



THAT'LL DO IT! Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs (2nd from R) drills in his second goal Liverpool at Anfield on November 9.

Premiership Champagne Chelsea

Football
AFP, London

Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri dismissed talk of winning the Premiership despite seeing his side follow their thrashing of Lazio with a 5-0 demolition of Newcastle on Sunday.

The multi-million-pound Chelsea remained one point behind leaders Arsenal, who beat Tottenham 2-1 on Saturday, and are also heading towards qualification for the next stage of the Champions League after a memorable week.

Manchester United hung on grimly at Anfield for a 2-1 victory over Liverpool which leaves them just one point behind Chelsea.

At Stamford Bridge, Russian tycoon Roman Abramovich was beaming with pleasure after seeing goals from three of the players his millions have bought - Glen Johnson, Hernan Crespo and Damien Duff - and Frank Lampard and Eidur Gudjohnsen weighed in with the others.

Lampard said afterwards: "For the first time we can honestly say we believe we can win something this season."

The likeable Ranieri greeted that comment with a smile.

"They are young," said the Italian. "I will believe it when I touch the title. Dreaming is for the night, then I wake up and go to work."

Ranieri confirmed he had urged his players to improve on their 4-0 drubbing of Lazio.

He said: "I'm very pleased. I spoke with my players and said the result was important but I want to see if we can continue to grow up."

"Everything is bright, but I wanted to see how they played after Lazio."

Ranieri can measure his side against United when they meet on

November 30.

Newcastle were weakened by Alan Shearer's late withdrawal with illness and went behind after 25 minutes.

Johnson, red-carded against

TOP SIX

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

Arsenal	12	9	3	0	25	10	30
Chelsea	12	9	2	1	26	9	29
Man Utd	12	9	1	2	23	7	28
Charlton	12	6	3	3	19	15	21
Birmingham	12	5	5	2	11	8	20
Man City	12	5	3	4	22	15	18

Ronaldinho out for five weeks

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona and Brazil star Ronaldinho is likely to be out of action for five weeks after pulling a right leg muscle in Sunday's 2-1 home win over Betis, the Spanish club's medical staff said Monday.

The injury means he could miss two World Cup qualifiers and a crucial home league game in the first week of December against Real Madrid.

As well as being sidelined for up to four league matches and at least one UEFA Cup game Ronaldinho will also miss out on World Cup qualifiers away to Peru in November on Sunday and at home to Uruguay in Curitiba three days later.

The Brazilian suffered the injury challenging for a ball with visiting defender Luis Fernandez in the 14th minute of the win at the Nou Camp, Mexican defender Rafael Marquez notching the winner eight minutes from time with Dutch veteran Patrick Kluivert also on the scoresheet to break his league duck.

Kluivert came on for Ronaldinho, who initially tried to play on.

Barca doctor Lluís Til said an x-ray on the injury had shown up a five-centimetre (two-inch) tear in the femoral biceps of his right leg.

Barcelona stand fourth in the Liga but trail leaders Deportivo La Coruna by six points.



STUNNED: Real Madrid superstars (L-R) Luis Figo, David Beckham and Ronaldo stand shell-shocked during the drubbing against Sevilla at Seville on November 9.

Becks & co for Foe

AFP, Paris

England captain David Beckham is among a group of Real Madrid players offering messages of support for Thursday's Marc-Vivien Foe memorial match.

Beckham, along with his club colleagues Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and Luis Figo, has also sponsored the shirts to be worn by the fallen Cameroon star's friends and former teammates.

The 'friendship' side face Cameroon at the Stade Gerland ground in Lyon where the Manchester City midfielder collapsed and died of a heart attack playing for his country in their Confederations Cup semi-final against Colombia in June.

All the takings from the match (television rights, tickets, sponsors and donations) will go to his family - he was a married father of three - and the Marc-Vivien Foe foundation.

Primera Liga Real shame

Football
AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's big money stars left behind the rain of the capital on Sunday for the balmy south seeking to go top of the Spanish Primera Liga, only to find the sky fall in on them as Sevilla whipped them 4-1.

Real, missing injured Brazilian talisman Roberto Carlos and also the suspended Michael Salgado, found themselves 3-0 down after only 14 minutes and went in at the break 4-0 behind and with their tails firmly between their legs.

Ivan Helguera put through his own

net after just seven minutes to set the tone for the evening and Dario Silva made it 2-0 just two minutes later.

Dani Alves added the third after 14 minutes and Francisco Casquero made it four to leave Real coach Carlos Queiroz and his unhappy band stony faced.

