

Ibrahimovic scores twice

Milan's perfect start ends with 3-3 draw with Roma

Alario, Leverkusen beat Augsburg 3-1

LEVERKUSEN, Germany, Oct 27, (AP) — Lucas Alario scored twice as Bayer Leverkusen beat Augsburg 3-1 in the Bundesliga to win their third game in a row across all competitions.

Alario won and converted a penalty and later restored Leverkusen's lead with a header after Daniel Caligiuri leveled with Augsburg's first goal in Leverkusen since 2015. Moussa Diaby added Leverkusen's third goal in stoppage time.

Leverkusen started the league season with three straight draws but turned a corner with a 1-0 win over Mainz before hammering Nice 6-2 in the Europa

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League on Thursday. Monday's win takes Leverkusen up to fourth in the Bundesliga standings. It's one of three remaining unbeaten teams along with standings leaders Leipzig and 10th-place Wolfsburg. Augsburg sit 11th and are winless in three league games.

Alario took full advantage of set pieces as the Argentine forward recorded his first two-goal game in 10 months.

Alario headed a corner onto Raphael Framberger's outstretched arm at a corner to win a 16th-minute penalty which he converted with a calm shot into the bottom right corner.

Under former Leverkusen coach Heiko Herrlich, Augsburg responded with a team passing move to level the score early in the second half. Augsburg moved the ball from the right flank to the left and back again before Caligiuri cut inside and shot low past Lukas Hradecky in the Leverkusen goal.

Leverkusen missed good chances to respond when 17-year-old Florian Wirtz shot at Augsburg goalkeeper Rafal Gikiewicz before Leon Bailey crashed the rebound against the crossbar. However, Alario lost his marker at a 74th-minute free kick to head in his second goal.

MILAN, Oct 27, (AP) — AC Milan's perfect start to the Serie A season ended with a 3-3 draw against Roma but the Rossoneri still moved two points clear of Napoli and Sassuolo.

Roma defender Marash Kumbulla equalized six minutes from time following an unintended assist from Zlatan Ibrahimović, who was trying to clear a corner and instead redirected the ball toward the far post where Kumbulla rushed forward to pound it in.

Roma are ninth, five points behind Milan.

Edin Džeko and Jordan Veretout, with a penalty, also scored for Roma.

Ibrahimović scored twice for Milan, who also got a goal from Alexis Saelemaekers with Rafael Leão setting up two of the Rossoneri's scores.

Ibrahimović needed only one touch to find the net following Leão's pass over the top less than two minutes in at the San Siro.

Milan was without goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and winger Jens Petter Hauge after both players tested positive for the coronavirus and Donnarumma was missed when Džeko made it 1-1.

Reserve keeper Ciprian Tatarusanu failed to bat away a corner, allowing the ball to reach Džeko, who leaped over Alessio Romagnoli for a header by the far post.

Saelemaekers scored Milan's second after the break following strong work down the left flank and an expert cross from Leão.

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Veretout equalized for Roma with a penalty in the 71st following a debatable foul from Ismaël Bennacer.

Ibrahimović then thought he had sealed victory with a penalty in the 79th following an equally dubious foul by Gianluca Mancini. But the Swedish superstar was to blame for the final goal from Kumbulla, who also scored the winner in Roma's 2-1 comeback win at Young Boys in the Europa League last week.

It was the first match since a new decree came into effect banning fans at stadiums due to a second wave of coronavirus infections.

Son assisted by Kane again, lead Spurs to win at Burnley



Tottenham's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg (left), and Burnley's James Tarkowski compete for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Burnley and Tottenham Hotspur at Turf Moor stadium Burnley, England on Oct 26. (AP)

West Brom draw 1-1 at Brighton, still winless in EPL

BURNLEY, England, Oct 27, (AP) — The partnership between Harry Kane and Son Heung-min is developing into the most prolific in Premier League history.

Son headed in from Kane's flick-on to secure a 1-0 win at Burnley, making it the 29th time they have combined for a goal. It was the ninth time in six league matches this season alone.

"They are top players but close friends," Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho said. "No jealousy".

Only Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba have linked up for more goals (36), in the Premier League during their time at Chelsea.

