Totti fires Roma

Football

AFP, Rome

Inspirational captain Francesco Totti netted twice in the last nine minutes as AS Roma secured their first home win of the season with a comprehensive 4-1 victory over Udinese here Saturday.

Italy international Totti, who scored a hat-trick at Brescia last Saturday, milked the applause, but it was under-fire striker Gabriel Batistuta who deserves much of the credit for the three valuable points.

The Argentina international's 74th minute goal gave Fabio Capello's side a second-half lead they barely deserved after Udinese's veteran defender Nestor Sensini had cancelled out Vincenzo Montella's opener.

Batistuta, whose goal was his second in Serie A this season but who has not scored in 976 minutes of Champions League football, lifted Roma out of their slump when Udinese looked to be heading for at least a point.

And Totti put the icing on the cake with his double as Roma made it three wins in seven days following their 1-0 Champions League win at Genk on Tuesday and their 3-2 league victory at Brescia last week-

Capello, who has been very critical of his team's performances this season, was delighted to see his team rediscover their form after a slow start to the campaign.

"It was a big performance tonight," he said. "I am very happy that we are back on track."

Manchester United defender Rio

Ferdinand is facing a lay-off of

several weeks after undergoing an

exploratory knee operation, the club

half is certain to miss Monday's

Premiership clash with Everton at

dollar) signing from Leeds is also

likely to miss England's opening two

Euro 2004 qualifiers over the next

10 days against Bratislava and at

after the Everton game is against

Fulham at Loftus Road on October

Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker

Elber will not be fined by the

German club despite a drink-drive

withdrawn for four weeks after being

caught by police with a blood alco-

Bavern Munich limited company

cháirman Karl-Heinz Rummeniggé

told reporters on Saturday when

that," added Rummenigge, who was

speaking after his side's 4-1 win

over VfL Bochum in which Elber,

now the Bundesliga's leading scorer

Italian striker Paolo Di Canio will

start looking for a new club next

month unless the striker is told he is

still wanted at West Ham, his agent

with eight goals, struck twice

Di Canio's

ultimatum

warned Saturday.

"Everybody in this stadium has

asked whether Elber faced a fine.

"Do you know what 0.5 is?,

hol level of 0.5 grammes per litre.

Elber had his driving licence

United's next Premiership fixture

The 23-year-old England centre

30-million-pound (47-million-

Ferdinand

undergoes

surgery

confirmed on Saturday.

Old Trafford and the

home to Macedonia.

Elber let

off easy

REUTERS, Munich

offence.

AFP, London

The Roma coach singled out



In other action Saturday, Lens, struggling in the Champions league

after two defeats and a draw, moved

into the top six a point behind

Marseille with a 2-0 win at

Montpellier with Daniel Moreira and

loss at Le Havre while Strasbourg

are seventh, a point clear of Lyon,

Nantes, champions two seasons

Sochaux stay fifth despite a 1-0

Promoted Ajaccio pushed

John Utaka on the scoresheet.

after edging Troyes 2-1.

Francesco Totti. the AS Roma star, hides his face after missing a goal against Udinese at Rome Olympic Stadium on October 5.

Serie A's top six

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

Inter Milan	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
AC Milan	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Juventus	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Bologna	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
AS Roma	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Empoli	3	2	0	1	5	3	6

Batistuta whose came off the bench in the 69th minute and did not have to wait long before finding the net.

"When he came on he gave us something extra," Capello added. "He won many high balls and scored a very important goal - for himself, for us, for everybody.

"Up until then Udinese were causing us problems every time they attacked.

Earlier Saturday an 81st-minute equaliser from Japanese international midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura earned Reggina a 2-2 draw at home to Brescia.

The visitors grabbed an early lead through Stephen Appiah but recent signing Alessandro Pierini levelled for the Calabrians two minutes before half-time.

Brescia however still managed to go into the break with an advantage after Roberto Baggio converted a stoppage-time penalty awarded for Jorge Vargas' foul on Igli Tare

But a determined Reggina, who picked up their first point of the season at Como last week, were not to be denied and Nakamura's superb free-kick crept just under the crossbar to earn a share of the spoils.

Reggina, who won promotion back to Serie A last season just a vear after relegation, signed Nakamura on a three-vear contract from Yokohama F-Marinos in July.

