

Premiership Liverpool burst MU bubble

Football

AFP, London

Liverpool put an end to Premiership leaders Manchester United's eight match winning streak and resurrected their own championship challenge Tuesday with a crucial 1-0 win at Old Trafford.

A delicate job from English international Danny Murphy five minutes from time secured only their second win in 10 matches and moved Liverpool into third place just two points behind table-toppers United.

Liverpool, who completed a league double over United for the second successive season and were beating them for the fifth successive time, were outplayed for most of the match but finished strongly following the introduction of substitute Nicolas Anelka.

It was fitting that Murphy, who also scored the winner at Old Trafford last season, should have the final word. The tenacious midfielder has been jeered recently by a section of Liverpool supporters for a string of poor performances.

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said he was amazed by the result.

"I thought we deserved to win and were the better team."

"Liverpool defended fantastically well but we were the team with the imagination and the flair and I'm amazed we didn't win."

"I think they (Liverpool) had to have more purpose in the second half. They soaked us up in the first half when we played well."

"They didn't really threaten us - but they scored a goal which was exceptionally well taken," he added.

Murphy was ecstatic at putting the bad run behind himself and the team, though he emphasised a win against the leaders would mean nothing if they lose against bottom side Leicester next Wednesday.

"It is nice because it is Manchester United but the three points puts us back in it."

"Fans are going to show their frustration when the team is not playing well - it is part and parcel of football, you take the highs and lows."

"But it is no good winning here if we lose against Leicester next Wednesday. We have to keep it going," he said.

United, who completed the signing of 22-year-old Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan from Argentine side Independiente earlier Tuesday,



Liverpool stars Nicolas Anelka (R) and John Arne Riise (C) rush to congratulate Danny Murphy after he scores the only goal against Manchester United on January 22 at Old Trafford.

almost levelled in the closing stages, but Ryan Giggs' goalbound header was miraculously clawed away by Liverpool's Polish goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek.

The game, played in front of a 67,500 capacity crowd, started at a furious pace with United enjoying the lion's share of the early possession.

For all their pressure the home side had to wait until the 16th minute for their first shot at goal.

Mikael Silvestre was released down the left wing and the French international's low cross was intercepted by Liverpool defender Stephen Wright but only to the feet of Giggs.

The pacy Welshman swung his

trusty left boot only to see his drive whistle past Dudek's left-hand post.

Paul Scholes' ambitious effort from distance flew well wide as United continued to drive forward while at the other end Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard twice blazed speculative shots over the bar.

Only a last-ditch tackle from Liverpool's Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz denied Ruud van Nistelrooy from opening the scoring on the half hour and three minutes later Michael Owen struck a left-footer way off target.

Although the visitors finished the first half strongly, United should have taken the lead a minute before the interval.

Scholes' inviting low cross into the six-yard box only needed a touch to steer it into the net but van Nistelrooy's outstretched boot could not reach the ball.

The match was equally tight in the second half with most of the action confined to the midfield areas and chances few and far between.

United's French international goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, who was enjoying a particularly quiet night, had to be at his best to keep United on level terms with two outstanding saves late on.

First he parried Anelka's far-post effort away for a corner and the eccentric stopper then flung himself across goal to punch Jon Arne Riise's rising drive to safety.

With time running out, the United keeper's efforts were undone when Gerrard's cross found Murphy lurking in the penalty area and he flicked the ball over him.

Giggs came agonisingly close to restoring parity as the seconds ticked away but Liverpool held on for a priceless win which opens up the title race once again.

Henry Coca-Cola's ambassador at WC

INTERNET, London

Thierry Henry signed a three-year deal with Coca-Cola to be worth around 700,000 pound, told Evening Standard. Arsenal's French striker joined Luis Figo on the list of American soft drinks company and is going to have a share in their World Cup marketing campaign.

Meanwhile, David Beckham having signed with Coca-Cola's rivals Pepsi, will join Henry and Figo in the WC-2002 finals.

