

Daddy's day out

AFP, Rome

Andriy Shevchenko was bursting with pride after scoring AC Milan's winner at Sampdoria the day after the arrival of his first child.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian, who became a father on Friday when his wife Kristen gave birth to a boy called Jordan, came off the bench to settle Saturday's contest and take AC Milan to within two points of leaders Juventus, who play at home to Chievo on Sunday.

"I am so happy," said Shevchenko after grabbing his sixth goal of the campaign in Genoa.

"Yesterday I became a father and it was the most beautiful thing in the world.

"Today I wanted to give a hand to my colleagues and I was able to do so. These three points are extremely important as it keeps us in touch with Juventus."

Shevchenko entered the action in the 65th minute and nine minutes later he was on the scoresheet.

Brazilian wingback Serginho played a swift one-two with Hernan Crespo before his attempted chip was blocked by Sampdoria keeper Francesco Antonioli, but Shevchenko snapped up the rebound, his right-footed shot breaking the deadlock.

He celebrated his goal by performing a rocking of the cradle celebration with his teammates.

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani revealed Shevchenko had insisted on playing some part in the match, despite not sleeping much on Friday night.

"I want to personally thank Sheva," he said. "I was with him yesterday evening and he was very worried, but I told him to relax as he would be rested for the match.

"But he didn't want to listen and said he wanted to play the last half-hour, score and dedicate the goal to his son. He kept his promise!"

Milan have 20 points from their nine matches, two less than Juventus who have played a game less.

Fergie wants Henry punished

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has called on the Football Association (FA) to punish Arsenal's Thierry Henry for an incident involving Gabriel Heinze.

Ferguson believes Henry deliberately caught Argentine defender Heinze on the head with his knee during United's controversial 2-0 win last weekend, which ended the Gunners' 49-match unbeaten run in the league.

The United boss feels the French striker was guilty of a worse challenge than Ruud van Nistelrooy's horror-tackle on Ashley Cole, which saw the Dutchman banned for three matches.

"We shall present it to the FA and see what they do. The tackle on Heinze was terrible," he said.

"There was one outstanding incident in the game with Arsenal which is worse than Van Nistelrooy. We shall present that to the FA and see what they do," said Ferguson.

"Edu produced a terrible tackle on Scholes that was a potential leg-breaker, but this was worse than that.

"The tackle on Heinze was terrible. You get the video, you watch that. What Henry did? That was bad."

Clubs are allowed to ask the FA to examine specific incidents but information is expected to be provided within 48 hours of the game.

Ferguson also criticised Arsenal's overall discipline during the Old Trafford encounter.



PHOTO: AP

THIS IS A PERFECT WORLD! AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko is over the moon after scoring the winning goal against Sampdoria at the 'Luigi Ferraris' stadium in Genoa on October 30.

Serie A

Shevchenko again Inter can't win!

Football

AFP, Rome

Andriy Shevchenko celebrated the birth of his first child by scoring the only goal in AC Milan's 1-0 victory at Sampdoria on Saturday which kept the defending champions hot on the heels of leaders Juventus.

In the day's late match, Inter Milan drew for the seventh time in nine matches as Leonardo Jose Talamonti's late equaliser earned Lazio a point at the San Siro.

Inter had taken the lead 19 seconds after half time when Adriano rifled in his seventh goal of the season, before the Argentine defender headed home Massimo Oddo's crossed free-kick.

AC Milan have 20 points from their nine matches, two less than Juventus who play at home to

Chievo on Sunday, while Inter climb to fourth despite their draw but are nine points off the pace.

Shevchenko started as a substitute in Genoa as he only returned from his wife's bedside on Saturday afternoon after being present at the birth of his son Jordan a day earlier.

But the 28-year-old Ukrainian striker came off the bench to net the winner 14 minutes from time, pouncing on the rebound after Serginho's attempted chip had been blocked by Francesco Antonioli.

