Spurs shock Liverpool

AFP, London



Liverpool off top spot in the Premier League as Tottenham Hotspur continued their unbeaten run under Harry Redknapp with a 2-1 victory.

This dramatic win, which saw for a victory." Spurs climb off the bottom of the table, ended Liverpool's unbeaten start to the season and left Chelsea on top on goal difference after they

Saturday. Dirk Kuvt fired visitors

ous chances to double their advantage, hitting the woodwork three times.

They were made to pay 20 minutes from time when Spurs - who'd beaten Bolton and drawn 4-4 with Arsenal since Redknapp's arrival from Portsmouth - levelled when Liverpool defender Jamie Chelsea. Carragher headed a David Bentley corner into his own net under pressure from Ledley King.

game would end in a draw, Russia striker Pavlyuchenko turned in Darren Bent's cross from close

two goals helped champions Manchester United leapfrog Hull City but only after they held on for a boys at Old Trafford.

Victory put United on 21 points, five behind the leading duo, but

with a game in hand. Nicolas Anelka scored his first Chelsea hattrick as Sunderland were put to the sword at Stamford Bridge, where Blues manager Luiz Felipe Scolari said he would have Monday. no qualms about starting the France forward against Roma in

the Champions League on Tuesday. 'Anelka has the number nine shirt here and tries his best always,"

Scolari said. "Didier Drogba is back but my decision against Roma is BARCLAYS winner knocked easy. Anelka is in better condition so he plays."

Meanwhile frustrated United boss Sir Alex Ferguson said: "I feel a bit low. We should have won by 10 or 11 and we ended up scrambling

Arsenal's title hopes suffered a major setback against another promoted team as they lost 2-1 away to Stoke City, in a match thrashed Sunderland 5-0 earlier where several players were injured and Robin van Persie red-carded.

Long throws from Rory Delap Liverpool into a 1-0 lead as early as set up both Stoke's goals and the third minute at White Hart Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger admitted: "It is not our greatest Rooney corner. Liverpool then spurned numer- strength to deal with that and we were punished.

"We have very bad injuries with (Emmanuel) Adebayor, (Theo) from time setting up a grandstand Walcott and (Bacary) Sagna. At this finish. stage, we don't know how long they

A third league defeat this season left Arsenal six points behind

West Brom came from a goal behind against Blackburn Rovers, a man down for more than an hour And just when it seemed the after South African goalscorer Benni McCarthy was sent-off, in a Clichy grabbed a late goal. 2-2 draw at The Hawthorns.

straight defeats with a 2-1 win Elsewhere Cristiano Ronaldo's against Portsmouth. West Ham, 1-1 away to Middlesbrough.

Everton won in the league for 4-3 win over the top-flight new the first time this season at Goodison Park with a 1-0 victory over Fulham where France striker Louis Saha scored against his old

> Bolton and Manchester City meet at the Reebok Stadium on Sunday while high-flyers Aston Villa are away to Newcastle on

twice before half-time.

England midfielder Frank Lampard scored the 100th league goal of his career before Anelka completed his first hattrick in English football for over five years since netting a treble for Manchester City.

United into a third minute lead. But Hull equalised in the 23rd minute when Daniel Cousin headed in

were ahead again through England midfielder Michael Carrick.

Hull, however, hit back with Bernard Mendy's goal and Geovanni's penalty eight minutes

goal in as many games.

West Ham midfielder Hayden Wigan ended a run of four Mullins scored his first league goal in nearly two years in the 21st minute at the Riverside but Boro who'd also lost four in a row, drew fought back and were all square thanks to Egypt forward Mido's goal seven minutes from time.

Papa Bouba Diop, as he'd done in the midweek defeat against Liverpool, gave away a penalty and Egypt striker Amir Zaky put Wigan

Pompey hit woodwork four times before Croatia midfielder Niko Kranjcar equalised in the 82nd minute only for England striker Emile Heskey to give Wigan After Alex put Chelsea in front at all three points with the 100th Stamford Bridge, Anelka scored Premier League goal of his career.



Tottenham striker Roman Pavlychenko (R) is ecstatic after scoring an injury time winner against Liverpool during their Premiership encounter at White Hart Lane on Saturday. Spurs came back from a goal down to beat the Reds in a tight match that saw them continue their recovery.

LIGUE 1

Ben Arfa fires Marseille

INTERNET, undated

Olympique Marseille recovered from a lean spell to beat St Etienne 3-1 to climb to second in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

The former European champions had gone three matches without victory and suffered their first league defeat this season when they lost 4-2 at home to arch-rivals Paris St Germain last weekend.

Marseille have 23 points from 12 games, one point behind leaders Olympique Lyon who entertain Le Mans on Sunday.