England captain is said to be receiving almost 8 million pound a year from the top brands adidas and Brylcreem.

According to Coca-Cola, Henry is considered to be one of the most popular players among 13-19-year-old fans and will become Coca-Cola's ambassador at the World Cup to promote their sports drink brand Powerade.

Barca quintet face 'orgy' Punishment

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona on Wednesday were preparing to sanction several players who were involved in an "orgy" the night before Sunday's league match against Rayo Vallecano, according to press reports here Wednesday.

The five unnamed players - two Dutch and three Spanish - are accused by the Madrid press of being involved with four young women in their hotel suite.

The next day a mediocre Barcelona lost 2-1 to Rayo, who sit bottom of the Primera Liga. Barcelona coach Carlos Rexach even complained afterwards that during the match "some players were simply going through the motions".

The scandal was revealed on Tuesday night by Madrid-based television station TeleMadrid. The report said one of the five players paid for the hotel suite - which reportedly cost 4800 euros (4250 dollars) with his credit card.

According to newspaper reports Wednesday Barcelona management - who have officially denied all knowledge of the affair - are meeting to discuss whether disciplinary action should be taken.

Goal-drought hits Cup



AFP, Bamako

A miserly goal-count at the African Nations Cup has left coaches and players scratching their heads and wondering whether football on the continent is starting to shed its reputation for naivety.

The steady flow of goals usually seen in the Nations Cup has been reduced to a trickle thus far, with the first round of eight group matches yielding a meagre total of five goals.

Compared with previous Nations Cups, that represents a steep drop-off.

In the 2000 tournament 21 goals were scored in the first eight

games, an average of 2.62 a match, while at the same stage of the 1998 competition 18 had been netted.

So is the age of African footballing innocence drawing to a close, or is Mali 2002 just a freak one-off? Zambia coach Roald Poulsen was left in no doubt as the tournament passed for a rest day Tuesday.

"I have to be a bit careful what I say, but I think that 'naive' African football is over," said the Dane, whose team held World Cup qualifiers Tunisia to a 0-0 draw in Group D on Monday.

"Most of the teams have footballers from Europe who are used to being well organised and are used to the demands. So subtle areas like defensive positioning will of course see an improvement."

"So far I haven't seen any naive football and that's understandable isn't it? In a tournament like this only one thing counts and that's the result - you can't win if you entertain but lose 5-0."

"Having said that, I don't think the teams are setting out to play negative or defensive football. Many of the matches which have been 0-0 have had a lot of scoring chances," Poulsen told AFP.

"And it is also a worldwide trend in football: defences are getting more sophisticated. That's why clubs in Italy and Spain will pay so much for a striker who will score goals regularly."

The Zambia coach's words were echoed by his Nigerian counterpart Shaibu Amodu. Amodu's 'Super Eagles' are one of the few teams to have got on the scoresheet so far, recording a single-goal victory against Algeria in Group A on Monday.

"What you are seeing is African players playing with a European or westernised mindset," Amodu said.

"Tactically they are playing a very disciplined sort of football - keeping it tight, playing close, not giving much away."

Amodu however also blamed a lack of adequate preparation for the slow start to the tournament.

"A lot of teams had problems getting together before we got here and they are still trying to find their best form," he said.

"I think as the competition continues and the best teams get stronger and other teams get weaker you will see games start to open up more."

Forlan@Old Trafford

Football

AFP, London

English Premiership leaders Manchester United completed the signing of Argentine outfit Independiente's Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan for 7.5 million pounds (10.7 million dollars) on Tuesday.

The fee paid to the Argentine club was initially announced as 6.9 million pounds (9.8 million dollars) but failed to include "additional costs".

The 22-year-old passed a medical and was unveiled at a press conference at Old Trafford ahead of Tuesday night's crucial Premiership home match against title rivals Liverpool.

He will not be eligible for United's FA Cup fourth round tie against Middlesbrough on Saturday - the club he snubbed to join the Reds - but should be avail-



Diego Forlan

able for the Premiership match at Bolton on January 29.

