



Bremen's prolific striker Miroslav Klose celebrates after scoring against Leverkusen during their Bundesliga match at the Weser Stadium in Bremen on Saturday.

# Bremen leave it late

AFP, Berlin

Title challengers Werder Bremen continued their perfect start to the season with a late goal from Portuguese midfielder Hugo Almeida clinching a 2-1 comeback victory over Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday.

Former German international Paul Freier put Bayer ahead from the penalty spot on the quarter hour mark but German international Miroslav Klose levelled in the 26th minute with his second goal in as many games.

Then with 13 minutes remaining substitute Almeida popped up with the winning goal to make it a

maximum six points from the opening two matches.

FC Nuremberg head the 18-strong Bundesliga ahead of Bremen on goal difference.

Bremen's win puts pressure on Bayern Munich to respond with the champions in action against VfL Bochum on Sunday.

"It was a tough game just as we expected and we needed to give everything to come out on top," said Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf.

"I was glad that we showed character to come from behind again. We have started well with two wins and just need to push on from here."

While Bremen are going strong SV Hamburg, an outside bet for the title, have stumbled out of the blocks and have just two points

from as many games.

Thomas Doll's team drew 2-2 with promoted Energie Cottbus on Saturday to complete a miserable week in which Dutch international defender Khalid Boulahrouz joined Chelsea for a reported 13 million euros.

Hamburg went ahead in the 38th minute through Ivory Coast striker Bouacar Sanogo but Vlad Munteanu restored parity on 56 minutes.

Sergiu Radu then surprisingly put Cottbus ahead on 69 minutes before Dutch international Nigel de Jong equalised two minutes later.

"We knew it would be a difficult away game as it is an intimidating atmosphere," explained Hamburg coach Doll.

"It was not much fun watching a

hectic match in the closing stages. All I can stress is a point is not enough."

Dark horses Schalke 04 registered their first win of the new campaign overcoming promoted Alemannia Aachen 1-0 on Saturday.

Schalke had Serbia and Montenegro international Miladen Krstajic sent off in the 29th minute for a rash challenge but still came out on top thanks to a strike from Dario Rodriguez.

"It was hard work in the first half and we hardly got into the match," admitted Schalke coach Mirko Slomka.

"We changed things around tactically in the second half and played like a top team."

# Rodriguez to miss season

INTERNET, undated

Villarreal's Argentine international centre-back Gonzalo Rodriguez will miss most of the season after tearing the cruciate ligaments in his right knee in a pre-season game against Real Madrid.

"Gonzalo has sustained a very serious injury," club president Fernando Roig told reporters after his side's 1-0 win in the Ramon de Carranza tournament in Cadiz.

"We will have to do without him for the next seven months. It is a very heavy blow."

The Primera Liga team said Rodriguez would undergo further tests on Monday to assess the full extent of the injury.

The 22-year-old, who joined from San Lorenzo in 2004, missed his chance of playing in the World Cup when he tore a ligament in his left ankle in April.

# Wenger slams Domenech

Football

REUTERS, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hit out at Raymond Domenech on Saturday after the France coach played Thierry Henry for the full 90 minutes in the midweek friendly against Bosnia.

Wenger was furious Domenech did not bring his talismanic striker off during World Cup runners-up France's 2-1 win, especially with the game coming so soon after the tournament in Germany which ended last

month.

"It's disrespectful," Wenger told a news conference after Arsenal's 1-1 Premier League draw with Aston Villa at the London club's new Emirates stadium.

"When you rest the players and give them extra holiday because they have been at the World Cup and then they take those players on a friendly and play them for 90 minutes...I find that provocative."

"In the World Cup they always took him off before the end of the game and then they play a friendly and play him for 90 minutes," added Wenger.

# Rivaldo stars in Olympiakos win

REUTERS, Athens

Two goals from Brazilian striker Rivaldo helped Olympiakos Piraeus come back from a goal down to defeat Xanthi 2-1 on Saturday in their first match in the new Greek Super League.

