

AFF, London



Juan Mata struck an 87th-minute winner as Chelsea won 1-0 at champions Manchester United on Sunday to reclaim third place in the Premier League and tighten their grip on a Champions League spot.

A lacklustre game at Old Trafford was drifting towards a goalless draw when Mata collected a pass from Oscar and dispatched a low shot that took a deflection off Phil Jones on its way into the bottom-right corner.

Mata's goal means that Chelsea will now go into Wednesday's crunch clash against Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge with a three-point lead over their London rivals, who are bidding to crash into the top four.

Arsenal are sandwiched between the pair in fourth, a point behind Chelsea, having played a game more.

United had right-back Rafael da Silva sent off late on and although their lead over second-place Manchester City remains 13 points, they have failed to win in two games since clinching their 20th league title.

United manager Alex Ferguson conceded his side "weren't good enough", but he felt Rafael had been reacting to an elbow from David Luiz when he was sent off by referee Howard Webb.

"He was elbowed. He retaliated, and the player who retaliates always gets the bigger penalty," Ferguson told Sky Sports.

United made five changes from the side that drew 1-1 at Arsenal last weekend, with Rio Ferdinand, Wayne Rooney and goalkeeper David de Gea among the players dropping to the bench.



Liverpool midfielder Philip Coutinho (L) and Everton midfielder Steven Pienaar fight for the ball during the Merseyside derby yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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