

SPORTS

Pasalic scores hat trick, Atalanta 'blank' Venezia



Atalanta's Matteo Pessina, left, and Venezia's Ethan Ampadu battle for the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Atalanta and Venezia at the Gewiss Stadium in Bergamo, Italy, on Nov. 30. (AP)

Juventus survive scare to win

MILAN, Dec. 1, (AP): Mario Pašalić scored a hat trick to help Atalanta rout Venezia 4-0 in Serie A.

Pašalić scored his first two goals in the opening 12 minutes and added the other in the 67th, shortly after Teun Koopmeiners had netted the home team's third.

Atalanta moved level on points with third-place Inter Milan, four points below Serie A leader Napoli. Venezia remained five points above the relegation zone.

Atalanta got off to a fast start in Bergamo and took the lead in the seventh minute when Josip Iličić threaded a pass through to Pašalić, who slotted the ball into the bottom right corner. Pašalić doubled his tally five minutes later following a one-two with Luis Muriel.

SOCCER

The Croatia midfielder almost got his hat trick early in the second half but Venezia goalkeeper Sergio Romero managed to block his powerful shot after another impressive pass from Iličić.

Koopmeiners extended Atalanta's lead in the 57th when he drilled the ball into the bottom right corner. Pašalić completed his hat trick 10 minutes later, gathering the ball with his back to goal before shooting into the back of the net.

Pašalić almost got an assist minutes earlier, but Muriel's attempt came off the base of the left post.

Juventus survived a scare to win 2-0 at last-place Salernitana. Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata scored and Juventus remained seventh, seven points below fourth-place Atalanta and the last Champions League qualifying spot.

Juventus was desperate for a win after being roundly jeered by its fans as it lost at home to Atalanta 1-0 over the weekend. That came four days after losing at Chelsea 4-0 in the Champions League.

It dominated from the start at Salernitana, where it had 80% possession in the first half, but only had



Fiorentina's Jose Callejon, (center), celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Fiorentina and Sampdoria at the Artemio Franchi Stadium in Firenze, Italy, on Nov. 30. (AP)

one goal to show for it.

That came in the 11th minute when Dybala played a one-two with Dejan Kulusevski before placing a powerful finish into the bottom right corner.

Juventus thought it had doubled its lead seven minutes later but Giorgio Chiellini's goal was ruled out for an offside by Moise Kean in the buildup. Salernitana almost leveled in the 58th but Luca Ranieri's effort came off the inside of the right post and flashed across the face of goal before going out.

Juve doubled its lead 20 minutes from time, somewhat against the run of play. Dybala floated a ball across to the byline for Federico Bernardeschi, whose cross was cheekily flicked in by Morata at the near post.

Dybala had a chance to double his tally with the last kick of the match after Juventus was awarded a penalty when Salernitana defender Norbert Gyömbér brought down Morata. But the Argentina international slipped as he went to take the penalty and skied it over the bar.

Elsewhere, Dušan Vlahović scored his seventh goal in five matches to lead Fiorentina over Sampdoria 3-1. Hellas Verona was held to a 0-0 draw by Cagliari.

Villarreal, Granada, Celta advance in Copa del Rey

MADRID, Dec. 1, (AP): Villarreal and Granada cruised past sixth-division teams in the opening round of the Copa del Rey.

SOCCER

Villarreal trounced Victoria CF 8-0 and Granada routed Club Deportivo Laguna 7-0 to advance to the second round.

Celta Vigo got past fourth-division club Ebro 5-0.

This season's edition of the Copa includes teams from all six divisions of Spanish soccer with the lower-tiered clubs hosting the one-match series in the first round.

Other first-division teams that advanced Tuesday included Getafe and Alavés. Second-division teams Huesca, Valladolid and Sporting Gijón also reached the second round.

Hosts trail tourists by 3 runs

Windies leading Sri Lanka despite Mendis' 6 wickets

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Dec. 1, (AP): Off-spin bowler Ramesh Mendis fueled a Sri Lankan fightback with a maiden five-wicket haul but the West Indies still led by three runs in the second innings at stumps on the third day of the second test on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka was 46-2 in its second innings at close having conceded a 49-run first innings lead to the visitors, who were bowled out for 253. Sri Lanka scored 204 in its first innings.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne (6) was run out to a brilliant direct hit from Kyle Mayers and Oshada Fernando (14) was also run out. Pathum Nissanka was batting on 21 with Charith Asalanka on 4.

Mendis had bowling figures 6-70 while left-arm spinners Praveen Jayawickrama and Lasith Embuldeniya took two wickets each.

Sri Lanka went to lunch strongly placed on 145-2 but lost the remaining wickets for the addition of another 59 runs.

CRICKET

Resuming Wednesday on 69-1, the West Indies had batted remarkably well to add 76 runs in the first session, losing only one wicket.

