



Nuremberg players dive to the ground in front of their German Cup trophy that they won after beating Stuttgart in the final at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on Saturday.

## GERMAN CUP Nuremberg spoil Stuttgart party

### Football

APP, Berlin

Danish midfielder Jan Kristiansen was the toast of Nuremberg on Saturday night as his goal in extra-time ended his side's 45-year wait for the German Cup with a 2-1 win over 10-man VfB Stuttgart.

Kristiansen struck in the 109th minute with a long-range effort at Berlin's Olympic Stadium which made his side German Cup winners for the fourth time and denied Bundesliga champions Stuttgart their first domestic double.

"I was delighted with the goal," said Kristiansen, who has won nine caps for his country. "I knew I had hit it well, but it was a great feeling when it went in."

"The boys are over the moon, it has been a fantastic and superb night, there will be quite a party."

Stuttgart goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand, playing his last game before leaving to join Spanish giants Valencia this summer, said his side went down with a fight.

"We threw everything in and fought hard with ten men," he said.

"the referee did not have his best day, but I am proud of the boys, they gave everything and worked hard just like they have done all season."

Having beaten Stuttgart home and away in the league, this was Nuremberg's third win of the season over their rivals - their first German Cup win since 1962 - but the Hans Meyer-coached side had to come from behind.

Stuttgart's prolific striker Cacau put his side ahead when he ran onto a chip ahead from midfielder Sami Khedira which stretched the Nuremberg defence and the Brazilian stabbed the ball home past goalkeeper Raphael Schaefer after 20 minutes.

It was Cacau's 18th goal of the season - his fifth in the cup - but he was not to remain the pitch for long.

Nuremberg hit back quickly when Slovakian midfielder Marek Mintal blasted home his shot after 27 minutes from a superb cross by defender Dominik Reinhardt which beat Stuttgart's Hildebrand.

It was a fantastic effort which began in the Nuremberg goal-mouth and swept the full length of the field.

But the game then developed an ill-tempered edge - there were nine cards shown in all - as both early

goalscorers left the field within minutes of each other, but for very different reasons.

First, Cacau was sent off for lashing out at Nuremberg defender Andreas Wolf and he was shown a straight red card by the referee.

Then Portuguese defender Fernando Meira earned himself a yellow card for a terrible tackle on Mintal which floored the Slovakian, who had to be stretchered off in some distress on 32 minutes.

The first-half finished 1-1, but Nuremberg took the lead just two minutes after the break when Spanish defender Horacio Pinola drilled in his corner and German international midfielder Marco Engelhardt headed home.

But with ten minutes to go Schaefer brought down Gomez in the penalty area, referee Michael Weiner wasted no time awarding the penalty and Mexican international Pavel Pardo drove home his shot to make it 2-2.

The game went into extra-time and it was Kristiansen's inch-perfect shot from 30 metres which gave Hildebrand no chance and sealed Nuremberg's win.

BECKS ROUSES REAL, RONNIE SENT OFF

## Set for a photo finish

APP, Madrid

The Spanish title chase reached boiling point Saturday as both Real Madrid and Barcelona scored key home wins to stay level on points with just two games to go.

David Beckham inspiring Real to a 3-1 win over Deportivo La Coruna at the Bernabeu to take the capital club onto 72 points from 36 games and Barca promptly drew level with a nervy 1-0 win at the Nou Camp over Getafe.

That win at least avenged the Catalan club's humiliating Spanish Cup exit to Bernd Schuster's side from the Madrid suburbs, but it came at a cost as Ronaldinho, who scored the only goal in the second minute, was sent off five minutes before half-time for a second booking.

Chievo started the season in Serie A has ended with relegation after a thrilling final round of matches. The Verona-based side lost 2-0 to Catania, while wins for Reggina, Siena and Parma meant the 'Flying Donkeys' were finally grounded.

