

Primera Liga

# Real's roaring reply

Football

AP, Madrid

Real Madrid made a mockery of its poor league form with an emphatic 5-1 victory against Espanyol on Saturday to record its first league victory this season.

Zinedine Zidane, Roberto Carlos, Luis Figo, Raul Gonzalez and Steve McManaman all bagged a goal as the titlist gave evidence of its huge potential for the first time in domestic competition.

Madrid, which had failed to win in its first three matches, now has four points out of a possible 12.

Ignoring preseason games, it was the club's first victory with Zidane as a member of the side as its two Champions League wins were achieved with the Frenchman absent through suspension.

World-record signing Zidane began the goal rush in the fourth minute, receiving Raul's layoff and firing a low shot from just outside the penalty area.

It was Zidane's second goal in successive games after he netted in Madrid's 3-1 defeat at Real Betis last week.

Six minutes later, Zidane and Figo teed Roberto Carlos up from a free kick and the Brazilian blasted a trademark shot home from outside the box for Madrid's second.

With Espanyol looking shell-shocked, Figo added a third from a 20th-minute penalty after the Portuguese international was obstructed by Argentine defender Pablo Rotchen.

The visitors pulled a goal back shortly after the interval through midfielder Enrique de Lucas.

But Spanish international Raul restored Madrid's three-goal lead after playing a clever wall pass with Pedro Munitis in the 59th minute.

England international McManaman got in on the goal spree in the 71st minute when he completed a passing movement with a simple tap-in.

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque was suitably smug after all the criticism levelled at him since the start of the season.

"The supporters can leave here happy. It was a complete game with some exquisite moments," purred Del Bosque.

"The other day against Lokomotiv we played as well, but with different players, and I'll continue to tell the world that there is not one unique set of players that

are capable of winning," he added. Espanyol coach Paco Flores could do not but concede that Real Madrid had been the superior side. "They played very fluidly and



PHOTO: INTERNET

Real Madrid ace Raul celebrates his strike against Espanyol with teammate Pedro Munitis at Madrid on September 22.

## Primera Liga's top six

Spanish First Division table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Deportivo	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Villarreal	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Barcelona	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Celta Vigo	3	2	1	0	6	0	7
Valencia	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Alaves	4	2	1	1	6	3	7

## French First Division Monaco blank Lens

AFP, Paris

Monaco put their slow start to the French league season behind them Saturday, hammering leaders Lens 3-0 to give coach Didier Deschamps a massive boost.

Marseille, meanwhile, finally secured their first win as former Everton misfit Ibrahim Bakayoko scored both goals in a 2-0 win over reigning champions Nantes at the Stade Velodrome.

Nantes are rooted to the bottom of the table with just two points out of a possible 24, with Marseille still second from bottom-- but five points better off.

Saturday's win takes Monaco out of the bottom four and into midtable.

Auxerre are now top on goal difference from Lille - but they had to scrap to force a 2-2 home draw against Guingamp.

Lille moved second after a 2-1 win at home to Bastia with a last-gasp Bruno Cheyrou winner after Lyon slipped below Lens to fourth on the back of a shock 2-0 loss at Metz.

## Serie A Lecce stop Juve run

AFP, Lecce

Italian league leaders Juventus were held to a dour 0-0 draw at Lecce Saturday evening, the first time the side from Turin has failed to win a competitive match this season.

It was a dire encounter with the hosts stifling Juve from the start and with chances few and far between at either end, but it will be another welcome point for Lecce, the only southern club left in the Italian First Division and still unbeaten after four matches.

Lecce, based in Puglia on the 'heel' of the boot-shaped Italian peninsula, made the better start at the Stadio Via del Mare and in the opening minutes, their Uruguayan striker Javier Ernesto Chevanton shot wide when well placed to score after he sprung the Juve offside trap.

Juve spurned their own chances - Lecce goalkeeper Antonio Chimenti palmed a Marcelo Salas header over the bar while Gianluca Zambrotta failed to hit the target.

