

Liverpool striker Michael Owen (R) shoots past Manchester City custodian Peter Schmeichel to score at Maine Road on September 28

Premiership **Big guns call the shots**

Football

AFP, London

England striker Michael Owen scored a hat-trick. his first goals in open play this season, as the Reds beat Manchester City 3-0 at Maine Road on Saturday,

Reigning champions and leaders Arsenal had earlier in the day thrashed Leeds United 4-1 at Elland Road to keep their record scoring run going.

Meanwhile, at The Valley, Manchester United had to come from a goal behind to beat Charlton 3-1

England midfielder Paul Scholes capped a fairytale comeback three weeks after knee surgery with the visitors' leveller as Alex Ferguson's men went fourth.

At White Hart Lane, Arsenal's north-London rivals Tottenham suffered only their second league defeat of the season, Middlesbrough suprise 3-0 winners as they went into third place.

Elsewhere, bottom of the table West Ham secured their first league win of the season with a 3-2 win over London rivals Chelsea

And fellow strugglers Sunderland saved manager Peter Reid from the sack with a 1-0 win over Aston Villa at The Stadium of Light

Bolton and Southampton shared the points in a 1-1 draw that left the visitors in the relegation zone.

In the day's late kick-off match Newcastle beat new boys victory. Birmingham 2-0, Nolberto Solano

and Shola Ameobi scoring. Liverpool's result meant they stayed two points behind Arsenal.

than that there has been no evi-Arsenal "This team is always getting dence of the situation affecting him,' better, that's why we achieve. said his French boss.

And Houllier added: "It has to be remembered he had an injury when curling effort two minutes before the he came back from the World Cup break gave Charlton a surprise lead and it always takes a couple of over Manchester United. games for him to get back into it." Scholes in the 54th minute at the top City manager Kevin Keegan, of the penalty area and he struck himself a revered Liverpool and

England striker in the 1970s, said his side had gifted Owen his opener in the fourth minute when a series of defensive errors ended with a close range strike. "If I was coming off a run of nine

games without a goal I would have wanted a chance like that," said Keegan

At Elland Road Arsenal set a new English league record of scoring in 47 consecutive matches. They surpassed the mark set by

Chesterfield in the old Third Division North way back in the 1929-30 season. Victory also meant Arsenal

equalled Manchester United's Premiership record of 29 matches unbeaten and saw the Gunners set a new English league mark of 23 away games without defeat.

Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu's first goal of two, in the ninthminute. sent Arsenal on their way.

Maccarone, Geremi and Joseph-Desire Job ended Tottenham's Kolo Toure's 20th minute header and Thierry Henry's strike two unbeaten home league record this season as Middlesbrough unexminutes after the break put Arsenal well on top. pectedly went third Leeds grabbed a consolation

goal six minutes from time through arry Kewell But barely two minutes later

an outstanding nerf

Kanu broke clear to seal Arsenal's teenager David Bellion's 70th minute effort gave struggling Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, Sunderland all the points. who challenged his team to go

"The best way I can put it is there through this season unbeaten, said: were a few knives being sharpened v've just cone a hit blunt ' nd the

from 18 vards out.

eighth of the season.

of that today.'

Giggs scored United's second

seven minutes from time before, in

the final minute of normal time,

Dutch forward Van Nistelrooy, a

second-half substitute, scored his

Ferguson said: "We always keep

fighting and we've done that again

today. The players have been

showing great determination in

games this season and we saw a lot

"What a time for him to score two

"He even tried to make the first

Goals from Massimo

"I feel sorry for Spurs because

At the Stadium of Light, French

they caught us on a very good day,"

said Boro boss Steve McClaren.

goals the way he did," said West

Ham boss Glenn Roeder whose

one difficult by having another touch

and popping it up in the air to hit!

team nevertheless stayed bottom.

Self-critical Owen

Sport

Football

AFP, London

Liverpool and England striker Michael Owen has said the pressure that built up from outsiders during his barren run in front of goal was nothing compared to that he placed on himself

Owen ended a sequence of nine games without a goal from open play, his worst run in five years, with a hat-trick in second-placed Liverpool's 3-0 English Premiership win over Manchester City on Saturday.

Many had started to wonder if Owen, 22, who became a global star at the 1998 World Cup with a superb solo goal against Argentina, was past his peak.

