

Premiership Liverpool owe 'cool' Owen

Football

AFP, London

Liverpool striker Michael Owen held his nerve and got over his penalty jinx to help the Merseyside club extend its Premiership lead to four points on Saturday.

A late Owen penalty gave Liverpool a 2-1 win over Tottenham as Blackburn won by the same margin at Arsenal.

Owen, fouled by Stephen Carr, shrugged aside Danny Murphy's offer to take the penalty and drilled home to secure the win.

The last time Owen was brought down in the box at Anfield, he missed the penalty against West Brom. In all, Owen had missed six of his last 12 penalty attempts before Saturday's spot-kick.

But he was not frightened to try again, and Reds manager Gerard Houllier said: "Michael showed a lot of strength of character to take that penalty. It shows that at 22 he can do that - it was not an easy penalty to take.

"We weren't 5-0 up. It was a penalty in the last minute against a very good team; it was a credit to him

Manchester United also lost ground after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Aston Villa, despite Diego Forlan finally scoring his first Premiership goal.

After back-to-back defeats by Everton and Auxerre, it seemed things could not get any worse for Arsenal

But they did with Edu's own goal giving Blackburn a 6th-minute lead at Highbury.

The Brazilian made amends with a free-kick equaliser on the stroke of half-time but Dwight Yorke capitalised on some hesitancy in the Arsenal back four to break free six minutes after the break and he produced an impeccable finish to beat David Seaman.

Blackburn were reduced to ten men for the last ten minutes after Garry Flitcroft was sent off but they managed to hold out for a memorable win to inflict Arsenal's third defeat in eight days

Liverpool were made to work hard for their win over Tottenham.

Danny Murphy looked to have done enough to earn them the three points when he finished off a sweeping move with a curling shot with just 18 minutes left.

But Tottenham defender Dean Richards headed an equaliser 10 minutes later to keep the Anfield faithful sweating until four minutes

League One



EASY, STEADY, CAN'T MISS AGAIN! Michael Owen about to score from the penalty spot against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield on October 26.

admire that," Ferguson said.

TABLE

Saturday's matches (played, won,

drawn, lost, goals for, goals

Liverpool 11 8 3 0 22 9 27

Arsenal 11 7 2 2 26 13 23

Chelsea 11 5 4 2 20 12 19

Man Utd 11 5 4 2 14 8 19

Tottenham 11 6 1 4 17 16 19

that has not been there before."

11 5 3 3 15 8 18

Birmingham.

from time.

Boro

against, points):

from the end when Owen was pulled down.

The England striker dusted himself down and coolly converted to open up what could prove to be a decisive gap between his side and Arsenal. Aston Villa, who had not won or

scored a goal away from home all season, went ahead at Old Trafford in the 35th minute when Olaf Mellberg got in front of Laurent Blanc to head Mark Kinsella's corner home.

And with United struggling to break them down, it looked for much of the match like Graham Taylor's beleaguered side were heading for a famous victory before Forlan equalised with a 77thminute header.

It was the Uruguayan's first from open play for United - his only previous strike in 35 appearances came from the penalty spot in a Champions League clash. United almost snatched the

points but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's late header was brilliant saved by Peter Enckelman. "If we had won it it would not have been a fair result." United boss Alex Ferguson admitted after a lacklustre display by his side

The Scot was delighted to see Chelsea ahead against West Brom, Forlan finally get his reward for his fastening on to Emmanuel Petit's perseverance.

"He keeps going, you've got to flick on to fire in a powerful low shot after half an hour.

Sun Jihai scored his first goal in Another Hasselbaink shot set up the second, the ball rebounding to English football and Manchester give former England fullback City's first in five matches as Kevin Keegan's side halted their slide Graeme Le Saux a rare chance to down the table with a 2-0 win at get on the scoresheet.

