



PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal striker Emmanuel Adebayor (C) goes past a tackle from Tottenham Hotspur's Hossam Ghaly during their Carling Cup semifinal second leg match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Wednesday.

CARLING CUP

Young guns lift Arsenal

Football

AFP, London

Jeremie Aliadiere scored the decisive goal as Arsenal reached the League Cup final with a 3-1 extra-time victory against Tottenham on Wednesday.

Emmanuel Adebayor had given Arsenal the lead in the closing stages at the Emirates Stadium before Egyptian international Mido came off the bench to equalise with five minutes remaining.

But Aliadiere punished a horrific mistake by Tottenham defender Ricardo Rocha in extra-time and Tomas Rosicky with a wicked deflection off Pascal Chimbonda added a third to seal a 5-3 aggregate triumph and set up an all-London final against Chelsea in Cardiff on February 25.

Arsenal had fought back from two goals down to snatch a 2-2 draw in the first leg at White Hart Lane and manager Arsene Wenger — who has never reached the League Cup final in his tenure as

Arsenal boss — kept faith with the talented youngsters who inspired that revival.

Tottenham boss Martin Jol, well aware that his club haven't won a major trophy for eight years, picked a more experienced side, although England winger Aaron Lennon was left on the bench.

Spurs had scored in the early stages of the first leg and they nearly repeated the trick after an incisive 10th minute move cut open Arsenal's defence.

Michael Dawson spotted that Robbie Keane had been left unmarked and threaded a pass through to the Irishman. Keane looked odds-on to score but Manuel Almunia was quick to race off his line and saved bravely at his feet.

Kolo Toure should have given Arsenal the lead moments later after Paul Robinson spilled Denilson's shot, but the Ivory Coast defender, following up from close range, somehow contrived to miss the target completely.

That near-miss encouraged Arsenal to push forward and Aliadiere worked space for a shot

before dragging his effort past the far post.

Spurs crafted a well-worked chance seven minutes before the break when Hossam Ghaly swung over a cross from the right which Steed Malbranque met with a diving header that flew just wide.

Tottenham had failed to win any of their previous 16 meetings with their bitter rivals and Arsenal, growing in confidence as the match wore on, finally broke the deadlock in the 77th minute.

Rosicky, on as a second half substitute, forced a save from Robinson with a fierce strike and Tottenham were punished for failing to clear the rebound.

Gael Clichy pounced on the loose ball and slipped a pass back to Rosicky inside the penalty area. The Czech midfielder played a precise ball through to Adebayor, who kept his nerve to beat Robinson with a low shot.

But, just as Arsenal's fans were beginning to make plans for a trip to Cardiff, Mido made them think again.

With just five minutes left,

Jermaine Jenas whipped in a free-kick from the left and Mido, sent on just moments earlier, rose highest to glance his header past Almunia.

Mido nearly won it when he collected Jermaine Defoe's pass and skimmed a low shot agonisingly wide of Almunia's far post.

There was still time for Robinson to make two superb stops to deny Denilson and Toure before the end of normal time.

Arsenal's youngsters were full of running in extra-time and the goal their ambition deserved arrived in the final minute of the first period.

Denilson swung in a low cross and Rocha, a recent signing from Benfica, opted to try and clear with his head rather than boot the ball to safety.

The Portugal defender only managed to divert his clearance to Aliadiere, who gave Robinson no chance with a powerful finish.

Any doubts that Arsenal would reach the final were erased in the 113th minute when Rosicky's shot deflected in off Chimbonda to confirm Tottenham's first defeat in 14 cup matches this season.

FRENCH CUP

Marseille sink Lyon

Football

REUTERS, Paris

Late goals by Mickael Pagis and Mamadou Niang gave Olympique Marseille a remarkable 2-1 victory over Ligue 1 leaders Olympique Lyon and a place in the French Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Amateurs Montceau caused a major upset when they dumped Girondins Bordeaux out on penalties while a last-gap goal by Claudiu Keseru put Ligue 1 strugglers Nantes through with a 1-0 extra-time win over Lille.

