

Premiership

# Rooney lifts mourning MU

Football

AFP, London

Wayne Rooney fired Manchester United back to second place in the Premiership with a dazzling performance in his team's 2-1 win at West Ham on Sunday.

Victory capped an emotional week for United that saw the death of club legend George Best and fittingly it was Rooney, the current Red Devils' talisman, who sparked the visitors' comeback.

The England striker ensured that United shrugged off the shock of conceding a goal to Marlon Harewood inside the first minute by scoring the equaliser moments after the re-start.

Rooney then set up John O'Shea for the winner as United notched their third consecutive Premiership victory.

Sir Alex Ferguson's team remain 10 points adrift of the runaway league leaders Chelsea but belief seems to be flooding back into his charges after a difficult start to the season.

The antagonism between United and West Ham runs deep, dating back to the days when meetings between them were punctuated by ugly scenes of crowd violence.

But before kick-off, both sets of supporters were united in celebrating the memory of Best, the former United winger who died on Friday.

After words from two ex-England stars in West Ham hero Sir Trevor Brooking and United great Sir Bobby Charlton, a former team-mate of Best's, the crowd departed from tradition.

Instead of a minute's silence, fans marked Best's joyous contribution to football history with 60 seconds of raucous applause before United's followers loudly chanted the name of their most famous number seven.

But that was soon drowned out by the cheers of home supporters after just 52 seconds when West Ham stormed into a shock lead.

Harewood prodded a first-time shot past Edwin van der Sar at the near post, but it was Matthew



PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney takes a shy at the West Ham goal during their Premiership clash at Upton Park on Sunday.

Etherington who deserved the credit for his surging left-wing run and pinpoint pass.

However, a shocked United rallied quickly.

Indeed, only two superb saves inside a minute from Roy Carroll, the Northern

Ireland goalkeeper who left Old Trafford in the close season, prevented his former team from leveling.

First, he sprawled to his left to deny Ruud van Nistelrooy after the Dutchman had collected Ji-Sung Park's pass.

Then, moments later, he tipped aside Paul Scholes' s low drive.

Carroll did not stop there. After 21 minutes, he sprung to his right to block Rooney's bobbling shot and he denied him again four minutes before half-time.

But West Ham eventually cracked within two minutes of the second half.

The lively Park was again the provider, slipping a pass to the effervescent Rooney, who twisted past Anton Ferdinand, playing against brother Rio, and slammed his shot under Carroll.

West Ham were rocked, and moments later Rooney almost grabbed his second when he capped another thrilling burst into the area with a low drive that was well blocked.

The former Everton forward could have netted from the rebound, but he snatched at his shot and the danger was cleared.

However, West Ham were far from safe and in the 56th minute, Rooney swung over a corner and O'Shea beat Carroll to thump in an emphatic header.

From then on, United were in

almost complete control. O'Shea almost grabbed a third but blazed wide from an acute angle, while Ruud van Nistelrooy's sublime 71st-minute chip, bounced off the crossbar.

Rooney should have confirmed United's victory in the dying seconds, but he flicked wide after Gary Neville, fit again after injury, had picked him out at the near post.

### TOP SIX

English Premiership table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):						
Chelsea	14	12	1	1	33	7 37
Man Utd	13	8	3	2	21	13 27
Arsenal	13	8	2	3	22	10 26
Wigan	13	8	1	4	16	10 25
Tottenham	14	6	6	2	16	10 24
Bolton	13	7	2	4	15	13 23

# U-19 CWC in Sri Lanka in February '06

AFP, Colombo

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday launched preparations for next year's under-19 World Cup in Sri Lanka, less than a year after the island was devastated by tsunami.

ICC president Ehsan Mani said Sri Lanka's willingness to host the event demonstrated the country's resilience in the wake of the December 26 tsunami which killed some 31,000 people in the island and displaced about a million.

The sixth edition of the under-19 World Cup will be held from February 5-19 at five venues in capital Colombo.

The 10 Test-playing nations will join Uganda, the United States, Scotland, Namibia, Ireland and Nepal for the two-week tournament.

**GROUP A:** Pakistan, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Uganda

**GROUP B:** West Indies, South Africa, Australia, USA

**GROUP C:** India, Sri Lanka, Scotland, Namibia

**GROUP D:** England, Zimbabwe, Ireland, Nepal

# Giles in doubt for final Test

REUTERS, Lahore

England's first choice spinner Ashley Giles is doubtful for the third and final Test against Pakistan starting on Tuesday.