PHOTO: AFI

Australian striker Mark Viduka celebrated his return to the Leeds The China defender met Eyal starting line-up with an 11th-minute Berkovic's cross from the right with penalty to put them ahead at a powerful diving header to put City Middlesbrough. ahead and Nicolas Anelka made

Cameroon midfielder Josephsure of the points three minutes Desire Job equalised for the home side mid-way through the half but Leeds looked to have grabbed the points with a Lee Bowyer strike in the 56th minute. English Premiership table after

Viduka was involved again. combining with Harry Kewell, who fired in a shot that Mark Schwarzer failed to hold, allowing Bowyer to net the rebound. But after England striker Alan

Smith was sent off yet again, Middlesbrough piled on the pressure and snatched a point with Gareth Southgate's late header. Newcastle had to come from

behind after Shaun Bartlett gave "We could have been looking at Charlton a shock lead at St James' four or five nil," a delighted Keegan Park. said. "We had a cutting edge to us

Andy Griffin, the hero of the Magpies midweek win over Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink put Juventus, equalised in the 37th minute and Laurent Robert sealed the points on the hour mark.

Serie A Chievo first to conquer Milan

AFP, Milan

SPORT

Italian league leaders AC Milan suffered a shock first defeat of the season on Saturday, crashing 3-2 to upstarts Chievo at the Marc'Antonio Bentegodi stadium in Verona. Milan's loss to last season's

surprise package in Serie A means early pacemakers Inter Milan can regain top spot if they win at home to third-placed Bologna on Sunday. Reigning champions Juventus

meanwhile moved up to third after beating struggling Udinese 1-0 at the Stadio Delle Alpi Chile international Marcelo

Salas settled the contest three minutes after half-time, slotting home Cristian Zenoni's right-wing cross from four yards out. Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti

whose side had only conceded two goals this season at the start of play said defensive errors gifted Chievo victory "We paid dearly for our mistakes

which could so easily have been avoided," he said. "We didn't defend well at set pieces and found it difficult to find

any space "Chievo made life difficult for us. It would seem they've returned to the level they reached last season

They are a very strong team." Massimo Marazzina, scorer of the opening goal, said Milan's star-

TABLE

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

Milan 6 4 1 1 19 5 13 5 4 1 0 10 4 13 Inter Juventus 6 3 3 0 10 4 12 Bologna 5 3 2 0 8 3 11 5 3 1 1 8 4 10 Lazio 5 3 0 2 12 89 Roma

studded squad could not cope with Chievo's physical approach. "We know Milan have greater

technical ability than us so we had to use our aggression as a weapon, he said. "Milan have great character and

would not give in until the final whistle, but we deserved the three points which are a real boost for the club's morale.

Marazzina gave Chievo a deserved 22nd minute lead before German striker Oliver Bierhoff, a former AC Milan player, doubled the home side's advantage with a closerange header just after the break.

Milan's Ukrainian striker Andrii Shevchenko, making his first start of the season after undergoing knee surgery, halved the deficit in the 59th minute, directing Andrea Pirlo's cross past Cristiano Lupatelli with a firm header.

But Milan, who have already qualified for the second phase of the Champions League thanks to four straight wins in Europe, conceded a third goal eight minutes from time



Primera Liga

AFP, Madrid

Valencia demonstrated once again that they are a much more attackminded side than the one that won the Spanish league title last season by thrashing Athletic Bilbao 5-1 on Saturday.

The reigning champions had not put five goals past an opponent for two seasons until the visit of the

hapless, and helpless, Basques, Athletic's main tormentor was Pablo Aimar, who shrugged off the pain from the dislocated shoulder that kept him out of Tuesdav's 2-2 draw in the European Champions League with Basel to bag a hat-trick. Even Athletic's trio of central defenders were no protection against the Argentine midfielder,

and Aimar opened the scoring by weaving his way after six minutes. Jon Carew added Valencia's

second just two minutes later. The goal deluge continued with

Aimar scoring after 29 and 43 minutes.

Valencia could easily have had at least three more before the break with Vicente Rodriguez turning an Aimar pass against the bar and David Albelda fluffing two easy chances

Three minutes after the break Jesus Maria Lacruz brought down Carew in the box and Fabio Aurelio scored from the spot.

The hosts then visiably eased off and Athletic got a late consolation from Tiko Martinez.

However, the hefty defeat will once again raise questions about the future of Athletic coach Jupp Heynckes, with his side ominously close to the relegation zone.

Valencia have 14 points from seven games but their lead might only last 24 hours as second-placed Real Sociedad, who trail Valencia on goal difference, play Racing Santander on Sunday.