Xanthi stunned the champions with a neatly-taken goal by Giorgos Barkoglou after five minutes.

Olympiakos, looking for a 10th league title in 11 years, equalised in the 67th minute when Rivaldo curled a free-kick past the defensive wall.

French defender Didier Domi, making his debut for Olympiakos, was sent off in the 83rd minute for a second bookable offence.

Three minutes later, Rivaldo produced a stunning strike from long range to seal victory for the home team.



Inter Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic (L) keeps a close eye on the ball as Mallorca's Guillermo Pereyra tries to block his path during their match of the Ciutat de Palma trophy at the Ono Stadium in Mallorca on Saturday.

# Reading rallies in debut

AP, London

Reading overturned a two-goal deficit Saturday and beat Middlesbrough 3-2 in their first ever English Premier League match on the opening day of the season.

Reading were struggling at home when Stewart Downing and Aiyegbeni Yakubu scored for the visitors in the first 21 minutes. But Dave Kitson and Steve Sidwell scored before halftime and Leroy Lita added the winner in the 55th minute.

Reading manager Steve Coppell said his team's poor start was the result of having to wait 135 years to get into the top flight.

"It's a proud moment for the club to have our first game in the top division," he said. "After 20 minutes, 2-0 down, we were really anxious and jittery. That was a by-product of the build-up and how this game had been put into such an elevated position and the players couldn't really express themselves properly."

Sheffield United, another promoted club, were denied a victory over Liverpool by a disputed penalty and wound up with a 1-1 draw on its return to the top flight for the first time in 12 years.

After Rob Hulse had given the Blades the lead at Bramall Lane, Robbie Fowler scored an equaliser from the penalty spot after a foul on Steven Gerrard.

"The top referees get paid to make the right decisions but he made the wrong one there," said Sheffield United manager Neil Warnock, who had to watch the game from the stands because of a two-game ban from the bench carried over from last season. "I thought Rob (Styles) had a good game to be fair but no way was that a penalty."

Arsenal needed an equaliser from Gilberto Silva six minutes from

the end to capture a 1-1 draw with Aston Villa in the Gunners' first league game in the 60,000-seat Emirates Stadium.

Sweden defender Olof Mellberg headed Villa in front eight minutes into the second half and the visitors, with former Celtic manager Martin O'Neill in charge, looked set for an upset before Gilberto replied.

"I'm delighted to be back," said O'Neill, who left Celtic 15 months ago and took a break from soccer to spend more time with his sick wife. "And what a place to start."

"I thought the players showed a lot of desire, a lot of heart and a not inconsiderable amount of skill when they had the ball," O'Neill said of his players. "I thought we did great."

Portsmouth, which only just escaped relegation last season, outplayed Blackburn 3-0 with substitute Nwankwo Kanu scoring twice and missing a penalty. Rovers ended up with nine men after Australia international Lucas Neill and defender Andy Todd were sent off.

"I thought we dominated the game from start to finish and played some terrific football today," said manager Harry Redknapp, whose club is owned by millionaire Russian businessman Alexandre Gaydamak.

"There were a few new players out there making their debuts. Kanu joined us this week, Sol (Campbell) only had a week. I was juggling three strikers around, some who weren't very fit."

Everton edged promoted Watford 2-1 with goals by Andy Johnson and Mikel Arteta. A last-minute reply for the Hornets by Damien Francis meant that United States goalkeeper Tim Howard, on loan from Manchester United, was unable to celebrate a shutout on his Toffees' debut.

Kevin Davies and Ivan Campo scored in the opening 13 minutes as Bolton began with a 2-0 victory over Tottenham. Campo's low strike was from 43 meters (yards) and England goalkeeper Paul Robinson made a poor attempt at trying to stop it.