"I am so happy," said Shevchenko after grabbing his sixth goal of the campaign in Genoa.

"Yesterday I became a father and it was the most beautiful thing in the world.

"Today I wanted to give a hand to my colleagues and I was able to do so. These three points are extremely important as it keeps us in touch with Juventus."

Roberto Mancini's past came back to haunt him as Lazio robbed Inter of all three points.

Mancini left Lazio to join Inter in the summer after two years in charge of the Rome club.

The Inter coach was incensed with referee Matteo Simone Trefoloni for awarding the late free-kick from which allowed Lazio to level the score.

He ran over to Trefeloni after the match and shouted: "Tell me what foul you whistled for - you're a disgrace."

After a dull first half, Inter took the lead through Adriano. The burly Brazilian ran on to a long pass from Sinisa Mihajlovic and sprinted past Fernando Couto before firing a powerful drive between the near post and Lazio keeper

Matteo Sereni.

Lazio restored parity six minutes from time when Talamonti rose above everybody to score his first goal in Serie A.

Inter came within inches of secure victory in the closing stages, but Sereni tipped Alvaro Recoba's curled free-kick onto the crossbar.

Lazio are something of a jinx on Inter, who have not beaten the Rome club home or away since.

TOP SIX

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

Juventus	8	7	1	0	17	2	22
Milan	9	6	2	1	15	6	20
Lecce	8	4	3	1	20	11	15
Inter	9	2	7	0	17	14	13
Cagliari	8	4	1	3	11	10	13
Chievo	8	3	4	1	7	6	13

Premiership

Red alert for Devils

Football

AFP, London

A last minute goal by Robin van Persie saved a point for Arsenal after Southampton seemed set for a shock win at Highbury before eventually being held 2-2 on Saturday.

Thierry Henry put Arsenal ahead before two goals in the last ten minutes from Ireland midfielder Rory Delap seemed set to condemn Arsenal to a second successive defeat after a 2-0 loss against Manchester United had ended their record run of 49 unbeaten league games.

But Dutch ace van Persie, who scored in the League Cup midweek, equalised in the last minute to save face for the Gunners as Chelsea cruised to a 4-1 win at West Bromwich to go level on points at the top of the Premiership.

Manchester United, however, were hit by a shock 2-0 defeat at Portsmouth.

"We had chances to score the second goal but they scored from two good set-pieces," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

"From then on we were on the back foot but we found the resources to come back to 2-2.

"It was a shock but when you play 49 unbeaten the most important thing for me was not to lose the next game and that's what we did," said Wenger after seeing Henry miss from the penalty spot in the 29th minute.

United could not build on their victory over Arsenal last weekend as Portsmouth beat them at Fratton Park for the second season in a row.

Harry Redknapp's side got through the first half unscathed and took a shock lead eight minutes after the interval through a David Unsworth penalty.

Rio Ferdinand was lucky to escape with a yellow card after bringing down Ayiegebiri Yakubu in the box.

Unsworth made no mistake with his penalty, shooting straight down the middle to beat Roy Carroll.

United laid siege to Shaka

Hislop's goal but got caught on the counter-attack by Yakubu. The Nigerian took on Ferdinand and beat Carroll with a deflected shot that went over the Northern Ireland keeper's head.

"We beat United (1-0) here last year but today's performance was better," said Redknapp.

"They are a better team. They've got Rio Ferdinand back and Wayne Rooney playing for them.

"For us to beat them is a magnificent performance. We held on for grim life last time but today we always looked dangerous. We are full of pace up front and can give anybody a problem here. I thought we deserved it in the end."

Meanwhile United manager Alex Ferguson said: "We have to reflect on our own missed chances and at this level you can't afford to do that.

"It's a kick in the teeth after last Saturday's performance. We've lost a great chance."

Chelsea closed the gap on the Gunners to goal difference as they crushed the Baggies in the Midlands club's first match under caretaker-manager Frank Burrows after Gary Megson's acrimonious departure on Tuesday.

