

Captain Kane manages draw

AFP, Burnley



Tottenham Hotspur's Champions League ambitions faded further on Sunday after they were held to a torpid 0-0 draw at struggling Burnley in the Premier League.

With top scorer Harry Kane captain in the absence of the injured Hugo Lloris, Spurs were seeking a victory that would have lifted them above fifth-place Liverpool and to within five points of the top four.

But they endured a frustrating afternoon in the Turf Moor sunshine, despite recording a first clean sheet in 11 games. They are now seven points below the Champions League places with seven games to play.

Burnley were happy to cede possession to their opponents, but Spurs struggled to do anything with it and were reduced to ambitious efforts from range.

Home goalkeeper Tom Heaton comfortably saved potshots from Nacer Chadli and Christian Eriksen, while Mason and the off-colour Kane shot wide from outside the box.

Ings threatened on the stroke of half-time, but his curling effort was athletically touched over the bar by Vorm.

Spurs head coach Mauricio Pochettino pitched Erik Lamela into the fray with 25 minutes remaining, but still the visitors toiled, with Eriksen and Danny Rose shooting over.

Pochettino's final roll of the dice saw Andros Townsend replace Mason, but the winger was unable to conjure anything.



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo scored five goals in one game for the first time in his career yesterday against Granada at the Santiago Bernabeu.



FERNERBAHCE BUS ATTACKED

A bus carrying Turkey's Fenerbahce football team was attacked on a highway in the country's northeast on Saturday as the players were returning from an away game with the driver being injured in the shooting. Several gunshots were fired at the bus as the Turkish league leaders were returning to Istanbul after beating Rizespor 5-1 in Rize. The driver was injured in the face and taken to hospital, the club's vice president Mahmut Uslu, who was on the bus at the time, accused the attackers of trying to "crash the bus and kill the players".

—AFP

Hummels stokes United fire

AFP, Berlin

Manchester United-target Mats Hummels says he expects to make a "gut decision" in the next few weeks with the Red Devils poised to swoop for the Borussia Dortmund defender.

"I just say what is going on in my head, but that doesn't mean that I am gone already," the German international said when asked about his 'only United' quote.

"I'm thinking about it and it's nothing which isn't known to those in charge at Dortmund.

"There is no trend, just mind games, which will be resolved in the next few weeks."

But Dortmund's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke insists it is down to Borussia where Hummels plays his football next season.

Bayern squeeze past Dortmund

AFP, Dortmund



Bayern Munich ground out a 1-0 win at Borussia Dortmund on Saturday to delight coach Pep Guardiola and underline their status as runaway German league leaders.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski returned to haunt his former club and his first-half header at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion gave Bayern their 21st league win of the season to stay on course for a third league title.

Despite missing injured stars David Alaba, Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben and restricted to 50 percent possession, Bayern took the few chances that came their way to stay ten points clear at the top of the Bundesliga table.

"It was tight up until the very end," said Bayern captain Philipp Lahm.

"We defended well but we didn't do well with less possession than we are used to. It was a hard-fought win."

Dortmund captain Mats Hummels insisted Bayern "were not the better team", but the defending champions took their chances and restricted Borussia to two clear Marco Reus second-half chances.

This was Dortmund's first league defeat since the start of February, but they remain 34 points behind Bayern and are six points off a Europa league place for next season.

Real run riot

AFP, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo's first ever five goal haul in the one match saw Real Madrid move to within a point of Barcelona at the top of La Liga with a stunning 9-1 thrashing of Granada on Sunday.

Gareth Bale continued his fine form after bagging a brace for Wales last weekend by opening the scoring after 25 minutes.

Ronaldo then took over as he scored three times in eight minutes just after the half hour mark.

Karim Benzema struck twice either side of Ronaldo's fourth as Real added three more in a four-minute spell just after the break.

Robert Ibanez grabbed a consolation for the visitors, but Diego Mainz's own goal made it 8-1 before Ronaldo rounded off the scoring with a towering header.

Ronaldo's quintuple takes him four clear of Lionel Messi in the race to be La Liga's top goalscorer.

Barca can restore their four-point lead when they visit Celta Vigo later on Sunday.

And Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti wants no let up from his side in the remaining nine La Liga games of the season.

The European champions face six more league games in the next 28 days, as well as a Champions League quarter-final against Atletico Madrid and Ancelotti is hoping the return of key players from injury will prove the key to ending the campaign on top form. "The team is fresh and it shows," said the Italian.

