

English Premiership

# Bolton baffle United

## Fowler fires Liverpool

Football

AFP, London

Bolton Wanderers handed manager Sam Allardyce a belated birthday present Saturday when they became the first team to come from behind and win at Old Trafford in the nine-year history of the Premiership.

Bolton stunned the champions 2-1 with goals from Kevin Nolan and Michael Ricketts either side of the break after Juan Sebastian Veron opened with a 25th-minute strike.

United boss Alex Ferguson had made eight changes from the team which lost to Deportivo La Coruna in the Champions League on Wednesday, but gave goalkeeper Fabien Barthez a chance to atone for the two mistakes which effectively handed the Spaniards victory.

But it was newly-promoted Bolton who had the last laugh when Ricketts created Nolan's equaliser on 35 minutes before snatching the winner with six minutes left.

"It's an absolutely unbelievable result for us," said 47-year-old Allardyce who then put the difference between the teams into perspective.

"To come down the road to our neighbours, with everything they've won and us just in the Premiership, and get a win is incredible.

"Everyone is delighted and for me it is a late birthday present. I don't think we played enough quality balls forward in the first half but in the second half we had some excellent chances.

"We limited them to just a few chances today and that's fantastic."

United's loss kept them third as Arsenal went top with a point from a 3-3 draw with Blackburn.

Arsenal are level on 18 points

with Leeds, who play Chelsea on Sunday, but go top on goal difference.

The Londoners enjoyed most of the early play but went behind four minutes before the break due to a strike from Northern Ireland winger Keith Gillespie.

But the Gunners levelled within three minutes of the interval, Pires burying a superb shot from 18 yards out to the relief of manager Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal went ahead in the 53rd minute, Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp meeting a cross from Pires to volley past Brad Friedel from six yards before Blackburn made it 2-2 on 57 minutes with a low 30-yard drive from David Dunn.

Thierry Henry, Arsenal's goal hero in midweek in the Champions League win over Panathinaikos, looked to have scored the winner, beating Friedel with a low shot 12 minutes from time.

But Dunn popped up again to thwart Arsenal's premature hopes of victory.

"I think if you come to Highbury and get a result you've either been very lucky or you've played well and deserved it - we deserved it today," said satisfied Blackburn boss Graeme Souness.

"We worked very hard for 90 minutes and deserved to get a point."

Wenger praised his side's fighting spirit but admitted that defensively they were poor.

"Overall, the performance was encouraging both mentally and technically," Wenger said. "But I concede that our defending was not the best and in that area we must be better."

Liverpool, in their first Premiership game since manager Gerard Houllier had emergency heart surgery, thrashed bottom club Leicester 4-1 at Filbert Street with a

Robbie Fowler hat-trick.

England international Fowler, preferred to Jari Litmanen, scored after five minutes, side-footing a pass from John Arne Riise past goalkeeper Ian Walker. Liverpool's Finnish defender Sami Hyypia headed home a free-kick from Gary McAllister for the second five minutes later and Fowler added a third just before half-time.

Former Chelsea midfielder Dennis Wise pulled a goal back with a header on the hour but Fowler collected his hat-trick on the stroke of full time.

Fowler insisted his sharpness was returning, but said his three-goal tally was not unexpected.

"Nicki Barmby had a dream that I would score a hat-trick - it's a bit worrying that he's dreaming about me though so we'll have to give him some stick about that," Fowler joked after the match.

Despite being three goals up at the break, Liverpool's stand-in manager Phil Thompson did not let his players rest.

"We keep telling them not to rest on their laurels and that the concentration has to be there all the time," said Thompson.

"But I told them that Gerard (Houllier) had his best day so far on Wednesday, the day after the victory against Kiev, so I said 'let's do it for him' and the boys



PHOTO: AFP  
HAIL ME! : Liverpool star Robbie Fowler faces the crowd after scoring his second goal during the course of his hat-trick against Leicester City at Filbert Street, Leicester on October 20.

responded."

Meanwhile, West Ham beat fellow strugglers Southampton 2-0 to record only their second win of the season in a game which could be crucial for the future of both managers.

Frederic Kanoute headed West Ham's first goal from a Nigel Winterburn cross just after half-time, with Kanoute also heading the

second on 81.

Not even an amazing volleyed goal from Aston Villa 'keeper Peter Schmeichel could stop Villa crashing 3-2 at Goodison Park against Everton for their first defeat of the season.

Everton opened the scoring through defender Steve Watson. A Thomas Gravesen free-kick was helped on by Gary Naysmith to Watson, who headed past Schmeichel on 31 minutes.

Everton doubled their lead through Polish striker Tomasz Radzinski on 58, with Gravesen making it 3-0 four minutes later.

Moroccan international Mustapha Hadji headed a consolation for Villa with 20 minutes to play, before Schmeichel raced into the area to smash home his side's second.

"It was always going to be difficult the first time we went behind this season and though we played some good stuff in the first 20 minutes we defended sloppily at times," admitted Villa manager John Gregory.

"We just have to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

At Pride Park, Derby were held 1-1 by Alan Curbishley's Charlton.

