



Werder Bremen defender Christian Schulz (3rd L) runs for joy after scoring against Borussia Monchengladbach during their Bundesliga match at the Weser Stadium in Bremen on Saturday.

# Wolves devour Bayern

AFP, Berlin

German champions Bayern Munich slipped off the Bundesliga summit after a shock 1-0 defeat to lowly VfL Wolfsburg on Saturday.

Bayern may have a perfect six points in the Champions League after beating Inter Milan in midweek, but their domestic form is poor and a goal from German international forward Mike Hanke condemned them to their second defeat of the season.

Hanke beat the Bayern offside trap before hitting a left-footed shot past goalkeeper Oliver Kahn on 36 minutes.

"We saw today that we have problems against teams that adopt a defensive approach," said Bayern manager Felix Magath. "We made it too easy for Wolfsburg and there was a lack of harmony and creativity

to break down their defence."

It was a first win of the season for Wolfsburg, managed by former Bayern defender Klaus Augenthaler, and the three points lifted them off the foot of the table.

"The players put themselves on the line and were ready for the fight. We were compact and took one of our chances," said Augenthaler.

The reverse saw Bayern fall to fourth with their local neighbours FC Nuremberg replacing them on goal difference after a 1-1 draw with Mainz 05.

Last season's runners-up Werder Bremen, who were minutes from defeating European champions Barcelona in midweek, took full advantage of Bayern's slip to move second with a 3-0 thumping of Borussia Monchengladbach.

Bremen scored three goals in five action-packed first half minutes with Aaron Hunt, Christian Schulz and Brazilian Diego all on target.

"I think you could see that the Barcelona game gave us a lot of

confidence," explained Bremen chief Thomas Schaaf. "Fortunately we scored first and that allowed us to kick on and get the three points."

Bremen are one of four teams on ten points along with Nuremberg, Bayern and Schalke 04. Schalke have a game in hand though and have the chance to put their UEFA Cup misery -- they were eliminated by French side Nancy on Thursday -- behind them by going top with victory over Bayer Leverkusen on Sunday.

Fifth-placed Hertha Berlin, another UEFA Cup casualty, can also go top if Schalke slip up, providing they can beat VfB Stuttgart in the capital on Sunday.

The 18-strong league table has a strange look to it with Stuttgart, way down in 13th, just three points behind leaders Nuremberg.

Last season SV Hamburg started strongly but their torrid start to the new season continued on Saturday with a disappointing 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Hamburg, who lost 1-0 to CSKA

Moscow in the Champions League in midweek, twice came from behind to level but still fall into the bottom three.

Hamburg are the only team in the league yet to win this season with five draws from six matches increasing the pressure on manager Thomas Doll.

"The important thing is that we came from behind twice and did not hide," said Doll. "The players deserve a lot of praise for their team spirit. "We have a break now and it is good for us to regroup and give some of our injured players more time to come back."

Leverkusen boss Michael Skibbe is also feeling the heat with the club, Champions League finalists in 2002, fourth from bottom of the table.

## 'Poldi's place is safe'

INTERNET, undated

Germany coach Joachim Loew has assured striker Lukas Podolski his place in the national team is safe, despite his extended spells on the bench for club side Bayern Munich. The 21-year-old is set to partner Miroslav Klose in attack in Saturday's friendly with Georgia in Rostock.

"We don't judge the players who have been with us for two years not on their league performances. The criteria is the (performances) for the national team. Lukas has got a terrific strike rate for us," explained Loew.

"He played a superb World Cup and scored five goals in the last two internationals. We value him extremely highly."

Despite securing victory in his side's 2-0 away win over Internazionale with a late strike just minutes after coming on as a substitute, Podolski was consigned to the bench once again in Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Wolfsburg. Loew insisted though, that Bayern coach Felix Magath was right to use the player sparingly.

"It's clear that Lukas needs to be given time after moving from Cologne to Munich," he said.

## 'Barca can cope with Eto'o absence'

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard said the European champions would feel the absence of injured striker Samuel Eto'o but remains confident the team can cope without their leading scorer.

