

STAR SPORTS 1

English Premiership
Aston Villa v Liverpool
Live from 9:00pm
Primera Liga

Valencia v Almeria

Live from 1:00am (Sunday)
Espanyol v Celta de Vigo
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)
STAR SPORTS 2

English Premiership

QPR v Man United
Live from 9:00pm
Serie A
Empoli v Inter Milan

Live from 11:00pm

Palermo v Roma
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)
STAR SPORTS 4
English Premiership

STAR-STUDED PIETERSEN

Kevin Pietersen is a man notorious for his tattoos, and the former England international cricketer has inked his body once more, this time with a map of the world. In a picture posted on his Instagram site, the batsman showed off his new design, stretching from his chest around to his back. Each mark represents a place that Pietersen has scored an



HONDA drives Japan

AFP, Sydney



Keisuke Honda's penalty earned profligate Japan a 1-0 win over Iraq on Friday as Jordan's reserve striker Hamza Aldaradreh hit four against Palestine at the Asian Cup.

AC Milan's Honda juddered the woodwork three times but he remained the hero of the hour for the defending champions with a nerveless spot-kick in the first half.

At a hot and sticky Brisbane Stadium, there will be concerns over the finishing of the four-time winners who are still to guarantee their quarterfinal spot.

There were no such problems for Jordan, whose third-choice striker Aldaradreh shot to the top of the scoring charts and kept Jordan's Group D hopes alive in a 5-1 win.

Aldaradreh only started because Ahmad Hayel was recovering after vomiting and falling unconscious during a doping test, an incident which drew a protest from Jordanian officials.

"I go back to 1966 when England won the World Cup -- Jimmy Greaves was one of the best centre-forwards in the world and Sir Alf Ramsey had to make a choice to keep Geoff Hurst in," Wilkins told reporters.

"It panned out quite nicely for England. Hamza was probably my third choice and now he's given me a horrible bloody headache which I've got to try and sort out. But I'm delighted for him and delighted for the lads as well."

Hamza converted Abdallah Deeb's cross-shot on 35 minutes and added a second just before half-time, and another two after the break in what was the tournament's first hat-trick.

He became only the fourth man to score four in a match at the Asian Cup, after Iran's Betash Fariba and Ali Daei in 1980 and 1996, and Bahrain's Ismael Abdul Latif in 2011.

Palestine exit at the earliest opportunity but it wasn't all bleak for the debutants as Jaka Hbaisha became their first Asian Cup goal-scorer with an emphatic finish on 85 minutes.

The result gave Jordan coach Wilkins a huge lift with the Englishman under fire after failing to arrest the team's slide since taking over last September.

At the later kick-off in Brisbane, Honda was guilty of a glaring miss when he hit the post in the second half with the goal begging -- his third encounter with the woodwork.

However, he managed the decisive kick of the game with his well-taken penalty, when he sent Jalal Hassan the wrong way and rolled the ball into the opposite corner.



PHOTO: AFP

Japan midfielder Keisuke Honda scores the all-important penalty during their Asian Cup clash against Iraq in Brisbane yesterday.



Atletico Madrid striker Fernando Torres (L) scores one of his two goals against Real Madrid during their Copa del Rey encounter at the Bernabeu on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Torres KO Real

AFP, Madrid



Fernando Torres scored his first Atletico Madrid goal in eight years as the La Liga champions dumped holders Real Madrid out of the Copa del Rey 4-2 on aggregate after a 2-2 draw at the Santiago Bernabeu on Thursday.

Already leading 2-0 from last week's first-leg, Torres stunned the hosts inside the first minute when turning home Antoine Griezmann's pass to hand Atletico a vital away goal.

Sergio Ramos pulled a goal back for Real, but Griezmann and Torres repeated the trick seconds into the second-half to restore Atletico's lead.

Fresh from winning the third Ballon d'Or of his career, Cristiano Ronaldo ensured the home side at least salvaged a draw on the night, but they have now failed to beat Atletico in five meetings this season.

Atletico will face Barcelona in the last eight after the Catalans completed an 9-0 aggregate win over Elche as goals from Jeremy Mathieu, Sergi Roberto, Pedro Rodriguez and Adriano sealed a 4-0 victory on the night at the Martinez Valero.

Torres was only starting due to an illness suffered by Mario Mandzukic in the day before the game, but had by far his biggest impact since returning to the Spanish capital.

Meanwhile, Real boss Carlo Ancelotti was left to lament the defensive errors that undid much of his side's fine attacking play in the first hour.

"I am delighted with how the team played in the first-half. You can't play better," said the Italian.

"The worry doesn't come from not taking our chances because we played with pace and intensity. The worry comes from the defensive mistakes we made."

Ronaldo paraded the Ballon d'Or in front

RESULTS

Real Madrid 2 (Ramos 20, Ronaldo 54) Atletico Madrid 2 (Torres 1, 46)
Atletico win 4-2 on aggregate
Elche 0 Barcelona 4 (Mathieu 21, Sergi Roberto 40, Pedro 43-pen, Adriano 90+1)
Barcelona win 9-0 on aggregate

of an adoring full house at the Bernabeu prior to kick-off.

However, it took just 46 seconds for Atletico to silence the home fans as Griezmann broke down the left and squared for Torres to turn home his first Atletico goal since May 2007.

Real then laid siege to Atletico goal in search of the four goals they needed to progress to the last eight.

Gareth Bale saw a flicked header easily held by Jan Oblak, whilst the Slovenian was on hand to somehow prevent Ronaldo turning home Karim Benzema's knock-down moments later.