Chimenti made another fine save in the closing minutes from Zambrotta but Juve never really looked like scoring.

The only notable incident in the match came in injury time when Lecce defender Alberto Savino and Juve's Uruguayan stopper Paolo Montero were both sent off.

Lecce coach Alberto Cavasin had clearly adopted a defensive game plan for this match, hoping for at least a repeat of the 0-0 result between the clubs in Turin last May that went a long way to helping AS Roma win the title at Juve's expense.

Cavasin's opposite number Marcello Lippi had omitted Alessandro Del Piero from the starting line-up, pairing Frenchman David Trezeguet with Chilean Salas.

Del Piero made a belated appearance in the 83rd minute as a replacement for Salas but could not find the opening.

Juve's slip-up will allow Milan clubs AC and Inter to go level on points at the top when the remaining weekend games are played.

Inter travel to Juve's Stadio Delle Alpi home to play Torino while AC Milan host Lazio in a match where visiting coach Alberto Zaccheroni will make his debut against the club he led to the Italian First Division title three seasons ago.

## Premiership

# Leaders' gritty draw

Owen blow for England, Liverpool

Football

AFP, Bolton

Ten-man Bolton held firm for a 1-1 draw at Arsenal to stay top of the

October 6.

"I was very sorry for Michael. He's been flying since the beginning of the season but he's strong and he'll bounce back," said Houllier.

"It is a sad footnote to our victory. He said he felt something go as he



PHOTO: INTERNET

Tony Adams (C) of Arsenal, attempts on the Bolton goal from a goal-mouth scramble at Highbury on September 22.

English Premiership on Saturday as defending champions Manchester United went third after a 4-0 demolition of Ipswich.

Arsenal's point hauled them up one place into second with Leeds, who face Derby on Sunday, in fourth.

Meanwhile, a Jari Litmanen goal gave Liverpool a 1-0 victory over Tottenham to climb six places into fifth as elsewhere Blackburn beat Everton 1-0, Leicester drew 0-0 with Fulham and Sunderland were locked at 2-2 with Charlton.

Liverpool's win was overshadowed by a hamstring injury to England striker Michael Owen, who limped off after coming on as a substitute.

This time, Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier was on the wrong end of the squad rotation conundrum, when Owen came off the bench cold and limped back 17 minutes later.

Houllier confirmed Owen would be out for at least three weeks and would miss England's crucial World Cup qualifier against Greece on

went to shoot.

"We will not know for sure the extent of the injury until after he's had a scan on Sunday. But I feel it is just a pull rather than a more serious tear."

Arsene Wenger's Arsenal failed to capitalise after Bolton's Jamaican midfielder Ricardo Gardner was sent off on the half hour when he appeared to pull back Arsenal striker Dennis Bergkamp.

It was not until the 74th minute when Arsenal's Francis Jeffers struck for his first goal for his new club to break the deadlock.

Bolton manager Sam Allardyce was relieved when Michael Ricketts equalised on 83 minutes but he was still fuming over Gardner's dismissal.

"If Ricardo touched him it must have been with a feather," said Allardyce.

"It wasn't even the referee's decision. His assistant made it but if he saw something then I certainly didn't.

"For me it was never a sending off and it could have cost us dear.

## Premiership's top six

English Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Bolton	7	3	3	1	10	4	12
Arsenal	6	3	2	1	14	5	11
Man Utd	6	3	2	1	17	10	11
Leeds	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Liverpool	5	3	0	2	8	7	9
Blackburn	7	2	3	2	8	8	9

## Bundesliga

# 7 in 7 Kaiserslautern

Football

AFP, Berlin

Kaiserslautern on Saturday equalled a German league record for successive wins from the start of a season when they hammered Hertha Berlin 4-1 to emulate Bayern Munich's 1995 performance.