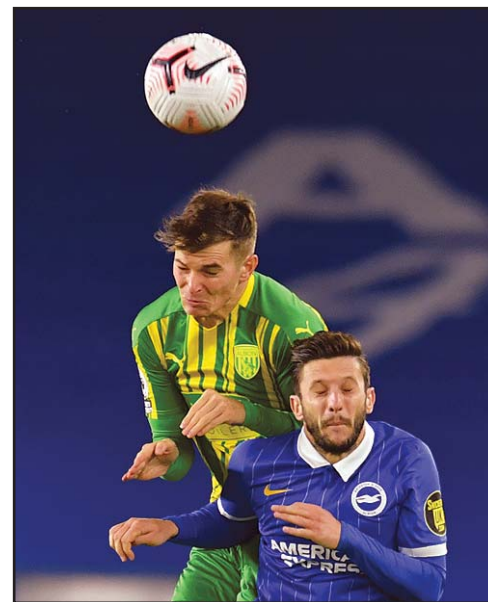
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Moments before setting up the only goal at Turf Moor, Kane cleared off the line to deny Burnley defender James Tarkowski.

While Spurs secured a third league away win thanks to Son's 10th goal in nine games in all competitions, the home form has let them down. Only two points have been collected in North London after the team threw away winning positions in stoppage time in two matches.

Tottenham, who didn't manage a shot on target in the first half at Burnley, moved up to fifth in the standings and didn't even need Gareth Bale being deployed from the bench.

"We've dropped points where we shouldn't



West Bromwich Albion's Conor Townsend (left), and Brighton's Adam Lallana challenge for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and West Bromwich Albion at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, England on Oct 26. (AP)

have this season so we've still got a lot to learn, but nights like this will definitely give us that confidence," Kane said. "We're just at the stage where

we've been so close for so many years and I think the additions this season have given us more leaders on the pitch and made us more experienced."

Burnley are stuck on one point.

West Bromwich are still searching for their first win but Karlan Grant did rescue a third point of the season by equalizing for a 1-1 draw at Brighton.

Brighton took the lead five minutes before half-time when an attempted clearance from Branislav Ivanovic rebounded off Jake Livermore and into the back of the net.

But West Brom's second-half pressure paid off when Grant turned a ball from Callum Robinson past goalkeeper Mat Ryan in the 83rd minute to clinch the point.

Grant joined West Brom from Huddersfield in the offseason after netting 19 goals in the second-tier Championship last season.

"The way he smashed it was brilliant for him," West Brom manager Slaven Bilic said, "and brilliant for us."

Brighton are two points better off than West Brom with five points.

"We created some chances, we created some opportunities and we need to carry on with that and then we have to learn a bit more about the second half and what we can do a little bit better," Brighton manager Graham Potter said. "But again I think you have to credit West Brom because they played better and were behind in the game but can have that mentality, so (there is) a lot for us to improve on."

Barca wait on authorities before vote against Bartomeu

Levante & Celta draw, stay near bottom in La Liga

MADRID, Oct 27, (AP) — Levante and Celta Vigo ended their losing streaks but stayed near the bottom of the Spanish league standings after a 1-1 draw.

Both teams were coming off three straight losses and neither had scored a goal during that streak.

Levante thought they had the winner in stoppage time but the goal was disallowed for offside after video review. The hosts loudly complained, claiming that the player offside did not influence the play.

It was the latest VAR controversy in the league, coming two days after Real Madrid were awarded a decisive penalty kick in their 3-1 win at Camp Nou stadium on Saturday.

Levante scored first with a penalty converted by Roger Martí in the 48th minute, and Celta equalized through Sergio Carreira in the 52nd.

The draw left Celta just outside the relegation zone. Levante were second-to-last in the 20-team standings.

Meanwhile, Barcelona is waiting for authorization from local officials before holding a referendum that could lead to the ouster of club president Josep Bartomeu and his board of directors.

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Club members have called for a motion of censure against Bartomeu and the board, but the club said it can't hold the vote until officials authorize it amid the coronavirus pandemic. More than 110,000 club members are entitled to vote, but the Spanish government last week declared a state of emergency because of a surge in the number of coronavirus cases.

"We asked how we could guarantee the safety for everyone, voters and workers," Bartomeu said after the meeting of the board of directors on Monday.

The original plan was to have the referendum take place next week at

the Camp Nou stadium, but the club had yet to receive a formal answer from officials. Bartomeu said it wanted more time to schedule the vote in different locations instead of a centralized vote at the Camp Nou.

Many expected Bartomeu and his board to resign before the censure vote takes place. Bartomeu, however, said that resigning has not crossed his mind, reiterating his stance from last month.

More than 20,000 club members signed a petition for Bartomeu and his board to face the censure vote. The wave of opposition came after Lionel Messi told the club he wanted to leave amid one of their worst crises ever.