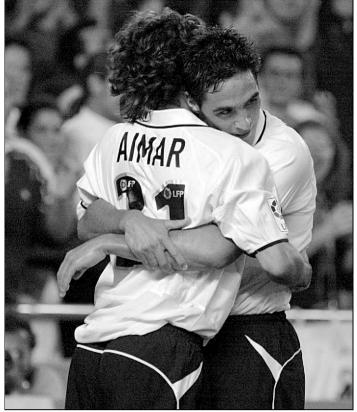
Celta Vigo squandered their chance to go back on top again when they were held to a 0-0 draw by Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

After both sides failed to capitalise on their first-half chances, the game descended into a dour midfield battle, with both sides biding their time looking for an opening that never emerged.

The Galicians are third with 14 points but are behind both Valencia and Real Sociedad on goal differ-

ence. Real Madrid dropped their first points at home in the Spanish First Division this season after being held to a 1-1 draw by an inspired Villarreal.

The European champions started like they were the kings of Europe and France's former World Footballer of the Year Zinedine Zidane put Real ahead after 22 manage



The Daily Star

Pablo Aimar (L) is embraced by Valencia teammate Vicente after scoring his hattrick against Athletic Bilbao on October 26 at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia

1992 to 1994

further goals added by a trio of

Varela was shown the red card.

Villarreal midfielder Jorge Lopez the former Real Madrid coach who scored from the penalty spot after was at the helm at the Santiago he had been hacked down by Bernabeu for two seasons from Claude Makelele just inside the box.

Valencia turn it on

In the second half, Villarreal's Barcelona ended their three Martin Palermo and Real's game streak without a win by demol-Fernando Morientes - the latter ishing Alaves 6-1, becoming the first coming on for an ineffectual team to find the net six times this Ronaldo - both had good chances to season get three points for their sides.

Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert got Real coach Vicente Del Bosque a hat-trick in another annihilation of a Basque outfit on Saturday, with

TABLE

Spanish football league table after Spanish internationals, Gaizka Mendieta, Luis Enrique and Xavi Saturday's matches (played, won, Hernandez. drawn, lost, goals for, goals Real Betis will be considering against points that their 1-1 draw at Recreativo

a.games, pe								that their 1-1 draw at Recreativo
Valencia	7	4	2	1	16	5	14	Huelva was one point won rather
Sociedad	6	4	2	0	17	1	1	than two points lost after the Seville-
14								based team ended the game with
Celta	7	4	2	1	10	4	14	just eight men.
Real	7	3	3	1	14	8	12	The exodus started six minutes
Malaga	6	3	3	0	13	9	12	before the break when Fernando

Despite being a man down, Betis was muted in his criticism of the still took the lead through Gaston Brazilain World Cup winner, who Casas just seconds before the has now failed to score in the three break games since his sensational debut Betis defender Luis Fernandez when he found the net twice against

joined Varela in the dressing room Alaves "He's still adapting to a new team after 68 minutes and shortly afterand new team mates," said Del wards their defence was finally breached when Xisco Munoz equa-Bosaue.

Naturally, Villarreal coach Benito lised for Recreativo. Floro was happier with the result. However, the hosts were unable the first point that Villarreal have to grab a winner even after Betis' in seven league meetings Romanian defender Iulian Filipescu completed the trio of expulsions "I think we gave a good account after 80 minutes of ourselves and the result is a Struggling Recreativo are still credible outcome. We could have without a win this season and prop won if our finishing was better. One up the division with just two points or two chances went astray," said from their seven games.

Ronaldinho rules

Football

AFP, Paris

Ronaldinho starred in Paris Saint Germain's 3-0 victory over Marseille in this most hardfought fixture in the French league calendar marred by rioting fans.

Two first-half goals by the skilful Brazilian, one a penalty, and a late effort by Martin Cardetti moved the capital city club up one place into second spot behind Auxerre, who took over at the top from Nice with a 1-0 victory over Rennes thanks to an Olivier Kapo goal

Auxerre have 24 points, one ahead of PSG and two ahead of Nice who dropped to third following their 0-0 draw at home to Lens.

Earlier in the day, French police used water cannons and fired tear gas after coming under attack from football fans outside the stadium ahead of the high-security fixture.

PSG coach Luis Fernandez brought in Bartholomew Ogbeche for his first match of the season and he linked well with Ronaldinho throughout the match

Marseille boss Alain Perrin also picked a key player in his starting 11 in Manuel Dos Santos who had served a one-match suspension and slotted into the left side of defence

Ronaldinho immediately caught the eve with a succession of freekicks and could have scored from one of them but for great work by Marseille keeper Vedran Runje two minutes before his opening goal in the 15th minute.

