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Los Blancos back in business

Dailymail- Real Madrid will be looking to return to winning ways in La Liga when they resume their 2019-20 campaign with a home match against Eibar on Sunday night.

Los Blancos are currently second in Spain"s top flight, two points off leaders Barcelona, while Eibar sit 16th in the table, just two points clear of the relegation zone.

Just two points separates second-placed Madrid from leaders Barcelona as things stand, although the gap at the summit could become five as the reigning champions will fancy their chances of overcoming struggling Mallorca when they take to the field on Saturday.

Zinedine Zidane"s side have dropped points in 11 of their 27 league matches this season but are very much in the title argument, largely due to their strong defensive form, conceding just 19 times in Spain"s top flight, which is the best record at this stage.

Madrid will play their final six home league matches of the season inside their training ground - the Alfredo Di Stefano stadium - and it remains to be seen what sort of impact that might have on the opposition.

Los Blancos have actually only won one of their last four in the league; they beat Barcelona 2-0 in El Clasico on March 1 but suffered a 2-1 loss at Real Betis in their final match before the lockdown period.

There are certain to be twists and turns in the title race over the next few weeks, but Madrid arguably have the better run-in, and the club will be determined to win La Liga for just the second time since 2012.

Eibar, meanwhile, have consolidated their spot in La Liga over the last five seasons and have finished ninth and 12th respectively in their last two campaigns at this level of football.

The Basque outfit face a battle to secure their spot in Spain"s top flight for the 2020-21 campaign, though, as they are currently 16th in the table, just two points outside of the relegation zone.

Only Mallorca (16) and Espanyol (15) have lost more La Liga games than Eibar (14) this season, and a trip to Madrid is not quite what the supporters would have wanted as their side are in need of a victory.

Jose Luis Mendilibar"s side have lost four of their last five in Spain"s top flight, including back-to-back home defeats to Mallorca and Sociedad before the action was halted in March.

Eibar also suffered a 4-0 defeat when they welcomed Madrid in the reverse match in November.

Madrid have been able to recover both Marco Asensio and Eden Hazard while the action has been on hold, and the latter is expected to go straight into the starting XI on Sunday night.

"Even the greatest miss penalties" – Bonucci defends Ronaldo

Goal - Leonardo Bonucci backed Juventus teammate Cristiano Ronaldo following his unsuccessful penalty against Milan en route to the Coppa Italia final, insisting «even the greatest miss».

Ronaldo hit the post with a 16th-minute penalty as Juve drew 0-0 at home to 10-man Milan in Turin – the Serie A champions reaching the final on away goals after the 1-1 first-leg stalemate.

Juve"s Ronaldo scored a penalty to salvage a draw away to Milan in February"s opening leg prior to the coronavirus pandemic but he was unable to repeat the feat behind closed doors at Allianz Stadium.

Bonucci leapt to the defence of five-time Ballon d"Or winner Ronaldo – who has scored 25 goals in all competitions this season – post-match.

«Even the greatest miss,» Juventus centre-back Bonucci told Rai Sport. «Cristiano is always important for us.

«He increases the pressure on opponents" defenders. «He was unfortunate today and [Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi] Donnarumma did well. We"ll see a great Juventus and a great Ronaldo again.»

Juve will face either Napoli or Inter in the Coppa Italia final in Rome on June 17, before Maurizio Sarri"s men restart their Serie A campaign away to Bologna on June 22.

Prior to the Covid-19 crisis, Serie A leaders Juve were a point clear of Lazio after 26 matches.

«The important thing was to qualify so we could play in Rome for our first objective of the season,» said Bonucci, whose Juve played against 10 men after Milan"s Ante Rebic was sent off in the 16th minute.

«It was strange and difficult at the start, an empty stadium after 90 days. We got a bit stretched out and Milan did very well with 10 men against 11. It was a draw, but we must look at the glass half-full, as our objective was to reach the final on Wednesday.»

Bonucci added: «We"ve shaken off a dark moment for the whole world and hope being back will give a bit of hope and joy to the fans at home. We want to dedicate something more to them on Wednesday.»

Juventus manager Maurizio Sarri also backed Ronaldo after the game . He said: «I asked Ronaldo to take a more central role, he was pleased to try it out and he played the game he needed to at this moment.

«He probably isn"t accustomed to missing a penalty, so hitting the inside of the post it could go anywhere and he was unlucky.

Costa and Morata cannot currently play together, admits Simeone

Goal - The Argentine manager could use Marcos Llorente in attack because he is wary of playing his two Spain international forwards in the same XI.

Atletico Madrid are not currently capable of playing with Alvaro Morata and Diego Costa together in attack, according to Diego Simeone.

Costa only returned from three months out with a back injury shortly before the season was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, while Morata has scored 12 goals in 32 appearances this term. They have started together five times in all competitions in 2019-20.

Simeone will be unable to select the suspended Joao Felix when Atletico play their first game in over three months against Athletic Bilbao in La Liga on Sunday.

The head coach has looked at using midfielder Marcos Llorente, who scored twice when Atleti eliminated Liverpool from the Champions League at Anfield before the coronavirus stoppage, as an attacker in a bid to give his team greater balance.

«We manage different situations and Marcos gives us important alternatives, where we can play with three in the middle and [Yannick] Carrasco as striker,» said Simeone on Saturday.

«I think that Marcos has a very good physical condition and good finishing from behind the striker. He already showed it when some people thought taking out Costa for him at Anfield was a defensive change and he was key.

«On the possibility of putting Costa and Morata together, it is not the same as in pre-season. Now I cannot take advantage of both together because I do not have a team prepared to sustain the two forwards.

«I prefer to harness the power that each one has separately until at some point they can play together. That"s why I explain why Alvaro and Costa do not play when Alvaro is available.»

Simeone"s assistant German Burgos will leave Atleti at the end of the season to pursue a career as a head coach.

«I have absolute gratitude to German, he is essential. I am grateful for the time German has given me and we have shared professionally and personally,» said Simeone.

«It"s a very important decision and he will face many challenges that will motivate him. Some of the players have already commented on what German has given us and when he finishes, we wish him the best.»