United boss Alex Ferguson was delighted to capture Forlan who he has been tracking for several months.

"I am delighted that Diego has agreed to join us," Ferguson said.

"He is an exciting player who has plenty of talent and a bright

future ahead of him. I am sure he will come and play well at United."

"We've watched him three times and think he has good potential, two good feet, he's quick and a good header of the ball. At 22 he represents a good future."

Forlan said he was "very happy" to be a United player and stated his intention to make an immediate impression.

He said: "I'll try to be useful for the team and if I can't score I'll try and help the team to score."

"But I'm very happy to be here - it's something when I was a child I dreamed about."

"When I came to see the match (on Saturday when they beat Blackburn 2-1) I was surprised by all the people - and I saw they are a very good team."

He watched United's Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy become the first player to score in eight successive Premiership games and added: "He's a great player - I admire how he plays."

Premiership's top six

English Premiership standings after Wednesday's match (Played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points) :

Man Utd	24	14	3	7	56	34	45
Newcastle	23	13	4	6	42	29	43
Liverpool	24	12	7	5	33	24	43
Leeds	23	11	9	3	35	21	42
Arsenal	22	11	8	3	43	26	41
Chelsea	23	9	10	4	40	23	37

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

EKUSHEY: 12:30p.m. *Coca-Cola Series 2002.* Live Cricket! The 2nd one day international day and night match of the Coca-Cola Series 2002 between Bangladesh and Pakistan live form Dhaka National Stadium.

AXN: 10:30 p.m. *Bram Stoker's Dracula.* Deep from the crevasses of Transylvania, Count Dracula the 'undead' monster cursed to walk the Earth forever and live off human blood goes in search of his lost bride, but his yearning for human love ultimately proves his undoing. Starring: Gary Oldman, Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder, Anthony Hopkins.

STAR WORLD: 7:00 & 11:30 p.m. *Temptation Island.* Welcome to Belize, a Caribbean island in the sun. A tropical paradise. Stashed away on it are four unmarried couples. Each in long term relationships but willing to test the strength of their commitment before tying the knot. One more thing - also on the island are 26 very hot, attractive and eligible singles. Let the games begin!

PICK OF THE DAY



The Mummy
On HBO at 10:00p.m.
The Mummy is a rousing, suspenseful and horrifying epic about an expedition of treasure-seeking explorers in the Sahara Desert in 1925. Stumbling upon an ancient tomb, the hunters unwittingly set loose a 3,000-year-old legacy of terror, which is embodied in the vengeful reincarnation of an Egyptian priest who had been sentenced to an eternity as one of the living dead.

BTV

2:30p.m. Live Cricket! The 2nd one day international day and night match of the Coca-Cola Series 2002 between Bangladesh and Pakistan live form Dhaka National Stadium.
3:10 News Headlines
4:00 Khabar
5:00 News Headlines
6:00 Khabar
7:00 News Headlines
8:00 News in Bengali
9:00 News Headlines
9:30 Geet Bichitra
10:00 News at Ten
10:25 Orthonoik Porikroma
10:50 Ujibar
11:30 Khabar / The News
11:45 Closing

EKUSHEY TV

12:00pm Ekushey Middy
12:30 Coca-Cola Series 2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second International Cricket Match Live Telecast from Dhaka (Day-Night Match)
3:00 Ekushey Headlines
3:05 Coca-Cola Series 2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second International Cricket Match Live Telecast from Dhaka (Day-Night Match)
6:00 Ekushey Headlines
6:05 Coca-Cola Series 2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second International Cricket Match Live Telecast from Dhaka (Day-Night Match)
7:00 Ekushey Headlines
7:00 Coca-Cola Series 2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second International Cricket Match Live Telecast from Dhaka (Day-Night Match)
7:30 Ekushey News
8:00 Coca-Cola Series 2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second International Cricket Match Live Telecast from Dhaka (Day-Night Match)
9:00 Ekushey News (English)
9:05 Coca-Cola Series 2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second International Cricket Match Live Telecast from Dhaka (Day-Night Match)
10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV
11:00 Ekushey Nightly News
12:00 E Shoplancer Bishho
12:30 Ekushey News Headlines

