



IT'S SUPER PIPPO! Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi (L) goes airborne to head in the equalising goal past Sevilla goalkeeper Andres Palop during their UEFA Super Cup final at the Stade Louis II stadium in Monaco on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal sign Diarra

AFP, London

Arsenal, West Ham and Newcastle beat Friday's transfer deadline by a matter of minutes to make late additions to their respective squads.

Arsenal signed France international midfielder Lassana Diarra from Chelsea on a "long-term contract" for an undisclosed fee.

West Ham confirmed they signed Henri Camara from Wigan and Nolberto Solano from Newcastle, while the Magpies beat the midnight cut off to complete the signings of Habib Beye and Abdoulaye Faye.

Versatile 22-year-old Diarra had found first-team opportunities limited at Stamford Bridge and told the club's website, arsenal.com: "I have great respect for the manager Arsene Wenger and am attracted by the style of football that the team plays.

"Of course I am excited by what the future holds and keen to play my part in helping Arsenal fight for trophies this season and for years to come."

Striker Camara has signed on a season-long loan at Upton Park while Solano joins on a one-year contract with the option of another year. Neither signed in time to play for the Hammers against Reading on Saturday.

Defensive pair Beye and Faye had been expected to make the move to St James' Park but left it late to confirm their three-year deals.

Middlesbrough overcame a late complication to complete the signing of Gary O'Neil from Portsmouth less than an hour before the transfer deadline. The 24-year-old underwent a medical on Teesside after the two clubs agreed a five million pounds (10 million dollars) fee.

Boro boss Gareth Southgate told Sky Sports News: "We've just completed the deal, we've very pleased and I'm looking forward to getting home to bed!"

Extra time for Boca

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentine giants Boca Juniors have been given an extra 72 hours to try and negotiate the purchase of Villarreal midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme.

The Buenos Aires-based club have had an 8.8 million euros offer for the Argentine midfielder rejected by the Spanish league side, and are now set to increase their bid to secure the Argentine.

The transfer deadline in Europe was midnight on Friday but the Argentine Football Federation (AFA) said Friday they had given Boca until Monday night to finalise ongoing negotiations with Villarreal.

Riquelme, whose four-month loan spell at Boca ended in June, is linked with the Valencia-based club until June 2009.

MILAN LIFT SUPER CUP

Sad end to Sevilla's week



AFP, Monaco

Champions League winners AC Milan came back from a goal down to defeat UEFA Cup holders Sevilla 3-1 to lift the Super Cup on Friday and bring a tragic week for the Spaniards to an end.

Sevilla are mourning the death of defender Antonio Puerta who collapsed during Saturday's 4-1 win over Getafe and died on Tuesday from multiple organ failure stemming from prolonged cardiac arrest.

The 22-year-old was suitably honoured at Friday's game.

Both teams as well as referee Konrad Plautz and his colleagues wore black armbands and a minute's

silence was observed.

Players from both sides had Puerta's name on their shirts in addition to their own.

Sevilla coach Juande Ramos said: "Losing to AC Milan is not a disgrace, they are a great club.

"It's been a hard week and it wasn't surprising that we were a little behind Milan."

Renato gave Sevilla the lead after 14 minutes with a header past Dida which took a deflection off Massimo Oddo and immediately dedicated the goal to Puerta by raising his index finger to the sky.

Milan levelled in the 56th minute when Gennaro Gattuso crossed for Filippo Inzaghi to head home.

The Italians were ahead six minutes later when Marek Jankulovski volleyed in Andrea

Pirlo's cross.

Brazilian ace Kaka then scored from close range after his 87th-minute penalty was saved by Andres Palop to give Milan the trophy and relieve Sevilla of the Super Cup title they won last year here after a 3-0 win over Barcelona.

"I have a lot of respect for Sevilla. It was difficult for them to play this match," said Kaka.

"But we are also professionals and we went for the win."

Sevilla's next date is a trip to Greece to play AEK Athens in the second leg of their Champions League final qualifier on Monday.

The game should have been played in midweek but was postponed following Puerta's death.

Sevilla have a 2-0 lead from the first leg in Spain.

Ramos happy at Alves stay

INTERNET, undated

Sevilla coach Juande Ramos expressed his delight after the Spanish club fended off last-ditch attempts to sign Brazilian right-back Daniel Alves.