"We started with a good tempo and scored lots of goals. We are happy, but it is only one game and we need to concentrate on Wednesday to be just as good as today."

Real travel across Madrid to face Rayo Vallecano in midweek and Ancelotti added he would happily swap his side's free-scoring form for nine 1-0 wins between now and the end of the season.

"Obviously I would swap this for nine 1-0 victories, but we have to highlight that the team has returned

RAMPANT RONALDO

He scored the **fastest hat-trick** by a foreign player for Real Madrid.

He rose to **8th highest goalscorer in La Liga** history.

Nobody scored 5 goals in a single game since **09.12.2012** in the Spanish Primera.

The last player to do this for Madrid was **Morientes** in 2002.

Ronaldo is within **24 goals** of equalizing Raul's goalscoring record for Real, having played **454 games** less.

Real Madrid's 7 goals in 55 minutes is their fastest in **55 years**, since beating Elche 11-2 in 1960.

to playing like we like."

Benzema praised the reaction of Los Blancos and in particular heaped praise upon his strike partner Ronaldo.

"It was a great game after the defeat against Barcelona. It was good for all of us. We scored a lot of goals, attacked and defended well. Ronaldo is a phenomenon. He always helps the team. I am very happy for him because he deserves it."

Van Gaal's late title bid

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal insists he has not given up hope of ending his first season in charge as a Premier League champion after a 3-1 win over Aston Villa lifted his team into third place.

United's fifth consecutive victory took United above defending champions Manchester City, who they meet in next weekend's derby, and kept them within eight points of leaders Chelsea.

But Dutchman has now his sights set on overhauling Chelsea, who host United in a crunch clash later this month, rather than worrying about the teams below.

"The Champions League is not done yet but we made a big gap to Liverpool so we can suffer a defeat," van Gaal said.

"But of course I'm also looking higher up the table and then we have to win every week and then everything is possible.

"Liverpool are now eight points behind us and we are more than eight points behind Chelsea so it's not likely that we shall be the champions. But when you give pressure - and Arsenal are also giving pressure to Chelsea - then it is possible.

However, key United players are hitting a rich vein of form currently, led by Herrera, who now has seven goals in his debut season in English football.

"I knew already that Herrera had a very good technical shot," said van Gaal. "But sometimes he is not composed at the right moment."

Lyon on top as rivals clash

AFP, Paris

Lyon reclaimed top spot in Ligue 1 on Saturday with a 3-1 win at 10-man

Guingamp putting the pressure on fellow challengers Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille who go head-to-head on Sunday.

Lyon, who won the last of their seven Ligue 1 titles in 2008, now have 61 points from 31 games, two ahead of champions Paris Saint-Germain (59) who travel to third-placed Marseille (57) on Sunday.

Lyon sealed a comfortable victory largely thanks to first-half goals from French internationals Nabil Fekir and Alexandre Lacazette.

Cameroon forward Clinton Njije sealed the deal just after the hour mark.

Ibra headed to MLS?

AFP, Stockholm

Paris Saint-Germain star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has applied for a US visa, according to a Swedish media report on Sunday, stoking speculation about his future with the Ligue 1 champions.

Ahead of Sunday's crucial game against Marseille, tabloid Aftonbladet said the 33-year-old PSG striker had applied for a non-tourist visa at the US embassy in Paris last month.

The Swede has a contract with PSG until June 2016 and has previously said he considered ending his career with a major North American club.



SERENA'S record 8th

AP, Miami



Serena Williams won her eighth title Saturday and remained unbeaten this year by drubbing Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-0 in the final of the Miami Open.

Williams became the fourth woman to win the same WTA event at least eight times. Martina Navratilova won Chicago 12 times, the most titles by a woman at any tournament.

"I'd like to believe the older I get, the better I get," said Williams, 33. But she grimaced when asked if she thought she might match Navratilova by winning Miami Open 12 times.

"I hope not," she said. "I would be how old? No, let's pray that I don't get to 12."

Navratilova was on hand to present the top-ranked Williams with her latest trophy.

Williams claimed her second title this year. She won her 19th Grand Slam championship at the Australian Open in January, and has now won

12 consecutive finals.

Williams improved to 18-0 this year. She withdrew before the Indian Wells semifinal last month with a knee injury but quickly recovered.

Williams was erratic at times as she navigated this year's draw, and

SLAMMIN' SERENA

Williams is on an **18-match** winning streak in Miami.

She will stay number one for at least **116 weeks**, the third-longest run ever.

