

What to WATCH

STAR Cricket

England v New Zealand

First Test, Day 4

Live from 4:00pm

SET Max

Indian Premier League

Pune v Delhi

Live from 4:30pm

Hyderabad v Kolkata

Live from 8:30pm

TEN Sports

Rome Masters Finals

Live from 3:00pm

STAR Sports

Premiership

Newcastle v AC Milan

Live from 9:00pm

Serie A

Siena v Udinese

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

ESPN

Serie A

Atalanta v Chievo

Live from 7:00pm

Inter Milan v Udinese

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

Premiership

it must be Busby

Sir Matt Busby ended a 41 year wait for Man Utd's third league title. Arsenal and Tottenham both served as worthy challengers this season, with two wins over the Gunners proving decisive for Sir Matt Busby's team.





1951-52

Atletico stun Real

RESULTS

Real Madrid 1 (Ronaldo 13) **Atletico Madrid 2**
(Costa 35, Miranda 98).
after extra-time

REUTERS, Madrid



Atletico Madrid stunned city rivals Real to win their 10th King's Cup when Miranda's extra-time header secured a 2-1 comeback win in an action-packed and ill-tempered clash at the Bernabeu on Friday in which Real coach Jose Mourinho and Cristiano Ronaldo were both sent off.

Ronaldo, who was shown a straight red card after he kicked out at Atletico captain Gabi in the second half of extra time, apparently catching him in the face, nodded Real ahead in the 14th minute.

Diego Costa levelled 10 minutes before the break and after Mourinho was dismissed for furiously protesting a referee's decision with around 15 minutes of regular time left Miranda glanced a 99th-minute header past Diego Lopez to secure a first win against Real since 1999.

The match, in which Real hit the post three times, descended into chaos near the end when a mass brawl between substitutes and technical staff erupted on the side of the pitch as Ronaldo received his marching orders.

Play was further interrupted moments later when Atletico goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was hit by an object thrown from the crowd and Gabi was shown a second

yellow card in the dying seconds for time wasting.

After five minutes of nerve-wrenching extra time, the referee finally blew the whistle, sending the red and white-clad Atletico fans into raptures while the white half of Real's own stadium was left in mute shock.

The King's Cup does not carry the same prestige as La Liga or a European title but the Atletico fans' euphoria also reflected the fact that they had got the better of their city neighbours after more than a decade of disappointment.

There was a party atmosphere on the streets of Madrid throughout the day despite the unusually chilly temperatures and it spilled over into the stadium, with the Atletico fans in particularly fine voice before kickoff.

After Ronaldo's opener and Costa's equaliser, Ozil struck a fierce shot against the post two minutes before the break and Karim Benzema was denied by the frame of the goal on the hour before Juanfran cleared Ozil's follow-up shot off the line.

There were further signs that it was not going to be Real's night when Ronaldo blasted a low free kick against the post in the 69th minute and Michael Essien hammered the rebound over.

Centre back Miranda nodded Koke's cross into the net to put Atletico ahead for the first time and Courtois conjured two stunning reflex saves to deny substitute Gonzalo Higuain and Ozil late into extra time.

It was Real's first home defeat in 44 matches and follows their reverse in the Champions League semi-finals to Borussia Dortmund and Barcelona's fourth La Liga title in five years secured at the weekend.



Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone is tossed by his players as they celebrate their Copa del Rey final win against Real Madrid at Bernabeu on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

savours great night

REUTERS, Madrid



Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone invited fans to gather in the centre of the Spanish capital later on Saturday after he engineered one of the greatest nights in the club's history in Friday's stunning King's Cup final win against Real Madrid.

The combative Argentine has transformed Atletico since taking over midway through last season and the 2-1 comeback triumph, made all the sweeter as it was at Real's Bernabeu arena, was their first success against their vastly wealthier and more prestigious neighbours in 14 years.

Fans were already dancing and singing at the Neptune fountain in central Madrid, the traditional site of Atletico celebrations, in the early hours of Saturday morning and a huge party is planned there starting at 1800 GMT after the players tour the city in an open-top bus.

Once described as "playing with a knife between his teeth", Simeone was in the Atletico side when they last won the Cup in 1996, beating Barcelona 1-0 in Zaragoza.

That success pales when compared with Friday's achievement against a team containing more than 400 million euros (\$513 million) worth of talent and playing at their own stadium.

