

Heart attack for Sevilla defender

INTERNET, undated

Antonio Puerta's prognosis is "very serious", according to the hospital where the Sevilla wing-back is being treated.

Puerta collapsed in his own box after 35 minutes of Sevilla's Primera Liga opener against Getafe on Saturday and appeared to briefly lose consciousness.

The Spain international did walk off the pitch but it has been confirmed he then collapsed again in the changing rooms.

Puerta was taken to the Virgen del Rocio hospital in Sevilla and doctors there have issued a worrying statement on the 22-year-old's current status.

"He is in the intensive care unit where he has been given assisted ventilation and is experiencing hemodynamic instability," said a medical report issued by the hospital.

"The prognosis is very serious," Sevilla president Jose Maria del Nido says Puerta's life is in danger at the Sanchez Pizjuan and praised the club's medical staff.

"Fortunately the club doctors and the machines managed to resuscitate him but we experienced some terrible moments because the life of the player was in danger," he told the club's official website.

More of the same for Raul

INTERNET, undated

Real Madrid skipper Raul Gonzalez was in positive mood after the 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid, and looking forward to better things over the season.

Raul scored the equalizer in the 15th minute as Real Madrid came from behind to pick up a 2-1 win over Atletico Madrid in a very closely contested tie.

Speaking after the game, the Merengue skipper was as much relieved as optimistic about the future.

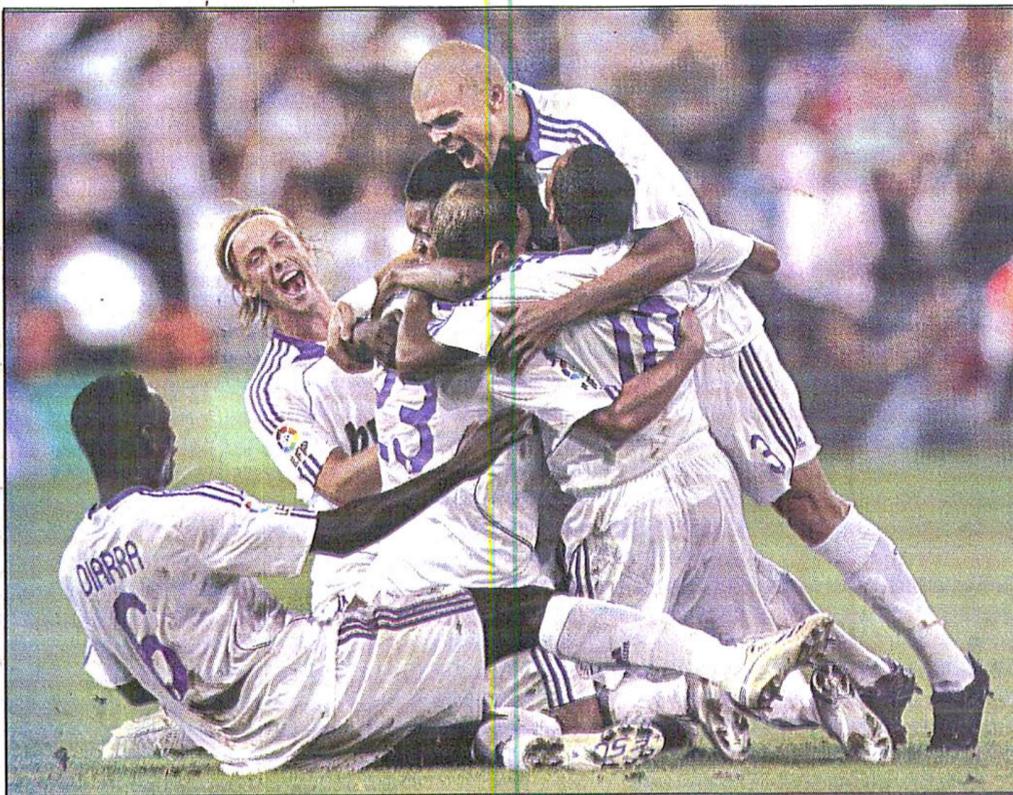
"We are very happy to have achieved this important victory," he told RealMadridTV. "They made it very difficult for us, but we knew how to overcome adversity."

