

FA Cup  
Leeds out, MU back from the dead

Football  
REUTERS, London

The FA Cup sprung to life in dramatic style as Leeds United were humbled by Cardiff City and Manchester United produced a trademark late recovery to knock out Aston Villa.

Leeds, the Premier League leaders, suffered a humiliating 2-1 defeat at Second Division Cardiff, and Derby County lost 3-1 at home to Third Division Bristol Rovers, but Manchester United almost stole the limelight with a stunning display at Villa Park.

Trailing 2-0 and facing a third-round exit from the competition for the first time in 18 years, the champions scored three goals in five minutes to book their place in the fourth round.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer grabbed the first before substitute Ruud Van Nistelrooy, on the bench to rest a groin injury, netted twice in two minutes to seal a stirring comeback.

"It was a fantastic Cup tie in the second half," United manager Alex Ferguson told BBC television.

"I thought we were extremely unlucky to be down but, at that point, I had to make a substitution. I didn't want to do it but he (Van Nistelrooy) came on and changed the game."

Scott Young was the Cardiff hero, smashing the ball home from close range three minutes from time to seal a famous victory over Leeds for a club lying 10th in the Second Division.

"I was worried, because no-one got thrashed yesterday (Saturday) and I thought, with my luck, it'll probably be us," Cardiff manager Alan Cork, a member of Wimbledon's FA Cup-winning team in 1988, told Sky Sports television.

"But the way we played and determination we had showed you can beat these teams. The players will treasure it for the rest of their lives."

Leeds had looked to be on course for the fourth round when Mark Viduka put them ahead after 12 minutes, but Graham Kavanagh's stunning free-kick nine minutes later drew the hosts level.

The premier league side were reduced to 10 men just before halftime as young striker Alan Smith was sent off for elbowing an oppo-



PHOTO: AFP  
Ruud Van Nistelrooy (R), is ecstatic as he celebrates his first goal Against Aston Villa with teammate David Beckham at Villa Park on January 6.

nent, the sixth red card of his fledgling career.

Cardiff, FA Cup winners in 1927 and the only non-English side to win the trophy, held their own in the second half, but Leeds, beaten only twice in the league all season, looked to have escaped with a draw before Young's late intervention.

"We made it difficult for ourselves with 10 men," Leeds manager David O'Leary told Sky. "We were hit by two set plays but I thought we could get a draw at least. That's the Cup, though, and all credit to Cardiff."

Earlier, Bristol Rovers, 19th in the Third Division, also pulled off a major upset as striker Nathan Ellington bagged a hat-trick to sink Derby, the Premier League's third-bottom club.

Rovers took the lead at Derby's

Pride Park Stadium after 14 minutes when Ellington latched on to a long clearance by his goalkeeper Scott Howie to head the ball past Mart Poom.

The visitors continued to hold their own and doubled their lead five minutes before the interval, Ellington's deflected shot sneaking past Poom at the near post.

Derby threatened briefly to get back into the match, but fell further behind as Ellington controlled the ball on the edge of the penalty area before volleying it into the bottom corner of the net just after the hour.

Fabrizio Ravanelli grabbed a late consolation for Colin Todd's men, who must now concentrate on their battle for Premier League survival.

Jermain Defoe scored twice to help West Ham United to a 3-0 win

over Macclesfield Town, while Third Division Cheltenham Town beat Second Division Oldham Athletic 2-1.

The biggest upset in Saturday's matches was First Division West Bromwich Albion's 2-1 victory at Sunderland.

Eleven third-round ties were postponed over the weekend.

FA Cup 4th rd draw  
Liverpool, Gunners meet again

AFP, London

The draw for the fourth round of the FA Cup Sunday saw holders Liverpool pitted against Premiership rivals Arsenal in a repeat of last season's final.

Second Division giantkillers Cardiff reward for beating Premiership leaders Leeds is a trip to either Southend or Tranmere while Third Division Bristol Rovers, who beat Premiership strugglers Derby County in the third round, are away to First Division Gillingham.

