

## Terry survives massive scare

REUTERS, Cardiff

England and Chelsea captain John Terry escaped serious injury after being knocked out when he was accidentally kicked in the face by Arsenal's Abou Diaby during the League Cup final on Sunday.

With the score 1-1 in the 56th minute, the central defender stooped to get his head to a loose ball in the Arsenal area and his face took the full force of Diaby's attempted clearance.

He was motionless for several minutes while medical staff from both sides treated him.

Terry, who played in the final after a surprise recovery from a twisted ankle suffered in Wednesday's Champions League 1-1 draw with Porto, was fitted with a neck brace and oxygen mask and carried carefully from the pitch.

He was taken to hospital for tests but was able to return to the Millennium Stadium little more than an hour later – still in his kit – where he joined his teammates celebrating the 2-1 victory secured by two Didier Drogba goals.

Diaby told Reuters he was shaken by the incident, saying: "I was frightened. I wanted to clear the ball, he put his head there, and that's what happened."

"I haven't seen him yet but I want to see him to talk about it... and I'm glad he's alright."

Terry's fellow defender Wayne Bridge told reporters: "It looked very bad, and a few people were a bit emotional."

"I'm just buzzing that he was able to walk back into the changing room at the end. That's JT all over. He'll battle through anything... He's Mr. Chelsea."

## Brawling clubs face censure

AFP, Cardiff

Arsenal and Chelsea face disciplinary action from the English Football Association after the mass brawl that marred their League Cup final clash on Sunday.

Arsenal duo Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor and Chelsea's John Obi Mikel were all sent off by referee Howard Webb in stoppage time of Chelsea's 2-1 win at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

Toure provoked the fight when he pushed Mikel after having his shirt pulled by the midfielder. Adebayor was involved in the shoving match that followed Toure and Mikel's clash, but it appeared Emmanuel Eboue was more guilty after striking Wayne Bridge.

Both striker Adebayor, who had to be led off by Arsenal physio Gary Lewin, insisted he did not deserve to be sent off, but he is likely to face punishment for initially refusing to leave the field.

Adebayor, Toure and Mikel are all likely to be handed three match suspensions, while Eboue could also be banned.

Both London clubs could also be charged by the FA with failing to control their players and could face heavy fines.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger and his Chelsea counterpart both came onto the pitch to try to restrain their players in an extraordinary finale to a dramatic match.

Wenger said: "I am worried we will be punished. When the FA are involved it is always better to worry."

Mourinho admitted the FA are certain to act and he added: "If the players did something wrong they have to be punished and be suspended for one or two matches and we managers have to educate them, but it was not a violent game."

Didier Drogba's late winner won the Cup for Chelsea after he had earlier cancelled out Theo Walcott's first ever goal for Arsenal.

## Viola sign Lupoli

AFP, Rome

Fiorentina have signed Italy under-21 international Arturo Lupoli from English Premiership side Arsenal on a five-year contract, the Serie A club confirmed on Monday.

The 19-year-old striker is currently on loan from Arsenal to Championship promotion hopefuls Derby County and will remain there for the remainder of the season before returning to Italy in the summer.

Lupoli joined Arsenal from Serie A side Parma in 2004, earning a contract with the north London club through a scholarship.

He made his Arsenal debut in a League Cup match against Manchester City in October 2004, and scored his first goals for the club against Everton in the same competition, netting twice in a 3-1 victory.

Lupoli scored on his debut for Italy's under-21 team against Luxembourg in December 2006.



PHOTO: AFP

Schalke midfielder Fabian Ernst (below) and Leverkusen midfielder Simon Rolfes took a tumble as they clashed during their Bundesliga match at the Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday.

## Schalke take a tumble

AFP, Berlin



Bundesliga leaders Schalke 04 slumped to their fourth league defeat of the season on Sunday when they were beaten 1-0 by Bayer Leverkusen.

The result meant their lead at the top was cut to four points with Stuttgart, who drew 0-0 with Hertha Berlin on Friday, remaining in second place while Werder Bremen stay third, but seven points behind, after drawing 2-2 with rock-bottom Borussia Monchengladbach on Sunday.

