**Gunners supremo** 

#### FA Cup

# **Rotherham shock Saints**

Football

AFP, London

Southampton became the latest Premiership club to crash out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle when they were beaten 2-1 by First Division Rotherham in a third-round tie at Millmoor on Wednesday.

Goals either side of half-time from Richard Barker and John Mullin gave Rotherham, promoted last season from the Second Division, a well-deserved win over the south coast club despite a penalty with 20 minutes remaining from Southampton's Latvian star Marian Pahars.

But elsewhere results went with the form book, the four other Premiership sides in action Wednesday all going through.

In delayed third-round ties Tottenham beat Coventry 2-0 and Bolton were 4-1 victors over Stockport.

Meanwhile at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea secured a 4-0 third round replay win over First Division Norwich and in the evening's other replay Blackburn beat Barnsley 3-

Rotherham were cruising to victory when Mullin raced onto Chris Sedawick's through ball and gave Southampton's Wales keeper Paul Jones no chance with a powerful strike.

But Rotherham gave themselves a nervous finale when a pointless push on Southampton striker Kevin Davies by Andy Monkhouse led to Pahars' spot-kick

"Those last 20 minutes lasted a lifetime," joked Rotherham boss Ronnie Moor. "They aged me - I feel about 64 at the moment.

"It was one hell of a game, a tremendous cup tie, and we were left hanging on a bit at the end but they are a good Premiership side."

Southampton manager Gordon Strachan said: "I'm happy with the way we played for most of the game and I'd be amazed if there's another game this season where we create as many chances.

Rotherham took the lead six minutes before half-time when Barker stole in unmarked to send in a diving header from Kevin Easton's free-kick

For Southampton, surprise 1-0 winners against Manchester United

lucrative Cup run had disappeared.

But Rotherham will fancy their chances of reaching the fifth round as they play First Division rivals Crewe next.

At Highfield Road, goals from Tottenham midfielder Gus Poyet and striker Les Ferdinand saw Glenn Hoddle's side ease through to the fourth round against Coventry, the Midlands team unable to repeat their 1987 3-2 FA Cup final win over the north London

That was Tottenham great Hoddle's last game for the club before moving to Monaco and the former England boss said: "Coventry had nothing to lose and it could have been a big banana skin for us but it didn't turn out that way.

"What we did tonight with the ball enabled us to finish things off and we also didn't give away silly goals from set plays.

Tottenham now face Bolton, whom they thrashed 6-0 in the quarter-finals of this season's English League Cup. But it was Sam Allardyce's side

#### FA Cup draw

Revised English FA Cup fourth round draw after Wednesday's third round matches:

#### 4TH RD

Preston v Sheffield United Rotherham v Crewe Charlton v Walsall Tranmere v Cardiff Gillingham v Bristol Rovers York v Fulham

Darlington or Peterborough v Newcastle Tottenham v Bolton Chelsea v West Ham Millwall v Blackburn Cheltenham v Burnley Everton v Leyton Orient

United Ipswich v Manchester City Arsenal v Liverpool

West Brom v Leicester

\* Ties to be played on January

Middlesbrough v Manchester

Monday, January 21 3rd rd replay: Peterborough v Darlington

(1930GMT)

His team inflicted Stockport's 11th successive defeat, courtesy of goals from Gudni Bergsson, a Karim Fradin own goal, Henrik Petersson and star marksman Michael Ricketts' wonderful curling shot before Stockport's Jon Daly's netted a last-minute penalty.

"Anyone who sees this goal that he scored here will know why I pushed him for an England place," said Allardyce.

"Ricketts showed outstanding

Chelsea goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini, who held Norwich to a goalles draw, was a near spectator

From an 11th minute corner Chelsea's Croatia international Mario Stanic rose for a header that crawled over the goalline.

Then Frank Lampard followed up Stanic's awkward long-range 56th minute spilled shot to set up a tie against Chelsea's London rivals and his old club West Ham.

For good measure, Italian veteran Gianfranco Zola added a third with an extraordinary near-post flick and substitute Mikael Forssell completed the scoring with a minute left.

Delighted Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri said of Zola's volley. "Only fantastic players like Maradona and Pele could have scored a goal like that."

Blackburn may be more interested in Premiership survival than FA Cup success but even their second-string side was too strong for Barnslev.

A 1-1 draw at Oakwell had given Barnsley hope but goals from Corrado Grabbi. David Dunn with a penalty - and Nils-Eric Johansson put Rovers on top.

Bruce Dyer pulled a goal back but Rovers, already in the English League Cup semi-finals, were through to a tough tie against First Division Millwall.

"I thought we won quite comfortably," said Blackburn boss Graeme Souness

"We know what the priorities are, we have two very big games for us in the Premiership and then the League Cup semi-final so we needed to keep some players fresh," he added.

