



ON A RAMPAGE: Hatrick hero Raul celebrates after his second goal against Valladolid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on September 13. PHOTO: AFP

Primera Liga Bernabeu blitzkrieg

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid warmed up for Tuesday's Champions League date with Marseille in style Saturday, swamping Real Valladolid 7-2 at the Bernabeu...

Diego Tristan, on as a substitute, had had to watch from the sidelines as Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani, who claims his fellow striker doesn't respect him...

But after another Uruguayan, Dario Silva, had levelled six minutes after the restart, on came Tristan to net his first goal of the new league campaign...

England star David Beckham, having scored on his first two competitive appearances for Real, on this occasion turned provider and left the scoring duties to his teammates...

pass setting up a sumptuous volley for Zinedine Zidane early in the second half.

That brought Real their fourth goal as they flattened their opponents despite showing some trademark defensive frailty, Spanish international striker Raul notching a hatrick to add to two goals in midweek for his country in the Euro 2004 win over Ukraine.

Real moved to seven points from three matches but Deportivo La Coruna were later Saturday in action at Seville looking for their third straight win.

After Beckham had fluffed a low freekick on 17 minutes Real raced through the gears and Ronaldo swept them in front on 20 minutes with a drive which deflected in off the head of former Real defender Julio Cesar...

The half hour mark brought up the second goal as Luis Figo hared down a right flank Beckham had temporarily vacated and sent over a cross which Raul, with his back to goal, flicked nonchalantly home.

Two minutes later the contest was effectively over as Roberto Carlos drilled in a looping cross from deep on the left which Raul controlled neatly before firing over advancing keeper Albano Bizzarri left-footed.

Pablo Richetti came close to conjuring a riposte for Valladolid,

Raul a legend

AFP, Madrid

Spanish international striker Raul, already his country's top scorer in history with 34 goals, reached another landmark in Saturday's 7-2 win over Real Valladolid in which he netted a hatrick.

The goals enabled the 26-year-old to take his league club haul in the famous white shirt of regal Real to 158, leapfrogging Hungarian legend Ferenc Puskas, who netted 156, as he became the fourth highest scorer in the club's history.

Mexican Hugo Sanchez is in third spot with 164, which Raul is set to pass within weeks at his current strike rate, while Carlos Santillana bagged 186.

The all-time goal king at the club is Alfredo di Stefano, who netted 216.

Raul is also the all-time top Champions League scorer with 43 strikes in 78 matches, during which time he has picked up three winners medals.

watched by Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who made his name in politics in the city, but his effort cannoned off the bar.

But any hopes of a way back disappeared on 53 minutes in a puff of brilliance which bore the signatures of Beckham and Zidane.

The England skipper, deep out on the right flank once more with Figo having returned to the left, looked up and floated a perfect 40-metre pass towards the left edge of the box where Zidane unhesitatingly volleyed a low, first time effort into the corner.

Aznar, sitting next to Real president Florentino Perez, applauded in spite of himself as his own side fell further behind.

However, Valladolid did not lie down and promptly pulled one back from the penalty spot after Beckham handled in the area as he moved to block a point blank cross.

Roberto Losada fired home the spot kick although Real keeper Iker Casillas guessed right.

But within seconds the unfortunate Julio Cesar then had a rush of blood to the head as he wrestled Figo to the ground and the Portuguese international clipped in that penalty for 5-1.

A minute later Jose Chema netted close range header for 5-2 as Real once more showed that,

brilliant as they are going forward, they have no apparent desire to lock the gate behind them.

But they reverted to type once more at the other end as Beckham found Ronaldo with an astute pass and the Brazilian, switching onto his left foot, curled home a delicate effort on 70 minutes for his third goal of a campaign he has promised will be his most prolific.

Raul made it seven from close range in the 74th minute.

Real's evening finished with bad news, however, as Argentine defensive midfielder Esteban Cambiasso picked up an ankle injury.

Elsewhere Saturday, Raynald Denoueix's Real Sociedad, who take on Greek side Olympiakos on Tuesday in the Champions League, thanked Oscar De Paula for their first win, 1-0 at Racing Santander, which took the Basque side third.