ATN

5:30 Islamic prog.
7:00 Health Care prog: Sustha Thakun
7:35 Film songs prog: Sur Chobi
8:00 ATN Bangla News
8:25 Drama serial: Rang Beronger Din
9:00 Film Magazine: Dhaliwood Bichitra
9:35 Cooking prog: Ranna Banna
10:10 Drama serial: Brettyer Bhalobasha
10:50 Drama serial: Bondon
11:20 Bengali feature film: Dhayouer Por Dhayouer
12:00pm ATN Bangla News
6:07 Islamic prog: Sundor Jeebaner Jannee
6:45 Musical prog.: Protibha
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
7:35 Musical prog. Gan Sudu Gan
8:10 Drama serial: Bondon
8:45 Talk Show: Samokalin Prosongo
9:20 Reporting prog: Prekha Pot
10:00 ATN Bangla News
10:35 Drama Serial: Nesanto Pream
11:00 Bengali feature film: Kalo Gulap
10:30 ATN Bangla News
BBC WORLD
6:00 BBC News
6:30 World Business Report
7:00 BBC News
7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
8:00 BBC News
8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
9:00 BBC News
9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
10:00 BBC News
10:30 Hardtalk
11:00 BBC News
11:30 World Business Report
12:00 BBC News
12:30 World Business Report
1:00 BBC News
1:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
2:00 BBC News
2:30 Holiday
3:00 BBC News
3:30 Simpson's World Directs ex World

Rev(1)

4:00 BBC News
4:30 East Asia Today/Sport Today
5:00 BBC News
5:30 Hardtalk
HBO
6:30am Dad
8:45 Normal Life
10:45 Lassie
12:45 Cops and Robbersons
2:45 The Shawshank Redemption
5:45 Beverly Hills Cop
7:45 Boys On The Side
10:00 The Mummy
12:30 AKiss Before Dying
2:30 Cops and Robbersons
4:30 Beverly Hills Cop
STAR GOLD
7:00am Baghavat (Dharmendra, Hema Malini)
10:30 Amul Bollywood News
11:00 Geet Bahar
11:30 Ghunghat (Pradeep Kumar, Asha Parekh)
3:00pm Amul Bollywood News
3:30 Hare Kanch Ki Chooriyan (Biswajit, Naina Sahu)
7:00 Geet Bahar
7:30 Lamhe Pyaar Ke : Charas (Dharmendra, Hema malini)
11:00 Amul Bollywood News
11:30 Ram Bharose (Randhir Kapoor, Rekha)
12:30 Ram Bharose (Randhir Kapoor, Rekha)
3:00 Geet Bahar
3:30 Hare Kanch Ki Chooriyan (Biswajit, Naina Sahu)
STAR MOVIES
6:30 Man In The Moon, The
8:30 Empire Strikes Back
10:30 Scandal Sheet
12:15 Young Guns II
2:00 Rocky IV
3:45 Pitch Black
5:30 Memory Run
7:00 X-Men, The
10:00 Empire Strikes Back
1:00 Memory Run
2:30 Pitch Black
STAR PLUS
6:00am Sanskruti
6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:00 Aatma

9:00 Hit Filmeen Hit Sangeet
9:30 Fox Kids Daily
10:30 Small Wonder
11:30 Pal Chhin
11:30 Meri Saheli
12:00 Shanti
12:30 Hit Filmeen Hit Sangeet
1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
2:00 Sanskruti
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
3:00 Shagun
3:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
4:00 Kabhi Sauten Kabhi Saheli
4:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz
5:00 Meri Saheli
5:30 Hit Filmeen Hit Sangeet
6:00 Small Wonder
6:30 Fox Kids
7:20 Aaj Ki Baat
7:30 Sanskruti
8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:30 Kundali
9:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
9:30 Wajood Mini Series
10:00 Motel
10:00 Kangan
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz
12:30 Jubilee Plus
1:00 Hit Filmeen Hit