Derby opened the scoring through striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, the former Italian international heading in a Craig Burley corner from six yards after 15 minutes.

But Derby boss Colin Todd's hopes of taking all three points were thwarted by a 25-yard screamer from Jason Euell, the Charlton player volleying into the top right hand corner with a magnificent strike.

### Premiership's top six

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

Arsenal	9	5	3	1	21	8	18
Leeds	8	5	3	0	12	3	18
Man United	9	5	2	2	26	16	17
Liverpool	8	5	1	2	15	9	16
Aston Villa	8	4	3	1	13	6	15
Bolton	10	4	3	3	12	11	15

## Primera Liga

# Tristan does it again

Football

AFP, Madrid

Diego Tristan was Deportivo La Coruna's hero again as he scored the only goal in their 1-0 win over Sevilla to keep Deportivo top of the Spanish league.

Tristan's two goals were instrumental in Deportivo's 3-2 win over Manchester United in the Champions' League midweek.

And the Spanish international striker's fifth league goal this season was acquired in familiar fashion, ducking unmarked through the opposition defence and latching onto a Jose Emilio Amavisca cross from the left wing.

Deportivo now sit on 20 points from nine games and will stay in pole position regardless of what happens when Celta Vigo play at Real Madrid on Sunday.

Diego Tristan struck home on 25 minutes but Sevilla were left to regret a bizarre moment six minutes before the break, which could have earned them a share of the points.

Uruguay international striker Nico Olivera was in front of Deportivo goal with just Portuguese stand-in goalkeeper Nuno Helandes to beat, but tripped up on the ball.

Deportivo coach Javier Irueta acknowledged that his team had rode their luck.

"I have to give Sevilla a lot of credit, they played well and finished



PHOTO: AFP  
Barcelona's Argentinian hot-shot Javier Pedro Saviola (C) skips past the tackle of Malaga's Portuguese defender Carlos Manuel de Oliveira (R) at the La Rosaleda stadium in Malaga on October 20.

much better than us. In the final minutes we were panicking in midfield," said Irueta.

"But I think the fact that we looked tired at the end was down to the hard match we had in midweek and Sevilla did not," he added.

Real Betis move up to second, at least overnight, after a 1-1 draw with visitors Villarreal.

Villarreal were not overawed by Betis having previously rattled off four straight wins at home and attacked from the outset.

Argentine striker Martin Palermo had a goal controversially disallowed for a foul on a Betis defender in the opening minute.

However, Palermo was given the benefit of the doubt after 19 minutes, despite claims of offside, when he netted his fourth of the season from an inch-perfect pass by Antonio Guayre.

Betis equalised when Joaquin Sanchez scored after Denilson - continuing his best season in Spanish football since his then world record transfer four years ago - had charged down the left wing.

Barcelona, meanwhile, could only manage a 1-1 draw in Malaga.

In an often fractious game, Malaga went ahead after 75 minutes when Uruguay international Dario Silva hammered home a Dely Valdes cross.

However, the home side's lead lasted only two minutes before Barcelona's former World Player of the Year Rivaldo started to earn his annual salary of six million dollars.

Straight from kick-off the Brazilian on receiving a header from

Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert, waltzed around two Malaga players before chipping over advancing goalkeeper Pedro Contreras to equalise. This was his first goal in the Spanish First Division this season after scoring 23 during the last campaign.

The brilliant Brazilian also achieved a personal landmark of scoring his 100th goal in the Spanish league. The 29-year-old, arrived in Spain when he signed with Deportivo de La Coruna from Palmeiras in 1996.

At the foot of the table, Real Sociedad coach John Toshack should hang onto his job for at least another week after his side beat Osasuna 2-1 for their first win of the season.

Speculation was rife in the Spanish media on Saturday that if Real Sociedad lost, or even drew, then Toshack would be given his marching orders.

For much of the match it looked like the Welshman was about to become the Primera Liga's third

coaching casualty this season after Real Sociedad had gone a goal down in barely a minute following a thundering long-range effort from outside the box by Alfredo Sanchez.

However, a goal five minutes from time by Oscar de Paula clinched three points for Real Sociedad and saved Toshack from the scrap heap.

"We were like headless chickens for a long time after Osasuna's goal but now we are like chickens with big heads after this win. We are on our way now," said Toshack after the match.

De Paula's goal came after Lithuania international Edgaras Jankauskas had headed home Real Sociedad's equaliser just before the hour.

The win lifts Real Sociedad off the foot of the table, although it may be only a temporary respite from the misery of propping up the Spanish First Division, depending on the result when Rayo Vallecano play at Real Mallorca on Sunday.

### Primera Liga's top six

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

Deportivo	9	6	2	1	17	9	20
Real Betis	9	5	2	2	13	8	17
Celta Vigo	8	4	4	0	16	6	16
Barcelona	9	4	4	1	14	7	16

# Houllier out of intensive care

Football

AFP, Liverpool

Stricken Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier was taken out of intensive care on Saturday, seven days after undergoing major heart surgery.

