

What to WATCH

TEN Action

UEFA Champions League

Juventus v Real Madrid

Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League

Man United v Real Sociedad

Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

Do or die for Juve

AFP, Milan

Three consecutive wins and as many clean sheets in Serie A have given Juventus renewed confidence ahead of a must-win Champions League clash at home to Real Madrid on Tuesday.

However Juve coach Antonio Conte has called on fans to give the Serie A champions an extra boost by offering Carlo Ancelotti's Spanish giants a red-hot welcome to Turin.

"I hope the stadium will be a fiery cauldron on Tuesday night. The fans can help push us to victory," Conte told JTV.

Given their lack of wins so far, Juve could certainly do with a boost.

Ousted from last year's quarterfinals by eventual winners Bayern Munich, the Italians appeared down and out of this season's competition following a 2-1 defeat to nine-time European champions Real three weeks ago.

That defeat, courtesy of a double from Portuguese striker Ronaldo, came in the wake of a confidence-sapping league reverse away to Fiorentina, who scored four second-half goals to stun the champions 4-2.

Undoubtedly helped by the fact defender Giorgio Chiellini was sent off in somewhat

MU eyeing last 16

AFP, Madrid

Under fire Manchester United manager David Moyes can ease some of the pressure on his shoulders as the English champions look to edge towards the Champions League last 16 when they visit Real Sociedad on Tuesday.

Whilst Moyes has had a difficult start to life as Alex Ferguson's successor in the Premier League, United's progress in Europe has so far been more straightforward.

The three-time European champions lead Group A on seven points, one ahead of Bayer Leverkusen and three points better off than Shakhtar Donetsk.

Although a win in San Sebastian wouldn't mathematically qualify United for the knockout stages, it would put Moyes' men in a very strong position ahead of a tricky trip to Leverkusen in three weeks' time.

And United will travel to northern Spain encouraged after what captain Nemanja Vidic described as their best performance of the season to date in a 3-1 win away to Fulham on Saturday.

Robin Van Persie and Wayne Rooney were both on target and also made the third



Atletico Madrid forward David Villa is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal against Athletic Bilbao during their Primera Liga match at the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Atletico keep up chase

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid moved back to within a point of Barcelona at the top of La Liga with a comfortable 2-0 win at home to Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

David Villa and Diego Costa were again the men who inflicted the damage on the Basques as the former opened the scoring with a volley from Juanfran's cross on 32 minutes.

And Costa scored his 13th goal in 12 league games this season with a brilliant individual effort eight minutes later.

Victory also means Atletico maintain their five point advantage over city rivals Real Madrid in third.

Athletic could have gone above Villarreal into fourth had they taken anything from the game, but they were swept away by a confident Atletico side that have now won all six of their league games at the Vicente Calderon this season.

Villa was first to threaten as his powerful

harsh fashion shortly after the restart, the fact remains Juventus, with only two points from three games and trailing Galatasaray by two ahead of their visit to FC Copenhagen, are in dire need of a win.

Conte admitted after the defeat, and having taken stock of Galatasaray's home win against Copenhagen, it would now "be difficult" to finish among the top two.

Nothing has changed in that respect.

But three consecutive Serie A wins against Genoa, Catania and Parma -- during which goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has kept a clean sheet -- has boosted Juve's resolve.

Midfielder Claudio Marchisio believes Juve, given Chiellini's expulsion, gave a good account of themselves at the Santiago Bernabeu.

And while he underlined the threat of Real Madrid's Angel Di Maria, Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, he believes improvements to Juve's defensive play could be decisive.

"Chiellini's sending off changed the game, but even when down to ten (men) we played an excellent game in terms of our attention and chances created," said Marchisio.

"We have to do the same again on Tuesday but also look out for their threat on the counter-attack through the likes of Di Maria, Ronaldo and (Gareth) Bale, who all break with extreme pace."

goal for Antonio Valencia as the visitors raced into a 3-0 lead inside 22 minutes at Craven Cottage.

"I was really pleased with Robin and Wayne," Vidic told MUTV.

"In the first 30 minutes they played terrific football and we need them to keep doing that. Their movement was terrific; they got a goal each and set up the other for Antonio. It was a good sign for us and for the team.

"I would say it was (the best performance of the season). We did really well in the first 20 minutes and passed the ball well. We dropped off a bit after 30 minutes and probably thought the game was over.

"Overall, there were lots of positives for us and also areas in which we can improve."

However, that victory also came at a cost as Johnny Evans, Rafael Da Silva and Tom Cleverley all had to be replaced at half-time due to injuries, whilst Patrice Evra also finished the game with a knock.

"It's the first time I've ever had to make three substitutions at half-time," said Moyes.

"Sometimes, maybe the team in the past has not played well and I might have had to do it but it certainly wasn't because of that today - it was down to injuries. I just have to hope they are okay."



Torino winger Alessio Cerci (C) scores the equalising goal against Roma during their Serie A encounter at the Olympic Stadium in Turin on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Torino end Roma run

AFP, Milan

Tenacious Torino held Roma to a 1-1 draw at home to stop the leaders' all-time record of consecutive wins at the start of a Serie A season to 10 on Sunday.

Roma travelled to the Olympic Stadium with hopes of restoring their five-point lead over title rivals Napoli and Juventus, who closed the gap to two points with wins over Parma and Catania respectively on Saturday.

