

Lewandowski rewrites Bundesliga history

Berlin blank Cologne

BERLIN, Sept 23, (AFP): Robert Lewandowski wrote Bundesliga history on Tuesday and sent records tumbling by scoring five goals in just nine minutes in Bayern Munich's 5-1 romp at home to Wolfsburg.

Bayern were 1-0 down at the break thanks to a goal by Wolfsburg winger Daniel Caligiuri when coach Pep Guardiola opted to swap midfielder Thiago Alcantara for Lewandowski.

The Poland striker scored just six minutes later to start his record-breaking haul as he demolished the Wolfsburg defence in a dazzling display.

"I am very happy, that was crazy," beamed Lewandowski.

"We were 1-0 down when I came on and I knew we had to give some gas, but it's unbelievable to get five goals."

It was his best haul since scoring all four for ex-club Borussia Dortmund in

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their 4-1 win over Real Madrid in the 2013 Champions League semi-final.

"To score four goals in a Champions League semi-final was very important and a big story in my career, but to score five goals means this is another big evening for me," he added.

The 27-year-old set the record for the fastest hat-trick, as he needed just three minutes, 19 seconds to hit his first three goals.

His five minutes, 42 seconds for the fourth goal was also a Bundesliga record, as was his nine minutes for the fifth.

It was the first time five goals have been scored in the Bundesliga since Michael Toennis in August 1991 in a 6-2 win for Duisburg against Karlsruhe.

His haul was the first time a player has come off the bench to score five goals in a Bundesliga game.

Lewandowski fell just short of matching the record goal-haul for a single Bundesliga match of six achieved by Cologne's Dieter Mueller in their 7-2 win over Werder Bremen in August 1977.

A superb goal from right winger Caligiuri gave Wolfsburg the lead on 26 minutes when he drilled his shot inside the near post and past Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer after cutting in from the wing.



Bayern's Thomas Mueller (foreground), and Wolfsburg's Dante challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and VfL Wolfsburg at the Allianz Arena Stadium in Munich, Germany on Sept 22. (AP)

Bayern were dealt an almighty scare and were only saved by the post on 39 minutes.

Neuer left his area, but misjudged a clearance near the halfway line and France midfielder Josuha Guilavogui launched a 50 metre shot at the empty goal, but Munich's blushes were spared as it span harmlessly off the left post.

The game then changed in dramatic fashion when Lewandowski came off the bench and scored his first when he

stabbed the ball home on 51 minutes.

The second followed just seconds later when Xabi Alonso, who looked suspiciously offside, headed forward and Lewandowski buried his shot inside the left post with a superb shot.

He claimed his hat-trick on 55 minutes when his shot gave Wolfsburg goalkeeper Diego Benaglio no chance before he saved the best two goals until last.

On 57 minutes, Lewandowski convert-

ed Douglas Costa's cross with a volley at point-blank range, then produced a superb turning volley to claim his fifth on 60 minutes and came within a whisker of his sixth just moments later.

It was little surprise that he was named man-of-the-match.

Hertha Berlin are up to fourth in the table after Bosnia striker Vedad Ibisevic scored twice to claim his first Bundesliga goals since January 2014 in their 2-0 win

at home to Cologne.

Darmstadt earned a 2-1 comeback win at ten-man Werder Bremen as Sandro Wagner scored both their goals, including a penalty, as midfielder Fin Bartels was sent off on 88 minutes for a second yellow card.

Hamburg are sixth after their 1-0 win at Ingolstadt as Austria's Michael Gregoritsch came off the bench to score the winner with a late free-kick.

Griezmann nets 2

Atletico 'see off' toothless Getafe

BARCELONA, Sept 23, (RTRS): In-form Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann struck twice to earn a comfortable 2-0 derby victory over toothless visitors Getafe that sent his side top of La Liga.

The France striker, who is developing into a talisman for Atletico, scored at the start of the first half and the end of the second after a competent display by the hosts.

Atletico controlled the game but they eased off for long spells against a side incapable of putting them under sustained pressure.

Griezmann netted after four minutes with a volley from six metres and wrapped up the win with another close-range finish from a Jackson Martinez pass in the final minute.

"We scored quickly and we were well placed but we stopped looking to build play," Atletico coach Diego Simeone told a news conference.

"We then improved again in the final stages of the game. In the middle section we looked to close the game down too much."

Valencia's dismal start to the season continued as they lost 1-0 at Espanyol, with Victor Alvarez scoring in the first half. They are eighth with six points after one win and three draws.

