# Barca get the result



REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona held off a spirited comeback by newcomers Getafe to claim a nervous 2-1 win and cement their hold on the leadership of the Primera Liga on Saturday.

The Catalans went 2-0 up at the break thanks to a fiercely struck free kick from Mexican international Rafael Marquez and a superb strike from Portugal midfielder Deco.

But they had to endure a nervous half hour after Gica Craioveanu pulled a goal back for Getafe early in the second half before the pressure was eased when the Romanian was sent off seven minutes from time for a foul on Deco.

The win puts Frank Rijkaard's side nine points clear of fellow Catalans Espanyol at the top of the

Espanyol's former Barca striker Dani scored a second-half double -including one from the penalty spot -- to give them a 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid that allowed Miguel Angel Lotina's side to continue their impressive start to the season.

The result pushed Real Madrid down to third place but they can reclaim second spot and narrow Barca's lead to seven points if they beat visiting Levante on Sunday.

Athletic Bilbao eased concerns about their poor start to the season when they cruised to a classy 3-0 win over Racing Santander, a result that

pushed them up to 12th place, four points clear of the relegation zone. A delightful chip from Santi

Ezquerro and a neat header from fellow midfielder Carlos Gurpegi made it 2-0 at the break, while centre-forward Ismael Urzaiz wrapped up the win in the second half with his eighth goal of the season with a trademark header.

Barcelona were quick to gain control of possession against Getafe but their well-drilled opponents gave them little time on the ball as they hounded them down in midfield and crowded them out at the back.

The visitors took the lead from a set piece in the 20th minute, Marquez scoring with a scorching 25-metre free kick after Ronaldinho had diverted attention with a decoy run across the face of the area.

Getafe were still dusting themselves down when Barca hit them again with a superbly worked goal after a lightning counter-attack.

Ronaldinho set Xavi free down the left flank with a smart back-heeled pass and the midfielder outpaced three defenders before cutting the ball back to Deco who fired in on the half-volley from the edge of the area.

Getafe refused to wilt, however, and would have scored on the halfhour had it not been for a sensational one-handed save from goalkeeper Victor Valdes, who tipped a neatly placed header from striker Riki over the bar.

The modest Madrid-based side

posed an even greater threat after the break with substitutes Yordi and Gica Craioveanu bringing new spark to their attack.

Yordi headed into the side netting in the opening minutes of the second half and the 36-year-old Romanian pulled a goal back when he let fly with a powerful left-foot shot after pouncing on a miscued clearance from Carles Puyol just

Craioveanu almost grabbed another two minutes later but Valdes beat away his shot and together Puyol and Marquez man-aged to blockYordi's follow-up.

Getafe proceeded to lay siege to the Barca area and Valdes had to produce another great save to scoop Yordi's goalbound effort off the line a few minutes later.

But their comeback was cut short seven minutes from time when Craioveanu was dismissed for some shirt pulling on Deco as he raced towards the area.

#### TOP SIX

Standings after Saturday's matches (Matches, wins, draws, losses, goals for, goals against, points):

į	Barcelona	13	10	2	1	26	8	32
	Espanyol	13	7	2	4	15	8	23
	Real	12	7	1	4	16	9	22
3	Sevilla	12	6	3	3	13	11	21
	Valencia	12	5	4	3	19	11	19
	Atlético	13	5	4	4	14	10	19
Ш	-	<b>Market</b>	-	and the last	-	-	NAME OF THE OWNER,	dispers

AS Roma ended a run of four defeats

with a 4-0 win at Siena in Serie A on

Saturday with two goals each from

Vincenzo Montella and Francesco

Serie A

who are second.



TOO HOT! Barcelona's Portuguese playmaker Deco (L) is being fouled by Getafe's Romanian Gheorghe Craioveanu (C) at the Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe near Madrid on November 27.

too late

REUTERS, Frankfurt

Mehmet Scholl's return to the spot-

Scholl came off the bench after

28 minutes to replace the under-

performing Bastian Schweinsteiger

in Tuesday's Champions League

the outstanding Bayern player in the

The long-serving midfielder was

clash with Maccabi Tel-Aviv.

**Bad timing** 

#### Sao Caetano could lose points for player's death

AP, Sao Paulo

Sao Caetano could lose 24 points and the chance to win its first Brazilian league title if club officials are found responsible in the death of a player who collapsed on the field a month ago.

Brazil's top sports tribunal ruled that Sao Caetano could be penalized if the club's president and doctor are held accountable for the death of defenseman Serginho, the O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper reported Saturday.

Police said last week that murder charges will be filed against club president Nairo Ferreira de Souza and doctor Paulo Fortes because they knew Serginho had heart trouble but let him play anyway.

Results of a police investigation are scheduled to be released Monday.

