

Premiership

Kewell stars for leaders

Football

AFP, London

Australia international Harry Kewell scored twice as Leeds United beat Derby County 3-0 to move back to the top of the English Premiership on Sunday.

Elsewhere an extra-time penalty saw Middlesbrough secure a 2-2 draw away to Chelsea while across London West Ham moved off the bottom of the table with a 3-0 victory over Newcastle.

Leeds took the lead in the first half when Norwegian midfielder Eirik Bakke headed home Ian Harte's free kick in the ninth minute.

But the three points were not wrapped up until Kewell struck twice in four minutes late in the second half.

A left-foot shot into the bottom corner after 74 minutes made it 2-0 before a strong header from Lee Bowyer's cross assured Leeds of victory in front of their Elland Road faithful.

David O'Leary's side are now two points ahead of Bolton with a game in hand.

"It's about time I got on the score-sheet," Kewell told Sky Sports Premiership Plus. "They (Derby) were still in the game. They are a good team," said Kewell. "It took time to break them down.

"They came here to win and it took time for us to find the gaps, but when we scored we knew we'd get more chances."

At Stamford Bridge an injury time penalty from Croatia forward Alen Boksic gave Middlesbrough a point, England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson in the crowd.

Former England full-back Graeme Le Saux was judged to have used his arm in controlling a Carlos Marinelli cross and Boksic made no mistake from the spot.

Disappointed Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri said: "I spoke with the linesman, and in my opinion Graeme Le Saux caught the ball with his hand. For the linesman, it was intentional.

"From the bench, it was very difficult to watch the situation - the box was very far away. It was very difficult to see, but I've seen it on television, and in my opinion it was intentional.

Earlier a double strike from Holland forward Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink put Chelsea 2-0 up at half-time.

In the third minute he latched onto an Eidur Gudjohnsen through-ball before rounding Middlesbrough goalkeeper Mark Crossley and



PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink celebrates his strike against Middlesbrough during their Premiership encounter at Stamford Bridge in London on September 23.

finishing calmly.

His second, in the 37th minute, demonstrated his predator's instinct in the box.

Middlesbrough failed to clear a Boudewijn Zenden corner and Hasselbaink spun before firing the ball home from inside the six-yard box.

But the visitors bounced back after the break when substitute Robbie Stockdale scored with a deflected volley.

Across town West Ham gave under pressure boss Glenn Roeder something to celebrate at last. Their first league goal in open play this season, a Don Hutchison header after French midfielder Laurent Courtis crossed from a quickly

taken corner gave them an 18th minute lead.

Then inspirational Italian playmaker Paolo Di Canio doubled the lead in the 52nd minute. Released by Scotland international Christian Dailly's ball over the top he turned full-back Warren Barton inside out before his low shot arowed into the far corner.

French striker Freddie Kanoute finished off the visitors with a goal eight minutes from time.

The result saw Newcastle's appalling London record continue. This was the 26th consecutive match in which they had failed to win in the capital.

Newcastle's former England manager Bobby Robson was

angered by referee Peter Jones' refusal to award a penalty when Robbie Elliott went down in the box in the opening minutes.

Robson told Sky Sports: "There is such a controversy over divers at the moment, but there are divers and there are clear penalties.

"If the referee thought that's what it was (a dive), maybe Robbie should have had a yellow card for diving.

"West Ham deserved to pick up the three points though, I told the lads we were poor and got what we deserved, it was a wretched day."

But West Ham manager Glenn Roeder, in his first season in charge was relieved to see his side win at last.

"It was nice to get the first win of the season in front of our own supporters.

"To score three goals was terrific and just as important was that we kept a clean sheet.

"Tomas Repka had a fantastic (home) debut and Don Hutchison did well but I'm just pleased with all of them."

Cuper unhappy at Ronaldo recall

REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan's Argentine coach Hector Cuper has said he is unhappy about Ronaldo's call-up to the Brazil squad for their World Cup qualifier against Chile in October.

The twice World Player of the Year had been out of action for 17 months following a knee operation before he made a substitute appearance for Inter in their 3-0 UEFA Cup win over Bresov on Thursday.

The day after the game, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari named Ronaldo in his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Chile on October 6.

Ronaldo was an unused substitute for Inter in their 1-0 win over Torino in *Serie A* on Sunday and after the match Cuper told reporters of his displeasure at the Brazilian's call-up.

"Obviously I am unhappy with this national team call-up for Ronaldo because he is following a very specific program of work in order to get back to the best condition," said Cuper.

"But my worry derives exclusively from the fact that he will need to interrupt this very important work for a certain period," added the former Valencia coach.

Cuper suggested that the Brazilian team may want to follow instructions from Inter on the training methods for Ronaldo.

