Primera Liga

Giants suffer away

Football

Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona both had an away day to forget on Sunday, as Real could only draw 1-1 at Athletic Bilbao while Barcelona crashed 2-0 at Celta

Real Madrid's draw means that they are now five points behind the side from Real Sociedad in the race for the Spanish title, however nobody is talking about sacking their coach Vicente Del Bosque.

By contrast, the job of Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal is in jeopardy and the Catalans' eighth loss of the season could see the Dutchman out of work very soon.

Ronaldo made another repayment on his 45 million euro summer transfer fee by putting Real Madrid into the lead after 57 minutes sending the ball into an empty net after Athletic goalkeeper Daniel Aranzubia could only turn away a Raul Gonzalez shot.

However, Real's lead only lasted 11 minutes as Asier Del Horno equalised for Athletic, after Tiko Martinez had sent a short corner from Javi Gonzalez flying into the

The European and world champions kept up the pressure for the remainder of the match but Aranzubia thwarted all their efforts.

"We lost two points here," admitted Ronaldo.

"It's a long road to the end of the league and we are carrying on without getting defeated. But somewhere in this match we lost a little bit of rhythmn and now we have to hope Sociedad slip up," added the

Real Sociedad have 43 points from their 19 matches and were proclaimed the Spanish 'winter champions' - the unofficial title given to the league leader at the halfway point in the season - after their 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

The Basque team extended their unbeaten run with second half goals from Tayfun Korkut and Darko Kovacevic, the latter responding to an Atletico equaliser by Luis Garcia.

Barcelona are down in 12th place, a huge 20 points off the lead, after their latest disaster.

After an initial flourish from Barca, all the chances fell to the feet of the Galican hosts.

Jesuli Mora had the goal at his mercy but hit the post midway through the first half and then Gustavo Lopez had a weak penalty saved by Barca goalkeeper Roberto Bonano.

Jesuli made up for his earlier miss by finding the net two minutes after the break, darting forward unmarked with the Barca defence pushed too far forward to pick up a Peter Lucin cross.

Brazilian winger Sylvinho got Celta's second with a spectacular volley from an acute angle after 72 minutes, one of the best goals in the Spanish first divisgion all season. By contrast to the Barcelona



Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo skips the challenge of an Athletic Bilbao defender at Bilbao on January 26.

misery, the Celta victory brought joy to their own supporters whose team had lost their last three games and not even scored a goal since the start of the year.

Valencia stay third and have 35 points after a lacklustre 1-0 win on Sunday over Sevilla, who despite their lowly position can still boast of

TOP SCORERS Leading scorers in the Spanish

league after the weekend's

13 - Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna) 11 - Ďarko Kovacevic (Real

Sociedad) 10 - Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad), Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Walter Pandiani (Real

Mallorca)

9 - Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao), Fernando Torres (Atletico Madrid) 8 - Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid), Julio Alvarez (Rayo Vallecano), Kiki Musampa (Malaga), Ronaldo

the best defence in the First

Argentine international striker Pablo Aimar got the only goal of the game after 33 minutes when he trapped a Ruben Baraja cross with his chest and then blasted in the Valencia coach Rafa Benitez

admitted the game was a pale shadow of the previous week's sensational 4-2 win at Barcelona. "We had some clear chances but

Malaga managed to kill everything in the midfield for a large part of the game," conceded Benitez.

Brazilian World Cup winner Denilson scored two spectacular goals in Real Betis' 2-1 win over

Villareal, a win which sees the

Seville-based side move into fourth place on goal difference, although they had an uncomfortable final few minutes after Carlos Aranda headed a late consolation goal for the visi-

Champions League contenders Deportivo La Coruna were humbled 3-1 at Espanyol on Sunday, where former Spanish national coach Javier Clemente continues to work his magic.

Relegation-threatened Espanyol have now won three of their five games since Clemente took over The Spanish First Division's

leading scorer Roy Makaay took his tally to 13 for the season, giving Deportivo the lead after just two miunutes but responded with three goals before 30 minutes had elapsed from Toni Soldevilla, Roger Garcia and Angel Morales.