He is struggling with a hip injury and said it was "touch and go" whether he could play in a match England must win to square the series.

Giles is already ruled out of next month's one-day series with the injury caused by a damaged hip cartilage.

# SA, India

FROM PAGE 12

Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-2) 14

Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs) 221

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-36, 3-77, 4-158, 5-178, 6-209

Did not bat: Ntini, Langeveldt, Nel

Super-sub: Peterson

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pathan	8	1	20	3
Agarkar	7	1	33	0
Rudra	6	0	27	0
Kartik	10	0	58	0
Harbhajan	10	0	32	2
Sehwag	5	0	24	1
Yuvraj	4	0	23	0

**INDIA:** Dravid, Sehwag, Tendulkar, Yuvraj, Kaif, Dhoni, Pathan, Agarkar, Rudra, Harbhajan, Kartik

Super-sub: Gambhir

**Toss:** India.

**Umpires:** Daryl Harper and Krishna Hariharan

# Greg will be cautioned

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs plan to speak to national coach Greg Chappell over a rude gesture he reportedly made to crowds in Kolkata last week, an official said on Monday.

"We will certainly discuss the matter at the board's annual general meeting in Kolkata on Tuesday," said Inderjit Bindra, former head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"I don't think any action will be taken but we will tell him such a thing should not happen in future."

TV clippings showed Chappell putting his right hand out of a window of the team bus and pointing a middle finger towards the crowds outside the Eden Gardens on Thursday, a day prior to the fourth one-day against South Africa.

Newspapers slammed the former Australian captain for what they said was an insulting gesture to fans who

were taunting Chappell for excluding local hero Sourav Ganguly from the one-day side.

Team spokesman M Baladitya said "Chappell had injured his finger during practice and he said he was just attending to it. He did not gesture at anybody."

It was an explanation few were willing to buy, but Chappell insisted he had done nothing wrong.

"I see no reason to keep defending myself for something I have not done," he was quoted as saying in Monday's Times of India newspaper.

"I want to point a finger at someone, I would point it openly, not when I am inside a bus."

The same newspaper commented: "Indian fans might be a tad too emotional for Chappell's tastes. But they don't deserve such disrespect."

"By his extravagantly tasteless gesture, the legendary Australian cricketer has virtually guaranteed that the debate would now be on him rather than the overtly sentimental

crowd."

Rahul Dravid's Indian team was jeered off the field after South Africa thrashed the hosts by 10 wickets on Friday to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Many in the 90,000-strong crowd taunted the Indians during and after the match and raised slogans against Chappell and the selectors.

Ganguly, India's most successful Test captain with 21 wins, was sacked and replaced by Dravid this season following a public spat with Chappell.

The 33-year-old left-hander was not picked for the home one-day series against Sri Lanka and South Africa, but has been named in the team for the first Test against the Sri Lankans in Chennai from December 2.

India must win the final one-dayer against South Africa in Mumbai later on Monday to draw the series.

Chappell, 56, was appointed India's coach in June for a two-year term till the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean.

# Javed in record books

FROM PAGE 12

always helped me put up my best at any level. I have never been a so-called entertainer patience and determination is my motto," said Javed, who has scored 329 runs in his four first-class innings so far.

Former national opener Shahriar (133, 121) was the first Bangladeshi batsman to score hundred in both innings against touring MCC in 1999 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, and wicketkeeper Shahin (119, 110) achieved that feat in the country's lone first-class against Chittagong last year.

Earlier, Khaled Mahmud started the Barisal carnage removing captain Shahriar Nafees (18), who was caught at point, in the second over of the day.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique ripped through the middle-order to finish with four for six in 9 overs. Ashraf continued his dismal showing with the bat, scoring only 5 before offering a tame return catch to leg-spinner Anif Hossain. He however tried to make up for his batting blunders, claiming two wickets for 30 runs.

Left-handed batsman Humayun Kabir scored a struggling 43 for Barisal.

There was also a comedy of errors played during the Barisal innings when Talha Jubair and Rashedul Haque collided while chasing a high catch at mid-off. Funnier even was the later part of the episode when Anif, who offered the skier, paid the penalty of sheer ignorance.

