



OFF THE MARK: Manchester United forward Michael Owen is ecstatic after netting his first league goal for the club during their Premiership match against Wigan at the DW Stadium on Saturday. Man Utd won 5-0.

PHOTO: AFP

## Davenport stabbed

AFP, London

West Ham defender Calum Davenport and his mother were stabbed Saturday in a suspected attempted murder at the family home, police said.

The 26-year-old required surgery on both legs after the incident at his family home in Bedford, southern England.

Both Davenport and his 49-year-old mother are in hospital. While their injuries are not life-threatening, Davenport was in a serious condition, according to his English Premier League club.

Two men aged 19 and 25 were arrested, the latter on suspicion of attempted murder, police said.

Bedfordshire Police said they were called at around 5:00am.

Davenport "was taken to hospital having received stab injuries," a spokeswoman said.

"He is still in hospital. He is not thought to be in a life-threatening condition at this moment in time."

"A 49-year-old woman was also injured and taken to hospital. She is also not thought to be in a life-threatening condition," the spokeswoman said, adding

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## RvN, Diarra to make return

AFP, Madrid

Ruud van Nistelrooy and Mahamadou Diarra both return from several months out injured to join the Real Madrid squad for Monday's Bernabeu Trophy match against Rosenborg, the Spanish club said.

Van Nistelrooy, bought from Manchester United in 2006, has been out of action since last November, when he underwent an operation on his right knee.

The Dutch striker has scored 45 league goals for Real, four of them last season before being injured, and was the top scorer in the league for 2006-07 with 25 goals in 37 matches.

But the 33-year-old has fallen down the pecking order at the Bernabeu following the signings of Kaka, Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema this summer.

Malian international midfielder Diarra has also been out since November after suffering a knee injury.

Coach Manuel Pellegrini will be without Christoph Metzelder, Miguel Torres and Sergio Ramos through injury for the match against the Norwegian side, while out-of-favour Dutchmen Wesley Sneijder and Rafael Van der Vaart are not selected.

The pre-season Santiago Bernabeu trophy, named after the former club president, is played each year at the stadium that bears his name with a different team invited each time.

## PSG the pacesetters

AFP, Paris



Paris St Germain, seeking only their third title and first since 1994, and Lyon are setting the pace in the French league after both posted key away successes on Saturday.

But with Bordeaux looking to make it three wins out of three against Nice on Sunday, it was Marseille who lost ground following a 1-1 draw at Rennes where the Mediterranean club missed a hatful of chances to make it a three-way overnight tie at the top on seven points with PSG and Lyon.

Marseille ought to have gone top with maximum points but were denied by a superb performance from Rennes keeper Nicolas Douchez, who repelled everything thrown at him save for a close-range volley from Mamadou Niang seven minutes after the restart.

Jerome Leroy had slotted home a neatly-taken penalty for Rennes on the half hour after Suleimane Diawara had handled in the box.

Marseille keeper Steve Mandanda almost gifted Rennes the lead once more on the hour when he initially failed to control a loose ball and nearly let in Ismael Bangoura.

At the other end Brando saw Douchez repel a venomous low drive and then excel himself still further with a top-drawer tip over from Fernando Morientes' point-blank range effort before making a diving stop from Niang.

"We had some difficult moments so it's a good point earned," said Marseille stalwart

Laurent Bonnart afterwards.

PSG have spent the years since their last title win in the doldrums, save for occasional domestic cup success but their repeated lack of success in qualifying for the lucrative Champions League has left the capital club with a financial gulf to bridge.

However, Peguy Luyindula's opener and further goals from Mevlut Erding and Christophe Jallet were enough to send Antoine Kombouare's Parisians joint top with Lyon following a 3-2 win at Valenciennes, for whom Siaka Tiene and Rudy Mater were on target.

Lyon, dethroned by Bordeaux last season after seven unbroken years at the top of the tree, raced past Auxerre 3-0 with Jean-Alain Boumsong, Jean Il Makoun and Miralem Pjanic all hitting the net for Claude Puel's side who steamrolled Anderlecht in their Champions League qualifier first leg.

Boumsong said Lyon were again the team to beat.

"Things are going well - this group has a lot of quality. We must continue in this vein," said the France international and former Newcastle defender.

Elsewhere, Nancy lost their early leadership of the table as they slid to a 2-1 loss at modest Le Mans.

Monaco, shocked 4-0 last week at Nancy, got back on track with a 2-0 home win over Lorient.

There is no respite for former giants Saint Etienne who slumped at their Geoffroy-Guichard stadium to promoted Boulogne 1-0 for a third loss in as many outings.

## Fergie backs 100-goal Rooney

AFP, Wigan

Sir Alex Ferguson believes Wayne Rooney will score "many more" for Manchester United after he joined a select band of players to net 100 goals for the club.

Rooney reached the milestone after opening the scoring during his side's 5-0 victory at Wigan on Saturday.

The England striker ended the match with two goals as United's season exploded into life after a low key start, which included a surprise 1-0 defeat at newly-promoted Burnley.

"It's great for Wayne," said Ferguson after United made it two wins from their first three Premier League games.