From a fairly harmless looking freekick, the ball travelled unhindered through a crowded goalmouth to beat Runje who may not have seen the ball till the last minute.

PSG, who earned a share of a 0-0 draw in this fixture last season. were clearly on top and Marseille looked overawed by the occasion.

Things turned worse for the Riviera club when Ronaldinho scored his second from the penalty spot in the 37th minute



ON FIRE! Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho Gaucho, reacts to a firecracker thrown by a spectator during the match against Marseille on October 26.

Keeper Runje lunged to collect and to the right of Runje to give the the ball and Ogbeche looked to Parisians a commanding 2-0 lead. have made a fake dive and referee Marseille had a good chance in Eric Poulat, officiating this fixture first-half injury time when Dos for the third time in four seasons, Santos crossed and Lucio Fernandao headed just over the pointed to the spot in what looked a poor decision. crossbar of PSG keeper Lionel Ronaldinho shot the ball high Letizi.

In the 55th minute, the match was held up for two minutes when Ronaldinho, attempting to take a corner on the left, was stunned by a firecracker thrown from the crowd which landed at his feet

He appeared deafened by the noise and was touching his left ear but carried on after receiving attention

Other missiles rained down on the Brazilian who was surrounded by officials and Perrin intervened to try and calm down the Marseille supporters.

A well-struck left foot upfield from PSG defender Gabriel Heinze found Cardetti who managed to head over Runje in the 82nd minute to round off PSG's victory.

But it had been a bitter-sweet night for football with off-pitch antics overshadowing the fixture.

Ronaldinho said afterwards: "Everyone knows the rivalry between PSG and Marseille and I'm very happy we managed to win 3-0. Concerning the incidents. wasn't scared, but I was not at all comfortable while taking the cor-

"I didn't really see anything but I neard a big noise behind me. In Brazil, we are never confronted with that kind of thing."

Meanwhile on Friday night, Brazilian midfielder Savio picked an opportune time to score his first goal for Bordeaux in a 2-2 draw at home to Monaco.

Bordeaux had been many people's French title tip after coach Elie Baup, who led the club to the 1999 championship, strengthened his hand by signing Savio and Lorient hotshot Jean-Claude Darcheville

TABLE

PHOTO: AFF

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

Auxerre 12 7 3 2 17 10 24 Paris SG 12 6 5 1 21 8 23 12 6 4 2 16 5 22 Nice Lyon 12 6 3 3 23 13 21 Marseille 12 6 2 4 14 15 20 Monaco 12 5 4 3 18 12 19

when Federico Cossato converted Nikola Lazetic's centre.

The visitors, playing without injured World Cup winner Rivaldo rallied in the closing stages and pulled another goal back through Danish international striker Jon Dahl Tomasson.

But despite a few nervous moments in stoppage-time, Chievo, who finished fifth last season, held on for their third win of the campaign.

Milan's misery was compounded by the sending-off of Italy international Pirlo seconds before the final whistle for a second bookable offence.

Juventus' match-winner Salas starting in place of the rested Alessandro Del Piero, was delighted to make his mark in the absence of the in-form Italy international

"We are happy with the win although we didn't play well," he said.

"We're grateful for the three enly 3-3 home draw against lowly points and now we can focus on our (Champions League) match against stayed top of the Bundesliga Feyenoord next week

Souness' dream! AFP. London

Blackburn boss Graeme Souness believes it is only a matter of time before his former charges Rangers and perennial Glaswegian rivals Celtic head south to join the English Premiership

The Old Firm clubs have mulled the possibility of doing just that in recent seasons after establishing a seemed to have wrapped up a seemingly unbreakable stronghold narrow win with his second with 10 on the Scottish Premier League minutes remaining with his 10th goal of the campaign where the only question is which side of the city will suffer the indig-

nity of coming second. Celtic host Blackburn in the UEFA Cup on Thursday and Souness, while relishing the thought of putting one over the Celts as he so often did in his successfull spell on the blue side of Glasgow, said he believed both Scottish clubs would profit from more regular trips across

the border "I would love to see Rangers and Celtic in the Premier League. It would be wonderful for them and wonderful for the Premier League.

"I would think it's inevitable, whether it's in one year or ten years," the former Liverpool midfield hard man told the Sunday Telegraph.

minutes with a stunning right foot with Real drive from the edge of the area.

