



Liverpool's hero Gary McAllister (C) being congratulated by team mates Emile Heskey (L) and Gregory Vignal.

## Premiership

## McAllister magic

## Football

AFP, London

A scorching goal four minutes into injury-time from Gary McAllister gave 10-man Liverpool a 3-2 win over Everton in the 164th Merseyside derby at Goodison Park on Monday.

McAllister's 35-yard free-kick duped Everton keeper Paul Gerard and clinched the three points for the Anfield club in physical game that had 12 bookings and one red card for Liverpool's Croatian midfielder Igor Biscan.

Emile Heskey put Liverpool ahead early on, with Everton striker Duncan Ferguson equalising moments later.

In the second half German defender Markus Babbel fired Liverpool's second, with Everton equalising through a David Unsworth penalty spot six minutes from time only for McAllister to quash their hopes of all three points in the dying seconds.

Despite losing Biscan, Gerard Houllier's men battled their way to a result, which boosts their chances of a top three slot and a place in next season's Champions League.

"I didn't think we could do it but our heads didn't go down," Houllier told Sky Sports.

"We kept believing we could win and justice was done in the end because I thought we deserved it."

"It was a wonderful free-kick from McAllister but I am so pleased because we didn't content ourselves with a draw."

Everton had an early penalty award turned down after a high ball struck Jamie Carragher's hand.

As calls for the foul went unheeded, Liverpool took the initiative and fired the ball up midfield, with Heskey the recipient of a through ball just after the halfway line.

The big striker was power and

pace personified as he left the Everton defence for dead and fired the ball past Gerard for the opener.

But the home fans had reason to cheer almost immediately when an Everton mix-up in the Liverpool box left Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson with all the time in the world to come in and fire home the equaliser.

Liverpool were then awarded a penalty for a questionable foul, but striker Robbie Fowler struck his cheeky attempt at a chip off the post.

Only 12 minutes after half time, Liverpool went in front as Babbel rushed in to collect a loose ball and fired home.

Liverpool had most of the play

of the game, crept inside Gerard's post to hand Houllier's men all three points.

League Cup winners Liverpool, who host Spanish giants Barcelona in the UEFA Cup semi-final, second leg at Anfield on Thursday, move up to fifth in the table above Chelsea, while Everton are still not out of trouble as they bid to avoid the drop.

Earlier Monday Ipswich moved to within a point of second-placed Arsenal after a 2-1 win over Premiership strugglers Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium.

Alan Armstrong returned to plunge his former club back into relegation trouble with a lightning

keeper Mark Schwarzer. Middlesbrough could have been in deep trouble long before their fatal collapse.

John Harrison threw Coventry another lifeline in their against-the-odds fight to avoid relegation with a priceless winning goal in a 1-0 victory over Sunderland at Highfield Road.

The win took Coventry to within two points of fourth-bottom Middlesbrough.

Welsh international Harrison struck his fifth goal in the last four games for the Sky Blues to keep the pressure on Middlesbrough in the battle to beat the drop.

Coventry played like a team who knew that anything less than three points would almost certainly end their 34-year unbroken run in the top flight.

Harrison again led by example up front and is proving to be one of the bargains of the season after his pay-as-you-play move from Wimbledon at 15,000 pounds (24,000 dollars) a game.

Meanwhile, goals from Paul Boertien and Stefano Eranio nudged Derby closer to Premiership survival with a 2-0 win over Leicester at Pride Park.

Boertien cut inside from the left and stroked coolly past Simon Royce in only his seventh Premiership start.

Boertien also hacked an Ade Akinbiyi header off the line and blocked a goalbound effort from Junior Lewis as Leicester tried unsuccessfully to kick-start their faltering UEFA Cup hopes in the second half.

Eranio sealed the win with a line individual effort in injury-time moments after Derby's Deon Burton had been sent off after tussling with Robbie Savage.

At St James' Park Carl Cort and Nolberto Solano fired Newcastle to a 2-1 victory over West Ham.

Frank Lampard's late penalty gave West Ham some hope but the home side held out for victory.

## Premiership's top six

After Monday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

*Manchester United	33	23	7	3	74	24	76
Arsenal	33	17	9	7	53	32	60
Ipswich Town	34	18	5	11	51	38	59
Leeds United	33	16	8	9	50	39	56
Liverpool	32	15	8	9	55	36	53
Chelsea	32	14	9	9	59	38	51

\*Manchester United champions

and looked to be cruising to a win until, six minutes from time, the referee once more baffled in the penalty award stakes.

