

# Guus's trophy farewell

AFP, London



Chelsea gave Guus Hiddink the perfect farewell present as Frank Lampard's goal clinched a 2-1 win over Everton in Saturday's FA Cup final at Wembley.

Blues interim boss Hiddink resumes his role as Russia coach on a full-time basis in June but he will always be fondly remembered at Stamford Bridge after leading Chelsea to their first trophy for two years.

Everton had made the perfect start when Louis Saha struck after just 25 seconds to claim the fastest goal in FA Cup final history.

But Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba headed Chelsea level midway through the first half before Lampard's long-range effort sealed his club's fifth FA Cup success and ensured Hiddink would leave on a high.

It was also a memorable day for Chelsea defender Ashley Cole, who became the first player for more than 100 years to earn five FA Cup winners' medals.

Hiddink, who is set to return to the head coaching job for the Russian national side, said that it was the inherent spirit of the side that had seen them prevail.

"We are very demanding on each other but that is a strength," said the Dutchman. "They know how to react

when they are on the back foot. That is why I like them. It hasn't just been an in-between job for me, it has been more than that. This is one of my biggest adventures, to win at football's mecca is quite something."

His Everton counterpart David Moyes conceded that the right team had lifted the trophy.

"Chelsea were the better team," said the Scotsman, who was named League Manager Association (LMA) manager of the year earlier this week.

Lampard said that his tribute when he scored was for his mother, who died last year. "We showed a lot of character and dominated the match after half-time," said Lampard.

"The winning goal tribute was how my father (Frank senior) celebrated when he scored a rare goal. My mother would have appreciated it."

While Chelsea celebrated their first silverware of the post-Jose Mourinho era, Everton were left with the nagging sense of an opportunity missed.

Moyes' decision to start with Saha instead of midfielder Jack Rodwell underlined his determination to take the game to Chelsea and he was rewarded for his boldness after only 25 seconds.

When Steven Pienaar lofted a cross into the penalty area, John Obi Mikel could only loop a header towards Marouane Fellaini. The Belgian flicked back across to Saha and his superb volley flashed past Petr Cech at his

near post.

In the blink of an eye, Saha, who missed out on playing in four FA Cup finals over the last 10 years, had scored the final's quickest ever goal, beating the previous record of 30 seconds set by Aston Villa's Bob Chatt in 1895.

Chelsea had been caught cold.

Florent Malouda was causing no end of problems for Everton down the left wing and, in the 21st minute, Tony Hibbert granted the winger space to whip over a cross that Drogba, out-jumping Joleon Lescott, headed past Tony Howard for his fifth goal in five FA and League Cup finals.

That was the signal for Everton to retreat into their shell. With Lampard and Michael Essien dominating midfield, Chelsea took control.

Moyes responded by hauling off Hibbert at the interval, with Lars Jacobsen sent on for the right-back.

Despite the sweltering heat, both teams tried to play at a high tempo and Moyes' men began to rediscover their rhythm.

Tim Cahill, the first Australian to play in two FA Cup finals, was pushed further forward and tested Cech with an ambitious effort.

Then Saha narrowly cleared the crossbar with a bullet header from Leighton Baines' cross.

But Chelsea can never be counted out when Lampard is in the team. In the 72nd minute, the England midfielder cut inside Phil Neville to work space for a swerving shot that Howard could only help into the net.



Chelsea players are jubilant after winning the FA Cup 2009 by beating Everton 2-1 in a come-from-behind performance at Wembley on Saturday. The win saw the Blues claim their first piece of silverware for the season and ensured that caretaker coach Guus Hiddink left on a high.

## Ballack signs extension

AFP, London

Chelsea's German midfielder Michael Ballack, only a substitute for Saturday's FA Cup final win over Everton, has agreed a one-year contract extension, the BBC reported on Sunday.

"I haven't signed yet but I have agreed for another year," Ballack, 32, said, adding he expected AC Milan's Carlo Ancelotti to succeed Guus Hiddink as coach next season at Stamford Bridge.

