



Chelsea star striker Didier Drogba (C) is congratulated by teammates Salomon Kalou (L) and Frank Lampard after scoring the third goal during their Premiership match against Manchester City at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

## Fun back at the Bridge

AFP, London



after crushing Manchester City 6-0 on Saturday.

The Blues romped to their biggest victory in 10 years to help them back to fourth place in the English Premier League table and provide more evidence that Grant—who is rumoured to be on the verge of signing a new three-year contract—is beginning to find his feet after a stuttering start to his Stamford Bridge career.

Chelsea were successful but rarely stylish under their previous

manager Jose Mourinho and, while they were grateful to a meek City performance, this emphatic display suggests that panache is integral to Grant's blueprint for Roman Abramovich's club.

"It is important to win with style," he said. "I know we cannot do it in every game but I think in modern football, people come to have fun. The way of winning is important and that is something I have believed all my life. I think the fans have enjoyed the last six weeks."

"We are in the middle of a process but today was good. I enjoyed the win, the way we won and I hope we will continue to improve step by step. Maybe today we took two steps forward."

"We are concentrating on attacking football, how to move

right and behave right, and making the players better. It is important that the players ask that of themselves as well."

Chelsea cruised to their largest win since a 6-0 triumph at Barnsley in 1997 thanks to a brace from Didier Drogba and further strikes from Michael Essien, Joe Cole, Salomon Kalou and, perhaps most surprisingly, the much-maligned Andriy Shevchenko.

Their display was orchestrated by the masterly Frank Lampard, who set up three goals and came agonisingly close to scoring himself when he clattered the foot of the post midway through the second half.

The only possible cloud on Chelsea's horizon was the absence of Shaun Wright-Phillips. The former City winger failed to make

Grant's match-day squad for the second consecutive game and is believed to be considering his future, although the Israeli was doing his best to reassure him.

"I like Shaun Wright-Phillips," he said. "He is a very good player but at Chelsea 95 per cent of the squad are internationals and very good players. I can only pick 11 players and five substitutes, so each game there will be seven or eight good players who are on the sidelines."

"That is how it is at a big club with a good squad. The most important thing is that everyone contributes over the course of the season. I speak with the players all the time, in private. I have communication with them and as long as they are doing everything for

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## Real shelve Kaka plans

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid conceded defeat on Sunday in their attempt to lure AC Milan's Brazilian star Kaka to the Bernabeu stadium.

Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon has made the brilliant playmaker one of his prime targets and Kaka's possible arrival in Spain has been the subject of frenzied debate in the local media over the past few months.

But the Spanish champions' sporting director Pedja Mijatovic put an end to all the speculation on Sunday, telling Marca: "Real Madrid can't allow itself to waste too much time on something that is extremely difficult to obtain."

He added: "We've spoken a lot about this player over the past year and a half."

"Everybody likes him, but we know his situation and where he is playing, we'll move on to something else."

AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi this month said "there has never been any possibility" that the Italian Serie A giants would sell their prize asset.

According to Berlusconi, Kaka, the highest earning footballer in Italy, "has never wanted to leave and I believe that he will never do so... Kaka is the symbol of Milan."

The 25-year-old is the favourite in most quarters for December's European Footballer of the Year award.

## Ramos wants star duo

INTERNET, undated

Juande Ramos wants Sevilla wing-back Daniel Alves and striker Fredi Kanoute to follow him to Tottenham.

The Spaniard, 53, resigned as Sevilla boss on Friday night and was named as Spurs' head coach on Saturday in the wake of Martin Jol's dismissal.

And he is already looking to bolster a squad with European ambitions but currently struggling at the wrong end of the Premier League table.

Alves is one of the hottest properties in Europe and was the subject of a bid from Chelsea in the summer while Kanoute left Spurs to join Sevilla two years ago and has fired them to successive UEFA Cup final victories.

And Ramos would love to be reunited with the duo at White Hart Lane.

He told the News of the World: "I'd like to sign Alves and Kanoute. 'These two players would be sensational for any club in the world but I'm not sure if Sevilla will accept it.'"

Ramos' raids on Sevilla may not end with Alves and Kanoute, though, as he is also being linked with swoops for goalkeeper Andres Palop and defender Julien Escudé.

## FIFA mulls ditching rotation

INTERNET, undated

FIFA are expected to decide on Monday to change their system of rotating the World Cup finals between the continents.

The decision would open the way for England to launch a bid to host the 2018 tournament.

