Giuly gem fires

Ligue 1

Football

place on 30

Real Madrid on Wednesday.

proved timely for Marseille manager

Alain Perrin - he turned provider for

strike partner Mido in the 47th minute

just before the Egyptian international

beat Wimbee with a left-footed shot

Mido's goal brought relief to Perrin,

Marseille now sit in third place on 27

points, but will be more than happy with

the first away win of the season to

Drogba, along with Giuly sits on

Giuly's goal - which is sure to be a

contender for goal of the season - came

who gave his player a playful kiss on the

only two minutes after the restart.

cheek for his efforts.

Monaco

French international Ludovic Giuly

helped send Monaco back to the top of

Premiership

Gunners still too good



AFP. London

Arsenal made light of the absence of six first team regulars as they beat Birmingham on Saturday to extend their unbeaten start to the season to 13 games, a new record for the

An early goal from Freddie Ljungberg and late strikes from Dennis Bergkamp and Robert Pires secured a 3-0 away win that kept Arsenal a point clear of Chelsea, who came away from Southampton with a 1-0 victory

Manchester United remain a point further back in third after a 2-1 win over Blackburn in their lunchtime clash at Old Trafford.

At the bottom, Leeds' woes deepened as they slumped to a 2-0 home defeat by Bolton in caretaker manager Eddie Grav's first match in charge.

Arsenal's win will have come as a major relief for manager Arsene Wenger, who had to do without Patrick Vieira, Ray Parlour, Martin Keown and Lauren because of suspension, the injured Sylvain Wiltord and the jetlagged Gilberto, who returned from international duty with Brazil late on

Wenger said the unbeaten run was testimony to the spirit of his side.

"When I look back every game has been difficult and the team have shown remarkable strength and been focused in every match

"There is a kind of strength about this team when they are in trouble and I am very proud of them."

Arsenal have now made the best start to the season of any team since the Premiership was launched in 1992-93.

Wenger's men however still have some way to go to match the all-time top flight record of 29 games, shared by the 1987-88 Liverpool and 1973-74 Leeds

First half goals from Ruud van Nistelrooy and Brazilian midfielder Kleberson, both created by South African midfielder Quinton Fortune, put United in control against Blackburn.

Blackburn got back into the match through Australian midfielder Brett Emerton near the hour mark and the Old Trafford crowd had to endure a nervous

"We got careless and nearly had our backsides kicked," United boss Sir Alex Ferguson admitted.

"For the first hour, everything we did was superb but then we got slack and tried to put too much icing on the cake.

line when we shouldn't have done. Blackburn pushed us all the way and we

Van Nistelrooy's 12th goal of the season for United was also his fourth in the space of four days after his hat-trick in Holland's 6-0 demolition of Scotland in their Euro 2004 play-off second leg on

only have ourselves to blame."

Southampton boss Gordon

Strachan, strongly linked to the managerial vacancy at his old club Leeds, saw his current charges beaten in what may be his last game in charge.

Mario Melchiot's strike two minutes after the interval made the difference in a tightly-fought encounter.

After the match, Saints chairman Rupert Lowe scoffed at suggestions Strachan could be tempted away.

'We have a sound financial base whereas they have a caretaker manager. bottom of the table and have big debts so it (the rumour) is more likely to have come from them," Lowe said. "They need to do something radical."

Strachan declined a chance to kill off the speculation about his future by refusing to answer questions on the

Alan Shearer grabbed a double after Shola Ameobi had set Newcastle on their way to a 3-0 victory over Manchester City at St James Park. The win lifted the Magpies to sixth place. Liverpool lost further ground on the

leaders with a goalless draw at Middlesbrough after being denied what manager Gerard Houllier claimed was a "a cast-iron penalty. Substitute Florent Sinama-Pongolle

went down under Franck Queudrue's challenge but Liverpool's appeals were 'We had more chances than them

and we had a cast-iron penalty. Oueudrue did not touch the ball at all - if he had it should have been a corner," Houllier said. Eddie Gray's hopes that his caretaker

role at Leeds could lead to a permanent appointment suffered a blow when two goals in as many minutes from Kevin Davies and Stelios Giannakopoulos earned Bolton a 2-0 win at Elland Rd.

The cash injection rumoured to be on its way if Strachan's appointment is confirmed cannot come quickly enough for the Yorkshire club.

