

# Wolves clinch famous victory at Torino

Wolves close in on Europa League place with hard-fought win over Torino

● Jimenez and Jota score in the Europa League thriller

AFP | Paris

Wolves moved to the brink of the Europa League group stages on Thursday with an impressive 3-2 play-off, first leg win at Torino.

The English Premier League side, playing in their first European campaign since 1981, went ahead through an own-goal from Gleison Bremer just before half-time.

Diogo Jota made it 2-0 on the hour mark but Lorenzo de Silvestri pulled one back for the Italians two minutes later.

Raul Jimenez restored Wolves' two-goal lead after 72 minutes before Andrea Belotti's penalty for Torino in the dying moments kept the Serie A side in the tie ahead of the return leg at Molineux next Thursday.

"It's a close tie. It's not over, far from being over. We have



Raul Jimenez of Wolverhampton Wanderers shoots to score

to take on a very tough team," Wolves coach Nuno Espirito Santo told the Express and Star newspaper.

"We played good. We were organised, we stayed in shape. We produced some goals but like I say, one game to go."

Celtic, dumped out of the Champions League last week by Cluj of Romania, saw off AIK of Sweden 2-0 at home.

James Forrest scored in his fifth consecutive game early in the second half with Frenchman Odsonne Edouard's curling

It's a close tie. It's not over, far from being over. We have to take on a very tough team. We played good. We were organised, we stayed in shape. We produced some goals but like I say, one game to go

NUNO ESPIRITO  
WOLVES COACH

free-kick making it 2-0 in the 73rd minute.

"It was a great team performance," said Celtic manager Neil Lennon.

"We played well in the first-half but I thought we were magnificent in the second.

"Some of the football we played was great and we scored fantastic goals."

Glasgow rivals Rangers are also well-placed for a spot in the group stages thanks to a 0-0 draw at Legia Warsaw.

## Guardiola surprised by Silva's success in England

AFP | Manchester

David Silva is in line to make the 400th appearance of his extraordinary Manchester City career with manager Pep Guardiola admitting he never expected his star playmaker to survive in the English game.

The 33-year-old will reach the landmark should he play in City's visit to Bournemouth on Sunday at the start of what will be his last season in the Premier League.

Silva will leave City with an array of honours which already includes four league titles, four League Cups and two FA Cups.

The Spaniard is guaranteed a permanent place in the club's folklore, but Guardiola admitted he could not have foreseen such a career when Silva left Valencia for the Etihad in 2010 for what now seems a bargain £24 million (\$29 million) move.

"You can play a good season but he's done it for 10 seasons, it is almost incredible. Big congratulations. For all the City fans - me included - it is a

privilege," said Guardiola.

"Hopefully in his last season, he can be here and be who he is, play the way he wants to play and we will try to make him happy."

'I was wrong'

Guardiola was a big admirer of Silva during his time in Spain, but admitted that even he has been surprised by his success in England.

"He's one of the most intelligent players I've ever seen," he said.

"Moving in these small spaces he's really good, one of the best.

"But he's tiny, a little player, not a box-to-box player and my image of England from the outside, I thought 'maybe he's going to suffer'. Happily, I was wrong.

"That was my first impression. But obviously from the beginning, it is not just a fact that David played well this season or two seasons ago. He's played well with all the managers, Roberto (Mancini), Manuel (Pellegriani) and with us.

David Silva



TOGETHER  
WE ARE

COMBAT FEDERATION  
**3RAVE**

Welcome  
TO THE  
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

SHRI  
**NARENDRA  
MODI**

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Ph: +973 1700 0038, www.khk-sports.com, Ajayad Bldg - 2304, Off- 71, Rd 2830, Block 428, Seef, Bahrain

bravemmaf www.bravecf.com