Helguera bundled the ball in past keeper Iker Casillas under pressure from Ruben for the first before Reyes fed Silva for the second to leave Real on the ropes.

Alves ensured they stayed there with his sucker punch in firing past the exposed Casillas as the keeper came out before Casquero provided the coup de grace.

Real fought on gamely as befitted a

side with Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Luis Figo all present, but had only a sole consolation in Ronaldo's ninth league goal of the

TOP SIX

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

Deportivo	11	8	1	2	21	9	25
Valencia	11	7	2	2	22	7	23
Real Madrid	11	7	2	2	24	13	23
Barcelona	11	5	4	2	16	11	19
Atletico	11	6	1	4	14	13	19
Osasuna	11	5	3	3	13	9	18



DIDN'T I TELL YOU? AS Roma's Brazilian international Emerson (L) is over the moon after scoring the second goal against Lazio at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on November 9

Serie A Juve save the best for last

Football
AFP, Rome

Reigning champions Juventus scored four goals in a stunning final 11 minutes to overcome a stubborn Udinese side 4-1 and open up a two-point lead at the top of Serie A on Sunday.

Juventus' emphatic victory coupled with AC Milan's 0-0 draw at Parma ensured the title-holders maintained their unbeaten run and took sole possession of first place in Italy.

European champions Milan have 21 points, two fewer than Juventus after nine matches played.

Roma, champions in 2001, drew level with Milan after beating arch rivals Lazio in an emotional Rome derby which only came to the boil in the final minutes.

Two moments of Brazilian magic gave Roma the edge at the Olympic stadium with Mancini's sublime back-heeled volley breaking the deadlock before his compatriot Emerson finished a lightning counter-attack with a fierce half-volley.

Lazio's defeat ended a miserable week for Roberto Mancini's men whose Champions League hopes were dented on Tuesday following a 4-0 thrashing at home to Chelsea.

Juve coach Marcello Lippi hailed his players for a breathtaking comeback.

"It was a demonstration of quality," he said. "We were up against a well-organised, compact side, who were dangerous on the counter-attack. They had their chances but in the end we dominated."

Lippi said his squad was the strongest he had ever worked with.

"I've not trained a group of players with this much quality before," he added.

Marek Jankulovski gave Udinese a 66th minute lead from the penalty spot at the Delle Alpi stadium before Juventus' late blitz.

Marco Di Vaio headed in Lilian Thuram's cross to bring Juve level with the club's 4,000th goal in Serie A, before fellow second-half substitute Fabrizio Miccoli prodded home from close range to put the home side in front.

Di Vaio poached an easy second goal for his seventh of the season as Udinese fell apart and David Trezeguet

rubbed salt into the visitors' wounds by slamming in the fourth in stoppage-time.

Juventus were even able to afford the luxury of a missed penalty by Alessandro Del Piero, returning from injury after two months out and celebrating his 29th birthday.

Milan came closest to winning in Emilia Romagna when Jon Dahl Tomasson's goalbound shot was brilliantly blocked by Parma defender Matteo Ferrari.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said a draw was a fair result.

"We played well and had a few opportunities, but overall I have to be content with a point," he said.

"Parma are a talented young team and not many teams will come here and get a result."

Parma remain fourth on 18 points, two ahead of Inter Milan who reignited their title challenge with a comfortable 3-0 win at home to struggling Ancona.

Julio Cruz's unstoppable 20-yard free-kick put Inter on their way before second-half goals from Marco Materazzi and Christian Vieri secured the points.

Fabio Grosso's late equaliser gave Perugia a 2-2 draw at home to fellow relegation candidates Lecce, while Reggina were held 1-1 at home to Modena.

In the day's other match, Chievo

TOP SIX

Standings in the Italian championship after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Juventus	9	7	2	0	23	9	23
Roma	9	6	3	0	18	3	21
Milan	9	6	3	0	16	4	21
Parma	9	5	3	1	16	9	18
Inter	9	4	4	1	11	5	16
Lazio	9	5	1	3	15	12	16

World Cup thief no more

Football
AFP, Rio de Janeiro

The man who masterminded the daring 1983 theft of the World Cup trophy has died in obscurity, the Brazilian newspaper O Globo reported here on Sunday.

Career criminal Sergio Peralta organised the raid which took place at the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) in 1983.

Peralta was released from prison in 1989 having been found guilty of taking the trophy which had been awarded to Brazil on a permanent basis after they had won the World Cup for a third time in 1970 in Mexico.

He lived as a recluse in his remaining years.

"He died three months ago due to heart problems," said O Globo.