Real Betis meanwhile shocked Vigo 2-0 away as Marcos Assuncao swept in a long-range freekick and then Fernando netted from the spot after a foul by French midfielder Peter Luccin.

Barcelona, who took four points from their opening two games, travel to little Albacete on Sunday while Valencia face Malaga.

Real's forever!

Football

AFP, London

England football captain David Beckham said staying at Real Madrid for the rest of his career was a real possibility, the Sunday Times reported.

Beckham, who talked about his new life in Spain, his new teammates and his old boss Alex Ferguson, said remaining at the nine-time European champions for as long as possible was his aim.

"I'd like to stay here for as long as I can," Beckham said. "The contract's for four years, but if I can extend it, and Real Madrid still want me, then of course I'd love to."

"Definitely, without a doubt I'd consider spending the rest of my career here."

In the two months Beckham has been at the Santiago Bernabeu club, he has already made his mark.

He scored in a 3-0 victory against FC Tokyo in the Far East pre-season tour, he also found the net in a win by the same scoreline against Real Mallorca in the Spanish Super Cup on his home debut, and then he netted the first goal of the league season in a 2-1 success over Real Betis.

He said the players have helped him acclimatize, particularly good English speakers Luis Figo and coach Carlos Queiroz.

"It's been great having Carlos in Madrid. I'm very lucky," Beckham said. "He's probably done more than anyone to make sure I felt involved right from the off. He has bent over backwards to help me settle down in the team, and I really appreciate that."

"It's been a bonus I hadn't been expecting at all. Especially early on it helped that the coach spoke good English. He and Luis Figo, whose English is really good too, took a lot of pressure off me that might have come with not being able to say much more in Spanish than 'hola' and 'gracias' to my teammates."

Beckham's book 'My Side' has finally been published, after serial-

isation in the British press, to bring Beckham a sense of relief and he said he hoped it would give a more informed view of his relationship with Ferguson.

The rapport with the Manchester United manager reached a low point in February in the United dressing room when Ferguson kicked a football boot which hit Beckham just above an eye after they lost to Arsenal in the FACup.

"I understand why people have jumped on what happened between me and the gaffer during my last season at United," Beckham said. "It's the obvious story, even though it's not anything like the whole story. There was so much more to my relationship with Alex Ferguson."

"In a very positive way, I'm where I am today because of him. I know I'm privileged to have been involved with United while he was the boss."

When asked what he thought of former United chief executive Peter Kenyon moving to Chelsea, Beckham said: "That's not my business any more, is it? I know Peter always dealt really fairly with me. All I can say is I wish him good luck."

Beckham laughed when asked about rumours of him moving to Chelsea, saying all he cared about was making "a dream come true" in Spain.

Chelsea took their spending to over 111 million pounds (177 million dollars) when the English Premiership side, bankrolled by Russian oil billionaire Roman Abramovich, completed the signing of France midfielder Claude Makelele from Real Madrid two weeks ago.

Beckham also hinted he might end up in the United States once his playing days are over. "I get the feeling that Americans are proud about being American all day, every day," Beckham said. "And that's something I admire, because I'm so proud of being English. I admire their sense of pride in their country."

Bundesliga Wolfsburg sting Bayern

AFP, Berlin

VfL Wolfsburg recorded their first ever win over Bayern Munich with two goals in the final ten minutes capping a 3-2 win at the Volkswagen Arena on Saturday, allowing Bayer Leverkusen to return to the Bundesliga summit after victory over SV Hamburg.

Dutchman Roy Makaay looked to have handed Bayern victory with his first goal for the club since his 18.75-million-euro transfer, but a brace from Wolfsburg's Brazilian debutant Baiano, 24, and a late winner from Diego Klimowicz saw Bayern lose their first game of the 2003/04 season.

Bayern must now pick themselves up from this defeat with Celtic visiting Munich Wednesday for the opening game of the Champions League campaign.

A first-half header from defender Juan was enough to hand Bayer Leverkusen a narrow 1-0 win over Hamburg, who have yet to win this season, and move to the top of the German top-flight with 12 points.