Frank Lampard's corner found John Terry at the far post and the England defender headed back across goal for William Gallas to tap in from two yards out just before half time.

Netherlands winger Arjen Robben hit the post before Eidur Gudjohnsen added a second in the 51st minute, heading in Damien Duff's cross.

Zoltan Gera pulled one back after 56 minutes but Ireland winger Duff snuffed out any hopes of a revival with Chelsea's third three minutes later, nutmegging goalkeeper Russell Hoult.

Lampard added the fourth with nine minutes remaining to add to the gloom at The Hawthorns.

"The first half was too bad to be true," said Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho. "We were lucky to be 1-0 at half-time but the second half was beautiful.

"It was a fantastic day with United losing and Arsenal dropping

a point."

High-fliers Everton were held to a 1-1 draw by Aston Villa at Goodison Park.

Lee Hendrie hit an unstoppable shot from 20 yards into the top left corner of Nigel Martyn's goal in the 26th minute but the visitors' lead lasted just seven minutes before Everton's top scorer Marcus Bent equalised.

The forward hit his fourth Premiership goal of the season, chipping over Thomas Sorensen.

Blackburn moved off the bottom with a 2-2 draw at home to Liverpool.

But the match was overshadowed by the sight of Liverpool's French striker Djibril Cisse being stretchered off with a suspected broken leg in the 38th minute.

"I don't know. I have to talk to the doctor," said Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez when asked afterwards about Cisse's condition.

Former Birmingham striker Andy Johnson returned to haunt his old club as Crystal Palace stole a 1-0 victory at St Andrews.

Birmingham dominated the match between the two Premiership strugglers but Johnson scored with the Eagles' only shot on target to gift them their first away victory back in the top flight.

Middlesbrough beat Charlton 2-1 at The Valley and Fulham condemned Tottenham to a third straight Premiership defeat thanks to goals from Luis Boa Morte and Andy Cole at Craven Cottage.

TOP SIX

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

Arsenal	11	8	2	1	31	12	26
Chelsea	11	8	2	1	16	3	26
Everton	11	7	2	2	14	10	23
Boro	11	5	3	3	19	14	18
Bolton	10	5	3	2	16	12	18
Liverpool	10	5	2	3	18	17	

Cisse breaks down

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool's French international striker Djibril Cisse is unlikely to play again this season after breaking his leg during Saturday's 2-2 Premiership draw at Blackburn Rovers.

The 23-year-old striker, a club record 14-million-pound signing this summer, was hurt in the 38th minute of the game at Ewood Park with x-rays later revealing a fracture to the tibia and fibula in his left leg.

"Djibril will undergo surgery on Sunday morning to insert a pin in the tibia," Liverpool Head of Press Ian Cotton told the club's website.

"Unfortunately he is unlikely to play again this season and everybody at the club wishes him the speediest of recoveries."

Cisse was left screaming in agony as he fell to the ground after an innocuous tangle with Rovers' defender Jamie McEveley.

The incident comes just a year after Milan Baros and Jamie Carragher broke an ankle and shin respectively on Liverpool's previous visit to the ground.

The injury is almost certain to force manager Rafael Benitez into the transfer market when the win-draw opens in January.

"I have my fingers crossed for Djibril but at the moment I can't do anything," said Benitez.

After a quiet start in the Premiership, Cisse was just starting to find his feet, although his partnership with Baros had still not looked convincing.

Baros is now likely to be deployed in a lone striking role with Luis Garcia just behind, while Benitez is reported to be interested in Real Madrid's Fernando Morientes, whose exit from the Bernabeu in January is almost certain.