France forward Hatem Ben Arfa, who caused controversy by refusing to come on as a substitute against PSG, made amends and was involved in all three goals.

Midfielder Benoit Cheyrou opened the scoring with a header from a Ben Arfa corner on 21 minutes but St Etienne equalised seconds later with an angled effort from the edge of the box by striker Bafetimbi Gomis.

Ben Arfa put the home side back in front with a penalty seven minutes before the break after St Etienne keeper Jeremie Janot brought down Ivory Coast striker Bakary Kone.

Nigeria defender Taye Taiwo wrapped it up for Marseille by heading in another Ben Arfa corner 19 minutes from time.

Girondins Bordeaux slumped to a 1-0 defeat at strugglers Nancy.

Last season's runners-up Bordeaux, who had gone seven league matches without defeat, dropped to third place on 21 points.

Morocco midfielder Youssouf Hadji hit the winner for Nancy against the run of play when he fired into the top corner from 20 metres with 20 minutes left.

Toulouse also failed to keep the pressure on Lyon after losing 1-0 at home to Caen, substitute Benjamin Nivet on target with a superb drive from 25 metres on 79 minutes.

fifteen staff

INTERNET, undated

Chelsea have axed nearly two-thirds of their international scouting staff in the first sign that billionaire owner Roman Abramovich may be losing patience with his club's towering levels of debt - including the 578 million pounds that is owed

In all, 15 of Chelsea's 25-strong global scouting network were made redundant on Friday, including former German international Rainer Bonhoff and others earning up to 100,000 pounds a year.

At the same time, manager Luiz Felipe Scolari, whose team trounced Sunderland 5-0 yesterday, has been told that he cannot spend money in the transfer window in January because of the credit crunch, evidence that even the biggest-spending club in the world are having to rein in their budget.

Even before the current squeeze, Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon had insisted that Abramovich's aim was to balance Chelsea's books by 2010, an ambition that looks increasingly unlikely

HOFFENHEIM FLY HIGH

Bayern are resurgent

AFP, Berlin



1 win over Bielefeld as their best perforgo third in the table while Hoffenheim's fairytale

continues as they regained top "It was one-way traffic," said Dutchman van Bommel about

Saturday's win over Bielfeld at Munich's Allianz Arena. "Bielefeld posed no threat at all. "We totally controlled the game,

although too many passes went astray in the first half. "But I never doubted we'd win

it. Taking the 90 minutes as a whole, I think that was our best match of the season." Goals by Germany striker

Miroslav Klose, French star Franck Ribery and Lukas Podolski sealed the win as Bayern have now picked up their fourth straight league

Coach Jurgen Klinsmann Chinedu Obasi sealed their 4-1 win switched to a 4-2-3-1 formation with Klose as the lone striker formation paid dividends as Bayern won the corner count 20-0.

The only blot on Bayern's copy book was a first half penalty conceded by Argentina defender Martin Demichelis, but Klinsmann was happy with the performance especially from Podolski, who was crticised last week after a string of

"It was exactly the game we expected with Bielefeld setting out their stall, so we had to be patient," said Klinsmann.

poor performances.

"We took the lead, only to concede a silly penalty, but then we battered away in the second half and made it 2-1 and the corner count shows you how much pressure we applied."

And for Hoffenheim coach Ralf Rangnick the dream continues as his side went back to the top of the table in their first season in the Bundesliga after two promotions in the last two seasons.

Two goals each from Bosnia and Herzegovina striker Vedad Ibisevic the league's top scorer with 13 from 11 games - and Nigeria forward

over Karlsruhe. Six goals in the last four games

means Ibisevic is being watched closely by a string of Premier League clubs as Hoffenheim continue to fly "I do not think we started that

well and it took us a quarter of an hour to settle down and start to become aggressive," said Rangnick.

"The opening goal was created | by Tobias Weis and was an absolute dream goal.

"It was unfortunate we conceeded a goal shortly after, but the team's response was remarkable.

"The team are getting stronger and stronger and there is a real hunger in the group now before each match, but we are just taking things one game at a time."

In the weekend's other key results, Stuttgart were humbled 3-1 at home to Cologne on Saturday while Hamburg also stumbled to a 3-0 defeat at Hanover which leaves them fifth in the table.

Schalke scored two late goals to beat bottom side Energie Cottbus 2-0 and Werder Bremen registered their first win since September when they slaughtered Hertha Berlin 5-1.

Still six months for Essien

INTERNET, undated

Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien has revealed he potentially faces a further six months on the sidelines as he recovers from a knee injury.

The Ghana star sustained anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) damage during a World Cup qualifier against Libya in September after landing awkwardly on his knee and has been sidelined since.

Although Chelsea boss Luiz Felipe Scolari initially expected Essien to return to action by the New Year, the 25-year-old admitted his rehabilitation could be prolonged to at least March after undergoing surgery.