"This is what we have to do, continue down this path, continue being positive and optimistic. It's the same mentality as other games, but things turned out well for us today."

"I am very satisfied and happy, but we weren't that bad three days ago and now we aren't that great."

"It was a very intense match and this is the road we have to continue on. Although we felt comfortable, we have to give a lot more."

"It's going to be a hard-fought League with several teams who have gotten much stronger in the hunt for the title. We've got ten months ahead of us, but this Madrid is title-hungry."



Real Madrid players are ecstatic after midfielder Wesley Sneijder scored the winning goal to give them victory in their opening day derby clash against Atletico Madrid in the Primera Liga on Saturday.

Mourinho hails Lampard

INTERNET, undated

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho insists he can count on Frank Lampard even though the England midfielder has yet to sign a new contract at Stamford Bridge.

Lampard took his rich goalscoring vein to four in as many games with the decisive strike in Chelsea's 1-0 victory over Portsmouth at Stamford Bridge - three for his club and one for his country.

Lampard's 31st-minute goal stretched Chelsea's unbeaten home run to 65 games and put them back on top of the Barclays Premier League.

But even though the former West Ham midfielder has called off talks about a new long-term contract at the club because he wants to concentrate on his football, Mourinho knows he will not shirk his responsibilities.

Mourinho said: "If he has critics I am not one of them. He has people that support him every time and I am one of them."

"It is not easy for midfield players to score four goals in as many matches. In the three games he's scored for us, he has given us important points."

"So, he's sharp and mentally ready. He wants to play a great season and he's winner. He was not happy with just two cups last season and I know I can count on him."

Mourinho was delighted to emerge with all three points after a game where Portsmouth pushed his side to the limit.

But the Chelsea coach added that a combination of high temperatures and an international week had not helped matters.

Mourinho added: "I don't like to play after national games in midweek. They go, they play, some come back unhappy, some frustrated, some happy, some train very hard, some don't train."

"Some travel on Thursday just to

train on Friday. I cannot train with the team or prepare it. The concentration is not the same and the way we prepare is not the same."

"It happens like this four out of five international weeks. But at the same time Portsmouth are a good team who are well organised with good players and manager."

"They made it difficult for us but the weather was not a help. It was very hot and I could see in the first half it was very difficult for the players to play intense football."

"There was no pressure on the ball and people were thinking and walking slowly on the pitch."

"I had to shake them at half-time to improve in the second half. I am happy with the points and the fact we are top of the league. But I want to play better."

"Every big club in the Premier League is playing to be top of the league and we are no different."

"We want to be first on the last day of the season. To be there now, means what it means. It is good to be there."

FORMULA 1 Massa leads Ferrari 1-2

AFP, Istanbul

Brazil's Felipe Massa spearheaded a Ferrari one-two when he scorched to victory in Sunday's Turkish Grand Prix.

Championship leading Briton Lewis Hamilton's title hopes suffered a blow through a tyre failure and he finished fifth at the end of an enthralling race in hot conditions.

Massa triumphed from pole at Istanbul Park for the second year in a row as he took the chequered flag 2.2 seconds ahead of teammate Kimi Raikkonen.

Hamilton was leading on lap 43, with his final pit-stop moments away, when the right front tyre of his McLaren-Mercedes suddenly burst sending him sliding off the circuit.

Britain's rookie sensation managed to coax the car back to the garage on three wheels, but it cost him a certain third place finish as he dropped behind team-mate Fernando Alonso and BMW's Nick Heidfeld.

Hamilton's lead over double champion Alonso was cut by two points to five with just five races left this season.

Massa's third win of the season, and fifth of his career, saw him leapfrog Raikkonen into third place in the championship standings. But he is still 15 points behind Hamilton with Raikkonen one point further back.

The Sao Paulo-born driver, who had scored his maiden win on the

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Adriano to Man City?

INTERNET, undated

Inter Milan have admitted they would consider loaning Adriano out for the season amid reports linking the Brazilian with a move to Manchester City.

Adriano has fallen down the pecking order at Inter after a disappointing couple of seasons, and was not even named among the substitutes for the Italian Super Cup against Roma last week.

Inter boss Roberto Mancini has Zlatan Ibrahimovic, David Suazo, Hernan Crespo and Julio Cruz at his disposal but is keen to see Adriano challenge for a starting spot.