His interpretation of Sami Hyypia's supposed foul as he stood protectively behind Everton's Ferguson surprised even the Goodison Park crowd, but was welcomed nonetheless.

Unsworth stepped up and levelled the scores.

However the Goodison Park crowd were stunned when McAllister, waiting to take a freekick 35 yards out, ignored his front men and shot straight for goal.

The Scottish veteran's inch-perfect strike, virtually the last kick

double strike and boost Ipswich's chances of qualifying for the Champions League next season.

Newcastle-born Armstrong scored his eighth and ninth goals of the season within the first five minutes of the second-half to overhaul Dean Windass' 38th-minute strike which had given Middlesbrough a half-time lead.

It was little more than Ipswich deserved after dominating for long periods, and while 'Boro failed to capitalise on Saturday's amazing 3-0 win at Arsenal, George Burley's side consolidated their third position in the table.

Had it not been for two magnificent first-half saves from Australian

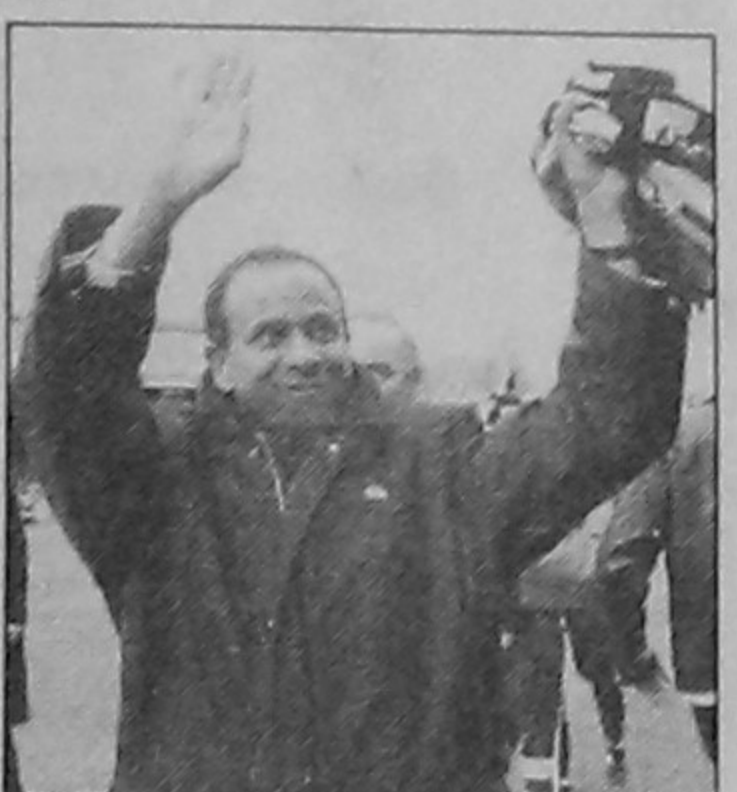
## Fulham Div One champs

AFP, London

Fulham won the First Division championship on Monday after a 1-1 draw against Sheffield Wednesday, although the visitors came very close to spoiling the party.

Trond Egil Solvetvedt put Wednesday in front in the second minute of first-half stoppage time.

But with 93 minutes on the clock Sean Davis slotted home to give Fulham the title and provoke raucous celebrations at the final whistle.



Fulham manager Jean Tigana acknowledges the applause from the stands at Fulham on April 16.

## Serie A

## A win must for Lazio

## Football

AFP, Milan

Defending champions Lazio go into Wednesday's rescheduled Italian First Division match with Parma at Rome's Olympic Stadium in the knowledge that they can not afford many more mistakes if they are to retain the Scudetto they won last season.

This match lasted only six minutes on April 7 when referee Stefano Braschi had to call a halt as torrential rain made the surface unplayable and on Wednesday Lazio get the second chance to close the gap on leaders AS Roma and second-placed Juventus.

If they win their game in hand against Parma they will move within seven points of Roma and three of Juventus with eight rounds of games left.

That seven-point gap would be by no means insurmountable as Lazio and Roma are yet to meet in the Roman derby while Roma and Juve are still to clash at Turin.

But defeat - even a draw - would leave a lot of work to do for Dino Zoff's side, even considering they

## Season over for Shearer

## Football

REUTERS, Newcastle

Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer will not play again this season because of a knee injury and could face further surgery.

The 30-year-old former England captain has been struggling for fitness since undergoing an operation to cure tendinitis in his right knee on December 27.

He visited specialist Dr Richard Steadman in the United States in March and was told to rest the knee but further scans have revealed the injury has still not healed.

