

# What to WATCH

## TEN CRICKET

Zimbabwe v Pakistan  
2nd T20I  
Live from 5:30pm

## TEN ACTION

Champions League  
Porto v Chelsea  
Live from 12:45am  
(Wednesday)

## TEN SPORTS

Champions League  
Arsenal v Olympiakos  
Live from 12:45am  
(Wednesday)

## TEN HD

Champions League  
Barcelona v Leverkusen  
Live from 12:45am  
(Wednesday)

## GERRARD OPENS MLS ACCOUNT

Former Liverpool star Steven Gerrard scored his first goal since joining Major League Soccer to help the LA Galaxy beat FC Dallas 3-2 on Sunday and climb to the top of the overall league standings. Giovanni Dos Santos and Robbie Keane scored in the first half before Gerrard connected in the 57th minute as the Galaxy ended their perplexing three-game scoreless stretch with a barrage of goals from their talent-laden roster. All three of the Galaxy's designated players scored in the same match for the first time.



# Barca begin life without Messi

European champions Barcelona begin a two-month stretch without Lionel Messi when Bayer Leverkusen visit the Camp Nou on Tuesday hoping to take advantage of the Argentine's absence. Messi suffered a torn left knee ligament as Barca squeezed past Las Palmas 2-1 at the weekend. Luis Suarez carried the mantle after Messi's departure with a double to ensure the Catalans got back to winning ways after being hammered 4-1 by Celta Vigo in their previous outing. And much more will be needed of Suarez and Neymar in the coming weeks as Barca's stretched and injury-ridden squad faces up to eight games without Messi.

However, the club's sporting director Rudi Voeller claimed he wasn't pleased to hear Messi will be out of action. "That hurts to hear, he's always a joy to watch," said the former Germany international. Leverkusen lead Group E after a 4-1 win over BATE Borisov on matchday one, whilst Roma held Barca 1-1 in the Italian capital. Coach Roger Schmidt left winger Kevin Kampl, ex-Manchester United and Real Madrid striker Javier Hernandez and free-kick specialist Hakan Calhanoglu out of the starting line-up as Leverkusen won 3-0 away at Werder Bremen on Saturday.

FIXTURES	
Barcelona (ESP)	v Bayer Leverkusen (GER)
BATE (BLR)	v Roma (ITA)
Bayern Munich (GER)	v Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)
Arsenal (ENG)	v Olympiakos (GRE)
Maccabi Tel-Aviv (ISR)	v Dynamo Kiev (UKR)
FC Porto (POR)	v Chelsea (ENG)
Lyon (FRA)	v Valencia (ESP)
Zenit (RUS)	v Gent (BEL)

"He is the best in the world and logically we will miss him a lot," said midfielder Sergio Busquets. With Claudio Bravo, Thomas Vermaelen and Rafinha also sidelined by injury, coach Luis Enrique has just 15 senior outfield players to choose from in the coming weeks. "We are having a lot of bad luck with injuries, even more so when we can't register players."

Kampl came on to score the third goal after Swiss forward Admir Mehmedi and Germany Under-21 winger Julian Brandt had netted for the visitors. "We'll give it our all in Barcelona," said former Borussia Dortmund forward Kampl. "This is the sort of game you dream about as a footballer." Messi's absence may avoid embarrassment for the Germans off the field as well. Manuel Friedrich and Michal Kadlec were forced to auction the Messi shirts they received from the four-time World Player of the Year for charity by Voeller after fighting over the right to take the souvenir home three years ago.



Barcelona goalkeeper Claudio Bravo catches the ball during a training session at the Joan Gamper Sports Centre near Barcelona yesterday on the eve of their Champions League Group E match against Bayer Leverkusen.

## Casillas to set record

Porto goalkeeper Iker Casillas is set to break the Champions League appearance record when Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho makes his latest return to the Estadio do Dragao on Tuesday. The pair had a difficult relationship during Mourinho's three years at Real Madrid, but after the Portuguese left, Casillas captained the team to victory over neighbours Atletico Madrid in the 2014 final, earning his third winner's medal. He played his 151st match in the competition as Porto, who he joined in July, drew their opening Group G match 2-2 away to Dynamo Kiev. That equalled the record set by former Barcelona midfielder Xavi, and Casillas is on the verge of breaking it.

## Gunners aim to rebound

Arsenal head into their home clash with Greek champions Olympiakos buoyed by a superb 5-2 victory at Leicester City in the Premier League on Saturday but with little margin for error in Group F after their shock 2-1 reverse in Zagreb two weeks ago. Alexis Sanchez scored a hat-trick against Leicester and, with Olivier Giroud suspended, Arsenal will look to the Chilean to lead them against an Olympiakos side who were beaten 3-0 at home by Bayern in their group opener. "Mathematically we can qualify without any problem if we can

produce our performances that we want at home," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. History is certainly on the Gunners' side -- they are unbeaten in eight home meetings with Greek teams, while Olympiakos have lost on all 12 past visits to England. Roma are the favourites heading into the game in Belarus, although the Italian side make the trip without Edin Dzeko, Francesco Totti and Seydou Keita, who are all injured. Roma coach Rudi Garcia also has bad memories of meetings with BATE -- they beat Lille when he was in charge of the French side in the 2012/13 group stage. Nevertheless, the Giallorossi are fresh from a 5-1 win against Carpi in Serie A at the weekend and are now looking to build on an encouraging 1-1 draw with

