

# The worst decision ever?

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Aidy Boothroyd, the Watford manager, admitted that he had 'never seen anything like it' after seeing his side go behind to an incredibly controversial goal in the 2-2 draw with Reading.

Reading took the lead in the 13th minute when linesman Nigel Bannister farcically flagged for a goal instead of a corner when the ball crossed the goal line wide of the goal after a challenge between John Eustace and Royals striker Noel Hunt. Despite not a single Reading player appealing, 25-year-old referee Stuart Attwell awarded the goal to complete astonishment around Vicarage Road.

Boothroyd said: 'I've never seen anything like it. It's like a UFO landing, a mistake like that. I've been to see the referee and in fairness he's only going on what the linesman says. He's working in a team and if someone comes in his ear telling him it's a goal then I

suppose he's got to give it. I thought it was a goal-kick. What do you say to that? It was a strange sort of feeling because I was trying to calm my team down and get them going, but all I could think was "What was that for?"

Watford fought back after the break to take the lead through strikes from Tommy Smith and John-Joe O'Toole before Stephen Hunt claimed a late penalty.

It was suggested that the Reading players, who obviously knew that it was not a goal, could have let Watford score, but Boothroyd insisted that it was up to the officials to get it right. He said: 'I don't expect players to take things into their own hands. It's not up to them. If someone stops you in a car park and gives you a present you don't say no do you? But these things supposedly even themselves out. So by the time I get to Fergie's (Sir Alex Ferguson) age, you won't believe how much luck I will be getting.'

Steve Coppell admitted he had no idea why the goal had been given and again called for video

evidence to be brought into the game. He said: 'The game is crying out for video evidence. It's obvious. Rugby league puts us to shame with how referees can call for replays.'

'I was in the stand at the time and I haven't seen it since. But when the whistle went I wondered what it was for as I couldn't see a foul. Then it became obvious that the referee had given the goal. But after speaking to Noel after the game it became clear that the ball went out of play wide of the goal.'

The Royals manager also insisted that it was not his responsibility to correct a mistake by the officials. He said: 'The responsibility is not with the opposition to right a wrong. It is up to the officials to get it as right as they can. It's like cricket, do you walk if you've nicked one behind? As a renowned opening batsman I used to walk, but it's a hypothetical question.'

'If the referee had told me at half-time that they'd cocked it up I don't know if I would have let Watford score.'

# City sale to be sealed

INTERNET, undated

Manchester City have announced the club will formally change hands on Tuesday after the investment group led by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed completed the due diligence process.

The Abu Dhabi United Group will take over ownership of the club from UK Sports Investments Ltd, which was led by former Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra.

Shinawatra said: 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Manchester City and watching the team progress in such a short space of time.'

'When I bought Manchester City the club had been languishing in the bottom half of the Premier League and had an uncertain future.'

'We invested in new talent and management and have been delighted by the success that has brought to the club.'

Thaksin, who will stay on as honorary president of the club, added: 'The supporters of Manchester City have been wonderful to me. They have made my family and me welcome, and we have enjoyed meeting them enormously. They are passionate about their football club and deserve success.'

'My financial position has changed in the last 15 months, and I thus felt it was in the best interests of everyone associated with the club that I hand over the reins to new owners who share similar ambitions and visions to my own for Manchester City.'

'I am flattered that they have asked me to remain with the club as honorary president and I look forward to attending as many matches as I can and watching the new owners build on the platform we have established in the last 15 months.'

'Finally, may I thank the city council for their support to the club and also to the staff of Manchester City for all their hard work and dedication. I wish them all continued success for the future. I would also like to thank Victor Restis for his support and commitment to the club.'

# Humble pie for Klinsi

INTERNET, undated

Juergen Klinsmann could afford to shrug off Bayern Munich's 5-2 defeat at home to Werder Bremen as a learning experience after a good start in the Champions League earned him all the credit he needed.

Slack defending and a series of mistakes from goalkeeper Michael Rensing saw Bayern go 5-0 down on Saturday and two goals from Tom Borowski did nothing to console a shocked 69,000 crowd.

It was Bayern's worst home defeat since 1979 yet the sort of entertaining rant that might have been expected from manager Uli Hoeness or chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge did not materialise.