"I haven't worked under him and I don't know him very well but you can see from the work he has done at Milan that he is a successful manager," Ballack told BBC Sport.

"It's not done yet but it looks like he will be coach."

Ancelotti is set to reveal if he is to take charge after the Serie A season ends Sunday evening as interim manager Hiddink, who replaced the sacked Luiz Felipe in February, returns to his job as Russia coach following four months in London.

Ballack, signed by Jose Mourinho in 2006, has seen Chelsea win two FA Cups since but insisted that next season he wants to target bigger prizes with Manchester United having dominated the English Premiership since his arrival in England.

"What we need at Chelsea is consistency," he insisted. "There is not much that we need to change to win the Premier League next season. We have a great team, which is the most important thing, but we have to change the manager again and we will need a bit of time to adapt."

"Every coach works with different methods and the players have to get to know him - hopefully we won't need

## Nedved will leave Juve

AFP, Rome

Czech veteran Pavel Nedved has announced his departure from Juventus in a statement released by the club on Saturday.

Nedved had said earlier in the season that he would retire when this campaign is over but this statement seemed to contradict that.

"After eight seasons with Juventus the time has come to say farewell to the fans, my teammates and the club and thank them all for the support I've received over the years," said Nedved.

"In Turin I have won four titles (actually two as two were annulled for match-fixing) and a Ballon d'Or."

## Bordeaux clinch title

AFP, Paris



Bordeaux clinched their first French league championship title in 10 years after winning

1-0 at Caen on a dramatic final day of the season on Saturday.

Former Caen striker Yoan Gouffran scored in the early stages of the second half to earn Laurent Blanc's side a record 11th consecutive league win and secure a second trophy to go alongside the League Cup they won in April.

The result sparked scenes of wild celebration both in the stadium and at Bordeaux's Esplanade des Quinconces, where 50,000 fans had gathered to watch the match on a

big screen, while defeat condemned Caen to relegation.

Second-placed Marseille knew that only defeat for Bordeaux would allow them to snatch the title and they won 4-0 at home to Rennes.

Senegal striker Mamadou Niang netted a brace, while Ivorian Bakari Kone scored once and also saw a long-range shot hit the post and rebound into the net off Rennes goalkeeper Nicolas Douchez.

Caen will be joined in Ligue 2 next season by Nantes, who went down despite a 2-1 victory over Auxerre, but 10-time French champions St Etienne spared themselves from the drop by thrashing Valenciennes 4-0.

Sochaux and Le Mans joined Les Verts in preserving their top-flight status,

Sochaux winning 1-0 at Grenoble thanks to a first-half goal by Mevlut Erding and Le Mans drawing 1-1 at Lorient.

Hundreds of Nantes fans streamed out of their Stade de la Beaujoire ground in protest at their plight before kick-off, returning after 15 minutes having missed Ivan Klasnic's 12th-minute opener.

Jeremy Berthod finished adroitly from close range in the opening stages of the second half to bring the visitors level before Mamadou Bagayoko struck to earn Nantes an ultimately futile victory.

St Etienne took the lead in fine fashion at home to Valenciennes when Araujo Ilan slid in to thump home a volley from Kevin Mirallas's right-wing cross and they made sure of victory thanks to Bafetimbi Gomis, who scored twice in the second period before laying on a goal for Mirallas.

Lyon, their record-breaking seven-year stint as French champions having come to an end, had already secured third place and a berth in the qualifying rounds of next season's Champions League prior to their 0-0 draw at Toulouse.

Lyon centre-back John Mensah saw red after two first-half bookings, the second for a rash sliding challenge on

Ligue 1 top scorer Andre-Pierre Gignac, making it easier for the home side to collect the point that guaranteed fourth place and entry into next season's Europa League.

Lille will also compete in the re-branded UEFA Cup after a 3-2 victory at home to Nancy, who fought back to equalise after going 2-0 down, but Paris St-Germain's dreams of European football melted away in a disappointing goalless draw at home to Monaco.