However, Atletico's second choice 'keeper was at fault when the hosts levelled after 20 minutes as he got nowhere near Toni Kroos's free-kick and Ramos gratefully headed into an empty net.

Mario Suarez made a desperate clearance from just in front of his own goal line to prevent Ronaldo giving Madrid the lead and Oblak made a smart low save from Marcelo as the visitors held on till half-time.

And incredibly Atletico struck again within a minute of the restart after half-time in similar fashion as Ramos gifted the ball to Griezmann, who fed Torres and he cut inside Pepe to slot home his second goal of the night.

The former Liverpool and Chelsea striker could even have had a hat-trick moments later as he wriggled past Ramos inside the area, but Griezmann took the loose ball from his teammate and smashed a shot just wide.

Ronaldo restored parity on the night for Carlo Ancelotti's men when he stooped to head in Bale's cross from the left nine minutes after the break.

Benzema had one final chance to set up a grandstand finish, but he blasted over on the volley from close range to ensure Madrid's winless streak against Diego Simeone's men continues.

Zia 25th

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman finished 25th in the 13th Parsvnath Delhi International Open Grandmasters Chess Tournament after being held to a draw against India's IM Swapnil Dhopade in the tenth and final round in New Delhi yesterday.

Zia has earned 6.5 points from ten games.

Juve hit Verona for six

REUTERS, Milan

A second-string Juventus hammered Verona 6-1 in their Italian Cup tie on Thursday, with two goals coming from reserve striker Sebastian Giovinco.

Giovinco, who has started only two Serie A games this season, opened the floodgates when he curled in a free kick after five minutes.

Roberto Pereyra scored his first goal for Juventus with a neat chipped finish over Verona goalkeeper Rafael and Giovinco gave the hosts a 3-0 halftime lead.

Paul Pogba fired the fourth early in the second half. Alvaro Morata converted a penalty and Kingsley Coman completed the rout with his first goal for the club as Juve earned a quarterfinal tie away to Parma.

Nene provided the only reply for Verona, who will not be looking forward to returning to the Juventus stadium for a league match against the same opponents on Sunday.

Van Gaal issues Falcao warning

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal said Friday that striker Radamel Falcao must prove himself, warning that a player's financial value never influenced his selection policy.

The Colombia international was left out of van Gaal's 18-man matchday squad for United's 1-0 loss to Southampton last weekend as the Dutchman instead named three centre-backs -- Jonny Evans, Tyler Blackett and Paddy McNair -- on the substitutes' bench.

Van Gaal later insisted that Falcao, who has scored three goals in 11 games for United, had been left out for tactical reasons.

Falcao joined United in a loan deal worth £16 million (\$24 million, 21 million euros) which includes wages, from AS Monaco in August and the Red Devils have the option to make it permanent after the end of the season for an additional £44 million.

Van Gaal also insisted the financial value of a player remains secondary to what they produce on the pitch.

"He (Falcao) has to prove himself, that we have agreed," van Gaal told a news conference on Friday. "Because of that we have made this deal and everything is clear. It is not the end of the year so he has a chance."

"It is the quality of the training sessions and quality in his matches and I have to have a game plan," he added.

"I explained it after the Southampton game. If a player cost £95 million or £5,000 it makes no difference to me."

"You have to prove yourself and a player of £95 million has to prove himself too."

Despite his assessment, the Dutch manager said there were no issues with the confidence of Falcao, who has also struggled with injuries since arriving at Old Trafford.

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Roma face Palermo test

AFP, Milan



Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri has indicated the future of star midfielder Paul Pogba could lie elsewhere, as the champions look to tighten their grip on Serie A with another home game against Verona on Sunday.

Pogba has become an integral part of Juve's midfield since joining the Italian giants in 2012 on a free transfer from Manchester United.

However the 21-year-old Frenchman has risen to global prominence and an elite handful of clubs with riches Juventus can only dream of are waiting in the wings hopeful of securing his signature.

United, Manchester City, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint Germain were put on red alert in midweek when Allegri told reporters:

"Regarding Pogba, we have to live in the present. We don't know what will happen in June."

"A lot of clubs are looking at him, but that's normal. He's young, strong and has yet to reach his full potential as a player."

Juventus host Verona for the second time this week on Sunday -- four days after a 6-1 drubbing of the Gialloblu in the last 16 Cup win in Turin -- looking to retain their three-point lead on Roma.

Allegri hedged his bets, rested strike

FIXTURES

Saturday Empoli v Inter (1700), Palermo v Roma

Sunday Lazio v Napoli (1130), Cesena v Torino, Chievo v Fiorentina, Genoa v Sassuolo, Milan v Atalanta, Parma v Sampdoria, Udinese v Cagliari (all 1400),

pair Carlos Tevez and Fernando Llorente for the last 16 tie and his choice was vindicated as striker Sebastian Giovinco hit a brace and Pogba another in the one-sided display.

Roma's title credentials, meanwhile face scrutiny in a potentially treacherous trip away to Palermo less than a week after Francesco Totti saved their blushes with a brace to snatch a point from a 2-2 draw with city rivals Lazio.

Totti is likely to miss the trip to Sicily because of flu symptoms and Palermo, who were unbeaten since October before last week's 4-3 defeat away to Fiorentina, will be no push-over.

Palermo are being watched closely by clubs desperate to lure one of their star players, Paulo Dybala, whose nine goals and seven assists so far have reportedly made him a transfer target for the likes of Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool.

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