the champions the lead before half-

looked increasingly vulnerable and

on the hour, a brilliant solo effort by

Ryan Giggs extended United's lead,

and with the game as good as won,

manager Alex Ferguson substituted

Cole made amends for earlier

misses by scoring. Kevin Phillips'

83rd-minute goal was scant conso-

Southampton with goals from

French forwards Robert Pires and

Thierry Henry, meant the hosts have

lost all three league matches at their

Southampton's task was ren-

dered impossible when Chris

Marsden was sent off for a second

Arsenal's victory at

Seven minutes later, Andrew

the Welsh winger.

lation for the home side.

new St Mary's Stadium.

In the second-half, Sunderland

Gunners, MU in hot pursuit



AFP, London

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier had heart surgery on Saturday after suffering severe chest pains halfway through his side's fiercely contested 1-1 home draw against

The result kept Leeds at the top of the English Premiership, just a point ahead of Arsenal and Manchester United in the Premiership, after both their rivals produced emphatic away wins. United won 3-1 at Sunderland and Arsenal sunk Southampton 2-0.

But the players' thoughts at Anfield were with 54-year-old Frenchman Houllier who had been taken by ambulance to hospital after suffering chest pains at half-time.

A statement from Liverpool released late Saturday said tests had shown Houllier had not suffered a heart attack, but had revealed a problem that required cardiac surgery.

"He will be definitely be out of action for several weeks," read the statement.

Houllier's opposite number at Leeds, David O'Leary, related how they had been chatting before the match, and the Liverpool boss had joked: "This job can damage your Houllier's assistant, Phil

Thompson, will take charge of the team when they travel to Ukraine for Tuesday's Champions' League game against Dynamo Kiev. Leeds' Australian winger Kewell

had opened the scoring after 27 minutes, when the Liverpool defence failed to clear a corner. But if Leeds dominated the subdued home side in the first half,

Liverpool seemed revitalised in the second period.

Liverpool's reward for their efforts was Danny Murphy's 69thminute equaliser

But the goal was the result of a piece of brilliance from out-of-favour striker Robbie Fowler, who was watched by England manager Sven Goran Eriksson

Picking up the ball 20 metres out from the Leeds goal, Fowler chipped a shot with his left foot. rattling the crossbar. With Leeds keeper Nigel Martyn sprawled helpless on the floor. Murphy followed up to nod the ball simply into the net.

United won easily at Sunderland despite resting nine international players, including David Beckham

Football

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier

was recovering form open heart

surgery on a ventilator on Sunday

after being taken to hospital the

previous day at half-time of the

Liverpool versus Leeds Premiership

The 54-year-old former French

Houllier was found to be suffer-

A spokeswoman for the hospital,

ing from a condition known as

national coach was in a stable

condition after surgeons operated

on him at Liverpool's Broadgreen

cardiothoracic unit.

dissection of the aorta.

AFP, London

and Premiership player of the month Juan Sebastian Veron, and Roy Keane was suspended

"They were superb," Sunderland boss Peter Reid said after the

They were in a different class to us.

"We'll just have to put that behind us and get on with the next game,



UP YOU GO! Chelsea's Eidur Godjohnsen (L) gets climbs on the back of teammate Emanuel Petit after scoring against Leicester City on October 13.

Premiership's top six

Leeds Arsenal Man United Newcastle Chelsea Liverpool	8 8 8 7 7	5 5 4 3 4	2 2 2 4 1	0 1 1 2 0 2	12 18 25 15 12 11	3 5 14 11 7 8	18 17 17 14 13	
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Houllier's condition stable

several hours and had been carried

out by two of the hospital's leading

he did not have a heart attack, but

that other problems diagnosed and

completed successfully and Gerard

of surgery, he will be monitored in

the intensive care unit for a period of

dure Gerard will be on a ventilator

for the next 24 ours and wll continue

to receive the best possible attention from the staff at the Broadgreen

It said: "The operation has been

"As is normal following this type

"As part of the standard proce-

surgery was needed.

is in a stable condition.

cardiothoracic unit.

The Anfield club confirmed that

surgeons and cardiac consultants.

