

Real Madrid's Ronaldo (R) leaves Atletico Bilbao's La Cruz in his wake at the imposing Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on Saturday.

Ferguson in hot water

AFP. London

Alex Ferguson could be disciplined by the Football Association for the second time this season following his controversial claim that the ruling body struck a deal with Arsenal over the Battle of Old Trafford and his criticism of the handling of the Rio Ferdinand affair

The Manchester United boss claimed that his bitter rivals Arsenal cut a 'deal' with the FA to reduce the punishments for five of their players following the 0-0 draw at Old Trafford on September 21.

He also claimed last week that England defender Ferdinand had been "hung out to dry" by the FA and had been found guilty before even being charged after missing a drug test five weeks ago.

"We are looking very closely at the comments made by Alex Ferguson and taking them very seriously," FA spokesman Adrian Bevington told the

Sunday Telegraph. "I want to emphasise that we do not nvolve ourselves with any deals with any club. Furthermore, the suggestions that we hung Rio Ferdinand out to dry is also something that we refute very strongly.' "We are not going to get involved in a knee-jerk reaction but, quite clearly, we need to look very closely at his comments. We will go through our normal disciplinary procedures." Relations between the fierv Scotsman and the FA are already at an all-time low after United reacted with fury to the decision to drop Ferdinand from the England squad to face Turkey.

Serie A **Honours even in Milan**

to their advantage

result.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti

"There's some bitterness because

"For us it was a difficult match, but

lamented his side's inability to hold on

the game was almost won, but when

you play Juve you have to respect them

all things considered a draw was a fair

until the very end," he said.

Football

AFP. Rome

A spectacular volley from Marco Di Vaio six minutes from time rescued a point for Juventus as the Italian titleholders snatched a 1-1 draw away to championship rivals AC Milan on Saturday.

Milan, who defeated Juve on penalties to win last season's Champions League final, took a 65th minute lead through giant Danish striker Ion Dahl Tomasson, only for Di Vaio to equalise for the visitors with a breathtaking strike. A draw meant that both teams

remain unbeaten at the top of the table on 20 points after eight matches played

Man-of-the-match Di Vaio made no excuses for his wild celebrations after his sweetly-struck effort bulged the net. "It's only natural to behave that way after scoring like that," he said. "For me, this goal will live long in the memory. We deserved to equalise and we are very happy." Juve coach Marcello Lippi said his side's overrall performance was worthy of a point. "It would have been a joke if we had lost the game and fortunately we were able to put the picture straight," he said

Primera Liga **Deadly Ronaldo**

Football

AFP, Madrid

Two goals from Ronaldo on Saturday helped give Real Madrid a 3-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao and put them on top of the Spanish First Division after Deportivo La Coruna could only draw 0-0 at struggling Murcia.

The reigning champions' World Player of the Year returned to form after three barren and lacklustre matches, firing home a left-foot half-volley on 33 minutes to open the scoring against the Basques visitors.

His second goal, ten minutes afer the break, may go down as one of his best in a Real shirt

Picking up the ball around 30 metres in front of the Athletic goal, he danced past a succession of men in red-andwhite striped shirts before unleashing a left foot thunderbolt just inside the area.

Ronaldo nearly got his hat trick shortly afterwards but instead became the service provider for Real's third goal, going around two Athletic defenders before laying the ball across the face of the goal to give Luis Figo an easy tap in.

The brace takes Ronaldo's tally to eight goals from ten league games this season

In addition to Ronaldo's return to form, Real will be heartened ahead of Tuesday's Champions League match at Partizan Belgrade about the fitness of David Beckham

place of the injured Filippo Inzaghi.

before unleashing a low left-foot shot.

Fortunately for Milan, Dida, their

for the entertainment value.

The England captain had missed

Real's two previous matches with a hamstring strain but showed no ill effects on Saturday

A sad postscript to the match was that an Athletic supporter remains in a critical but stable condition in Madrid's Gregorio Maranon hospital after being hit on the head by a bottle and rendered

unconscious earlier in the day. Spanish radio station Cadena Ser said that the 25 year-old fan had been attacked by supporters of the Spanish second division club Rayo Vallecano in a bar in the Madrid suburbs near the Rayo ground, before Rayo played another Basque club Eibar.

