

STAR Sports1
Australia v England
Third Test, Day 5
Live from 8:30am

Sony Six HD
FIFA Club World Cup
Semifinal
Guangzhou v Bayern Munich
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

City test for Barcelona

AFP, Paris



Spanish giants Barcelona were handed the toughest possible draw Monday when they were paired with Manchester City in the plum tie of the last 16 of the Champions League.

Champions Bayern Munich were also given a hard draw as they plucked Arsenal for the second year in a row at this stage.

For the English pair, who both finished second in their groups, it was yet again a harsh lesson in the importance of winning the group.

Manchester United and Chelsea, both group winners, were given far more favourable draws against Olympiakos and Galatasaray respectively.

In fairness to Arsenal and City, they did have the toughest possible groups facing one each of last season's finalists.

City came within a single goal of pipping Bayern to top spot in their group when a 3-2 win in Munich was one goal short of what they needed to overhaul the Bavarians.

Arsenal were within a couple of minutes of winning their group despite losing 2-0 at Napoli on the final match-day but Borussia Dortmund's late winner in Marseille allowed them to snatch top spot there.

Arsenal have rarely had much luck in the knockout stage draws in recent years having been paired with AC Milan in 2012 and Barcelona in 2011.



5-star Liverpool

AFP, London

Luis Suarez scored twice as Liverpool moved back into second place in the Premier League with a crushing 5-0 defeat of Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

Jordan Henderson, Jon Flanagan and Raheem Sterling were also on target, with the victory taking Brendan Rodgers's side above Chelsea on goal difference and to within two points of leaders Arsenal.

Suarez's double continued his outstanding scoring run and the striker has now scored 17 Premier League goals this season, while Liverpool took their tally to 14 goals in the last three games.

The impressive one-sided win confirmed Liverpool's credentials as title contenders, while defeat brought an end to Tottenham's recent recovery after they had fallen to successive defeats against Newcastle United and Manchester City.

Now five points adrift of the top four and eight points off first place, the focus will again be trained on manager Andre Villas-Boas, who also saw midfielder Paulinho

sent off for a high challenge on Suarez.

The fact that Suarez has now scored two more Premier League goals than Tottenham have managed altogether highlights Spurs' weaknesses up front, but this defeat exposed frailties in all departments.

Spurs actually succeeded in keeping Suarez quiet for the opening 15 minutes of the game but once he caught sight of the home goal, Villas-Boas's side found the Uruguayan forward impossible to handle.

Installed as captain in the absence of Steven Gerrard, who is expected to be out for around six weeks with a hamstring problem, Suarez almost wrong-footed Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris with an improvised shot that drifted narrowly wide.

But that proved to be a temporary let-off for the home side, with Suarez making no mistake after Henderson's reactions proved to be quicker than those of Michael Dawson.

Dawson appeared to have cut out Suarez's threaded pass but he was dispossessed by Henderson, who picked out Suarez as the striker burst into the Spurs area.

A neat side-step took the Reds skipper around Kyle Walker, before he slotted home a side-foot finish.

Tevez hits hattrick

AFP, Milan



Carlos Tevez scored a hat-trick as Juventus bounced back from their Champions League exit with a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Sassuolo on Sunday which took their lead over Roma to six points.

Antonio Conte's side exited Europe's premier club competition on Wednesday after a 1-0 defeat to Galatasaray in snow-hit Istanbul dropped the Italian champions to third in Group B and into the Europa League.

Conte had since set the target of winning both pre-Christmas games, at home to Sassuolo and away to Atalanta, and Juve completed the first task with consummate ease ahead of Roma's trip to Milan on Monday.

Juve remain top on 43 points and Roma have even more incentive to win in Milan on Monday after Napoli closed the gap on the Giallorossi to two points after a thrilling 4-2 win over

RESULTS

Chievo 0 Sampdoria 1 (Eder 16)
Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic 13, Borja 29, Rossi 64)
Bologna 0
Genoa 1 (Bertolacci 72) Atalanta 1 (De Luca 90+4)
Lazio 2 (Klose 19, 26) Livorno 0
Parma 0 Cagliari 0
Udinese 0 Torino 2 (Farnerud 48, Immobile 75)
Juventus 4 (Tevez 15, 45, 68, Peluso 28) Sassuolo 0
Napoli 4 (Higuain 9, Mertens 39, Dzemal 41, Callejon 81) Inter 2 (Cambiasso 35, Nagatomo 45+2)

Inter, who were left in fifth place following Fiorentina's 3-0 defeat of Bologna earlier in the day.

Inter were reduced to 10 men in the 71st minute when Ricky Alvarez saw a second yellow card, for handball, but by then most of the damage had been done.

Inter coach Walter Mazzarri was mostly applauded on his return to the club he steered to a second place finish last season, but he departed feeling less buoyed with Inter now winless in their last four games.

Argentinian striker Gonzalo Higuain opened the scoring for Napoli after just nine minutes when he smashed a volley past Samir Hananovic from the edge of the area.

Inter levelled on 35 minutes when Napoli's defence failed to deal with a low ball across the area and when it reached Esteban Cambiasso the Argentinian had no problem beating Rafael in the Napoli net.