Bottom club Recreativo came from behind to beat fellow strugglers Rayo Vallecano 2-1.

Rayo got in front quickly through, Ramon De Quintana scoring less than two minutes into the game. Recreativo's Xisco Munoz then equalised early in the second half before Loren Monzon aot the winner for Recreativo six minutes from

TOP SCORERS

Spanish football league table after Sunday's late match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against

Farewell to a legend

SPÖRT

AFP, Turin

Turin bade an emotional farewell Sunday to its most famous son as Fiat partiarch Giovanni Agnelli's coffin was borne out of the city which became synonymous with the worldwide conglomerate he cre-

An estimated 10,000 mourners who crowded around Turin Cathedral, many of them Fiat assembly line workers, applauded as his coffin, bedecked with white roses, was taken to his last resting place in the family crypt outside the

Turin's archbishop, Cardinal Severino Poletto told mourners during the solemn requiem mass. punctuated by choral music by Bach, that Agnelli had earned the merit of "the city, Italy and the world."

An honour guard of the Italian army saluted as Agnelli's coffin was taken from the cathedral after a service which bore all the trappings of a state funeral.

The Agnelli family who control the troubled industrial conglomerate left in a fleet of black cars for the private family burial after the 90minute requiem mass which was carried live on Italian state televi-Among the chief mourners were

President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, as well as the speakers of both houses of parliament and former president Oscar Luigi Scalfaro -- like Agnelli a senator for life. Poletto said Turin, where thou-

sands of families earned their living on Fiat's assembly lines since it was founded by Agnelli's grandfather in 1899, "is a city moved and shaken by this death.'

The cardinal also read out a message from Pope John Paul II, who said Agnelli had "used his enterprise and generosity for good. and for the economic and social development of the country."
Agnelli wielded autocratic control

Fiat and remained an enormous influence until his death after a long battle with cancer on Friday, But he leaves behind a dynasty

which may have to relinguish its loss-making auto wing, Fiat's core business, so beloved of Agnelli and despite political pressure to keep the car-maker in Italian hands.

At the close of the solemn ceremony, a soldier sounded the last post for Agnelli, who served in the Italian army and fought in Russia and Africa during World War II.
While thousands standing out-

side followed the ceremony on loudspeakers, and millions more across Italy watched on television, the few hundred inside the cathedral were a list of the great and the good from the worlds of politics, business and sport over which Agnelli wielded such influence in a glittering 60-year They included politicians from all

parties, diplomats as well as sports stars like Michel Platini, Agnelli's favourite player who captained his Juventus team in the 1980s. Platini was one of the few invited

to attend the private burial ceremony at the family crypt in the small town of Villar Perosa, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Turin.

Agnelli, who was known to most Italians simply as "l'Avvocato" (The Lawyer), was laid to rest alongside his grandfather Giovanni ounded Fiat in 1899



WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US? Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand (top) touches referee Steve Bennett while celebrating with teammates Phil Neville's goal against West Ham United at Old Trafford on January 26.

FA Cup

Hammers Man-handled

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United hit West Ham for six to breeze into the fifth round of the FA Cup on Sunday.

But arch rivals Liverpool found life far less comfortable as they were forced to a replay after a fullblooded encounter with First Division Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park ended goalless. Elsewhere, Premiership

Chelsea were far too classy for little Shrewsbury with a convincing 4-0 win at Gay Meadow to destroy the home side's hopes of repeating their shock third round win over Everton. As well as being frustrated by

Trevor Francis's side, Liverpool also suffered the loss of first choice goalkeeper Chris Kirkland, who was stretchered off mid-way through the first half. The keeper, who had been

hoping for a call-up to the England squad to face Australia in next month's friendly, was taken to hospital for checks on his knee after throwing himself at the feet of Palace striker Dele Adebola.