Lyon were cruising towards a seemingly easy win following Cris's opener for a Juninho free-kick but Marseille, who have won the competition a record 10 times, never gave up.

Three minutes from time, substitute Pagis latched on to a Franck Ribery cross from the right to beat France goalkeeper Gregory Coupet.

One minute into injury time, Niang headed home a Habib Beye cross to ruin Lyon's hopes of winning the Cup for the first time since 1973.

Lyon, whose form has nosedived recently with only two points from their last four Ligue 1 matches, have never beaten Marseille in the French Cup.

"We have shown a great spirit. And those who thought I was dead, I proved them wrong tonight," Pagis told French TV Channel France 3.

"It was great football, it is amazing," said coach Albert Emon.

Bordeaux bowed out to amateurs Montceau, who play in the fourth division, when they lost the penalty shootout 5-4 following a 2-2 draw after extra time.

At Nantes, Romanian Keseru came on as a substitute in the

115th minute and did not get a touch of the ball until he took a free-kick just before the final whistle and curled it from 20 metres into Gregory Malicki's far top corner.

Until then, Nantes goalkeeper Fabien Barthez had been in a class of his own with spectacular saves throughout the game.

The former Manchester United and Olympique Marseille keeper denied Lille striker Johan Audel in the 40th minute and blocked a

Ludovic Obraniak attempt from close range after the break.

However, Barthez was lucky when Obraniak's free-kick hit his left post on the hour.

"Okay, we won but let's keep our feet on the ground because in 72 hours, the (league) match we will play in Lille will be much harder," said Nantes coach Georges Eo.

Nantes, third from bottom in Ligue 1, travel to second-placed Lille on Saturday in their fight to

avoid relegation.

RC Lens qualified easily by knocking out third division side Clermont 4-1 with strikes by Seydou Keita, Eric Carriere and Daniel Cousin and a Samuel Darchy own goal.

On Tuesday, holders Paris St Germain went through with a 1-0 home win over Valenciennes and Sochaux grabbed a 2-0 victory at Monaco.

The quarterfinal draw will be made on Sunday.



PHOTO: AFP

Marseille's Mamadou Niang (R) heads to score the second goal for Lyon at the Velodrome Stadium in Marseille in their French Cup semifinal match on Wednesday.

Now Doll gets the sack

AFP, Berlin

German club SV Hamburg on Thursday sacked coach Thomas Doll after sliding to the bottom of the league, making him the third Bundesliga managerial casualty in 48 hours.

Doll was shown the door following the 1-1 draw at home to Energie Cottbus which left Hamburg with just 15 points from 19 games.

"We regret this decision," chairman Bernd Hoffmann said on the club's website.

"We were convinced we could turn things around with Thomas Doll. But the impressions and the results from the last two games have forced us to react."

Doll said he was devastated by the decision.

"Of course I am very sad. I had two-and-a-half great years at HSV and I hope the team can soon bounce back."

The club said it would unveil a new coach before Saturday's match away to Hertha Berlin.

Doll, 40, a former German international midfielder, was appointed in October 2004 to replace Klaus Toppmoller.

He led Hamburg to third place in the Bundesliga and a Champions League qualification spot last season, but the team has spent much of this season in the relegation zone.

Doll is the third Bundesliga coach to part company with his club since Wednesday, when Felix Magath was fired by champions Bayern Munich and Jupp Heynckes quit at Borussia Monchengladbach.

Hertha sign Mineiro

AFP, Berlin

Hertha Berlin on Wednesday signed veteran Sao Paulo midfielder Carlos Luciano da Silva on a two-year contract.

"Mineiro", 31, will join his friend and fellow Brazilian Gilberto at the Bundesliga side.

"We're very happy to have completed the deal," said Hertha manager Dieter Hoernes just hours before the end of the January transfer window.

"Mineiro is a completely flexible player who will fit in great in our team," he added.

Dubai out of Liverpool takeover

AFP, London

Dubai International Capital (DIC), the investment arm of the Gulf Emirate, on Wednesday pulled out of negotiations on a takeover of Liverpool after the club's board asked for more time to examine a rival bid.