An inspirational leader who wears his heart on his sleeve, Simeone has brought steel to the squad while

getting the best from players like Colombia forward Radamel Falcao and his strike partner Diego Costa of Brazil.

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who is on loan from Chelsea, has also flourished and made two brilliant, point-blank saves late in the game to deny Gonzalo Higuain and Mesut Ozil.

"Winning at the Bernabeu after falling behind against a super powerful team speaks marvellously of a unit that has humility, that knows what it can do and is not afraid to do it," Simeone told a post-match news conference.

"We can't appreciate it now but this victory will be remembered for a long time," added the 43-year-old.

"People have suffered, people have worked hard and now more and more kids will grow up Atletico fans. I invite everyone to come down to Neptune wearing the shirt."

Beating Real to win Spain's domestic Cup was even sweeter than last year's Europa League success or Atletico's subsequent victory against Chelsea in the European Super Cup, Simeone said.

"This victory is special," he said. "All the titles were really nice but this one will remain in my mind and that of all the fans."

Winning the King's Cup capped a superb season for Atletico and they are assured of third place and a lucrative return to the Champions League.

Overzealous fan hurts Drogba

INTERNET, Undated

Galatasaray allowed supporters to attend their training session this week -- a decision they probably regretted after a fan invaded the practice pitch and collided with Didier Drogba. The man appeared to be sprinting towards Drogba to give him a hug, but just before he reached the Ivorian striker, he slipped and fell on him.

Drogba recoiled in pain as security personnel dragged the clumsy supporter away. Drogba then got treatment from the club's medical staff and limped his way through the rest of training.

RCB hang on

STAR SPORT DESK

Royal Challengers Bangalore are still in contention for a place in the IPL playoffs after beating Chennai Super Kings by 26 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday. The win takes Bangalore to 18 points, tied for the last playoff spot with Sunrisers Hyderabad who however have a game in hand. In the day's earlier match, Kings XI Punjab were powered to a consolation 50-run win over Mumbai Indians by Azhar Mahmood's all-round show.

Bangalore's do-or-die encounter was curtailed to an eight-overs-a-side affair due to rain. Chris Gayle and skipper Virat Kohli put on 67 in only 5.2 overs. Kohli with a 29-ball 56 took Bangalore to 106 for two. Under pressure, Chennai lost early wickets and were never in the chase, needing virtually four every ball in the last three overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 183 for 8 (Mahmood 80, Marsh 63; Malinga 3-39). **MUMBAI INDIANS:** 133 all out in 19.1 overs (Rayudu 26, Sharma 25; Chawla 2-20). **Result:** Kings XI Punjab won by 50 runs.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 106 for 2 in 8 overs (Kohli 56 not out, Gayle 28; Bravo 1-26). **CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:** 82 for 6 in 8 overs (Vijay 32, Dhoni 24; Zaheer 4-17).

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 24 runs.

Fergie praises Beckham

REUTERS, Undated



David Beckham's longevity and his ability to reinvent himself were "absolutely incredible", retiring Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has said.

Beckham and Ferguson, who were synonymously linked with Manchester United until the former England captain moved to Real Madrid, both announced in the past 10 days they would retire from soccer at the end of the current season.

The 71-year-old Ferguson's final game in charge after 26 years at Old Trafford will be on Sunday while the 38-year-old Beckham will retire as a player after Paris St Germain's French Ligue finale against FC Lorient on May 26.

"You talk about longevity and in many ways reinventing himself, it has been absolutely incredible," Ferguson was reported as saying by the BBC on Friday.

"When he went to America there wasn't a person in this place who really thought he could have a career," Ferguson added about Beckham's move to LA Galaxy in 2007.

"Yet he went on and still played for his country, he played for AC Milan in European ties and he played for PSG in European ties, and I don't think anyone could have imagined that. "He had unbelievable stamina ... he could run all day, and that has allowed him to stay in the game at that kind of level, playing for his country in his mid 30s."

Beckham joined Manchester United as an 11-year-old and went on to play 11 years at the club under Ferguson, winning six Premier League titles and the Champions League in a trophy-laden career.

The midfielder, who described Ferguson as a father figure, had a falling out in 2003 when a boot kicked by the manager in the team's dressing room following a defeat struck Beckham in the face and the player moved to Real Madrid later that year.

"I think he's picked the right time (to retire)," Ferguson added. "He is an amazing person."