Real have 23 points from 10 games to lead Deportivo by one point.

Valencia started the weekend in third place with 20 points and play at struggling Real Mallorca later on Sunday, but need to win by five clear goals in order to grab back the league leadership they held earlier SEE PAGE 14 COL

top six

Spanish football league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points) $10\quad 7\quad 2\quad 1\quad 23\quad 9\quad 23$ Madrid 10 7 1 2 19 8 22 Deportivo Valencia 9 6 2 1 16 5 20 Osasuna 9 5 2 2 12 7 17

9 4 3 2 11 7 15

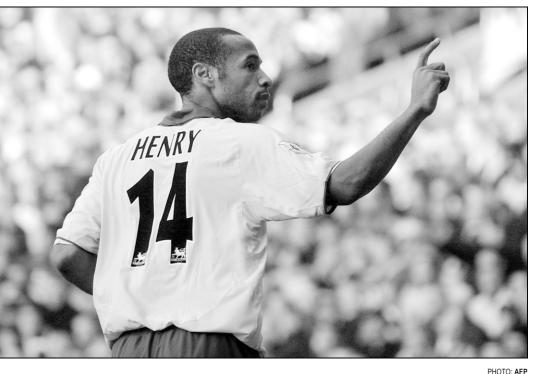
Ligue 1 Monaco move

Mans on Saturday.

1-0 at Girondins Bordeaux and had two players sent off, striker Didier Drogba and Philippe Christanval in only his second league game for the

Monaco, unbeaten in the league since August 9, have 27 points from 12 games followed by Lyon and Marseille on 24. Paris-St Germain have 20 and play RC Lens in Sunday's only game.

Le Mans, now with only four points after 11 minutes thanks to goals from



Arsenal's Thierry Henry celebrates after scoring Arsenal's third goal against Leeds at Elland Road on November 1.

Arsenal blow Leeds away

miserable week for Leeds after they

announced record losses for a

Premier League club of nearly 50

million pounds and debts of 78 mil-

Reid's side fared no better as Arsenal

accelerated into a 3-0 lead by halftime

after a series of counter-attacks to

didn't handle them on the break, in

particular," Reid said of Arsene

and ... ultimately we paid the penalty."

"They were very, very good and we

"They've got world class players

Thanking the club's supporters, he

τορ six

10 5 4 1 9 5 19

10 5 3 2 20 13 18

ManCity 11 5 3 3 22 12 18

so huge that fellow England interna-

tional Michael Owen, the closest

Splitting them in the list is former

The massive individual earnings

Chelsea owner Ken Bates who took

come at a time when some leading

clubs are making worrying losses with

Leeds in dire trouble at a reported 49.5

affected at all (by the game's economic

"I don't think players have been

player to him in the list, is a relative

pauper raking in 7.5 million pounds.

17.5 million pounds to the bank.

million pounds loss.

keep Leeds second from bottom.

Matters on the pitch for Peter

Wanderers.

lion pounds.

Wenger's side.

points);

Arsenal

Chelsea

Man Utd

Birmingham

Football

Premiership

REUTERS, London

Arsenal hammered Leeds United 4-1 on Saturday to stay top of the English Premier League but there was no letup in the pressure as champions Manchester United and title rivals Chelsea both clocked up victories.

Thierry Henry scored twice and Robert Pires and Gilberto grabbed one apiece at Elland Road as Arsenal swept to an easy victory over struggling Leeds to stay top on 27 points.

But Chelsea remain just a point behind after Romanian striker Adrian Mutu got the only goal of their game at Everton, while third-placed United have 25 points after a 3-0 win over

Portsmouth. United, beaten at home by Fulham last weekend, made no such mistake at Old Trafford on Saturday as Diego Forlan gave them a first-half lead, Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo added his first for the club and fellow substitute Roy Keane smashed home

a late third Elsewhere, Newcastle United drew 1-1 with 10-man Aston Villa after skipper Alan Shearer had a late penalty saved, Manchester City won 2-0 at Southampton and Tottenham Fulham



Hotspur suffered their first defeat told Sky Sports: "We've just got to get under caretaker boss David Pleat. through this difficult time and one of losing 1-0 at home to Bolton the ways we'll get through it is with the fantastic support of our fans." Saturday's defeat rounded off a

Arsenal ended a week in which the club were fined 175,000 pounds and four players were suspended after ugly scenes at the end of a 0-0 draw at Manchester United in September.