Werder Bremen led the pack before Saturday's matches but fell to a 2-1 defeat against Borussia Dortmund in front of 81,000 fans at the refurbished Westfalen Stadium.

A goal from Brazilian Ewerthon, replacing injured compatriot Marcio Amoroso, combined with an own goal from Valerien Ismael saw Dortmund gain revenge for last season's 2-1 reverse, their only home defeat of the season.

Hertha Berlin striker Fredi Bobic built on his goal against Scotland in midweek with a brace against former club Hannover, but it was not enough as the visitors triumphed 3-2 in the German capital.

Elsewhere VfB Stuttgart move into second spot after a 0-0 draw with Schalke 04 at the Arena Auf Schalke.

Primeirship Pompei deserved better

Football

AFP, London

Premiership newcomers Portsmouth proved they can live with the big boys by ending Arsenal's winning start to the season with a 1-1 draw at Highbury on Saturday but manager Harry Redknapp believes his south-coast

Redknapp was adamant Pires had dived.

"When the referee whistled I thought he was going to give Pires a yellow card," the Pompey boss fumed. "When he gave the penalty I couldn't believe it."

Manchester United's win came courtesy of two goals from Ruud van Nistelrooy in the last half hour.

Charlton's chances of a fightback disappeared when Jason Euell was sent off after earning a

ning left foot drive from 20 yards.

But an Owen penalty quickly got the visitors back on level terms and Blackburn were reduced to ten men a minute later when Lucas Neill received a straight red card for a wild lunge at Jamie Carragher.

Liverpool's Czech striker Milan Baros was not so fortunate - he had to go off with a broken ankle.

Former Blackburn player Kevin Davies's renaissance continued with a 23rd minute strike as Bolton



FLYING DUTCHMAN! Chelsea's Dutch international Mario Melchiot (L) jumps over Tottenham's Frederic Kanoute at Stamford Bridge on September 13.

side should have had all three points.

Only a controversial penalty denied them what would have been a famous victory.

The draw leaves Portsmouth, last season's first division champions, unbeaten after five games in the top flight.

It also allowed Manchester United, 2-0 winners at Charlton, to move into second place, and to within a point of leaders Arsenal, while Chelsea moved up to third after a 4-2 home win over Tottenham.

Portsmouth took the lead at Highbury through veteran striker Teddy Sheringham after 26 minutes but Arsenal equalised five minutes before the break after Robert Pires went down in the box.

Thierry Henry beat Shaka Hislop twice from the penalty spot after being ordered to retake his first kick because Dennis Bergkamp had encroached on the area.

But Portsmouth manager Harry

second yellow card for a late challenge on Gary Neville.

Chelsea moved up into third place after coming from behind to sink London rivals Tottenham 4-2 and pile further pressure on to Spurs' embattled manager Glenn Hoddle.

Fredi Kanoute had raised the visitors hopes with a 25th-minute opener.

But Chelsea hit back with two goals in the space of three minutes from Frank Lampard and Adrian Mutu.

The Romanian added his second a quarter of an hour from the end. Kanoute grabbed a second for Spurs three minutes from time but Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink restored Chelsea's two-goal cushion in stoppage time.

A Michael Owen double and a last-minute strike from Harry Kewell delivered the points for Liverpool against ten-man Blackburn at Ewood Park.

Matt Jansen had got Blackburn off to the perfect start with a stun-

Serie A Cheeky wins for Milan, Lazio

Football

AFP, Rome

AC Milan and Lazio made it two league wins out of two on Saturday after securing hard-fought 2-1 victories against Bologna and Sampdoria respectively.

A late individual effort by Filippo Inzaghi gave European champions Milan the three points at the San Siro, while Demetrio Albertini's penalty saw Lazio edge newly-promoted Sampdoria in Genoa.

Inzaghi's winner was his fifth goal in seven days having scored four for Italy in their two Euro 2004 qualifiers against Wales and Serbia and Montenegro.

Milan's early pressure told in the 10th minute when Ukraine international Andriy Shevchenko scored his third goal of the season.