It was left to Franz Beckenbauer to suggest, rather kindly, that Klinsmann should have a couple of drinks at the Munich beer festival and get back to work.

The coach himself kept smiling. 'You always learn more from a defeat than a victory,' Klinsmann told reporters. 'It's obviously painful and we're down at the moment but we'll get back up again.'

Bayern have won just two of their first five league games under Klinsmann but despite that less than spectacular start to his career as a club coach he is under no pressure.

Bayern gambled on Klinsmann because they believe the innovation and force of personality he showed as Germany coach might turn them back into Champions League challengers.

The Bavarians won their fourth European Cup in 2001 but have since been left behind by clubs with much grander ideas.

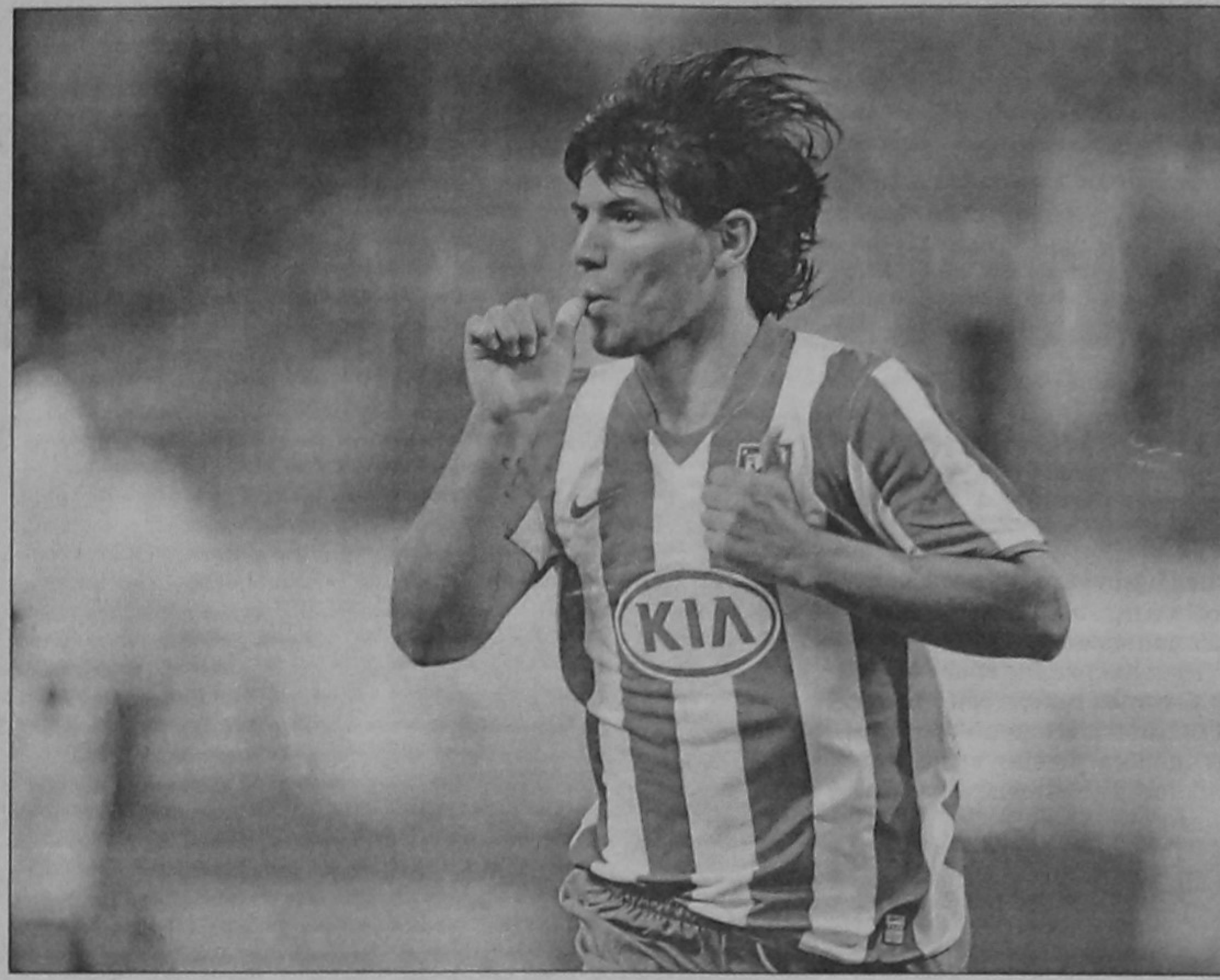
They want to keep winning the Bundesliga as well, of course, but Klinsmann's task is to mark out the path towards challenging the big clubs from England, Italy and Spain again. Actually winning the Champions League is a longer-term project.