In the day's other games, Everton beat Wolves 2-0 thanks to a 20-yard rocket from Tomasz Radzinski and a Kevin Kilbane header while a controversial late Paulo di Canio penalty rescued a point for Charlton at Leicester, who had taken a first half lead through Les Ferdinand. The point keeps Charlton on track

for a place in Europe next season in fourth place but Leicester boss Micky Adams was adamant that Di Canio had dived - a view backed up by television

"It's as controversial as you'll ever get," Adams fumed.

TOP SIX

English Premiership table after Saturday's games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Arsenal	13	10	3	0 28	10	33
Chelsea	13	10	2	1 27	9	32
Man Utd	13	10	1	2 25	8	31
Charlton	13	6	4	3 20	16	22
Birmingham	13	5	5	3 11	11	20
Newcastle	13	5	4	4 19	18	19

Serie A

Inter go goal-crazy



Goals from David Trezeguet and Pavel Nedved gave Juventus a 2-0 win at Modena on Saturday as the defending Italian champions registered their eighth win in ten games.

The victory also meant Juve now have a five-point lead at the top of Serie A with closest rivals Roma and AC Milan not in action until Sunday.

Inter Milan, who face Arsenal in the Champions League on Tuesday, moved up to fourth with a 6-0 thrashing of Reggina at the San Siro to give them 19

points, seven behind Juventus. French international Trezeguet grabbed the opener for Juve when he slotted in a 43rd minute cross from $Gianluca\,Zambrotta's\,centre\,following\,a$

quick free-kick by Alessio Tacchinardi. Czech star Nedved then made sure of the three points with a stunning 25metre drive four minutes after the interval.

Despite the victory here and Juve's impressive Champions League form where they have already qualified for the second stage, coach Marcello Lippi was far from happy.

"Our first half performance was terrible," he said.

"We helped out the home side by playing into their hands and were not organised enough. When David Trezeguet scored we didnt deserve to be

1-0 up." Alberto Malesani's Modena side went into the match as one of the true surprises of the season so far having won their three previous home games without conceding a goal.

At the San Siro, Inter Milan registered their third win since Alberto Zaccheroni took over from Hector Cuper as coach.

Defender Fabio Cannavaro opened the scoring with a thunderous 40-metre strike after 34 minutes while Obafemi Martins made it 2-0 just before the

Dutch international Andy van der Meyde added the third for his first Serie A goal before Spain's Francisco Farinos made it 4-0 on the hour mark.

Substitute Julio Cruz hit the fifth after 65 minutes before Christian Vieri poked in the sixth 14 minutes from the

Roma were travelling to Bologna on Sunday while third-placed AC Milan were away at Chievo.

Standings in the Italian championship after Saturday's early match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against,

ı				П	l
	Juventus	10	8 2 0 25 9 26		
	Roma	9	6 3 0 18 3 21		l
	Milan	9	6 3 0 16 4 21		l
	Inter	10	5 4 1 17 5 19		l
	Parma	9	5 3 1 16 9 18		l
	Lazio	9	5 1 3 15 12 16		l
ı		9	5 3 1 16 9 18		



THAT'S SPECIAL! Monaco's Ludovic Giuly (R) scoring with a side-volley despite the pressure of Lens defender Yohan Lachor at the Louis II stadium in Monaco on November 2.

Primera Liga Deportivo miss chance

Football

AFP, Madrid

Spanish league leaders Deportivo La Coruna ground out a gruelling 0-0 draw at Real Betis on Saturday to open the door to championship rivals Valencia and Real

Deportivo now have 26 points from 12 games with Valencia and Real Madrid second and third repectively, three points behind and separated only by goal difference but both teams have a game in hand over the Galicians.

Valencia visit relegation-threatened Murcia on Sunday while Real, the reigning Spanish champions, play host to strugglers Albacete.

Betis had the best chances to end the deadlock in the downpour with the sodden pitch contributing greatly to the

Fernando Fernandez had a weak penalty saved by Deportivo goalkeeper Francisco Molina after 26 minutes, after Molina had bundled over Juanito

After an hour, Betis' Dani Martin found the net only for the referee to disallow the goal for dangerous play from Argentine striker Martin Palermo, who had produced an acrobatic overhead kick to send the ball across the penalty area to the feet of Dani.

"I think both teams made a great effort considering the wretched conditions. It was man-to-man combat out there," said Deportivo coach Javier Irureta.