Newcastle began with a 2-1 victory over Wigan with Scott Parker scoring a rare goal for the Magpies, and West Ham came from behind to beat Charlton 3-1.

Darren Bent's 15th-minute penalty put the Addicks ahead at Upton Park, the visitors had defender Djimi Traore, signed from Liverpool two weeks ago, sent off for his second yellow card and Bobby Zamora scored twice as the Hammers hit back.



Reading's Leroy Lita celebrates his winner against Middlesbrough in an enthralling encounter in the Premiership at Madejski Stadium in Reading on Saturday.

Sir Bobby to have brain surgery

AFP, London

Former England manager Sir Bobby Robson is to undergo brain surgery to remove a tumour, he said Sunday, two weeks after being taken ill with a suspected stroke watching an English Championship game.

"I had a scan to assess why I felt unwell and had to leave the game at Ipswich early, and the doctors discovered a small, operable tumour that caused an affliction on the left side of my face," the 73-year-old said.

"On Wednesday I will have an operation to remove the tumour and, as surgeons tell me the rest of my body is clean, I should be able to make a full recovery."

In January this year, he was appointed international football consultant to the Republic of Ireland alongside national team coach Steve Staunton.

Ennobled by Queen Elizabeth II for services to football in 2002, Sir Bobby said the tumour is in a position where it can be easily removed and is the size of a grape, "which indicated they have caught it early."

"Apart from the funny turn at the match I have felt great, so it's a bit annoying that I have to go into hospital again," he added.

Sir Bobby has successfully fought cancer three times: he had a golf ball-sized tumour removed from his lung in May, while in 1995, he was discovered to have a rare form of skin cancer behind an eye.

Treatment for that involved complex surgery which left him needing a rubber plug in his mouth; three years before that he overcame bowel cancer.

# Marseille trounce Auxerre

AFP, Paris

Franck Ribery, who flirted with a move to champions Lyon before committing his immediate future to Marseille, helped the slumbering south coast giants to a 3-0 win over outclassed Auxerre on Saturday.

The terrier-like midfielder, who shot to prominence helping France to the World Cup final in Germany this summer, opened his account for the season with Marseille's opener on 45 minutes.

Toiflou Maoulida put Marseille further ahead four minutes after the break with Mickael Pagis completing the good work late on.

"It's a relief to have scored this evening," said Ribery, nicknamed 'Scarface' as his face bears the legacy of a horrific car accident in his youth.

Auxerre manager Jean Fernandez could be forgiven for having mixed feelings about Ribery's goal as he played a pivotal role in the 23-year-old's success as manager of Marseille last season.

Coming after last weekend's 2-0 win over Rennes this win at the Abbe-Deschamps stadium left Marseille sitting pretty atop the table on goal difference from

Nancy ahead of Saturday's late games.

Auxerre in contrast are still looking for their first win of the new campaign and their cause was not helped here with Kanga Akale's 51st minute sending off for hitting Ronald Zubar.

Ribery set Marseille on their way with one of his trademark charges up the midfield before finding Mamadou Niang in the box.

The Senegal striker flicked on to Pagis with Ribery foxing Auxerre keeper Fabien Cool to chip into an open goal to win back the hearts of the visiting fans upset at his summer dalliance with Lyon.

Ribery, in reference to his rocky early season relationship with the Velodrome supporters since his return after the World Cup, reflected: "I've had some difficult days. But now, things are going fine with the fans."

"Since my first day back in training I've always been there for them."

"The aim now is for Marseille to finish in the top three but we can't get carried away."

He then offered some comforting words to his former mentor and coach, Fernandez who replaced Jacques Santini at Auxerre.

"I'm disappointed for him. He's someone I respect a great deal, who has supported me a lot.

"In life you have to make choices. He's chosen Auxerre. Why? We don't know."

Ribery was at the heart of Marseille's second in the 49th minute when he outran the Auxerre defence, passing to Niang on the left with his cross falling to Maoulida to put Marseille firmly in command.