That makes the most significant result of the week the 1-0 win away to Steaua Bucharest in the Champions League.

It was a refreshingly positive performance, with the team showing energy and ideas going forward and Klinsmann's three-man defence coping well in a difficult away match.

The focus now is not on this week's German Cup derby against Nuremberg but on the next Champions League date with Olympique Lyon on Sept. 30, by which time Franck Ribery should be fit.

Another win, and a convincing performance to go with it, would go a long way towards securing a place in the knock-out phase and ensure Klinsmann remains fire-proof, whatever happens in the Bundesliga.



Atletico Madrid star Kun Aguero celebrates in his trademark style after scoring the opening goal against Recreativo Huelva during their Primera Liga encounter at the Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid on Saturday.

# Atletico on fire

AFP, Madrid



After demolishing PSV Eindhoven 3-0 on Tuesday in their first Champions League match for 11 years, Atletico crushed Recreativo by a goal more.

Atletico lie behind Espanyol who return to the summit despite a 1-1 draw with Getafe on Saturday which ended their 100 per cent start to the season.

Argentina's Sergio Aguero, known by the nickname "Kun", had scored twice against PSV and made it three goals in five days with the Atletico opener before Portuguese schemer Maniche,

also on target in Eindhoven, added a second.

Atletico coach Javier Aguirre heaped praise on former Chelsea man Maniche who has fought his way back into the team after looking destined to leave.

'He (Maniche) had a good game and is playing at a very high level at the moment. He feels important within the dressing room and is a winner,' said Aguirre.

French striker Florent Sinama Pongolle scored twice in the final 13 minutes to down his former club.

Pongolle, deputising for the injured Diego Forlan, had two successful seasons at Recreativo before Atletico came calling in the summer.

With just seven minutes gone, 20-year-old Argentine Aguero, top-scorer last season with 19 goals, ghosted into the area completely unmarked to head home. Aguero thought he had scored

again after 25 minutes but the effort was disallowed with Pongolle penalised for a foul in the lead-up to the goal.

'Aguero is a great footballer and I am certain that one day he will be one of the best in the world,' declared Recreativo coach Manolo Zambrano.

The player came off after an hour with Aguirre probably keen to rest him after a busy summer for Argentina at the Olympics.

Maniche came off shortly after too with Argentine Ever Banega, on loan from Valencia, making his league debut.

Espanyol leapfrogged Atletico with a 1-1 draw at home against Getafe meaning no team has managed to secure a maximum-nine points from the first three games.

A penalty from Manu del Moral on 47 minutes put Getafe in front - it was the first goal Espanyol had conceded in the new campaign - but the hosts replied ten minutes later through Sergio Sanchez.

# Ballack questions Robinho move

INTERNET, undated

Michael Ballack has questioned Robinho's decision to snub Chelsea in favour of a more lucrative move to Manchester City.

City, reelling in the financial backing of the Abu Dhabi United Group, smashed the British transfer record with their £32.5million move for the former Real Madrid player on deadline day.

Chelsea had started the day as firm favourites to sign Robinho, but City's wealthy new owners beat them to the deal.

Although Robinho started his City career in a promising way, with an early goal on debut against Chelsea, Ballack has queried the Brazilian's motives.

'It is up to each player what they do, but if I were him, I would not have gone to Manchester City,' Chelsea's German midfielder told newspaper Tagesspiegel am Sonntag.

'A transfer from Real Madrid to Manchester City is hard to justify with sporting reasons.'

Reflecting on his own career trajectory, Ballack added: 'I certainly do have a good contract here, but my career progressed.'

