



INSIGHTS

Matchday 17 Serie A 2021-22
10 - 13 December 2021



10/12/2021 20:45 - LUIGI FERRARIS



GENOA

Vs

SAMPDORIA



Genoa and Sampdoria have drawn (1-1) their last two league meetings and could draw three such matches in a row in the competition for the first time since April 1994.

Sampdoria have found the net in each of their last six Serie A meetings against Genoa: they last had a longer such run between 1973 and 1983 (seven in a row).

Having won three successive Serie A matches against Sampdoria as the home side between 2009 and 2011, Genoa have gained only three points (D3) in the last nine such games: they have never gone winless in 10 such home matches against Sampdoria in the competition.

Genoa have scored only two goals in their last six league games, failing to find the net in the most recent four: they last failed to score in five Serie A matches in a row in August 2008.

Genoa are winless at home in Serie A since last April (their last home win came against Spezia) – since then, they have picked up three points in nine such matches: they have never failed to win 10 top-flight home matches in a row.

Sampdoria have lost nine league games so far: they have suffered 10+ defeats in the opening 17 matches of a Serie A campaign only twice (in 1962/63 and 2019/20).

Having kept a clean sheet in three Serie A away matches in a row (W2 D1), Sampdoria have kept only one clean sheet in their last five such games (W1 L4), conceding exactly three goals in the remaining four.

In his first four Serie A games as a manager, Andriy Shevchenko has earned only one point with his side failing to score: in the three points for a win era, only Moreno Longo and Walter Novellino's sides have failed to find the net in their first five matches in the competition.

Domenico Criscito (five goals) is Genoa's second top scorer in Serie A this season behind only Mattia Destro (six): without him, Genoa have failed to win a single league game (D1 L3), averaging 0.3 points per match (0.8 with him).

Sampdoria's Antonio Candreva is the player to have attempted the most shots against a specific opponent without scoring a goal against them in the Big-5 European Leagues since 2006/07: 45 Serie A shots and no goals against Genoa.

11/12/2021 15:00 - ARTEMIO FRANCHI



FIorentINA

Vs

SALERNITANA



Fiorentina and Salernitana have faced each other four times in the Serie A, with the Viola winning two and losing one (D1).

Fiorentina have won both of their home Serie A matches against Salernitana without conceding: they are one of the five sides against which the Viola have always beaten without conceding at home in the competition, alongside Lecco, Legnano, Spezia and Treviso.

Fiorentina are one of the three sides in the last 50 years that haven't drawn any of their opening 16 games in a Serie A season, after Juventus in 2016/17 and Udinese in 2017/18 – both didn't draw their 17th game.

Fiorentina have won their last four Serie A home games, netting 3+ goals in each: they have won five in a row on home soil while netting 3+ goals in each match only three times in the competition: in 1949 (five), in 1959 (nine) and in 1960 (five).

Salernitana have had two different coaches in this first 16 Serie A games, eight matches each: they have had the same haul of points (W1 D1 L6) and the same goal difference (-11).

After having lost four successive Serie A matches, Salernitana have lost only two of their last four (W1 D1).

Salernitana have scored the fewest goals (11) and fired the fewest shots on target (46) in Serie A this season: Dusan Vlahovic has scored more than them (13), with half the shots on target (23).

Dusan Vlahovic has scored 30 Serie A goals in 2021: in the last 60 years, only two players have scored more than him in a single calendar year, Cristiano Ronaldo in 2020 (33 for Juventus) and Luca Toni in 2005 (31 for Fiorentina and Palermo).

Nicolás González has assisted three Serie A goals so far this term: he has never had more in his previous two Bundesliga campaigns (two in 2020/21 and three in 2018/19): his three assists have been for three different teammates (Sottil, Vlahovic and Maleh).

Before joining Salernitana, Franck Ribéry played 50 games and scored five goals for Fiorentina in Serie A: he has faced the Viola four times, between 2008 and 2010, for Bayern Munich, recording only one assist.

11/12/2021 18:00 - PIER LUIGI PENZO



VENEZIA

Vs

JUVENTUS



After having lost only one of their first seven Serie A meetings against Juventus (W1 D5), Venezia have suffered 15 defeats in the following 17 matches against them (W1 D1) – the Old Lady are the side to have beaten Venezia the most in the competition (16).

Venezia have lost their last two Serie A home meetings against Juventus, in 2000 and 2002, but they have never lost three such matches in a row against them in the competition.

Venezia have lost each of their last three Serie A games, conceding four goals in the most recent two: only twice have they shipped 4+ goals in three top-flight matches in a row, in 1949 and in 2002.