Reports in Spain say Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon spent much of today attempting to secure a deal for the 24-year-old but that Sevilla club president Jose Maria del Nido was determined to hold on to the player.

Alves, who played in Sevilla's 3-1 Super Cup defeat by AC Milan in Monaco tonight but looked unimpressive, had spoken previously about his desire to move to Chelsea or Real Madrid and a transfer was expected two weeks ago after he was left out of the Champions League qualifier but never materialised.

Ramos, who refused to answer questions about approaches to him by Tottenham, said: "A lot of teams were interested in him but of course we are pleased he is going to stay.

"I was hoping to see how he was going to respond tonight but it was not easy because he had to deal with Kaka and Seedorf and that limited his attacking runs."

European champions Milan triumphed thanks to goals from Filippo Inzaghi, Marek Jankulovski - a stunning strike - and Kaka.

Sevilla, still grieving the death of

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Hewitt exits to inspired Calleri

AFP, New York

Agustin Calleri of Argentina played the match of his life to defeat Australia's Lleyton Hewitt 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and reach the third round of the US Open on Friday.

The unseeded Calleri, who hit an impressive 65 winners to just 29 for Hewitt, will play compatriot Juan Monaco for a place in the last 16.

It was a stunning performance from the 30-year-old claycourter, whose great promise as a youngster never fully materialised in a career stalled by injuries and loss of form.

Coming into New York, he had not won back-to-back matches on hardcourts since January and not won successive matches in the past 22 Grand Slam tournaments he had played.

Hewitt, the in-form 16th seed and former US Open champion, pocketed the first set and seemed well set en route to the third round.

But Calleri thought otherwise as he started hitting powerfully off both sides, leaving Hewitt yards from the ball at times.

The Australian had one last chance in the fourth set, but Calleri grabbed a double break to sink any chances Hewitt might have harboured.

It was a bitter blow for the Australian, who had been creeping back to his best form after a long battle against injury and who was seen by many as one of the best bets to trouble hot favourite Roger Federer.

Chelsea fret on Lampard

AFP, Birmingham



Chelsea's flying start as the London club prepare for their trip to Aston Villa on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho will definitely be without the England midfielder after the 29-year-old tore a thigh muscle in training on Friday.

England manager Steve McClaren, who named Lampard in his squad for the Euro 2008 fixtures against Israel at Wembley on September 8 and Russia four days later, will feel the pain of Lampard's injury more than Mourinho, who at least as options to replace him.

Steve Sidwell is likely to deputise for Lampard at Villa Park as the club wait to see exactly how long the former West Ham player will be sidelined.

Chelsea assistant manager Steve Clarke said: "We have to wait to see the results of the scan and then we will have a better idea."

Clarke has also dismissed suggestions of unrest in the Chelsea dressing room, following

Young scored one of the goals

claims that England international Joe Cole has been involved in a row with Mourinho over his lack of starting appearances this season.

But Clarke said: "There is no bad feeling in the dressing room. Everyone wants to play and Joe Cole is no different, but there are a few people at the moment who are having to wait for their opportunity."

Chelsea have not beaten Villa at Villa Park since 1999, but victory will give them their 1,500 league win and despite the loss of Lampard, Mourinho is expecting to have French international Florent Malouda fit after a small injury problem.

Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko is also fit and looking to make his first appearance of the season, while new Brazilian signing Juliano Belletti, the former Barcelona right-back, is included in the squad.

One person who will definitely be joining up with the England squad next week is Aston Villa's young winger Ashley Young, who is the one surprise inclusion by McClaren, thanks to his impressive start to the season with Martin O'Neill's side.

Young scored one of the goals

in last weekend's victory over Fulham, to round off an impressive performance and the nine million pounds signing from Watford last January fully deserves his inclusion, according to his manager.

"He has been very impressive for us and is absolutely flying at the moment. There were a few eyebrows raised when we paid such a large sum of money for him in January. But here we are a few months on and he is in the England squad," said O'Neill.

O'Neill has taken his spending of US owner Randy Lerner's millions to in excess of 40 million pounds with the acquisition of Fulham's Zat Knight and West Bromwich Albion's England under-21 international Curtis Davies.