The Baily Star

Wenger, who said the bans had affected his squad during training, told Sky Sports: "Today we responded well, because we can focus on what's in front of us and get on with it."

Anticipating the media's response, Henry said: "After all those people were talking about Arsenal for the wrong things, I hope tomorrow they'll be talking about us for the right things.

Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri had to be grateful for a string of misses by Everton in both halves before recording their victory at Goodison Park.

"In the first half it was all Everton,' Ranieri conceded.

English Premiership table after "The second for us was much Saturday's matches (played, won, better. I just told them to try and keep drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, possession, because we cannot play 11 8 3 0 23 9 27 like Everton they have good organisa-11 8 2 1 21 9 26 tion and always get the ball forward." $11 \ \ 8 \ \ 1 \ \ 2 \ \ 21 \ \ 6 \ \ 25$ A blossoming Forlan scored his

third goal in three games to kick-start United's win against SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Rooney reassures **Everton** AFP, Liverpool

ahead **REUTERS**, Paris Monaco went three points clear at the

Juventus were the first to threaten top of the French first division with a on an uneven surface, which did little 4-2 victory against bottom side Le Pavel Nedved, playing just behind

Olympique Marseille, frustrated at the two forwards, picked up the ball 40 missing out on the loan signing of yards from goal and ran unchallenged France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, at the heart of the Milan defence were beaten

Champions Olympique Lyon thrashed 10-man Nice 5-0 but had three players carried off after brutal tackles.

from 12 games, led 2-1 at Monaco

Santander 10 4 2 4 13 11 14

Barcelona

Bundesliga Stuttgart regain top spot

REUTERS, Berlin

Two goals from Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi helped VfB Stuttgart jump back to the top of the Bundesliga with a 4-1 victory over SC Freiburg on Saturday while champions Bayern Munich slumped to defeat.

Substitute forward Christian Tiffert and Belarus midfielder Alexander Gleb also struck for the southerners, who scored three goals within three minutes to move two points clear of leaders Bayer Leverkusen, visiting Kaiserslautern on Sunday.

Stuttgart, surprise runners-up last term, are the only team undefeated 11 games into the season.

They looked sluggish for most of the match but stepped up a gear after Freiburg had midfielder Andreas Zeyer sent off for a second bookable offence with the game level at 1-1 on 58 minutes.

'The first half was bad but it was better after the break,' said Stuttgart coach Felix Magath.

"We played really great for about 15 minutes but I have to say Andreas Zever's red card helped us.'

Bayern continued their mediocre start by crashing to a 2-0 defeat by Schalke 04 in Gelsenkirchen.

The champions, who needed a penalty shootout to move past second division Nuremberg in a German Cup tie on Tuesday, remain in fourth place but drop six points off the pace.

The match was a nightmare for the Bavarians, who were reduced to SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

"I'm content because we played with great character and created plenty of opportunities to score."

τορ six

Standings in the Italian champion-						
ship after Saturday's matches						
(played, won, drawn, lost, goals for,						
goals against, points):						
ACMilan	8	6	2	0	16	4 20
Juventus	8	6	2	0	19	8 20
Lazio	8	5	1	2	15	$10 \ 16$
ASRoma	7	4	3	0	14	3 15
Parma	7	4	2	1	13	7 14
Chievo	7	3	2	2	10	7 11



PHOTO: AFP

Juventus striker Marco Di Vaio (R) fights for possession against Milan's Caroatian defender Dario Simic at the San Siro stadium on Saturday.

Di Vaio partnered David Trezeguet Brazilian goalkeeper, got down quickly in Juve's attack with Alessandro Del to palm the ball away for a corner. Piero still recovering from a calf strain, Juve kept up the pressure with Di while Tomasson started for Milan in Vaio shooting wide moments later, SEE PAGE 14 COL



VfB Stuttgart's Fernando Meira (L) and SC Freiburg's Ibrahim Tanko engage in aerial duel during their German league match in Stuttgart on November 1.