Last month the Kanagawa-born player was called up by new Japan national coach Zico for the friendlies against Jamaica on October 16 and Argentina on November 20.

Nakamura, 24, has 21 caps, netting five goals in his country's colours, but former coach Philippe Troussier did not select him for the World Cup finals on home soil this

ago, into the bottom six with a 1-0

success courtesy of veteran forward

after Sylvain Armand earned a red

Nantes ended up with ten men

Aside from Auxerre's encounter

with Monaco Sunday also sees

Bordeaux host Sedan and Paris St

Bruno Rodriquez.

card in the final minutes

Germain meet Guingamp.



AIR KLOSE: Miroslav Klose (R) Kaiserslautern's German international strker, scoring with a diving header against Energie Cottbus at the Fritz-Walter stadium in Kaiserslautern on October 5.

Bundesliga

Bayern play like Bayern

Football

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich used their heads to get back to winning ways in the Bundesliga after a dismal week which dragged them to the brink of Champions League elimination.

Even with midfield dynamo Michael Ballack below his best with a dose of flu, Bayern easily waltzed past Bochum 4-1 as their all-South American strikeforce of Giovane Elber and Claudio Pizarro bagged

two headers apiece. And afterwards coach Ottmar Hitzfeld praised his men for what he saw as a welcome return to the disciplined approach which he has always preached and which has led to European Cup glory with Bayern as well as Dortmund

"It was important to get our noses in front before the interval," said Hitfeld after his Latino marksmen had both opened their account either side of the half-hour mark

"We showed order and discipline larger margin," added Hitzfeld, who demanded a massive improvement after Champions League home losses to both Deportivo La Coruna

Elber made the initial breakthrough on 27 minutes from a Willy Sagnol cross before Pizarro made it 2-0 in the 39th minute from a long punt by Hasan Salihamidzic.

Peruvian Pizarro made it three on 66 minutes from close range from a Ze Roberto cross from the left and although Sebastian Schindzielorz pulled one back with 13 minutes remaining, Elber made it 4-1 in the dying seconds after good work down the flank by England international Owen Hargreaves.

Elber is now league top scorer with eight, two clear of a quartet

which includes Pizarro. Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund moved into second place, three points behind Bayern, with a

routine 3-0 win at promoted

Premiership

Hanover 96 which preserved the last remaining unbeaten record in the league

Torsten Frings netted a penalty for the opener on 42 minutes, Jan Koller scored the second after 63 minutes and Brazilian Marcio Amoroso clinched the points with the third three minutes from the

Schalke 04 whipped SV Hamburg 3-0 to move into third, four points off the pace, with Victor Agali and Ebbe Sand netting in the opening 15 minutes before Germany international Gerald Asamoah scored a third just before the inter-

Bayern now lead the way with 19 points from eight games with Dortmund on 16, Schalke on 15 and Werder Bremen also on 15

Bundesliga's top six

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

Bayern Munich	8	6	1	1	22	8	19
Borussia Dortmund	8	4	4	0	12	5	16
Schalke 04	8	4	3	1	12	6	15
Nerder Bremen	7	5	0	2	14	11	15
/fLWolfsburg	8	4	1	3	8	7	13
Hansa Rostock	7	4	0	3	11	6	12

Bremen can shoot into second place and close the gap on Bayern to a single point if they see off sixthplaced Rostock on Sunday.

VfL Wolfsburg shot into fifth spot with a 2-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen, who beat Bayern a week ago but failed to draw on that inspiration as they slumped to goals from Tomislav Maric on six minutes and former Bayern veteran Stefan Effenberg a quarter of an hour from

Kaiserslautern moved off the bottom after the 'Red Devils' easily won a basement battle with Energie Cottbus 4-0 to gain their first win of the campaign and hand a boost to new boss Eric Gerets.