<b>FA CUP 4TH RD DRAW:</b>	
Brighton or Preston v Sheffield United	
Rotherham or Southampton v Crewe or Sheffield Wednesday	
Charlton v Walsall or Bradford Southend or Tranmere v Cardiff	
Gillingham v Bristol Rovers	
Grimsby or York v Wycombe or Fulham	
Darlington or Peterborough v Newcastle	
Coventry or Tottenham v Stockport or Bolton	
Norwich or Chelsea v West Ham	
Millwall v Barnsley or Blackburn	
Cheltenham v Burnley	
Everton v Leyton Orient	
West Brom v Leicester	
Wimbledon or Middlesbrough v Manchester United	
Ipswich v Manchester City	
Arsenal v Liverpool	
* Ties to be played on the weekend of January 26/27	

Nesta out for a month

AFP, Rome

Lazio's Italian international defender Alessandro Nesta faces four to five weeks on the sidelines after sustaining cartilage damage to his right knee during his club's 0-0 draw with Inter Milan at the San Siro Sunday, the Italian First Division club announced Monday.

The player also injured his right ankle in the same match and tests on Monday confirmed he will not



ALESSANDRO NESTA

return to action until towards the end of February.

The injury will be a worry to Italy national team coach Giovanni Trapattoni less than five months ahead of the World Cup in South Korea and Japan as he already has defensive problems.

Key defender Paolo Maldini of AC Milan is also injured while Maldini's likely deputy Valerio Bertotto of Udinese is an almost certain absentee from the World Cup.

Inter Milan defender Marco Materazzi also failed to complete the 90 minutes against Lazio in what was a comeback match from injury.

Carew transfer falls through

REUTERS, Valencia

John Carew's proposed move from Valencia to Fulham has broken down after a row over his medical, the Spanish club have said on their website.

"Valencia CF have declined to renegotiate the transfer of Carew to Fulham, after the English club wanted to modify the deal agreed, arguing that the player had not satisfactorily passed a medical," Valencia said in a statement.

"Valencia refuse to accept any modification and Carew will resume training with the rest of the Valencia squad on Tuesday."

Primera Liga  
Barca back on track

Football  
REUTERS, Madrid

Valencia have moved into third place in the Spanish First Division with a 3-1 win at Real Betis, while Barcelona returned from the Christmas break with an impressive 2-0 home win over Real Zaragoza.

Goals from Salva Ballesta, Adrian Ilie and a Ruben Baraja penalty gave Valencia victory in an untidy game that saw both sides finish a man short.

The result moved Valencia from seventh place to third, as they leapfrogged above Betis and took advantage of surprise home defeats for Basque sides Athletic Bilbao and Alaves.

Real Madrid claimed top spot with 35 points at the season's halfway point -- giving them the honorary title of winter champions -- thanks to a 3-1 win over Deportivo Coruna at the Bernabeu on Saturday.

Depor slip to second on 33 points, ahead of Valencia on goal difference, while Celta Vigo lie fourth after they were held 2-2 at home to Rayo Vallecano on Saturday.

Bilbao, who lost 2-1 at home to Tenerife on Sunday, are fifth with 31 points, ahead of Betis on goal difference.

Alaves drop to eighth after their 2-0 defeat at home to Osasuna, although they have a game in hand.

Barcelona made a promising start to 2002, after traumatic times during the last four months of 2001, with a commanding win over Real Zaragoza, who have now not won in



PHOTO: INTERNET  
Valencia's Salvador Ballesta (2nd from L) celebrates his strike with team mates Francisco Perez Rufete (L) and Vicente Rodriguez (R) while Real Betis's Romanian Iulian Filipescu looks on at Seville's Manuel Ruiz de Lopera Stadium on January 6.

the Nou Camp since 1965.

Dutch international striker Patrick Kluivert got the Catalans' first goal in injury time before the break and nine minutes into the second half Kluivert provided the pass for Javier Saviola to get his eighth goal of the season.

Barcelona's home win moved them up one place into seventh, five points behind the leaders.

Valencia appeared set for a comfortable win over Betis as they raced into a 2-0 lead inside 16 minutes.

Salva nodded in the first from a right-wing cross on eight minutes and Adrian Ilie's mis-hit shot eight minutes later doubled the lead for Rafa Benitez's side.

The sending-off of Betis defender Luis Fernandez for a second yellow card on 42 minutes heaped further trouble on the home side, but they managed to reduce the arrears just before halftime as Capi fired in from close range.

