

What to WATCH

STAR Sports
Asia Cup Hockey
 Bangladesh v Oman
 Live from 4:00pm
English Premiership
 Man United v Chelsea
 Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

TEN Sports
US Open
 Men's & Women's First Rd
 Live from 9:00pm
ESPN
Serie A
 Fiorentina v Catania
 Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

ESPN HD
Primera Liga
 Granada v Real Madrid
 Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

Ronaldo wants MU return

INTERNET, Undated

Cristiano Ronaldo has told Manchester United that he would like to return to the club - but not until next season at the earliest.

According to the Observer, the 28-year-old Real Madrid forward is open to the idea of an Old Trafford comeback, possibly for the last three or four years of his career.

The news comes at the end of a summer in which the Premier League champions explored the possibility of bringing the player back from Spain to England.

Although the club did not make a hard offer as such, they are said to be encouraged by the messages they have received about Ronaldo's interest in coming back in the future.

United could launch an attempt to sign the Portuguese international ahead of the 2014/2015 season and are not discouraged by the high transfer fee that would be involved.



Bayern Munich winger Arjen Robben places the ball through the legs of the goalkeeper to score a sensational goal in their Bundesliga match against Nuremberg in Munich on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bayern struggle, but win

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich earned their third straight win at the start of the season, beating Nuremberg 2-0 on Saturday, but still found themselves third in the Bundesliga on goal difference.

French winger Franck Ribery's header on 69 minutes broke the deadlock before Dutch star Arjen Robben scored for Pep Guardiola's European champions, who earlier had a first-half penalty saved.

"We allowed them only a few chances, which I liked, and we played better in the second-half," said Guardiola as Bayern set a new club record of 28 league games without defeat.

"We attacked fast through Ribery and Robben and I am happy with

how we controlled the game."

"Nuremberg were very compact and organised, it's always hard to play against a team like that."

The win in front of 71,000 fans at Munich's sold-out Allianz Arena marks the start of a busy seven-day period for Bayern who are away to Freiburg in the league on Tuesday, then travel to Prague for Friday's showdown with Chelsea in the UEFA Super Cup.

Guardiola started with a star-studded midfield featuring wingers Robben and Ribery either side of Spain's Thiago Alcantara and Germany playmaker Mario Goetze, who made his competitive debut for Bayern after joining from Borussia Dortmund.

The hosts rode their luck in the first half as only the crossbar denied Nuremberg when striker Daniel

RESULTS

Bayern Munich 2 (Ribery 69, Robben 78) Nuremberg 0

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Kiessling 22-pen, Sam 28, 61, Castro 72) Borussia

Moenchengladbach 2 (Stranzl 54, Arango 57)

Hanover 96 2 (Huszti 15-pen, Diouf 42) Schalke 04 1 (Szalai 55)

Hoffenheim 3 (Salihovic 10-pen, Volland 25, Strobl 77) Freiburg 3 (Sorg 13, Guede 29, Freis 65)

Mainz 05 2 (Choupo-Moting 61, N Mueller 78) VfL Wolfsburg 0

Hertha Berlin 1 (Ramos 74) Hamburg 0

Ginczek's shot clattered off the underside of the bar with Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer beaten on 15 minutes.

Bayern were awarded a penalty on 33 minutes by referee Christian Dingert when Robben was brought down by Sweden defender Per Nilsson, although the replay showed the Dutchman used his hand to keep the ball from going out.

Justice was served when David Alaba's spot-kick was saved by Nuremberg goalkeeper Raphael Schaefer.

With time running out, Ribery headed home before a fine solo effort from Robben, cutting in from the right, on 78 minutes ensured that Bayern would maintain their 100 percent league record this season.

Only goal difference leaves Bayern third behind leaders Borussia Dortmund, who beat Werder Bremen 1-0 at home on Friday, and second-placed Bayer Leverkusen.

WC is damp cheese for Kiessling

AFP, Berlin



Bayer Leverkusen striker Stefan Kiessling has said talk of a Germany recall on Thursday and a place at next year's World Cup leaves him cold, even though he keeps scoring.

The 29-year-old made the last of his six appearances for Germany at the 2010 World Cup, but has repeatedly been overlooked by Germany coach Joachim Loew, who was at Leverkusen's BayArena on Saturday to see Kiessling convert a penalty in Leverkusen's 4-2 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Having clearly stated last season that he does not expect a Germany recall under Loew, Kiessling was irritated by further questions on the subject.

"At the moment, I've as much interest in the World Cup as damp cheese," said Kiessling, the Bundesliga's top scorer last season.

"I gave a clear statement last season and it's not my job to comment on the issue every time it comes up."

Toni rolls back the years

Tevez strikes on debut

AFP, Milan



Argentine striker Carlos Tevez scored on his Serie A debut for Juventus in a 1-0 win at Sampdoria as AC Milan stumbled on the opening day of the new campaign with a 2-1 away defeat to new boys Verona.

And the former Manchester City striker, one of the few big names to make his way to Italy's top flight over the summer, made the most of his few chances when he tapped home a Paul Pogba ball just before the hour.

"It was the perfect night, especially as it's not an easy stadium to come to," said Tevez. "I still don't know my teammates well enough but I'm trying."

Sampdoria were the only team last season to beat Juventus both home and

away, making sure the defending champions' 29th league crown came with a bitter aftertaste on the final day of the season.

Montenegrin Vucinic came close for Juve inside three minutes and the visitors were almost given a 19th-minute lead when Kwadwo Asamoah's header from Andrea Pirlo's corner bounced and forced Angelo Da Costa to tip the ball over the crossbar.