'It's difficult for the moment to fix a date for my return, 'he said.

'But I know that my recovery period will last a total of four to six months.'

Essien is currently recuperating at the Centre Technique National Fernand-Sastre (CTNFS) in Clairefontaine, France, before returning to London next week.

'The surgeon who operated on me who recommended to me to cometo

Clairefontaine as it's the first time in my career that I have been so seriously injured,' he added.

'It's actually the third time I've come to the CTNFS. I'm very well looked after and the club doctor and physiotherapist have visited 'I will return to London but it's

possible that I'll then come back to Clairefontaine. 'So far at the moment I'm not thinking about it much. I'm follow-

ing the treatment calmly. Everything's going well.

FORMULA 1

Massa on pole, Hamilton fourth

INTERNET, undated

Ferrari's Felipe Massa took pole position for Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix at the Interlagos circuit in qualifying Saturday while championship leader Lewis Hamilton starts from fourth on the grid. Massa registered a time of 1 minute 12.368 seconds for the 4.309- kilometre circuit to claim a third pole in succession at his home GP while Toyota's Jarno Trulli caused a major surprise by taking the second spot on the front row in 1:12,737 min-

Defending champion Kimi Raikkonen snatched third in the second Ferrari with Hamilton of McLaren-Mercedes a disappointing fourth, nearly half a second slower than Massa.

Hamilton holds a seven-point lead over Massa going into Sunday's final race of the 2008 Formula One season and needs a fifth place finish to ensure he goes into the record books as the youngest ever F1 champion at the age of 23.

Massa, who celebrated the sixth pole of the season in front of tens of thousands of adoring fans, requires a win or second spot, and must also rely on his rival finishing outside the top five, to become the first Brazilian since Ayrton Senna in 1991 to take the title.

hard done by after battling back

consecutive draw and will be top for

a day at least, delighted coach Jose

Mourinho for their reaction to

second half, after it went to 2-2, we

had a great reaction with excellent

football and eight clear chances,"

said the Portuguese former Chelsea

worked, their spirit, their quality of

play, they played a great match.

played with heart and right now

Having not scored in their previ-

they deserve the joy of three points."

ous two games Intercame out with a

clear intent to end that run and

Portugal winger Ricardo Quaresma

crashed a shot off the post on just six

minutes after a mistake from Bruno

to wait long to open the scoring as

Zlatan Ibrahimovic fed full-back

Maicon, who was charging into the

area, and the Brazilian's shot beat

Andrea Campagnolo and hit the

doubled the visitors' advantage on

24 minutes as he finished off good

work from Ibrahimovic and

Quaresma, slipping the ball

that they had no intention of lying

down to die when captain

Francesco Cozza fired home via a

slight deflection from the edge of

the box 11 minutes before the break.

hosts had actually had more of the

game in the first half and they con-

tinued in that vein at the start of the

second period as Franco Brienza

thrashed home a crisp strike from

the edge of the box on 53 minutes.

Despite Inter's bright start the

But the basement sitters showed

between Campagnolo's legs.

France midfielder Patrick Vieira

roof of the net on nine minutes.

But the champions didn't have

"I'm happy with the way the guys

"We played a great match, in the

But Inter, who avoided a third

from 2-0 down after 24 minutes.

losing their lead.

Cirillo.

Roma in free-fall



Juventus piled more misery on crisis-ridden Roma with a 2-0 home victory on Saturday while Colombia centreback Ivan Cordoba scored an injury-

time winner to send Inter Milan top with a 3-2 win at rock bottom Juve were good value for their rent malaise. victory and found themselves in

fifth place at the end of the day following a third straight Serie A victory. Veteran forward Alessandro Del

Piero scored the first and created the

But the crisis continues at Roma who have just eight points from nine games, are down in 17th place, just one above the relegation zone, and have lost their last four Serie A matches.

They have lost six of their nine matches, including all five away from home. Roma coach Luciano Spalletti

admitted his team were having difficulties overcoming their cur-"We started off with the right

enthusiasm and then we became disorganised and there was a little bit of fear," he said. "Mentally we're a team that is

having more difficulty rebounding

from this situation."

Juve quickly established control and centre-back Giorgio Chiellini forced Roma's Brazilian goalkeeper Doni into a point-blank reaction save on 33 minutes.

Six minutes before the break, though, Del Piero gave the hosts the lead, planting a sumptuous freekick from 25 yards into the top

Juve kept dominating after the break as Doni saved a speculative bicycle kick from compatriot Amauri before Marco Marchionni took a pass from Del Piero, beat Jon Arne Riise and dinked the ball over a sprawling Doni to double the advantage on 48 minutes.