In the night's other game, already-relegated Le Havre drew 0-0 at Nice.

Bordeaux took to the field at the Stade Michel-d'Ornano, where they had failed to win in nine previous attempts, with only suspended full-back Mathieu Chalmé and injured midfielder Abdou Traore unavailable.

Gouffran spurned an early chance to settle Bordeaux's nerves when he fired straight

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## Atletico secure fourth

AFP, Madrid



Atletico Madrid secured the final Champions League spot and the millions of euros that accompany

it with a 3-0 home win over Almeria on Saturday in the 1,000th game at the Vicente Calderon.

Atletico needed just a draw to clinch fourth but they cruised to a 3-0 victory to qualify for the Champions League for the second successive season.

Argentine Sergio "Kun" Aguero and Raul Garcia put Atletico 2-0 up before Diego Forlan scored for the eighth successive match to take his season's tally to 32 and wrap up the 'pichichi' crown for the league's top-scorer.

Atletico join champions Barcelona, Real Madrid and Sevilla as Spain's Champions League representatives and coach Abel Resino, originally seen as a stop-gap, has staked his claim to continue in the job next season.

"It was a team that wasn't really united but the players pulled together and that is the secret behind the success," explained Resino.

"As of Monday we will hold talks to see if I continue here or not."

"What I have done is clear to see. When I arrived we were far from our objective (the Champions League) but step by step we worked towards our goal and deserve our reward."

Forlan's old club Villarreal, runners-up last season, won

3-2 at Real Mallorca but Atletico's win meant they had to settle for fifth and a Europa league place.

Villarreal must now concentrate on trying to hang onto their highly-rated Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini, 55, who has emerged as a strong candidate for the Real Madrid job.

"No one at Real Madrid has spoken with me," emphasised Pellegrini. "I have a contract here at Villarreal. Our season finished today and now we will all go on holiday."

Valencia clinched the final European spot with a 2-0 home win over defeated Kings Cup finalists Athletic Bilbao.

David Villa scored both goals to take his season's tally to 28 in what could be his final game for the club.

"We got into Europe to end the season on the right note but of course the the Champions League was the objective so we failed," explained Villa.

Villa refused to fuel talk of his departure stressing that he was under contract: "I have a contract here at Valencia and I am happy to see it out."

However, Villa and fellow Spanish international David Silva will be hot property in the summer with the big clubs set to come calling with their chequebooks and Valencia may be unable to resist having missed out on the Champions League.

Valencia's win meant Deportivo La Coruna, who drew 1-1 with Barcelona, missed out on Europe.

Barca were given the guard of honour at the Riazor Stadium to salute their historical league, Kings Cup and Champions League treble that

no Spanish side had ever achieved.

Coach Pep Guardiola started with five of the starting XI that beat Manchester United 2-0 in Wednesday's Champions League final and Samuel Eto'o, who scored the opening goal in Rome, netted a late equaliser with his 30th goal of the season.

Eto'o has led the scoring charts for most of the season but Forlan's hot streak has taken him two goals clear of the Cameroon striker to steal the pichichi crown.

### SHARPSHOOTERS

Goals	
32	Diego Forlan (Atletico Madrid)
30	Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona)
28	David Villa (Valencia)
23	Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
21	Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid)
19	Thierry Henry (Barcelona)

### ASSISTS

20	Xavi (Barcelona)
13	Juan Manuel Mata (Valencia)
11	Duda (Malaga), Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
10	Pedro Munitis (Racing Santander), Diego Forlan (Atletico Madrid)

## Forlan elated

SOCCERNET

Diego Forlan declared himself "very happy" after helping Atletico Madrid back into the Champions League and virtually assuring himself of finishing as La Liga's leading goalscorer.

Forlan continued his remarkable run of success in the latter part of the season with Atletico's final goal in their 3-0 victory over Almeria.

With nearest challengers Samuel Eto'o (30), David Villa (28) and Lionel Messi (23) all finishing their campaigns last night, it will need a miracle for someone to deny Forlan the Pichichi award as the division's leading scorer in today's games.