England would be likely to face a number of other strong challengers however including Russia, China, Australia and USA or Mexico, and possibly a Benelux joint bid from Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

FIFA's executive committee, meeting in Zurich, are to examine various options including whether more than one country from each continent can bid.

Under the current rotation system, the World Cup went to Africa for 2010 (South Africa won the contest), South America for 2014 and if rotation continued would go to a country from north and central America or the Caribbean in 2018.

However FIFA president Sepp Blatter was concerned that only one country - Brazil - bid for 2014 and said last week that he favoured a change.

Blatter said: "My thoughts are that we shall open the market and make the World Cup available for everybody apart from the last confederation which has just organised it, which means South America cannot bid for 2018."

The FIFA president should get his way as the majority of the 23 FIFA executive members who meet on Monday are understood to be of the same opinion.

Once the decision is taken then the Football Association can formally launch a bid for 2018.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has already made clear he would like to see a bid take place and has appointed former sports minister Richard Caborn as his World Cup ambassador.

## MU BACK ON TOP

# Chelsea Rout City

AFP, London



Wayne Rooney and Carlos Tevez fired Manchester United back

to the top of the Premier League on Saturday, as Chelsea served warning that their own title challenge is still alive after the departure of Jose Mourinho.

United's 4-1 demolition of Middlesbrough at Old Trafford continued a rich vein of form for the champions, who have won eight consecutive matches in the league.

But even they could not match the entertainment value provided by Chelsea in a 6-0 thrashing of high-flying Manchester City.

Unbeaten Arsenal will reclaim top spot on Sunday if they can take at least a point at Liverpool, whose title aspirations could effectively be crushed by defeat at Anfield in the biggest match of the season so far.

United, who went into their Old Trafford encounter having won their last 10 matches in the league and the Champions League, picked

up where they left off against Dynamo Kiev in midweek, their Portuguese winger Nani firing them ahead in the third minute with a contender for goal of the season.

Boro equalised three minutes later through French striker Jeremie Aliadiere but Gareth Southgate's strugglers were unable to cope with wave after wave of attacks from Sir Alex Ferguson's men.

Rooney's eighth goal in seven matches for club and country restored the lead in the 33rd minute and Tevez made sure of the points 10 minutes after the break.

Tevez's second goal, five minutes from time, ensured that United had scored at least four goals in four consecutive games for the first time since 1907.

The performance had Ferguson purring over the potential of the Rooney-Tevez axis. "They're fantastic," the Scot said. "As they get maturity and develop as experienced players, hopefully we will see a complete partnership."

Grant took over from Mourinho last month with a mandate to deliver more expansive football and no one would have quibbled

about the entertainment value of Saturday's performance.

"It is important to win with style," the Israeli coach said after a performance that may have clinched him a new three-year contract.

"I know we cannot do it in every game but I think in modern football, people come to have fun. The way of winning is important and that is something I have believed all my life. I think the fans have enjoyed the last six weeks."

Michael Essien's opener was followed by two goals either side of half-time from Didier Drogba, who shows no signs of letting his stated desire to leave London affect his performances for the club.

Joe Cole, Salomon Kalou and Andriy Shevchenko completed a rout that will serve as a reality check for City fans who had begun to believe that, after a breathless start to life under new boss Sven-Goran Eriksson, a place in the Champions League could be within reach.

At the other end of the table, Birmingham emerged victorious from a five-goal thriller with Wigan, who were twice fired ahead by

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Spurs 'tapped up' Ramos?

Football

AFP, London

Spurs were on Sunday accused of making an illegal approach to Juande Ramos in their determination to lure the Sevilla coach to White Hart Lane.

The accusation comes 24 hours after Ramos quit Sevilla and was appointed as the successor to Martin Jol who was sacked by Tottenham on Friday.

The tapping up charge was made by Sevilla president Jose Maria Del Nido who plans to report the ailing Premier League side to football's governing bodies.

Del Nido told the Sunday Express: "If Spurs wanted Ramos they had to speak to me, but they approached him directly."

"They have acted incorrectly and I shall report them to FIFA and UEFA to defend my rights."

Spurs infamously first approached Ramos on the first week of the season when club officials famously met him at the Alfonso XIII hotel in Sevilla.

The aggrieved Spanish side are reportedly claiming 3.3 million pounds compensation for losing the man who led them to successive UEFA Cup wins.

Also Sunday in a bizarre twist to the drawn out saga of Jol's sacking the Dutchman revealed that the first he heard he was out of a job was from his nephew Rob seconds after Thursday's UEFA Cup loss to Getafe.