It was cruel on Luigi Del Neri's side, who started the day 14th but plunged into the drop zone after all four teams directly below them won.

Chievo appeared safe until the 65th minute, when Fausto Rossi powered a header past Lorenzo Squizzi into the left corner of the net.

Even then, it looked like they might survive with Siena drawing 1-1 against Lazio, but a late close-range Paolo Negro goal saved the Tuscan outfit.

Chievo started the season in the qualifying stages of the Champions League having moved up to fourth in the wake of the match-fixing penalties handed out.

But a poor run of form saw them fall into the relegation zone. Not

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### Juve capture Serie B title

APP, Rome

Mighty Juventus added an unlikely honour to their overladen trophy cabinet on Saturday when the famous Turin club were crowned champions of Serie B.

Demoted last summer for their part in the Italian match-fixing scandal Juve ensured they bounced straight back up to Serie A in style, their 2-0 win over Mantua securing the title with two games to go.

Goals from France striker David Trezeguet and the Czech Republic's Pavel Nedved ensure the win on a day the club denied press reports that manager Didier Deschamps had resigned.

The former Juve player and captain of France's 1998 World Cup winning side has reportedly fallen out with the club's management over his contract negotiations.

Deportivo made Real sweat after Joan Capdevila levelled nine

minutes after the restart after Julian De Guzman crossed low from the penalty spot.

But Beckham ensured the hosts regained the lead, a trademark cross finding the head of Raul, who made no mistake for only his sev-

enth goal of the campaign before Van Nistelrooy finished things off with a league goal number 23.

Ronaldinho then netted his 20th league goal of the season after

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Barcelona forward Ronaldinho (C) is being sent-off by the referee during their Primera Liga clash against Getafe at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

## Eto'o's Anfield desire

### Football

INTERNET, undated

Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o has admitted "it would be wonderful" to play in front of the Kop for Liverpool.

Although he does not expect to join the Reds in the summer, the Cameroonian striker said life at Barcelona was getting "more difficult" each season.

The speedy goalscorer has reportedly been identified as Rafa Benitez's top target in his attempt to bring a world-class striker to Anfield.

Eto'o insists he is not aware of any approach being made by the Champions League finalists, but revealed his admiration for the club and its fans.

"The great thing about Liverpool is their team spirit - it is very strong," he told the Sunday Mirror.

"But, for me, it is their fans who win matches for Liverpool because they have so much power."

"They are fantastic. Any player would love to have those types of fans behind him."

"I have played at Anfield in the Champions League quarterfinal so I know all about their fantastic supporters."

"It would be wonderful to have that kind of support as a Liverpool player but I really don't know what will happen in the next two years."

Eto'o believes he will still be at the Nou Camp next season, despite his much publicised falling out with manager Frank Rijkaard earlier this year.

He added: "I have not heard anything from Liverpool or anyone else. These things don't come through to me."

"I am only thinking about next season and I will be here next season. But every year that passes things become a bit more difficult."

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## Reo-Coker demands transfer

APP, London

Nigel Reo-Coker is set to leave West Ham after handing in a transfer request.

West Ham boss Alan Curbishley had told Reo-Coker he would listen to offers for the Hammers captain, who has responded by making it clear he will not stay if he isn't wanted.

Curbishley wants eight million pounds for the England under-21 international, who was a member of the reserve World Cup squad last year, and is likely to get offers from Tottenham, Arsenal, Aston Villa and Newcastle.

Reo-Coker's agent Tony Finnigan said: "I can confirm that Nigel Reo-Coker has officially handed in a transfer request."

"I am surprised that a Londoner who is captain of his club is being allowed to leave."

"At the end of the day he never felt wanted but I am sure he will have a bright future elsewhere."



Spanish McLaren-Mercedes driver Fernando Alonso (R) celebrates after winning the Monaco Grand Prix next to Princess Caroline of Hanover (L) and Prince

Albert II of Monaco in Monte Carlo on Sunday.