"He's still a young lad and some players are at a club for many years and don't reach that total."

"Because of his age I'm sure he'll go on and score many more goals for us. He's a very important player for us."

## 'We were terrible'

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich captain Philipp Lahm admitted his side suffered a catastrophe in the first-half of their 2-1 defeat at minnows Mainz as the German giants slumped to their first league defeat of the season.

Bayern attacked hard after the break and Mainz's Niko Noveski turned Bayern sub Thomas Mueller's shot into his own net to reduce the arrears just two minutes after the restart, but it was not enough.

The defeat was Bayern's first loss to Mainz in seven league meetings and Lahm, standing in for the injured Mark van Bommel, said his side had gone in with the wrong attitude.

"If you don't have enough aggression and go into the game with the wrong attitude, it can make things difficult even in Mainz," said Germany defender Lahm.

"The first half was a catastrophe."

With two draws and a defeat this is not the kind of start wanted by Bayern coach Louis van Gaal who took over in July and replaced Jurgen Klinsmann after he was sacked in April having only been in charge for ten months.

The Dutchman has failed to impress with just two points from three games and, as Klinsmann discovered to his cost, Bayern bosses Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness only have limited reserves of patience.

"The way we started is very disappointing," said van Gaal. "It was a false start. We tried to put it right in the second half, but that's always too late in football."

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## Giants go goal crazy

AFP, London



Manchester United made amends for their humbling by Burnley as Wayne Rooney's double and Michael Owen's first goal for the Premier League champions inspired a 5-0 win at Wigan on Saturday.

Sir Alex Ferguson reacted to Wednesday's shock 1-0 loss at promoted Burnley by making seven changes and the United manager was rewarded with a superb second half display.

It took the revamped United line-up a while to find their rhythm but, after a goalless first half, Rooney struck in the 56th minute when he met a cross from former Wigan winger Antonio Valencia with a perfect header.

That was Rooney's 100th goal for United and it opened the floodgates.

Dimitar Berbatov put United in complete control in the 58th minute. The Bulgarian finished a flowing move by chipping over Chris Kirkland and shooting into an empty net.

Rooney ended any doubts about the result in the 65th minute when his shot deflected off Mario Melchiot and flashed past the wrong-footed Kirkland.

Owen, signed from Newcastle in the close-season, came off the bench to score for the first time since January with a sublime clipped finish.

Nani, who set up Owen's goal, got on the scoresheet himself in the 90th minute.

"You have to react to a defeat, that's always the challenge," Ferguson said. "We got a reaction, I thought our performance was really good."

"It's great for Wayne to get 100 goals. He's only a young lad and there are players who have been here longer who have got nowhere near that total."

"I'm pleased for Michael as well. He needed a goal, but he's one of the best finishers our country has had."

Arsenal maintained their impressive start to the season with a 4-1 victory over struggling Portsmouth at the Emirates Stadium that sent them top of the table.

The Gunners had confounded critics who wrote off their title hopes by thrashing Everton 6-1 last weekend, then winning at Celtic in the Champions League in midweek.

Wenger still made four changes to the side that beat Celtic, but it proved a successful move as French midfielder Abou Diaby, brought into the team for his 100th Arsenal appearance, opened the scoring in the 18th minute from

Eduardo's pass.

Diaby converted Emmanuel Eboué's cross for his second goal three minutes later but Portsmouth reduced the deficit when Younes Kaboul, out-jumping keeper Manuel Almunia, headed home in the 37th minute.

Any hopes of a fightback from Paul Hart's team were ended in the 51st minute through William Gallas's scrambled effort.

Aaron Ramsey confirmed Portsmouth's third successive defeat in the 68th minute with his first league goal for Wenger's team.

"We have had a brilliant start. It should create confidence and momentum," Wenger said.

"We now go into another week which will be another test against Celtic and then Manchester United. It looks to be exciting and interesting."

Manchester City striker Emmanuel Adebayor repaid another slice of his 25 million pounds transfer fee as the Togo star's cool finish sealed a 1-0 win over Wolverhampton at Eastlands.

City handed Carlos Tevez his full debut and the former Manchester United forward's cushioned 17th-minute pass picked out Adebayor, who drove in his second goal in two games since joining City from Arsenal.

Trinidad and Tobago forward Kenwyne Jones fired Sunderland to a 2-1 victory over Blackburn.

Sam Allardyce's Rovers, without defender Stephen Warnock as rumours of a move to Aston Villa gathered momentum, took the lead in the 21st minute when French defender Gael Givet smashed a long-range effort past Marton Fulop.

But Sunderland equalised after 32 minutes as Jones took advantage of a slip by Christopher Samba to slot home.

Jones wasn't finished there. In the 53rd minute he met Lee Cattermole's cross with a bullet header to seal the points for Steve Bruce's team.

Hull won for the first time in 13 league matches as Algeria striker Kamel Ghilas's first goal for the club earned a 1-0 victory over Bolton at the KC Stadium.

Ghilas was making his first start for the Tigers after signing from Spanish club Celta Vigo earlier this month.