And Owen admitted: "I do judge myself on scoring goals.

"I just feel it's my responsibility to score goals for Liverpool and England," he also told British Sunday broadsheet the Observer.

"You can look at all these clips and see what people do well, but as a striker you have got to get the ball

into the net however you can. "My main objective when I go on to the pitch is to score ahead of anything else.

"If we come off the pitch and have At The Valley, Claus Jensen's won, but I haven't scored, it means I will have a burning desire to score in the next game," Owen said.

He added that there were times But Ryan Giggs' cross found when he wished he was still a 17vear-old making his way in the dame.

"I didn't get injured when I was 17 and I've not had a full season since. so in that sense I wish I was.

"I don't know, when you are 17 or 18 you are a kid. You don't think. You just think there are 30,000 people inside the stadium and that's it.

"You don't think about 30 million at home watching. It's just a kickabout, just a game.

"Now, you do think, you are more aware.'

Owen who, despite his recent Paolo Di Canio's double helped run, has still scored in 30 of his last West Ham secure all the points, the 40 Premiership appearances added Italian's first a spectacular volley.

Football

AFP, Lisbon

Jardel returning for Sporting treatment

> contract on September 12 after he failed to show up for medical tests organized by the club for the third consecutive time this season.

"As a result of the medical treatment I have been subjected Brazilian striker Mario Jardel, to, I have been advised to return to suspended by Portuguese First my sports life and I have Division side Sporting Lisbon at expressed this desire to Sporting," the beginning of September for Jardel said in a statement on the repeatedly missing medical club's website. assessments, will return to the

He added: "If, throughout this football club Saturday on the rocess I caused damage to third brilliant dash down the wing on the parties or Sporting, I regret it but it counter-attack by Joaquin, which was done involuntarily. brought back memories of one of Sporting said in the same the more bizarre scenes of last statement they had decided to summer cancel the suspension of Jardel's Joaquin hypnotised a chicken contract. live on Spanish television and the The club had rejected an offer former farmer's boy performed a earlier this month from Spanish similar feat on the Barcelona defenders before sending the ball First Division outfit Real Betis to past Valdes with a left foot shot from take him on loan, despite Jardel's stating that he would like to play in iust inside the area. However, even Joaquin will anotherEuropean club outside of concede that the goal of the game Portugal. 1 belonged to his colleague Fernando

Primera Liga

Betis roast Barca

Varela went past four Barcelona defenders before also using his left foot to deadly effect seven minutes before the whistle

alladolid a difficult place to get points and so it proved again as they lost their perfect record with a 1-1 draw

The European champions should be greatful for anything though, as they had to play the majority of the game with ten men after Spanish international defender

Goals by Deportivo La Coruna's Joan Capdevilla are few and far between, he last scored in the league nearly three seasons ago Real Madrid have often found before Saturday, but his tap in two minutes from time helped the

Galicians win 2-1 at Alaves. The Basque hosts had only themselves to blame for giving the dame away.

Alayes dominated the first half but could not find the net until Ivan Alonso headed home from a Oscar Tellez cross from wide out on the left

Fernando Sales

The Daily Star

play in Munich (where he scored a Barcelona had a four-game winning hat-trick in England's 5-0 win World streak before they took on Real Cup qualifying over Germany in Betis on Saturday but that run came September last year), or against to an end in Huelva as the Seville-Argentina every week. based side maintained their "You get moments when you are unbeaten record in the league with a

really pleased with yourself 3-0 win over the Catalan football because you are mainly judged on giant.

AFP, Madrid

Football

And Owen said attitude was the key to success as a professional sportsman. "I like to think being positive is just the way I am. "If you can get to the top of your

that what really motivated him now

"What gets you excited is the big games," said Owen who scored

England's goal in their 2-1 in June's

World Cup quarter-final defeat by

landmarks because you don't get to

"Every footballer must have

eventual champions Brazil

were major matches.

profession, you have to have something in your head, because football's 90 percent there.

big moments and occasions.

athlete, but the rest is about having the brain.

number one golfer) first came on the scene you could he was well-built but after that everything is mental." But Owen admitted that one of his greatest assets, pace, had been bred in him just as it is with top-class

"You breed one with a fast dad." said Owen, who owns three racehorses.