'I did not go from Chemnitz to Bremen, although I had an offer from them, but I went to Kaiserslautern, who had just been promoted because I saw more chances for me to play there.'

'Then I went to Leverkusen and not to Bayern, where I also had a contract awaiting my signature.'

'Then in 2002, I went to Bayern and not Real Madrid, although I had a lucrative offer from them. And now I am at Chelsea, an absolutely huge club in the best league in the world at the moment.'

'I feel very happy with Chelsea and in the city of London and I would happily end my career here.'

# Tevez not going to Man City

INTERNET, undated

Carlos Tevez's trusted advisor Kia Joorabchian has rejected any possibility of the Argentine star signing for Manchester City.

Tevez's two-year loan deal with Manchester United is due to end next spring, with the Old Trafford club keen to complete a permanent contract.

Earlier this week the 24-year-old admitted he would sign a United offer as soon as it was put before him.

However, reports have emerged claiming cash-rich City are eager to have the South American on board as well.

With pots of cash available once the Abu Dhabi-based consortium ready to bankroll the Eastlands outfit have finally completed their takeover, it is thought they would be willing to trump any offer United for Tevez.

However, Joorabchian is adamant Tevez, who was left on the bench for Sunday's clash with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, has no desire to join City and will eventually sign for United as planned.

'Carlos is not joining Manchester City,' said Joorabchian, who is no longer the head of MSI, having left the company to take charge of a loose grouping of like-minded businessmen.

'All this talk linking him with them is a complete load of nonsense.'

'He is a Manchester United player through and through and is looking forward to signing a long-term contract with them in the near future.'

# SUNDAY SCORES

English Premier League	
Chelsea 1 (Kalou 80)	Manchester United 1 (Park 18)
West Bromwich 1 (Morrison 34)	Aston Villa 2 (Carew 27, Agbonlahor 29)
Serie A	
Cagliari 0	Juventus 1 (Armaou 39)
Florentina 1 (Gillardino 37)	Bologna 0
Lecco 1 (Caserta 57)	Siena 1 (Ficagna 39)
Palermo 2 (Cavani 39, Bovo 58)	Genoa 1 (Milito 89)
Sampdoria 1 (Francoeschini 49)	Chievo 1 (Langella 51)
Torino 1 (Abbruscato 76)	Inter Milan 3 (Pisano 24-og, Maicon 26, Ibrahimovic 51)
Udinese 0	Napoli 0

# Angry boxer confronts Guti

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid midfielder Guti's feinting techniques were put to the test Saturday when he was faced with a deaf but angry boxer who came to settle a score.

Guti came to Jorge Munoz's aid in 2006 as the boxer attempted to overturn a professional ban because of his impairment.

Annoyed at Guti's decision to abandon his cause Munoz according to reports forced his way into Real's training complex and got involved in a lively discussion with the midfielder.

After security were called scuffles broke out and one security agent had to be briefly hospitalised. Munoz was later arrested by police.

Guti hired two bodyguards last summer to protect him.

# Bremen rout Bayern

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich coach Jurgen Klinsmann could only rue his side's 'black' Saturday as Werder Bremen routed the defending Bundesliga champions 5-2 in Munich.

Bremen's teenage midfielder Mesut Ozil, 19, provided the two final passes which helped put Bremen 2-0 up at half-time at Bayern's Allianz Arena and the Germany Under-21 international then bossed the midfield to crush the hosts.

Sweden striker Markus Rosenberg scored goals either side of half-time to leave Bayern's dreams of going top of the league in tatters and put them fifth in the table.

'That was a black day. Bremen were better, more spirited and more aggressive than us,' Klinsmann told German television channel Premiere. 'They were brighter and more intelligent.'

'From this we can only learn, we can't bury our heads in the sand, we have to improve.'

But with Munich's Oktoberfest - the world famous beer festival - starting this weekend, there will be some grim faces around the city's

beer halls.

'I don't envy you, you need to drink a few large glasses of beer tonight - that is the only solution,' glum-faced Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer told Klinsmann on Premiere.

Bayern were missing injured Germany striker Miroslav Klose and French midfielder Franck Ribery, but were second in the table before this weekend.