The young batsman after completing the single walked to midpitch to watch the incident but Rashedul

showed some sense by picking the ball and running out Anif Hossain.

**CHITTAGONG-SYLHET**

Pacer Tareq Aziz Khan finished with five for 81 but Sylhet fought back gamely thanks to a brilliant hundred by Kapali.

Kapali dominated a 123-run fifth wicket stand with Golam Mabud after Sylhet, in reply to the home team's 273, stumbled to 57-4. The tourists finished the day on 267-8 in 85.

The stylish right-hander was not out with 121 off 181 balls that contained 18 boundaries while wicketkeeper Mabud scored 109-ball 49 with nine hits to the fence.

Left-arm spinner Yasin Arafat took three for 68 for Chittagong. Earlier, Chittagong lost their remaining two wickets adding only three runs to their overnight score.

**RAJSHAH-KHULNA**

After scoring unbeaten 46, Jamaluddin captured five wickets as Khulna were brink on their first four-day victory.

Starting the day with a first innings deficit of 122 runs, Rajshahi collapse to 40 in 46.4 overs. Naeem Islam was the lone home batsman to show some resistance with an unbeaten 39 off 88 balls.

Jamaluddin was the wrecker-in-chief picking up 5-45 while Syed Rasel and Abdur Razzak Raj claimed two wickets each.

Earlier, Bashir could add only three runs to his overnight score of 82 but Khulna, resuming the day on 144-4, posted an impressive 252 in 70.5.

Pacer Mohammad Shahajada was

the most successful Rajshahi bowler with 5-81 while left-arm spinner Saifullah Jem took four for 44.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**DHAKA-BARISAL**

DHAKA: First innings 331 and second innings 188-4 in 53 overs (Javed 104 not out, Anwar 19, Al-Shahriar 28, Ashraf 5, Mehrah 19, Sanwar 6 not out, extras 7; Salahuddin 2-27, Arif 1-44).

**BARISAL:** First innings 131 all out in 42.2 overs (overnight 35-1) (Imran 10, Nafees 18, Kabir 43, Hannan 10, extras 19; Mahmud 2-38, Rafique 4-6, Talha 1-6, Ashraf 2-30).

**RAJSHAH-KHULNA**

**RAJSHAH:** First innings 130 and second innings 140 all out in 46.4 overs (Farhad 25, Anisur 22, Naeem 39 not out, Masud 14, Hassanuzz-man 16, extras 13; Ziaur 1-31, Rasel 2-26, Jamaluddin 5-45, Razzak 2-28).

**KHULNA:** First innings 252 all out in 70.5 overs (overnight 144-4) (Bashar 85, Tushar 26, Manzurul 35, Hasanuzz-man 28, Jamaluddin 46 not out, extras 10; Shahajada 5-81).

**CHITTAGONG-SYLHET**

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings 273 all out in 92.2 overs (overnight 270-8) (Nafees 19, Nazimuddin 34, Afiah 15, Ehsanul 75, Wasel 71, extras 23; Nazmul 2-26, Rezaul 1-26, Hasibul 3-56, Ashiqur 3-20, Enamul 1-87).

**SYLHET:** First innings 267-8 in 85 overs (Imtiaz 21, Rajin 20, Kapali 121 not out, Mabud 49, Enamul 26, extras 19; Tareq 5-81, Yasin 3-68).

# Goals galore in French League

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint Germain squandered the chance to reclaim second place behind runaway leaders Lyon when going down 4-3 at home to modest Lens in the French first division on Sunday.

The result left PSG in fourth, 13 points behind four-time champions Lyon.

Lens dictated the midfield and raced to a 3-1 lead a little after the hour mark.

Olivier Thomert put Lens' ahead after just three minutes, before PSG captain Pauleta levelled on six minutes.

Goals from Aruna Dindane and Jussie sent Lens into the break firmly in control, with Dindane securing his double after 68 minutes.

Late strikes from Pauleta and Christophe Landrin put a respectable tint on the scoreline which pushed Lens up three places into sixth.

Like PSG, bottom-of-the-table Strasbourg also came off second best in a seven-goal bonanza, losing 4-3 away to mid-table Nantes.

The match looked all set for a 3-3 draw until Nantes' Frederic Da Rocha got the decider in the fourth minute of injury time to leave the struggling Alsaic club seeking their first win in 15 games.