Aimar hospitalised

REUTERS,Madrid

Valencia midfielder Pablo Aimar will remain in hospital after being knocked unconscious during his side's 1-1 draw against Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

"Aimar will be kept in hospital to undergo a series of tests," club doctor Jorge Candel told Radio Marca. "He suffered a complete loss of consciousness, was unable to breath properly for a short while and remembers nothing about the match." The Argentine international collapsed two minutes into the game at the Mestalla after he was accidentally kicked in the face by Atletico's Pablo Ibanez as he dived to head a ball.

Candel said there was almost no chance of the player being able to play in his side's Champions League Group G match away to Inter Milan.

Primera Liga

Barca can't break Bilbao

Football

AFP, Madrid

League leaders Barcelona made hard work of extending their unbeaten streak to nine games in the Spanish first division when they survived some nervous moments to pull off a 1-1 draw against Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

The Catalan visitors had the best of the early exchanges and looked as though they were going to have an easy time in Athletic's usually intimidating San Mames stadium after an early goal by Samuel Eto'o, but the Basques countered quickly and gave Barca as good as they got for the rest of the game.

"A draw was a fair result. Getting a point in Bilbao is always a reason to be happy," said Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard.

"This was an intense and equally balanced match. Both sides gave everything, both of us were looking for goals. I think it will have been an attractive spectacle for neutral spectators."

The draw means Barcelona have

23 points from their nine matches and a six point lead over second placed Sevilla, who have a game in hand and play at Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

Eto'o got his eighth goal of the season after just 11 minutes following an accurate long ball from Damia Abella, who was making his league debut for Barcelona.

The African Player of Year brought it down, touched it through the legs of Athletic defender Ander Murillo before the Cameroon ace went round his man and blasted the ball home.

However, Barca's lead lasted just three minutes.

Athletic's Spanish international wing back Aitor Del Horno initiated a counter-attack and Ismael Urzaiz nodded the punt forward to Francisco Yesyte, who produced a splendid left-foot volley from an acute angle to even the score.

Del Horno squandered several good chances while Deco hit the crossbar for Barca in the first half and Henrik Larsson was also in the clear on two occasions in the second half but failed to find his usual clinical finishing skills.

Athletic played the last 11 minutes with 10 men after Carlos Gurpegui got

two yellow cards in three minutes, both for fouls on Andres Iniesta, but Barcelona couldn't exploit the advantage despite Ronaldinho producing some of his trademark trickery. Iniesta came on at half time after Rijkaard decided to take off Deco, because he felt the hero of Porto's Champions League triumph last season was on the verge of losing control, having already been booked, "because of a lot of provocation by the Athletic players."

Reigning Spanish champions Valencia threw away their chance to go second when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Atletico Madrid.

Miguel Angel Angulo opened the scoring for Valencia after an awful defensive error by Atletico goalkeeper Leo Franco, who came out of his area to kick away a loose ball.

Marco Di Vaio picked the ball off the hapless Franco, leaving Angulo the relatively easy task of scoring. Atletico were then reduced to 10 men after Veljko Paunovic, making his first start of the season, was sent off 15 minutes from the end after two yellow cards.

But Atletico grabbed a point thanks to the ever-dangerous Fernando Torres, who got his fifth goal of the

season with 11 minutes to go.

Valencia have now gone seven games, in all competitions, without a win.

The night started on a grim note for the hosts with their Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar being stretchered off and later transferred to hospital after an accidental kick in the face from Atletico's Pablo Ibanez, although he was later given the all-clear.

The rest of the Spanish fixtures take place on Sunday with among the most eye-catching being Real Madrid hosting their newly-promoted local rivals Getafe for the first time in league history.

TOP SIX

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

Barcelona	9	7	2	0	18	4	23
Sevilla	8	5	2	1	10	5	17
Valencia	9	4	3	2	17	10	15
Atletico	9	4	2	3	9	6	14
Espanyol	8	4	1	3	9	5	13
Levante	8	4	1	3	13	12	13



PHOTO: AFP

Valencia's Argentinian international Pablo Aimar is stretchered off with an injury during the match against Atletico Madrid on October 30 in Valencia.