Clarence Seedorf was brought down wide on the left wing and Andrea Pirlo's clipped free-kick was met by Shevchenko whose flicked header crept in at the near post.

Just as it seemed as if the floodgates would open, Bologna snatched an equaliser thanks to a spectacular goal by Carlo Nervo just after the half hour mark.

Seedorf failed to clear a low cross and the ball fell nicely into the path of Nervo, who rifled a 20-yard

drive which Milan goalkeeper Dida could only help into the net.

With time running out and the home crowd growing restless, Inzaghi dribbled his way into the box and evaded two challenges before poking the ball past Gianluca Pagliuca from close range.

Roberto Mancini came back to haunt his former club by guiding Lazio to a scrappy win at Sampdoria.

The Lazio coach spent 15 years at Sampdoria as a player during which time they lifted their first and only Italian league title in 1991.

Simone Inzaghi, younger brother of Milan's Filippo, gave Lazio an early lead with a scissor-kick before veteran Albertini extended the visitors' advantage with a second-half penalty after Bernardo Corradi was hauled down.

Fabio Bazzani's bullet header gave Sampdoria a glimmer of hope but they failed to muster an equaliser despite a late onslaught in their first home match in the top flight for four years.

The result could have been different for 'Samp' had Cristiano Doni not missed a first-half penalty.

Albertini, who rarely scored in his 14 years at AC Milan but has now hit the target in each of Lazio's two league matches.

Ligue 1 Le mauling!

Football

AFP, Paris

Marseille climbed to the top of the French first division Saturday after a 5-0 rout of bottom club Le Mans.

This surgical dissection of the league's newcomers was the perfect confidence booster for Marseille coming ahead of Tuesday's Champions League clash against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu stadium.

Marseille showed no mercy to their visitors, quickly asserting control with Didier Drogba, who was to later go off injured, slotting home a close range left footed volley in the 13th minute.

Steve Marlet, who had played a central role in that move, put Marseille further clear with a 24th minute strike, his first goal at the Velodrome since his summer move on loan from Fulham.

Pouncing on a Drogba volley the 28-year-old France international slammed the ball from the penalty area past Jean-Francois Bedenek. The second half was only minutes old when Ahmed Hossam Mido gave the Velodrome faithful more reason to cheer with a left-footed shot.

Russian striker Dimitri Sychev, who had come on for Drogba, also got in on the act and with Mido capping a fine night for the home side with his second the goal rush against admittedly weak opposition pushed Alain Perrin's side to the top of the table.

Monaco are placed second, two points behind, after a 1-1 draw away to Lille.

Didier Deschamps' side were heading for a win after Ludovic Giuly put them ahead two minutes before the break.

A well taken free kick by Jerome Rothen found Emanuel Adebayor whose nicely weighted pass fell to Giuly who outwitted the Lille defence to shoot past keeper Gregory Wimbe.

But Vladimir Manchev levelled deep into the second half to spoil Monaco's night and leave Lille in third, level on points with Nice.

Brazilian Giovane Elber saved champions Lyon's blushes when scoring on his first appearance at the Stade Gerland.

The former Bayern Munich striker's shot from the left just before the interval cancelled out France international Djibril Cisse's goal for Auxerre on the half hour.

Lyon's title defence has got off to a spluttering start, with only two wins from their first six matches leaving them in mid-table.

On an evening where there were plenty of goals around, Bastia ran out 4-2 winners over Guingamp, Strasbourg beat Ajaccio 3-2, and Sochaux humbled former title holders Bordeaux 3-1.

Elsewhere Metz beat Montpellier 2-1, Pape Thaw getting a last minute decider, fourth-placed Nice edged out Nantes 1-0 and Rennes saw off Lens 2-0.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptiquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-47.

CRYPTOQUIP D Z U O B D E T B O N J D B V M N O I N O C P V M K D E E L U O J Z E U J N L J B K J Z U J V I T C U X N O I B X E P O L Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF YOU CHOPPED DOWN A BUSH GROWING SOUR FRUITS, DID YOU HATCH THE BERRY? Today's Cryptiquip Clue: D equals W