

## Capello remains at Roma

AFP, Rome

Italian Serie A leaders AS Roma were given a major boost Saturday when coach Fabio Capello signed a new two-year contract.

The announcement was made by Capello, the club's administrative delegate Rosella Sensi and director general Fabrizio Lucchese at the Trigoria training camp.

"I am very happy to have decided to stay at Roma because I believe in this project, begun by (Roma president Franco) Sensi," said Capello.

"Together we have built a Roma that is capable of becoming a challenger in Europe... I thank the president and all his colleagues for keeping me happy."

Capello, one of the most successful coaches in the history of football, had been linked with jobs at Spanish giants Barcelona and Italian sides Juventus and AC Milan.

He arrived at Roma for the 1999-2000 season and since then has transformed them into one of the top sides in Italy.

At the halfway point of this season the 'giallorossi' (yellow and reds) were six points clear of Juventus and Lazio with a record points haul of 39 for that stage of the season and on course for a first Scudetto (title) since 1982-3.

Capello was an Italian international who could play in defence and midfield and spent the most successful period of his playing career with Juventus.

But it was at AC Milan that he really made his reputation as a coach.

Taking the reins from Arrigo Sacchi after the latter departed to become Italian national coach he won four Scudettos, one European Cup, three Italian Super Cups and one European Super Cup with the San Siro outfit.

He then took charge of Spanish giants Real Madrid for one season in 1996-7, winning the *Primera Liga* before returning to Milan for another season.

## Tragic

AFP, Bologna

Seventeen-year-old Bologna footballer Nicolo Galli was killed in a road incident Friday less than 48 hours before he was set to make his full Serie A debut.

Galli, the son of former Italy national team goalkeeper Giovanni and on a year's loan at Bologna from English Premiership outfit Arsenal, was fatally injured in an incident where he lost control of his moped on a country road between the club's training base Casteldebole and Bologna.

The club's director general Oreste Cinquini revealed Saturday that coach Francesco Guidolin had been set to give defender Galli, who has already featured as a substitute, his first start in the home match with league leaders AS Roma on Sunday.

Cinquini said: "The coach (Francesco Guidolin) was deciding what choices to make - and there was a real chance of Galli playing from the first minute."

"We wanted to agree that the following day because at school he had an important exam. We would have done it once he had reached the team base."

Bologna prosecutor Antonio Rustico launched an investigation to determine whether a damaged guard-rail at the site of accident had contributed to the death.

The player's father made a tearful visit to the crash site Saturday. "It is a disgrace that someone left a post here," he said. When told of the inquiry into the accident a tearful Galli replied: "Nothing will bring my son back."

Galli, an under-18 international, made his first-team debut in the match with AS Roma on the opening day of the season as a substitute.

## Recoba returns

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan's Uruguayan striker Alvaro Recoba arrived back here Saturday after returning from his homeland after being implicated in European football's false passports scandal.

Recoba returned home before immediately joining his Inter teammates at their Pinetina training base in Appiano Gentile.

"I was expected to watch his teammates in action Saturday night at home to Reggina."

"I don't know when I will play again," the 24-year-old told journalists. "I went home, gave my daughter who had stayed in Milan a big hug and I have come now to train."

"I am doing everything I can to be ready for the match with (Spanish outfit) Alaves in the UEFA Cup."

The striker, reputedly the highest paid player in Italy, has been charged in the passport affair by magistrates from the northern town of Udine.



Atalanta's Francesco Berratta (R) and Lazio's Luis Martin Castroman fight for possession in their Serie A match on February 10.

# Serie A Atalanta hold Lazio

## Football

AFP, Milan

A defensively-minded Atalanta fought defending champions Lazio to a 0-0 stalemate Saturday in Rome's Olympic Stadium in a Serie A match.

In Saturday's other match Inter Milan rode their luck to share a 1-1 draw with unfashionable Reggina at the San Siro with a disputed penalty by Christian Vieri cancelling out Davide Dionigi's opener for the visitors.

Atalanta had their backs to the wall for virtually the entire game although Cristian Zenoni almost pulled off a victory in the closing minutes with the best opportunity of the match.

A draw was not enough for either side in their bid to keep the pressure on Serie A leaders AS Roma but Lazio go second in their own right. Juventus could reclaim sole possession of that spot on Sunday.

Lazio took the game to Atalanta from the kick-off with Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron and Czech winger Karel Poborsky prominently involved.

Veron twice went close with long distance efforts while Poborsky set up another Argentine Hernan Crespo whose header failed to find the target.