"My wish is that with Brazil he can follow the program outlined by our medical staff," said Cuper.

Ronaldo ruptured knee ligaments during the Italian Cup final in April 2000 and subsequently underwent surgery in Paris.

Brazil are currently clinging on to fourth place in the South American World Cup qualifying standings, with fifth-placed Uruguay level with them on 24 points from 15 games.

The four-time world champions run a serious risk of missing out on the World Cup finals for the first time in the history of the competition.

Rivaldo recovering faster than expected

INTERNET, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil team doctor José Luis Runco confirmed today that Rivaldo will come back on the pitch sooner than expected. He even said that the Brazilian playmaker will play in his team's clash with Mallorca on October 3.

"Rivaldo will fly back to Catalunya as soon as next week and if everything goes well during training, he'll be fit to play before Brazil-Chile on October 7," said Runco.

Fears of a lengthy injury for Rivaldo are thus dashed. It is a massive boost to both Barcelona and Brazil.

Reserves, MU's best bet?



AFP, Paris

Even if the bloated format of the Champions League allows for several defeats along the way to eventual glory Manchester United will be keen to insure they don't make things too hard for themselves by taking at least a point Tuesday at Deportivo La Coruna.

United made only a lukewarm start against Lille last week, a last-minute effort from David Beckham securing a far from convincing 1-0 win over the French minnows.

Deportivo, the 2000 Spanish league champions, are looking well capable of giving Real Madrid, Barcelona and company a run for their money once more in the Primera Liga, which they top after four matches.

United, if nothing else, illustrated their strength in depth - and the appetite of "reserves" such as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to stake their own claims for a regular place - when coach Sir Alex Ferguson made nine changes ahead of Saturday's 4-0 win over Ipswich.

Sir Alex says the squad rotation principle will be resolutely applied because a successful club is in operation day after day.

"The idea of having two teams applied today," Ferguson explained after the Ipswich encounter.

"With us training on Sunday, travelling on Monday and playing in Spain on Tuesday it was forced on me," Ferguson told the Sunday Mirror.

Nicky Butt spoke for many United fringe stars in saying a squad number at United was as good as a starting place elsewhere.

Butt, who finally made his first appearance of the season against Ipswich, has Juan Sebastian Veron and Paul Scholes ahead of him in the pecking order for the trip to Spain but is happy to be involved at all.

"There are a lot of games so hopefully we will all get a few games under our belts," explained Butt.

At least United managed to garner the three points last week without playing well.

Deportivo, in contrast, just managed to claw a home draw against Olympiakos thanks to Juan Carlos Valeron's late leveller before following up with a weekend success at Alaves.

Coach Javier Irureta has no selection worries save for injured Brazilian playmaker Djalminha.

Deportivo will want to wipe the slate clean with English opponents having last year gone out in the quarters to Leeds.

Lille and Olympiakos face off in France in the other match in the group.

In Group E, Celtic host Porto after losing out to Juventus to a disputed penalty last week.

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill is considering an appeal against his

one-match touchline ban after his dismissal in Italy, where he slammed German referee Helmut Krug for the last-minute dubious decision which handed Juve victory.

Porto won in Rosenborg and a point in Glasgow would see them



SIR ALEX FERGUSON

take a big stride towards the second phase.

Rosenborg must pick up the pieces with a match against Juve, again in Norway.

Juve lost their 100 percent record this season after being held 0-0 by Lecce in *Serie A* on Saturday

and the Turin giants must do without

Week's fixtures	
European Champions League fixtures this week:	
TUESDAY	
Group E	
Rosenborg (Nor) v Juventus (Ita)	
Celtic (Sco) v Porto (Por)	
Group F	
Fenerbahce (Tur) v Lyon (Fra)	
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Barcelona (Spa)	
Group G	
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) v Manchester United (Eng)	
Lille (Fra) v Olympiakos (Gre)	
Group H	
Spartak Moscow (Rus) v Bayern Munich (Ger)	
Sparta Prague (Cze) v Feyenoord (Ned)	
WEDNESDAY	
Group A	
Real Madrid (Spa) v Anderlecht (Bel)	
AS Roma (Ita) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)	
Group B	
Boavista (Por) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)	
Liverpool (Eng) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)	
Group C	
Panathinaikos (Gre) v Arsenal (Eng)	
Schalke 04 (Ger) v Real Mallorca (Spa)	
Group D	
PSV Eindhoven (Ned) v Lazio (Ita)	
Nantes (Fra) v Galatasaray (Tur)	

Croatian defender Igor Tudor, injured against Lecce.

Marcello Lippi, who led Juve to Champions League glory in the 1995-6 season, will also have to survive without Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids after he was dismissed against Celtic.

Holders Bayern Munich received a roasting from coach Ottmar Hitzfeld for their goalless Group H home draw a week ago at home to Sparta Prague but responded by steamrolling Energie Cottbus at the weekend to go second in the Bundesliga.

The Bavarians now head for Spartak Moscow, who battled back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Dutch side Feyenoord last week, hoping that Croatian international Niko Kovac can overcome a badly bruised foot sustained at Cottbus.

"I'll take him along, but it's touch and go as to whether he can play," said Hitzfeld, already without a number of player including skipper Stefan Effenberg, Mehmet Scholl, Jens Jeremies, Carsten Jancker and Thomas Linke.

Striker Alexander Zickler is a further doubt after damaging knee ligaments Saturday. Zickler may also miss Germany's October 6 World Cup qualifier against Finland.

Sparta Prague will attempt to build on their point at Bayern with a home win over Feyenoord.

Barcelona will be without Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo, not yet over the left knee ligament injury he sustained during Brazil's 2-1 World Cup qualifier defeat by Argentina earlier this month, for their Group F match at Bayer Leverkusen.

Brazil hope he will be back to face Chile on October 7 but Barca coach Carles Rexach believes he will not even return for his club ahead of the October 3 league match against Real Mallorca.

Rexach, whose men won at Turkey's Fenerbahce last week, insists club must come before country.

"We agreed with the Brazilians that he'd have to play for us before we would consider him fit enough to play for them," the Calatan giants' coach told Barca's website.

Brazilian team doctor Jose Luis Runco meanwhile told Catalan radio Saturday that the Mallorca match was the most realistic comeback date.

Barcelona have included Holland star Marc Overmars and Spanish international midfielder Gerard Lopez in their 17-man squad.

Fenerbahce will attempt to recover from their home hiding by beating Lyon, who opened with a demoralising home loss to Leverkusen.

Lyon, still without Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson with a thigh problem, were clearly suffering the after-effects from that as they lost 2-0 Saturday at Metz to see their French title hopes take a dent.

Serie A

Milan giants catch Juve

Football

AFP, Milan

San Siro co-tenants AC Milan and Inter Milan moved level at the top of the Italian First Division with early-season pacesetters Juventus on Sunday as the historically powerful northern giants took a firm grip on *Serie A*.

Goals from Filippo Inzaghi and Danish defender Martin Laursen gave AC Milan a 2-0 win over ailing Lazio at the San Siro as the "Rossoneri" took full advantage of the 0-0 draw between Lecce and Juve on Saturday night to draw level.

Earlier, Inter had done exactly the same in Turin when a second-half penalty from striker Mohamed Kallon gave them a 1-0 victory against Torino.

But the stark message to the rest of *Serie A* is that Juve, AC Milan and Inter Milan - who have won 54 of the 96 Scudetti contested between them - are fulfilling pre-season predictions of a return to the old order after a two-year period of Roman dominance.

AC fully deserved their win over 1999-2000 champions Lazio who are still winless this term. Headers either side of half-time by Inzaghi and Laursen - not to mention indifferent displays by his key players Gaizka Mendieta of Spain and Argentina's Hernan Crespo - will give new Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni plenty of food for thought.

Zaccheroni, who replaced the sacked Dino Zoff on Thursday, said: "I think the players were nervous and that the change of coach during the week has unsettled them."

Inter were less impressive and had a stroke of luck when Torino defender Fabio Galante needlessly fouled Nicola Ventola after 73 minutes.

Up stepped Sierra Leone's Kallon to convert the penalty, his fourth of the season putting him joint top of the *Serie A* goalscoring charts with Fiorentina's Enrico Chiesa, AC Milan's Ukrainian forward Andriy Shevchenko and Albanian Igli Tare, who plays for Brescia.

"It was not the best performance," admitted Argentinian Cuper. "But the important thing was

the three points."

Champions AS Roma got back to winning ways but left it late to post a 2-1 home victory over Fiorentina.

The visitors from Florence took the lead at Rome with Italian international defender Daniele Adani scoring with a textbook header from a corner past Francesco Antonioli.

Just four minutes later Roma skipper Francesco Totti levelled from the spot after a foul on Vincenzo Montella.

But the late winner from defender Christian Panucci, recently signed from French outfit Monaco, gave Fabio Capello's side their long overdue first success

since winning the Scudetto.

"Getting out of the crisis means all of us pulling together," said Capello. "We played well in Brussels without reward (the 0-0 draw with Anderlecht in the Champions League) and we deserved this result."

Chievo continued their fairytale start to life in the First Division with a 4-2 home victory over fellow promotees Piacenza at Verona.

Piacenza's veteran striker Dario Hubner gave the visitors an eighth-minute lead but Eugenio Corini squared the match from the penalty spot for the Verona-based hosts, enjoying their first ever season in

the top flight.