However, Inter realise that for Adriano to regain his best form he has to play more regularly, and are mulling over the possibility of letting him go on loan.

"Our intention is to get Adriano back to his natural levels - which are very high - as soon as possible," Inter president Massimo Moratti told Gazzetta dello Sport.

"We will follow the best possible path, agreeing everything with him and the team."

"I think he can remain, but if the best option proves to be a loan, then we will take it into consideration."

Parma have already enquired about taking Adriano on loan, but a number of other clubs have also been linked with him in the Italian press.

Manchester City boss Sven-Goran Eriksson is reported to have rung Mancini, his former assistant at Lazio, to express his interest.

Derby joy for Real

AFP, Madrid



Madrid at the Bernabeu as La Liga resumed.

Wesley Sneijder, who signed this summer from Ajax for 35 million dollars, roughly the same fee Real paid Manchester United for Beckham in 2003, fired home the winner following a quick Guti freekick.

Raul had earlier headed in from a Sergio Ramos cross on 14 minutes to equalise after Argentine prodigy Sergio 'Kun' Agüero had nodded the visitors in front inside the opening minute.

After a win which followed six defeats in pre-season warm-ups, Raul said he was delighted with the "new" Real, who nonetheless only fielded three of the eight players signed in the close season with the likes of Arjen Robben and Gabriel Heinze kept in reserve.

"We were much better than in some of the previous games and we have to keep it up. We got the three points and I feel just great," Raul said.

New German coach Bernd Schuster was also satisfied after a gritty showing which was a far cry from the 'galactico' era of the likes of Beckham.

"We played well in a hard-fought derby. We didn't have any weak points and we really pushed ourselves to seal the win," said Schuster, who as a player won a host of Liga honours playing for both Madrid clubs as well as Barcelona and has been able to shell out 120 million euros (170 million dollars) on new talent since replacing Fabio Capello.

"It would have been a pity, given the chances we missed, only to draw."

Atletico's Mexican coach Javier Aguirre was less impressed.

"It wasn't a fair result. We deserved a draw or maybe even more," he insisted after Atletico stretched their Bernabeu drought to nine seasons.

Spain's Tour de France cycling champion Alberto Contador handed the championship trophy to Real skipper Raul before kick-off and the former then formally kicked off the campaign before a sellout 80,000 crowd.

The hosts also left German international defender Christoph Metzelder on the bench to begin with before he replaced Italian world champion Fabio Cannavaro, suffering from an ankle knock sustained in training.

Javier Aguirre's Atletico, inspired by their own expensive new recruits including Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan and Portuguese forward Simao, shook Real by taking the lead after 56 seconds.

Mario Andres Perea set over a corner from the right and compatriot Agüero nodded in from point

blank range.

Raul then leapt high to power in a header from a tantalising Sergio Ramos cross on the flank where David Beckham was providing much of the ammunition during the titanic run-in.

It was Guti, as so often in the past, who unlocked the door to victory, his slide rule freekick pounced on by Sneijder, who stroked home a low shot.

The visitors almost snatched a point on 81 minutes when Greek defender Giorgios Seitaridis crossed from the right and Forlan slid home only to be given offside as the red-and-white side of the capital failed to repeat last season's stalemate which ended 1-1.

They left new recruit Jose Antonio Reyes, who spent last season on loan from Arsenal with Real and scored the last-day goals which won the title, on the bench until the hour mark but he made little difference thereafter.

UEFA Cup winners Sevilla opened their campaign with a 4-1 thrashing of Schuster's former side Getafe, now coached by Dane Michael Laudrup and also the side they beat in the Spanish Cup final, while Murcia edged Real Zaragoza, aspirants for a top five finish, 2-1.

Pablo Hernandez netted a brilliant freekick for Getafe in the opening minute but the visitors then had Francisco Sousa and David Cortes red-carded before the break.

Sevilla took advantage and second half goals from Jesus Navas, Luis Fabiano, Freddy Kanoute and

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Life in the Old Lady yet

AFP, Rome



French international striker David Trezeguet fired a hat-trick as Juventus marked their return to Serie A with a 5-1 demolition of Livorno on Saturday.

