

Manchester toasts Tevez

AFP, Manchester

 Carlos Tevez did his old side Manchester United a favour by scoring the winner as Manchester City beat leaders Chelsea 2-1 in the English Premier League on Saturday.

City's win, which followed a run of seven straight league draws, cut fellow big-spenders Chelsea's lead over second-placed United, the reigning champions, to just two points.

Chelsea, knocked out of the League Cup in a shoot-out on Wednesday by Blackburn, suffered further penalty misery when, at 2-1 down with eight minutes left, England midfielder Frank Lampard saw his spot-kick saved by Shay Given.

For Given, who recently suffered the agony of the Republic of Ireland's controversial World Cup playoff loss to France, this was a special win.

"It's been seven or eight games since a victory in the league," he told ESPN. "It's especially nice against Chelsea, a top team with great players."

Chelsea took an eighth-minute lead at a rain-drenched Eastlands when, from a debatable corner, the ball eventually fell to Nicolas Anelka, whose shot was saved by Given only for the rebound to hit Emmanuel Adebayor and go in for an own-goal.

But Adebayor scored at the right end seven minutes before half-time when he struck from close range although Chelsea were con-

vinced Micah Richards had handled in the build-up.

"We were unlucky for the first goal, the handball against Micah Richards. It was not a good day for the referee (Howard Webb)," said Carlo Ancelotti, the Chelsea manager.

But delighted City boss and ex-Chelsea forward Mark Hughes said: "Not many teams can come back against Chelsea. To show the character and quality that we did was

56th-minute free-kick that wrongfooted Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech.

United had earlier kept the pressure on with a 4-0 victory away to West Ham.

They went ahead on the stroke of half-time at Upton Park when veteran midfielder Paul Scholes unleashed a ferocious 20-yard shot.

Midfielder Darren Gibson, who scored both United's goals in their mid-week League Cup quarter-final win

over Tottenham, added a second with a right-footed shot into the top corner.

Antonio Valencia put the

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PHOTO: AFP

Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez is congratulated by teammate Robinho after scoring the winning goal against Chelsea in their Premier League clash at the City of Manchester Stadium on Saturday. Tevez's direct free-kick goal meant that Chelsea's lead at the top is now only down to two.

a fantastic effort by everybody."

Argentina striker Tevez then delighted both Manchester clubs by firing in a

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