



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is ecstatic after scoring the second goal against Malaga during their Primera Liga encounter at Bernabeu on Wednesday.

## Real destroy Malaga

### RESULTS

Celta Vigo 1 (Fernandez 84) **Atletico Madrid 3** (Diego Costa 47, Juanfran 66, Falcao 86)  
**Real Madrid 6** (Albiol 3, Ronaldo 26, Ozil 33, Benzema 45+1, Modric 63, Di Maria 90+1) **Malaga 2** (Santa Cruz 15, Antunes 36)



Mourinho's starting line-up as despite an injury to Sergio Ramos, the Portuguese international was not even named on the bench after his outspoken comments that Mourinho ought to have more respect for captain

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid once again ensured Barcelona will have to wait a few more days before sealing the La Liga title as they beat nine-man Malaga 6-2 in a wildly open game at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Raul Albiol headed the hosts into an early lead, but Roque Santa Cruz levelled on 15 minutes before Malaga were reduced to 10-men when Sergio Sanchez was given his marching orders for pulling Cristiano Ronaldo down in the box.

Willy Caballero saved the Portuguese's penalty with an outstretched foot, but Ronaldo only had to wait four more minutes to get on the scoresheet before he then teed-up Mesut Ozil to make it 3-1.

Vitorino Artunes momentarily reduced the deficit with a wonder strike but Karim Benzema made it 4-2 just before the break and goals from Luka Modric and Angel Di Maria rounded off the scoring in the second-half.

With any form of Madrid slip up mathematically handing Barca the title, Pepe's name was the big absence from Jose

Iker Casillas.

Handily for Mourinho it was Pepe's replacement who got Madrid off to the perfect start as Albiol got on the end of Modric's corner to turn in his first league goal in four years with the club.

The lead only lasted 13 minutes though as from Isco's corner at the other end, Diego Lugano headed the ball down and an unmarked Santa Cruz side-footed home at the back post.

Ronaldo then prodded wide a great chance after an excellent reverse ball from Modric and saw another effort from point-blank range blocked by Caballero.

However, the former Manchester United man's insatiable running took him in behind the Malaga defence once more on 21 minutes and when he was pulled to the ground by Sanchez, the referee had little option but to award the penalty and show the Malaga defender a straight red card.

Caballero did excellently to block the ensuing spot-kick with his trailing leg, but Madrid were back in front just four minutes later in slightly bizarre circumstances.

## Rooney not for sale

AFP, London

Manchester United reacted to rumours about Wayne Rooney's future at the club by insisting on Thursday that the England striker is "not for sale".

After Alex Ferguson announced his shock retirement as United manager on Wednesday, reports emerged that Rooney had informed the Scot of his desire to leave the club in an informal conversation two weeks ago.

However, United dismissed the idea, with a spokesman saying: "Wayne Rooney is not for sale."

The story threatens to derail Rooney's reunion with his former manager at Everton, David Moyes, who was on Thursday expected to be formally appointed as Ferguson's successor at Old Trafford.

Rooney was handed his Everton debut by Moyes in 2002 and joined United two years later in a £27 million (\$42 million, 31.9 million euros) transfer that made him the world's most expensive teenage player.



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## Napoli secure 2nd spot

### RESULTS

Pescara 0 **AC Milan 4** (Balotelli 9-pen, 57, Muntari 33, Flamini 51)  
Atalanta 0 **Juventus 1** (Matri 18)  
Bologna 0 **Napoli 3** (Hamsik 53, Cavani 63-pen, Dzemal 67)  
Cagliari 0 **Parma 1** (Rosi 80)  
Inter 1 (Alvarez 33) **Lazio 3** (Handanovic 22-og, Hernanes 45+4, Onazi 76)  
Palermo 2 (Miccoli 34-pen, Hernandez 81) **Udinese 3** (Muriel 9, Angella 64, Benatia 83)  
Sampdoria 1 (De Silvestri 36) **Catania 1** (Spolli 68)  
Siena 0 **Fiorentina 1** (Rodriguez 14)

AFP, Milan

Edinson Cavani stretched his tally to a league-leading 27 goals as Napoli secured Serie A's runner-up spot and Champions League football next season with a 3-0 win over Bologna on Wednesday.

