



11 World Cup places still to be played for

Play-offs will take place between November 13 and 20

(21) teams qualified so far

★ Top seeds will lead eight groups in 1st round

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA, CARIBBEAN

USA
Honduras
Costa Rica

Colombia
Ecuador

Chile
Argentina

(11) teams will qualify via play-offs

INTERCONTINENTAL

● November 13 - 20

Concacaf - Oceania
Mexico
New Zealand

South America - Asia

Uruguay★
Jordan

*If Uruguay fails to qualify, the Netherlands becomes a top seed

BRAZIL
2014



Balotelli an injury worry

AFP, Milan

AC Milan striker Mario Balotelli is an injury worry for the Serie A giants ahead of next week's Champions League clash with Barcelona after suffering a thigh injury.

Milan, who sit in 12th position and are already 13 points behind league leaders Roma, had been set to welcome Balotelli back from a three-game ban.

However a thigh problem suffered in training means the Italy international is expected to sit out Saturday's league fixture at home to Udinese and could be doubtful for Tuesday's visit of Barcelona to the San Siro.

A brief statement by Milan said: "Mario Balotelli has reported a muscular pain in his right thigh. The player will be monitored in the following days to ascertain the extent of the problem and the appropriate treatment."

After two games in Group H, Milan, on four points, sit second behind the Spanish giants after a win against Celtic and a draw away to Ajax.

MU look to lift off

AFP, London



Manchester United will look to get their league title defence airborne at home to high-flying Southampton on Saturday, as the Premier League resumes following the international break.

United's England players will return to club duty with a spring in their step after the national team secured qualification for next year's World Cup, but Old Trafford has not been a happy place in recent weeks.

With only two wins in their last six games, David Moyes's side trail early leaders Arsenal by six points and in Southampton they face a team who have climbed to fourth place following a run of three straight victories.

The shadow of former manager Alex Ferguson continues to loom over the club but he has urged fans to show patience.

Speaking at an event to unveil a road near Old Trafford that has been renamed in his honour earlier this week, Ferguson said: "It's a great, great football club. You, the supporters, have enjoyed it."

"And I still think that a lot of our young fans don't remember that there were bad days. Dealing with bad days is what we're good at. This club will always go on."

A brace from teenage winger Adnan Januzaj gave United a 2-1 win at Sunderland in their last outing but Southampton are likely to present formidable opposition, having gone four games without conceding a goal.

Saints captain Adam Lallana has given Argentine manager Mauricio Pochettino the credit for their fine start to the campaign.

"We've had a full pre-season under him to get his tactics and methods across," Lallana told local newspaper the Daily Echo. "You're starting to see all the rewards of our hard work under the manager."

The top five clubs are in action on Saturday, with Arsenal hosting Norwich City, second-placed Liverpool visiting Newcastle United, third-placed Chelsea facing Cardiff City and Manchester City, who go into the weekend in fifth, travelling to West Ham United.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, whose side won 6-0 in the corresponding fixture against Newcastle last season, has revealed that he will have three players available for selection again after injury for the trip to St James' Park.

"We'll arrive with our strongest squad of the season against Newcastle," he said.

"They haven't played games but they've been training now for the last few weeks. Glen Johnson will be back, Joe Allen will be back, (Aly) Cissokho will be back."

FIXTURES

Saturday

(1400GMT unless otherwise stated)

Arsenal v Norwich City, Chelsea v Cardiff City, Everton v Hull City, Manchester United v Southampton, Newcastle United v Liverpool (1145GMT), Stoke City v West Bromwich Albion, Swansea City v Sunderland, West Ham United v Manchester City (1630GMT)

Sunday (1500GMT)

Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur

Monday (1900GMT)

Loew agrees new deal

AFP, Berlin

Germany coach Joachim Loew has agreed a new contract that will take him through until 2016, the German football federation (DFB) announced on Friday.

Loew's existing deal runs until the 2014 World Cup but both the manager and DFB president Wolfgang Niersbach had made it clear they wanted the arrangement to continue after Brazil.

"Since the 2006 World Cup, the national team has finished in the top four at each World Cup and Euro and they brilliantly qualified for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil," Niersbach said.

"All credit must go to Joachim Loew and his team and the DFB wanted to show our confidence in them."

The 53-year-old Loew praised the DFB saying that they provided the ideal platform for footballing success.

"We are not yet at the end of our journey and still have some big objectives ahead of us," he said.

WC SEEDS REVEALED Heading for a tough draw

AFP, Paris



Belgium and Switzerland will figure among the eight teams seeded for the World Cup draw, FIFA confirmed on Thursday, in contrast to 2006 champions Italy and 2010 finalists Holland.

Italy have paid dear for last week's 2-2 draw with Armenia, slipping four places in the latest world rankings published Thursday.

It is this list which FIFA is using to determine the seedings for the December 6 draw for next year's World Cup.

Joining hosts Brazil are world champions Spain, Germany, Argentina, Colombia, Belgium, Switzerland, and Uruguay.

Should Uruguay fail to qualify - they face a play-off against Jordan - then it is the Dutch who will take their place.

The Italians, as a result of their October 15 stalemate with Armenia, drop from fourth to eighth place in the latest world order, behind the Dutch by the narrowest of margins.

Brazil are lying 11th in the rankings but as 2014 hosts go into the draw seeded 1.

Belgium booked their 2014 ticket by topping Group A ahead of Croatia, while Switzerland guaranteed their presence in Brazil as Group E winners in front of Iceland.