"We thought we could do that tonight and it turned out we got it



HE IS SPECIAL: Chelsea's Italian star Gianfranco Zola (R) is being greeted by a fan after scoring a wonder goal against Norwich City at Stamford Bridge on January 16.

## Zola a la Diego!



REUTERS, London

Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri has compared striker Gianfranco Zola to Diego Maradona and Pele after his fellow Italian scored a magical goal in their 4-0 FA Cup win over Norwich City.

Ranieri even hinted the 35year-old could have a future in Chelsea's coaching set-up after Zola bagged their third goal in the third round clash at Stamford Bridge.

Graeme Le Saux whipped over a low corner from the right flank, Zola let the ball get halfway between his legs before striking a volley with the heel of his right foot into the roof of the net.

books

Football

Figueres became the first Third

Division side to reach the semifinals

of Spain's King's Cup when a

goalless draw at home to Cordoba

earned them a 2-0 aggregate win in

the second round to produce the

first big shock of this season's

competition, made it through to the

last four despite Second Division

Cordoba having almost all the

The tiny Catalan club were

ioined in the semifinals by Real

Madrid, who went down 1-0 at Rayo

Vallecano in their quarter-final

second leg but were never really

threatened as they completed a 4-1

Deportivo Coruna also made it

through after a much tougher

second leg at Valladolid. They

needed a penalty from Diego

Tristan in the second period of

extra-time to clinch a 3-2 aggregate

Depor had their 2-0 lead from

the first leg wiped out inside 36

minutes as Valladolid struck

through a Fernando header and a

poacher's goal from Mario and the

favourites were in serious trouble

when they had Enrique Romero

Javier Irureta's side produced

sent off on 98 minutes.

possession in the second leg.

Figueres, who beat Barcelona in

REUTERS, Madrid

a tense quarter-final

aggregate win.

victory

Spanish King's Cup

"This goal was fantasy, magic. Only Maradona, Pele, the big players, can do this. He's a wizard," Ranieri told reporters afterwards. Zola had joined Napoli as

Maradona's understudy in 1989, when Argentina's World Cup winner wore their number 10 shirt. Ranieri took over the helm of the Serie A club for the 1991-92 season -- amid Maradona's departure after his descent into drugs first became public.

Looking back, Ranieri said: "At Napoli the number 10 was gone and the chairman asked who can we buy? I say no, I want Gianfranco, and he played all that

"I trust Gianfranco, I believe in Gianfranco. He's very meticulous. He always trains a lot and for me...I am Italian, he's Italian, he's a good visiting card' in England."

their best football after being

reduced to 10 men, though, and

they clinched victory as Walter

Pandiani was brought down in the

box and Tristan stepped up to

Pandiani received his second

The semifinal line-up is com-

Cordoba's best chance to force

pleted by Athletic Bilbao who eased

through with a 3-0 aggregate win

their way back against Figueres fell

in first-half injury-time when a full-

blooded Jose Carlos Soria strike

from close range was well saved by

the break but a second vellow card

for Daniel Lopez Ramos after 58

minutes gave their opponents vital

breathing space and they held out

closer to the first piece of silverware

of their centenary season despite

defeat in a game that offered pre-

cious little in the way of entertain-

Roberto Peragon's neat finish

from a long ball over the top two

minutes into second-half injury-

time was at least reward for all

Real Madrid moved a step

to complete a famous win.

aged to kill the game off.

Rayo's hard work.

They renewed their attack after

over Villarreal on Tuesday.

vellow card two minutes from time

but Irureta's nine-man team man-

convert the spotkick.

aged to hold on.

the goalkeeper.

Looking ahead for Zola, Ranieri said: "All doors are open for him. I want him to stay.

"If he wants to join the coaching staff I would be happy, but I don't know if the chairman wants that many staff! Zola himself dedicated the strike to the family of a young boy

suffering from cancer who he had met a couple of weeks ago, but who has subsequently died. "He was suffering a lot but he managed to give me a smile. I

promised to give him something special. Unfortunately, he's no longer with us. I wish wherever he is he sees this goal and I dedicate it to his family." the Sardinian said. As for the goal, he added: "I

can't really shoot with my left foot so I crossed my legs... You can't think about it, you just do it. I'll never try again.'

Cragnotti

# assets for as long as possible

has reacted furiously to reports that Vieira's trip to the Spanish capistar midfielder Patrick Vieira has tal was uncovered after Spanish held secret talks with Real Madrid journalists working on a motorracing story at Barajas airport The coveted French World Cup spotted the player with his agent Marc Roger, the Daily Telegraph winner is said to have been offered a 24-million-pound five-year deal to reported.

move to the Bernabeu. But Hill-Wood is annoyed that the two parties appear to have met without the Highbury club's knowl-

Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood

angry

Football

about a possible transfer

AFP, London

edge.
"From what has been coming out it seems Patrick has met Real Madrid," Hill-Wood told Thursday's

Daily Star "It is very irritating when you take a lot of time and trouble to sort out lucrative deals with players and then find out it is a waste of your

Vieira's contract expires in 2004 but Arsenal are determined to hand onto one of their most their prized

"There is no point in having a world-class stadium, which we will start building soon (at Ashburton Grove), and not have a world-class team to go into it," said Arsenal vicechairman David Dein.

