



Manchester United forward Carlos Tevez (C) is about to be felled inside the box by Aston Villa goalkeeper Scott Carson (behind Tevez) during their Premiership match at Villa Park on Saturday.

## DROGBA SCORES FOR CHELSEA

# MU in imperious form

AFP, Middlesbrough



Didier Drogba let his actions speak louder than words as he fired Chelsea to a 2-0 win at Middlesbrough, while Arsenal consolidated their lead at the top of the Premier League with a 2-0 victory over Bolton on Saturday.

Drogba dropped a bombshell this week by revealing he is determined to leave the London club because the squad's morale had been shattered by Jose Mourinho's departure.

But Chelsea manager Avram Grant kept faith with the Ivory Coast striker at the Riverside Stadium and got the perfect response, with Drogba laying the foundations for the team's third successive win.

It took Drogba just eight minutes to show Chelsea what they would be missing if he did leave. He collected Frank Lampard's pass and drove a perfectly-placed shot past Mark Schwarzer for his third goal of the season.

Alex came in for John Terry and the Brazil centre-back ensured there was no need to rue the captain's absence when he scored his first goal for the club with a blistering free-kick

in the 57th minute.

Grant said: "I'm happy with the win but I'm happier that we are improving from game to game. The way we win is very important so we are trying to play more attacking football."

Kolo Toure was the unlikely hero as Arsenal beat manager less Bolton at the Emirates Stadium.

Arsene Wenger's side stretched their winning run to 11 matches their best streak since 2002 thanks to a superb long range goal from Toure in the 68th minute and Tomas Rosicky's effort 10 minutes from full-time.

The Ivory Coast defender's first goal since April was perfectly timed as Arsenal were struggling to kill off Bolton, playing their first match since Sammy Lee's sacking.

With rock bottom Bolton's resistance finally broken, Arsenal were able to turn on the style and Czech midfielder Rosicky put the result beyond doubt late on.

Wenger said: "I was concerned because Bolton were very resilient and know how to slow the game down. But we build our success by being patient and keeping a high tempo.

"Overall you can see there is a

great spirit in the side."

Wayne Rooney scored twice as Manchester United stormed back into second place with a 4-1 win at nine-man Aston Villa.

Gabriel Agbonlahor had given Villa a 12th minute when he headed in Ashley Young's cross. But Zat Knight gifted United an equaliser soon after when he let Nani's low cross run through to Rooney who tapped in.

Then Rooney notched his fourth United goal in three games with fine low strike before Craig Gardner turned Rio Ferdinand's header into his own net just before half-time.

Villa's Nigel Reo-Coker was sent off for a second booking on the hour.

Rooney missed out on a hat-trick when his penalty was saved by substitute keeper Stuart Taylor after Scott Carson was dismissed for bringing down Carlos Tevez.

Ryan Giggs' deflected effort in the 75th minute was a fitting finish to a dominant display from the champions.

Liverpool striker Dirk Kuyt's stoppage time penalty snatched a dramatic 2-1 win over nine-man Everton in the 206th Merseyside derby.

Elano kept up third-placed

Manchester City's resurgence as his first half goal sealed 1-0 win over Birmingham at Eastlands.

The Brazil midfielder shrugged off the draining effects of a long flight back from international duty in South America to open the scoring in the 37th minute and give City their sixth home league win this season.

Derby climbed off the bottom of the table after a 1-0 draw to 10-man Fulham, who Paul Konchesky sent off on the stroke of half-time after an elbow on Craig Fagan.

Benjani Mwaruwari maintained his impressive form as Portsmouth staged a late show to win 2-0 at Wigan.

The Zimbabwean striker scored his fifth goal in three matches in the 81st minute and Glen Johnson wrapped up Portsmouth's fifth consecutive victory in the 86th minute.

South Africa forward Benni McCarthy grabbed a double as Blackburn beat Reading 4-2 at Ewood Park. Roque Santa Cruz and Tugay were also on the scoresheet for Rovers, while Kevin Doyle struck twice for the Royals.

West Ham host Sunderland on Sunday and Newcastle play Tottenham on Monday.

## Henin claims Zurich title

AFP, Zurich

Justine Henin claimed her ninth title of the year on Sunday when she defeated unseeded Tatiana Golovin of France 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Zurich Open.

The match was a repeat of their final in Stuttgart just two weeks ago, which the top-seeded Belgian won in sets.

Henin has now won 20 consecutive matches, stretching back to her loss to Marion Bartoli in the Wimbledon semifinals. The last player to achieve 20 victories was Kim Clijsters who won 21 matches in 2005.

Despite her defeat, Golovin has earned an impressive 15 victories in her 18 matches played since the US Open, taking her to a career-high ranking of 13.

She is now the second-ranked player in France, passing Amelie Mauresmo and behind Wimbledon runner-up Marion Bartoli.

The opening game lasted 10 minutes as Golovin fought off three break points, and Henin also resisted a break point in the second game before Golovin broke her to lead 3-1.

The French teenager then came close to wrapping up the set when she led 4-2 and came within two points of breaking Henin a second time. Instead, it was the Belgian who earned a break in the seventh game when Golovin hit an awkward backhand wide.

Henin had looked fragile and inconsistent up until that stage, but she began to play with more confidence and conviction, and a second break left her leading 5-4.

## Pratibha win M'ganj title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Pratibha Krira Chakra clinched the Manipur cricket tournament title at the local stadium yesterday.

They won the match by 13 runs against Tarunna Sporting Club, who were also the organisers of the competition. Moniruzzaman was named man-of-the-final and he received his award from District Sports Association general secretary Nazrul Islam.