Low on confidence they did not take advantage of early openings for Zakaria Bakkali and Rodrigo Moreno before Alvarez tucked home a Marco Asensio cross after 18 minutes.

There was little rhythm to their game and in the second half they relied on keeper Jaume Domenech to make important blocks to deny Hernan Perez and Asensio.

"I have no doubts over my work nor that of the players," Valencia coach Nuno Espirito Santo told reporters.



Griezmann

Udinese remain in relegation zone

Balotelli off the mark as AC Milan stumble to win

MILAN, Sept 23, (AFP): Mario Balotelli scored the first goal of his second spell at AC Milan as the Serie A giants held on for a hard-fought 3-2 win at Udinese on Tuesday.

In his first start for the Rossoneri since moving back to the club on loan from Liverpool at the start of this season — having left Milan a year earlier to sign a permanent deal with the Premier League outfit — the controversial Italy international forward needed just five minutes to open his account.



AC Milan's Giacomo Bonaventura (top), celebrates after scoring during the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Palermo at the San Siro Stadium in Milan, Italy on Sept 19. (AP)

But Balotelli said it hadn't been easy for him as Udinese's players tried to wind him up.

"It was a difficult game for me because I knew they wanted to provoke me," he told Mediaset Premium.

"I got a yellow card for nothing and that ruined my game a bit. However, I'm happy with my performance."

Further goals from Giacomo Bonaventura and Cristian Zapata had seemingly put the game to bed before the half-time whistle.

"The first half went well, there was only one team on the pitch," said Milan coach Sinisa Mihajlovic.

"At half-time I told the lads a match lasts 95 minutes, not 45, and that rather than manage (the lead) we needed another goal."

"We need to learn better how to manage the nerves."

Udinese launched a stirring second-half fight-back that probably deserved more than just two goals from Emmanuel Badu and Duvan Zapata.

Udinese remain in the relegation zone on three points after a fourth defeat in five matches this season.

All eyes were on Balotelli, though, even before the 25-year-old stepped up to curl a free-kick into the top corner of goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis's net.

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"Balotelli had a great game, with a goal and being fouled many times," added Mihajlovic.

"He never reacted and was always lucid. The real Balotelli is back."

Just five minutes later and the hosts faced an uphill battle as Bonaventura converted from the centre of the area after a through ball from Riccardo Montolivo.

The game appeared over as a meaningful contest in first-half injury time as Colombian centre-back Zapata headed home a Bonaventura corner.

Udinese wasted no time after the restart in getting back into the match, though, as Ghana midfielder Badu arrived late in the box to volley into the bottom corner after good work from veteran Italy international forward Antonio Di Natale on 51 minutes.

And just before the hour mark, Duvan, another Colombian, poked home into an empty net after Milan keeper Diego Lopez missed a cross from Cyril Thereau.

With Balotelli by now a peripheral figure in the match, the hosts exerted intense pressure on the Milan goal and Thereau was just inches away from getting on the end of a Di Natale cross that would have left him with only Lopez to beat.

Lopez was the hero in the last minute as he tipped over Bruno Fernandes's fierce drive from outside the box after a training ground corner routine.

Olympiakos open 5-point advantage

ATHENS, Sept 23, (RTRS): Olympiakos Piraeus continued their 100 percent start to the Super League season with a 3-1 win at Skoda Xanthi thanks to a Kostas Fortounis double on Tuesday to open a five-point lead over AEK Athens at the top.

Swedish forward Jimmy Durmaz put them ahead with a long-range strike three minutes before halftime but they were pegged back five minutes after the break by Nikolay Dimitrov's strike.

Olympiakos's Greece midfielder Fortounis then struck twice, including a penalty, in three minutes just after the hour to seal the win for Marco Silva's side who have 12 points.

Their fourth straight league victory was the perfect tonic for the Red and Whites, who suffered a 3-0 home defeat by Bayern Munich in their Champions League Group F opener last week.

On Wednesday, AEK, who are second with seven points from three games, visit fellow title hopefuls PAOK Salonika, while Olympiakos's arch-rivals Panathinaikos host Levadiakos.

Leicester continue fine form

City cruise in League Cup, Swansea out

Ibrahimovic ends goal drought

'Unstoppable' PSG ease past Guingamp

PARIS, Sept 23, (AFP): Zlatan Ibrahimovic ended his goal drought as Paris Saint-Germain extended their unbeaten start to the Ligue 1 season with a 3-0 victory at home to Guingamp.

Javier Pastore gave PSG a first-half lead at the Parc des Princes before Angel Di Maria netted his first goal in domestic French football to double the advantage.