# All for peace

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli and Palestinian soccer players, accompanied by a host of sports and political dignitaries, flew to Spain on Monday to promote Middle East peace in a friendly match against Barcelona.

The "Peace Team" sponsored by Israeli elder statesman Shimon Peres's Center for Peace includes Israeli internationals and Palestinian players from the occupied West Bank.

The bulk of the group flew from Tel Aviv for Tuesday's match which comes at the end of a two-day Euro-Mediterranean summit in Barcelona.

Leaders of all 25 European Union member states and 10 of its Mediterranean neighbours are meeting in the city to discuss closer cooperation in the region.

The "Peace Team" will be coached jointly by newly-appointed Israel national team coach Dror Kashtan and Palestinian coach Jamal Hadeid of Tulkarm.

"Soccer is a language which anybody can understand and I am happy to be a part of the message which will go out to the world through this match, that Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in soccer is a natural thing," Kashtan said in a statement.

"I hope that this game is only the first of many other joint sporting ventures which will take place in the future," he said.

# Aussies almost

FROM PAGE 12

(Hussey 133 not out, Langer 99, Ponting 56; D Bravo 6-84)

**WEST INDIES:** Second innings (overnight 68-2)

Hinds st Gilchrist b Warner 15

Devon Smith c Ponting b Lee 0

Sarwan lbw b Lee 62

Powell b Warner 2

Lara c Hayden b Warner 17

Chanderpaul c Hodge b Warner 4

D Bravo b Lee 64

Dwayne Smith lbw b Warner 20

Randine c Gilchrist b Warner 8

Edwards c Warner b Lee 9

Collumore not out 1

Extras: (lb-2) 2

Total: (All out in 81 overs) 204

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-60, 3-72, 4-96, 5-96, 6-106, 7-106, 8-160, 9-203

**Bowler O M R W**

McGrath 18 8 25 0

Lee 17 5 46 4

Symonds 2 0 9 0

Warne 33 9 80 6

MacGill 11 2 42 0

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings

Langer c Dwayne Smith b Collumore 20

Hayden not out 38

Ponting c Sarwan b Collumore 3

Hodge not out 10

Extras: (w-1, nb-4) 5

Total: (For 2 wickets in 28 overs) 76

Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-55

**Bowler O M R W**

Edwards 5 1 23 0

Powell 6 0 15 0

Collumore 10 2 27 2

Sarwan 7 2 11 0

# Primera Liga

# Mixed day for rivals

Football

AFP, undated

Barcelona hammered Racing Santander 4-1 to stay top of the Spanish first division on goal difference on surprise package Osasuna on Sunday but Real Madrid struggled to a 2-2 draw at Real Sociedad.

The Catalan club have 28 points from 13 games to stay ahead of Osasuna, who beat Alaves 3-2.

Samuel Eto'o got his 12th goal of the season with a marvelous individual effort after 31 minutes to get the ball rolling for Barca.

Goals early in the second half from the Argentine teenage prodigy Lionel Messi, followed by strikes from Brazilians Ronaldinho and Sylvinho emphasised Barca's dominance over relegation-threatened Racing.

Francisco Casquero got a consolation goal for the visitors from the penalty spot, after Barca's Mexican defender Rafael Marquez had headed the ball, but Eto'o could easily have added to the Barca tally with two near misses in the final minutes.

Real Madrid grabbed a late draw with two goals in the last three minutes from Raul Bravo and Zinedine

Zidane.

Xabi Prieto had put Sociedad ahead from the penalty spot just before the break after Roberto Carlos appeared to push over Oscar De Paula.

De Paula himself got Sociedad's second with a header after 58 minutes.

"It was a complicated game but this Madrid is capable of resolving these difficulties. As for the penalty, the referee was wrong but I don't want to say any more," said Real's under-fire coach Wanderley Luxemburgo.

"I'm sad because we didn't win. We could have gone in 3-0 up at the break and we changed ends 1-0 down. (Real Madrid goalkeeper) Iker Casillas didn't have anything to save in the first half."

Both teams ended the game with 10 men.

Real's Sergio Ramos was sent off for the second time this season after 73 minutes and Sociedad themselves were reduced to 10 men when Gaizka Garitano got his marching orders nine minutes later.

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