'Betis has the best opportunities, we

went forward.' It was a sentiment echoed by under-

fire Betis coach Victor Fernandez. "For work, for effort, for organisation

and for opportunities, we deserved to

Irureta added that there were question marks over whether Deportivo's key players Mauro Silva, Juan Carlos Valeron and Victor Sanchez, who all finished the game with muscle problems, would be fully fit for Tuesday's Champions League match against AEK Athens.

"It is important they are able to play because if we win then we'll have 10 points and go through to the next round," he said.

Barcelona stay in fourth despite their 2-1 defeat at Villarreal, which brought to an end the Catalans four game unbeaten streak, although they are likely to slip back several places after Sunday's games. Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, who

pent two miserable seasons at Barca between 1997 and 1999, got a modicum of revenge over his former club by getting the injury time winner from a diving header, after the ball was lofted into the box by his compatriot Belletti Villarreal deserved the three points

after they attacked throughout the first half and finally broke through five minutes before the break when Fabricio Coloccini headed on a corner and the ball took a glancing blow off the head of Jose Mari Romero, who was credited with his first goal of the season. However, the home side seemed

content to sit on their one goal advantage for much of the second half and after 72 minutes they paid the price for trying to

Former Barca goalkeeper Jose Manuel

Reina could only parry away a effort from

the edge of the box by Luis Garcia and the

disgruntled Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert,

who was only starting due to an injury to

Ronaldinho, pounced on the rebound for

The prospect of having to share the

points seemed to reignite Villarreal's

 $attacking \, instincts \, and \, in \, the \, remaining \, 20$

minutes they pressed forward again,

culminating in Anderson getting his fifth

worries with a 1-0 win at Real Sociedad.

handing the San Sebastian side their first

home defeat in the league since March

Mallorca's decisve goal came after 18

minutes thanks to Samuel Eto'o, who

graphed his sixth of the season when he

finished off a move initiated by Alejandro

Campano and helped along by Fernando

Correa's clever pass between two sleeping

Sociedad defenders which then found the

feet of Mallorca's prolific Cameroon

TOP SIX

Spanish league table after Saturday's

matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

Deportivo 12 8 2 2 21 9 26

Barcelona 12 5 4 3 17 13 19

7 2 2 22 7 23

11 7 2 2 24 13 23

11 6 1 4 14 13 19

11 5 3 3 13 9 18

for, goals against, points):

Real Mallorca eased their relegation

the equaliser.

goal of the season.

international striker

Valencia

Francisco Maturana has been ousted as Colombia coach following their poor South American World Cup qualifier campaign but is stalling on his departure, $federation\, of ficials\, claimed\, Friday.$

Roberto Hoyos said that Maturana was

no longer wanted as coach although he

loss against Venezuela last week. could save the beleaguered coach.

decision is already taken and there's nothing to do about it."

qualifers with one point after a tie and $three \, losses, including \, two \, at \, home.$

depressed

The 23-year-old has been receiving

that he was in good form physically and mentally "apart from a phase of depres-

"It can pass in a few weeks or it can be a much longer path," said Holsbor. "We're happy with the progress he has

national side, transferred to Bayern in the summer of 2002 from Hertha Berlin But injuries have plagued him for

over a year and although he has shone for Bayern at times this season niggling $problems \, have \, hindered \, his \, progress.$

A convert to Buddhism, Deisler is due to become a father for the first time

Maturana fired

Executive committee member

has not officially resigned nor has he been Hoyos said that Colombian federation president Oscar Astudillo wanted to see the back of Maturana, and that the

decision had been taken after their home Not even a 1-1 draw against Argentina

"It's like in a business where an employee does not want to leave, but the

Colombia are last in the World Cup

Deisler out

Bayern Munich's German international midfielder Sebastian Deisler will be out of action for some time because of depression, his doctor revealed Friday.

psychiatric treatment in the Max-Plank Institute in Munich for the past week, $doctor Florian\, Holsbor\, said.$ Holsbor said that it was impossible to predict the length of his absence, but

sion which prevents him carrying out

Deisler, capped 20 times for the

The Monaco captain timed his leap the French league on Saturday with a to perfection, meeting the ball with a stunning volley which contributed to a right-footed scissor-kick volley which convincing 2-0 win over Lens. left Itandie no chance. Monaco, who host PSV Eindhoven in With Lens struggling to contain their the Champions League on Tuesday, are hosts, on-loan Real Madrid star now top of the league with 33 points,

unmarked.