"You don't get that by selling your best players," he told The Daily Mail.

The two men were later joined by Santos Marquez, Vieira's agent in Spain, and Marguerite Faucone, the lawyer involved in Nicolas Anelka's acrimonious transfer from Arsenal to Real, the paper said.

The Telegraph said there was no suggestion Vieira had personally met Real officials, but that his representatives had conducted talks which made a transfer inevitable. Meanwhile the Daily Mail

reported that Real would offer Arsenal a staggering 50 million pounds for Vieira - with the condition that he signs before the end of the transfer window on January 31.

### Italian Cup

## Milan show Lazio the door



REUTERS, Rome

Lazio's season was effectively ended after a 3-2 defeat against AC Milan in the Italian Cup quarter-final second leg at the Stadio Olimpico.

Trailing 2-1 from the first leg. Lazio went further behind on aggregate after just four minutes when a fine run by Serginho was finished off at the far post by Jose Mari.

Serginho then hit the bar, but Lazio equalised on the night when Czech international Karel Poborsky burst down the right and Simone Inzaghi volleyed home

Milan's former Alaves forward Javi Moreno was a constant threat to the home defence, slightly overrunning the ball when one-on-one with Angelo Peruzzi in the Lazio

Early in the second half Moreno volleyed against the bar, but he restored Milan's two-goal advantage with a low shot into the far corner in the 55th minute.

the offside trap to ensure a Milan victory, although Lazio's Argentina forward Hernan Crespo did pull back a consolation goal with 15 minutes to ao.

Lazio fans made no secret of their disgust at the home team's recent performances, as they displayed banners paying homage to West Ham forward and fellow fan Paolo Di Canio. Flags were burned and many

the Curva Nord walked out midway through the first half. The sales of Chile forward

supporters from the Ultras area in

Marcelo Salas and Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved as well as Juan Sebastian Veron in the summer incurred the wrath of the fans. Big name replacements such as

Spain midfielder Gaizka Mendieta have failed to impress. The latter suffered criticism from

Italy midfielder Stefano Fiore and

the home supporters all night before his withdrawal. One banner read "Mendieta is not worth one peseta".

Before their 5-3 aggregate cup defeat on Wednesday Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni, who was sacked by AC Milan last season, admitted he was concerned for his job after an alarming drop in form following six games without a win.

It was not surprising that the club declined to speak to reporters after the game

Lazio, who were eliminated in the first stage of the Champions League and also missed out on a UEFA Cup place, are seventh in Serie A with 25 points behind leaders Roma on 39

AC Milan, who have also had their problems this season with coach Fatih Terim replaced by Carlo Ancelotti, play the winners of Thursday's match between Atalanta and Juventus in the semifinals. Juventus lead 4-2 from the first

Milan were without striker Andriy Shevchenko and midfielder Rui Costa against Lazio but were still too strong.

leg in Turin.

Ancelotti said on Rai Uno: "The Coppa Italia is an important competition for us and finally we have seen a convincing and determined Milan who don't want to do badly.

"We played well and created a lot in attack."

Danish recruit Martin Laursen at Rome on January 16.

Hernan Crespo (R), Lazio's Argentine superstar trying to keep out AC Milan's

wants Veron Figueres in history back AFP, Rome

Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti admitted Wednesday he was furious at his under-performing team and hinted he was preparing a bid to lure Argentinian midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron back to the club from English Premiership champions Manchester United

After witnessing his side's elimination at the hands of AC Milan in the Italian Cup quarter-finals - the last realistic hope of silverware for Lazio - Cragnotti made it clear that changes were imperative.

"Next year (season) we will see what happens," Cragnotti said. "This team was built for the top, we will see where we finish and then draw the necessary conclusions. We believe in this strategy but some have failed to respond to the call.

"If it carries on like this we will

have to review everything. That would seem to be a warning shot at the likes of Spanish midfielder Gaizka Mendieta and Italian international Stefano Fiore who have both performed dismally since arriving from Valencia and Udinese.

Veron, the talisman of Lazio's 1999-2000 championship-winning side, is sorely missed in Rome and asked if he would take back the United player Cragnotti said: "He is a great player. We will see."

Last week Veron, who joined Rayo had a brief flurry at the United from Lazio last year, said he start but a Real side that featured was keeping the door open for a just five first-team regulars manpossible return to the Roman club.

Lazio's only remaining hope for this season is a place in next season's Champions League with their hopes of a title challenge receding as they lie 14 points behind leaders AS Roma with a game in hand.