Niang produced another perfect cross for Pagis to put the game beyond doubt with 20 minutes left on the clock.

Later the relief was almost palpable at Parc des Princes where Paris Saint Germain bagged their first victory of the fledgling campaign, a 1-0 affair over Lille with Portuguese international Pedro Pauleta producing the 60th minute winner.

Le Mans moved up into second on goal difference after a 3-2 triumph over newly promoted Valenciennes, but former Champions League finalists Monaco were held 1-1 away to Rennes.

The games between Lens v Lorient, Sedan v Sochaux and Nantes v Troyes ended with identical scorelines, while Saint Etienne earned their second success of the season with a 1-0 win over Nancy.

# Inter debut summer signings

INTERNET, undated

Maicon's strike gave Inter victory over Real Mallorca as Patrick Vieira, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Fabio Grosso and Hernan Crespo made their debuts.

Coach Roberto Mancini fielded a three-man defence in the first half of the Trofeo Pirelli match in Spain, with former Juventus star Ibrahimovic partnering Adriano upfront and World Cup winner Grosso in a more advanced role.

However, the team struggled to create chances with this experimental tactic. In fact, Mallorca had the best opportunity when Arango rattled the crossbar.

When they switched to a 4-4-2 after the break, the Nerazzurri were far more effective and summer signing Maicon turned in Adriano's cross with a strong right-foot finish.

Luis Figu also went close, while Arango wasted a good chance when he was clear on goal in front of Francesco Toldo.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Make inquiries
  - 4 Puerto Mined-over matter
  - 12 Sheepish remark
  - 13 Unyielding
  - 14 Destiny
  - 15 Commit a misstep
  - 16 Affair
  - 18 Pale purple
  - 20 Affirmative
  - 21 Verboten
  - 24 Insurrectionist
  - 28 Set of circumstances
  - 32 Heavy reading
  - 33 Onassis' nickname
  - 34 Great Lake
  - 36 Repose
  - 37 Cicatrix
  - 39 Approximate
  - 41 Unspoken "I dunno"
- DOWN
- 2 Ganges garment
  - 3 Malden or Marx
  - 4 Skeletal structure
  - 5 George's brother
  - 6 Army rank (Abbr.)
  - 7 Sibling-less
  - 8 Balance
  - 9 Uncultured
  - 10 H
  - 11 Gender
  - 17 "the ramparts ..."
  - 19 Pac. counter-part
  - 22 Zinger
  - 23 Eskimo boat
  - 25 Gaucho's weapon
  - 26 Eastern bigwig
  - 27 Welsh emblem
  - 28 Low voice
  - 29 St. Louis attraction
  - 30 Story-teller
  - 31 Hard to grasp
  - 35 On an angle
  - 38 Stream
  - 40 Bake-sale grp.
  - 42 Diastema
  - 45 This and that
  - 47 Actress Ward
  - 48 Stomped (on)
  - 49 Sweet potatoes
  - 50 Acknowledge applause
  - 51 Lawyers' org.
  - 52 Realtor's offering
  - 53 Anger
  - 54 Born

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	S	P	T	U	R	F	C	O	D	
O	L	I	O	A	N	T	I	A	H	A	
C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	R	I	M
L	E	G	O	E	L	T	O	N			
O	S	C	A	R	A	B	E	E			
P	E	A	R	C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L
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C	A	R	N	I	A	L	A	N	D		
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M	A	T	E								
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H	E	P									
E	L	K	S								
A	D	A	M								

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56						57				58	
59						60				61	

CRYPTOQUIP

H D V C K Y E Y O D K R D O

LNHLDKHRHZ OYHWY ENHRLY

K D O R C D H W O ' Z K Y O O M

MYKCO: "Q.Y. QYVH."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN INLAID STONE DESIGN IS FAIRLY UNINSPIRING, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT'S A PROSAIC MOSAIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

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.