

La Liga preview

Contributed by Administrator
Friday, 20 April 2007

Last weekend's Primera results moved Barcelona a step closer toward a treble of domestic titles, and the continued domination of Spanish football. The pre-season favourites with PinnacleSports.com will certainly have been a popular choice in the outright market, but Barca backers cannot count their chickens just yet. There is plenty of life left in La Liga and the place to find the best value is leading online sportsbook PinnacleSports.com, offering up to 60% better odds.

Below-par Barca Looking to Sink Yellow Submarine

Barcelona moved four points clear at the top of the Primera Division last weekend in unconvincing fashion, after their hard fought 1-0 home win over Mallorca, while nearest rival Sevilla, lost at the Mestalla. Barca increased their advantage courtesy of an 89th minute own-goal, and will need a better performance when they visit the Madrigal on Sunday. Frank Rijkaard's side might be starting to feel the tension of the end-of-season run-in, but should feel confident of beating Villarreal on recent evidence. The Catalans have won the last three meetings without conceding, including a 4-0 win earlier in the season at the Nou Camp.

The Yellow Submarine have endured a season to forget and are booked for mid-table obscurity. This lack of incentive should play into Barca's hands, though the same was said of Mallorca who the reigning champions struggled to overcome with the benefit of home advantage. Manuel Pellegrini's side have been inconsistent and are currently on a four game winless run, but Barca also have a midweek Copa Del Rey semi-final to consider. PinnacleSports.com still price Barcelona favourites 2.20 (-0.5 & -1.0) with Villarreal 1.769 (+0.5 & +1.0).

Valencia & Madrid Battle for Champions League Places

Having dispatched Sevilla last weekend, Valencia have the opportunity to complete an end-of-season clean sweep against their title rivals when they visit the Bernabeu on Saturday night. The Che beat Barcelona in mid-February to signal their title pretensions, but the distraction of Champions League commitments seemed to blunt their charge against less illustrious opposition. The win over Sevilla, coming so soon after defeat to Chelsea, does however suggest that Valencia are not out of the title hunt yet.

By the same token, nor are Real Madrid, who were putting together a positive surge toward the end of the season until last weekend's defeat at Racing Santander. That ended an eight game unbeaten run for Los Blancos who are five points behind Barcelona, but occupying a crucial Champions League berth, along with their opponents in fourth. This game will have a huge bearing on how the top of the table pans out, and PinnacleSports.com sees Real as slight favourites on their Asian Handicap, 2.13 (-0.5) with Valencia 1.813 (+0.5).

Zaragoza Chase European Dream while Celta Target Survival

Celta Vigo ended a six game winless run in La Liga on the weekend, recording only their second home win of the season at the Estadio Balaidos, beating Deportivo 1-0. The three points gained moved Celta out of the relegation zone, raising hopes that they can retain their Primera status. Coach, Hristo Stoichkov, now takes the survival battle on the road to La Romareda where Real Zaragoza are having one of their best seasons in recent memory. Zaragoza are currently fifth in the table, just one place away from earning entry from the Champions League for the first time in the club's history.

The Blanquillos' success has been founded on strong home form, losing just twice at La Romareda so far this term. The 1-0 win over Barcelona in their last home game illustrates the strength of the Aragonese side, their fourth straight win, three of which were achieved by the identical score line. Diego Milito scored the winner against Barca, one of 19 goals this season, and he will be the greatest threat to Celta Vigo. PinnacleSports.com certainly favour Zaragoza pricing them 2.130 (-0.5 & -1.0) with Celta Vigo 1.813 (+0.5 & +1.0).

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