Leverkusen, who booked their place in the UEFA Cup last 16 in mid-week by knocking out Blackburn Rovers, secured the three points at Schalke thanks to a goal three minutes from time by striker Stefan Kiessling.

Werder had been on course for all three points against relegation-haunted Monchengladbach but Nando Rafael levelled in the fourth minute of injury time.

Cameroon international Patrick Wome put Werder ahead in the 11th minute but Michael Delura levelled six

minutes later. Croatian import Jurica Vranjes restored Werder's lead in the 84th minute before Nando's late equaliser for the Bundesliga's bottom club.

Bayern Munich shrugged off their midweek Champions League defeat at Real Madrid to beat Wolfsburg 2-1 on Saturday to hand coach Ottmar Hitzfeld a morale-boosting win.

German international striker Lukas Podolski scored from a 26th-minute penalty, his second goal of the season, after a foul by Alexander Madlung on Claudio Pizarro who had been picked ahead of Roy Maakay.

Mark van Bommel added the second nine minutes into the second half with a 18-metre drive. Cedric Makiadi scored a 79th-minute consolation for Wolfsburg.

The win left Bayern in fourth spot, nine points behind leaders Schalke.

Stuttgart wasted a golden chance to close the gap on Schalke 04 on Friday when they were held to a 0-0 draw by Hertha Berlin.

Hertha, who defended strongly and in numbers, were happy to take a point especially after midfielder Ashkan Dejagah was sent off in the dying minutes.

The Berlin side were also indebted to goalkeeper Christian Fiedler who pulled off a fine save in injury time to keep out the dangerous Mario Gomez, whose mood would not have been helped

by having a 12th-minute strike on goal ruled out for hand ball. Stuttgart went into the match stripped of the talents of skipper Fernando Meira and Antonio da Silva both injured while influential Mexican defender Pavel Pardo was suspended.

and on course to grab a place in the Champions League next season should they fail to overturn a 3-2 deficit to Real in the second leg of their last 16 clash.

"The most important thing was the three points to keep us in contention," said Hitzfeld.

"We were a little bit uncertain in defence at the start but after that we worked well. We deserved this win."

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### TOP SIX

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Schalke	23	15	4	4	40	22	49
Stuttgart	23	13	6	4	41	26	45
Bremen	23	13	4	6	55	32	43
Bayern	23	12	4	7	35	27	40
Nuremberg	23	8	12	3	32	19	36
Berlin	23	9	7	7	33	35	34

## Mourinho rues lack of luck

AFP, Cardiff



Jose Mourinho believes Chelsea will struggle to overtake United in the race for the Premiership title unless they start to get as much luck as the league leaders.

Mourinho celebrated his fourth major trophy in two and a half years with Chelsea on Sunday as his side beat Arsenal 2-1 in a dramatic League Cup final.

But the Portuguese coach, who has also won the Community Shield with the Blues, has already turned his attention to the struggle for supremacy in the Premiership and is convinced United have had more than their share of good fortune.

United moved nine points clear of second-placed Chelsea as Cristiano Ronaldo's late goal clinched a fortunate win at Fulham on Saturday.

In contrast, Chelsea have been dogged by problems this season, with injuries robbing Mourinho of several players.

Mourinho said: "I didn't see their game at Fulham but the information I have is it was completely undeserved. But football is like this."

"Sometimes you don't deserve it and you win. It is a game they could lose but they won. This is a season when they have no injuries and every player is fine to play."

"They go to the Champions League and they have a disallowed goal from their opponents and then score a strange goal. Then they go to Fulham

and it looks like they deserve to lose and they win."

"They play at Tottenham and at 0-0, Cristiano Ronaldo goes down and it is a penalty. It looks like everything is on their side."

"In previous seasons it happened to us. In my first year we had no injuries and we would go away and score in the first minute in four or five successive matches."

Mourinho refuses to accept United will take Chelsea's title and he said: "In the Premiership what we have to do is keep winning and see if the next step is close to the gap."