Daniel Cousin and Laurent Peyrelade the first goals scored by Le Mans strikers this season.

Unfortunately for Cousin he then put through his own net for Monaco's equaliser and there was another Le Mans own goal in the second half through Thabang Molefe.

Auxerre won 3-0 at Toulouse and Montpellier thrashed Nantes 4-1. Marseille welcome Lyon next week for the second big head-to-head of the

French league season. Nistelrooy doesn't trust Advocaat

BBC ONLINE, undated

Ruud van Nistelrooy has revealed his relationship with Dutch international coach Dick Advocaat is so poor he no longer trusts the former Rangers manager.

Advocaat has publicly stated his preference for Barcelona forward Patrick Kluivert rather than Van Nistelrooy after the Manchester United striker threw a tantrum during the Euro 2004 qualifier with the Czech Republic when he was replaced. Advocaat dropped him from the

subsequent match with Moldova although the player has since apologised for his actions.

"Considering the fact that he substitutes me systematically. I don't feel any trust in him," Van Nistelrooy was reported as saying by French newspaper L'Equipe, in remarks repeated by Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad

Van Nistelrooy also believes he has no chance of starting in the Euro 2004 play-off matches with Scotland.

He said: "It will be Patrick Kluivert. I have no doubts at all, even though Advocaat hasn't said a word yet.

"I don't like to say it but I feel that it will go like this. I am on the bench against Scotland.

"But okay, the most important thing is that we qualify for Portugal." Van Nistelrooy continued: "During

the qualifiers I have played five matches and in those games I have been substituted four times after 60 to 70 minutes.

REUTERS/AFP, London

The Russian businessman who bought Premier League football club Chelsea earlier this year has been named as Britain's highest paid person.

Roman Abramovich, who has relocated to the UK, topped the annual Sunday Times Pay List with earnings of 564 million pounds in 2003.

England skipper David Beckham delivered a knockout blow to Britain's world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis by taking over as the country's richest sportsman this year.



ROMAN ABRAMOVICH

over, told the Sunday Times. sports earner with income of 20.5 "Of course, there won't be crazy go mad anymore.

Lewis has lost his top place whose earnings slumped from 30 million pounds last year to a modest nine million pounds this time round

which have years to run. pounds by Real Madrid but the vast years for the effects to be really felt." majority of his wealth comes through various endorsement deals which are

Wayne Rooney has scotched rumours linking him with a huge transfer to Chelsea and vowed to help Everton win a place in Europe.

It emerged last month that Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich was ready to smash the British transfer record with a 50million pound bid to bring Rooney to Stamford Bridge.

The speculation about a possible bid was crushed by Everton at the time and the hottest property in English football, in a rare comment to the media, insisted he wanted to remain with the club he has supported since he was a toddler.

"I am happy to be at Everton. I have only just signed a new contract, so I'm not interested in any other club," Rooney said.

"I am not interested in anything Chelsea have to say. When the stories with Chelsea were in the papers, I just started laughing because I knew it was all speculation.

Speculation about Rooney's future has intensified following Everton's sluggish start to the season.

After getting within sight of a Champions League place last season, Everton have looked anything but European contenders in this campaign and a 1-0 defeat at home to Chelsea on Saturday left David Moyes's side fifth from bottom of the table.

Already an established England player, Rooney is aware of the importance of regular European exposure at club level for his development. But he is confident that Everton have the potential to help him realise that amibtion.

"I want to play in Europe with Everton and hopefully we can get there in the next few years," he said.

"Going away with England has helped my game. International football is a completely different standard.

wages like there were before even at "Most of the players involved with big clubs like Real Madrid. They won't England have played in the Champions League or in Europe with their clubs.

"But that's in the future because

players at top clubs are still getting top

money. They have not been asked to

"They have got that experience and that has made me hungry for similar experiences with Everton. I think we can qualify for Europe if we play as well as we can.'

Chelsea, who have spent 111 "It will take another two or three SEE PAGE 14 COL

million pounds, according to the Sunday Times Rich List which monitors the top 500 money makers in Britain every year.

give up their wages, they have deals, The footballer is paid 4.68 million