Atalanta goalkeeper Ivan Pelizzoli was in inspired form and he also paced away a freekick from Chilean forward Marcelo Salas.

Towards the end of the first period Poborsky's team-mate and compatriot Pavel Nedved attempted one-two with Crespo which almost came off but the visitors kept the score to 0-0 at the interval.

Zoff introduced recent Argentine signing Lucas Martin Castroman but despite the best efforts of Veron and Nedved the champions could not score.

Then he brought on substitute Simone Inzaghi for Crespo, who had hit seven goals in the previous four games since Zoff replaced Sven Goran Eriksson.

In a classic counterattack Atalanta's Domenico Morfeo led Zenoni who should have scored but Lazio goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi was equal to the task.

On Saturday evening at the San Siro Inter were given a torrid time in the first period by Reggina who must have considered themselves

very unlucky to go in 1-1 at the interval.

The minnows from the southern town of Reggio Calabria had already had a freekick goal by defender Joseph Oshadogan chalked off when striker Davide Dionigi headed them ahead from a Giovanni Morabito cross.

But five minutes before the break Argentinian Javier Zanetti swung in a cross and referee Tarcsio Serena awarded a penalty against Oshadogan who had tussled with Vieri to the fury of the Reggina players.

Vieri made no mistake from the spot despite an attempt by Reggina defender Jorge Vargas to unsettle him before he took the kick.

Jose Mamede missed a glorious chance to put Reggina back in front after a misplaced pass from Inter's Yugoslav veteran Vladimir Jugovic in the second period but Frey made a fine save.

Reggina, whose victory over Inter on the first day of the season cost coach Marcello Lippi his job at the San Siro, therefore failed to complete a memorable double.

On Sunday Serie A leaders AS Roma visit Bologna just hours before Juventus host Napoli at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

## Larsson better than Shearer

AFP, Glasgow

Celtic forward Chris Sutton said Saturday that his Parkhead team-mate Henrik Larsson was a better player than former strike partner Alan Shearer.

Sutton, a six-million-pound (£8.2 million-dollar) signing from Chelsea, formed a productive partnership with former England striker Shearer which helped take the English Premier League title to Blackburn Rovers in 1995.

But Sutton has now resurrected his career with the Glasgow outfit and has fired a combined 45 goals this season with the Swede, who has claimed 33 of those goals.

"For me Henrik is the better player," admitted Sutton. "He's up and down the park and can do anything."

"He scores goals and has the pace to frighten anybody. Alan is a great player, but Henrik is quite simply superb."

Sutton also admitted that Celtic will be "kicking themselves" if they throw away the title now.

Celtic could go 12 points clear of arch rivals and reigning champions Rangers if they beat them at Celtic Park on Sunday.

Sutton added: "Our aim was to get close to Rangers, but now we're in this position we'll be kicking ourselves if we blow it now."

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill, meanwhile, believes Rangers have a top manager in Dutchman Dick Advocaat.

## Reggina boss outraged

AFP, Milan

Reggina president Pasquale Foti railed against what he considers the injustices of Italian football Saturday evening after his relegation-threatened outfit had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Inter Milan here at the San Siro.

A disputed 40th-minute penalty from Christian Vieri cancelled out Davide Dionigi's opener for the minnows to prevent Reggina from completing the double over their hosts whose defeat at Reggio Calabria at the start of the season led to the sacking of Marcello Lippi and the appointment of Marco Tardelli.

But the decision to chalk off an early goal by Joseph Oshadogan and in particular the penalty award clearly rankled with Foti.

Foti believes bad decisions by officials have cost his southern outfit dear in recent weeks, notably in the defeat by Bari and last week's 1-0 reverse at the hands of AC Milan, also at the San Siro.

Foti said: "We are a little team. We have great respect for everyone... we recognise the authority of the Federation. In the last weeks I have acted with great silence and great dignity towards the refereeing profession."

"But it has happened against Bari, against Milan and also tonight. After this week at the San Siro we have three points less than we should have."

Inter coach Marco Tardelli refrained from commenting on the penalty decision and also Reggina's disallowed goal but when asked if he agreed with Foti's claim that his side should have taken all three points he said: "He is absolutely right."

"For us it was an awful game," said the 1992 World Cup winner. "Compliments to Reggina who played very well from the first minute in a game we almost messed up... Reggina gave us a lesson this evening."

## Scottish League

### Hibernian climb

REUTERS, Edinburgh

Hibernian relied on their French connection to regain second place in the Scottish Premier League with a 4-2 home win over St Mirren yesterday.