Juve, who were demoted to Serie B last year as punishment for their role in the match-fixing scandal which rocked Italy, took out their frustration on their modest opponents.

The Turin giants, now under former Chelsea coach Claudio Ranieri, spent over 50 million euros in the summer, but it was a couple of old stagers who got the ball rolling on Saturday.

Trezeguet opened the scoring in the 28th minute from a left-wing cross by Alessandro Del Piero.

But Juve had to wait until late in the game to make sure of the three points.

In the 71st minute, Vincenzo Iaquinta, making his debut after leaving Udinese, was hauled down in the box by Alessandro Grandoni as he chased a Pavel Nedved through ball.

Iaquinta took the spot-kick himself and made it 2-0.

Juve made it 3-0 when Iaquinta deflected in a right-foot shot from Nedved in the 86th minute.

A minute later, Iaquinta turned provider for Trezeguet to stroke the ball home before the Frenchman completed his hat-trick in injury time with his 98th career goal in 152 Serie A matches.

Massimo Loviso scored a late consolation for Livorno.

Ranieri praised Trezeguet who had threatened to leave the club in a contract row at the end of last season.

"When he made that gesture I was surprised, as I had already been appointed and had a very different idea of him from our meeting in the locker room," said the coach.

"Perhaps he thought he wasn't part of my plans. That was not the

case and you can see that now."

Earlier Saturday, Lazio, who were third last season, and Torino fought out a 2-2 draw.

Lazio president Claudio Lotito said that the Rome side are battling a major injury crisis.

Modibo Diakhite was stretched off with a fractured tibia and could well be out for the rest of the season, while Aleksander Kolarov

sustained a thigh strain.

The shortage of defenders meant Emilson Cribari had to play as a substitute just 10 days after surgery to correct a fractured cheekbone.

"It's a complete state of emergency. It feels like we're cursed," said Lotito.

On Sunday, Roma, who were runners-up to Inter Milan last time

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CHELSEA MAKE JOSE SMILE Arsenal break City

AFP, London



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said he was pleased to be sitting on top of the English Premier League but insisted it meant nothing unless the Blues can keep ahead of their title rivals.

Unbeaten Chelsea, looking to get the trophy back from champions Manchester United, are top of the division after four matches, leaving the likes of Liverpool, Arsenal and United playing catch-up.

The Blues went top thanks to their 1-0 win at home to Portsmouth on Saturday, with England midfielder Frank Lampard scoring the crucial goal.

Arsenal beat previous leaders Manchester City 1-0 at home, while Liverpool grabbed a 2-0 win at Sunderland.

"Every big club in the Premier League is playing to be top of the Premier League and we are no different," Mourinho told reporters.

"We want to be first on the last day of the season. It is good to be there, but it means nothing at the moment."

In Sunday's action, Manchester United host Tottenham, while Middlesbrough host Newcastle in a north-east derby.

United -- second bottom in the table -- are yet to win this season, while Spurs boss Martin Jol could badly do with three points to ward off speculation he is about to be sacked.

Elsewhere Saturday, Bolton escaped the foot of the table with a 3-0 win over visitors Reading, Birmingham won 2-1 at Derby and West Ham drew 1-1 at home against Everton.

Everton drew 1-1 with Blackburn and Aston Villa beat Fulham 2-1.

Spain midfielder Francesc Fabregas scored the goal in the 80th minute at the Emirates stadium, after City's stand-in goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel saved Robin van Persie's penalty.

Schmeichel has conceded once in four games and has been one of the stars of the season so far.

"The way he is playing at the moment, we could ask no more from him. He has a presence you can feel from the bench. He is very brave as well," said Eriksson.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger praised his side's determination.

"That is a recognition of what is going on in this team and how we are progressing," he said.

"I was worried a bit but the side is ready to fight until the last second."