"My dad, and my mum as well,

is staged) in front of a statue of Red

"He said: 'He was a four-mile plodder, my boy is a sprinter.'

feel I'm on earth to be a footballer

side but the game was played 100 kilometres away from their Manuel Ruiz De Lopera stadium after thev had been banned from using it following crowd trouble at the local derby against Seville last season.

Spanish international Joaquin Sanchez was without doubt the games outstanding player, the Betis winger tormenting the Barcelona defenders all night, but it was Alfonso Perez who drew first blood for the Andalusians.

The former Spanish international striker, now in his second spell at Betis, scored from the penalty spot after Barcelona goalkeeper Victor Valdes dragged down Jesus Capitan, as the Betis striker advanced on his goal.

For Alfonso, it was a sweet revenge to score against his former side, where he spent two miserable seasons including a loan spell at Olympique Marseille, before returning to Betis in the summer.

validity of the penalty as there Betis got their second after a appeared to be little contact

Michel Salgado talked himself off eight minutes after the break. the pitch after 39 minutes, with the The goal acted as a wake up call score at 0-0. to Deportivo, who were thrashed 4-0

at home by AC Milan in the Salgado had been booked for a foul but referee Rafael Ramierez European Champions League on Dominguez booked him for a sec-Tuesday. ond time for his protestations and Spanish international striker Diego Tristan, last season's top

Salgado found himself, as the Spanish say, thrown into the street. Raul Gonzalez put Real in front a brought Deportivo level after 69 minute before the break by chipping minutes with a precision header. the ball over the oncoming Alaves goalkeeper Albano Bizarri from the the field 10 minutes after coming on edge of the area, after the prolific as a late substitute for Deportivo striker had connected with Zinedine captain Fran Gonzalez, then made

Zidane's defence-splitting pass out of the midfield. Uruguayan international striker Andres Olivera got Valladolid a share of the points, and his first goal for his new club after moving from

penalty spot after 58 minutes.

arguing long and hard over the

clear. Deportivo have managed to Sevilla in the summer, from the string together three consecutive victories in the league. However, Madrid fans will be

League leaders Celta Vigo, the only side now with a perfect record after Real Madrid could only share the points with Valladolid, play host

scorer in the Spanish First Division,

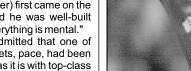
Capdevila, who had only been on

the most of a goalmouth scramble in

the closing minutes of the game,

after the Alaves' defenders panick-

ing with their inability to get the ball



However, Owen's father was not

quick as him Michael'.

"I don't know what it is, but I just

Betis were nominally the home

"You need a decent body to be an

"When Tiger Woods (the world's

thoroughbreds.

were both quick when they were young.

a happy man when he heard his son compared to Red Rum, the only horse to win Britain's demanding Grand National steeplechase three

"We were at Aintree (the Liverpool course where the National Real Betis' Brazilian star Denilson (R) trying to tease the tackle of Barcelona's Gaizka Mendieta at Huelva on Rum and someone said: 'You're as September 28.

"My dad was not too happy with that

Delighted manager Gerard Houllier, who had continued to play Owen throughout his barren spell said: "Michael knew he had the 100 percent support of everyone at the club during his recent lean spell.

"His feet are still quick, mentally he is still quick and his game awareness is superb.

"He gave us a sign after the first one that everything was okay but we knew that anyway.

"He hasn't been the happiest man in training on the days after he has missed a few chances but other

one of the best since I've been at said Reid. "But they'll be back."

Premiership's top six

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

Arsenal Liverpool	8 8	6 5	2 3	0	21 18	8 8	20 18
Middlesbrough	8 8	5 4	2	2	10	5	14
Man Utd	8	4	2	2	9	6	14
Chelsea	8	3	4	1	15	11	13
Tottenham	8	4	1	3	11	12	13

advice of his doctor

The 28-year-old, Europe's top scorer last year with 42 goals, said in July he was unable to play in Portugal because he was not in the right psychological condition after separating from his wife.

The former Brazilian international was under contract for two more seasons with Sporting but he had not played with the club this term after taking medical leave for depression.