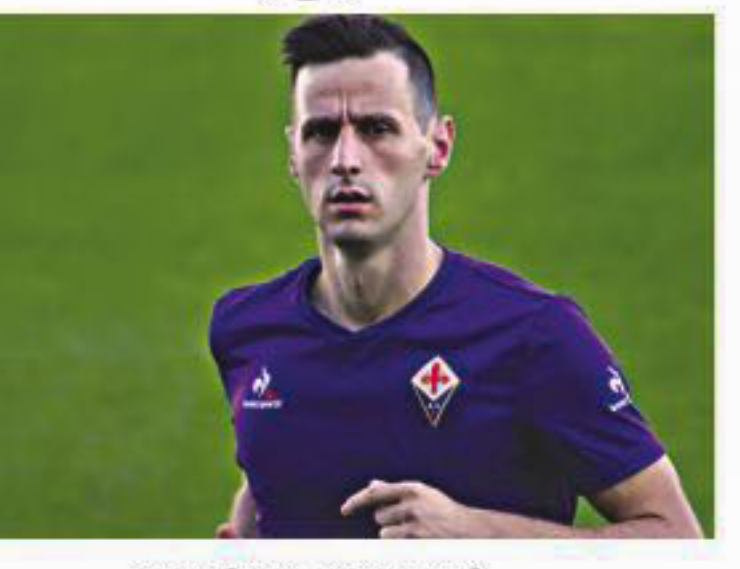
Barcelona a fortnight ago. The German champions are in rampant form, having won nine games in a row in all competitions, scoring 29 goals in the process. They beat Olympiakos 3-0 in Greece in their Group F opener and won by the same scoreline at Mainz in the Bundesliga on Saturday. For Pep Guardiola's side this game comes ahead of a huge clash with Borussia Dortmund next weekend, but he will not be able to rotate his squad too much with the likes of Medhi Benatia, Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery on the sidelines. Dinamo Zagreb should be able to travel to Bavaria with the pressure off following their 2-1 win over Arsenal in their opening game which was a first victory in 16 attempts in the group stage.

## Vidal out of Zagreb clash

Bayern Munich have injury concerns for Tuesday's Champions League match at home to Dinamo Zagreb with Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal their latest star to miss out with a knee injury. "I think Arturo will not be there," said Bayern coach Pep Guardiola in Monday's press conference as Vidal came off early in the second-half of Saturday's 3-0 Bundesliga win at Mainz. Sebastian Rode, a likely replacement in midfield, will also be missing with a minor injury, meaning Guardiola is short on options in his star-studded squad.

## The new Batigol?

Fiorentina fans were on Monday given the chance to hark back to the club's golden period in Serie A -- and it may be partly down to a butcher with a premonition. The last time 'La Viola' sat top of Italy's top flight was in February 1999 when prolific Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta, known affectionately as 'Batigol', was banging the goals in almost at will for the Florence-based club. On Sunday, Fiorentina confirmed their early-season promise by ending a 16-year wait to return to the top thanks to a stunning 4-1 win over Inter Milan inspired by a hattrick from Croatia international Nikola Kalinic.



**NIKOLA KALINIC**  
ahead of Inter on goal difference, with champions Juventus stuck in 15th place, 10 points adrift. Fiorentina's positive start has been widely attributed to Sousa, who was brought in to replace Vincenzo Montella. But for La Gazzetta dello Sport, a local butcher's premonition may have played a role, too. In a webclip on the Italian sports daily's website, an unnamed butcher

runs out from behind his counter at a local market to approach Kalinic when he sees him strolling past with a fellow teammate last week. When he recognises Kalinic, he calls out: "You're the new number nine, you're the new Batistuta eh?" Batistuta, who retired in 2005, still has legendary status throughout Italian football and has even bigger respect among Fiorentina's fans. He was signed for the club after his performances at the 1991 Copa America and, despite never winning a scudetto with Fiorentina, went on to enjoy the best years of his career at the Stadio Artemio Franchi. Batistuta was Serie A's top scorer in the 1994-95 season with 26 goals, and went on to break a 30-year-old record held by Ezio Pascutti by scoring in the first 11 matches of the season.



Flavia Pennetta poses for Giorgio Armani during Milan Fashion Week's Spring/Summer Collection on Monday. The 33-year-old recently became the first Italian woman to win the US Open title when she beat compatriot Roberta Vinci in straight sets in the final.

## Dortmund lose more ground

Borussia Dortmund lost more ground in the Bundesliga title race on Sunday after being held to a 2-2 draw at home to Darmstadt which left Bayern Munich four points clear. Having also drawn 1-1 at Hoffenheim on Wednesday, Dortmund fell further behind champions Bayern ahead of next Sunday's top-of-the-table clash against the Bavarians at Munich's Allianz Arena. Bayern are the only team in Germany's top flight to have won all seven league games so far. Pep Guardiola's leaders are looking to become the first team to win four consecutive Bundesliga titles. After Marcel Heller gave Darmstadt a shock lead, Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang looked to have sealed the hosts' comeback win with two second-half goals to maintain his record run having scored in each of Dortmund's first seven Bundesliga games. With nine goals, Aubameyang is just one behind Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski. But Darmstadt captain Aytac Sulu rescued a point by stabbing home from a free-kick just before the final whistle as the Dortmund defence failed to react in time. "Our problems came from the final free-kick, there were four or five players just standing around and that was no way to defend against a simple set-piece like that," fumed Dortmund captain Mats Hummels. Earlier, midfielder Vladimir Darida rescued a point for Hertha Berlin with the late equaliser in their 1-1 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt after captain Alexander Meier gave the hosts the lead midway through the first half. The point leaves Hertha sixth and Frankfurt 10th in the table.

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