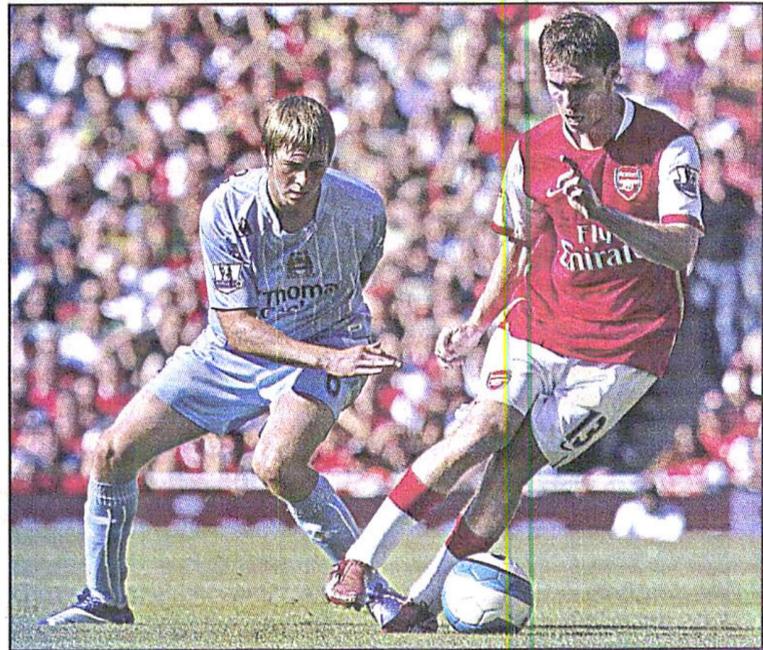
Liverpool's unbeaten start to the season continued at the Stadium of Light with Mali midfielder Mohamed Sissoko and Ukraine striker Andriy Voronin scoring the goals.

"In this time and this period when everybody was talking about our performance away last season, I think it was really important to win," Reds boss Rafael Benitez said.

Sunderland boss Roy Keane admitted Liverpool had outclassed his newly-promoted side.

"They've got a good chance to win the league this year," the Irishman said, adding: "Sometimes you've got to take your medicine and take a 2-0 defeat."

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Arsenal winger Alexander Hleb (R) swerves away from the attentions of Manchester City defender Michael Johnson during their Premiership clash at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

Bayern blazing a trail

AFP, Berlin



Italian striker Luca Toni maintained his goal-a-game form as Bayern Munich made Bundesliga history to keep their 100 per cent record alive with a 3-0 home victory over Hanover on Saturday.

Bayern now have a perfect 10 goal difference and are yet to concede a goal this season after their opening three wins over Hansa Rostock (3-0), Werder Bremen (4-0) and now Hanover (3-0) leaves them top of the table.

The Munich club have made the best-ever start by a Bundesliga side after three games as World Cup winner Toni put Bayern 1-0 up at the break before midfielders Mark Van Bommel and Hamit Altintop provided second-half scores.

But Bayern's experienced boss Ottmar Hitzfeld, who has twice

coached Champions League winning teams, will be keeping his side's feet on the ground as they travel to Hamburg and face Schalke at home in the next fortnight.

"We played very well, but there are still some parts of our game we have to improve," said Hitzfeld.

"We haven't achieved anything yet, we are clear favourites for the Bundesliga title, but there is a long way to go and we have big games ahead with Hamburg and Schalke coming up."

"It is still early days."

Failing to score in the first two games might have cost Bayern midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger dearly as he lost a bet with his girlfriend and took to the field wearing black nail polish.

But Schweinsteiger had the last laugh and put a polished pass through the Hanover defence for Toni to bag his third goal in three games as the Italian continues to repay the 11 million euros he cost from Fiorentina.

The 30-year-old pulled his quad

muscle scoring the 28th-minute goal and was replaced by 19-year-old striker Sandro Wagner, Bayern's only fit striker with Jan Schlaudraff, Lukas Podolski and Miroslav Klose all on the injured list.

Hanover were reduced to ten men on the stroke of half-time as Albanian midfielder Altin Lalaj clattered Bayern's Franck Ribery to earn a yellow and then pole-axed Ze Roberto moments later to earn his second yellow and the following red.

In the second-half, Bayern dominated their guests until Schweinsteiger's pass saw Dutch hardman Van Bommel net in the 67th minute to make the result safe, before Altintop slotted home with four minutes left.

In his first game back from injury, German striker Mario Gomez scored a first-half goal to give Bundesliga champions VfB Stuttgart a much-needed 1-0 win over newly-promoted Duisburg as the champs bounced back from their shock defeat at Hertha Berlin.

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