

What to WATCH

TEN SPORTS
Asian Games
Live from 6:00am

STAR SPORTS 4
English Premier League

Leicester City v Man Utd
Live from 6:30pm
Man City v Chelsea
Live from 9:00pm

Serie A
Palermo v Inter

Live from 12:45am (Monday)
STAR SPORTS 2
English Premier League

Everton v Crystal Palace
Live from 9:00pm

La Liga
Cordoba v Sevilla
Live from 11:00pm
Levante v Barcelona

Live from 1:00am (Monday)



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Paderborn flying high

AFP, Berlin

Promoted Paderborn were flying high Saturday as they led the Bundesliga with another victory while Bayern Munich slumped to a goalless draw at Hamburg. Elias Kachunga scored in the 71st minute and Moritz Stoppelkamp added another after 93 minutes to beat Hanover 96 2-0 to improve to eight points.

Munich were unable to get the better of a Hamburg team under new coach Joe Zinnbauer playing out a 0-0 draw in Hamburg.

The reigning champions also have eight points from four games but are sitting third behind Paderborn and Hoffenheim on goal difference.

Hoffenheim remained near the top of the table with eight points without a loss after a 2-0 win at VfB Stuttgart, thanks to goals by Anthony Modeste after 15 minutes and Tarik Elyounoussi in the 84th.

Werder Bremen's streak of coming back from deficits to collect points was snapped as Augsburg won 4-2 at home.

Werder Bremen jumped ahead through 19-year-old Davie Selke in the third minute. But Daniel Baier equalised after 14 minutes and Paul Verhaegh gave the hosts the lead in the 44th from the spot.

Franco Di Santo equalised for Bremen on a penalty in the 56th minute. But Tobias Werner gave Augsburg the lead again in the 76th. And Tim Matavz added a fourth goal three minutes into stoppage time.

Schalke's struggles continued with a 2-2 draw at home in a hot-headed clash against Eintracht Frankfurt where two Schalke players and one Frankfurt player saw red.



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (C) is mobbed by his teammates after scoring one of his three goals against Deportivo La Coruna during their Primera Liga match at the Riazor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hammer blow for L'pool

AFP, London



Liverpool suffered a surprise 3-1 loss away to West Ham on Saturday as fresh questions were raised about whether they have the defence required to win the Premier League title.

Brendan Rodgers's side were 2-0 down inside seven minutes at Upton Park.

Poor defending by Liverpool -- who've now lost three of their five league games this season -- saw the visitors fail to deal with James Tomkins's knock down and Winston Reid turned the ball in to put the Hammers 1-0 up in the second minute.

Earlier, Arsenal stopped Aston Villa going top of the table courtesy of a 3-0 win, with the much-criticised Mesut Ozil on target.

Villa had conceded just one league goal in their previous four league matches but all that changed as

goalkeeper Simon Mignolet.

But Liverpool remain a potent attacking force and England winger Raheem Sterling pulled a goal back with an unstoppable shot from inside the box in the 26th minute after Mario Balotelli's initial effort was blocked.

However, substitute Morgan Amalfitano made the game safe for Sam Allardyce's West Ham side two minutes from time when he latched on to former Liverpool winger Stewart Downing's through-ball before finding the far corner.

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RESULTS

Aston Villa 0 Arsenal 3 (Ozil 32, Welbeck 34, Cissokho 36-og)
Burnley 0 Sunderland 0
Newcastle 2 (Cisse 73, 87) Hull 2 (Jelavic 49, Diam 68)
QPR 2 (Caulker 42, Kranjcar 88) Stoke 2 (Diouf 11, Crouch 51)
Swansea 0 Southampton 1 (Wanyama 80)
West Ham 3 (Reid 2, Sakho 7, Amalfitano 88)

Arsenal fired in three inside four minutes at Villa Park.

Ozil put the Gunners in front in the 32nd minute and former Manchester United striker Danny Welbeck scored his first Arsenal goal two minutes later before Villa's Aly Cissokho turned the ball into his own net.

The 27-year-old was left out of Gerardo Martino's first squad as Albiceleste coach for the international break in early September, with rumours circulating in Argentine media that Messi had lost interest in the national team after they finished as runners up in World Cup 2014.

However, AFA chief Luis Segura has insisted that the absence of Barcelona's No.10 from the last squad was 100 per cent fitness-related and lauded the quality of Martino's men who defeated Germany 4-2 in a friendly at the start of the month - without Messi.

"Neither Messi nor Barcelona nor Messi's family gave us orders to leave him out of the squad," Julio Humberto Grondona's successor told DyN.

"Messi did not play a friendly against Germany because of a thigh problem and this was informed to us by Barcelona's medical staff."

Argentina are back in friendly action on October 11 against Brazil as they continue their preparation for next summer's Copa America in Chile.

'Suarez already a good signing'

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona boss Luis Enrique believes Luis Suarez has already proved his worth despite not having even played a competitive game since his £75 million move from Liverpool.

The Uruguayan will still be unavailable for over a month after receiving a four-month ban for biting Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup in June.

Suarez could make his debut in Enrique's first El Clasico in charge of Barca away to Real Madrid on October 25.

And Enrique believes the 27-year-old's attitude in training has already made him an

important signing for the club.

"He is adapting and waiting for his opportunity. He is training as if he could play tomorrow and that was our objective.

"Already, even without playing, I think he is helping us and has been a good signing."

Barca have started Enrique's reign with four consecutive wins and four clean sheets for the first time in the club's history.