Napoli restored their lead four minutes later when Dries Mertens pounced on a loose ball at the feet of teammate Blerim Dzemaili to beat Handanovic with a curling strike at his near post.

Dzemaili stretched Napoli's lead two minutes later when he tapped home Lorenzo Insigne's perfectly-weighted ball across the face of goal.

Napoli were stunned on the stroke of half-time when Yuto Nagatomo reduced arrears for the visitors.

Inter created several chances in a dramatic second but ultimately failed to capitalise.

Aguero out for a month

AFP, London



Manchester City's Premier League title challenge was dealt a setback on Monday when manager Manuel Pellegrini announced that Sergio Aguero will be out for "at least one month" through injury.

The 25-year-old Argentina striker has been in stunning form of late, scoring 12 goals in his last 11 games to take the 2012 champions to within three points of league leaders Arsenal.

However, after opening the scoring in Saturday's 6-3 victory over Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium, he had to come off in the 49th minute with a calf problem.

"I think he will be at least one month out," Pellegrini told a press conference, ahead of City's League Cup quarter-final tie at second-tier Leicester City on Tuesday.

News of Aguero's absence falls at an inopportune time for City, who face Fulham, title rivals Liverpool and Crystal Palace over the busy festive period.

Aguero also stands to miss league games against Swansea City and Newcastle United, as well as a trip to Blackburn Rovers in the FA Cup third round on January 4.

The former Atletico Madrid player has been key to City's impressive early-season goalscoring form, striking up a partnership with new signing Alvaro Negredo that has seen the two players plunder 32 goals between them in all competitions.

Spurs sack Villas-Boas

MAIL ONLINE

Andre Villas-Boas has been sacked as Tottenham Hotspur manager following the 5-0 defeat against Liverpool at White Hart Lane.

A statement said: 'The Club can announce that agreement has been reached with Head Coach, Andre Villas-Boas, for the termination of his services.'

The decision was by mutual consent and in the interests of all parties.

'We wish Andre well for the future. We shall make a further announcement in due course.'

Levy is already lining up a successor to Villas-Boas - possibly in the form of a temporary manager.

The Spurs chairman is understood to be sounding out potential replacements and Sportsmail has learnt that the Tottenham chairman favours an experienced coach with World Cup pedigree.

Fabio Capello, who was at White Hart Lane on Sunday performing TV duties, out-of-work Gus Hiddink and Glenn Hoddle and three high-profile names in the frame.

Everton lose Deulofeu

AFP, London

Everton will be without on-loan Barcelona starlet Gerard Deulofeu until the new year due to a hamstring injury, the Premier League club revealed on Monday.

The 19-year-old Spanish forward suffered the injury during his side's 4-1 win over Fulham on Saturday.

Deulofeu has been one of Everton's most impressive performers in recent weeks, scoring in the 4-0 win over Stoke City and the 1-1 draw at Arsenal as Roberto Martinez's side climbed up to fifth.

"Everton are set to be without the services of Gerard Deulofeu until the new year," read a statement on the club website.

Swansea, Hull charged

AFP, London

Swansea City and Hull City have been charged over an on-pitch fracas during their Premier League encounter last week, the Football Association announced on Monday.

The clubs are accused of failing "to ensure their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion" during their 1-1 draw at Swansea's Liberty Stadium on December 9.

The charge relates to a confrontation late in the game between Hull pair Tom Huddlestone and Yannick Sagbo and Swansea centre-backs Ashley Williams and Chico Flores.

Sagbo and Williams were both booked, while Swansea midfielder Jonjo Shelvey was also cautioned in the aftermath of the incident.



Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo poses during the inauguration of the CR7 museum dedicated to his professional career in Madeira on Sunday.

Costa guides Atletico

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid joined Barcelona at the top of La Liga as a double from Diego Costa guided them to a 3-0 win over Valencia on Sunday.

After a disappointing first-half, Costa opened the scoring in style with a stunning individual effort 14 minutes after the restart.

Just four minutes later substitute Raul Garcia rattled home a loose ball from the area to seal the three points.

Costa then saw a penalty saved by Diego Alves, but made no mistake

RESULTS

Almeria 0 Espanyol 0
Real Sociedad 5 (Agirretxe 6, 67, Ansotegi 55, Griezmann 62, Xabi Prieto 85) Real Betis 1 (Jorge Molina 19)

Sevilla 1 (Moreno 4) Athletic Bilbao 1 (Susaeta 6)

Atletico Madrid 3 (Diego Costa 59, 81-pen, Raul Garcia 63) Valencia 0

when handed a second opportunity from the spot six minutes later to move level with Cristiano Ronaldo as La Liga's top scorer on 17.

Both Atletico and Barca, on 43 points from 16 games, now have a five-point lead over Real Madrid after Los

Blancos could only manage a 2-2 draw at Osasuna on Saturday.

Atletico boss Diego Simeone made seven changes from the side that started in the 2-0 Champions League win over Porto in midweek as he resorted to his strongest available line-up.

However, the hosts still found it hard going in the opening 45 minutes as Valencia controlled possession without posing a threat to Thibaut Courtois's goal.

Atletico started the second period with far more urgency and after Tiago had turned Miranda's cross just wide, Costa ran half the length of the field before finishing low past Alves.