Kirkland's bravery prevented a goal but a serious injury to him would be a major blow to Liverpool as they attempt to get their season back on track. Gerard Houllier's side entertain

Arsenal in an important Premiership clash at Anfield on Wednesday but the Liverpool boss confirmed that there was concern that Kirkland may have damaged his cruciate ligament. "There is nothing broken but we

been damaged," said Houllier who then admitted the keeper could be out for the rest of the season. "That would be the worst sce-

just need the scan tomorrow to

check if the cruciate ligament has

nario but only a scan will tell us." United took full advantage of

West Ham's current defensive woes with two goals apiece from Ryan Giggs and Ruud van Nistelrooy and one each for Phil Neville and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The defeat leaves Hammers

boss Glenn Roeder looking increasingly likely to be the second Premiership manager to be sacked this season. But he vowed he would

"My position is not helped by each defeat but I have never been a person who would give in to anything and I am not thinking about walking away. "For all the disappointments we have had this season this was the

first time I could accuse a number of

my players of not fighting all the way

through to the end, but I could point the finger at a few today." United manager Alex Ferguson thought the win augured well for United's attempt to close the gap on

Arsenal in the Premiership. "It was a good performance, we've gradually been getting better in the last few weeks, particularly the last week or so," the Scot

declared. "Some of the goals were very good and there's a lot of confidence in the team at the moment."

At Gay Meadow, Gianfranco Zola scored twice and set up a third in Chelsea's 4-0 win over

Shrewsbury. The Italian maestro was on target in the 40th and 75th minutes, crossed for substitute Carlton Cole to head in after 52 minutes with Jody Morris adding the fourth ten minutes

"We didn't make any mistakes today and we had to play our best football because Shrewsbury beat

Everton and they deserved our respect." said Zola. Fulham came through their all-

Premiership clash with London rivals Charlton thanks to a hat-trick from French midfielder Steed Malbranque, two of the goals coming from the penalty spot. To round off a miserable after-

noon for the Addicks, they had their South Africa international defender Mark Fish sent off four minutes from the end for the foul which earned Fulham their second spot-kick. The win means Fulham are

ment on the run of one victory in nine matches with which Jean Tigana's side ended last year. "Our form's better than before but I'd prefer to be a better team in

unbeaten in 2003. Three wins and a

draw represent a marked improve-

the league than in cups," Tigana "The problem is only that we

need confidence inside the box. So the best thing about this win was that we scored three goals."

First Division strugglers Stoke City went through with a comfortable 3-0 win over Third Division

Bundesliga

No hangovers for Bayern

Football

Zickler (85) and Brazilian Giovane

AFP, Berlin

matches

(Bochum)

Munich)

Bielefeld.

further point back.

14 - Ailton (Bremen)

Bayern Munich got their campaign for an 18th Bundesliga title off to a flying start after the winter break with a comfortable 3-0 home win against lowly Monchengladbach Sunday.

The Bavarian giants broke away from the leading group after reigning champions Borussia Dortmund blew their chance of gaining ground on the league leaders when they were pipped 2-1 by Hertha Berlin Saturday. Dortmund also lost second place

TOP SCORERS

Leading scorers in the German

Bundesliga after the weekend

12 - Thomas Christiansen

11 - Giovane Elber (Bayern

Munich), Markus Schroth (1860

10 - Sasa Ciric (Nuremberg),

9 - Ewerthon (Dortmund)

Benjamin Lauth (1860 Munich),

8 - Bernardo Romeo (Hamburg),

in the table to Werder Bremen, who

drew 2-2 at home to Arminia

Bayern now have 42 points from

Ottmar Hitzfeld's men opened

18 matches, with nearest challeng-

ers Bremen on 34 and Dortmund a

the scoring after 25 minutes when

Kevin Kuranyi (VfB Stuttgart)

Fredi Bobic (Hanover)

Jan Koller (Dortmund)

Elber (89) sealed victory for the hosts leaving beleaguered Monchengladbach stuck fourth from the bottom. Bayer Leverkusen's Bundesliga

a 3-0 thrashing at home by bottomtable Energie Cottbus. The fate of Leverkusen's chainsmoking coach Klaus Toppmoeller looks increasingly doubtful as last year's Bundesliga runners-up were humiliated on their return after the six-week winter break.