Venezia have conceded 2+ goals in each of their last four Serie A home games, equalling their longest such run in the competition, back in 1967.

Juventus have kept a clean sheet in four of their last five league games (W4 L1), as many as they had in the previous 29 matches in the competition.

Juventus have won, without conceding, in their last two Serie A away matches: they last kept a clean sheet in three such matches in a row in December 2018, under Massimiliano Allegri.

Venezia have scored the fewest Serie A goals in the second half this season (seven), whilst only Napoli (six) and Inter (seven) have conceded fewer goals than Juventus (eight) during this period.

Thanks to four goals and two assists, Mattia Aramu is the Venezia player to have been involved in the most Serie A goals this season (six): however, he has not had a hand in a goal in his last four league games.

Paulo Dybala has found the net in his last two Serie A games: the Juventus striker could score in three league appearances in a row for the first time since July 2020 (five in a row back then).

Juan Cuadrado has already scored three Serie A goals this season, one more than in the whole of the 2020/21 campaign: however, last term he delivered 10 assists (four after 14 appearances), whilst he is yet to make his first this season.

11/12/2021 20:45 - DACIA ARENA - STADIO FRIULI



UDINESE

Vs

MILAN



AC Milan are the side against which Udinese have drawn the most Serie A meetings: 34 draws in 92 matches (W17 L41).

In the last seven Serie A meetings between these two sides played in Friuli, Udinese and Milan have never repeated the same result in two successive games: three home wins, one draw and three away wins, including the most recent one, in November 2020.

Udinese have drawn six of their 10 Serie A games since October, more than any other side in the competition: in the process, only Brighton and Hove Albion (seven) have drawn more than the Bianconeri in the Big-5 European Leagues.

Udinese have drawn three of their last four Serie A home games, as many as they had in the previous 14 such matches in the competition (W4 L7).

AC Milan have picked up 38 points after 16 Serie A matches, their best tally at this stage of the competition since 2003/04, which remains the only campaign in the three points for a win era in which they have collected more than 40 points in the first 17 top-flight games of a season (42).

AC Milan have won 16 Serie A away matches in 2021 (D1 L3); only Napoli in 2017 (18) have collected more wins in a single calendar year in the competition.

AC Milan have had 14 different scores in Serie A this season: only Chelsea (16) have had more so far in the Big-5 European Leagues - the Rossoneri have had 16 in the whole 2020/21 campaign.

Udinese's Gerard Deulofeu played his first 17 Serie A games for AC Milan: the Spaniard is only one goal away from his best tally of goals scored in a single Serie A campaign (currently four goals, as many as he had in 2016/17 for AC Milan).

Rodrigo Becão has scored only two Serie A goals, both against AC Milan: in August 2019 he led Udinese to victory whilst in March 2021 he scored the first goal of the match, which was eventually drawn thanks to a 97th Kessié's goal from the penalty spot.

Brahim Díaz has delivered an assist in his last two league matches: he has never had a hand in a goal in three Serie A matches in a row.

12/12/2021 12:30 - OLIMPICO GRANDE TORINO



TORINO

Vs

BOLOGNA



Torino and Bologna have drawn their last three league meetings, the same amount of draws as in their previous 13 Serie A clashes (seven Torino wins and three for Bologna) – they have never had four draws in a row in the competition.

Torino have won five of their last eight Serie A home games against Bologna (D1 L2): since 2012/13 onwards, only against Udinese, Sassuolo and Genoa (six) have they won more home matches in the competition.

Torino have won only one of their last 11 Serie A matches against sides with more points at the beginning of the matchday (D5 L5) - a 1-0 victory against Sassuolo in September.

Torino have scored 2+ goals in each of their last four Serie A home matches (W3 D1), they last had a longer such run in 2016, under Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Bologna have scored 23+ goals in their first 16 Serie A seasonal matches in the last three campaigns – previously only once had they managed to do that in the three points for a win era (1997/98).

Bologna have won their last two Serie A away matches and could win three such games in a row for the first time since 2016, under Roberto Donadoni.

No side has gained fewer points from a trailing situations in Serie A this season than Torino (zero) and Bologna (three).

Bologna manager Sinisa Mihajlovic was in charge of Torino between 2016 and 2018 – he won 18, drew 24 and lost 15 of his 57 Serie A matches for the Granata.

This could be Antonio Sanabria's 50th Serie A start: the Torino striker has scored only two league goals this season, however both came at the Olimpico Grande Torino – he has scored each of his last six Serie A goals at home and in matches played as a starter.

