



Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli is pursued by an Oldham Athletic player in their FA Cup third round encounter. Vialli struck twice as Chelsea advanced with a 2-0 win on January 2.

— AFP photo

Forest out of FA race



LONDON, Jan 3

(Reuters/ Internet): Nottingham Forest crashed out of the FA Cup at home to Portsmouth on Saturday in a third round tie up by minor league Rushden and Diamonds holding mighty premiership hopefuls Leeds to a 0-0 draw.

Forest, the former European Cup winners but currently premier league tail-enders, lost to a 17th minute Steve Claridge goal.

The afternoon was otherwise short of genuine giant-killing exploits as top sides had narrow escapes.

But the 6,500 crowd at Rushden went home happy.

"Today was what the FA Cup is all about, the giants against the minnows on their patch," said Leeds manager David O'Leary whose opposite number Brian Talbot was his team mate in Arsenal's 1979 FA Cup winning side.

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in the ninth minute.

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Yeovil, two places below

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minute, stayed 1-0 up to half time but goals from Gary Speed in the 48th and England captain Alan Shearer in the 69th kept last season's losing finalists on course.

Holders Arsenal play at Preston North End on Monday.

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Coventry meanwhile smashed seven past second-division strugglers Macclesfield.

The one-sided victory came a decade on from Coventry making the headlines as the fast top flight club to lose to non-league opponents, a 2-1 defeat by Sutton United.

Rushden, a team of full-time professionals with league ambitions, offered the alluring prospect of a major upset and lived up to expectations by forcing a corner after 30 seconds and then shaving the bar afterwards.

Leeds were reduced to 10 men in the 74th minute when Jonathan Woodgate picked up a second yellow card, raising the expectations of the 6,500 strong home crowd whose side had done more than enough by then to trouble the visitors.

"It was always going to be tough after that," said O'Leary.

An Ethiopian double

DURHAM, England, Jan 3: Millennium Wolfe and Gete Wami completed an Ethiopian double when they won the men's and women's races in the IAAF Cross-Country Challenge on Saturday, reports AFP.

World junior gold medalist Wolfe outstripped Kenya's Thomas Nyar Iki to win the men's race over 9 kilometres in 27 minutes 02 seconds, two seconds ahead of the Kenyan.

Wami, the Olympic 10,000m bronze medalist and 1996 world cross-country champion, scored a runaway victory in the women's race over 6.5km finishing in 21:58.

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