Sporting suspended Jardel's

between Real captain Fernando to unbeaten Malaga on Sunday. Hierro and his apparent victim

Primera Liga's top six

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

2	2	0	0	7	1	0
3	3	0	0	1		9
4	3	0	1	8	6	9
3	2	1	0	10	5	7
3	2	1	0	7	2	7
3	2	1	0	7	2	7
3	2	1	0	10	6	7
	3	3 2	3 2 1	3 2 1 0	3 2 1 0 7 3 2 1 0 7	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Leverkusen show mettle

fillip to Toppmoller's side after two Champions League losses in as many outings, including the real

Lucio had struck on nine minutes and Bayern were forced onto the attack as Giovane Elber replaced Jens Jeremies for the second half. But Turkish star Yildiray Basturk

was bossing the midfield for Leverkusen and it was his cross which allowed Munich-born Bierofka to net the winner.

Elber had a header well saved by Jorg Butt in the Leverkusen goal and then hit the side netting but Bayern were unable even to reduce the deficit until Salihamidzic latched on a corner kick from Ze Roberto.

Bavern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said his men had shot themselves in the foot.

"We beat ourselves owing to unnecessary goals - you can't mess around in your own penalty area. We played like amateurs at times." Hanover. he stormed.

The result lifted Leverkusen towards midtable and also lifted some of the aloom which fell over the club when they lost the league title on the final day to Dortmund, the German Cup final to Schalke and

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

Bayern Munich	7	Б	1	1	10	7	16
	<u>′</u>	5	!	1	10	<u>′</u>	
Borussia Dortmund	7	3	4	0	9	5	13
Hansa Rostock	7	4	0	3	11	6	12
Schalke 04	7	3	3	1	9	6	12
Werder Bremen	6	4	0	2	10	10	12
VfLBochum	6	3	2	1	14	6	11

Serie A Juve, Milan drop points



REUTERS, Milan

Early Serie A pacesetters AC Milan and Juventus were both held to draws as Lazio and Parma showed they remain sides to be reckoned with despite the sale of key players.

Juventus had trailed Parma by two goals until the 87th minute but an Igor Tudor header and then a controversial goal from Alessandro Del Piero in the fifth minute of injury time earned them a point.

In Rome, Milan took an early lead through a Paolo Maldini header, his second in successive weeks, but had to settle for a share of the points after Claudio Lopez equalised six minutes into the second half.

Juventus, featuring former Parma players Gianluigi Buffon, Lilian Thuram and Marco Di Vaio, were second best for much of the game against a Parma side inspired by Romanian Adrian Mutu.

But through a combination of poor finishing and fine goalkeeping by Buffon the match remained goalless for over an hour.

Parma finally took the lead in the 66th minute when Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata, who has troubled Juventus in the past, converted with a closerange finish.

Brazilian striker Adriano doubled Parma's lead in the 81st minute with a simple tap-in after a fine run and cross from Mutu.

But then Juventus began their comeback as Tudor rose to head home a Del Piero corner, with Parma keeper Sebastien Frey left flapping at the cross.



AC Milan captai Paolo Maldini is ecstatic after scoring against Lazio at Rome on September 28.

transfer market as their former

wearing an AC Milan shirt.

AC Mila

Juventu

Piacenz

Inter Mi

Parma

Bologn

Parma's French midfielder Sabri Lamouchi was sent off after a fracas in the penalty area as Juventus sought to retrieve the ball and quickly restart.

But the incident which infuriated Parma even more came with Del Piero's equaliser.

The Italy striker turned Parma defender Matteo Ferrari as he brought down a high ball and then rounded Frey and slotted into the unguarded goal. Parma players claimed Del Piero

had handled the ball as he beat Ferrari.

"It was clear that Del Piero handled the ball," said Parma striker Adrian Mutu. "That was disgraceful refereeing" Lazio fans were given a painful reminder of their club's losses in the of timid applause and loud booing.

But Lazio soon had other matters to worry about as Maldini rose superbly to head a Rivaldo free-kick past Angelo Peruzzi to put the visitors ahead in the seventh minute.

Roberto Mancini's side must have wondered what would be in store for them after Milan's stunning 4-0 win at Deportivo Coruna in midweek but they showed great spirit to take control of the game.

Jaap Stam was desperately unlucky with a superbly struck freekick which flew out off the post and Simone Inzaghi, lining up against his brother Filippo, wasted a good chance from close range.

