

Title Hopefuls Juventus Stunned 1-0 at Home by Struggling Udinese



Juventus' Andrea Cambiaso (front right) plays the ball during a Serie A soccer match between Juventus and Udinese, in Turin, Italy, Feb 12, 2024.

TURIN (Reuters) - Juventus' title hopes suffered a blow in a 1-0 home defeat by lowly Udinese in Serie A on Monday after defender Lautaro Giannetti scored in the first half to leave Massimiliano Allegri's side without a win in three games.

Juve are second on 53 points, seven adrift of Inter Milan, who have a game in hand, and a point ahead of AC Milan.

Inter won 4-2 at AS Roma on Saturday while third-placed Milan earned a 1-0 win over visit-

ing champions Napoli on Sunday.

"We could have done better," Allegri told DAZN. "In the first half we played a good game technically but when you have the opportunity you have to score."

"The ambition of keeping up with Inter was important, but the Nerazzurri were built to have the splendid season they are having."

"Juventus have started a different path two years ago and the primary objective is to return to the Champions League."

Juve were the better team, with Federico Chiesa and Arkadiusz Milik up front in Dusan Vlahovic's absence as the Serbia forward sat out the match with a thigh issue.

But the visitors took the lead against the run of play in the 25th minute when Giannetti capitalized on a defensive error to net on the half-volley from close range after a free kick.

"He is a silent leader, he speaks little and hits a lot," Udinese coach Gabriele Cioffi told Sky Sport.

"He brought a lot to our dressing room in

terms of serenity and management. Exactly what we were missing, because we are a young team."

Milik could have responded to going behind four minutes later while Adrian Rabiot had a good chance shortly afterward before Udinese goalkeeper Maduka Okoye pulled off a superb save to keep out Milik's point-blank header just before the break.

Udinese, who barely had the ball after the restart, defended with a low block, seeking chances on counter attack.

Juve thought they had equalized on the hour following a corner but the effort was disallowed because Federico Chiesa's cross went out of play.

Juventus had won their previous four league matches against Udinese without conceding a goal.

Their next travel to relegation-threatened Hellas Verona on Saturday. Udinese, who moved up to 15th with 22 points from 24 games, host fellow strugglers Cagliari on Sunday.

Chelsea Snatch Last-Gasp 3-1 Win at Struggling Palace



Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton in action with Chelsea's Malo Gusto, Moises Caicedo and Cole Palmer

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea came from behind to beat Crystal Palace 3-1 thanks to added time goals from Conor Gallagher and Enzo Fernandez in the Premier League at Selhurst Park on Monday.

Gallagher put the visitors 2-1 up with his second goal of the match before Fernandez sealed the win as Chelsea rallied to secure the points that took them up to 10th in the standings.

The result adds to the pressure on Palace boss Roy Hodgson, whose side have not kept a clean sheet in 13 league matches. They sit 15th on 24 points, five points above the drop zone.

It was a tale of two halves for Chelsea who went into the break a goal down after a superb Jefferson Lerma strike on the half-hour had given the struggling hosts the lead.

"We saw two different sides. In the first half we were so flat and I was so disappointed. In the second half much better and I am very pleased with how we finished the game," Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino told the BBC.

Gallagher's first goal against the club where he had a spell on loan in 2021-22 came two minutes after the break as he neatly side-footed Malo Gusto's cross from the right high into the net.

The England midfielder struck

again in the 91st, also the product of an attack down the right as he slotted Cole Palmer's cross into the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

Another Chelsea counter attack, and another Palmer assist, saw the visitors seal the points in the 94th through Fernandez.

The third goal "led to an aggravated defeat but I don't think that's a fair reflection on the way the game was played. I think we deserved to come off with at least one point," said Hodgson.

Lerma had put Palace ahead with a spectacular strike from outside the box into the top right corner after Tyrick Mitchell won the ball from Noni Madueke as Chelsea tried to recover from a weak headed clearance by Thiago Silva.

Chelsea managed just one shot off target in the first half, despite commanding almost 80% of the possession.

The Blues were similarly dominant on the ball after the break but decidedly more attacking after a lackluster opening period in which they posed little threat going forward.

Hodgson was unable to select his key attacking duo of Michael Olise and Eberechi Eze, who between them have scored 11 of Palace's 27 league goals this season, due to injuries.

Warriors Beat Jazz 129-107 Without Kerr

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Klay Thompson scored 26 points, Stephen Curry made five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and had 25 and the Golden State Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 129-107 on Monday night without coach Steve Kerr.

Kerr was in Serbia for the funeral service for Golden State assistant coach Dejan Milojevic, who had a heart attack at a team dinner in Salt Lake City on Jan. 16 and died the next day. Kerr, assistant coaches Chris DeMarco and Ron Adams, general manager Mike Dunleavy, team liaison Zaza Pachulia, and team vice president Rick Celebrini were among the mourners.

Assistant coach Kenny Atkinson led the Warriors (26-25) in their fifth straight victory, moving them above .500.

It was strange. Steve's our

leader. He leads the staff. He did a phenomenal job, leading us through a really tough time ... and we've grown closer through it," Atkinson said.