"I have been clinging to an outside chance that I might play again this season but this is not going to be possible," Shearer told the Newcastle Evening Chronicle.

United have sent further scans to Dr Steadman and he claims that while there has been some improvement, the knee is still not right.

"He has told me to start light jogging next week but if there is any pain I would have to stop straight away."

"I will fly over to see Dr Steadman at his clinic again next month for another examination and I will just have to take it from there."

\*Match abandoned on April 7 with score 0-0 after six minutes

## Elber ready

REUTERS, Munich

Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker Elber has said he is fully fit to face Manchester United in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Wednesday.

"I can definitely play," Elber, who missed Bayern's 3-1 Bundesliga defeat at home to Schalke 04 on Saturday because of a knee injury, said on his homepage at icons.com. "We have forgotten all about losing to Schalke," he added.

"Now Manchester United are coming. We all realise what's at stake. The coach doesn't need to say a single word."

Elber said he believed Bayern, who won 1-0 at Old Trafford in the first leg, have the experience to progress to the semifinals.

"We've had more or less the same team for the last three years and we have enough experience for games like this," said the Brazilian, who sparked headlines before the first leg when he dismissed England captain David Beckham as "nothing special".

"The first leg doesn't count anymore."

"What we have to do is put Manchester United under pressure and show them where we're the home team."

"(United manager Alex) Ferguson has said that if Manchester move 1-0 ahead, they will have the best chances."

"I don't think that's true. We are all prepared for that. If we're 1-0 down, we'll stay calm and keep fighting."

## Jardel factor worries Real

## UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's chances of continuing to defend their Champions League title hinge on whether they have the strength to contain Galatasaray, and their Brazilian striker Mario Jardel.

The two teams meet in the quarter-final second-leg match here at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, and although 1000 unsellable tickets were sent back to Real by the impoverished Turks, Jardel's presence could bring riches beyond their wildest dreams.

Galatasaray lead 3-2 after the first-leg in the Ali Sami Yen stadium two weeks ago and their fightback, after being 2-0 down at half time, shook Real Madrid's confidence to the core.

Jardel scored the last of the three goals that night, thus securing the win and taking his personal Champions League tally to six this season to sit joint top of the scorers' charts.

Real coach Vicente Del Bosque is not playing down the Brazilian's importance to the Turkish attack.

"Jardel is the big danger. In Istanbul we controlled things for much of the game but when they managed to disrupt our formation, they took the maximum advantage," Del Bosque admitted on Monday.

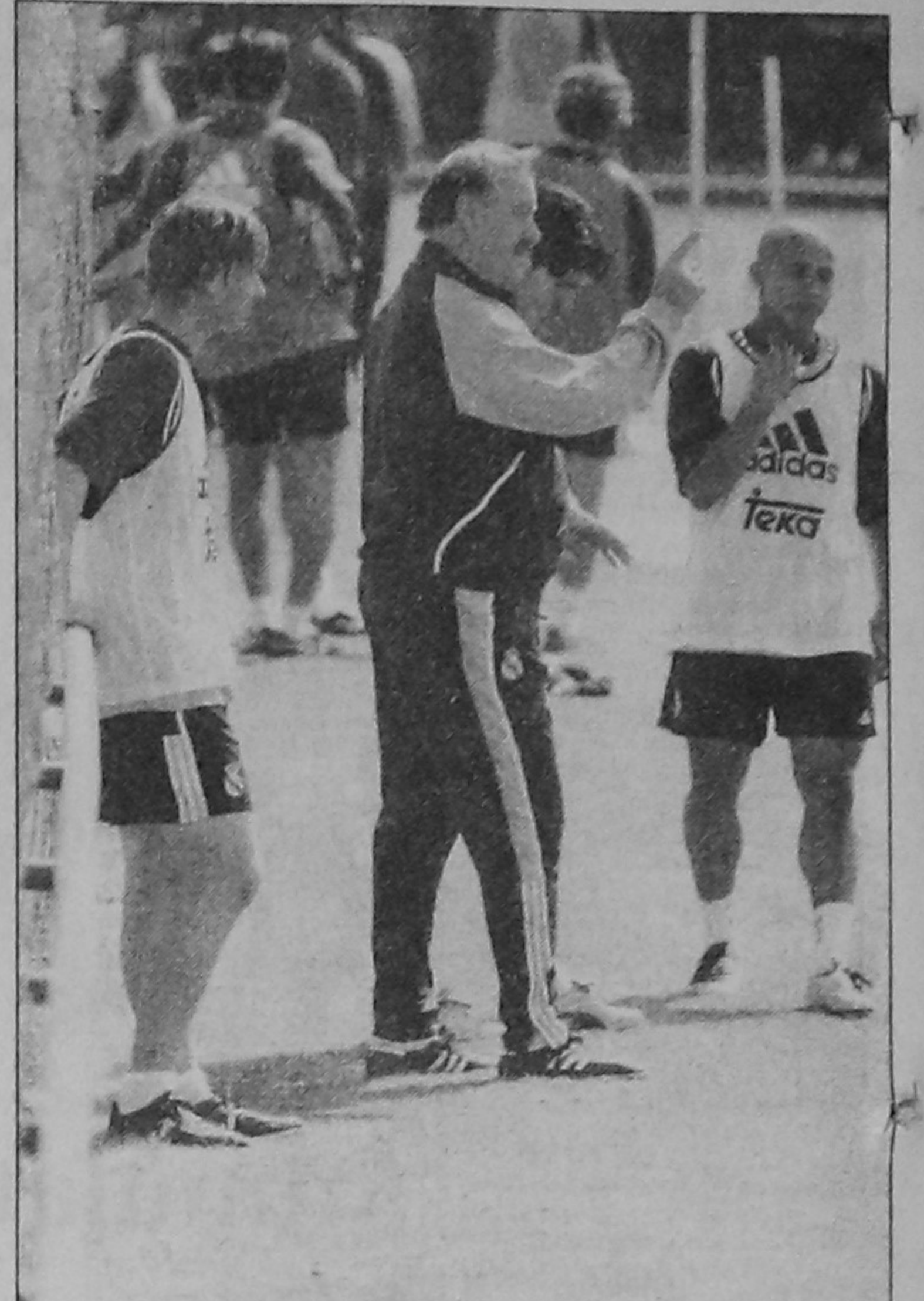
Del Bosque's boys have two useful away goals in the bank but his worries about Galatasaray's goalscoring abilities were compounded by the news that Real's influential defender Fernando Hierro is expected to miss the game after suffering a serious left hamstring during Saturday's 4-0 thrashing of Villarreal.