Six local teams took part in the meet.

## WC win

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would give its team momentum as they prepare to take on Pakistan in a one-day and Test series starting next month.

"This victory, as well as the last ODI victory, will give us a lot of confidence. International cricket is more about confidence than technique," Dhoni said after the game at the Brabourne Stadium.

"Gautam and Robin (Uthappa) have matured and played aggressively," he said while praising his side for coming out with a fearless outlook. "They are aggressive but at times they may fall trying for shots and they may be criticised for playing rash shots but that's how it is."

The virgin pitch used for the game helped the spinners; Harbhajan Singh and Murali Kartik did not disappoint despite having to bowl in tough situations.

"Kartik was preferred over Jodhinder because of conditions," Dhoni said. "In India, we have to generally sacrifice the fourth seamer for second spinner. Today we batted well and bowled well but fielding was not good because of the bumpy ground. Everyone responded well to responsibilities given to them and that is why we won."

## INTER REMAIN UNBEATEN Roma draw a humdinger

AFP, Rome

Roma blew the lead three times in a disappointing yet scintillating 4-4 home draw against Napoli after 90 spectacular minutes of Italian football league action on Saturday night.

Second-placed Roma lost the chance to make up ground on Inter Milan, who won 1-0 at Reggina later on Saturday to open up a five-point lead at the top of the table with 20 points to Roma's 15 after eight matches.

The match started in a strange atmosphere as only Roma season-ticket holders were allowed into the Olympic stadium, meaning just 25,000 supporters, because of fears of clashes between fans.

Roma also would have done well to have forgotten their last home match, a 4-1 thrashing by title rivals Inter.

But they were up against a plucky Napoli side, which, although having lost their two last matches against Genoa and Inter, had played gamely and largely deserved their point in this match.

"It was an unexpected draw,"

Napoli shocked their opponents early in each half when they scored through Argentinian Ezequiel Lavezzi, in the second minute, and then thanks to Slovakian Marek Hamsik in the 46th.

Napoli continued to attack throughout the whole match and it was an impressively powerful shot by Walter Gargano who brought them back to 3-3 in the 64th minute and a header by Uruguayan Marcelo Zalayeta from a free kick with five minutes to go brought the score once more level at 4-4.

Roma had a nail-biting time, just disappointed. The match was there to be played and there was strain, tension all of which adds up to mistakes. We could have made better choices today."

It was the first match of the season for Inter's French international Patrick Vieira in their 1-0 win at Reggina thanks to Brazilian Adriano in the 18th minute.

The Milan club, winning its fourth straight match, had a great start to the season and are still unbeaten after eight matches.

Infer coach Roberto Mancini said afterwards: "I obviously hope we can break away, but I doubt it. It is going to be a long season. The November 4 match with Juventus will be just like any other, but I believe the title contenders will include Milan, Roma and perhaps also Fiorentina."

It appeared Adriano was not happy when substituted but Mancini said of the incident: "He didn't shake my hand? I didn't even see. In any case, the team comes first and in that moment the match we are struggling."

In Sunday's matches, third-placed Juventus, on 14 points, entertain Genoa in the evening while fourth-placed Fiorentina, on 13 points, and ninth-placed AC Milan host Siena and Empoli respectively.

## Dyson joins

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Internationals, but his contract was not renewed in April 2005.

He has a daunting task ahead of him as West Indies have just two wins and 10 draws from their last 39 Tests, losing 3-0 to England with Moore in charge earlier this year.

Dyson, who was also interested in the India and Bangladesh vacancies, edged out another Australian, Dav Whatmore, for the post. Ironically, he took over from Whatmore as Sri Lanka's coach in 2003.

## Captains dominate

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storm on wings of pacers Talha Jubair and Sajidul Islam who took three wickets each. Sajid dismissed Ehsanul and Nazim, who top-scored with 79. Talha chipped in with two tailenders to make sure Chittagong have little to add when playstarts today.

### BRIEF SCORES

KHULNA: 303-9 dec and 184 all out in 75.3 overs (Sadat 3, Imrul 0, Bashar 67, Tushar 43, Shakib 2, Sahagir 15, Jamal 0, Mashrafe 31, Razzak 4, Dollar 9, Rasel 3\*; Sharif 4-38, Shahadat 1-49, Rafique 2-26, Mosharraf 3-39).

DHAKA: 174 and 72-2 in 30 overs (Javed 29\*, Anwar 4, Shahriar 24, Ashraful 3; Rasel 1-20, Razzak 1-12).

CHITTAGONG: 176 all out and 307-9 in 106 overs (Tamim 60, Salahuddin 26, Nafis 34, Aftab 22, Nazimuddin 73, Ehsanul 28, Dihiman 22, Sabbir 0, Tariq 14, Sajid 9\*, Ashiqur 0\*; Talha 3-76, Sajid 3-61, Tariq 2-88).

BARISAL: 274 all out.

SYLHET: 141 all out and 167-4 in 63 overs (Imtiaz 23, Rahman 15, Mabud 12, Rajin 53\*, Kapali 35, Rahim 22\*; Shahjada 1-48, Forhad 1-14, Delwar 1-34).

RAJSHAHI: 301 all out in 128.5 overs (Islam 67, Zunaed 34, Forhad 0, Nayeem 20, Anisur 0, Rafiqul 6, Mashud 82, Rahman 10, Shuvu 12, Delwar 40, Shahjada 12; Tapash 2-53, Rezaul 2-38, Enamul 2-82, Kapali 1-42, Nabil 1-43).

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