Real Madrid's Gonzalo Higuain is fourth in the scoring charts on 21, so he will need to score 12 against Osasuna this evening to overhaul Forlan.

"I'm very happy because we've obtained qualification to the Champions League for the second successive year and because I've achieved the Pichichi in a league as strong as the Spanish one," said a confident Forlan, who also won the Pichichi award with Villarreal after netting 25 times in the 2004/05 season.

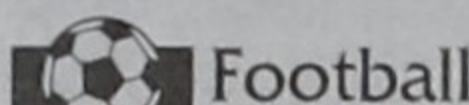
"I'm very grateful to everyone at this club. To have won the Pichichi at Atleti and what it means to this team is very important."



PHOTO: AFP

Atletico Madrid striker Diego Forlan celebrates notching a goal in their Primera Liga match against Almeria at the Vicente Calderon in Madrid on Saturday. It was Forlan's 32nd goal of the season and earned him the Pichichi -- the top scorers crown in Spain.

## Oezil clinches Cup



AFP, Berlin

Werder Bremen won the German Cup on Saturday, a second-half goal from midfielder Mesut Oezil sealing a 1-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

"The joy and relief are naturally huge," said Bremen's team manager Klaus Allofs, just a week after having lost UEFA Cup final to Shakhtar Donetsk in Istanbul.

"We have had some difficult weeks, which makes the win even more enjoyable."

"It was important that we had a one-week break between finishing the Bundesliga and this game."

"In the last few weeks of the season, we had a game virtually every three days."

"We had three players who weren't available in the UEFA Cup final in Diego, defender Per Mertesacker and striker Hugo Almeida and they made the difference here."

Brazilian midfielder Diego, in his last appearance in Germany before his move to Juventus, signed off by creating the winning goal for Oezil after 58 minutes.

The 24-year-old Diego, who has signed a five-year deal worth 24.5 million euros to move to Italy, beat three defenders and slid a pass into the path of Oezil who fired home past Leverkusen goalkeeper Rene

Adler to give Bremen the winner.

Leverkusen had their chance to equalise when, with just four minutes of normal time remaining, Germany striker Stefan Kiessling fired wide for Bayer as their attack failed to beat Bremen goalkeeper Tim Wiese.

Both Bremen and Leverkusen under-achieved last season, finishing mid-table in the Bundesliga, and

Bremen's Germany midfielder Torsten Frings said winning the German Cup title for the sixth time in the club's history was satisfying.

"We put in a good performance and deserved the win," said Frings.

"The Bundesliga season was not satisfying, but we have been in two finals and won a title, which puts us in the Europa Cup, so we have to be content."



PHOTO: AFP

Werder Bremen players are ecstatic after securing their sixth DFB Pokal by beating Bayer Leverkusen 1-0 in an action-packed final at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on Saturday. Bremen's midfielder Mesut Oezil scored the winner to bring solace to Werder after they had lost the UEFA Cup final.

## Ashley to sell Magpies

AFP, Newcastle

Ailing English football giants Newcastle were put back on the market by owner Mike Ashley on Sunday at a vastly lower price than he bought them.

The 46-year-old businessman is reported by the BBC to be willing to sell the club for only 80million pounds as opposed to the 135million he paid in 2006.

Ashley, a Londoner who has tried to conjure up favour with the Newcastle fans by wearing Newcastle team shirts and drinking pints of beer among the spectators, confessed to the Sunday Times that he couldn't wait to leave.

"It's been catastrophic for everybody. I've lost my money and made terrible decisions," he told the Sunday Times.

"Now I want to sell as soon as I can. I am genuinely sorry for everybody for what has happened."

Ashley, who went through four managers in the past campaign, again issued a fulsome apology to the long-suffering Newcastle fans.

"I never said I was an expert in football clubs," Ashley added.

"I was just a fan - although a very wealthy fan, but I'm not so wealthy now."

"I put my money into it and I tried my best, but I accept my best was woefully short."

\* Seeing Newcastle

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