Reports that Jol had been dismissed filtered through to supporters at White Hart Lane during Spurs' first group game at White Hart Lane, who chanted his name

in support.

And Jol, in an interview with The People, said: "The first I knew was when I saw my nephew in the tunnel immediately after the game and he pulled me to one side and told me what everyone else seemed to know already."

"So it is rubbish to say that I heard it before the game."

Jol countered claims that he had been shabbily treated by Tottenham and its chairman Daniel Levy.

"I don't have a problem with Daniel or the club because they treated me very well throughout my time there."

"I am going to have a few weeks off but I would love to stay in English football."

"I have a house here, my daughter is settled in school and we love it in England."



Schalke striker Kevin Kuranyi (L) squirms away from Werder Bremen defender Naldo during their Bundesliga encounter at the Arena Auf Schalke in Gelsenkirchen on Saturday.

## Stuttgart end losing streak

AFP, Stuttgart



VfB Stuttgart coach Armin Veh insists there is no magic formula - just hard work - to dig his team out of trouble after his side broke their run of five consecutive defeats.

The defending Bundesliga champions picked up a 1-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday to arrest their free fall down the league table.

Defender Andreas Beck scored in the 72nd minute at the Gottlieb Daimler Stadion as Stuttgart picked up their first Bundesliga points of the month and the win takes them up to 12th.

But three consecutive Champions League defeats have virtually ruled them out of Europe's elite competition and this has been a bad start to the season for Veh's side.

"Our situation is still precarious, so we are far from euphoric about the situation, I am a football coach

not a magician," said Veh.

"It is obvious we have some big problems after our defeats."

"I wanted my players to show some fighting spirit and that is what they did."

"Now and again, you need a bit of luck, but sometimes you have to work for it and make your own."

Stuttgart welcomed back national midfielder Thomas Hitzperger after a six week break with a foot injury and Veh's side showed signs they are slowly regaining their confidence.

Meanwhile, league leaders Bayern Munich have the chance to open an eight-point gap at the top of the Bundesliga with their trip to mid-table Borussia Dortmund on Sunday.

There are injury concerns over star striker Luca Toni and French midfielder Franck Ribery, but a win for Bayern would open a substantial margin.

Second-placed Werder Bremen were five points behind Bayern on Saturday night after their 1-1 draw at Schalke 04.

coach Thomas Schaaf, whose side have lost just once in their last eight games.

"Both teams must be content with the result, but for us it was important we kept up our momentum."

An early free-kick by Carlos Grossmuller at Schalke's Veltins-Arena was cancelled out by a header from Bremen's Brazilian Naldo in an electric game with either side squandering numerous chances to steal the three points.

Also on Saturday, Hertha Berlin enjoyed a 2-0 win over VfL Bochum when defender Marcel Malritz turned the ball into his own net in the first half before striker Marko Pantelic added the second on 35 minutes.

Wolfsburg are up to seventh in the table after their 3-1 home win over German Cup holders Nuremberg.

Bottom side Energie Cottbus drew 1-1 with Arminia Bielefeld thanks to an injury-time equaliser and Hansa Rostock drew 0-0 with fourth-placed Karlsruhe.

On Friday night, midtable Hanover and Eintracht Frankfurt thrashed out a 0-0 draw.

## Napoli humble Juventus

AFP, Rome



at Napoli.

Alessandro Del Piero gave the visitors the lead just a minute after the break but an equaliser from Walter Gargano and then two debatable Maurizio Domizzi penalties turned the game around for the southerners.

The defeat for second-placed Juve means that champions Inter Milan can extend their three-point lead at the top of the table away to Palermo on Sunday.

It was another impressive result for Napoli, who drew 4-4 at Roma last week, and the victory moved the newly-promoted side up to fifth in the table ahead of Sunday's matches.

But Juve were left fuming by the two spot-kicks that cost them a point. The visitors took the lead just 38 seconds after the restart as Raffaele Palladino exchanged passes with David Trezeguet before setting up Del Piero to score from six yards.

The lead didn't last long, though, as Gargano picked up the ball up in midfield and went on a mazy run, beating three players before blasting the ball home past Gianluigi Buffon.

But just after the hour mark the referee awarded the first of two questionable penalties to the hosts.

First Giorgio Chiellini was adjudged to have brought down Ezequiel Lavezzi when his tackle looked clean and then Buffon was punished for bringing down Marcelo Zalayeta, who appeared to have dived.