Six minutes after the restart Lazio's efforts were rewarded when Lopez fired home after some neat work from Dejan Stankovic.

Milan continued to threaten and Massimo Ambrosini forced a superb save out of Peruzzi with a powerful header

captain Alessandro Nesta took the field against them for the first time Ambrosini was sent off in the final seconds for a late challenge but Nesta, who ended an 18-year Milan survived injury time with ten association with the Rome club men and maintain their top spot in when he moved to Milan in a 30.2 Serie A with seven points from three million euro (\$29.55 million) deal in games. August, was greeted with a mixture

Serie A's top six

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

an	3	2	1	0	7	1	7	
JS	3	2	1	0	6	1	7	
za	2	2	0	0	4	1	6	
lan	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	
	3	1	2	0	5	3	4	
а	2	1	1	0	4	3	4	

Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren has revealed he does not expect injured Brazilian World Cup winner Juninho to play again this year.

this year

INTERNET

Juninho's return to Teesside from Atletico Madrid was the final part of McClaren's 22 million pound Riverside refit, but before he could start his second coming he was struck down by a serious knee injury.

Juninho unlikely

for us to think about him [Juninho] being ready to play. We are just taking it a day by day because it is a long way off," said McClaren.

Bergkamp's last season?

AFP, London

Arsenal's Dutch international striker Dennis Bergkamp said Sunday that he will quit football at the end of the season

Bergkamp has been a key player in Arsenal's strong start to the season but has decided to return home when his contract expires next

summer. "I can smell the end of my career. I know the end is coming," Bergkamp told the News of the World

"My family and I are very happy in England but when my contract ends I will go back to Holland. I left there 10 years ago but it will always be my home.

Bergkamp wants to go out at the top, and added: "I have to be realis-tic. I am 33 now and although I think I'm still getting better as a player, I also know I will not be faster as a player if I continue.

"And the thing I want to do is to stop at the top and with the biggest club I have played for - Arsenal

Football

ware on three fronts at the end of last season, gave their fans a rare boost Saturday with a shock 2-1 win

over leaders Bayern Munich. And afterwards coach Klaus Toppmoller said he believed his side, on their knees after throwing away their chances of league Champions League and German Cup glory in May, had finally turned the corner.

Bundesliga

"That was a continued improvement on our showing against Manchester United on Tuesday.

corner." said Toppmoller. whose side were a shade unlucky to bow 2-1 to the English giants.

"Today we had a little of the luck which was missing on Tuesday," he added.

Bayern showed up with two of the glittering stars they poached from their rivals in the summer -Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto but they finished on the losing side as Brazil star Lucio and Daniel Bierofka scored in either half to end Bayern's unbeaten league record. Hasan Salihamidzic netted

Bayern's late consolation. The hosts held on for only their second win despite a dismissal on 37 minutes for Thomas Brdaric for a

Ballack meanwhile wrecked his

Bierofka came on for Oliver Neuville just four minutes before bagging the winner to give a huge

"December might be a bit early

"I think we may have turned the

second yellow card. 'homecoming' with a booking.

AFP, Berlin Olympiakos. Baver Leverkusen, beaten to silver-

the Champions League final to Real Madrid Reigning champions Borrusia lowpoint of a 6-2 pasting at Dortmund climbed into second place with Ewerthon's late goal to

see off Borussia Monchengladbach 1-0 but Bayern are three points ahead with 16 points from six games

Dortmund meanwhile announced they are releasing former Nigeria star Victor Ikpeba to Libyan side Ittahan Tripoli, owned by Al-Saadi Kadhafi, son of Colonel

Mouammar Kadhafi. Ikpeba arrived four years ago from Monaco but has failed to settle and spent last seaosn on loan to Betis in Spain.

Dortmund are the only club still left unbeaten after fourth-placed Schalke went down to a 2-1 loss at Arminia Bielefeld

Hansa Rostock stay in third, level with Schalke on 12 points despite losing 2-1 at home to promoted

Sixth-placed VfL Bochum can climb a point clear of Dortmund into second on Sunday if they win at home to Bremen, currently fifth.

A Bremen win would take them second - and more crucially to within a single point of Bavern.

Bundesliga's top six