If convicted, Ferreira and Fortes could face up to 20 years in prison. They deny the club knew Serginho's life was at risk.

"It would be absurd to take points away from the club because of a fatality," said Sao Caetano attorney Joao

Serginho collapsed early in the second half of a game against Sao Paulo on Oct. 27. He was pronounced dead at a hospital hours later.

### Premiership

## Classic Chelsea

Football

REUTERS, London

Chelsea crushed Charlton Athletic 4-0 to go five points clear at the top of the Premier League, while Manchester United extended their winning run with a 3-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

Chelsea piled the pressure on champions Arsenal, who play Liverpool on Sunday, with an early strike by Ireland winger Damien Duff, two goals after the break from skipper John Terry and another from Iceland striker Eidur Gudjohnsen.

United, playing a West Brom side under new boss and former Old Trafford idol Bryan Robson, clocked up a third consecutive league win and fifth in all competitions courtesy of two goals from Paul Scholes and one by Dutch striker Ruud van

Portsmouth's first game since Harry Redknapp's midweek resignation as manager ended with a 1-0 win at Bolton Wanderers, Southampton drew 2-2 with Crystal Palace and Birmingham City drew 1-1 with Norwich City.

Blackburn Rovers moved off the bottom of the table and out of the relegation zone with a 2-0 win at Fulham in the day's early kickoff.

Chelsea's title credentials were all in order as they made it 36 points from 15 games, ahead of a faltering Arsenal on 31. Everton, who visit Newcastle United on Sunday, are third on 29 while Manchester United are up to fourth on 27.

After a run of eight wins ended with draws against Bolton and Paris St Germain over the past week, Chelsea's attacking football paid off after only four minutes on Saturday.

Duff's goal set the tone at The Valley before defender Terry weighed in with two more from corners and Gudjohnsen got the fourth with Dutch winger Arjen Robben a constant threat on the left.

Long qualified for the Champions League knockout stages, Chelsea could well finish the weekend with a commanding lead over their Premier League title rivals in a dream start to manager Jose Mourinho's first season in English

Mourinho, whose side have a west London derby at Fulham in the League Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday, felt he had spared Charlton an even worse beating.
"We started the second half control and if I had left on my three attackers, who were having a great game, the result could have been bigger," Mourinho told Sky Sports

"But, as a manager, I have to think about different competitions and after we scored the third goal I started thinking about the Fulham game on Tuesday and giving a good rest to Eidur, Duff and Robben. They can be involved in this game."

Things are also looking up for Alex Ferguson, who celebrated his 1,000th match in charge of Manchester United with a midweek win over Olympique Lyon that booked them into the next round of

the Champions League.
Pitting his wits against former
United captain Robson, Ferguson's men were pegged back until Scholes opened the scoring with a searing 20-metre shot after 53 minutes.

Van Nistelrooy headed the second goal and Scholes rounded off the scoring in a game United dominated from start to finish leaving West Brom bottom of the table on 10

"I think it was our best 90 minutes of the season in terms of consistency of performance," Ferguson beamed. "Every player on the pitch played really well.

As for Scholes, who only ended a season-long goal drought last weekend, Ferguson said: "You don't lose what he's got. He's one of the best in the world at appearing at the right time on the edge or inside the box. His timing is always fantastic."

There was a winning start for Portsmouth's new executive director Velimir Zajec, acting as caretaker boss after Redknapp's abrupt decision to quit. Dutch defender Arjan De Zeeuw headed Pompey's goal just before the break.

Southampton's draw leaves them in the drop zone on 12 points, ahead of Norwich on goal difference, and will only add to the pressure on embattled manager Steve Wigley.

#### TOP SIX

Standings after Saturday's matches (Matches, wins, draws, losses, goals for, goals against, points)

l	Chelsea	15	11	3	1	27	6	36	
ı	Arsenal	14	9	4	1	38	18	31	
ı	Everton	14	9	2	3	16	11	29	
١	Man United	15	7	6	2	19	10	27	
ı	Boro	14	7	4	3	24	16	25	

### Eto'o chanted at

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o was the target of apparent racial abuse from opposition fans during his side's 2-1 victory over Getafe in Madrid on Saturday.

The African Player of the Year, who was greeted with monkey noises from around 50 of Getafe's supporters every time he touched the ball during the Primera Liga match, said he preferred not to

comment about the incidents. Getafe's Romanian striker Gica Craioveanu, however, was critical of the fans' reaction.

the game. "I wouldn't have liked to

have been in Eto'o's shoes and I

would have felt really bad about it."

Nano felt the abuse was not racially

But Craioveanu's team mate

"They weren't shouting at Eto'o

The issue of racism in Spanish

because they are racist, it was just

because they wanted to annoy him,"

football has come to the fore in

recent weeks after visiting black

players were abused in the friendly

international between Spain and

England and also the Champions

League match between Real Madrid

and Bayer Leverkusen.