He marked the occasion in the 61st minute with a blistering volley from Jozy Altidore's pass.

Stoke recovered from their midweek thrashing by Liverpool by grinding out a 0-0 draw at Birmingham.



PHOTO: AFP

Milan striker Pato (R) celebrates with teammate Ronaldinho after scoring his second goal against Siena during their opening day Serie A match at the Artemio Franchi in Siena on Saturday.

## Milan's bright start

AFP, Rome



Brazilians Pato and Ronaldinho proved there is life after Kaka as they

inspired AC Milan to a 2-1 victory at Siena in coach Leonardo's opening Serie A match in charge of the Italian giants on Saturday.

Pato scored a brace but it was his Brazilian compatriot Ronaldinho who created both goals to help countryman Leonardo begin his reign with a win and instantly ease the pain felt by Kaka's switch to Real Madrid.

The teenage Pato paid tribute to his strike partner.

"Everyone's talking about Ronaldinho, but he's brilliant, he's number one," he said. "He creates many chances for the other forwards. We're really happy with him, he's on his way back and it's easy playing with him."

It was a marked turnaround for Milan, who had lost eight out of 11 pre-season friendlies and although this success against relative minnows will not be decisive in the scudetto race, Ronaldinho's performance inspired some hope.

He may not have his explosive burst of pace of old, but he was incisive and creative, and almost scored with an ingenious second-half bicycle kick.

Leonardo praised his team for turning around their poor pre-season form.

"I've just seen a very positive response," said the coach. "And most of all great pride

following a pre-season that wasn't great."

"Ronaldinho can play any role in attack and he makes others score, that's one of his best traits."

Pato had the first clear chance of the game but his long range volley on 10 minutes was deflected behind for a corner.

Ronaldinho was impressive playing in the hole behind Pato and Marco Borriello, orchestrating the play from the position where Kaka used to roam.

On 19 minutes left-back Marek Jankulovski played a one-two with the Brazilian, who played him in on goal but the Czech could not beat Gianluca Curci from a tight angle.

Minutes later Pato steered home a Ronaldinho free-kick but it was ruled out as he had strayed marginally offside.

A goal was coming, though, and it arrived on 29 minutes as Ronaldinho slipped in Pato, thanks in no small part to some inattentive defending, and the teenager fired across Curci into the bottom corner.

The lead last only five minutes, though, as Siena scored with worrying ease for Leonardo.

Michele Fini's cross into the box landed at Lukas Jarolim's feet and the Czech was afforded time to shoot.

Marco Storari kept out that effort but Algeria forward Abdelkader Ghezzal was on hand to fire the rebound into the roof of the net.

Milan were quick out of the blocks in the second half and Ronaldinho was again the architect, playing Mathieu

Flamini in behind the defence before the France midfielder squared to Pato for an easy tap-in.

After Curci had tipped over Ronaldinho's acrobatic effort, Siena pushed forward and looked most likely to score but Storari kept out Daniele Ficina's header.

In the day's other game, Pablo Osvaldo gained revenge on his former employers as plucky Bologna held Fiorentina to a 1-1 draw.

The Argentine forward, who has represented Italy at under-21 level, scored 24 minutes into this match with a close range header from a corner to give hosts Bologna the lead after losing marker Gianluca Comotto.

The 23-year-old, who had an unsuccessful 18-month spell in Florence before being sold to Bologna in January, twice almost doubled the hosts' lead but French goalkeeper Sebastien Frey denied him.

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## Burdisso joins Roma

AFP, Rome

Argentine defender Nicolas Burdisso on Saturday joined AS Roma from Serie A rivals Inter Milan on loan for the season, the champions said.

The 28-year-old was a bit-part player under Inter coach Jose Mourinho last season.

He can play either at centre-back or full-back and will bolster a Roma defence that lost veteran Christian Panucci to Parma in the summer.

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich were humbled 2-1 by promoted minnows Mainz in the

Bundesliga on Saturday while the Bavarians' rivals Bayer Leverkusen routed Freiburg 5-0 to lead the table.

Bayern's new coach Louis van Gaal is still waiting for his first Bundesliga win since taking charge in July as his side were outplayed by Mainz.

Van Gaal left unfit midfielder Franck Ribery out of his squad, but the Frenchman is expected to be given game time for next Saturday's clash with champions Wolfsburg with Bayern

badly needing their playmaker back.

"I think everyone saw we started very badly," said Bayern's Dutch coach van Gaal.

"Our work-rate was disappointing from the beginning, which is why I made two changes early on."

"After this defeat, I will work hard and the team will work even harder."

"We know the importance of picking up points."

Bayern got off to a dreadful start, finding themselves 2-0 down after just 37 minutes.

Austrian midfielder Andreas Ivanschitz struck the first blow on 25 minutes when he collected the ball on the edge of the penalty area and curled his shot inside the near post and out of reach of Bayern goalkeeper Michael Rensing.

Burkino Faso striker



PHOTO: AFP

Mainz players Peter van der Heyden (L) and Milorad Pekovic celebrate after their famous 2-1 win in the Bundesliga over Bayern Munich in Mainz on Saturday.

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