However, the former Celta Vigo coach still received criticism for making nine changes as the Catalans struggled past APOEL Nicosia 1-0 to open their Champions League campaign on Wednesday.

There are likely to be another wave of changes for Sunday's trip to bottom of the table Levante.

'Strip titles for FFP breach'

REUTERS, London



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho believes clubs found guilty of breaching UEFA's Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules should be deducted points and have titles stripped rather than face fines.

Premier League champions Manchester City, who face Chelsea in a heavyweight clash between the two title favourites on Sunday, were fined 60 million euros (\$83.3 million) in May for breaking the rules, but the Portuguese believes stricter sanctions should be imposed.

"Are the fines fair? I don't think so. What is fair is to remove points and titles," the 51-year-old was quoted as saying by British media. "If you win titles and are then penalised economically, you continue."

The FFP rules, which were set up by the Club Financial Control Body (CFCB) in 2012, are designed to limit financial losses and make football clubs more financially stable.

Messi not in charge

GOAL.COM

Lionel Messi and Barcelona do not decide when the forward is available to play for his country, according to Argentina Football Association (AFA) president Luis Segura.

The 27-year-old was left out of Gerardo Martino's first squad as Albiceleste coach for the international break in early September, with rumours circulating in Argentine media that Messi had lost interest in the national team after they finished as runners up in World Cup 2014.

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Conte wants workhorses

GOAL.COM

Antonio Conte has warned Mario Balotelli and other Italy players that he only wants workhorses, not "grass grazers", in his team.

Balotelli was surprisingly left out of Conte's first squad as Azzurri coach, prompting some to ponder whether the striker would need to improve his attitude to return to the national team.

Conte has now given weight to this theory but insisted that absentees from his last squad - including Liverpool's Balotelli and Atletico Madrid attacker Alessio Cerci - have hope of making future call-ups.

"Anyone who knows me knows the way I work," he told Corriere dello Sport. "Prior to the games earlier this month, there were some players who were not up to scratch in terms of form and in terms of games played, such as Balotelli and Cerci."

"Choosing not to summon them was natural from this point of view. I evaluate who will play based on attitudes on and off the field."

"There is no player exempt from being picked, but I demand professionalism during training and in technical meetings. My team must memorise the tactics. If you are not careful, and you spend your time in training grazing on grass, you will not get along with me."

Referring to Marco Verratti's absence from the pitch in September's clashes with Netherlands and Norway, Conte added: "We know Verratti's qualities, but in his position there's also competition from Daniele De Rossi, Andrea Pirlo, Riccardo Montolivo and Alberto Aquilani."

"The main problem is that if you have quality and do not run, then that's not enough for me. You've got to give me intensity."

Conte also acknowledged that he is keeping tabs on Southampton striker Graziano Pelle, who has started his Southampton career in strong fashion following his summer move to the Premier League.

"Pelle scored 50 goals in 57 matches in Netherlands and is scoring in England," the ex-Juventus boss said. "We're keeping an eye on him like so many others."

"But if you are in my Italy team, it is because you are doing something extraordinary, not just because you have scored three goals. Otherwise it means that anyone can get in the national team, as it has been lately. We must restore the rightful order."

Donbass Arena hit by shelling

REUTERS, Kiev

Shakhtar Donetsk's Donbass Arena has been hit by shelling despite a ceasefire agreed between Ukraine government forces and Russian-backed separatists, the club said on Friday.

"On September 19 two explosions sounded off in immediate proximity to Donbass Arena. The North-Eastern side of the facade was damaged as a result of it. Donbass Arena personnel were evacuated into a safe place. No one was hurt," Shakhtar said in a statement on their website.

Last month the club said its training pitch had been damaged by shelling.

The Donbass stadium opened five years ago, with club owner Rynat Akhmetov spending around \$400 million on the project.

The 52,000-seat venue hosted five matches at Euro 2012 and has regularly staged Champions League matches.

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Incredible Real

REUTERS, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo netted his 27th career hat-trick and Gareth Bale struck twice as Real Madrid bounced back in style from consecutive defeats with a thumping 8-2 La Liga win at Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday.

Portugal captain Ronaldo, the current World Player of the Year, put Real ahead with a 29th-minute header at the Riazor before new signing James Rodriguez evoked memories of his dazzling performances for Colombia at the 2014 World Cup with a stunning strike in the 36th.

The Golden Boot winner at the finals in Brazil with six goals, Rodriguez picked up the ball just outside the penalty area and whipped a curling left-foot effort into the far corner past Depor goalkeeper German Lux.

Lux gifted Real, who were looking to avoid a third consecutive La Liga defeat, a slapstick third shortly before halftime when he became stranded outside his area and let in Ronaldo to score his second.

Haris Medunjanin pulled a goal back for Depor from the penalty spot in the 50th minute after the referee ruled Sergio Ramos had handled in the area before Bale

squeezed a low shot in off the far post in the 66th.

The Wales winger, who looks on fine form in the opening weeks of the season, scored his second 16 minutes from time when he ran on to a pass from substitute Isco and clipped the ball over Lux into the far corner.

Ronaldo completed his hat-trick four minutes later, Jose Verdu headed a second for Depor in the 84th and Javier Hernandez, who has joined on loan from Manchester United, came off the bench and scored a quickfire double as the home side, promoted from the second division at the end of last season, crumbled.

The Mexican's first in the 88th minute was a powerful left-foot strike which flew into the top corner and his second was deflected into the net in the second minute of added time to complete the rout.

It was the first time Real have scored eight goals in an away match in La Liga and just the tonic the European champions needed after defeats at Real Sociedad and at home to champions Atletico Madrid.