Sangeet
1:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
2:00 Bol Baby Bol
2:30 Yeh Hai Right Price
3:00 Pal Chhin
3:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
4:30 Shanti
4:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

Bahu Thi
5:00 Meri Saheli
5:30 Hit Filmeen Hit Sangeet
DISCOVERY
7:00 am Going Wild With Jeff Corwin Baja
7:30 Wild Discovery

8:30 Lonely Planet IV
9:30 Ultimate Guide
10:30 Understanding Race
11:30 Champions of the Wild Sharks
12:00 pm All Bird TV
12:30 Travel Time Travelers II: London

1:30 Women's Hour Science of Beauty: Face Value
2:30 Wild Discovery Extinction Files
3:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids
4:00 Going Wild With Jeff Corwin
4:30 War Zone
5:30 Lonely Planet VI
6:30 Champions of the Wild
7:00 All Bird TV
7:30 Wild Discovery
8:30 Ushuaia
9:30 Ultimate Guide
10:30 Daring Capers
11:00 Daring Capers II
11:30 War Zone
12:00 War Zone Decisive Weapons
STAR NEWS
07:00 Breakfast News
6:00 Star Khel
6:30 Bollywood News
7:00 Star Bazaar
7:30 Saat Baje
8:00 Hotline
8:30 Tonight at 8
9:00 Star Samachar
9:30 Star News English
10:00 Star Business News
10:30 Star Newshour
11:30 Star News English
12:00 Star News Hindi

12:30 Sports Tonight
AXN
6:30 Movie: The Beguiled
8:30 Core Culture
9:30 The Amazing Race
10:30 Pensacola III
11:30 Pacific Blue I
12:30 The Amazing Race
2:30 Movie: The Beguiled
4:30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
5:30 The Amazing Race
6:30 Core Culture
7:30 Pacific Blue I
8:30 The Amazing Race
9:30 World Most Among
10:30 Thu Horror Movie: Dracula
12:30 Silk Stalkings VII
1:30 Pacific Blue I
2:30 Pensacola III
SONY
7:30am Dekh Bhai Dekh
1:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka
1:30 CID
2:00 Mahayagya
2:30 Saaya
3:00 Khwahis
3:30 Kutumb
4:00 Kkusum
4:30 Aahat Specials
5:30 Bhanwar
6:00 Kaun Apna Kaun Paraya
6:30 am Music Mantra
7:00 Chartbusters
7:30 Amrit Varsha
8:00 Asaram Vani Sant
8:30 Chartbusters
9:00 Good Morning Disney
10:00 Music Mantra
10:30 Zamana Badal Gaya
11:00 Mahayagya
11:30 Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin
12:00 Saaya
12:30 Boogie Woogie
1:00 Kkusum
1:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapano Ka
2:00 Kutumb
2:30 Weekday Matinee: Des Mein Ganga Behti Hai
3:00 Weekday Matinee: cont.
6:00 Just Mohabbat
6:30 Disney Hur
7:30 Chartbusters
8:00 Music Mantra
8:30 Hum Pardesi Ho Gaye
9:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapano Ka
9:30 Kkusum
10:00 Kutumb
10:30 Aahat Specials
11:30 Bhanwar
12:00 Kuan Apna Kaun Paraya