An inexplicable handball from Salva on 58 minutes earned him a second booking and his marching orders and Betis were suddenly back in the game.

However, Baraja restored Valencia's two-goal lead when he won a penalty 11 minutes from time which he slotted in himself.

"My team came back from the holidays with their homework done," said Valencia coach Benitez.

"We worked hard and were pushed all the way by Betis. To score three goals against them is worth something."

Serie A  
Inter's winter miss

Football  
AFP, Milan

Defending Italian league champions AS Roma were crowned winter champions on Sunday when they beat struggling Torino 1-0 to top the table at the halfway point of the season.

That result proved good enough for Roma to win the purely honorary accolade as Inter Milan, who had led the division at the start of the weekend, were held 0-0 by Lazio at the San Siro on Sunday evening.

Roma's victory, earned when skipper Francesco Totti scored in the first half despite appeals for offside at the Olympic Stadium, ensures they now lead Inter by a single point at the top and are on course to successfully defend their title.

"We have found our humility again and this has enabled us to put us in a position where we can build on last year's success," said Roma coach Fabio Capello.

Inter were held by Lazio in a dour encounter although their Sierra Leonian striker Mohamed Kallon hit a post in the first half.

Their Argentinian coach Hector Cuper said he could not care less about the winter title.

"I am always disappointed when Inter don't win but not about the winter championship because I

don't think it counts for much," said Cuper. "I still have faith in the team."

Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni said simply: "It was a fair result. Not a great spectacle but a good game as far as commitment was concerned."

Also victorious were Chievo and Juventus who move third and fourth respectively.

Chievo, the surprise packages from Verona, came from a goal down to beat Atalanta 2-1 and the Turin giants defeated Udinese 3-0 to move back ahead of AC Milan, 1-0 victors at Lecce on Saturday.

Chievo's magical 2001 looked like disappearing into the new year mist when Atalanta midfielder Daniele Berretta struck early at Bergamo with a freak goal.

But the side that topped the division earlier in the season did not panic and, on the hour, Massimo Marazzina levelled the scores with his 10th goal of the season, a goal that will have impressed watching Italian national team coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

And then substitute Federico Cossato struck for the Verona-based visitors who recorded their 10th victory of the season and still have a game in hand over most of their rivals.

"I am very pleased because we played some excellent football," said Chievo coach Luigi del Neri before repeating what has become a familiar refrain in recent months. "It all helps us in our bid to ensure

that we stay in the top division but until we reach that objective that is our only concern."

Juventus were given an early fright when they conceded a sixth-minute penalty to Udinese but striker Roberto Muzzi, with 10 goals this season and reputedly a Juve transfer target, saw his spot kick saved by Gianluigi Buffon.

And Italian international winger Gianluca Zambrotta ensured Udinese paid the price when he gave the Turin side the lead. Further first-half strikes followed from Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved and Dutchman Edgar Davids.

"I have a sense that the team is really beginning to find its soul," said Juventus coach Marcello Lippi.

Muzzi denied his penalty miss had anything to do with the transfer speculation, saying: "I am sorry for my team-mates. We badly needed to win after our defeat by Lecce before Christmas."

Crisis club Parma had striker Marco Di Vaio to thank for a 4-3 win at bottom club Venezia who took an early lead after a header from defender Stefano Bettarini.

Two quick goals from Di Vaio then made it 2-1 to the visitors before Emiliano Bonazzoli got in on the act by heading a third for Parma after 38 minutes.

On the stroke of half-time, Filippo Maniero converted from the penalty spot to bring Venezia back to 3-2 and, after Parma's Italian international defender Fabio Cannavaro was dismissed for a second yellow card, Maniero scored his 10th of the season to equalise.

But in injury time Di Vaio completed his hat-trick to complete a 4-3 win for Parma and go level with Piacenza's Dario Hubner as the division's top scorer with 12 goals.

Fiorentina had hopes of a brighter 2002 when their Italian international defender Daniele Adani gave them an early lead in a relegation battle with Perugia but in the end lost 3-1.

Greek striker Zisis Vryzas equalised for Perugia and defender Marco Di Loreto put Perugia ahead. Despite the sending off of Giovanni Tedesco the Umbrians killed the match when Fabio Grosso notched a third.

