



PROVING A POINT: Monaco's Spanish international Fernando Morientes, who is on loan from Real Madrid, pulls his tongue out while celebrating his strike against Chelsea at the Louis II stadium in Monaco on April 20.

## Monaco's 10-man masterclass



AFP, Monaco

Fernando Morientes and Shabani Nonda hit two spectacular late goals to give ten-man Monaco a 3-1 victory over Chelsea in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final here on Tuesday.

Croatian striker Dado Prso had given Monaco, playing in their third Champions League semi-final in ten years, the lead in the 17th minute before Argentinian international Hernan Crespo levelled with a crucial away goal five minutes later.

The match seemed to be meandering towards a draw before Morientes struck his 25th career goal in the tournament 13 minutes from time and Nonda slotted in a third in the 83rd minute just seconds after coming on as a substitute for skipper Ludovic Giuly.

It was a spectacular response from the French side who had been reduced to ten men earlier in the second half when Andreas Zikos

was sent-off after Claude Makelele collapsed theatrically to the ground having been gently tapped on the head by the Greek international.

Monaco coach Didier Deschamps was ecstatic at the extraordinary outcome, coming two weeks after his side put out Real Madrid on away goals after winning by the same score at home.

"It's a super result - we go to Stamford Bridge with lots of hope," said France's 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 winning captain.

"To be even one goal in front after the first leg is good, we've got two."

"Luckily Zikos' sending off didn't cost us dear. My team responded exceptionally well."

His Chelsea counterpart Claudio Ranieri graciously admitted he was at fault for the crushing defeat.

"It's my fault," said Ranieri after his side's first away defeat in the tournament this season.

"I put on Hasselbaink because I wanted to win the game. In the last fifteen minutes, everybody wanted to do something but in the wrong

way. They didn't pass the ball to the three strikers."

"We completely lost the plot but I was sure it was the best thing for the team."

The outstanding Giuly said the team had more than stepped up to the plate when they went down to 10 men.

"We played with hunger and with guts," he said.

"One doesn't always get the chance to play in a Champions League semi-final and we gave it our all."

Veteran Chelsea centreback Marcel Desailly warned of a backlash for the French side when they come to London in a fortnight.

"It will be fiery," declared Desailly, who might not be able to play as Monaco contest that he elbowed Morientes in the second-half.

The Monaco breakthrough arrived in the 17th minute when Mario Melchiot chopped down Jerome Rothen on the left touchline.

Melchiot was booked by referee Urs Meier leaving Rothen to hit a free-kick which wasn't

cleared and it found its way to Prso who headed into the top corner past the despairing dive of Marco Ambrosio in the Chelsea goal.

Desailly then cleared off the line from Zikos before the game exploded when the Greek was red-carded in the 52nd minute.

Makalele was booked for his part in the exchange and will miss the second leg.

To shore up the midfield, Prso was withdrawn in favour of former West Ham player Edward Cisse.

Chelsea sensed an opportunity and the tireless Gudjohnsen headed over a Veron corner in the 57th minute while Ranieri threw on Hasselbaink.

Thirteen minutes from time, Monaco's persistence paid off when Giuly's sweet flick was latched onto by Morientes whose running, right foot volley shot past Ambrosio.

Then Nonda, battling back from a career threatening knee injury, slotted in the third at the start of the second half but was to prove a largely unimportant figure.

Four minutes after the interval,

Ambrosio pulled off a point-blank save to deny Morientes who seconds earlier had been writhing on the floor after the Desailly incident.

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## Target Old Trafford?

### Football

AFP, London

Police continued to grill 10 terrorism suspects, a day after a Manchester United football match -- a feared target of attack -- passed without incident.

Greater Manchester Police said the nine men and one woman, of North African and Iraqi Kurdish origin, arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 in raids Monday in central and northern England, remained in custody.

"We've got extensions on the detention of the 10 suspects," a police spokesman told AFP, adding that under British law, they could -- with a judge's consent -- be held longer without charge.

"You can go up to 14 days before time runs out," he said. "It's an ongoing investigation, so it takes some time to complete."

Monday's operation was the second big swoop against terror suspects in Britain in less than a month, after nine British nationals were apprehended in and around London on March 30 in connection with a bomb plot.

The exact nature of the threat which led to the Manchester-centered arrests has not been officially disclosed, but press reports have spoken of a possible attack on a shopping centre or a sports stadium.

The Sun newspaper went further, alleging that a Manchester United fixture against Liverpool on Saturday at Old Trafford was to have been targeted by a number of suicide bombers.

The team's match Tuesday against Charlton Athletic went ahead as planned, but with more security checks put into place at the 67,000-seat stadium, the biggest in Britain.

Manchester United won the Premiership contest 2-0.



YOU ARE NOT SAFE ANYMORE: Policemen search spectators entering the Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester prior to April 20's Premiership match between Manchester United and Charlton. Extra security measures are in place at the venue after Monday's anti terrorism arrests in Manchester. British police have foiled a plot to bomb a football stadium, possibly that of Manchester United, following the arrest of 10 terror suspects in central and northern England.

## Ronaldo to cost £120 million

INTERNET, Source

Real Madrid have told Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich that he may attempt to purchase the Spanish club's Galacticos, but at a massive price.

But the Blues have been told that the Real Madrid players have minimum fee release clauses which make them extraordinarily expensive, even to Britain's richest man.