ZEE CINEMA
1:15 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
1:30 Yeh Kaisa Farz - Feature Film
4:00 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
4:15 Chehren
4:30 Rut Rangleeli Aayi- Feature Film
7:00 Dadamoni (A Tribute To The Legend (Ashok Kumar)
7:30 Sajani Ki Bahon Mein - Feature Film
10:15 Movie Fare
10:30 Sharda - Feature Film
1:15 Madhyantar
1:30 Rajput-Feature Film
5:00 Darpan
5:15 Tara Rum
17:15 Film Time
6:00 Khooon Ki Pyaasi Dayan- Feature Film
9:15 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
9:30 Top Of The Tops
10:00 Zakhm-Feature Film
ANIMAL PLANET
7:00 Wild on the Set II
7:30 Animal Doctor II
8:00 Vets on the Wild Side
8:30 Animal Planet Safari
9:30 Tamed N Trained Thursday K-9 to 5
10:00 Tamed N Trained Thursday
11:00 Animals A-Z
11:30 Animal People
12:00 Wild Rescues
12:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
1:00 All Bird TV
1:30 The Aquanauts
2:30 Battersea Dogs Home III
2:30 Monkey Business
3:00 Natural World
4:00 Vets in Practice
4:30 Jeff Corwin Experience
5:30 Tamed N Trained Thursday
6:00 Tamed N Trained Thursday
7:00 Animal Hospital
7:30 Battersea Dogs Home
8:00 Animal Planet Safari
9:00 X Creatures
9:30 Champions of the Wild II
10:00 Vets in Practice
10:30 Jeff Corwin Experience
11:30 Tamed N Trained Thursday
12:00 Tamed N Trained Thursday

SPORTS

ESPN
6:00 am Fitness America Pageant 2001
6:30 Fitness America Pageant Las Vegas, VN USA
6:30 Sportscenter Hindi
7:00 National Hockey Night Detroit, MI USA San Jose Sharks @ Detroit Red Wings
10:00 Goals!
10:30 English Premier Football League English Premier Football league 2001/02 Charlton, UK Aston Villa @ Charlton Athletic
12:30 pm Motoworld
1:00 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA
2:00 Cheerleading 2001 College Dance Team National Champ. Orlando, FL US
3:00 Soccer The Match Of The Century: Schiaffino

3:30 Asian Bowling Tour Cgu Asian Bowling Tour Grand Slam Final Singapore Quarterfinals
5:30 Cable In The Classroom: Sportsfigures Cricket Program-ting Super Selector
6:00 Italian Serie A Football Italian Serie A 2001/2002
8:30 Sportscenter Hindi World Cup Mix
9:00 Game Of The Week Sportscenter Hindi Australia Cricket Vb Series Sydney, Australia South Africa @ Australia 7th Odi, Highlights
1:30 Western Union World Football Sportscenter Hindi Asian Bowling Tour Cgu Asian Bowling Tour Grand Slam Final Singapore Quarterfinals

4:30 Sportscenter Hindi Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA
STAR SPORTS
6:30 am Australian Open Highlights Australian Open Highlights 2002 Melbourne, Australia Night #9 Highlights (R)
7:30 Sportsline Today (T)
7:45 Sportsline Today (R)
8:00 Sportsline Today (R)
8:15 Sportsline Today (R)
8:30 Australian Open Australian Open 2002 Melbourne, Australia Women's Singles Semifinals(L)
12:00 Sportsline Today (R)
12:15 pm Sportsline Today (R)
12:30 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2001/02 (R)
1:30 Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports (R)
2:00 World's Strongest Man Zambia, Africa Qualifier

(T)
2:30 Australian Open Australian Open 2002 Melbourne, Australia Men's Singles Semifinal (L)
6:00 Sports Unlimted (T)
7:00 Australian Open Highlights Australian Open Highlights 2002 Melbourne, Australia Day #11 Highlights(S)
7:30 Sportsline Tonight (L)
8:30 This is The Pga Tour (T)
9:30 Australian Open Highlights Australian Open Highlights 2002 Melbourne, Australia Day #11 Highlights (R)
10:30 Sportsline Tonight (T)
11:00 Australian Open Highlights Australian Open Highlights 2002 Melbourne, Australia Night #10 Highlights (S)
12:00 Sportsline Tonight (T)
12:30 Boxing Series World Class Championship Boxing Toppenish, WA USA Roberto Duran Vs Pj Goosen (T)