Mattias Svanberg has been involved in a goal in two Serie A games in a row for the first time (one goal and one assist, as many as he had in his previous 11 matches) – the last Bologna midfielder to have had a hand in a goal in three successive appearances in the competition was Roberto Soriano in July 2020.

12/12/2021 15:00 - MARCANTONIO BENTEGODI



HELLAS VERONA

Vs

ATALANTA



Atalanta have won four of their last six Serie A meetings against Hellas Verona (D1 L1) after having failed to win each of their previous seven (D2 L5).

After having won five Serie A home matches in a row against Hellas Verona between 2001 and 2016, Hellas Verona have lost two of their last three home league games against them (D1) – in the first 13 meetings Hellas Verona had won only three games (D6 L4).

After their 4-3 comeback against Venezia the last time out, Hellas Verona could win two league matches in a row for the first time since September 2020 (including the 3-0 awarded win against AS Roma).

Hellas Verona are unbeaten across their last six Serie A home games (W5 D1) - they last had a longer such run in February 2002 (seven, under Alberto Malesani).

Atalanta are one of two sides in the big five European Leagues to have won the most away matches this season, alongside Real Madrid (W7 D1 L0).

Atalanta have scored seven goals in the opening 15 minutes of play in Serie A this season, with only Hellas Verona (nine) scoring more in that time period.

Atalanta are the only side yet to score a Serie A goal from a corner situation this season – they have scored three set-piece goals so far, all from the penalty spot.

Giovanni Simeone is only the third foreign player to have scored 11+ goals in a single Serie A campaign for Hellas Verona, after Adrian Mutu (12 in 2001/02) and Emanuele Del Vecchio (13 in 1957/58).

Atalanta are Miguel Veloso's favourite target in the Serie A: he has scored three goals against them, including his very first goal in the competition, in September 2011 for Genoa.

Josip Ilicic has scored four Serie A goals against Hellas Verona, including his first hat-trick in the competition, in March 2018 - he has scored two of his four hat-tricks in the top-flight at the Bentegodi, one against Hellas Verona and one against Chievo (both in 2018).

12/12/2021 18:00 - DIEGO ARMANDO MARADONA



NAPOLI

Vs

EMPOLI



After having won four successive Serie A meetings, Napoli lost their last such match against Empoli (2-1 at the Castellani in April 2019): the Partenopei have never lost two top-flight games in a row against them.

Napoli have not drawn against a newly promoted side in Serie A since December 2014 (2-2 v Empoli): since then, they have won 18 matches and lost two.

Napoli have won six of their eight Serie A home meetings against Empoli (D1 L1), always finding the net in the process - 23 goals scored (2.9 per game on average).

Napoli have failed to win their last five Serie A games played in December (D2 L3), conceding nine goals in the process.

Empoli have earned 23 points so far, their second-best haul at this stage of the competition after the 2015/16 campaign (24) – furthermore, they have scored 23 goals, a club record after 16 Serie A matches.

Napoli have conceded nine goals in their last five league games, as many as they had in their previous 18 Serie A matches.

Luciano Spalletti made his managerial debut in Serie A in charge of Empoli in the 1997/98 campaign - he collected 10 wins, seven draws and 17 defeats in 34 top-flight matches.

Napoli are the only side in the big five European Leagues to have four different players with at least five goals scored this season: Piotr Zielinski, Dries Mertens, Victor Osimhen and Fabián Ruiz (five goals each).

Lorenzo Insigne has scored five goals in six Serie A meetings against Empoli; among the sides he has faced more than once in the competition, his best minutes per goal ratio comes against Empoli (one every 87 mins).

Andrea Pinamonti has scored six goals in Serie A this season, his best tally in a single top-flight campaign (and at least twice as many as any teammate) – the Empoli striker has played four league matches against Napoli, failing to score or assist a single goal in 322 minutes of action.

12/12/2021 18:00 - MAPEI STADIUM - CITTA' DEL TRICOLORE



SASSUOLO

Vs

LAZIO



Sassuolo have won two of their last three Serie A meetings against Lazio (L1), as many as they had in their previous 13 such matches (D3 L8).

Sassuolo have won two of their eight Serie A home meetings with Lazio (D2 L4), including their most recent one last May (2-0 thanks goals from Kyriakopoulos and Berardi), with that win also producing their only clean sheet in these fixtures.

Sassuolo have drawn three of their last four league games (W1), including both of the most recent two; they last drew three Serie A matches in a row in December 2019.

Lazio won their last league match against Sampdoria; only once this season have they won two league matches in a row, doing so in their first two matchdays.