"I don't agree with this sort of behaviour," he told reporters after

65th minute through a perfectly taken curling 20 metre freekick from Lucarelli but despite a late rally the Tuscan side were unable to find a way through Udinese's defence again.

#### (0):25/1/

(Matches, wins, draws, losses, goals for, goals against, points):

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Inter	12	2	10	0	23	20	16
Chievo	12	4	5	3	10	12	17
Messina	12	4	5	3	17	17	17
Udinese	13	6	4	3	20	13	22
Milan	12	7	4	1	18	8	25
JUVETILLIS	14	10		20.0	23		31

#### Roma shine for a day to end REUTERS, Rome

Argentine midfielder Fernando Udinese took a firm grip on third place by picking up their fourth successive away win with a 2-1 victory at Livorno to move five points clear of fourth-placed Messina ahead of Sunday's games and within three points of AC Milan, champions AC Milan.

Leaders Juventus face Inter Milan at the San Siro on Sunday. Roma's game at Siena was held up for over 20 minutes in the first half when smoke bombs thrown by fans reduced visibility so much that the referee was forced to take the players off.

Roma's goals came in the second half and all four were created by troubled striker Antonio Cassano, out of the club.

The rebellious Cassano showed his other side, as a gifted creative talent, when he crossed from the left for Montella to head home at the back post in the 59th minute.

Nine minutes later Cassano produced a sublime piece of skill when a corner looked to be going out of play but he managed to flick the ball with the outside of his heel into the path of Montella who converted from close range.

Montella, now Serie A's top

scorer with 11 goals, missed a great chance to complete a hat-trick when he shot wide after breaking clear but Roma were unstoppable and soon madeit3-0.

After a swift break, Cassano slipped the ball into the path of Totti who converted a straightforward chance. Then in injury time the pair combined again with Totti coolly lifting the ball over the advancing Siena keeper Marco Fortin.

"When we play like this we can beat anyone," said defender Christian Panucci, who returned to the side after his own disciplinary problems with coach Luigi Del Neri. While Roma's win, after defeats in

the league, Italian Cup and Europe, was a sign they could yet turn their season around and get back into the race for Champions League qualification, Udinese look a good bet for such a spot on current form.

Luciano Spalletti's side opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a beautifully worked move finished off in style by Vincenzo Iaquinta, who fired home a powerful shot on the turn.

Nine minutes after the break the visitors doubled their lead.

Giampiero Pinzi headed down a Marek Jankulovski corner and David Di Michele pounced to fire home amid protests from Livorno players that he had handled the ball.

Livorno pulled a goal back in the

Milan	12	-	140		10	0	20
Udinese	13	6	4	3	20	13	22
Messina	12	4	5	3	17	17	17
Chievo	12	4	5	3	10	12	17
Inter	12	2	10	0	23	20	16

## Redondo decides It's never light as a Bayern Munich supersub may yet earn the 34-year-old a surprise recall to Germany's squad in time for the 2006World Cup. with the club after joining them

from Tenerife in 1994.

was a winner," he said.

'He was one of the best players in

Former Real Madrid coach

"He was the boss," he said. "He

his position in the last 20 years -- he

Vicente del Bosque said the

Argentine had laid the basis for the

club's resurgence in the late 1990s.

SPORT

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Redondo has decided to hang up his boots, six months after ending his injury-plagued spell with Italian "I'm retiring," the 35-year-old

**FERNANDO REDONDO** 

former Real Madrid midfielder told Spanish sports daily Marca on

"I've decided to spend a relaxed year in Madrid, but next season I will go back to work in something related to football and start a new stage in my life.

'I've received quite a lot of offers to continue playing, but I don't want to go abroad because I've decided to live in Madrid and I don't want to move my family.

"I've also rejected offers to play in Spain because I can't wear a shirt that isn't that of Real Madrid."

Real Madrid sporting director Emilio Butragueno paid tribute to the midfielder who spent six seasons

The England Football Association's

television deal with BSkyB and the

BBC forced Sven-Goran Eriksson to

play David Beckham and a host of

other top players in a recent friendly

with Spain, according to a report

month in a match which became

more known for the racist insults

hurled at a number of England's

black players from the stands of the

Santiago Bernabeu stadium than for

against Spain was largely criticised,

and Eriksson, according to the

Sunday Times, found his hands were

England's dismal performance

Spain hosted England earlier this

Football

AFP, London

here Sunday.

England's 1-0 defeat.

Becks plays

because of TV!

established the style of play that has characterised Real Madrid in recent

Redondo, who was capped 29 times for Argentina, played an instrumental role in Real's victories in the Champions League in 1998 and 2000, but was sold to AC Milan for \$11.4 million shortly after Florentino Perez was elected president.

