



## PSV retain Dutch title

AFP, Amsterdam

PSV Eindhoven retained their Dutch league title on Sunday when they beat Heerenveen 3-0 to put them beyond the reach of nearest rivals Feyenoord. It was PSV's 16th league title in their history.

With three games remaining PSV have 74 points, 15 points clear of Feyenoord, who were playing Fortuna Sittard later on Sunday, on 59 points with a game in hand.

Both PSV and Heerenveen started the match carefully. It took until the 33rd minute for PSV to break the deadlock when Heerenveen winger Mika Nurmi lost possession in defence to give Arnold Bruggink space to open the scoring. In the 66th minute captain Mark van Bommel doubled the score after he was freed on the right and netted via the far post.

Four minutes later the PSV fans began celebrating in earnest when Dutch leading scorer Mateja Kezman met a Van Bommel cross to score his 23rd goal of the season from close range.

PSV are still hunting a league and cup double. They play Twente Enschede in the Dutch Cup final on May 24.

## Scottish Premiership Rangers in Champions League

AFP, London

Rangers booked their place in the Champions League qualifiers with a comfortable 4-1 win at Hearts on Saturday.

Two goals from man-of-the-match Jorg Albertz and one each from 12-million-pound (17-million-dollar) striker Tore Andre Flo and Rod Wallace clinched the points the former champions required to join champions Celtic in Europe's elite competition next season.

In a fractious match both sides had a man sent off with Rangers captain Barry Ferguson being shown a straight red card for a late tackle on Steven Pressley when the game was only just half an hour old.

Moments after the break Pressley was himself dismissed for two bookable offences.

Albertz fizzed a free-kick in off the post after 29 minutes to give Rangers the lead before Stephane Adam bundled in an equaliser within two minutes of the re-start for the Edinburgh club.

Wallace restored Rangers' lead when Lorenzo Amoruso's fierce low shot was beaten out by Antti Niemi only as far as the former Leeds hitman who made no mistake from the rebound.

Flo slipped inside a defender to set up Albertz for Rangers' third goal and the German repaid the compliment five minutes from time to set up the former Chelsea for the fourth.

## Let off for Suker

AFP, Zagreb

Croatian international striker Davor Suker is not to be prosecuted for failing to perform his military service after Zagreb district attorney's office on Saturday decided not to file charges against him.

The military recruitment authorities in Croatia began an investigation last March into the 33-year-old former Real Madrid and Seville star, who is currently with West Ham in the English Premiership.

## Primera Liga Celta shake leaders

### Football

AFP, Madrid

Faltering Spanish league leaders Real Madrid slipped to a surprise 3-0

defeat of Deportivo following their 2-1 win over relegation-threatened Basque outfit Real Sociedad, who were reduced to just nine men in the second half.

Slovenian Zlatko Zahovic gave Valencia a late lead on the 66th



Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas gets in a scramble during a Celta Vigo attack at Vigo on May 5.

defeat at sixth-placed Celta Vigo on Saturday night, but remain in control of the Primera Liga with a nine-point lead at the top of the table.

After dominating the Spanish league this season Real have suffered a disappointing slump in form recently with a 1-1 draw against Osasuna last weekend followed by Tuesday night's 1-0 Champions League home defeat to Germany's Bayern Munich.

The European Cup holders are still firmly in control with five matches remaining, but could have their lead cut to six points if second-placed reigning champions Deportivo La Coruna, narrow the gap with a win Sunday away at Rayo Vallecano.

A win would have made life easier for Real as the battle for the title hots up, but the visitors were struggling from the outset against the Galicians with Juan Fran and Gustavo Lopez giving the home side a two-goal lead going into the league and midfielder Jesu grabbing a last-minute third just before the whistle.