In a statement issued in London, DIC said it regretted having to end negotiations on what would have been a 450-million-pound investment in the five-times European champions.

"Having completed due diligence, DIC submitted a comprehensive offer to the Liverpool board," the statement said.

"The offer had been accepted in principle by majority shareholder David Moores. It appears that the Liverpool board and the majority shareholder David Moores were unable to approve these terms in order to allow DIC to make a formal offer to all shareholders."

DIC had planned to pay around 155 million pounds to buy Liverpool as well as taking over around 80 million pounds in debt and financing the construction of a new 60,000-seat stadium in time for the 2009/10 season.

The deal had looked set to be concluded smoothly until Tuesday evening, when the Liverpool board unexpectedly asked for more time to consider a rival bid by American tycoon George Gillett, owner of the Montreal Canadiens ice hockey team, which may be more lucrative for the existing shareholders.

Coco loaned to Torino

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan defender Francesco Coco on Wednesday joined Serie A rivals Torino on loan until the end of the season.

The 30-year-old former Italy international has not featured for Inter this season due to injury.

Coco, who spent last season on loan to Livorno, played for Torino in the 1999-2000 season.

He has also had spells with AC Milan, Vicenza and Spanish giants Barcelona.

Chelsea win but pay dear

AFP, London

Chelsea kept pace with leaders Manchester United with a 3-0 win over Blackburn but their defensive resources were hit once more when Ashley Cole was stretched off in agony with a knee injury.

The England defender was chasing a ball towards the left touchline in the 58th minute at Stamford Bridge when his left knee appeared to buckle beneath him and he fell to the turf with no other player in sight.

Cole was just beginning to find form for the first time since his controversial transfer from Arsenal last summer.

Manager Jose Mourinho was also just preparing to welcome back captain and central defender John Terry after a month on the sidelines. Chelsea have also suffered recent injuries to Terry's centreback partner Ricardo Carvalho and midfielder Joe Cole.

Mourinho will make noises that his squad will not be able to cope

with another loss, but Wayne Bridge appears set to have a spell in which to prove himself as more than just an able deputy to his long-time England rival.

On the pitch, it was perhaps too much for Chelsea to hope that a victory would help them cut into Manchester United's six-point lead, but the Blues did at least manage to record another dull but effective victory against mid-table opposition.

It was a miserable night for Andriy Shevchenko, who missed three good chances to score, but Didier Drogba maintained his remarkable consistency with another goal which saw him increase his tally to 23 in all competitions.

In the sixth minute Frank Lampard picked up a loose ball in the centre circle and released Drogba with a perfectly weighted pass.

The former Marseille striker outpaced Stephane Henchoz and put the ball wide of Brad Friedel and inside the far post for the opener.

Blackburn manager Mark Hughes, himself a former Stamford

Bridge favourite in the twilight of his stellar career, was left stunned as his side had made an encouraging start.

Matt Derbyshire missed their best chance just before the break and when Chelsea re-emerged after the interval they gave a glimpse of their ruthless streak, so evident on their own turf in recent seasons, by adding a further two goals.

Lampard, one of Chelsea's most reliable performers, was on hand in the 66th minute to hit a superb strike to make it two.

Jon Obi Mikel drifted in from the left and played the ball to Lampard, who advanced a few yards before unleashing a vicious, swerving effort which beat Friedel and found its way into the roof of the net.

Chelsea were then able to enter their comfort zone, but to their credit they decided not to and it was no surprise when they scored a third in stoppage time.

Substitute Saloman Kalou — a summer signing recently criticised by Mourinho — found himself free on the left side of the penalty area and he easily beat Friedel with a side-footed effort.

SPANISH KING'S CUP

Barca relive Zaragoza nightmare

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Zaragoza gained the upper hand in their King's Cup quarterfinal against Barcelona when defender Carlos Diogo headed in 12 minutes from time to earn his side a 1-0 win in the first leg at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

The former Real Madrid player broke the deadlock in an absorbing and evenly matched encounter when he steered the ball past keeper Albert Jorquera after a corner.

Zaragoza knocked Barca out of the Cup at the same stage last season and also in 2004 when

they went on to win the competition with victory over Real Madrid in the final.