Bundesliga

Bayern blaze Munich

AFP, Berlin

Reigning German champions Bayern Munich kept the heat firmly on leaders Kaiserslautern on Saturday with a 5-1 thrashing of city rivals 1860 Munich - but Lautern stay two points clear after a 3-1 win at home to Hansa Rostock.

Lautern made it eight wins in nine games as goals from Dimitrios Grammizos, Vratislav Lokvenc and Egyptian star Hamy Ramzy saw off struggling Rostock to maintain their title charge with 24 points to Bayern's 22.

Bayer Leverkusen are just a point further back after a 3-2 win at Energie Cottbus, where veteran striker Ulf Kirsten was twice on target - once from the spot - to take his season's total to six. Michael Ballack hit the other Leverkusen

Bayer are the only unbeaten team in the Bundesliga.

Kaiserslautern coach, former Germany international Andreas Brehme, was critical of his side's early showing and warned a repeat at Bayern next week would be disastrous.

"In the first half we were caught sleeping - at half time I had to have words. Then we started to play better and now we can travel to Munich without worrying. We have nothing to lose there.

"If we play at Bayern as we did against Rostock in the second half then we can win there," Brehme asserted.

But Bayern's five-star showing was unquestionably the highlight of the day as they brushed 1860 aside in the 194th Munich derby.

Ottmar Hitzfeld's European champions bagged their 99th win in that long-running series and their biggest win over their neighbours since a 6-1 success 21 years ago.

The bulk of the 69,000 crowd were able to witness a one-sided encounter as the Bayern juggernaut ran over 1860 after they had recovered first from going behind to a freak effort from former Bayern fringe player Daniel Bierofka.

Bierofka wrecked Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn's day with his ninthminute strike as the German international had not conceded a goal for 479 minutes After that wake-up call Bayern hit

back with a vengeance as Paraguayan star Roque Santa Cruz blasted home on 28 minutes after good work by Brazilian Giovane Elber - who earlier revealed he will see out his contract until 2004

Thorsten Fink put Bayern in front on the stroke of half time after a good run by England midfielder Owen Hargreaves.

Hargreaves set up the third for Hasan Salihamidzic on the hour and Elber then hit his seventh goal of the campaign to make it 4-1 ten minutes from time.

Peruvian star Claudio Pizarro wrapped things up with a spot-kick four minutes from time.

Bayern thus showed their strength in depth as they remain shorn of the likes of injury victims Stefan Effenberg, Mehmet Scholl and Carsten Jancker.

Elsewhere, Dortmund moved into fourth spot with a 2-1 win at promoted Borussia Moenchengladbach with Lars Ricken and Brazilian Ewerthon on

Elber to stay till 2004

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich striker Giovane Elber has put an end to rumours he may leave the club before his contract ends in 2004. German sports agency SID reported on Saturday.

Several months ago. Elber, a star player for the European Champions League title holders, said he wanted to leave Bavarian club for family reasons.

"I spoke with my wife and my family during the holidays," Brazilian Elber told SID. "We think it would be good to stay till 2004."

Primera Liga

Another Real letdown



Deportivo La Coruna took top spot in the Spanish First Division with a 2-1 win at Real Zaragoza on Saturday as Real Madrid's stuttering start to their season went on.

Real were only able to play out a goalless draw at last season's UEFA Cup finalists Alaves, leaving the reigning Spanish champions with by their standards - a pitiful nine points from eight matches and an unaccustomed spot in the lower half of the table.

Real were without Zinedine Zidane and influential Brazilian Roberto Carlos and their midfield unit failed to create enough chances, with Luis Figo shackled by the hardworking Basques.

Only Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas emerged with any credit, as he foiled a goalscoring chance for Alaves' Argentinian player Fabricio Colloccini

Diego Tristan was the toast of 2000 champions Deportivo with goals in the 13th minute and another just after half-time to give his side victory and 17 points from eight matches.

Yordi had put Zaragoza back in the game with a 69th-minute effort at the La Romareda stadium but it proved insufficient.

In the other match on Saturday, Sevilla shared the points in a 2-2 draw with Real Mallorca.

Real Betis, the season's newly promoted surprise package, play away at Celta Vigo on Sunday in a bid to regain their top spot.



Coliccini of Alaves taking a fall under pressure from Real Madrid superstar Raul Gonzalez (R) on October 13 at Vitoria.