But the slide started post lunch when West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who was batting with confidence, was bowled by Embuldeniya for 72. The bowler ran over the wicket and pitched a flighted ball outside the right-handed Brathwaite's leg stump and the ball turned sharply and hit the top of off stump.

Mendis had Roston Chase (10) caught at leg slip by Asalanka and trapped Shai Hope (22) lbw.

England women rout Latvia in WC qualifier

DONCASTER, England, Dec. 1, (AP): The England women's team posted the biggest win in its history, routing Latvia 20-0 in a World Cup qualifier.

There were 10 different scorers and four had hat tricks - including Ellen White, who became the team's all-time leading scorer and now has 48 goals for her country. England beat Latvia 10-0 in Riga in late October.

SOCCER

England's previous biggest win was 13-0 against Hungary in 2005.

Other lopsided victories Tuesday included Ireland beating Georgia 11-0 and identical 8-0 scores for Spain over Scotland and Austria over Luxembourg.

Jason Holder (4) unsuccessfully reviewed an lbw decision against him because a ball delivered by Mendis appeared to bounce over the stumps. In the next ball, Joshua da Silva played through the wrong line expecting a ball from Mendis to turn more than it did and was bowled. His fall left Sri Lanka 197-7.

Mayers (36 not out) with Kemar Roach (8) ensured that the West Indies took a lead in the first innings and extended it in a 38-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Veerasammy Permaul (8). Sri Lanka won the first test by 187 runs at the same venue, meaning the West Indies must win here to draw the series.



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, plays a shot during the day three of their second test cricket match against Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka, on Dec. 1. (AP)

Krawietz, Pütz win decisive doubles match

Germany upset Britain for 1st Davis Cup 'semis' since 2007

INNSBRUCK, Austria, Dec. 1, (AP): Germany came from behind to upset Britain in the Davis Cup quarter-finals after Kevin Krawietz and Tim Pütz won the decisive doubles match.

The German pair defeated British teammates Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 7-6 (10), 7-6 (5) after the best-of-three tie was level following the two singles.

Krawietz and Pütz saved four set points in the tiebreaker before taking the opening set and won the second tiebreaker after winning seven straight points from 5-0 down.

"This is an incredible team achievement," Krawietz said. "We have a great atmosphere in the team from day one."

Daniel Evans had given Britain the lead by beating Peter Gojowczyk 6-2, 6-1, but Jan-Lennard Struff pulled Germany even with the 10-time champion by beating Cameron Norrie 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-2.

Germany has won the Davis Cup three times but not since 1993. In its first semifinal since 2007, Germany will meet either Sweden or the team from Russia on Saturday. Croatia will face either Serbia or Kazakhstan in the other semifinal.

"We have done everything to win," Struff said. "We hope our journey goes on and the next goal is to win the semifinal."

Britain was seeking its fourth semifinal berth in the last six editions of the

tournament. It last won the event in 2015, and it had beaten Germany 2-0 when the teams also met in the quarter-final two years ago.

"Everyone is gutted, this is a tough day to swallow," Britain team captain Leon Smith said. "It could have gone either way, but it wasn't to be today. They gave their best effort but sometimes that is not enough, and Germany

deserves to go through."

Struff said his win over Norrie was "one of the most important victories of my career. Cam Norrie is a real fighter. I started very well, went 4-1 up, but when you take so many risks, you can expect that more mistakes will come."

The 12th-ranked Norrie failed to serve out the opening set against Struff

when leading 6-5, and the Briton missed two set points in the tiebreaker.

One break halfway through the set was enough for Norrie to take the second, but the 51st-ranked Struff won the third by taking four games in a row.

"At the end of the match I managed to play as aggressive again as at the beginning," Struff said.

In the first singles match, Evans built a quick 4-0 lead and didn't face a break point all day. Gojowczyk earned only two points on Evans' serve in the second set and double-faulted for the fourth time on match point. "I tried to get some rhythm early on," Evans said. "I played well from start to finish."

TENNIS

Gojowczyk was a surprise pick by Germany captain Michael Kohlmann. The 86th-ranked player replaced Dominik Koepfer, who is ranked 32 places higher and played in the two group matchups Germany won against Austria and Serbia.

Gojowczyk had never played Evans in an ATP level match but beat the Briton twice in lower-ranked tournaments, in 2013 and 2016.

No spectators were allowed in the OlympiaWorld arena amid a nationwide lockdown in Austria to fight the spreading of the coronavirus.

Madrid will host the rest of the Davis Cup Finals.



Germany's Kevin Krawietz (right), and Tim Puetz play doubles against Great Britain's Joe Salisbury (right), and Neal Skupski during a Davis Cup quarter-final match between Great Britain and Germany in Innsbruck, Austria, on Nov. 30. (AP)

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