Houllier's side were told of the news shortly before this afternoon's Premiership clash with Leicester at Filbert Street and they went on to trounce the home side 4-1.

Striker Robbie Fowler bagged a hat-trick as stand-in manager Phil Thompson used Frenchman Houllier as a motivational factor in his pre-match team talk.

"It's absolutely fantastic news.

Gerard has been moved to a different room in the hospital," Thompson told the club's website.

"He has had a lot of wires taken out so the signs are very good. Gerard would have known it was a Saturday afternoon and that his team were playing and it was our responsibility to go and get the result he would want.

"The lads will be reminded of that before every game we play until he returns."

Liverpool captain Sammi Hyypia scored the other as Leicester's Dennis Wise grabbed a consolation. But it was a miserable day for Foxes striker Ade Akinbiyi, who missed a series of gilt-edged chances to keep Dave Bassett's new charges rooted to the bottom of the Premiership.

## French First Division

# Lens back on top

Football

AFP, Paris

Lens regained the helm of the unpredictable French league with a 2-0 home win against top flight returnees Montpellier Saturday.

In an earlier match, Lyon failed to take provisional top spot when they

were humbled by a 1-1 home draw against league newcomers Sochaux.

Defending champions Nantes, meanwhile, remain rooted to bottom spot after they could only manage a 2-2 draw against plucky visitors Auxerre.

The pick of the three matches on Sunday will be Paris St Germain, who will attempt to haul themselves out of 10th spot when they travel to plucky Sedan.

## Bundesliga

# Blazing Bayern

Football

AFP, Berlin

European champions Bayern Munich regained control of the Bundesliga with a convincing 4-1 win over Kaiserslautern here Saturday to signal their intention of defending their title.

The 63,000 fans who turned up to watch the reigning league champions waited only 16 minutes before Paraguay international forward Roque Santa Cruz fired home.

Only six minutes later, Bosnian international Hasan Salihamidzic came through to score Bayern's second, and he was on target again on 29 minutes when the hosts were awarded a penalty.

After the break, Kaiserslautern rallied but were given few opportunities by a Munich side determined to notch up their seventh successive league win of the season. It was not until the 82nd minute that the visitors were given scant hope when defender Harry Koch stepped up to convert a late penalty - the first league goal conceded by Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn at home in the Olympic Stadium this season.

However, Bayern hammered the nail home in the last minute of regulation time, with another conversion from the spot kick, this time from Peruvian international forward Claudio Pizarro.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said: "Everything's going well for us at the moment and I'm really satisfied with the way the week has unfolded."

His opposite number, Andreas Brehme, said: "Mistakes by individ-

ual players were invitations to score and Bayern used them clinically."

While Kaiserslautern drop to third, Bayern's win takes them top with a one-point advantage over Bayer Leverkusen who waited until the second half to complete an identical 4-1 result over Stuttgart.

Leverkusen were stung by an early goal from the visitors' Romanian international forward Viorel Ganea in the ninth minute, but from there on in it was all one-way traffic.

The hosts opened their account through Brazilian Ze Roberto on 24 minutes but had to wait until after the break, and the 60th minute, for Croatian international defender Boris Zivkovic to put the hosts in front.

Brazilian international defender Lucio put the game beyond Stuttgart's reach only four minutes later, with Bulgarian international forward Dimitar Berbatov scoring Leverkusen's fourth only four minutes from time.

Borussia Dortmund, who sit fourth, play lowly Freiburg Sunday but are riding high after last week's 2-1 league victory over Moenchengladbach and their 2-1 midweek win over Champions League opponents Boavista.

Newcomers St Pauli, who had occupied bottom spot after managing just four draws and five losses, jumped up to third from bottom with a convincing 4-0 win over Energie Cottbus for their first win of the season.

Schalke moved up two places into fifth spot with a 1-0 home win over 1860 Munich.

### Bundesliga's top six

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

Bayern Munich	10	8	1	1	25	4	25
Leverkusen	10	7	3	0	25	11	24
Kaiserslautern	24	10	8	0	2	24	14
Dortmund	9	6	1	2	15	6	19
Schalke 04	10	5	2	3	12	12	17



PHOTO: AFP  
Edgar Davids (R), Juventus' Dutch playmaker, holding off Bologna's Emanuele Brioschi (L) at Bologna on October 20.

## Serie A

# Bologna hold Juve

Football

AFP, Rome

Juventus fought out a dour 0-0 draw at Bologna in the Italian Championship on Saturday.

Juventus went into the match looking to build on the good form they showed in beating Rosenborg 1-0 in the Champions League in

midweek, but they were frustrated by a well-drilled Bologna defence.

Star strikers Alessandro Del Piero and French international David Trezeguet looked isolated figures up front as the Turin giants had to settle for a point which keeps them in fourth spot, two points behind leaders Inter Milan who meet city rivals AC Milan in Sunday night's big game.



PHOTO: AFP  
Bayern Munich's Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro (R) blasting a left-footer to score past Kaiserslautern custodian Georg Koch at Munich's Olympic stadium on October 20.