

Napoli see off Torino to strengthen Serie A lead



Napoli's Andre Zambo Anguissa, second left, scores his side's opening goal
Reuters | Milan

Napoli strengthened their hold on the Serie A summit with yesterday's 3-1 win over Torino which put them three points clear of their title rivals.

An early brace from Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa, his first goals in Serie A, and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's fifth of his first Serie A season will keep Napoli in first place unless Atalanta beat Fiorentina by five goals on Sunday.

"I'm very happy, I don't want to lie, it's the first time for me in Serie A," Anguissa told DAZN.

"It's important to score but I just want to do my job. If the goals come I'm happy but the first thing for me is my team, for my team to win.

"So if we can win all the games, even if I don't score I don't care. I just want to win."

Leclerc takes pole in Singapore as Verstappen fumes in eighth

Leclerc claims pole position by 0.022s from Perez in stunning wet-dry Singapore qualifying

● Max Verstappen fumes on team radio as Red Bull abort final qualifying lap

AFP | Singapore

Charles Leclerc took pole position yesterday for the Singapore Grand Prix, but Formula One world championship leader Max Verstappen was left fuming after finishing only eighth fastest in damp conditions.

Leclerc clocked 1min 49.412sec in his Ferrari to top the timesheets 0.022sec ahead of Red Bull's Sergio Perez with the Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton third.

Verstappen, who can mathematically retain his world title this weekend, had looked set to challenge Leclerc's time on his final flying lap before being told to abandon and return to the pits by his Red Bull engineer.

The Dutchman had set the fastest first sector, then let fly an expletive-peppered tirade over team radio after being instructed to abort.



Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc, left, talks with Red Bull driver Sergio Perez after the qualifying session

Only the top-10 shootout for pole took place on slick tyres on the night Marina Bay circuit.

Most of qualifying took place on intermediate tyres with the track still too damp to risk slicks, with the unforgiving concrete walls of the city centre track an ever-present danger for any loss of control.

"In Q3 we didn't really know what to do," said Leclerc, about whether to switch to slicks.

"We went for the soft at the

very last minute -- and it paid off.

"I mean, it was really, really tricky."

Monaco's Leclerc can prevent Verstappen from sealing the championship this weekend by finishing higher than eighth in Sunday's race.

Leclerc now has a commanding grid advantage over the Dutchman, who will start from the fourth row on a circuit that offers few overtaking opportu-

”

They told me to box and then I realized what was going to happen. We ran out of fuel. It is incredibly frustrating and it shouldn't happen ... At least you (should) track that throughout the session to know you aren't going to make it. We should've seen that way earlier

MAX VERSTAPPEN

nities.

Verstappen had celebrated his 25th birthday with a cake in the Red Bull team hospitality on Friday but had nothing to cheer a day later.

He needs to win the race, score 22 points more than Leclerc and see teammate Perez finish fourth or lower to retain his world title with five races to spare.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate George Russell failed to find any grip on his intermediate tyres and failed to make it into Q3 after being only 11th fastest.



Verstappen needs to win the race, score 22 points more than Leclerc and see teammate Perez finish fourth or lower to retain his world title with five races to spare

"Sorry guys, I couldn't do anything. I really struggled," said the Englishman over team radio. "What a shame."

Alex Albon did well just to make it to Singapore three weeks after suffering from appendicitis at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza and then having complications from surgery.

However, the British-born Thai could not find any grip or pace in his Williams and was eliminated in the first qualifying session after finishing 19th.

Arsenal rewarded for keeping faith with Arteta, says Conte



Tottenham Hotspur's Italian head coach Antonio Conte (L) shakes hands with Arsenal's Spanish manager Mikel Arteta (R) after

AFP | London

Antonio Conte has urged Tottenham to allow him the same patient approach that Arsenal adopted with Mikel Arteta.