Meanwhile third-placed Champions' League semi-finalists Valencia moved up to within a point

## Primera Liga's top six

After matches played on Saturday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

	Real Madrid	Deportivo	Valencia	Mallorca	Barcelona	Celta Vigo
Played	33	21	6	6	70	36
Won	21	18	6	8	61	38
Drawn	17	8	8	11	51	26
Lost	5	6	6	46	38	59
Goals for	36	38	51	53	51	51
Goals against	69	60	59	56	53	51

## Cup honours Lyon's

### Football

AFP, Paris

A goal deep into extra-time from Lyon substitute Patrick Muller gave his side a 2-1 French League Cup victory over Monaco at the Stade de France on Saturday, the club's first trophy in 28 years.

The 118th minute winner, coming after some fine play from Lyon captain Sonny Anderson, dealt a withering blow to French champions Monaco's dismal season.

"Monaco had a good match and dominated the second half," Anderson, a former Monaco player, admitted after the match.

"But unfortunately for them they can only be one winner," he added.

The match went into extra-time with the scores at 1-1 after Lyon took the lead on 35 minutes with a Claudio Cacapa lob and Monaco drew level on 65 with a Shabani Nonda volley.

In a fast and physical first half AS Monaco took the game to Lyon as dynamic midfielder Ludovic Giuly strove incessantly to supply forwards Marco Simone and Nonda.

After nine minutes Gregory Coupet saved a close-range Nonda effort with his shin and two minutes later he was in action again tipping a 20-yard Simone shot over the bar.

But Lyon broke out of defence to split Monaco's backtracking defence with a one-two between Steve Marlet and Cacapa at the edge of the area on 35 minutes.

The Brazilian defender ran into the area alone and deftly lifted the ball over the advancing Stephane Portois.

Under-threat Monaco coach Claude Puel's half-time pep-talk must have been fairly hot as his struggling champions, eighth in the league and needing victory here for a European spot, came out gunning

in the second period.

Coupet did well to hold a stinging Giuly drive just before the hour while at the other end 20-million-dollar Real Madrid target Mexican defender Rafael Marquez did well to dispossess Anderson as he limbered up for a free shot on Portois.

Monaco's equaliser, a Nonda shot that crowned an exquisite move, finally saw Monaco's two strikers combine effectively in a season where they have constantly got in each other's way.

Argentine playmaker Marcelo Gallardo played a through ball to Simone with his back to goal on the edge on the box. The veteran Italian volleyed a pass to Nonda on the right who in turn volleyed low past a diving Coupet's left.

Lyon can now look forward to a possible Championship title if leaders Nantes slip up, and also enjoyed a fine Champions League campaign having reached the second phase.



PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool super striker Michael Owen completes his hattrick in the 3-0 win against Newcastle in their Premiership encounter on May 5.

Middlesbrough took a step closer to safety with a 1-1 draw at already-relegated Bradford.

A draw means Boro have a five-point lead over Manchester City who must win at Ipswich on Monday if they are to stand any chance of staying in the Premiership.

Second-placed Arsenal, who were knocked out of the Champions League by German champions Bayern Munich at the quarter-final stage, booked their place in next season's competition by beating Leeds 2-1 at Highbury.

Defeat was a blow for Leeds who face Spanish outfit Valencia in next Wednesday's Champions League semi-final, second leg.

David O'Leary's young guns are still looking for a top three place to qualify for Europe's top club competition next year.

O'Leary has urged the Football Association (FA) to investigate video

replays of two controversial incidents involving Martin Keown after his side lost 2-1 in a bruising encounter at Arsenal.

"Some things have happened today that should have been dealt with and weren't. I hope the FA deal with them."

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger insisted the rivalry between the two clubs has not reached an unhealthy level, despite 40 yellow cards and two reds in the past six encounters.

"You could see there was something at stake for both teams," he said.

"Maybe it was sometimes over-commitment or too many physical challenges but there's no bad feeling on my side towards Leeds."

Liverpool retain third spot after beating Newcastle 3-0 at Anfield thanks to a hat-trick by England striker Michael Owen.

Owen gave the UEFA Cup final-

ists a half-time lead before knocking in his 18th and 19th goals of the season to kill off the visitors in the second period.

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