Club captain Franck Sauzee got their opening goal and David Zitelli scored twice in the second half to move Hibernian above Rangers - who play league leaders Celtic today.

Sauzee put Hibernian in front after 17 minutes with a curling shot following Russell Latapy's free kick.

St Mirren equalised just before halftime through a Ricky Gillies penalty and took a surprise lead early in the second period when a Gillies shot was deflected past the Hibernian goalkeeper.

Zitelli then took charge, scoring two goals in three minutes around the hour mark. His first, a hook shot, went in off the post and he followed that by driving home and angled shot.

Latapy sealed the victory with a solo effort ten minutes from time.

"We got sloppy after we went in front, but my players were magnificent in the second half," said Hibernian manager Alex McLeish.

"It is nice to be second again. Our target now is to get into Europe."

## Premiership

# MU owe Cole one

## Football

AFP, London

Manchester United coach Sir Alex Ferguson was happy with a share of the spoils after the English Premiership leaders fought back to earn a point in an exciting 1-1 draw at Chelsea on Saturday.

An equaliser by Andy Cole after 69 minutes levelled the scores for United after Dutchman Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink had given Chelsea a first half lead with his 17th goal of the season.

The draw left United 13 points clear in the Premiership title race, with Arsenal reducing the champions' lead from 15 points after clinching a 1-0 win over Ipswich at Highbury.

"That was a good performance by us - they were all sharp today," said Ferguson.

"I think we ran them ragged in the second half, and the three at the back were stretched all the time to clear and defend - we might even have nicked it."

"But I'm satisfied because we were a goal down away from home and we came back."

"Chelsea had pace like Hasselbaink and (desper) Gronkjaer to counter-attack - but apart from those moments we dominated the game."

Ferguson said his France international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, who missed the game with an injury picked up in training, is likely to be back for the vital Champions League trip to Spanish outfit Valencia on Wednesday.

"He had a little nick on his hamstring, and there was no point in risking it for so important a game for us," he said.

Chelsea defender John Terry, back in the team after a bout of flu, said the conditions made it difficult for both teams to play their natural passing game.

France World Cup winner Thierry Henry was the hero for Arsenal, rising from the substitutes bench to slide home Arsenal's winner after 66 minutes.

However, Henry's ankle injury, which prevented him from starting the match, could rule him out of Arsenal's crucial Champions League clash with Lyon in France on Tuesday.

"I really wanted to rest him again today," said Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger.

"He didn't come into full training until Wednesday. His ankle is still not 100 percent and I will have to see how he is tomorrow (Sunday)."

Fourth-placed Sunderland, who have not beaten Liverpool at home for 42 years, were held to a 1-1 draw by Gerard Houllier's men at the Stadium of Light.

Former Anfield favourite Don Hutchinson put the home side ahead after 51 minutes but Finnish international Jari Timanen levelled from the penalty spot 11 minutes from time when Gary McAllister was brought down by Stanislav Varga.

A point keeps Liverpool in third place, five behind Arsenal who have played one more game.

Middlesbrough defender Ugo

Ehiogu scored the equaliser against his old club Aston Villa in a 1-1 draw at Villa Park.

Francis Jeffers, back in the Everton side for the first time since September, scored the opener in a 2-1 home win over Leicester.

Ukrainian striker Sergei Rebrov scored Tottenham's goal a minute from time in a 1-0 win at Manchester City - their first away win of the season.

Defeat for Joe Royle's men keeps them in the bottom three, four points adrift of safety.

There was little action at Elland Road where Leeds were held in a 0-0 draw against strugglers Derby. The draw moved Leeds up to fifth spot.

Bottom of the table Bradford look doomed after going down 2-0 to Glenn Hoddle's Southampton at the Dell.

Second half goals by Latvian international Marian Pahars and James Beattie, condemned the Valley Parade outfit to their 16th league defeat of the season.

On Sunday Charlton, who surrendered a two goal lead in a 4-2 defeat at home to Tottenham in the FA Cup in midweek, host Bobby Robson's Newcastle at the Valley.

On Monday West Ham, who have only won once in the league since December 2, entertain Coventry at Upton Park.

The visitors are expected to field new signing John Hartson. The Wales striker joined Gordon Strachan's strugglers from Bundesliga Wimbledon on Thursday after lengthy negotiations.



Dutch international Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink heads Chelsea into the lead against Manchester United in their Premiership game on February 10.