Despite the defeat, club manager Reiner Calmund said that there was no question of changing the

"There has been no discussion on the subject of the trainer," said Calmund. Even the return of central

woes continued as last year's year-long injury layoff couldn't help Champions League finalists were Leverkusen who are wallowing plunged further into crisis following 14th position.

> the break after Marko Topic found the net after 32 minutes.

dangerously close to the drop in A monumental error by Leverkusen goalkeeper Jorg Butt allowed Marco Gebhardt to fire home the opener after 15 minutes.

defender Jens Nowotny after a

Leverkusen dominated after the break but could not stop Cottbus finding the third from the boot of

and the visitors were two up before

Poland's Andrzej Juskowiak off a corner five minutes from the whistle The three points have done little

to alleviate Cottbus' problems as they remain stuck to the bottom with just 13 points from 18 matches.

TOP SCORERS German league table after Sundav's

matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

Bayern	18	13	3	2	39	14	42
Bremen	18	10	4	4	36	29	34
Dortmund	18	9	6	3	29	15	33
Schalke	18	8	7	3	23	15	3
Stuttgart	18	8	6	4	29	23	30

Stuttgart 18 8 6 4 29 23 Munich 18 8 4 6 29 25			_	7	3		15 23	3
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 35 Set up for 22 Affluent

statistic 23 Recoiled a drive again? 36 Potato, e.g. 4 Mini-towe 25 Portable 37 Gentle 5 Teensy wind particle 40 Cranberry 6 Noted 26 Moby's chairman 27 Micro-41 Do 7 Hardly nothing G-rated age of jocularly 29 Quarry 42 Sleuth 8 State literature 47 --- about positively 9 Thick 31 Always 14 Type of (roughly) 33 Numbing

forest 16 Hit the votes ground 17 Aries 50 Great dismay 51 Risque 18 Fit fo consun

15 Notting

ham

25 Atlanta

28 Spasm

29 Alterna

tive to

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DOWN tion 20 Seraglio 1 Existed group 23 Wound 2 'Wha'dja souven 24 Leave

Haven

com-25-Across pounds 34 One might get GIs campus 13 Emulated 36 Actress Leander Spelling 37 Utah national 38 Writer Ferber 39 Stratagen 40 She played

cutter

pursuer

wave,

"Cheers 43 Health setup (abbr.)

BWI'QY WIV.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals D

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error

friend 8 Wan 12 Of a golden

48 Atmos 10 War, to phere 49 Opposi tionists' 11 New

19 Pub missile

Solution time: 24 mins

20 Stolen 21 Writer Kingsley

XIOOWXY

G N D G X B W I KYYJ Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY RAMS INTO A WINDOW, I EXPECT IT WOULD REALLY BE A PANE-FUL EXPERIENCE.

Milan midfielder Clarence net for the first time since joining wallpape Seedorf echoed Galliani's senti-- budget 30 Color Bayern in 1997. However, the Piacenza goal-Juventus 18 11 5 2 34 13 38 32 Summer-45 A dozen Two late goals in the dying minunbeaten home record by overcomkeeper could only watch as the ball 18 10 6 2 33 17 36 time "It was a terrible defeat but we utes of the game from German ing a star-studded Milan side rebounded to the fortunate Nedved Chievo 18 10 2 6 28 18 32 but we have to hold our hands up international stricker Alexander despite the early second-half dis-34 Prepare a who cheekily lobbed the ball back Udinese 18 8 5 5 17 16 29 and say we were poor," said the casserole

Serie A

Vieri venom

Football

AFP, Rome

Title contenders Inter Milan drew level on points with city rivals AC Milan at the top of the table in Italy as Christian Vieri's hat-trick earned an easy 3-0 win at home to Empoli on Sunday.