Lautern, who won the last of their four titles in 1998 when they became the first side ever to be champions the year following promotion, made it seven out of seven with Miroslav Klose, Vratislav Lokvenc, Hany Ramzy and Brazilian forward Lincoln all on target and Hertha's Brazilian Marcelinho netting a consolation spotkick.

Mario Basler should have added a fifth but blasted a second half penalty over the crossbar - but that didn't take the gloss off for coach Andreas Brehme.

"We played superbly and deserved to win. I've given the lads two days off," said the man whose goal won Germany the 1990 World Cup.

Brehme's runaway leaders now have a five-point cushion over reigning champions Bayern Munich, who waltzed their way to a 3-0 victory at Energie Cottbus with Alex Zickler and Claudio Pizarro of Peru both scoring inside the opening four minutes.

A Janos Matyus own goal sealed the win for Bayern after 73 minutes.

The Bayern showing was much improved on Tuesday's poor effort at home to Sparta Prague in the Champions League which provoked the ire of coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who said he would have liked to substitute most of his players that night after a drab goalless draw.

Hitzfeld was much happier with his side's reaction to that match.

"You always need a bit of luck - but today things clicked 100 per cent.

"It was important to get our noses in front quickly and that meant Cottbus didn't have room to hit us on the counter," Hitzfeld said.

Borussia Dortmund, held by Liverpool in midweek, were held



PHOTO: INTERNET

Bayern Munich striker Claudio Pizarro exults after scoring against Energie Cottbus, at Cottbus on September 22.

again in their Ruhr derby with Champions League fellow travellers Bayer Leverkusen.

Brazilian sharpshooter Amoroso put Dortmund ahead on seven minutes but Bulgarian Dimitar Berbatov levelled with 11 minutes left.

Leverkusen are third with 15 points from seven games, one adrift of Bayern and two clear of Dortmund.

Amoroso's fifth goal of the season makes him the league's top scorer - but, on the debit side,

Luckily the cost has not been that much because we've battled back brilliantly to earn a point."

Wenger was equally angry that his side failed to press home their numerical advantage and then let the opposition back in after going ahead.

"We threw two points away and it is 100% our own fault," he said.

"I must say Bolton defended very well, but sometimes it is harder playing 10 men because it makes them defend even more. We were naive, though, when we became 1-0 up. We didn't adapt intelligently."

At Old Trafford, United manager Sir Alex Ferguson sent out a team with nine changes from the mid-week Champions League lineup and watched with delight as goals from Ronny Johnsen, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (2) and Andy Cole expertly finished off Ipswich.

But Ferguson was quick to brush aside claims that he had fielded an inexperienced second-string side, insisting it was confirmation of the need for strength in depth.

"These are fully-fledged, seasoned professionals," he said. "It was good that I could freshen up today and rest a few players and it's worked.

"We have to give them games. We're quite a few games in now and some of them haven't figured a lot and it's not easy for them.

At the Stadium of Light, Shaun Bartlett and Steve Brown got the goals for Charlton and Niall Quinn scored a brace for Sunderland.

"Everyone knows what I think about Niall," said Sunderland manager Peter Reid. "I wish I could find another one."

"But they don't grow on trees do they, those type of players?"

In Blackburn, the home side ground out a 1-0 win over Everton, who had most of the game but missed a penalty.

Everton, with Paul Gascoigne back for the first time since November, failed to go ahead midway through the first half when a Stig Inge Bjornebye foul in the box earned them a penalty.

Duncan Ferguson took the spot kick but his left-footed shot to the right hand side of goal was saved by Brad Friedel.

Italy's Corrado Grabbi got Blackburn's winner in the 37th minute with his first goal for the club after good work by Turkish international Tugay.

Fulham's Steve Marlet was making his debut but the French striker was not able to get on the scoresheet in a 0-0 draw at Leicester.

Leeds would go top of the table should they beat Derby, while in Sunday's other games Chelsea host Middlesbrough and West Ham entertain Newcastle.