Tottenham pipped Arsenal to Champions League qualification at the end of last season, but the Gunners have kept faith with Arteta and are now reaping the rewards.

Arteta was allowed to invest heavily in new signings despite his failure to secure a lucrative Champions League berth, with both Oleksandr Zinchenko and Gabriel Jesus playing key roles after arriving from Manchester City.

Conte is impressed with Arteta's work and believes Tottenham should be equally clear-headed about their approach to his own rebuilding project.

"I think if I see what happened at Arsenal, they're a club

Conte, whose contract expires at the end of this season, has complained about the transfer strategies of several of his previous clubs including Chelsea and Inter Milan

who backed Arteta over the years," Conte said.

"You're seeing when you trust a person, and Arsenal showed this also in a tough period with Arteta by backing him in every moment, now they're having good results.

"They had a good step. I think this season they're better than last season. They made good signings, especially Jesus and Zinchenko from a club like Manchester City, two players that are used to winning and having a winning mentality.

Gabriel Jesus says he left City over Guardiola style of play

AFP | London

Arsenal's Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus left Manchester City because he no longer wanted to play under Pep Guardiola, he said in an interview published by ESPN Brasil.

The 25-year-old has made a sensational start at the Emirates since he was unveiled as Arsenal's marquee \$50 million (45 million pounds) summer signing by manager Mikel Arteta, a former assistant to Guardiola at the Etihad.

Jesus has been one of the stars of the early season with four goals and three assists in his first seven Premier League matches for the Gunners.

"I was very happy at Manchester City, it's not that I was unhappy there," said Jesus.

"But I also had to accept the way the team wanted me to play ... The issue was the way that he (Guardiola) understood football and what he wanted.

"In this case, it's up to you



Gabriel Jesus controls the ball as manager Pep Guardiola and then assistant coach Mikel Arteta look on during a Manchester City training session (file photo)

to accept it or not. If you don't accept it, then 'thanks' and let's go for another challenge.

"I accepted it for a while but then I got to the point when I said: 'I want something else for me'. I thanked him ... he understood and that's it."

The former Palmeiras forward had been unhappy with the amount of playing time he

At City it was different, the forward didn't touch the ball much, you just have to watch the games to see

GABRIEL JESUS

once, the League Cup three times, and playing in the 2021 Champions League final.

But he was unhappy at being mostly deployed by Guardiola on the flank rather than his preferred center forward role.

"Here at Arsenal, it's different, the football is different, there are different players, different ways of playing," he said.

"At City it was different, the forward didn't touch the ball much, you just have to watch the games to see.

"I spoke a lot with Arteta about the style of play. He knows me, I know him, I understood what he wanted from me."

Dortmund loses in Cologne 3-2 and misses chance to go top

AP | Berlin

Borussia Dortmund missed a golden chance to go top of the Bundesliga, collapsing in the second half to lose 3-2 at Cologne yesterday.

Dortmund led 1-0 at the break and looked set to capitalise on league leaders Union Berlin's first loss of the year at Eintracht Frankfurt, but conceded two goals in two minutes early in the second half for their third loss of the season.



Cologne's Denis Huseinbasic, right, and Dortmund's Niklas Sule, left, challenge for the ball

Dortmund led at half-time thanks to a Julian Brandt goal, set up by English teenager Jude Bellingham, who was named captain for the first time due to Mats Hummels' late withdrawal.

The visitors dominated the opening half and looked in full control of the game, until Florian Kainz equalised in the 53rd minute.

Former Dortmund striker Steffen Tigges took advantage of poor defending from a Dort-

mund corner just two minutes later, climbing above the defence to head home.

A suddenly unorganised Dortmund continued to defend poorly, giving midfielder Dejan Ljubicic far too much time in the 71st minute, allowing the midfielder to guide in a long-distance shot to put the game beyond doubt.

Dortmund pulled one goal back through a lucky deflection in the 78th minute, but Cologne held on for a deserved victory.