Curry made a 33-footer that capped a 14-5 run and made it 114-96. He finished with seven 3-pointers, his third straight game with seven or more.

"The flow of the game tells you a little bit of what's necessary," said Curry, who had 10 assists. "They know if I hit a couple shots, they know I'm probably going to keep shooting."

Thompson scored his most points since having 30 against Chicago on Jan. 12.

"When I get cuts to the rim and stay patient from the 3-point line ... when I get early looks at the rim, and I got a couple of mid-



Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson (11) and Stephen Curry (30) celebrate during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, in Salt Lake City.

range jumpers, everything opens up and I think that's what allowed me to have an efficient night from the field," Thompson said.

Andrew Wiggins added 17 points and Jonathan Kuminga had 14 — his 31st straight game in double figures — for the Warriors.

PSG's Mbappe 'in Good Shape' for Real Sociedad Tie

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said on Tuesday that he expects Kylian Mbappe to be unhindered by a recent ankle knock when his side face Real Sociedad in their Champions League last-16 first leg.

Mbappe was rested for PSG's Ligue 1 win over Lille at the weekend to make sure he was fully fit for Wednesday's clash against La Real at the Parc des Princes.

"When a team has a player at the level of Kylian Mbappe, the more he plays, the better it is for the team," Luis Enrique told a pre-match press conference.

"He could have played four days ago but it wasn't worth the risk."

PSG are bidding to avoid a third consecutive last-16 exit from the Champions League.

Mbappe has scored 30 goals for the club in all competitions this season and teammate Fabian Ruiz is confident he will be raring to go.

"I am sure Mbappe is going to have a great match," said Spain midfielder Ruiz.

"He received a knock but he trained yesterday and today he is in good shape to play."

Mbappe is out of contract with the

French champions in June and has been heavily linked with finally making a move to Real Madrid.

But Luis Enrique refused to consider whether the match against Sociedad could prove to be Mbappe's last Champions League game at the Parc des Princes.

"Potential last game? No. That's not the way I feel it and therefore I feel neither joy nor sadness, it's business as usual," he said.

Real Sociedad are aiming to reach the quarter-finals for the first time since 1983 after finishing top of Group D ahead of Inter Milan.

Former Real Betis player Ruiz warned PSG not to underestimate their opponents after avoiding Manchester City, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich in the draw despite finishing second in their group behind Borussia Dortmund.

"I am quite familiar with Real Sociedad. They are an organised team, they exert a lot of pressure and like to have the ball and use counter-pressing, and they do it very well," he said.

"Tomorrow is a very important match for us but the atmosphere in the group remains the same -- there is excitement but at the same time we remain calm and focused."

More Disappointment for Hafnaoui as 800m Freestyle Holder Flops in Doha Prelims

DOHA (Reuters) - Defending champion Ahmed Hafnaoui failed to advance from the 800 metres freestyle preliminaries at the World Championships in Doha on Tuesday in another setback after his 400m blow out.

The Tunisian was only 18th fastest in the 800 heats, with his time of seven minutes, 51.52 seconds more than 14 seconds off his championship-winning swim at Fukuoka last July.

Olympic champion Hafnaoui was favourite for the 400 title but crashed out as the 17th-ranked swimmer in the heats on Sunday.

The 21-year-old had been less than bullish about his chances of setting fast times at Doha when he faced reporters on the eve of the meet but his results raise more questions about his preparations for the Paris Olympics.



Tunisia's Ahmed Hafnaoui in action during the men's 400m freestyle heats

Hafnaoui, who is still to defend his 1,500m freestyle title, raced for Indiana University last autumn but ended up training with The Swim Team in Orange County, California, under former U.S. national team coach Mark Schubert.

He recently returned to Tunisia, though, and told reporters he was hoping to have a visa issue resolved to train in the United States.

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Leclerc Hopes New Ferrari F1 Car Will Be Easier to Drive



LONDON (Reuters) - Ferrari drivers Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz sounded positive on Tuesday at the launch of a 2024 car they expected to be easier to drive and develop through the longest of Formula One seasons.

The sport's most successful team, and only one to have competed in every world championship since 1950, dropped to third overall last year behind Mercedes and runaway champions Red Bull.

Monaco's Leclerc said the SF-24, which the team said "breaks with the tradition of the last two years", should be less sensitive and easier to drive than last year's difficult and disappointing one.

"I expect the car to be a step forward in several areas and from the impression I formed in the simulator I think we're where we want to be," he added after an online reveal and physical launch at the Fiorano test track.

"This season the aim is to be front

runners all the time and I want to give our fans plenty to cheer about."

Leclerc will again partner Spaniard Sainz, who is in his final year at Maranello before making way for Mercedes' seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton in 2025.

Sainz was the only driver last season to beat Red Bull, his victory in Singapore denying the champions a sweep of all 22 races.

This season has expanded to a record 24 races, with China returning post-pandemic and Italy's Imola back on after being cancelled by flooding last year.

"I have seen a completely different look, both on the shapes but also on the design and it excites me. I just cannot wait to drive it," said Sainz.

The car is the first fully conceived under team boss Fred Vasseur, who took over from Mattia Binotto in January 2023, and the Frenchman said the team needed to continue last season's strong finish.