She recorded her **700th** career match win in the quarter-finals.

She has won **66 singles titles**, one behind Billie Jean King.

At **32 years, 6 months** she was already the oldest champion in 2014.

was jeered for angrily pounding the court with her racket in an early-round match.

But the sun-splashed crowd was firmly behind her in the final. A roar erupted when she entered the stadium, and she had them cheering her

winners from the first point.

Suarez Navarro looked nervous, and while she managed to hold in her first two service games, Williams pulled away from there. Williams' grunts grew louder as she closed out the first set, and she won the final 10 games, including 25 of 30 points in the second set.

Mixing pace and direction, Williams won 21 of 22 points on her first serve, and she totaled 29 winners to three for Suarez Navarro.

Williams won with more than power, coming forward to put away a volley on the first point, hitting delicate slice backhands and giving Suarez Navarro fits with her slice serve.

Williams' demeanor was subdued for most of the match, which was 30 minutes old before her first fist pump. But she wore a big grin as she accepted the championship trophy from Navratilova.

Williams improved to 5-0 against Suarez Navarro and has lost a total of 12 games in those matches.

Juventus all but champions

AFP, Milan



Carlos Tevez hit his 17th goal of the campaign and Roberto Pereyra added a late second as Juventus beat Empoli 2-0 in Turin on Saturday to restore their 14-point lead on Roma.

Roma had earlier ended a four-month wait for victory at the Stadio Olimpico when Miralem Pjanic struck in the 25th minute to seal a 1-0 win for Rudi Garcia's men over Napoli.

But Juve's 21st win of the season restored their sizeable advantage and underlined their status as champions in waiting.

Tevez gave Juve a controversial lead two minutes from the interval when he smashed a free kick past Luigi Sepe after an Empoli player was ruled to have given a backpass to the 'keeper.

Massimiliano Allegri's side were in little danger for the remainder but wrapped up the points in extra-time when Pereyra smashed home the rebound from a Tevez strike.

Tevez now leads Serie A on goals with 17 so far, one more than Frenchman Jeremy Menez who pulled level with the Argentinian when he hit the winner for AC Milan.

However the Argentinian said there will be no let up, telling Sky Sport: "Roma are still alive, we saw that before kick-off. We're not mathematically safe, so we have to keep winning."

But with only nine game remaining, the focus is more on the teams behind Juventus who are battling for Europe.

Lazio broke the deadlock on the half hour after some great work by Felipe Anderson allowed an unmarked Miroslav Klose to tap in at the back post.

Although Cagliari pulled level thanks to Marco Sau, Lazio struck back through a Lucas Biglia penalty and then Marco Parolo's piledriver of a free kick in extra-time.

RESULTS

Atalanta 1 (Pinilla 74) **Torino 2** (Quagliarella 20, Glik 39)
Cagliari 1 (Mauricio 49-og) **Lazio 3** (Klose 31, Biglia 60-pen, Parolo 90+2)
Genoa 1 (De Maio 19) Udinese 1 (Theureau 68)
Verona 3 (Toni 3, 62, Gomez 30) Cesena 3 (Carbonero 70, Brienza 77, Succì 81)
Inter Milan 1 (Guarin 25) Parma 1 (Lila 44)
Palermo 1 (Dybala 72-pen) **AC Milan 2** (Cerci 37, Menez 83)
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 23-pen) Chievo 0
Fiorentina 2 (Diamanti 61, Salah 64) Sampdoria 0
Juventus 2 (Tevez 43, Pereyra 45+4) Empoli 0

Ageless wonder swims 1500m at 100

IANS, Tokyo

Mieko Nagaoka, a 100-year-old Japanese female swimmer, finished a 1,500 metres swim in one hour, 15 minutes and 54.39 seconds in the masters swimming competition in Matsuyama. Mieko Nagaoka, born in



1914, took up swimming at the age of 82 to recover from a knee injury.

In the beginning, Nagaoka did not know how to swim. She used to come to the swimming pool to do exercises for her knee.

At 82, she started to learn and swim on her own. Because she performs in a Noh -- Japanese traditional dancing dramas, and this helped her stay fit.

Aged 100, she is now Japan's oldest swimmer and even comes to compete at the FINA masters world championships. When she was 84, Nagaoka started masters swimming in Japan.

At 88, she took bronze in 50m backstroke at the masters worlds in 2002. In 2004, in Italy, she won three silver medals (50m, 100m and 200m backstroke).