Since 2010 FIFA have relied on the rankings to determine seedings rather than a mix of results from major finals and qualifying games.

Thursday's rankings are also being used to work out the seeds for Monday's World Cup European zone play-off draw.

As already confirmed France, the 1998 World Cup winners and finalists in 2006, miss out and therefore will face one of the four seeded teams - Portugal, Greece, Croatia or Ukraine.

Maradona dreams of Napoli

AFP, Milan



Argentine football legend Diego Maradona said he would like to succeed Napoli coach Rafael

Benitez while calling on Italy to leave embattled AC Milan striker Mario Balotelli in peace to get on with his job.

Benitez and Balotelli were not the only subjects on the 1986 World Cup winner's radar Thursday, a day ahead of receiving a special award from top sports daily La Gazzetta dello Sport.

Maradona said he would soon be celebrating being drug-free for 10 years but reignited his old rivalry with fellow football legend Pele of Brazil.

Maradona, now welcome in Italy having settled a long-running dispute with authorities over unpaid taxes, is expected to watch former side Napoli's bid to take top spot when they face Serie A leaders Roma on Friday.

Napoli finished runners-up last season under former coach Walter Mazzarri and, after luring former Liverpool and Chelsea boss Rafael Benitez to the club, are seen by many as the biggest challengers to champions Juventus.

Despite a glaring lack of coaching experience compared to Benitez, Maradona, who helped Napoli to their only two league titles in 1987 and 1990, says he would happily succeed the Spaniard.

"When Benitez leaves I would like to take over at Napoli," said Maradona, who, following spells with Argentina (2008-2010) then Emirati club Al Wasl (2011-2012), claimed he was currently unemployed as a coach because people fear him.

"Coaches are changing all over the place, from Spain to Italy, England to Russia. But there are people who are afraid of me. That's why I'm not coaching."

The Argentinian said he could empathise with the plight of AC Milan striker Mario Balotelli, arguably the biggest name in Serie A following his move last year from Manchester City.

Balotelli regularly complains of unfair treatment on and off the pitch and, with his every move often magnified in the media, the Italy international this week pleaded to be left alone.

Even the president of Italy's football federation, Giancarlo Abete, said he had sympathy for Balotelli's plight, saying "the media pressure on the lad is excessive."

Maradona, who during a highly controversial career has endured similar scrutiny both on and off the pitch, said: "Everyone should be allowed to live their life as they want, Balotelli should be left alone."

Balotelli should be "a sporting example, but not one for how to live your life."

Maradona's own troubles are well documented.

The 52-year-old, however, would not back down when it came to Pele, Maradona's long-time rival for the accolade of the world's best ever footballer.

Maradona polled 53.6 percent of the votes to Pele's 18.5 percent in an internet vote in 2000 for FIFA's Footballer of the Century.

Maradona insisted: "Me against Pele, I've been voted the winner of that one."

"Pele was second, even in Brazil when he finished behind Ayrton Senna as their best athlete of all time."

Messi set for return

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona and Real Madrid will be boosted by the return of Lionel Messi and Gareth Bale this weekend as both sides prepare for a vital week in their season.

The two will clash in the first El Clasico of the season at the Camp Nou next weekend and must also negotiate huge Champions League ties in midweek as Real host Juventus and Barca travel to face AC Milan.

A return to league action comes first though, with Madrid welcoming Malaga to the Santiago Bernabeu, whilst Barcelona are away to Osasuna.

The Catalans are sitting pretty atop La Liga, alongside Atletico Madrid, five points clear of Real having won all eight of their league games so far.

Indeed both Barca and Atletico have the chance to match Real's league record nine wins to start the campaign from the 1968/69 season on Saturday.

And midfielder Sergio Busquets doesn't want his teammates to lose concentration against a struggling Osasuna side with big games just around the corner.

"It won't be an easy game for us in Pamplona, and we can't be thinking about Real Madrid yet. One lapse in concentration could allow them to gain ground on us in the table. We cannot afford to get distracted," he said.

"To break the league record we have to win in Pamplona and beat Real Madrid. If

we can do it, we will open up a decent gap in the standings.

"Records are fine but they don't guarantee that you'll end the season with a trophy. We have a few points advantage over Madrid but we have to keep an eye on Atletico."

Messi's return after missing the victories over Celtic and Valladolid is not the only good news on the injury front for Gerardo Martino's men as centre-backs Javier Mascherano and Carles Puyol could both feature on Saturday.

Real have the chance to temporarily cut the gap at the top to two points as they play first on Saturday afternoon against an improving Malaga side.

And in an action packed Saturday, Atletico also have the chance to extend their 100 percent start to the campaign when they travel to Espanyol.

David Villa is available despite missing Spain's recent World Cup qualifiers due to an arthritic ankle problem.

FIXTURES

Saturday

Real Madrid v Malaga (1400GMT), Valencia v Real Sociedad (1600GMT), Osasuna v Barcelona (1800GMT), Espanyol v Atletico Madrid (2000GMT)

Sunday

Granada v Getafe (1000GMT), Almeria v Rayo Vallecano (1500GMT), Real Betis v Elche (1700GMT), Valladolid v Sevilla (1900GMT)

Monday

Celta Vigo v Levante (1800GMT), Athletic Bilbao v

আপনাদের সেবায়



জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর
অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ,
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

অধিক সংখ্যায় জনগণকে সঞ্চয়ে সম্পৃক্ত করা ও গ্রাহক সেবার মান বৃদ্ধিই আমাদের অঙ্গীকার।

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