"It's a shame for the team, the club and especially for the player because he is a very important member of the squad," Rijkaard told a news conference on Friday.

"But our aim is to keep working hard so that when he comes back he will be rejoining a side that is in strong shape. I think we have the players that will enable us to continue to make good progress."

Eto'o, who has scored 68 goals for Barca since signing from Real Mallorca in 2004, will be out for up to five months after undergoing surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee suffered during Wednesday's 1-1 draw against Werder Bremen.

He will miss the remainder of Barcelona's Champions League group games, the FIFA Club World Cup and up to 20 league matches.

Although the Cameroon striker has been the club's leading scorer for the past two seasons, Rijkaard still has an embarrassment of riches at his disposal in attack.

# No love lost

Football

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho jokingly predicted a heart attack for the animated Martin O'Neill after the Aston Villa manager led his side to a 1-1 draw at Chelsea.

O'Neill had every reason to jump around at Stamford Bridge after Gabriel Agbonlahor's headed equaliser maintained Villa's unbeaten start under his leadership.



MARTIN O'NEILL

Agbonlahor's goal cancelled out Didier Drogba's early strike to ensure O'Neill came away with some measure of revenge on the first occasion he has met Chelsea chief Mourinho since the 2003 UEFA Cup final.

O'Neill and Mourinho embraced at full-time on Saturday and agreed to draw a line under events in Seville, when the Special One's touchline antics angered the Celtic manager, who accused the Portuguese side of play-acting and unsporting behaviour, as Porto beat

the Scottish team 3-2.

Even Chelsea's cheap jibe of showing a photo of O'Neill walking away from the presentation table in Seville with a loser's medal, alongside Mourinho's programme notes, could not detract from the mutual respect that now exists between the two men.

O'Neill said: "Jose came up to me at the end and said that I was contesting so many decisions that he feared I might be a candidate for a heart attack."

"He might be right on both

Emirates Stadium on the opening day.

"We could have caved in when we conceded, but we showed resilience. There were some nervy moments, like when Shaun Wright-Phillips hit the underside of the bar.

"I thought Gabriel Agbonlahor was fantastic. I knew very little about him when I joined the club but he has been a breath of fresh air.

"He is exciting and wants to take players on and get at the opposition, and people forget that he's actually a centre-forward."

Villa could not have suffered a worse start when, in the third minute, Drogba continued his fine run in front of goal by opening the scoring.

Arjen Robben's flighted ball from the right was contested by Andriy Shevchenko and Thomas Sorensen. The ball then dropped invitingly for Drogba, who still had to force the ball over the line under intense pressure from a Villa defender.

The early blood for Chelsea looked like opening the floodgates, but instead, Villa regrouped impressively and set about making life difficult for the Champions. Stilian Petrov fired a goalbound effort which was beaten away by Petr Cech.

Steven Davis put over a cross from the right and Liam Ridgeway peeled off to the far side and aimed a header back into the area, where Agbonlahor glanced the equalizer beyond the reach of Cech.

"When you don't play well and don't get the result, you are not upset. You are frustrated but you just accept it," said Mourinho.

"To play as well as we did and to make so many chances -- it's frustrating. Everyone could see we deserved to win the game."

"We missed 15 chances. The philosophy of both teams is important -- one team wanted to win, the other wanted a point.

"But I don't blame Aston Villa. When they went a goal down they showed a reaction, and in the second half, they couldn't have done more."

"I liked our performance at Fulham and I thought we were solid in Sofia. Sheva played well and worked very hard, looked sharper and made some good runs in behind the defence. He also looked very good in one-on-one situations."

"He chased back very well when we lost the ball and overall, it was his best game so far for Chelsea."

# S Africa need more money

Football

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa faces a total cost of 8.352 billion rand (1.077 billion dollars) for the construction of five new stadia and the renovation of a further five for the 2010 World Cup finals, organisers said on Sunday.

The cost is over three and half times higher than the 2.3 billion rand estimate made in 2004 when the country won its bid to become the first African host of the World Cup tournament.

It is also well over the 3 billion rand the government said one year ago it was setting aside for sport facility upgrades for the tournament.