To buy either Ronaldo, Raul, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo out of their existing contracts would allegedly cost the London side in excess of £120 million.

"If they want to sign Ronaldo or any other Real Madrid player, they will have to buy out their contract. In Ronaldo's case that would be £120 million," a Real Madrid spokesman told Spanish newspaper Marca.

"Our players are worth what it says in their contracts."

Roberto Carlos has a relatively lower price of £60 million but is out of contract next year.

Abramovich is rumoured to be looking to bolster his squad again before next season. Ronaldo is thought to be a target for the Russian, while David Beckham's recent problems in his private life have led to reports of the England captain moving to Chelsea.

Nevertheless, it appears that Real are going to put up a big fight to keep their star names.

### Premiership

## United blank Charlton

### Football

AFP, Manchester

Goal-sy Gary Neville scored his second goal in three games as Manchester United took another step towards securing the runners-up berth in the Premiership on Tuesday with an emphatic 2-0 victory over Charlton Athletic here at Old Trafford.

If they beat Liverpool at home on Saturday, they will move above Chelsea into second place, which would ultimately ensure automatic qualification for the Champions' League.

Victory left Alex Ferguson's side just a point behind Chelsea who on Tuesday suffered a 3-1 Champions' League semi-final first leg defeat away to French side Monaco.

Meanwhile Charlton's own European hopes were dealt a blow since victory here would have allowed them to climb into fourth place, which provides the final Champions' League place.

Ferguson had to do without Paul Scholes, who was starting a three-month ban for violent conduct.

But United welcomed back Ruud van Nistelrooy up front after a knee injury, and Tim Howard returned in goal in place of Roy Carroll.

United dominated the early stages. After a quarter of an hour they earned a free-kick 25 yards out and Louis Saha rolled the ball to an unmarked Phil Neville who forced an excellent save from Dean Kiely. United broke the deadlock on 28

## Time to walk on moon again



AFP, Newcastle

"We are confident that the steps that we have taken to date have significantly reduced any potential threat in the Greater Manchester area," Dave Whatton, assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, said.

Manchester United said in a statement Tuesday that it encouraged "all supporters to be particularly vigilant at this time and report anything regarded as suspicious to ground officials".

The 10 suspects picked up in Monday's raids in central and northern England, which involved 400 officers, were described by police as being North African and Iraqi Kurdish in origin.

The Times newspaper reported Tuesday that other possible targets for an attack might have been the ground of United's local rivals, Manchester City, or else a shopping centre in the Manchester area.

They enter Thursday's home clash against surprise French outfit Marseille on the back of nine wins and one draw in their last 10 home matches but will see it come under some threat as Marseille have proved to be no mugs on the road having drawn away at crisis club Liverpool and then beaten Italian giants Inter Milan 1-0 last week.

"Marseille beat Inter Milan and Liverpool and they are very useful," said Robson.

"However they will have a difficult match with us at our place."

His talismanic skipper Alan Shearer believed that the Magpies can reward their long suffering Toon Army fans by delivering the UEFA Cup even with both Welsh strike partner Craig Bellamy and promising young attacking midfielder Jermaine Jenas out injured.

"There is belief we can finish fourth (in the Premiership) and win the UEFA Cup," said Shearer.

"If we don't believe it we might as well pack in now and go on our summer holidays."

"We are doing well. We are not conceding goals, our defence is playing very well at the moment and we are always going to score goals and that is a good mixture."

"If that continues we have a very good chance."

Marseille have their own injury

### TOP SIX

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

	Arsenal	33	24	9	0	67	22	81
Chelsea	34	22	6	6	60	27	72	
Man Utd	34	22	5	7	61	32	71	
Liverpool	34	13	11	10	48	36	50	
Newcastle	33	12	14	7	45	33	50	
Villa	34	13	10	11	44	40	49	



Manchester United's French striker Louis Saha (R) shoots past Charlton's Hermann Hreidarsson to score at Old Trafford on April 20.

Shearer will have other ideas about that as Newcastle seek to banish the ghostly black and white images of Armstrong from their minds for ever.

"It would be great if we grabbed a goal but even better if we don't concede one," he said.

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## Beckham limps off

### Football

AFP, Madrid

Tendinitis in his left knee forced fresh-cropper England skipper David Beckham to curtain a Real Madrid training session Tuesday, although he is set to be fit for Sunday's showdown with Barcelona at the Bernabeu.

Beckham, his new hairstyle hidden under a cap, pulled out of the session after a quarter of an hour's jog as a precaution.

The Barca match is make or break for Real's title aspirations with the club out of the Champions League and having lost the Spanish Cup final.

Saturday's derby win at Atletico Madrid saw them draw level on points with Valencia at the top of the Spanish league but the latter lead the table on goal difference with only five games remaining.

Barca have hauled themselves into third spot following a purple patch and a win in Madrid to avenge a loss to their hated rivals at the Nou Camp last autumn would close the gap to four points.

Barcelona's Valencia-born defender Raul Bravo told reporters he was convinced Real would settle down to win the title and rescue their season.

"There are five games left, we are level on points and it's up to us. If

we win all five we won't have to look at the rest of our rivals," he explained, confidently predicting Valencia would slip up before the finish line.

Valencia, who won their first league title in 30 years two seasons ago, have a tough trip to fifth-placed Athletic Bilbao on Sunday to negotiate.

"It's just a pity that we are