(Above) Referee Clos Gomez (L) shows a red card to Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (R) and (right) sends off coach Jose Mourinho during the Copa del Rey final at Bernabeu on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP



'My worst season'

REUTERS, Madrid



A King's Cup final defeat against Atletico Madrid capped the worst season of Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho's career, the Portuguese said on Friday after the 2-1 loss left him without a major title this season.

Widely expected to move on at the end of the campaign and linked with a return to Chelsea, a grim-faced Mourinho gave little away about his future but said Real, the world's richest club by income, had suffered a "disastrous" season, with only a Spanish Super Cup added to the trophy cabinet.

The extra-time defeat to city rivals Atletico, all the more painful as it came at Real's Bernabeu stadium and included the dismissal of Mourinho from the bench in the second half, followed defeat to Borussia Dortmund in the semi-finals of the Champions League.

They also failed to defend their La Liga crown, with Barcelona wrapping up a fourth title in five years last weekend.

"My career has been over many years not just one year," Mourinho told a post-match news conference, adding that Atletico had not deserved to win the final.

"This is the worst season of my career with a title which is not sufficient for me or for a

club like Real Madrid," the Portuguese said.

"That means it's a bad season, with a final, a semi-final and a second place and a Super Cup."

Mourinho defended his record since joining Real from Inter Milan in 2010, noting Real had beaten Barcelona, who he described as "the best team in the world", to win the King's Cup in his first season.

In typically combative style, he went on to remind reporters that Real had set a record points total in winning La Liga the following season and had reached the Champions League semi-finals three times on the trot.

"The third season with these results has been a failed season, it's a disastrous season," he said.

"What would be a good season for a lot of coaches but for me is the worst.

"As I have said before when things go well it's the merit of everybody and when things go badly it's the coach's fault.

"This has been my worst season because it's the first season in which I have not won an important title."

Asked about his future, he repeated that he would discuss it with Real president Florentino Perez after Real's remaining two La Liga matches.

Spanish media have reported that Perez is lining up Paris St Germain's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti to replace Mourinho.

Mancini's unique tribute to fans

INTERNET, Undated

On the same day that the Daily Mail carried a story about how much the Man City players disliked now ex-manager Roberto Mancini, the Italian who wasn't even kept until the final match of the season took out a full page ad in the Manchester Evening News to say goodbye to the fans. "Manchester City supporters 3 UNFORGETTABLE YEARS," the ad reads above a picture of a waving Mancini with the FA Cup, Community Shield and Premier League trophy superimposed beneath him. "You will always be in my heart. Ciao. Roberto Mancini."

Mancini enjoyed great support from the fans despite finishing a distant second to Man United and losing the FA Cup final to Wigan this season. Though neither the club nor his players had the same faith in him, it seems he's looking to keep the fans on his side even after departing. One last way of thumbing his nose up at those who undermined him.

CSKA seal Russian title

REUTERS, Moscow

CSKA Moscow sealed the Russian title with a game to spare through a scrappy 0-0 home draw with Kuban Krasnodar on Saturday.

The lone point was enough to give the army side their first league crown since 2006 and 11th in the club's history as they now lead last season's champions Zenit St Petersburg by six points.

Zenit, who have two games left and face Volga Nizhny Novgorod on Sunday, could not overtake CSKA because they have a fewer number of total victories.

Goetze wants to beat Bayern

AFP, Berlin

Injured Borussia Dortmund star Mario Goetze has said his dream for next Saturday's Champions League final at Wembley is to help his side beat Bundesliga rivals Bayern Munich -- the club he will join in July.

Goetze, 20, faces a race against time to be fit for the Wembley finale having torn his left hamstring in Dortmund's 2-0 semi-final second-leg defeat at Real Madrid last month as they went through to the final 4-3 on aggregate.

The Germany star stunned Dortmund fans last month when he announced he had activated a clause in his contract to join Bayern for 37 million euros (US\$47.5m), but he wants to beat his new club to lift the Euro title with Borussia.

"A win in my last game for Dortmund would be huge for me," Goetze, who will miss his team's final league match of the season on Saturday at home to Hoffenheim, told German daily Bild.

"I really want to be in London and will give everything I can for Borussia.

"I want to help the team so that in the end we can lift the trophy."

Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp has said he expects Goetze to start training again with the first team early next week and a decision as to whether he can play in the final will be made later.

The Wembley showcase is the first time two German teams will contest a European Cup final.