In Reggina the hosts will have felt



But Cordoba was luckily in the right place at the right time to prod home the late winner from a corner.

Roma defender Cicinho (L) holds off Juventus striker Amauri (3rd from R) during their Serie A clash at the Olympic Stadium in Turin on Saturday.

nightmare firmly behind them with a 4-1 triumph at Athletic Roman sacks

Goals from Giuseppe Rossi, veteran Robert Pires, nearing the end of his career at 35, and

Villarreal now turn their attention to Wednesday's Champions League match against Danish side Aalborg BK.

ligaments AFP, Rome

Inter Milan defender Cristian Chivu has damaged knee ligaments, the club said on Sunday.

The Romania captain was forced off during the second half of

sidelines but said that he will not

At Old Trafford, Ronaldo fired Andy Dawson's free-kick. Minutes later though United

Portugal winger Ronaldo then scored his fourth goal in two games to make it 3-1 when he headed in from a corner before defender Nemanja Vidic volleyed in a Wayne

Arsenal defender Kolo Toure couldn't cope with Delap's 11th minute throw, allowing striker Ricardo Fuller to score his second

Another Delap delivery in the 73rd minute led to Seyi Olofinjana making it 2-0 at the Britannia Stadium before Arsenal's Gael

ahead at Fratton Park.



Barcelona full-back Dani Alves is over-the-moon after scoring during their Primera Liga clash against Malaga at the

BARCELONA IRRESISTIBLE

Racism rears up again



striker Samuel Eto'o.

Barcelona reeled off their seventh successive win to reach the summit of the Spanish first division but Saturday's 4-1 win at Malaga was marred by racism directed at their Cameroon

Romareda Stadium on Saturday.

subjected to monkey charts by the home fans at the La Rosaleda season with a 4-2 home loss before being booed when he was against Racing Santander. substituted late on as racism reared its ugly head once again.

racism out of the game after being

African forward Eto'o was

remarks in the past. In February 2006, Eto'o had wanted to leave the pitch in a 2-0 victory against Real Zaragoza after being forced to listen to monkey cries and dodge peanuts thrown at him. Then coach Frank Rijkaard persuaded him to go on and

Zaragoza were fined 9,000 euros. The Eto'o incidents come just after a Spanish website targeted McLaren Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton with racist abuse. Eto'o was not on the scoresheet

in Barca's 4-1 win with Spain's

Euro 2008 hero Xavi Hernandez

and a sixth goal of the season from

Argentine Lionel Messi sealing the

points on a rain-soaked pitch. "You couldn't really play on a pitch in this condition," said Barca coach Pep Guardiola. "It was a game of trying not to make mis-

in a row and that is no easy feat. I to sixth. am happy with the win against a

physical team that can hurt you on

the counter attack." Barcelona's next match is at said match hero Aguero still home on Tuesday when they face needed time to regain match FC Basel in the Champions League looking to continue their perfect start in Europe.

the latter also winning 4-1 over training." Athletic Bilabo to maintain their unbeaten start to the season. Valencia could have displaced Barca at the summit but fell to their first league defeat of the

clear of Villarreal at the top with

Congo striker Mohamed Tchite scored a sensational hattrick to Eto'o, 27, has become a major down Valencia who stay third, two figure in football's bid to kick points behind Barcelona. "My hattrick is not important on the receiving end of racist but the three points for the team certainly are," said Tchite. It was only Racing's second win of the

season and they jump to 11th spot.

Madrid, three points behind

Defending champions Real

Barca, are in action on Sunday at Almeria. Elsewhere Argentine attacker Sergio "Kun" Aguero gave Liverpool something to think about ahead of Tuesday's Champions League match at Anfield with a brace as Atletico Madrid defeated Real Mallorca 2-0 at the Vicente Calderon on

Saturday.

Aguero was back in the starting XI after being rested for the past few matches and returned with a bang scoring a first half double. It was Atletico's first league

victory since September 24 when they defeated derby rivals Getafe "Malaga had won four matches 2-1 and Javier Aguirre's side climb time the centre-back faces on the

"It is a relief because we had need to go under the knife.

picked up one point in the last four weeks," explained Aguirre, who

"I will take him (Aguero) to

Liverpool for the game but he is on In the league Barca are a point an intensive training regime and has two more weeks of specialised Villarreal put their Kings Cup

sharpness.

Bilbao to go second. Villarreal went into the match reeling from a 5-0 Kings Cup humiliation by unknown Poli Ejido but responded in the perfect

Santiago Cazorla wrapped up the points for the visitors.

Chivu

damages

the champions' 3-2 victory at Reggina on Saturday due to the injury. Inter did not reveal how much

to be met. The club announced losses of 74 million pounds earlier this year and are carrying 736 million pounds of debt.