Cameroon's Germ Ndjitap could be brought in to replace his club captain, although Del Bosque could also pull Spanish international Ivan Helguera back from the midfield.

The stony-faced coach also has problems up front, although those could be resolved more easily.

Raul Gonzalez, who has scored five goals in the Champions League so far, is still not fully fit after his own injury problems and came off the bench for only 28 minutes on Saturday.

However, Jose Maria 'Guti' Guierrez rose to the occasion and scored a stunning hat-trick while there was outstanding performance from both Steve McManaman and Savio to fill the



Vicente del Bosque (C), the Real Madrid coach, makes a point while Guti (L), Karanka (partially obscured by Del Bosque) and Roberto Carlos listen during a practice session at Madrid on April 16.

hole left by the absence of Raul and his fellow strike partner Fernando Morientes.

Signs from the Santiago suggest that Del Bosque will gamble on Raul, with Guti making up the other half of a two-pronged attack as part of a 4-4-2 formation.

Despite Real Madrid being the favourites to progress, Galatasaray come to the Spanish capital claiming to be full of confidence.

"We will play in the final at the San Siro. I have no doubt about that," Galatasaray's veteran playmaker Gheorghe Hagi said recently.

The charismatic Romanian international, who will retire at the end of the season, is desperate to eliminate Real Madrid, where he spent a brief but miserable spell in the early 90s.

"We are at the peak of our game, we're in great shape and playing very well. Getting to the final - it's destiny, it's all preordained," he affirmed.

However the Turks' past European record when not playing in their home stadium, which is known affectionately as 'hell', has not always been convincing and could come back to haunt them.

On the pitch Galatasaray's major concern is how to replace Hagi's suspended fellow Romanian Gheorghe Popescu in the centre of the backfour.

Coach Mircea Lucescu is expected to draft in Emre Asik, and in another change to the starting line up in Turkey two weeks ago, either Fatih Akyel or Hakan Unsal will replace the injured Iqbal Fathi on the left side of defence.

## '99, MU's inspiration

## UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, London

Manchester United will be hoping history repeats itself on Wednesday when they come face to face with Bayern Munich in their crunch Champions League quarter-final, second leg.

The English Premiership champions face an uphill task at the Olympic Stadium with the reigning German champions holding a precious 1-0 lead after their victory in the first leg at Old Trafford a fortnight ago.

But few would write off United, who thrive on adversity. They were in a similar position in the epic 1999 final against Bayern at the Nou Camp Stadium only to defy the odds and snatch a memorable victory.

