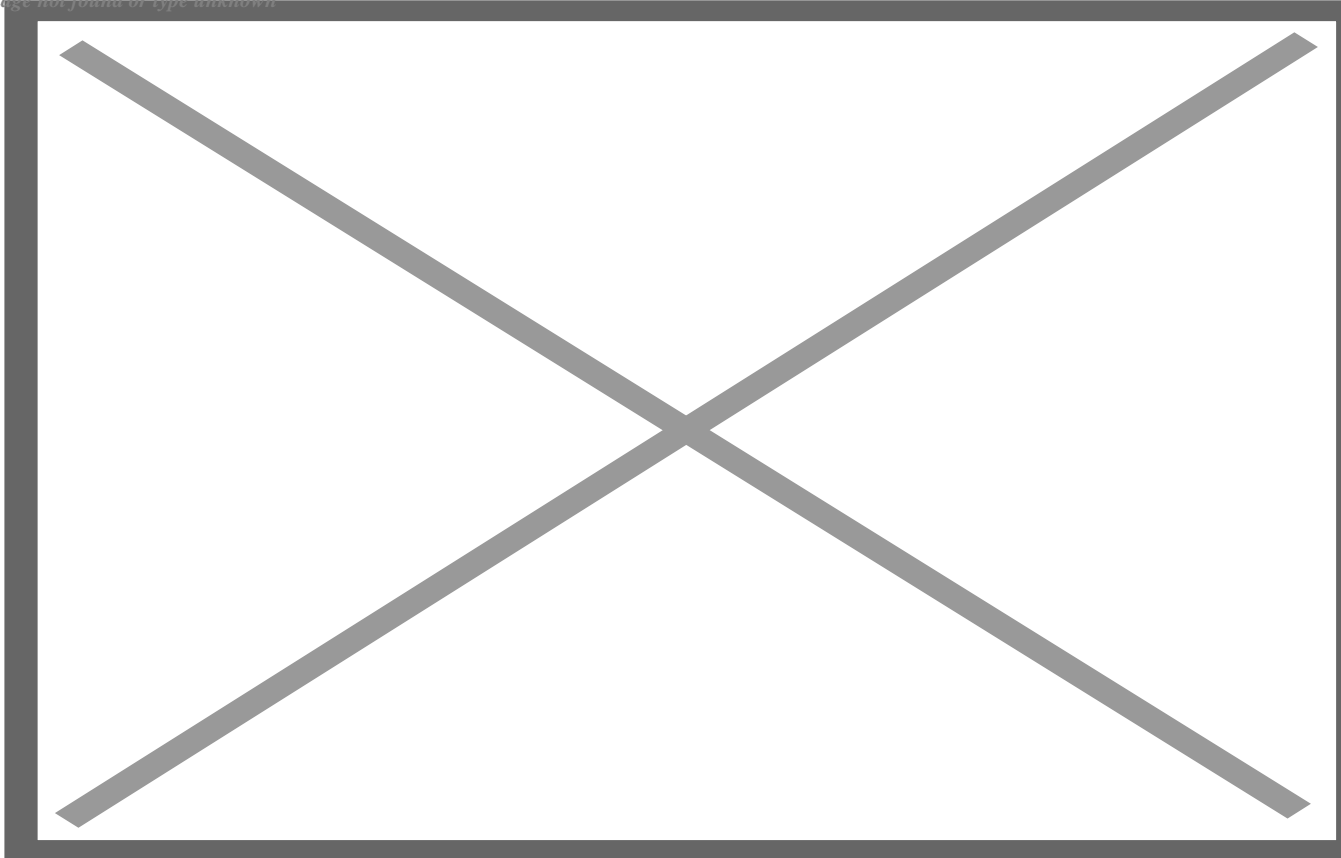


Napoli to take over the lead in Italian soccer league

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Havana, February 21 (RHC)-- Napoli could take the lead in the Italian League today if they beat Cagliari in matchday 26.

The Neapolitan team accumulates 53 points, three points behind the leader, AC Milan, which on Saturday drew 2-2 against bottom team Salernitana, and also has a better difference in goals scored and goals scored (plus 29 for plus 24).

A draw would put them level on points with second-placed Inter, who were beaten 2-0 by Sassuolo on Sunday.

Coach Simone Inzaghi's men suffered a surprise defeat, conceding early goals by Giacomo Raspadori in the eighth minute and Gianluca Scamacca (26th), before failing to score thanks to exceptional saves by goalkeeper Andrea Consigli.

The goalkeeper stopped repeated attempts by the Bosnian Edin Dzeko (58th, 63rd and 69th minutes) and a very clear chance by the Argentine Lautaro Martinez (72nd).

In stoppage time, Dutchman Stefan De Vrij reduced Inter's deficit with a header, but his goal was disallowed after a video review for a handball by an Inter player at the start of the action.

Meanwhile, fifth-placed Atalanta lost 1-0 away to seventh-placed Fiorentina, conceding a goal from Poland's Krzysztof Piatek in the 56th minute.

In the battle for fourth place, the last one that qualifies for the next Champions League, Atalanta is three points behind fourth-placed Juventus, who drew 1-1 with Torino (10) on Friday.

Lazio, sixth in the championship, remain one unit behind Atalanta after a 1-1 draw away to Udinese (16) in Sunday's final match.

Spaniard Gerard Deulofeu gave Udinese the lead in the fifth minute and Brazilian Felipe Anderson equalized in the 45th minute.

In a match between lower-tier clubs, Unione Venezia (17th in Serie A) and Genoa (19th) played out a 1-1 draw.

Matchday 26 results:

Friday:

-Juventus - Torino 1-1.

Saturday:

-Sampdoria - Empoli 2-0.

-Roma - Hellas Verona 2-2.

-Salernitana - AC Milan 2-2.

Sunday:

-Fiorentina - Atalanta 1-0.

-Unione Venezia - Genoa 1-1.

-Inter - Sassuolo 0-2.

-Udinese - Lazio 1-1.

Monday:

-Cagliari - Napoli.

-Bologna - Spezia.



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