German World Cup star Miroslav Klose notched a brace and Gerets said Klose's belated return to form as evidenced by a fine header and a crisp left-foot drive would have a major impact on the rest of the camapign

"I'm pleased the work the forwards have been doing in training paid off. We knew Miro has had a few problems. It's incredible how high he can climb and what a good a ball he is," said Belgiar

Hail Cisse

AFP, London

Birmingham's Senegal midfielder Aliou Cisse helped the club secure their first away win of the season on Saturday, hours before flying home following the death of nine family members in Senegal's recent ferry disaster

Club manager Steve Bruce paid tribute to the courage of the player in the aftermath of the sinking of The Joola, a ferry operated by the Senegalese army which capsized off The Gambia last week, leaving up to 1,000 people feared dead. The ferry was designed to carry

550 passengers, but had over 1,000 people on board, including the members of Cisse's family. Yet the 26-year-old insisted on

playing in the 2-1 victory against West Ham at Upton Park before flying home. "For him to even turn up and play

today is a massive thing," said Bruce. "For him to show that mental strength to get through the game today shows massive courage. "We don't know the full details

nine members of his family in the disaster. There were aunties, cousins and other relatives. "The first we really knew about it was when he booked his flights on Friday. He never mentioned it all week, which shows immense cour-

because there is a problem with

communications but he has lost

age.
"We heard a whisper on Thursday and I asked him about it, but he said he just wanted to con-

centrate on the game. "He will be flying back home this evening and will be away for how-

when to come back? "However long it takes to get over something like that is irrelevant as far as I am concerned

Cisse, who picked up a fifth booking of the season which means he is suspended for the game at



Football AFP, London

The pressure on embattled West Ham boss Glenn Roeder intensified on Saturday after his side went down to their fifth defeat of the

The Hammers' players left the Upton Park pitch to a cacophony of booing from the crowd after the 2-1 defeat to Birmingham

Trinidad and Tobago forward Stern John was the architect of West Ham's defeat, opening the scoring in the fourth minute and then claiming the winner two minutes before the break after Joe Cole had equalised.

To add to Roeder's worries he had to substitute Cole in the second half after the England player suffered a dead leg.

At the other end of the table Ugo Ehiogu scored his first goal of the season as Middlesbrough consolidated their grip on third place in the Premiership with a 2-0 win over Bolton that left the Lancashire club struggling in relegation territory.

With league leaders Arsenal and second-placed Liverpool both in action on Sunday, Steve McClaren's men narrowed the gap on the pace-setters and maintained their unbeaten record at the Riverside thanks to Ehiogu's 23rdminute header and a second-half strike from Cameroon international For Bolton, who were knocked

out of the League Cup by Third

lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Liverpool

Man Utd

Chelsea

Newcastle

Middlesbrough



West Ham United's England international Joe Cole (R) watches his attempt entering the net against Birmingham City at West Ham's Upton Park ground in London on October 5.

Schmeichel

Bridge

Division Bury in midweek, the defeat means they slip into the bottom three after fellow strugglers Southampton overcame Manchester City 2-0 at St Mary's stadium.

Former Real Madrid star Geremi was Middlesbrough's man of the match, floating in the corner which Ehioqu headed home and then running away from the Bolton defence to score himself after Croatian striker Alen Boksic had sprung their offside trap.

Brett Ormerod, who scored a hat-trick against Tranmere in midweek, was on the scoresheet again after barely a minute of Southampton's match with Manchester City, rising to meet Wayne Bridge's header with a

18 13

15 12

18 17

14 13 13

Premiership's top six

English Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn,

second yellow card for diving.

Alan Shearer claimed a brace as Newcastle came from behind to beat West Brom at home

perfect header past Peter

string of saves to keep a desper-

ately disorganised City in the

match. But Ormerod finally made it

two minutes before the break

finishing at the second attempt

after a counter-attack launched by

match with ten men after Latvian

forward Martin Pahars received a

Southampton finished the

The Danish goalkeeper made a

Igor Balis had given West Brom the lead in the 27th minute but a

Shearer header on the stroke of half-time and a trademark piece of poaching from the former England striker 20 minutes from time were enough for Newcastle to take the

top half of the table for the first time this season and will ease the painful memory of their Champions League defeat at Juventus in midweek, which effectively ended their interest in the competition

The win lifts Newcastle into the

In a move which could reignite the interest of Manchester United, Moreno Roggi said he had spoken with West Ham managing director they avoid defeat at Auxerre Paul Aldridge this week and set a

headed Italian an extension to his current contract. Di Canio's deal runs out next summer, by which time the Romeborn striker will be approaching his

deadline for the Hammers to decide

whether they want to offer the hot-

35th birthday. "He (Aldridge) told me he wasn't sure if West Ham wanted to keep him on after this season. He said he

would check with his manager." said is no secret Paolo wants to stay at West Ham and finish his

career there. He loves the club. "In fact, he would be interested in seeing if there could be some role for him at the club after he retires.