He suffered a serious knee injury almost immediately after signing for the Serie A side and it took him two years to make his debut.

He made just eight league appearances for Milan before deciding to leave the club at the end of last

less match that he said had been "all

August (against the Ukraine) was

very important as preparation for

the two World Cup qualifying ties we

had in September (against Austria

and Poland) and the friendly we've

got in February (against Holland) is

needed before the World Cup games

in Match (against Northern Ireland

the importance of playing in

Spain friendly, and Beckham's inclusion, had been part of the FA's

television deal could do damage to

the Swede's aims of building a win-

ning team in time for the 2006 World

"It's much more difficult to see

Eriksson's implications that the

and Azerbaijan).

Cup in Germany.

Eriksson said: "The friendly in

#### Bayern Munich have lost the services of midfielder Mehmet Scholl until after the winter break with the former German international suffering a double cheek-

AFP, Munich

bone fracture in Saturday's 4-2 win over Mainz 05. The 34-year-old sustained the injury following a collision with Jurgen Kramny in the 24th minute but played the entire match and even scored Bayern's

second goal. "It was like being hit by a bus," explained Scholl. "The pain was incredible."

He will now miss the remaining three matches until the winter hiatus but should be fit for the resumption of the Bundesliga on January 22.

5-1 win, directing the midfield with evident class, and Germany coach

Juergen Klinsmann was impressed. "If Mehmet plays the joker role like that he will be a topic for consideration for the World Cup, although there is a lot of time between now and then," Klinsmann told Bild newspaper.

"I'm pleased to see his performances. He's always been a player of instinct, one who can supply a

Scholl played alongside Klinsmann in the side that won the 1996 European Championship in England. He made the last of his 36 international appearances for Germany almost three years agoinearly 2002.

Bundesliga

# Scholl turns on the style

Football

Mehmet Scholl, enjoying an unexpected comeback at age 34, scored his first home goal in two years Saturday as Bayern Munich beat Mainz 05 4-2 to stretch its winning

streak to four matches. Much to the delight of 49,000 at Munich's Olympic stadium, Bayern put on another explosive show behind Scholl and has collected 15 goals during its winning streak.

The whole match was fun. I think the spectators were entertained today," Bayern coach Felix Magath said.

The 17-time Bundesliga champions charged to a 3-0 halftime lead before Mainz, entering in seventh place, collected two late consolation

With Scholl, whose injury-ridden career seemed over two years ago, leading the attack, Claudio Pizarro scored in the 14th minute, Scholl in the 35th and Roy Makaay in the 45th. Michael Ballack's header completed the Bayern scoresheet in the 88th.

Bayern, playing as the Bundesliga leader for the first time in 18 months. moved five points clear of idle Schalke and Wolfsburg, which fell victim to Brazilian striker Marcelhino's hat trick in a 3-2 loss to Berlin.

Bayern was accused all season of winning in uninspired fashion. Since Scholl started coming off the bench, the Bavarians have developed an appetite for sparkling combinations behind the

midfielder's deft passing skills. Scholl played the full 90 minutes for the first time since Aug. 14, following a strong performance last week in a 5-1 Champions League rout of Maccabi Tel Aviv. He set up three goals and now is being pushed

for a call back to the national team.

Scholl has withdrawn from the

limelight, after years of being regarded as one of Germany's best players. His injuries have caused him to weigh retirement several

"All these things that have been written about me the last week have been pretty hefty," Scholl said. "I've lived without being in the public eye the past 21/2 years and I plan to keep

Mainz's late goals came from Christof Babatz in the 84th and Claudius Weber during injury time in a match that could have ended even more one-sided. Within three minutes, a Pizarro shot ricocheted off the left post and Makaay hit the

In other matches Saturday, FC Kaiserslautern routed Freiburg 3-0, Bochum beat Nuremberg 3-1, surg ing Hamburg raced past Moenchengladbach 3-1, Bayer Leverkusen won 2-0 against Rostock and Werder Bremen beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0.

Berlin ended Wolfsburg's sixmatch winning streak at home, thanks to Marcelhino's hat trick.

Bremen climbed to fifth in the table and won for the first time in four matches against.

Leverkusen ran bottom Rostock's losing streak to a club record eight matches at Ostseestadion behind goals by Dimitar Berbatov in the 36th and Andrei Woronin in the 63rd.

### TOP SIX

Standings after Saturday's matches (Matches, wins, draws, losses, goals for, goals against, points):

15 10 2 3 29 16 32 Schalke 14 9 0 5 22 19 27 Wolfsburg 15 9 0 6 26 24 27 Stuttgart 14 8 2 4 25 15 26 Bremen 15 7 3 5 29 18 24 Hannover 14 7 3 4 22 15 24



#### MEHMET SCHOLL