Both times Domizzi sent Buffon the wrong way from 12 yards.

Napoli coach Edy Reja defended the referee's penalty decisions. "From my position on the bench they both seemed to be very clear spot-kicks," he said.

In the day's other game, Torino eased their relegation worries and compounded their opponents'

with a 2-0 home success over Cagliari.

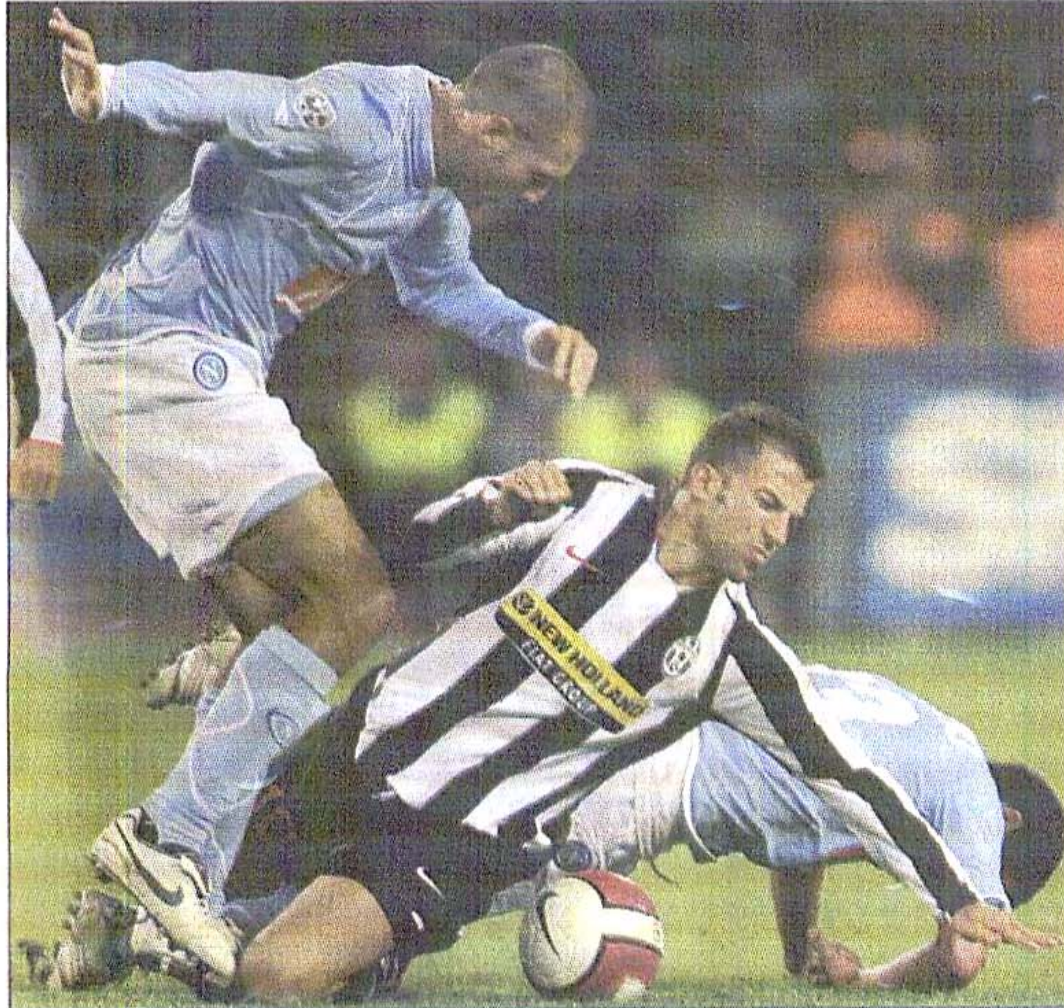
The injury-depleted Torino welcomed back Uruguay forward Alvaro Recoba but he soon limped off to be replaced by Marco Motta.

Cagliari enjoyed much of the better early exchanges and almost

took the lead on 32 minutes but Daniele Conti's diving header grazed the post.

Torino too hit the woodwork in the first half as Motta's cross was headed against the post by Tommaso Valtanti Marco Fortin

SEE PAGE 18 COL 3



Juventus forward Alessandro Del Piero (C) falls under the challenge of Napoli defenders Walter Gargano and Paolo Cannavaro (L) during their Serie A match at San Paolo Stadium in Naples on Saturday.