Southampton meet Aston Villa on Monday.

## Bundesliga's top six

German First Division table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

1 Kaiserslautern	7	7	0	0	20	7	21
2 Bayern	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
3 Bayer	7	4	3	0	14	7	15
4 Borussia	7	4	1	2	11	4	13
5 Stuttgart	7	3	3	1	8	5	12
6 Schalke 04	7	3	2	2	9	9	11

# UAE back on track



INTERNET, Tashkent

The United Arab Emirates moved back into contention for a place at next year's World Cup finals with a 1-0 win over Uzbekistan in Tashkent that moved them up to third place in Group B of Asia's qualifying tournament.

Tini Ruijs' side took the lead in the fifth minute through Mohammed Omar and then managed to hold out against an Uzbek side missing five key figures, including Spartak Moscow striker Jafar Irismetov and Dynamo Kiev's Maksim Shatskikh.

The win means China remain two points clear at the top of the group with a game in hand, leaving Bora Milutinovic's side needing two wins and two draws from their four remaining fixtures to qualify for their

first-ever World Cup.

The Emirates, meanwhile, who are looking to reach their second World Cup after qualifying for Italia 90, put themselves back in the race for the play-off place as they moved ahead of the Uzbeks with seven points from five games.

Qatar are in second on eight points and two points cover the teams in second, third and fourth. The next two weeks will be crucial to the outcome of the group, with Qatar due to entertain both Uzbekistan and the UAE in Doha.

Meanwhile, in Group A, Iraq stopped their run of three consecutive defeats thanks to a second-half Emad Ridha goal that earned them a 1-1 draw with fellow nohopers Thailand in Bangkok.

Saudi Arabia lead the group, six points ahead of Iraq and seven clear of Thailand. All three teams have three games remaining

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# Three cheers for Africa



INTERNET, Port of Spain

The big winner of the first round of the FIFA U-17 World Championship, Trinidad & Tobago 2001 is without any doubt Africa.

The three CAF representatives, Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria have all qualified for the quarter-finals of the tournament. The African teams have an excellent record in this competition with Nigeria and Ghana winning it twice each and reaching the final seven times (four times for Ghana, three times for Nigeria) and it is the second time in history that they all qualify for the quarter-finals. They had already achieved such a performance in 1997, in Egypt, with Mali, Ghana and Egypt.

South-America was very close to do better than Africa this time. But a goal-average in favour of Mali prevented Paraguay from going further in the competition. Argentina, who did not qualify for the last tournament in New Zealand reached the second round this time after an exceptional battle with Spain in the last group game. Brazil had even qualified before their last match versus Trinidad & Tobago but gave nevertheless no chance to the locals (6-1).

Out of the three representatives of Europe, only France finally made it for the quarter-finals, confirming that the Old Continent remains under the domination of Africa and South-America at this age. Despite a wonderful game versus Argentina, Spain has to go home early and Croatia, for their first participation in the tournament, will have certainly learnt a lot from this experience but were disappointing.

In a tournament organised by CONCACAF, one could have imagined that the local teams could have been more than outsiders. Costa Rica finished leaders of their group reaching thus for the first time the

## FIXTURES

### QUARTER-FINALS

23-Sep

At Bacolet

1st quarterfinal: Brazil vs. France

2 nd quarterfinal: Nigeria vs. Australia

24-Sep

At Marabella

3rd quarterfinal: Argentina vs. Mali

4th quarterfinal: Costa Rica vs. Burkina Faso

### SEMIFINALS

27-Sep

At Port of Spain

1st semifinal: Winner 1st quarterfinal vs. Winner 3rd quarterfinal

At Malabar

2nd semifinal: Winner 2nd quarterfinal vs. Winner 4th quarterfinal

### 3RD PLACE PLAYOFF

30-Sep

At Port of Spain

### FINAL

30-Sep

At Port of Spain