On December 19, 1983, three hooded men broke into the Rio offices of the CBF, tied up a security guard and made off with the trophy measuring 35cm and weighing 3.8kg.

According to the original inquiry Peralta knew the layout of the CBF headquarters intimately from his time as a representative of Atletico Mineiro and he was aware that the original trophy was being kept in a simple glass cabinet while only a copy was locked up in the CBF's safe.

Pele joined appeals for its return but police later discovered that the trophy, made in 1928, had been melted down for its gold value.

Named the Jules Rimet trophy after the former FIFA president it was replaced in 1984 and the new one presented to the Brazilian authorities.

Two members of Peralta's gang suffered varying degrees of misfortune, O Globo noted.

The first, Hernandez, escaped prison but was later arrested and locked away on drug trafficking charges.

The second, ex-police officer Francisco Rivera, was assassinated on his release from jail in 1989.

Another man, Antinio Setta, who was called as a witness at the trial, also died with the police suspecting he too was the victim of a hit in 1985.

Peralta and his gang were not the first thieves to get their hands on the famous trophy.

Just before the 1966 World Cup finals in England it was stolen from a display in London.

The theft set off a nationwide search but a week after it disappeared a Thames river worker took



Dhaka Wanderers goalkeeper Himu foils an Amin Rana (R) attempt during their Federation Cup clash against Mohammedan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



Bayern Munich captain and custodian Oliver Kahn gives the thumbs-up after defeating Borussia Dortmund 4-1 at Munich's Olympic stadium on November 9.

Bundesliga Vintage Bayern

Football
AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich underlined why they are the reigning German champions bouncing back from their recent slump to crush old foes Borussia Dortmund 4-1 at the Olympic Stadium on Sunday and stay in touch with the pretenders to their Bundesliga crown.

Defeats to Schalke 04 and Lyon in the Champions League prompted coach Ottmar Hitzfeld to label the Dortmund encounter a "must-win game" and Bayern delivered with a display full of enthusiasm and attacking imagination to collect a vital three points after VfB Stuttgart, Bayer Leverkusen and Werder Bremen all won over the weekend.

"We started energetically and drove forward from the first whistle," explained Hitzfeld. "We should have gone ahead earlier but for the misfortune with the woodwork."

"But we have taken our first step out of the mire."

Dortmund's defeat sees them surrender fourth place to Bayern as their Olympic Stadium jinx continues with the 2002 Bundesliga winners yet to taste victory at the venue since October 1991.

"Conceding three goals from set pieces is not good enough," raged Dortmund coach Matthias Sammer.

"We shot ourselves in the foot."

With the criticism still ringing in their ears Bayern's stars started at a high tempo and incredibly hit the woodwork three times in the first seven minutes.

Michael Ballack, Roque Santa Cruz and Roy Makaay all came within centimetres of opening the scoring only to be denied by the goalframe.

When the returning Sebastian Deisler hit the crossbar again with a dipping shot on 19 minutes Bayern must have feared it was not going to be their day.

But Ballack headed home seven minutes later to hand the champions a deserved lead.

An explosive second half then saw Dortmund draw level with Czech striker Jan Koller taking advantage of an awful Bixente Lizarazu clearance to volley home.

Parity was shortlived though as Frenchman Willy Sagnol atoned for the error of his compatriot sixty seconds later with an unstoppable header to restore Bayern's lead.

The visitors' vulnerability in the air was highlighted once again in the 72nd minute when the diminutive Hasan Salihamidzic headed home before substitute Claudio Pizarro put

some gloss on the win with an effort in injury time.

Stuttgart continue to lead the way after an away win over Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 on Saturday.

Bayer Leverkusen's title challenge continues to gather pace following Sunday's 3-1 over Schalke 04 at the BayArena.

It broke Bayer's home hoodoo against Schalke - who had won their last three matches at the venue - and moved Bayer to within one point of Stuttgart in second place.

Werder Bremen also stay in the title hunt after hammering Hannover 5-1 on Saturday and emphasising that they are not a one-man team.

Elsewhere, Klaus Toppmoller was handed his first Bundesliga win since taking charge of SV Hamburg as his side triumphed 3-1 over 1860 Munich at the AOL-Arena.

TOP SIX

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

Stuttgart	12	9	3	0	19	2	30
Leverkusen	12	9	2	1	26	8	29
Bremen	12	9	1	2	34	16	28
Bayern	12	7	3	2	29	16	24
Dortmund	12	7	1	4	23	17	22
Bochum	12	6	3	3	24	13	21