With half-time approaching Christian Manfredini, who hails from the Ivory Coast, put Chievo ahead with a brilliant effort.

After the resumption Corini set up a third for Simone Perrotta, who was born in England, and then scored the fourth himself before Hubner sneaked a late consolation.

Greek striker Zisis Vryzas gave Perugia an early lead at home to Udinese but it was cancelled out by an equaliser from Dane Martin Jorgensen on the stroke of half time.

Chilean David Pizarro celebrated recently becoming father of a baby girl by scoring a brilliant freekick after the break for Udinese to give English coach Roy Hodgson a 2-1 win, his first *Serie A* triumph in charge of the northerners.

Udinese's Giampiero Pinzi, a substitute, was sent off in the closing minutes but Hodgson's men held firm.

Atalanta, pointless at the start of play, took the lead at home to Verona at Bergamo when Cristiano Doni notched a fine freekick in the first half and that proved enough for a 1-0 victory.

But Venezia were denied their first point of the season when Bologna's Lamberto Zauli, signed on loan from Second Division Vicenza during the week, struck a winner deep into injury time for a 1-0 victory.

Out-of-touch Parma got their first win of the season when Japanese midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata sneaked a 1-0 win over Brescia in a match where Parma's French goalkeeper Sebastian Frey had earlier made several superb saves.

Brescia's Daniele Bonera was red-carded immediately after the goal but it was a brilliant strike with Nakata volleying home after a fine run and cross from Marco Di Vaio.

Brescia coach Carlo Mazzone, who witnessed the end of a club record 20 matches without a *Serie A* defeat, admitted: "We did everything we could, we played well - it was just one of those things."

The only incident of note in Saturday's 0-0 draw between Juventus and Lecce was the injury-time brawl that led to the sending off of Alberto Savino of Lecce and Juve's Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero.



PHOTO: AFP

Milan's Manuel Rui Costa (L) tries hard to keep possession against Gaizka Mendieta of Lazio during their Serie A fixture at Milan on September 23.

Serie A's top six	
Italian First Division table here after Sunday matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):	
Juventus	4 3 1 0 9 2 10
AC Milan	4 3 1 0 11 5 10
Inter Milan	4 3 1 0 9 4 10
Chievo	4 3 0 1 10 5 9
Bologna	4 3 0 1 3 2 9
Lecce	4 1 3 0 4 3 6

Football

AFP, Madrid

Celta Vigo kept their unbeaten record with a 2-0 victory over Real Mallorca on Sunday, to go back to the top of the Spanish First Division.

The Galicians dominated the game but struggled to break down a Mallorca side that only seemed interested in salvaging a point.

Russian international Alexander Mostovoi was the main danger and was instrumental in breaking the deadlock after 40 minutes, when Celta's Brazilian midfielder Edu connected with his cross into the area for the hosts' first goal.

Catanha clinched the game for Celta six minutes from then end when a long-range Mostovoi shot hit the bar and the Brazilian-born Spanish international striker was on hand to tap the rebound into the net.

Despite the fact that Mallorca made life difficult for the Celta strikers, they never looked like scoring themselves and Celta remain the only team yet to concede a goal in the Spanish First Division.

Next week, Celta's unbeaten and unbreached records could come under threat as they have a tough local derby at Deportivo La Coruna, who are equal second after their 3-2 away win at Alaves on Saturday.

Newly-promoted Real Betis moved up to join Deportivo in second place after their 2-0 win at Valladolid on Sunday.

Betis defender Fernando Varela broke the deadlock after 51 minutes with his first league goal for more than two years, and his debut strike in the top flight of Spanish football.

With his rate of scoring, Varela is unlikely to score one better, a thunderbolt from 35 metres.

Twenty minutes later Brazilian international Denilson got a rare goal for the club that signed him four years ago for, what was then, a world record transfer fee, by tapping home a Capi free kick.

Sevilla clawed their way back

from being 1-0 down for more than an hour to win 2-1, with their winner coming two minutes from time when

Fredi Lobeira rifled home a free kick from outside the area. Osasuna got their first victory,

Primera Liga's top six	
Spanish First Division table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):	
Celta Vigo	4 3 1 0 8 0 10
Deportivo	4 3 0 1 9 4 9
Betis	4 3 0 1 9 4 9
Villarreal	4 3 0 1 6 3 9
Barcelona	4 2 2 0 5 2 8
Valencia	4 2 2 0 5 3 8

and first goal, of the season with a 1-0 win away at Real Zaragoza but bizarrely have yet to score themselves this season.

The only goal of the game came after 39 minutes when the luckless Zaragoza defender Xabier Aguado put a bad back pass from his own team mate Paco Jemez into his own net.

Real Madrid got their first league win of the season on Saturday with an emphatic 5-1 win over a lacklustre Espanyol.