The Germans led the epic 1999 final 1-0 deep into injury time at the Barcelona ground through a Mario Basler goal before United subs Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored twice to clinch a dramatic win.

United coach Sir Alex Ferguson is convinced United can show the same kind of spirit and quality for the semi-finals at the expense of the Germans.

"We're not out of it because we've got the ability to go there and get a goal - and if we score a goal the game's turned over," said Ferguson.

Skipper Roy Keane has called on his team-mates to remember the 1999 semi-final, when United drew 1-1 against Italian giants Juventus before winning the return leg 3-2 in the Stadio delle Alpi after being two goals down.

"It's going to be an uphill battle in Munich and we need to show the same fighting spirit like we did a couple of years ago when we won the trophy," said Keane.

"Then we were in a pretty bad position against Juventus, but we came back to get to the final."

"It looked like we were out of the competition, but we dug deep and that's what we have to do again in Munich."

"We will have to do it the hard way, but that's the way we like to do things I suppose. If you want to win the European Cup you have to do these things."

Keane believes United are capable of scoring in the Olympic Stadium and shutting Bayern out to

take the tie into extra-time at least.

"We need to forget about what has happened and we all need to produce a performance in Munich," he said.

"I still think it's all to play for and if you analyse the position we are in, we just need to get a goal over there and keep a clean sheet."

"I think we're more than capable of doing that and I fancy us to sneak a goal."

United, who lifted their seventh Premiership title in nine seasons on Saturday, will be without England midfielder David Beckham for the trip to Munich.

A second booking for the England captain in the first leg means he will miss the return match through suspension.

United's loss will be offset by the suspension of Bayern duo Bixente Lizarazu and Hansan Salihamidovic who were both yellow-carded in Manchester.

Keane insisted "heads will roll" if United crash out of Europe.

"We've done well in England over the last eight or nine years or whatever and now Europe is what it's all about," he said.

"The glamour, the prestige, it's obviously very hard to win, but if we do go out to Munich, heads will roll. There's no doubt about that. No doubt at all."

"Hopefully we'll remember that when we're standing in Munich's stadium."

Keane said it is time for the players to stand up and be counted.

"Every player should be looking at themselves and wondering, and I'm one of them."

"There have been other players at United who had big reputations and they were sold nonetheless, so we should all be worried."

Bayern striker Giovane Elber, who suffered a knee injury against Borussia Dortmund nine days ago, is expected to start despite missing training for most of last week.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was optimistic that Elber will be ready to face United.

"I'm assuming that Giovane will be fit to play on Wednesday against Manchester," he said.

However, club masseur Fredi Binder adopted a more cautious approach. "We are, of course, doing everything we can," he said. "But we'll just have to wait and see how it goes."



An AFP file photo of superstar Rivaldo.

## Rivaldo couldn't care less

## Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Brazilian forward Rivaldo says he knows nothing about a claim that Barcelona are set to negotiate his transfer to an "important" English club.

"I know nothing about meetings between clubs and I don't want to know anything about them," he said on his website.

"It is down to me I will honour my contract. How many times do I have to say that?... It all depends on the fans, the president and the directors. If they want me to, I will continue."

The agent of Barcelona team mate and captain Pep Guardiola had said on Catalan television station Canal 33 that negotiations between Barcelona and a Premier League side would take place later this week.

"Next Thursday there will be a meeting between an important English club and representatives of Barcelona to negotiate the transfer of Rivaldo," Jose Maria Orobitg said on the programme Gol a Gol on Sunday night.

Guardiola shocked Spanish football last week by announcing

that he would be leaving Barcelona to play abroad, possibly for a club in England.

Earlier on Monday, Rivaldo's agent said the claim was untrue. "There is absolutely no truth in this claim," Jose-Maria Minguella told Reuters.

"We know about the claim but neither the player nor the club are going to be negotiating with another club about the future of the player."

Rivaldo also said he had received a phone call from Barcelona president Joan Gaspart telling him not to worry about the rumours.

"I wasn't worried," Rivaldo said. "But I think him for his gesture because it has put my mind at ease."

Rivaldo has hinted before that he would understand if the Catalan club decided to sell him before his contract expires in June 2003. But club president Joan Gaspart has insisted that the former World Player of the Year will stay at the Nou Camp. Spanish media speculated on Monday that the English club could be Manchester United, who reportedly expressed an interest in signing the Brazilian last season.

When rumours of a possible move away from Barcelona surfaced last month Rivaldo said he was flattered by the interest of other clubs, but that any future transfer was in the hands of Barcelona.