Davies has signed on an initial 12-month loan, but Villa have agreed an 11 million pounds fee, which will be payable in August 2008, but the 21-year-old will not be part of the side against Chelsea on Sunday because of a hamstring injury.

Villa will also be without Czech midfielder Patrick Berger and Danish goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen, who are both expected to be available again after the international break.

HENMAN BIDS FAREWELL

Nadal soldiers on

AFP, New York



Novak Djokovic withstood an upset bid, Britain's Tim Henman bid farewell and five women's stars advanced on a busy Friday at the US Open.

Second-ranked Nadal, who struggled with tendinitis in an opening victory, reached the third round when Serbian Janko Tipsarevic retired due to a right side injury with the Spaniard leading 6-2, 6-3, 3-2.

"I feel better with a little bit more confidence in the knees," Nadal said. "I'm not 100 percent yet. I ran with a little trepidation but so much better than the other day."

Nadal, who beat top-ranked

Roger Federer in the French Open final but lost to him in the Wimbledon final, still sees himself as a title threat.

"It's going to be difficult but I'm improving," he said. "That's going to be important. For the next match I hope it will be better and continue improving."

Federer, seeking his 12th Grand Slam title and fourth US Open title in a row, has a third-round match Saturday against 199th-ranked American John Isner.

Nadal's next foe will be France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who won 7-6 (7/2), 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 over Henman in the Englishman's tournament farewell. Henman, who turns 33 next week, will retire after a Davis Cup tie at Wimbledon.

"Tennis has served me well but time is time," Henman said. "A couple of good matches at the Davis Cup and I will leave this sport

a happy man."

Djokovic, who reached his first Slam semifinals this year at the French Open and Wimbledon, conquered 34th-ranked Czech rival Radek Stepanek 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) after four hours 44 minutes.

"I'm very proud of myself. I don't even know how I managed to win," Djokovic said. "I'm happy with the way I was fighting all the way through. We had an unbelievable fight in a remarkable match. It was great fun."

Wimbledon champion Venus Williams and Serbian fifth seed Ana Ivanovic booked a fourth-round showdown impressively. World number one Justine Henin, Serbian third seed Jelena Jankovic and US eighth seed Serena Williams also advanced.

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Leverkusen hold Schalke

INTERNET, undated



kusen.

Kevin Kuranyi fired them into the lead on the stroke of half-time but they were pegged back early in the second half by Theofanis Gekas and despite Kuranyi's best efforts to grab a winner, were forced to settle for a draw.

In the 14th minute a good attacking move saw Gerald Asamoah cross into the box from the left and find the unmarked Ivan Rakitic, but the

midfielder could only fire against the right-hand post.

The hosts were forced into an early substitution as Milad Krstajic picked up a knee injury and had to be replaced by Dario Rodrigues.

That injury led to an extended period of injury time before the break, and Schalke took full advantage.

In the 46th minute Kuranyi won a free-kick out on the right and Christian Pander sent the ball into the box, where a crowd of defenders failed to rise to clear it and Kuranyi didn't even have to jump to head powerfully home.

Leverkusen had a chance to equalise four minutes into the second period when the ball was played over the top of the defence to Stefan Kiessling, whose shot was pushed over the crossbar by goalkeeper

Manuel Neuer.

In the 51st minute Mesut Ozil crossed for Jermaine Jones but his shot was weak and easily saved.

Schalke were left rueing that missed opportunity two minutes later as Leverkusen levelled the match.

Simon Rolfes found Theofanis Gekas just outside the penalty area and after his initial shot was blocked by the legs of the goalkeeper, he was first to the rebound and fired home from a tight angle.

Schalke almost retook the lead immediately after when Jones broke down the right and crossed for Kuranyi, but the Germany striker's header was pushed away. The resultant corner, taken by Ozil, caused a goalmouth scramble in which Kuranyi and then Jones had shots blocked on the line.



PHOTO: INTERNET

Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Bernd Schneider (L) steals away from the challenges of Schalke players Ivan Rakitic (C) and Dario Rodriguez during their Bundesliga encounter at the Arena auf Schalke in Gelsenkirchen on Friday.



PHOTO: AFP

Spanish world number two Rafael Nadal exults after winning a point against Serbian opponent Janko Tipsarevic during his second round match at the US Open in Flushing Meadows on Friday.