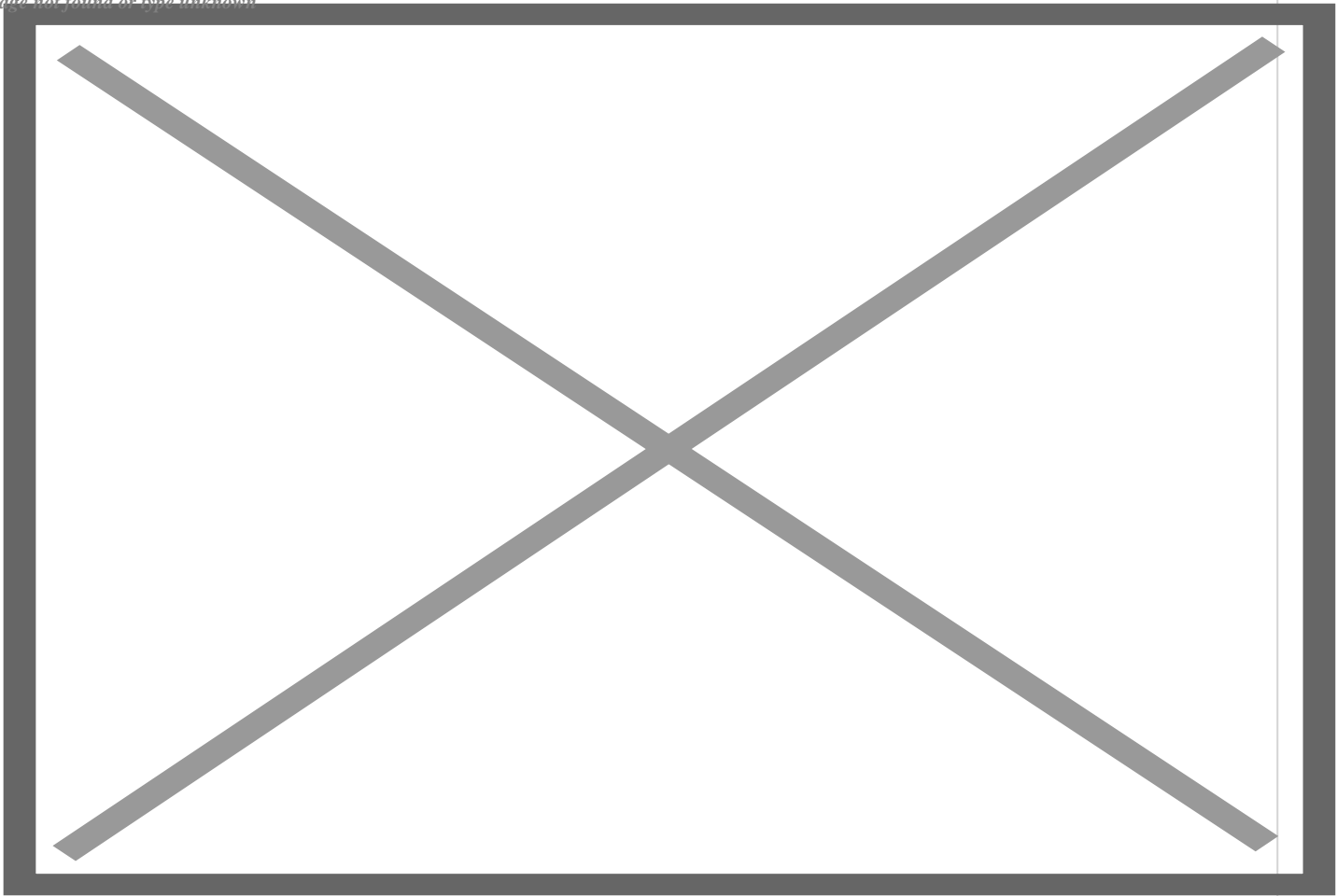


Atletico stands alone at the top of Spanish soccer

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Barcelona-Atletico Madrid

Barcelona, Dec 21 (PL) Atletico Madrid defeated Barcelona 2-1 at the Montjuic Olympic Stadium, remaining alone at the top of the Spanish soccer league after 18 rounds.

After 11 consecutive successes, Los Colchoneros maintained their winning dynamic. They defeated a rival team in the doldrums with just one win in its last seven games (two draws and four defeats).

Gavi's pass into the box was a masterpiece for Pedri, who used his magic to send the ball into the back of the net in the 30th minute, sending the Culés into a frenzy in the stands.

Several shots were missed by Hansi Flick's disciples (still absent from the bench) and, as almost always happens in sport, Diego Simeone's men equalized through Rodrigo de Paul half an hour before the end of regular time.

With seconds left before the final whistle, Alexander Sorloth's leg appeared to seal the match to the astonishment of his opponents.

After this result, the semifinalists of the Copa del Rey and the Supercopa de España, accumulate 41 points, three more than their victims tonight and four points behind Real Madrid.

In other matches, Mallorca defeated Getafe 1-0, Celta Vigo 2-0 against Real Sociedad, and Athletic Bilbao 2-1 against Osasuna.

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