leaving Lyon - who grabbed a lastfor Monaco in the 67th minute after minute 1-0 win over Strasbourg from being served by Giuly, ending the the penalty spot on Friday - in second visitors' hopes of continuing their great start to the season so far. Marseille kept in touch with their Elsewhere on Saturday Nantes fellow title contenders with a convincing 2-0 win at Lille which bodes well for

bounced back from a fifth-minute opener by Bastia's Pascal Chimbonda to the visit of Champions League rivals claim all three points from a 3-1 win. Former champions Bordeaux had After a first quarter hour which saw Lille twice come close to opening the

in the 58th minute after a deep cross

from on-form midfielder Jerome

keeper Charles Itandje's goal found the

diminutive Giuly 10 yards out and

Fernando Morientes added the second

Rothen's cross from the right of Lens

Pascal Feindouno to thanks for an 83-rd minute winner which handed them a 2scoring, Ivory Coast international 1 home win over Rennes, Jean-Claude Didier Drogba opened his account for Darcheville scored a first half penalty for Marseille in the 22nd minute after the hosts to level Rennes 24th minute running down on goal unchalleneged to opener by Lamine Diatta. beat goalkeeper Gregory Wimbee. Elsewhere Auxerre claimed a wel-Drogba's return from suspension

come 2-0 away win at nearby Metz to secure fifth place in the table - with Djibril Cisse grabbing his 10th league goal of the campaign to extend his lead

TOP SIX

matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

Monaco	14	10	3	1	27	12	33
Lyon	14	9	3	2	28	9	30
Marseille	14	9	0	5	22	14	27
Sochaux	14	7	3	4	19	14	24
Auxerre	14	7	2	5	23	13	23
Paris SG	13	7	2	4	17	11	23

Bundesliga City honour Bayern's

feature more than a single goal.

eight goals from 14 games.

Football

Bayern Munich secured a precious 1-0 derby win over 1860 Munich on Saturday to boost their domestic ambitions and instill confidence ahead of Tuesday's crunch Champions League clash against

In-form Dutchman Roy Makaay Bayern in touch with their title rivals.

VfB Stuttgart remain at the

Bundesliga summit following a 3-1 victory over Hannover while Bremen are clipping at their heels in second after running out easy 3-1 winners over VfL Bochum at the Weserstadion. Elsewhere ten-man Bayer

Leverkusen came from behind to snatch a point in a 2-2 draw with Borussia Dortmund at the Westfalen Stadium. A 69,000 capacity crowd at the

dominance over their city rivals continue with the champions notching their seventh successive win. Makaay drew first blood for Bayern leaping highest to head home Roque Santa Cruz cross on 34

Olympic Stadium saw Bayern's derby

minutes for his seventh goal of the Borussia Dortmund lost their 100 percent record at the Westfalen Stadium with Bayer Leverkusen overcoming a two-goal deficit and a

numerical disadvantage to net a

point in a 2-2 draws.

Teenager Salvatore Gambino lit up the match with a brace for Dortmund on 29 and 32 minutes to minimise the damage caused by absent and seemingly AWOL striker

Bayer reduced the arrears three minutes later with German international Oliver Neuville volleving home

However, Leverkusen rallied and Marko Babic's late equaliser stole a

preparations for Wednesday's visit of Scottish champions Rangers in their Champions League clash in their 3-1 victory over Hannover.

The hosts went in front thanks to

Hungarian Footballer of the Year

Imre Szabics, who headed home the opener on the half hour mark. Silvio Meissner added two late strikes to secure the victory following an 82nd minute goal by Hannover

striker Thomas Brdaric. Ailton returned to the Werder Bremen line-up following an eye complaint and he claimed a hat-trick

in their 3-1 victory over VfL Bochum.

German league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

13 10 3 0 22 3 33

Bremen	13	10	1	2	37	17	31
Leverkusen	13	9	3	1	28	10	30
Bayern	13	8	3	2	30	16	27
Dortmund	13	7	2	4	25	19	23
Bochum	13	6	3	4	25	16	21

DID YOU CATCH IT ON CAMERA! Villarreal's Brazilian striker Sony Anderson (L) celebrates with Argentina's Roman Riquelme (R) and Jose Mari after scoring against Barcelona at Villarreal on November 22.