Tevez was gifted a chance in the 21st minute when a long midfield ball made its way through the Sampdoria defence but Da Costa parried the Argentine's effort.

Shortly after the break Stephan Lichtsteiner's cross from deep on the right was too far forward for Vucinic.

Moments later Juve broke the deadlock, Tevez tapping home into a virtually empty net from Pogba's unselfish square ball after the

Frenchman had been set up deep by Chilean Arturo Vidal.

Sampdoria finished the match with 10 men when substitute Paolo Castellini was shown a direct red card for a nasty foul on Lichtsteiner.

It means Verona, thanks to a brace from former Italy striker Luca Toni, are the leaders on the first day, 11 years after dropping out of Serie A, with Juventus in second place ahead of the rest of the programme on Sunday.

Milan had opened the scoring inside the opening quarter of an hour when midfielder Andrea Poli finished off a smart pass from Italy striker Mario Balotelli.

But the visitors were pegged back by Toni on the half hour, and left stunned when the former Fiorentina striker scored with his second header eight minutes after the restart.



I am on the verge of dying: Tyson

REUTERS

Mike Tyson has claimed he is on the verge of dying from ongoing drug and alcohol problems.

"I wanna live my sober life. I don't wanna die. I'm on the verge of dying, because I'm a vicious alcoholic," the former heavyweight boxing champion said on ESPN's Friday Night Fights.

"I'm a bad guy sometimes. I did a lot of bad things, and I want to be forgiven. So in order for me to be forgiven, I hope they can forgive me. I wanna change my life, I wanna live a different life now."

The 47-year-old admitted to being a continual substance abuser but was hopeful he was finally becoming clean.

"I haven't drank or took drugs in six days, and for me that's a miracle," he revealed. "I've been lying to everybody else that think I was sober, but I'm not. This is my sixth day. I'm never gonna use again."

Wenger happy with Podolski

AFP, London



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger saluted Lukas Podolski after his brace helped the Gunners pick up their first Premier League points of the season in a 3-1 win at Fulham.

All the talk over the summer has been about Arsenal's inability to attract new star names to the club, but with Giroud having scored three goals in his first three matches and Podolski coming into form, Wenger believes the best could still be to come from both players.

"I'm pleased for Lukas because he did not always start recently, but more for the balance of the team than for his personal performance," Wenger said.

"He has always a very high spirit and is a very important person in the team. Everybody loves Lukas in the squad and it's important to keep him."

"When a player doesn't play, he's not happy, and recently he did not always start. But if you look at the goalscoring record of him and Giroud, it's quite impressive."

Cardiff shock for City

AFP, London



Cardiff City pulled off a major shock in their first top-flight home game for 51 years by stunning Manchester City 3-2 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Back among the English elite after winning the Championship last season, the Welsh club roared back from behind to condemn the 2012 champions' expensively assembled squad to a surprise defeat.

Frazer Campbell was the match-winner, scoring twice in the last 11 minutes to give Malky Mackay's men victory after Aron Gunnarsson had cancelled out Edin Dzeko's fine 52nd-minute opener for Manchester City.

It was Cardiff's first home game in the English top flight since 1962 and a capacity crowd at the Cardiff City Stadium made for a raucous atmosphere on a sunny afternoon.

Manchester City dominated possession in the first half but Cardiff worked tirelessly to keep them at bay and their only effort of note was a meek David Silva shot that goalkeeper David Marshall caught comfortably.

Win takes Vettel atop

AFP, Spa Francorchamps

Sebastian Vettel delivered a crushing blow to his title rivals on Sunday when he increased his lead in the drivers' championship with a consummate triumph for Red Bull in the Belgian Grand Prix.

On a welcome dry afternoon at Spa Francorchamps in the Belgian Ardennes, the 26-year-old German took the lead from pole-man Lewis Hamilton on the opening lap and then pulled clear to claim his fifth win of the year and the 31st of his career.

The defending triple world champion came home a comfortable 16.869 seconds ahead of second-placed Spaniard Fernando Alonso of Ferrari with Hamilton third for Mercedes. It was his fourth third-place of the year.

Vettel's win, his second in Belgium, lifted him to a total of 197 points while Alonso climbed back to second on 151 with Hamilton third on 139. In the constructors championship Red Bull lead with 312 points ahead of Mercedes on 235.

Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate German Nico Rosberg finished fourth ahead of Australian Mark Webber in the second Red Bull and sixth-placed Briton Jenson Button for McLaren.

Mourinho questions MU stance

AFP, London

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has told Manchester United they will harm the Premier League if they refuse to sell striker Wayne Rooney to a domestic rival.

Rooney has been the subject of two unsuccessful bids from Chelsea in recent weeks and Mourinho has used the issue to stir the pot ahead of his side's clash with United at Old Trafford on Monday.

United manager David Moyes has repeatedly iterated that Rooney is "not for sale", but Mourinho believes the champions are wrong to be preoccupied about arming a rival for the title.

"That old-fashioned mentality of 'I don't sell players to the same country' doesn't help the market and doesn't help the players," he said, in comments reported by several British newspapers on Sunday.

"You see in Italy, it happens every season without any problem. The player wants to move from Milan to Inter, from Inter to Milan, and they do this all the time."

"When you want to sell and you are pushing the players abroad, I think you are giving the wrong contribution to the league where you are."



RESULTS

Verona 2 (Toni 30, 53) AC Milan 1 (Poli 14) Sampdoria 0 Juventus 1 (Tevez 58)

PHOTO: AFP

Hellas Verona striker Luca Toni is ecstatic after his brace sent giants AC Milan crashing during their opening day Serie A clash at the Bentegodi Stadium on Saturday.