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WORLD NEWS

ITALIAN FOOTBALL IN MOURNING AS PLAYER DIES OF HEART ATTACK DURING MATCH



Piermario Morosini collapsed during a match for Livorno

Sunday April 15, 2012

By Roddy Ashworth

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ITALY'S football federation called off all of today's league games after a footballer collapsed and died from a heart attack yesterday in front of horrified team mates and shocked fans.

The tragedy came less than a month after Bolton Wanderers player Fabrice Muamba, 24, fell to the ground after suffering a cardiac arrest during an FA cup match against Tottenham Hotspur.

His collapse happened just before half-time when the sides were level at 1-1 during their clash at White Hart Lane.

Muamba's heart only started beating on its own again when he arrived at a London hospital's heart attack on the night of March 17, after being rushed to the specialist London Chest Hospital in Bethnal Green.

Yesterday Italy's former under-21 international Piermario Morosini, 25, who played for Livorno, fell on to the pitch midway through the first half of the match against Pescara, as his side were leading 2-0.

TV footage showed midfielder Morosini appearing to tremble before falling to his knees, then struggle to get back on his feet before finally crashing to the ground with his hands clutching his chest as he attempted to catch up with play.

“Italian footballer dies in hospital”

Frantic players from both sides attracted the referee's attention as medics from Livorno rushed onto the pitch to give the player heart massage in a bid to revive him as he lay dying on the pitch.

Last night there were claims that the ambulance which had taken him to hospital had been delayed by an empty police car which had been blocking its entrance into the ground.

Fire chiefs later confirmed they had to smash the window and release the handbrake to move it out of the way.

Eventually the ambulance came onto the pitch at Pescara before taking Morosini to the town's Santo Spirito hospital.

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The footballer was seen being put into a stretcher with an oxygen mask on his face as the team medic continued to give him heart massage, as tearful and shocked players were led off the pitch by the referee.

Later TV footage showed grief-stricken team mates wailing in agony as they were informed by Livorno club official

Manilo Porcellini in the hospital waiting room that Morosini, who had been on loan from Serie A side Udinese, had died an hour after arriving, never regaining consciousness.

Last week in Britain it was announced that Muamba could make an astonishing return to top-flight football after being "wired up" with a life-saving device.

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