Messi criticized Barcelona club directors last season and said he did not like the direction the club was

headed. He later personally accused Bartomeu of not keeping his promise to let him leave for free at the end of the season.

Bartomeu said he understood why Messi was disappointed but still hoped he would "stay with Barcelona for many years" and retire with the club.

"When I heard that Leo Messi is, well, angry because he wanted to leave the club, I'm trying always to explain to him and to his agents and to his family that, Barcelona, we cannot let Leo Messi leave," Bartomeu said, in English. "Why? Because he is the best player of the world and because we are starting now a new project with Ronald Koeman, with new players, where Leo Messi is the key."

"I understand that he could be an-

gry, but we need Leo Messi in Barcelona and I hope that in the next coming months or so Leo Messi will say 'I'm happy because I stayed in Barcelona and I'm going to renew my contract and I'm going to finish my career in the club in the next few years.'"

Pressure on Bartomeu increased after the team's embarrassing 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, one of the worst in the club's history. The defeat prompted Bartomeu to announce big changes at the club and call for new presidential elections for next March. Barcelona went without a title last season for the first time since 2007-08.

"I think that when this season is over, we will have won more than one title," Bartomeu said.

Bartomeu said that after the transfer window ended the club asked players to adjust their salaries amid the pandemic, and negotiations with them remained underway. He thanked Koeman for taking over the coaching job even though he knew "unpopular" measures would have to be made. Among Koeman's first moves was to get rid of veteran striker Luis Suárez and midfielder Ivan Rakitic.

The board also called for the Spanish soccer federation to review its video replay standards, reiterating its complaints after the VAR awarded a decisive penalty kick in the 3-1 loss to Real Madrid in this weekend's Spanish league "clásico" at the Camp Nou.

The club said "VAR has not upheld the essential criteria of ethics and fairness, which has had a serious negative impact on FC Barcelona and has benefited its most direct opponents."

Barcelona presented no evidence to back up the claim.

The board also approved a budget for 2020-21 with an operating income of 828 million euros (\$982 million) and operating expenses of 796 million euros (\$944 million).



AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates scoring his side's third goal during the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Roma at the Milan San Siro Stadium in Italy, on Oct 26. (AP)

Bid to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

American runner Leeper loses appeal to use 'prosthetic legs'

GENEVA, Oct 27, (AP) — An American runner who uses two prosthetic legs lost an appeal Monday in his bid to try to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld a decision by the governing body of track and field that had ruled Blake Leeper gets a competitive advantage against able-bodied runners because of the added height his prostheses give him.

"This means that Mr Leeper cannot compete in the Olympic Games or (World Athletic Series) competitions with the prostheses he uses at present," World Athletics said in a statement.

The 31-year-old Leeper, who was born with no legs below the knee, can challenge the ruling at the Swiss supreme court before the Olympics open in July 2021.

"I will never give up and will continue to do all I can to compete



In this July 27, 2019 file photo, Blake Leeper waves to the crowd before the men's 400-meter dash at the US Championships athletics meet in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP)

Paralympics, Leeper took silver behind Pistorius in the 400.

Kessler also represented Pistorius.

In Leeper's appeal at CAS, the three judges ruled his prostheses "enabled him to run at a height that was several inches taller than his maximum possible height if he had intact biological legs."

World Athletics said the prostheses gave him the legs of a 6-foot-8 man, although he would be 5-foot-9 "with biological legs."

"This increased leg length gives Mr Leeper an artificial performance advantage over 400m of 'several seconds,'" the track body said.

Leeper, however, won a partial victory. CAS decided that the burden to prove if prosthetic legs give a competitive advantage or not should shift from the athlete to the governing body.

Breach of public policy is among the few grounds that Swiss federal judges can intervene in an appeal against a CAS verdict. The sports court said the full verdict in Leeper's case will be published by Wednesday.

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and be judged by standards that are non-discriminatory, in every way," the 400-meter runner said.

Leeper said in a statement released by his lawyers that the International Paralympic Committee's rules on the subject are racially biased against Black athletes. His legal team said the height limit was based on data drawn from "height proportions of Caucasians and Asians", not Black athletes.

"This part of the (court) decision was racially discriminatory and thus against public policy," said Leeper's lawyer, Jeffrey Kessler.

The case was similar to the one lodged by Oscar Pistorius. The South African runner was cleared to compete in able-bodied events after CAS found his carbon-fiber blades did not give him an advantage.

Pistorius went on to compete at the 2012 London Olympics and reached the semifinals in the 400 meters. One month later, at the