The 2010 Local Organising Committee said in a statement it

expected parliament to pass legislation to enable the disbursement of funds on Oct. 24, allowing for the appointment of contractors by the end of the year and a start of construction in the new year.

But no precise dates were given for the commencement of work in the wake of growing concern expressed in recent weeks by FIFA over the pace of construction with the 2010 World Cup finals less than four years away.

The statement contradicts a report to parliament in July by the Local Organising Committee chief executive Danny Jordaan, who said work would begin in October and costs would run to around 6 billion rand.

Sunday's statement said the costs included 7.574 billion rand for construction work, 582 million rand for security around the stadia and 195 million rand for overlay equipment,

including broadcast facilities.

"Five stadia will be ready by December 2008 and the remainder will be completed well ahead of the 2010 World Cup," the statement said.

Five stadia are needed for the hosting of the eight-team Confederation Cup in mid-2009, which will serve as a test event one year ahead of the World Cup.

The LOC said it expected construction of new stadia to last between 30 to 34 months and refurbishment of existing venues to take up to 20 months.

New stadiums are being constructed in Cape Town, Durban, Nelspruit, Polokwane and Port Elizabeth. In Cape Town and Durban, 70,000-seater stadiums are planned.

Johannesburg's Soccer City, where the opening and final matches will be played, is set for a major

upgrade which will take 30 months, the statement added. It will increase the venue's capacity to more than 100,000-seats.

The four other updates are at Ellis Park in Johannesburg; Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Rustenburg.

Last month FIFA president Sepp Blatter said he planned to travel to South Africa shortly to "fire up the organising committee."

"For the moment they have plans, money and decision but I have yet to see the pickaxes and spades needed to start the work," Blatter said of South Africa's preparations.

No date has yet been set for the proposed visit.

## Newcastle snub takeover bid

AFP, Newcastle

English Premiership club Newcastle have rejected a takeover bid from the Belgravia Group, according to reports on Sunday.

The Sunday Telegraph claims that Newcastle received the offer last month from the Jersey-based investment group, who are expected to return with another bid.

Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd and Sir John Hall, the club's majority shareholders, are believed to have snubbed the offer because it fell around nine million pounds short of their 100 million pounds valuation of the club.

The English newspaper reports that an executive close to the negotiations hinted that the sale could still happen and they quote him as saying: "Talks are ongoing and there seems to be every chance of a deal being struck."

## Wenger hails prodigious Persie

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger has hailed the Robin van Persie strike that allowed him to celebrate 10 years in charge of Arsenal with a 2-1 win at Charlton as a "goal of a lifetime."

Van Persie leapt high to meet Emmanuel Eboue's right-wing cross with a spectacular first-time volley from just outside the area, the shot arrowing past Scott Carson's outstretched fingertips and into the top corner.

"Nobody expected it," Wenger said. "When the ball came over I thought we didn't have anyone in the box and then suddenly van Persie came in at full pace and power."

"I thought it was going to go over the bar but the technique was perfect. It was the goal of a lifetime and definitely one of the best I have seen since I took charge at Arsenal."

"I don't know whether it is the best - I have seen some good ones since I came but it is certainly in the top five. It was unbelievable."

Even Iain Dowie, the new Charlton manager, could not hide his admiration.

The Ulsterman had high hopes after Darren Bent converted Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink's 21st-minute cross to put the hosts ahead, but van Persie's brilliance condemned him to a sixth league defeat in seven games.

"On another day you would have liked to have been at home applauding it," he said. "It was absolutely supreme technique."

It was the crowning glory of an exceptional individual performance by van Persie, although the 23-year-old showed the darker side to his game mid-way through the first half.

He must have feared the worst when his rash kick at Hasselbaink in the 28th minute alerted the attention of the referee Mark Clattenburg. The official consulted at length with his assistant before deciding to award the former Feyenoord forward a yellow card.

Moments later Van Persie made the most of his good fortune by drilling in a deserved equaliser from 15 yards after being picked out by the impressive Aleksandr Hleb.

"I did think about taking him off," Wenger admitted. "I wanted to see how he reacted to the incident but I decided to keep him on. If he had been sent off after that I would have been called stupid but as it was he went on to score two goals and he played very well. It just goes to show you need a bit of luck sometimes."

"My team is very hungry. To come here, to be 1-0 down and then win tells you a lot about the desire of this group. We have maintained the momentum, with five games on the trot, and we are very confident."

AFP, Paris



with 22 points out of a possible 24 on Saturday.

Sylvain Wiltord found the net in the 78th minute for what proved to be the winning goal.

Coach Gerard Houllier had made six changes to the starting 11 which won 3-0 at Steaua Bucharest in Champions League action in midweek and it proved to be a match in which the five-times French champions struggled.

Houllier said afterwards he was proud of his players for the way they played, particularly because of the difficult conditions after a big storm had flooded the pitch.

"You normally see a flamboyant, dominant Lyon who pass the ball around well but tonight was different," he said.

"This away game was played against a very motivated team in difficult weather conditions which prevented us from playing our usual



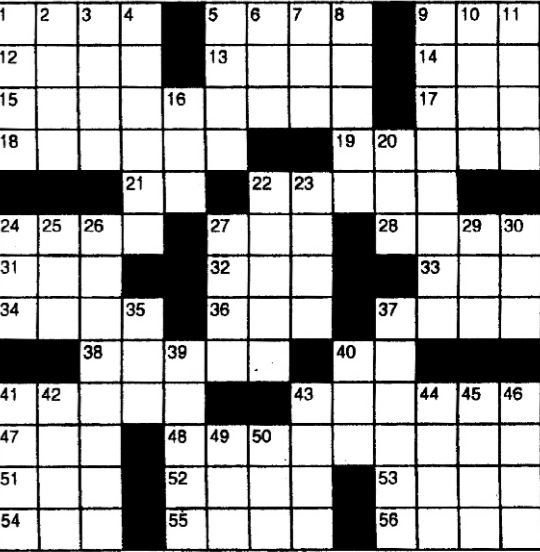
PHOTO: INTERNET

Lyon forward Sylvain Wiltord (R) is congratulated by teammate Cris (L) and Juninho after he scored against Sochaux in their Ligue 1 encounter at the Bonal Stadium in Sochaux on Saturday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Puncturing tools	12 Gator's kin
5 Phantom's concaler	13 Reed instrument
9 Hot tub series	14 Apprehend
12 Gator's kin	15 Bad thing to be behind
13 Reed instrument	17 Indivisible
14 Apprehend	18 Takes the helm
15 Bad thing to be behind	19 Cut, in a way
17 Indivisible	21 "Gracious!"
18 Takes the helm	22 WWII weapon
19 Cut, in a way	24 Pastime
21 "Gracious!"	27 Regret
22 WWII weapon	28 The gang
24 Pastime	31 Raw rock
27 Regret	32 Packed away
28 The gang	33 Actress Thompson
31 Raw rock	34 Unwilling to listen
32 Packed away	36 "Law & Order" extra
33 Actress Thompson	
34 Unwilling to listen	
36 "Law & Order" extra	

<b>DOWN</b>	<b>ACROSS</b>
12 Gator's kin	37 Online diary
13 Reed instrument	38 Makes hospital corners
14 Apprehend	40 TV series
15 Bad thing to be behind	41 Football ref, slangily
17 Indivisible	43 Pizzeria's servings
18 Takes the helm	47 Eggs
19 Cut, in a way	48 Ostracize
21 "Gracious!"	51 Zero
22 WWII weapon	52 Volcanic outflow
24 Pastime	53 Birthright
27 Regret	54 Blueprint addition
28 The gang	55 Paradise
31 Raw rock	56 Trilled
32 Packed away	
33 Actress Thompson	
34 Unwilling to listen	
36 "Law & Order" extra	



**CRYPTOQUIP**

C U W Q N H C Y Y W C V W J W

V M C J V P N R U N H W U C J J C I Q

K C Q P J J P Z J W C Y N H

M V Z W I W R Z K Z W V M H Z ?

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN THE SOCCER COACH HELD A MEETING WITH HIS ENTIRE TEAM, HE HAD SOME GOALS IN MIND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals A

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.