In contrast, Bremen only managed their first league win of the season last weekend, but last season's Bundesliga runners-up dominated the champions.

'We won three points, which are very important for us,' said Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf.

'It will give us a confidence boost to beat such a strong club as Bayern and I congratulate my team, but I will expect the same thing in future.'

A well-timed pass from Ozil after half an hour split the Bayern defence and Rosenberg flicked the ball past Bayern goalkeeper Michael Rensing to put his side ahead.

On 45 minutes, Ozil floated his free-kick over the Bayern defence and Brazilian defender Naldo fired home from just metres out after Rensing blocked a shot to make it 2-0.

After the break, Bayern coach Jurgen Klinsmann brought German midfielder Tim Borowski

and Italian defender Massimo Oddo into the fray.

But it was soon 3-0 when Ozil unleashed a superb shot which beat Rensing at the near post on 54 minutes.

And Rensing's embarrassment was only heightened on 59 minutes when Bremen's former Bayern striker Claudio Pizarro poked the ball under him to make it 4-0.

Another Rensing mistake made it 5-0 when he tried to punch the ball away, but Rosenberg was on hand to stab the ball home on 67 minutes.

Borowski pulled goals back on 71 and 85 minutes with two well-taken strikes, but it was far too little, too late as Bremen moved up to fourth.

Schalke 04 went top thanks to an own goal at home to ten-man Eintracht Frankfurt.

Brazilian defender Chris was sent off on 34 minutes for assaulting Germany defender Heiko Westermann.

And on 41 minutes Frankfurt's misery was complete when Patrick Ochs tackled Schalke striker Jefferson Farfan in the area only to slide the ball under his own goalkeeper.

Also on Saturday, Hertha Berlin went seventh with a 1-0 win at Borussia Moechengladbach, while mid-table Arminia Bielefeld beat Cologne 2-0. Energie Cottbus drew 1-1 with VfL Bochum.



Lyon forward Sydney Govou (L) fights for the ball with Le Havre defender Massamba Lo Sambou (C) during their Ligue One tie at the Jules Dechaseaux Stadium in Le Havre on Saturday.

# Ederson puts Lyon clear

AFP, Paris



Brazilian Ederson scored a penalty for Lyon in their 1-0 home win over Le Havre, putting them five points clear at the top of the French championship on Saturday, while nine-man Bordeaux also won.

Lyon's win means the seven-times reigning champions can finally put behind them a busy week following a controversial victory over Nice last weekend and conceding a draw at home to Fiorentina in midweek Champions League action.

Without injured Brazilian Juninho and Karim Benzema, who came on for the last half hour, Lyon hardly shined against promoted Le Havre but a foul in the box on Frederic Piquionne at the end of the first half, and converted by Ederson, brought the victory. And Lyon reshaped their defence with

previously out-of-form Brazilian centre back Cris coming into the side, paired with Mathieu Bodmer, and Anthony Revellere at right back and John Mensah at left back.

Lyon had to play the final spell without Sidney Govou however after he was sent off for a second yellow card midway through the second half.

Lyon coach Claude Puel said afterwards: 'It was a very good result and the team showed a lot of spirit. Le Havre is a team which does well going forward which is one of the key aspects of the sport.'

'We knew they would push forward and you never quite knew what would happen on each attack but we defended well.'

And Puel added that Brazilian Juninho had a groin injury.

'He has put a lot into the last few matches and that meant we could give match time to some other players to give them a chance.'

Grenoble but won 1-0 thanks to an 81st minute goal by Brazilian attacking midfielder Jussie.

Alou Diarra and Wendel were sent off just after the break though Martial Robin of Grenoble also got a red card in the 90th minute.