"So I told Aldridge they had until the end of October to decide if they wanted to talk to us about a new

"He (Paolo) wants to play somewhere and if West Ham aren't willing to discuss a contract extension then he has no choice but to look else-

League One Lyon maintain form

Football

AFP, Paris Reigning French champions Lyon, galvanised by their midweek Champions League success at Inter Milan, pulled off their first away win

in the league Saturday with a 1-0 success at Rennes France international forward Sidney Govou scored the only goal after 50 minutes, firing home a deflected effort from a Vikash Dhorasoo cross to bring a deserved

win for Paul Le Guen's side. But while Lyon moved up two places to eighth as they iron out early season inconsistency Nice eir chance to lead th once more with a 2-0 home success which moved them top on goal difference from Auxerre, who face

Monaco on Sunday. Nice, only just promoted, surrendered top spot to Auxerre a week ago by losing at Sochaux but bounced back to see off traditional poor travellers Bastia with goals in the final quarter of an hour from Abdelmalek Cherrad and Kaba Diawara.

Nice have 20 points from ten games to 20 from nine for Auxerre but coach Gernot Rohr insists the points gained so far are a mere insurance policy against relegation. which many pundits forecast would be his side's fate this season. But Marseille's good start to the

season came off its rails as they slid to a 3-0 loss at Lille, who are rocketing up the table after a dreadful start. Hector Tapia opened the scoring on 15 minutes, bundling home from close range after a penalty area scrum, and Philippe Brunel drove in the second in the 54th minute after

Benoit Cheyrou, brother of Liverpool's former Lille favourite Bruno Cheyrou, scored the third ten minutes later to disabuse Marseille fans of the view that this season

Vladimir Manchev had hit the wood-

their team are back in business. The former European champions are still third with 17 points from

ten games but Monaco would displace them if

Primera Liga

Breathing space for Bilbao

goals for, goals against, points)

FRENCH KUNG-FU! Lyon's Sydney Govou (L) goes airborne and at full

stretch while Rennes's Lamine Diatta looks on at Route de Lorient stadium in

French league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost,

League One's top six

Football

AFP, Madrid

Athletic Bilbao lifted the pressure on their coach Jupp Heynckes after finally earning a victory, winning 2-1 at fellow strugglers Recreatico

Huelva on Saturday. Heynckes had angered the Basque club's supporters by calling himself 'a luxury' at Bilbao but their climb out of the relegation zone will give him a temporary respite.

Athletic now have four points from their five games but newly promoted Recreativo are still winless and anchored to the bottom of the Spanish First Division with just

Auxerre

Monaco

Sochaux

Recreativo's poor finishing meant they failed to find the net until three minutes from the whistle.

After a first half of squandered chances by both sides, Athletic's breakthrough came just after the hour when Athletic's Joseba Etxeberria made one of his familiar runs down the right wing and took the ball into the box.

The former Spanish international wandered past three Recreativo defenders before finding Carlos Gurpegi unmarked. He had little difficulty finding the net with his right foot for his third goal of the season. Athletic secured all three points,

to the evident relief of their German

boss whose brow was deeply fur-

rowed for much of the game, when

goal after 84 minutes, connecting with a Santi Ezquerro cross from out on the left. The hosts got their consolation goal three minutes later when Xisco

Tiko Martinez got Athletic's second

20 17

16

16

12

Munoz sent home a David Cubillo chip into the box. Recreativo will be regretting not making more of their first half chances when they had three clear-

cut opportunities to go in front. Raul Molina shot wide after 13 minutes and Iker Begona had two other efforts saved by Athletic's goalkeeper Inaki Lafuente, who had an outstanding night although crisper finishing from Recreativo might have caused him more prob-

ever long it takes - how can I tell him

"It puts the football into perspec-

neighbours West Brom in a fortnight, was one of the stars of the show.