Primera Liga's top six

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

Deportivo Real Betis Barcelona Celta Vigo Villarreal Valencia	8 7 7 7 7	5 5 4 3 4 3	2 1 2 4 1 4	1 1 1 0 2 0	16 11 11 13 8 7	9 4 4 5 5	
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Serie A **Finally Lazio**

Football

Lazio finally pulled off their first win of the season Saturday, beating Italian First Division rivals Atalanta 2-0 at Rome's Olympic Stadium.

In Saturday's evening match AS Roma were held 0-0 at Perugia with the champions having to hang on after being reduced to 10 men by the sending off of Brazilian midfielder Emerson.

But at least one half of the Eternal City will be celebrating after goals from Argentinian forward Claudio Lopez and Portuguese defender Fernando Couto helped Alberto Zaccheroni's Lazio get off the mark at the ninth time of asking in all competitions. Lazio looked to go on the offensive right from the start but a well-organised Atalanta defence frequently foiled them.

On the break the side from Bergamo looked more menacing with their striker Luca Saudati looking particularly dangerous.

Saudati, a former AC Milan player, forced a fine save from Angelo Peruzzi and also struck a post but Lazio held out. But as the interval loomed the

hosts took the lead and it was Lopez who was the scorer. Lopez's finish was emphatic but

Atalanta goalkeeper Massimo Taibi was possibly wrongfooted by a deflection off Massimo Paganin. After the break Lopez could have

doubled his tally but failed to connect properly when he had only Taibi to beat but at the other end Lazio keeper Peruzzi continued to distinguish himself with a string of saves.

And minutes later Lazio killed the match with a second goal with Lopez helping feed Couto, who beat On Saturday night champions

AS Roma meet Perugia while Inter Milan will hope to maintain their place at the top when they visit Udinese on Sunday.

Atalanta almost re-opened the match when substitute Fausto

Rossini struck the bar but Lazio were not to be denied. Perugia dominated the first half



PHOTO: AFF

AS Roma's Italy international Vincenzo Montella (C) being sandwiched by Marco Di Loreto (L) and Davide Baiocco of Perugia on October 13.

Roma with Greek striker Zisis Vryzas causing all sorts of problems for the Roman defence.

Roma, in contrast, were short of attacking ideas with Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta absent and his replacement Vincenzo Montella left alone up front.

Francesco Totti, who has been outstanding in recent games for club and country, was not his usual self and did not look to have recovered from the injury that nearly kept him out of this match

But despite Perugia's dominance it was Roma who carved out

the best chance of the first period. Totti and Frenchman Vincent Candela were both involved before the ball was squared to Montella who had lost his marker but failed to

get his shot on target. The second-half saw Roma improve but Perugia had strong appeals for a penalty turned down when Vryzas was fouled by Roma's French defender Jonathan Zebina.

Emerson was sent off for a wild tackle as the game drifted into injury-time.

Serie A's top six

Italian league table after matches on Saturday (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

	,						
Inter Milan	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
Chievo	5	4	0	1	12	6	12
Juventus	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
AC Milan	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
AS Roma	6	2	4	1	6	5	9
Bologna	5	3	0	2	3	3	9
_							

China break Qatar's heart



FC Barcelona manager Carles Rexach said that everybody demands too much of Rivaldo. Tha is the reason why the Brazilian can't

very high, that's why he is doubtful to enjoy the game. We all love him. He is the kind of player that can alone determine the result of a game. Sometimes it seems that our admiration is based only on his playing qualities. The supporters expect much of him, thus Rivaldo becomes the hostage of his professionalism.

In the last Champions League game against Olympique Lyonnais, which ended with Barcelona's 2-0 win, the Catalan hinchada hissed the Brazilian international. Rivaldo made no official comments, but it was obvious he was dissatisfied



AFP, Hongkong

A dominant Chinese team Saturday showed no mercy to rivals Qatar dispatching them 3-0 and eliminating the Gulf team's chances of qualifying for the 2002 World Cup.

And Uzbekistan's chances of claiming a valuable group runnersup spot in the Asian qualifying round for the 2002 World Cup took a huge blow as they threw away a two-goal lead to lose 4-2 to Oman in Muscat.