However, the visitors gradually asserted themselves and drew level in injury time at the end of the first

Bundesliga **Bayern draw** good enough

Football

read the half-time riot act.

ally hit the woodwork - and Elber

But Bavern were without

German international goalkeeper

Oliver Kahn through injury and 23-

vear-old replacement Stefan

Wessels let through a third

Hannover goal on 82 minutes as

Stendel rescued an unexpected

point for the northerners, bundling in

The result was not exactly the

tonic Bayern required ahead of

Tuesday's crucial Champions

League encounter with Deportivo

La Coruna and Hitzfeld slated his

side for their lapses of concentra-

from close range.

tion

Bayern Munich followed up their

potentially fatal Champions League

AFP, Berlin

no side has managed to progress after taking just one point from four

Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund showed their form, in contrast, by thrashing Werder Bremen 4-1 away to turn the heat on Bayern, whom they now trail by two points.

midweek loss in Milan with a slov-Leaders Bayern have 23 points from 10 matches to 20 for Dortmund Hannover 96 on Saturday - but with Werder slipping below 1860 Munich, who moved ahead of them Bavern made the perfect start as into third spot on goal difference Giovane Elber opened the scoring with a 1-0 win at Borussia on four minutes but Dariusz Zuraw levelled after 16 minutes and when Monchengladbach.

Dortmund's former Werder Daniel Stendel fired the visitors into favourite Torsten Frings opened the a 44th-minute lead, it was time for scoring after only two minutes and Bavern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld to although Fabian Ernst levelled after If he actually did so it proved only 35 minutes Brazilian strikers partially effective as Mohammadou Ewerthon (twice) and Dede netted ldrissou missed a gilt-edged chance three times in the final 19 minutes as to make it 3-1 shortly after the break Matthias Sammer's men ran away before Bayern began to clamber their way back into things. with the points.

"Our physical strength was Mehmet Scholl, back from longdecisive," said Sammer. "Happily term injury, levelled on 75 minutes we didn't lose our way after the from a free-kick - twice he additionequaliser

Werder counterpart Thomas Schaaf said his side had given too much away "We gave Dortmund far too much

room. They took their chances better.'

Elsewhere, Hertha Berlin could only draw 1-1 at home to Bayer Leverkusen while fellow top five outfit Schalke 04 laboured to the same score against Nuremberg.

TABLE

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

"We played plenty of attacking football - but we are making too many individual mistakes. But we can't talk of there being a crisis in the	Dortmund	10 10	55 52	3 15 12 17	
team," he insisted. "The team's					
morale is fine."	Berlin	10	44	212 8 16	
Bayern face early elimination as	Schalke 04	10	44	2 13 10 16	

Return to 1966

AFP, Middlesbrough

The surviving memories of North Korea's legendary 1966 World Cup team have concluded their trip down memory land with a rapturous reception in the town that played host to their moment in history

It was at Middlesbrough's now demolished Ayresome Park that the unheralded North Koreans stunned the footballing world by humbling mighty Italy 1-0. Pak do Ik, the man who scored

the crucial goal, was one of seven surviving members of that team who were presented to tens of thousands of screaming fans at Middlesbrough's new Riverside Stadium ahead of Saturday's 2-2 draw with Leeds United.

There were tears in their eyes when Pak do Ik stepped up amid deafening cheers from around the stadium to recreate the goal which changed his life.

Documentary maker Dan Gordon, who brought the team back to the north of England, said: "As we walked across to the goal with him the noise was unbelievable.

"I have never experienced anything like that before. It was tremen dous. Evervone had tears in their eyes when he put the ball down.

"The reception they all received was outstanding."

The players, who were all pre-sented with Middlesbrough shirts with their names on, had earlier this week toured the site of Ayresome Park, which is now a housing estate.

A 17-strong delegation from North Korea arrived in England on October 15 after being granted special permission to leave the isolated communist state.

They were guests of honour at England's European Championships qualifier against Macedonia and have also visited Goodison Park, the Everton stadium where where they lost 5-3 to Portugal in the quarter final after

being 3-0 up. The delegation was granted special permission by the North Korean authorities to travel from the isolated state. The trip has been arranged by

two English television documentary makers - Gordon and North Korea specialist Nick Bonner. The story of the North Koreans was recounted in their award-winning programme The Game of their Lives.