## Primera Liga

# Bilbao baffle Real

## Tennis

REUTERS, Madrid

An early goal by Bitor Alkiza restored some of Athletic Bilbao's pride and earned them a 1-0 win over Real Madrid in the Spanish *Primera Liga* on Saturday.

A classy hat-trick from Diego Tristan helped Deportivo Coruna to a 4-1 win over struggling Real Sociedad and allowed them to close the gap on Real to four points.

Real lead the table on 48 points. Deportivo have 44, four clear of Barcelona who play bottom club Racing Santander on Sunday.

Valencia, who face Manchester United on Wednesday in the Champions League, collected their first win in five games with a 3-0 triumph over Numanzia. The result keeps them in fourth place a point behind Barcelona.

Athletic Bilbao, still smarting from their 7-0 humiliation by Barcelona last week, immediately took the game to the visitors allowing Real no time to settle on the ball.

After only four minutes their efforts were rewarded. Ismael Urzaiz received the ball on the edge of the penalty area, waited for the advancing Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas to commit himself and then laid the ball back to Joseba Etxeberria.

The Spanish international clipped a neat pass into the area and the waiting Alkiza hit the ball first time to score.

Real, without the suspended Luis Figo, never looked comfortable as they were constantly hounded by the Athletic midfield.

fell to Guti who was put clear on 21 minutes after a defence-splitting pass from Raul. But he sent his shot wide.

After the break Real pushed forward in search of the equaliser. Pedro Munitis found the angle too tight as he shot from just inside the area in the 57th minute.

Six minutes later Raul failed to connect properly with a Roberto Carlos cross and soon after Steve McManaman could not make contact with the ball when he found himself alone in front of goal.

Real can count themselves unlucky not to be awarded a penalty with just 10 minutes remaining. Fernando Morientes - on for Guti - was fouled in the area but the referee waved play on.

In a nail-biting last few minutes a determined Athletic held out for the win to the joy of a packed San Mames stadium.

Diego Tristan took full advantage of the absence of injured striker Roy Makaay and hit his second hat-trick of the season in Deportivo's comfortable victory over Real Sociedad.

## West remains at Derby

AFP, London

Nigeria defender Taribo West will stay with English Premiership strugglers Derby County until the end of the season, the club confirmed Friday.

The club had a verbal agreement with West but doubts about his future plans surfaced when he went absent without leave following the World Cup qualifier against Sudan.

West finally reappeared at Derby five days later and he has now signed a deal that keeps him at Pride Park until the end of the English season.



Schalke's Belgian international Emile Mpenza begins to celebrate after scoring against 1860 Munich in the Bundesliga on February 10.

## Bundesliga

# Bayern stay atop

## Football

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich beat VfB Stuttgart 1-0 on Saturday to keep their two-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga thanks to an early strike from Brazilian striker Giovane Elber.

Second-placed Schalke 04, fresh from Wednesday's 3-0 victory over Stuttgart, kept up the pressure with a 2-0 win against 11th placed 1860 Munich.

Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said afterwards: "I'm satisfied with this result. We perhaps concentrated too much on our defensive game, but the team was very disciplined and we failed to concede a goal once again."

Stuttgart coach Ralf Rangnick optimistically saw the good points

in the defeat. "We gave Bayern more problems than we expected and we stood up well. But if you don't put away four clear chances, you lose the game."

Meanwhile Berti Vogts' Bayer Leverkusen beat Cologne 4-1 in the evening kick-off to tuck into third spot, two points behind Bayern and level on points with second-placed Schalke 04.

Borussia Dortmund, six points behind the leaders, have a chance to make up ground in their Sunday fixture at home to Werder Bremen.

Bayern may have won but it was hardly an impressive last fixture before the resumption of Champions League action next week.

It was a very workmanlike victory thanks to Elber's 13th goal of the season in the eighth minute. The centre forward knows a great deal about their opponents how-

ever as he played for them before coming to the Bavarian club in 1997.

Schalke 04, who led at the winter break before losing ground, were also having trouble asserting themselves before 1860 Munich defender Vidar Riseth was sent off in the 41st minute.

It proved a pivotal point in the match enabling Huub Stevens' side to stamp their authority. It was no surprise when Belgian centre forward Emile Mpenza found the target in the 50th and 64th minutes.

Schalke is the only Bundesliga club unbeaten at home in the league this season.

Hertha Berlin's hopes of their first title since 1931 took a battering with their 3-1 home defeat at the hands of lowly VfL Wolfsburg. Wolfsburg's win included two goals from Polish striker Andrzej Juskowiak.