The result virtually guarantees the United Arab Emirates will finish second to China in Group B. Tini Ruijs' side now need only a point in their final match next week against the Omanis to move into the play-off against the second-placed side in

Asia's Group A, either Iran or Saudi Arabia. The winner of that playoff will

face the Republic of Ireland for a

place at next year's finals in South Korea and Japan. In Shenyang, another capacity crowd at Wulihe Stadium continued China's week-long celebrations after they qualified for the first time

for the World Cup finals by defeating Oman last week. Yugoslav coach Bora Milutinovic, who now has guided five teams to the World Cup finals. rested defenders Fan Zhiyi and Li Weifeng and played young

reserves China scored in the 11th minute when Qatari goalie Hussain Al Romaihi misplayed a well-placed Wu Chengying corner kick found the

head of a diving Su Maozhen. from the left side From then on China was in control of the game as they pushed

the ball forward and were rewarded time after time with a Sun Jihai header missing to the left of the goal mouth, while a Wu Chengying cross was flicked away by Al Romaihi from the foot of a charging Qu Bo at the last second.

It didn't take long for China to notch another goal with midfielder Ma Mingyu taking the ball down inside the left side of the box.

The experienced midfielder waited patiently and centered the ball to the youngster Qu, who scored his first goal for the national side in the 29th minute.

In the second period with Wu Chengying's long ball going just to the left of goal and Hao Haidong terrorizing the Qatari defense and knocking the ball off the far post after dribbling into the six yard box from

The veteran Hao scored himself in the 57th minute after taking a

great midfield pass from Qi Hong, beating the offside trap knocking the ball over the outstretched Qatari goalkeeper. Oman, who had scored just once

in their previous six games, rediscovered their goal-scoring touch as a brace from Yacoub Juma and a goal each from Fouzi Bashir and Badr Al Mahrooqi sent the Uzbeks to their fourth defeat of the campaign. Vladimir Salkov's Uzbek team

had taken the lead through Fezi Daletov after just five minutes and an own goal by Nabil Ashoor just before the half-hour mark looked to have sealed victory for the Uzbeks. But seven minutes after half-

time, the teams were level and the Uzbeks then let it slip away.

An electrical fire at Bangkok's Rajmangala National Stadium caused the match between Thailand and Bahrain to be stopped as Bahrain led 1-0. It will be replayed.



English Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won,

drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points).								
Leeds	8	5	3	0	12	3	18	
Arsenal	8	5	2	1	18	5	17	
Man United	8	5	2	1	25	14	17	
Newcastle	8	4	2	2	15	11	14	
Chelsea	7	3	4	0	12	7	13	
1	7	4	4	0	44	0	40	

GERARD HOULLIER

Ten minutes later, Alan Shearer scored with a header from a Robert cross, and Craig Bellamy made it 4-0 with six minutes remaining. Bolton have now gone six league games without winning Ipswich's game with Everton and

keeper, Bo Hansen took on the

green jersey, his first act being to

pick the ball out of the net following

Lauren Robert's freekick.

Charlton's match against Middlesbrough both ended 0-0.

which is the largest specialist heart and chest unit in the country, said on Sunday that surgery had lasted several hours and had been supported by the se people who had expressed their

concern and sent good wishes. Houllier, who will remain unconscious throughout Sunday, was initially taken to the accident and emergency department of Royal Liverpool Hospital as a precautionary measure and later transferred to

the specialist cardiothoracic centre. A hospital spokesman said on Sunday that Houllier was recovering in intensive care, where he was

likely to remain for several days. After the Liverpool match assistant manager Phil Thompson said: "At half-time, when doing our team talk, Gerard, after passing on information to the players felt some

discomfort in his chest. "He immediately went to the treatment room. Our doctor took a look at him and checked him over The players were informed after the

game. Thompson, who will take charge of the team for Tuesday's Champions League match at Dynamo Kiev, later arrived at the hospital where he stayed for several hours. He was today due to fly out with the team from Liverpool's

Speke Airport. Leeds United manager David O'Leary arrived at the hospital on Sunday to pass on his regards to his close friend and stayed a short time

speaking to hospital staff. O'Leary was not allowed to visit Houllier in person but was briefed or the surgery carried out and asked staff to pass on his best wishes to the Liverpool manager's family.

Rexach feels for Rivaldo

INTERNET, Barcelona

enjoy the game.
"The demands to Rivaldo are

with the treatment.