Ibrahimovic, who hadn't scored since claiming a brace in a 6-0 win over Guingamp last May, added a third late on but also had a penalty saved.

"In the first half we had some chances without dominating a very compact Guingamp. In the second half it was obviously better," PSG coach Laurent Blanc said afterwards.

"As for Ibrahimovic, just like the rest of the team, he was full of intent and was much better with the ball in the second half."

"I found his movement much better than it was against Reims. He's still lacking that little something, but once

he finds it he'll score more goals," added Blanc.

The Frenchman had defended his decision to rotate his squad in successive draws but the capital club were almost at full strength on Tuesday with the exception of rested duo Thiago Silva and Marco Verratti.

Edinson Cavani, whose league-leading fifth goal salvaged a point for PSG in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Reims, nearly added to his tally inside five minutes but Guingamp goalkeeper Jonas Lossi made a terrific stop to deny the Uruguayan.

Last season's 6-0 drubbing in the corresponding fixture prompted Guingamp coach Jocelyn Gourvennec to adopt a conservative approach with Jimmy Briand and



Ibrahimovic

win 2-1 at Championship side Reading. Nick Blackman's opener was cancelled out by a powerful Ross Barkley strike in the 62nd minute before Gerard Deulofeu sealed victory with his first goal since returning to Everton on a permanent basis from Barcelona, a plunging 30-yard free-kick.

Bournemouth, meanwhile, needed penalties to win at second-tier Preston North End after the game finished 2-2 following extra time.

Daniel Johnson scored a 118th-minute penalty for Preston that sent the game to

Sloan Privat, both on target at the weekend in a 2-1 win over Gazelec Ajaccio, left on the bench.

But PSG needed just 18 minutes to break the deadlock as Ibrahimovic found Pastore in space and the Argentine glided towards the edge of the penalty area unchallenged before slotting a precise low finish out of the reach of Lossi.

Ibrahimovic went perilously close to doubling the advantage moments

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later as the Swede's curling left-foot strike flashed narrowly wide of the far post.

Another chance fell to Ibrahimovic after a clever one-two with Cavani but this time the striker's deflected effort was palmed away well by Lossi.

Yannis Salibur's dipping long-range free-kick called PSG goalkeeper Kevin Trapp into action just before the break but the home side resumed their dominance after half-time.

extra time, but then saw his spot-kick saved by Adam Federici to hand Bournemouth a 3-2 success in the shootout.

Peter Crouch's cool first-half finish earned Stoke City a 1-0 win at Fulham, while Aston Villa saw off Championship derby rivals Birmingham City 1-0 courtesy of an emphatic 62nd-minute header from Rudy Gestebe.

"It was a tough game today," said Gestebe, whose side have lost four and drawn one of their last five Premier League games.

Australia capt to miss Jordan clash

MELBOURNE, Sept 23, (RTRS): Australia coach Ange Postecoglou has welcomed back a trio of Asian Cup winners into his 23-man squad for next month's World Cup qualifier against Jordan but captain Mile Jedinak remains sidelined with hamstring troubles.

The Crystal Palace skipper Jedinak missed both the winning qualifiers against Bangladesh and Tajikistan after straining his hamstring in the Premier League and had suffered a relapse, Postecoglou said on Wednesday.

"At a stretch he might have made this (training) camp, but because he's had that setback maybe coming back too early, I think it's wise to us to make sure Mile's 100 per cent and right for the November games," Postecoglou told a media conference in Melbourne.

Australia, who lead Asia's Group B by two points ahead of Jordan, play the Middle Eastern side away on Oct 8 before returning home to play

Kyrgyzstan in Canberra on Nov 12.

Forwards Tomi Juric and James Troisi, and defender Trent Sainsbury — all part of the team that won the Asian Cup on home soil in January — bolster a strong squad spearheaded by veteran forward Tim Cahill.

Postecoglou has also named uncapped Bradford City left back James Meredith after monitoring his progress in the English third-tier side.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Alex Cisak, Adam Federici Eugene Galekovic

Defenders: Jason Davidson, Tarek Elrich, James Meredith, Matt Spiranovic, Ryan McGowan, Trent Sainsbury, Alex Wilkinson, Bailey Wright

Midfielders: Luke Brattan, Massimo Luongo, Matt McKay, Mark Milligan, Aaron Mooy, Tommy Oar, Tom Rogic

Forwards: Nathan Burns, Tim Cahill, Tomi Juric, Matthew Leckie, James Troisi



Sunderland's captain John O'Shea (left), vies for the ball with Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (right), during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Sunderland and Manchester City at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, England on Sept 22. (AP)