Vieri's treble in 16 second-half

minutes took the striker's league

tally to 16 goals for the season and

moved Inter up to second on 39 points behind Milan who lost 1-0 to 10-man Udinese in the late match at the Friuli stadium. Milan, whose defeat was their third of the campaign, keep first

place however because of their superior goal difference. Inter coach Hector Cuper praised his players for finally

frustrating first-half. "The win was down to the heart more than the head," said the former "We didn't play particularly well in

the first period, but we found some-

breaching Empoli's defence after a

thing extra in the second-half to break Empoli down. Vieri's first goal at the San Siro arrived in the 69th minute, tapping home from close range after Empoli goalkeeper Gianluca Berti had spilled debutant Gabriel Batistuta's

angled shot. Inter went further ahead four minutes later when Empoli's defence failed to clear Emre Belozoglu's inswinging corner, allowing Vieri an easy headed chance a yard from goal.

Vieri completed the scoring five minutes from the end by converting Javier Zanetti's right-wing cross which Berti failed to hold onto. Udinese maintained their

Sensini for unsporting behaviour. Milan fell behind eight minutes from the break when veteran defender Paolo Maldini handled the ball deliberately inside the 18-yard

Chilean midfielder David Pizarro



CHRISTIAN VIERI slammed the spot-kick beyond Brazilian goalkeeper Dida's outstretched hand to give the home side a deserved lead.

Udinese had to survive a relentless second-half onslaught from Milan but Luciano Spalletti's men managed to hang on for a memora-

Galliani was magnanimous in defeat which moved Udinese up to the lofty heights of sixth position. "We played badly and deserved to lose," he said. "It wasn't the true

Milan vice-president Adriano

football sometimes. Asked if he thought there was any doubt about Udinese's penalty, Galliani replied: "It was the right decision, absolutely.

Milan we saw but this happens in

Juventus marked the passing of honorary president Gianni Agnelli on Saturday by moving up to third in the table with a 2-0 home win over

After the match Juventus presi-

dent Luciano Moggi paid tribute to TOP SCORERS Leading scorers in the Italian league after the weekend's

16 - Christian Vieri (Inter Milan) 12 - Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)

11 - Francesco Totti (AS Roma)

10 - Claudio Lopez (Lazio) 9 - Adrian Mutu (Parma) 8 - Julio Cruz (Bologna), Antonio Di Natale (Empoli), Filippo Inzaghi (AC Milan), Adriano (Parma)

7 - Andrea Pirlo (AC Milan), Roberto Baggio (Brescia) 6 - Tommaso Rocchi (Empoli), Bernardo Corradi (Lazio), Alvaro Recoba (Inter Milan)

Agnelli whose family own 62 per cent of the Turin club "He was an exceptional man, not only to everyone at Juve but also to the people of Turin and Italy," Moggi said. "He will be sorely missed." Alessandro Del Piero scored the

opening goal in the 10th minute at

the Delle Alpi stadium, volleying

Gianluca Zambrotta's left-wing

cross into the top corner with an acrobatic right-foot shot. Juve doubled their advantage two minutes from the break.

Czech Republic midfielder Pavel Nedved played a quick one-two with Del Piero and struck a low left-foot shot which was brilliantly parried by Poalo Orlandoni.

a shock 1-0 defeat at home to struggling Calabrians Reggina. The visitors silenced the home crowd a minute after half-time when Lazio's giant Dutchman Jaap Stam

lost possession to Emiliano

Bonazzoli who beat Angelo Perruzzi

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini

Lazio fell to fourth after suffering

into an unguarded net.

with a firm left-foot drive.

made no excuses for his side's second defeat of the campaign which ended their 17-match unbeaten league run. "We didn't play well and were

punished by a good team who

worked very hard for each other," he "It's important that we learn the lessons of this defeat and put things

right against Chievo next week."

Baggio marked his return from injury with Brescia's equalising goal in a 1-1 draw at home to Parma. In other matches Perugia beat Chievo 1-0 and Bologna were held

to a 2-2 draw at home to Torino.

Elsewhere veteran Roberto

victory over 2001 champions AS In Saturday's other league match Atalanta won 2-0 at Modena to improve their chances of avoiding

the drop to Serie B.

On Saturday night struggling

Como clinched their first win of the

Serie A season with a stunning 2-0

TOP SCORERS Italian league standings after

against, points) Milan

Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals

English international midfielder Owen Hargreaves finally found the 18 12 3 3 34 12 39 18 12 3 3 37 20 39