Since the start of November, only Atalanta (14) have scored more Serie A goals than Sassuolo (11), whilst only Venezia (12) have conceded more than Lazio (11) in the same period.

Lazio have conceded 30+ goals in their first 16 Serie A matches of a season for the first time since 1958/59, when they eventually finished the season 11th in the table.

Sassuolo have gained more points from losing positions than any side in Serie A in 2021 (20) – however, they have also lost 24 points when ahead this year, a total only lower than Verona (26).

Domenico Berardi has scored eight Serie A goals against Lazio; only against AC Milan has he netted more (10) in the division. The Sassuolo striker has found the net in seven different league games against the Biancocelesti; against no other side has he done so more in the competition.

Lazio's **Ciro Immobile** has scored 13 league goals this season, and could become only the fourth Italian player to score 15+ goals in as many as seven different Serie A campaigns, after **Silvio Piola** (10), **Giuseppe Meazza** (8) and **Giuseppe Signori** (8).

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic will be missing for this game due to the red card he received in his last match. Since he joined Serie A (2015/16), he has been received more cards in the competition than any Lazio player (47 – 44 yellow, 3 red).

12/12/2021 20:45 - GIUSEPPE MEAZZA



INTER

Vs

CAGLIARI



Cagliari have drawn 28 Serie A games against Inter (W14 L40), only drawing more against Sampdoria (31) in the competition.

Inter have won seven of their last nine Serie A meetings against Cagliari (D1 L1), scoring 2.4 goals per game on average in the process (22 in total).

Inter have scored in all 21 of their home games against Cagliari in Serie A in the three points for a win era, the most they have faced a side at home in the competition in this time without ever failing to score. Indeed, the last away clean sheet for the Rossoblu in this fixture came back in March 1992.

Inter have won more home league games in 2021 than any other side in Europe's big-five leagues (17). In the history of Serie A, only in 1989 have they won more such matches in a single calendar year (18).

Inter have picked up the most points-per-game on average at home in Serie A this season (2.4). On the other hand, Cagliari have averaged the fewest (0.4) away from home.

Cagliari have drawn each of their last four Serie A games; they last drew at least five in a row in the competition in October 2006 under Marco Giampaolo (six in a row).

Inter have scored 94 Serie A goals in 2021; only in 1950 have they scored more (99) in a single calendar year in the division.

Inter have scored more Serie A goals from set-pieces than any other side this season (13), whilst Cagliari have conceded the most such goals in 2021/22 (12).

Lautaro Martínez scored his very first Serie A goal against Cagliari in September 2018. Overall, the Inter striker has scored four goals in six league appearances against them; against no other side has he netted more in Serie A.

Cagliari's Keita Baldé has scored three top-flight goals against Inter, each coming in his last three such appearances against them. Baldé played 24 games and scored five goals for the Nerazzurri in the 2018/19 Serie A campaign.

13/12/2021 20:45 - OLIMPICO



ROMA

Vs

SPEZIA



AS Roma are unbeaten in their two previous Serie A matches against Spezia, courtesy of a home win (4-3) and an away draw (2-2).

AS Roma are unbeaten in their last 10 Serie A matches played on a Monday (W7 D3); their last such defeat date came back in March 2015, at home against Sampdoria (0-2).

AS Roma have lost both of their last two Serie A games; they last had a longer such run in July 2020 (three). Indeed, only twice previously has manager José Mourinho lost three league matches in a row in his managerial career, doing so in February 2021 with Tottenham and in November 2015 with Chelsea.

AS Roma have lost seven league games this season. In their Serie A history, only three times previously have they suffered more defeats at this stage of the competition, doing so in 1949/50 (8), 1950/51 (9) and 1973/74 (8).

Only Atalanta (25) and Napoli (22) have earned more points than AS Roma (21 in eight games) in matches against sides currently in the bottom half of the table in Serie A this season heading into MD17.

Spezia have lost their last five Serie A away games, and only once before have they had a longer such losing run in the competition (six between February and April 2021).

Heading into this matchday, no side has lost more points from leading positions than Spezia in Serie A this season (15, level with Verona).

With Lorenzo Pellegrini in the side, AS Roma have won 62% of their Serie A games this season (8/13), whilst they have lost all three league matches without him this term.

Only João Cancelo (33) has attempted more shots without scoring a single goal than AS Roma's Nicolò Zaniolo (32) in the big-five European leagues in 2021/22 so far.

Spezia's Daniele Verde played seven Serie A matches for AS Roma in the 2014/15 campaign. He has scored two league goals against his former side (in both fixtures last term), while he has scored four of his 11 top-flight goals against teams from Rome (three of which have been at the Olimpico).