However, Alessio Cerci's second half toe-poke was enough to secure a share of the spoils, and bring Torino some welcome headlines, when it levelled Kevin Strootman's first-half opener for the visitors.

Roma, still unbeaten and having conceded only their second goal in 11 games, remain top on 31 points with a three-point lead on both Napoli and champions Juventus with Inter and Verona a further six points off the pace.

Roma have become the team to watch so far this season following the appointment of French coach

Rudi Garcia.

But while in with the chance of claiming an 11th consecutive win to match the best ever start to a season by any team, namely Tottenham in the 1960-61 season, in the top five European leagues, Torino had other ideas.

Dutch midfielder Strootman gave Roma a 28th-minute lead when he beat Daniele Padelli in the hosts' goal with a curling left-foot strike.

However Torino launched wave after wave of attack, and their efforts finally paid off just after the hour when Cerci poked the ball into the net from close range after Riccardo Meggiorini had done well on the left to keep possession under pressure from Mehdi Benatia.

Earlier Sunday Lazio's recent revival came to a grinding halt with a 2-0 defeat by Genoa at the Olympic Stadium, while Inter Milan put three unanswered goals past Udinese on a rain-hit trip north.

Elsewhere, Domenico Berardi made it a Sunday to remember for Sassuolo, the striker scoring a hat-trick, including a late penalty, to

RESULTS

Livorno 1 (Paulinho 11) Atalanta 0
Verona 2 (Toni 8, Jankovic 57) Cagliari 1 (Conti 90)
Lazio 0 **Genoa 2** (Kucka 60, Gilardino 72-pen)
Sampdoria 3 (Pozzi 19, Eder 65, De Silvestri 81) **Sassuolo 4** (Berardi 49, 52-pen, 88-pen, Floro Flores 63)
Udinese 0 **Inter 3** (Palacio 25, Ranocchia 29, Alvarez 90+1)
Torino 1 (Cerci 63) Roma 1 (Strootman 28)
Parma 0 Juventus 1 (Pogba 77)
AC Milan 0 **Fiorentina 2** (Vargas 27, Borja 73)
Napoli 2 (Callejon 15, Hamsik 20)
Catania 1 (Castro 25)

help the Serie A new boys dominate a seven-goal thriller away to struggling Sampdoria.

Verona meanwhile continued their strong start to the campaign with a 2-1 win at home to Cagliari which moved the promoted side up

to fifth at the expense of Fiorentina, 2-0 winners over AC Milan at the San Siro on Saturday.

For Roma's Olympic Stadium neighbours Lazio, it is back to the drawing board.

Vladimir Petkovic's men looked to have put a recent slump behind them with a home win over Cagliari and a draw away to Milan in the past 10 days.

However the Biancocelesti paid the price for missing several chances in the first half when Juraj Kucka broke the deadlock on the hour and Alberto Gilardino doubled the visitors' lead 12 minutes later from the spot.

Lazio's fourth reverse left them in seventh, 16 points behind Roma and seven adrift of Verona.

Inter, meanwhile, handed Udinese their second consecutive defeat at their notoriously difficult Friuli Stadium, which recently witnessed a 1-0 defeat by Roma.

Inter opened the scoring through Rodrigo Palacio in the 25th minute when the Argentine flashed a header past goalkeeper Zeljko Brkic from close range following Saphir Taider's precision free kick.

Novak Paris Master

AFP, Paris

Serbia's Novak Djokovic defeated defending champion David Ferrer 7-5, 7-5 on Sunday to win the Paris Masters after a thrilling final at the Bercy arena.

The Spaniard twice served for both sets only for the six-time Grand Slam winner to show his pedigree and break at the crucial moments before holding serve to close out the first set and then the match.

Ferrer fell short of becoming the first player to successfully defend the Paris title while Djokovic took another step towards regaining the number one spot from Rafael Nadal heading to the World Tour Finals.

It was also Djokovic's 40th ATP title victory, the 15th player to reach this milestone.

AVB satisfied with Lloris call

AFP, Liverpool

Tottenham Hotspur manager Andre Villas-Boas said he did not regret keeping goalkeeper Hugo Lloris on the pitch in Sunday's 0-0 draw at Everton after he sustained a head injury.

The France international needed lengthy treatment after smacking his head against Romelu Lukaku's knee as he slid out to thwart the Belgian striker in the latter stages of the Premier League game at Goodison Park.

Lloris looked dazed as he returned to his feet and reserve goalkeeper Brad Friedel prepared himself to come on, but the former Lyon man declared himself fit to continue playing.

It proved a sound decision as he produced an excellent save to thwart Everton substitute Gerard Deulofeu in the 87th minute.

RESULTS

Getafe 0 **Valencia 1** (Pabon 41)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Villa 32, Diego Costa 40) Athletic Bilbao 0
Levante 0 **Granada 1** (Piti 90+1)
Malaga 3 (Santa Cruz 13, Eliseu 61, Samuel 90+3)
Real Betis 2 (Verdu 33, Figueras 63)

free-kick was well-held by Gorka Iraizoz before Costa broke clear and pulled his shot just beyond the far post.

Iraizoz then made an incredible save to prevent Villa's volley from close range as the ball ricocheted around the Athletic box.

However, six minutes later the keeper was beaten from a similar move as Juanfran got the by-line and his cross fell for Villa whose shot deflected off Mikel San Jose on its way into the net.

Costa then got his customary goal to make the game safe as he powered down the left, cut inside Erik Moran and slotted coolly past Iraizoz into the far corner.

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