Brescia defender Fabio Petrucci gave Bologna an early lead with an own goal after Carlo Nervo's shot had rebounded from the bar and Nervo himself bagged the second for Bologna later in the first half.

Luca Toni pulled one back just before the break for Brescia but Bologna prevailed 2-1.

A second-half goal from Marco Zanchi ensured Verona pulled off a 1-0 win over Piacenza whose Brazilian midfielder Da Silva Matuzalem was sent off.

On Saturday night, AC Milan had posted a 1-0 win over struggling Lecce, a victory earned by a late header from Spanish striker Jose Mari.

Crowd trouble at Cardiff

Football  
AFP, London

Cardiff seem certain to be the subject of a Football Association (FA) investigation after a pitch invasion following the Second Division side's shock third round FA Cup home win over English Premiership leaders Leeds turned nasty.

Ninian Park erupted with joy when Scott Young, Cardiff's longest-serving player, scored with four minutes remaining and at the final whistle fans spilled on to the pitch.

Cardiff supporters poured out of the Grange End and immediately began to taunt the 2,200 Leeds fans gathered in the corner of the same stand.

Coins and other objects were hurled between the rival factions, with police using baton charges and dogs to help restore order.

Cardiff fans retreated as the police moved in and at least two people required treatment as they lay on the pitch.

Earlier objects were also thrown by supporters during the game, the first a plastic bottle aimed at Leeds defender Ian Harte in the first minute as he waited to take a throw.

But the second, 10 minutes from time, which appeared to be a coin, struck referee Andy D'Urso on the side of the head and saw him receive treatment from the Cardiff physiotherapist.

Later Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale was forced to step between manager David O'Leary and Cardiff owner Sam Hammam after the two men became embroiled in a furious row.

O'Leary confronted Hammam outside the reception area of Ninian Park and let fly with an angry tirade following the former Wimbledon supremo's actions during the match.

Hammam, as the game was drawing to a close, had walked around the perimeter of the pitch, in what has become a customary finale to Cardiff's home matches.

The Lebanese businessman, however, only served to whip the City fans into an even greater frenzy, particularly when he then stood behind the goal in front of the Grange End of the ground where the Bluebirds were attacking, before joining in the celebratory pandemonium when Young netted the winner.

When O'Leary was pointedly asked about Hammam's actions in walking around the pitch, he responded: "I just thank God my chairman does not do what he does."

Bid for Di Canio rejected?

Football  
AFP, London

West Ham United manager Glenn Roeder said Sunday that the club had turned down an offer from Premiership rivals Manchester United for Italian forward Paolo di Canio.

The Premiership champions had been strongly linked in the British press with a move for the controversial 33-year-old, whose goal last season knocked United out of the FACup.

Roeder, speaking after West Ham's 3-0 FA Cup third round win over Macclesfield on Sunday, said: "We turned down a bid late on Friday night."

Roeder, who refused to say how much United had offered West Ham for Di Canio, added: "Paolo wasn't with us today because he has flu but, as far as I am concerned, he will be back in training this week and will be available for Saturday (when

West Ham face Leicester at Upton Park in the Premiership)."

United declined to comment this afternoon on Roeder's revelation that a bid for Di Canio had been turned down.

Asked if there was any likelihood of an improved offer from United for the striker, Roeder told Sky Sports News: "You'll need to ask Man United - the ball is firmly in their court now."

Di Canio's bust up with Scottish giants Celtic saw him come south of the border to English side Sheffield Wednesday in the summer of 1997 for three million pounds (4.41 million dollars).

But a year later his suspect temperament landed him in trouble when he pushed over referee Paul Alcock after receiving a red card.

When his suspension ended, he failed to return from Italy, claiming he was suffering from stress.

Wednesday eventually sold him to West Ham in January 1999 for 1.75 million pounds (2.57 million dollars).



PHOTO: AFP  
Christian Vieri (R), the Inter Milan ace vies with Giuliano Giannichedda of Lazio at Milan on January 6.

Serie A's top six							
Italian First Division table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):							
AS Roma	17	10	6	1	25	9	36
Inter Milan	17	10	5	2	31	16	35
Chievo	16	10	2	4	30	20	32
Juventus	17	8	7	2	30	13	31
AC Milan	17	8	6	3	26	18	30
Bologna	17	8	3	6	15	16	27