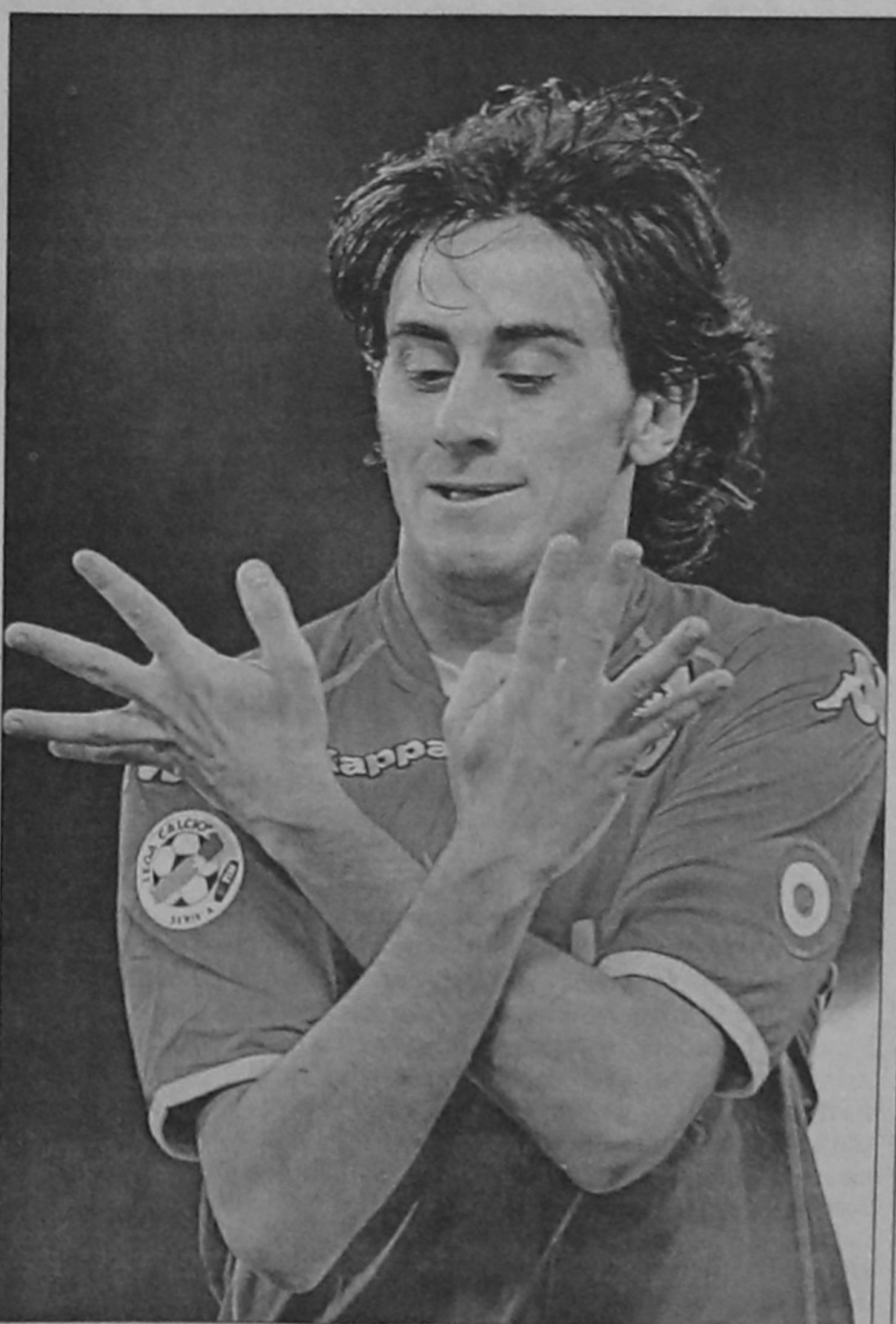
Bordeaux coach Laurent Blanc said he had never seen a match quite like it.

'Even as a player, I can never remember a team going for the win while reduced to nine against 11. You just have to say "well done" to the players who showed a lot of spirit,' Blanc said.

Toulouse, who just avoided relegation last season, beat Sochaux 2-1 for their fifth match in a row unbeaten thanks to goals from a freekick and the penalty spot by Andre-Pierre Gignac.

Sochaux are still to get a win and dropped to the bottom of the table after the previous bottom club, Nantes, had a 2-0 win over Valenciennes for their first victory of the season.

Other results saw Lille beat Auxerre 3-2 and Lorient drew 1-1 with Caen.



Roma midfielder Alberto Aquilani celebrates after scoring the second goal against Reggina during their Serie A match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Saturday.