Napoli are 11 points behind Juventus,



who secured their 29th league title last weekend, but cannot now be caught by AC Milan who are seven points adrift.

Earlier Wednesday a Mario Balotelli brace and one apiece from Sulley Muntari and Mathieu Flamini put Milan within sight of the Champions League thanks to a 4-0 rout of already-relegated Pescara.

However Massimiliano Allegri's side face a nervous last two games of the season, at home to Roma and away to Siena, before seeing if they will beat Fiorentina to third place after La Viola prevailed 1-0 away to Siena.

Whoever secures third place will have to successfully negotiate a qualifying round to get to the lucrative group stage.

Elsewhere Inter Milan's hopes of playing any kind of European football next season were derailed by a 3-1 defeat at home to Lazio.

## MU appoint Moyes

AFP, London

Manchester United on Thursday confirmed that David Moyes will succeed Alex Ferguson as manager of the club.

Moyes's departure from Everton was announced earlier in the day and United subsequently revealed that he has been awarded a six-year contract at Old Trafford.

"When we discussed the candidates that we felt had the right attributes, we unanimously agreed on David Moyes," said Ferguson in a statement, the day after he announced his decision to retire after 26 years in charge.

"David is a man of great integrity with a strong work ethic. I've admired his work for a long time and approached him as far back as 1998 to discuss the position of assistant manager here.

"He was a young man then at the start of his career and has since gone on to do a magnificent job at Everton. There is no question he has all the qualities we expect of a manager at this club."

Moyes, 50, has been at Everton since 2002 and will take over from Ferguson on July 1.

"It's a great honour to be asked to be the next manager of Manchester United," he said in a statement.

## Spurs deny Chelsea

AFP, London



Substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson claimed an 80th-minute equaliser to snatch a 2-2 draw for

Tottenham Hotspur at Chelsea on Wednesday that prevented their opponents from effectively securing a place in the Champions League.

A goal from Ramires looked to have taken Chelsea to the brink of a top-four finish, after Oscar's opener for the hosts had been cancelled out by a fine solo goal from Emmanuel Adebayor on a night of high tension at Stamford Bridge.

However, Adebayor created a late opening for Sigurdsson with a delightful back-heel, and the Iceland midfielder swept a shot home to keep

Spurs' hopes of Champions League football alive and kicking.

With two games to play and only the top four teams qualifying for the Champions League, Chelsea, in third, lead fourth-place Arsenal by two points, with Spurs just a point further back in fifth.

Alex Ferguson's impending retirement as Manchester United manager means interim Chelsea coach Rafael Benitez looks set to go down as the last manager to ever get the better of him, but that will be of little consolation after his side spurned a gilt-edged chance to book a place in the Champions League.

Eden Hazard's recovery from the calf strain that kept him out of Sunday's 1-0 win at Manchester United allowed Chelsea to line up with all three of their attacking techni-

cians in Hazard, Oscar and Juan Mata.

Mata was the first player to announce himself, swivelling to lift a half-volley over the bar in the seventh minute, and shortly afterwards, he created Chelsea's opener.

The Spaniard's right-wing corner was headed on by Gary Cahill and Oscar pounced to nod the ball in from close range.

With man of the season Gareth Bale starved of possession, Spurs did not look likely to reply, but in the 26th minute, Adebayor produced a moment to remember to haul his side level.

Collecting the ball midway inside his own half, the lolling Togolese striker exploited generosity in the home defence by ambling downfield and then shaped a sumptuous shot into the top-right corner from 25 yards.



Tottenham Hotspur striker Emmanuel Adebayor (L) scores an equalising goal against Chelsea during their Premier League clash at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Petrov hangs up his boots

REUTERS, Undated

Aston Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov, diagnosed with acute leukaemia last year, announced his retirement on Thursday.

The Bulgarian midfielder, whose leukaemia is in remission after treatment, said he was going to focus on helping people with the disease having set up a foundation.

"It is with a heavy heart that I am announcing my retirement from the game," the 33-year-old, who will remain on medication for another two years, said in a statement on the club's website.

"That I am ready to embrace new challenges will make this process much easier. I hope to make a difference."

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