"If we let the gap get bigger it will be very difficult, but if we close it everything is open."

Mourinho denied his gesture of waving five fingers towards the crowd, to signal the trophies he has won, was a message to the club's owner Roman Abramovich, who has argued with over transfer policy.

"It was not waving," he said.

"I was just saying in two and a half years in Chelsea I have won five trophies."

"The fans are fantastic to me, they know the happy moments we are living together, the players are fantastic to and a club that gives me a contract until 2010 must be also happy otherwise we would not have given me it."

Mourinho was at least reassured when his captain John Terry, who was taken to hospital after being knocked unconscious during the second half, returned to the stadium to celebrate with his teammates.

Arsenal had taken the lead in Cardiff through Theo Walcott's early goal but Didier Drogba equalised soon afterwards and the Ivory Coast striker

headed the winner with seven minutes left.

That sparked a remarkable finish as Arsenal duo Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor, as well as Chelsea's John Obi Mikel, were sent off following a mass brawl in stoppage time.

Mourinho is convinced his young side showed they can play a big role in the club's future success.

Wenger said: "It's a learning process. Today our midfield was Theo Walcott, who is 17, Denilson, who is 19, Cesc Fabregas, who is 19, and Abou Diaby, who is 20. That is fantastic and they marshalled the middle of the park in an outstanding way against world-class players."

"Since the beginning of the season there has been a great team spirit in this squad. Everytime the young players have responded and that is why I have regrets because I felt if we kept our calm, we had enough energy and mental resources to comeback." Until now we were more lambs than wolves. It is part of a big team to have a high aggression level in a positive way. It good to have aggression but we have to keep it in a positive way and not lose our nerve. We will learn from it."

"It is a trophy and of course we wanted to win the game but we are full of hope with what we have produced. We still have hopes in the Champions League and FA Cup."

Ghana will host the second leg on March 25.

Panandetigui, who plays for Belgian club Lokeren, and Traore were born before the age deadline of January 1, 1985.

"I had my vision of this competition and I stuck to it until the last minute. I do not regret it."

## Liverpool snap up Voronin

AFP, Liverpool

Ukrainian star Andriy Voronin has signed for English Premiership giants Liverpool on a four year contract the club announced on Monday.

The 27-year-old 40-times capped international striker partner of Chelsea's Andriy Shevchenko will cost nothing when he leaves German side Bayer Leverkusen at the end of the season as he will be a free agent.

Voronin, who has scored five goals in his 40 international appearances, has spent most of his career in Germany playing for Cologne, Mainz and Borussia Monchengladbach.

The signing of Voronin, who was part of the Ukraine team that reached the World Cup quarter-finals last year, puts pressure on former England international Robbie Fowler retaining his place in the squad despite scoring twice on Saturday in the victory over Sheffield United.

But with Dirk Kuyt, Craig Bellamy and Peter Crouch also vying for places up front Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez refused to discuss a new deal for the 31-year-old Fowler.

"He's a really good finisher, still the best we have, and I sometimes think that if we could have Bellamy running at defenders and carrying the ball 20 yards, then turning into Fowler with the goal in sight, it would be perfect," the Spaniard told the club's website.

"If you create chances for him, you know you can rely on his finishing and that is a very important quality to have."

"We have four very good strikers, all with different skills. You can make the most of Peter Crouch's aerial ability, Dirk Kuyt works hard between the lines and Bellamy runs behind defences."

"We can talk about Robbie's future at a later date but, if he scores every time he plays over the next few months, you never know."

Voronin's transfer is the first under the new regime of American tycoons George Gillett and Tom Hicks, who agreed a takeover of Liverpool earlier this month.

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The Nerazzurri earned their 17th successive Serie A victory with a 5-2 win over Catania, remaining 14 points clear at the top ahead of Roma, despite the Giallorossi beating Reggina 3-0.

The new deal was allegedly finalised last Friday during a meeting and the official announcement is expected to arrive before the second leg of the Champions League game against Valencia on March 6.