Earlier, Getafe and Deportivo Coruna took a giant stride towards booking their places in on the last four with emphatic home wins in their first leg matches.

Bernd Schuster's Getafe were in unstoppable form as they overpowered Osasuna 3-0, while Depor produced a late burst to come from a goal down and defeat second division leaders Valladolid 4-1 at the Riazor.

Getafe striker Daniel Guiza, who scored both his side's goals in their 2-0 league win over Osasuna on Sunday, continued his rich run of recent form in front

of goal when he headed in after a corner in the 11th minute.

Centre-back Alexis made it 2-0 when he rose above the Osasuna defence to head in from another corner six minutes before the break.

Latvia striker Verpakovskis took advantage of a dreadful error from Osasuna keeper Ricardo to side-foot into the empty net in the second half after the former Manchester United player let a ballooning cross slip through his fingers.

Deportivo struck twice in the closing minutes to end Valladolid's 21-match unbeaten run, although they were reduced to 10 men in injury time with the sending off of defender Alberto Lopo.



PHOTO: AFP

Real Zaragoza's D'Alessandro (C), Oscar (L) and Sergio celebrate a goal against Barcelona during their Spanish King's Cup match at Nou Camp on Wednesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lyricist's subject

5 Burst

8 Notoriety

12 Wading bird

13 Id

14 Exam format

15 Thanksgiving event

17 Sty cry

18 Moray, e.g.

19 Galena, for instance

20 Goes nowhere

21 Sauté

22 Mis'

23 Hunter constellation

26 Servant

30 Trusty pooch

31 Gender

32 Vote off the island

33 Sub-table flirtation

35 Pizzazz

36 Remiss

DOWN

1 Luce publication

2 Reed

3 String instrument

4 Superlative ending

5 Polar explorer

6 Impolite look

7 D.C. figure, for

8 Angers short

9 Possessive event

10 Ottoman

11 Teased

12 Thickness

13 Willy Wonka's creator

14 Paulo precader

15 1984 Kevin Bacon movie

16 "Free"

17 D.C. figure, for

18 Angers short

19 Possessive event

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29 Possessive event

30 Ottoman

31 Teased

32 Thickness

33 Willy Wonka's creator

34 Paulo precader

35 1984 Kevin Bacon movie

36 "Free"

Solution time: 21 mins.

ACROSS: 1. RASPBERRY, 5. BURST, 8. NOTORIOUS, 12. WADING BIRD, 13. ID, 14. EXAM, 15. GIVING, 17. SCRY, 18. MORAY, 19. GALENA, 20. GOES, 21. SAUTE, 22. MIS', 23. HUNTER, 26. SERVANT, 30. POODLE, 31. GENDER, 32. VOTE, 33. SUBTABLE, 35. PIZZAZZ, 36. REMISS.

DOWN: 1. LUCE, 2. REED, 3. STRING, 4. SUPERLATIVE, 5. POLAR, 6. IMPOLITE, 7. D.C., 8. ANGERS, 9. POSSESSIVE, 10. OTTOMAN, 11. TEASED, 12. THICKNESS, 13. WILLY WONKA, 14. PAULO, 15. 1984, 16. KEVIN, 17. D.C., 18. ANGERS, 19. POSSESSIVE, 20. OTTOMAN, 21. TEASED, 22. THICKNESS, 23. WILLY WONKA, 24. PAULO, 25. 1984, 26. KEVIN, 27. D.C., 28. ANGERS, 29. POSSESSIVE, 30. OTTOMAN, 31. TEASED, 32. THICKNESS, 33. WILLY WONKA, 34. PAULO, 35. 1984, 36. KEVIN.

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48							49			50	
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CRYPTOQUIP

AK FND BXUX MN UDTZ MN
 JXM MN Y HAOOAEJ TYWX,
 FND RUNHYHWF BYEM Y
 RAXLX NK MZX YDLMANE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACTOR FALK HAD BEEN ON A FABULOUS WINNING STREAK, HOPING HIS LUCK WOULDN'T PETER OUT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals F