



Inter Milan forward Goran Pandev is ecstatic after scoring the second goal against A.C. Milan during their Serie A encounter at San Siro on Sunday.

Inter win Milan derby AFP, Milan Beckham corner before Ronaldinho hit a



Nine man Inter Milan moved nine points clear at the top of Serie A after a 2-0 victory over arch-rivals AC Milan in a pulsating derby at the San Siro on Sunday.

The champions played for more than an hour with a numerical disadvantage after Wesley Sneijder was sent off but they dominated throughout to earn a richly deserved victory.

Milan may still have a game in hand on their neighbours but the psychological effect of such a crushing defeat will make the gap seem all the wider.

Milan may have come into the game as the form team in Serie A but Inter were clearly the more pumped up early on. Sneijder almost fired them in front with

a moment of outrageous skill, flicking the ball up and thrashing a 25-yard volley that glanced off the outside of the post. The Dutch playmaker should then have

given the hosts the lead as a ricochet from a Goran Pandev shot fell into his path as he broke into the box but he rammed his shot straight at goalkeeper Dida. Milan didn't seem to heed those warn-

ings and Inter deservedly took the lead on 10 minutes as Pandev's ball over the top

IN BRIEF

Man City table

Manchester City have made

an offer for Real Madrid's

Argentina midfielder

Fernando Gago, who is des-

perate to leave the club after

spending too much time or

the bench, a Spanish newspa-

Gago "will try until the end

to convince Madrid to let him

leave, and for that he is meet-

ing on Monday with (sporting

director) Jorge Valdando to

discuss his future," the daily

Manchester City, which is

ready to pay 15 million euros."

reluctant to let him go.

Fernando Redondo.

"The best offer is from

But it said Real appear

Gago, 23, joined Rea

Madrid in January 2007 from

Boca Juniors to replace

another Argentinian

this season on the bench, and

is keen for more first-team

play ahead of the World Cup in

But he has spent much of

Gago offer

per said Monday.

Marca said.

AFP, Madrid

saw Diego Milito get behind Ignazio Abate in the inside left channel and shoot low across Dida and into the far corner.

Inter were rampant and another break saw Pandev feed Milito on the inside right but Dida blocked his near post shot.

Inter were dominant and Sneijder was running the show but the referee changed that before the half hour was even up.

Inter centre-back Lucio burst forward into midfield and went down rather easily under a challenge but seeing that he still had the ball he got up and went to carry on, only for the referee to stop the game and bookhim for diving.

Inter were incensed and Sneijder's sarcastic gesture saw him sent off.

Sneijder was beside himself and needed to be dragged from the field by two team-mates.

Inter knuckled down, though, with stalwarts Javier Zanetti and Esteban Cambiasso looking to control the midfield.

Milan were disjointed and struggling to create anything, with their best chance coming from a heavily deflected Andrea Pirlo free-kick that wrong-footed Julio Cesar but looped up and landed on the roof of the net.

Milan came flying out in the second half and Julio Cesar saved a close range Clarence Seedorf header from a David swivelling volley just wide.

Inter were still dangerous on the counter and Milito almost made Milan pay with one break but the visitors were gradually imposing themselves with Beckham crosses from the right causing particular bother as Marco Borriello headed one just

But then from another brilliant break Milito slipped in Pandev who chipped Dida only to see the ball come back off the

post and into the Brazilian's grateful arms. But on 65 minutes Giuseppe Favalli brought down Maicon on the edge of the box and Pandev stepped up to curl home a

free-kick Dida could do nothing about. Tellingly, it was only then that Mourinho removed one of his forwards.

Milan, a disappointment for all but the beginning of the second half, could only muster wild pot shots from distance in the closing stages.

In injury time Lucio was dismissed for a second booking as he gave away a penalty but Julio Cesar plunged to his right to beat out Ronaldinho's effort and complete Milan's misery.

Earlier in the day Napoli won 2-0 at Livorno to move to within a point of thirdplaced AS Roma while Palermo's 3-0 defeat of Fiorentina moved them up to fifth.

Ruud drops Holland hint

AFP, Hamburg

Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy said he has joined Bundesliga side Hamburg in a bid to win back his place in the Holland team before this summer's World Cup in South The 33-year-old made his

last appearance in the orange shirt of Holland after his side were beaten in the quarterfinals by Russia at Euro 2008, but has hinted he would like to play for the Netherlands

"I want to deliver the goods in the shirt of Hamburg and to win things with this team," said the Dutch star, who signed from Real Madrid on Saturday, on the club's website.

"I hope the Dutch selectors will contact me again so I can take part in the World Cup."

The hot-shot forward scored 33 goals for Holland in 64 matches, but announced his retirement for a second time following Euro 2008 after a disagreement with then coach Marco van Basten.

But Hamburg have pulled off something of a coup by signing the Dutch striker and the former Manchester United

star said he was eager to join. "The Bundesliga has always interested me and is

one of the reasons why accepted Hamburg's offer,' said van Basten.

"In my opinion, this is one of the best leagues in the world alongside Spain and England."

Van Nistelrooy has signed a contract until June 2011 and Hamburg are reported to have spent 4 million euros (5.65 million US dollars) on bringing the Dutchman to the Hanseatic City.

Vieira sure of WC chance

AFP, Paris

New Manchester City recruit Patrick Vieira says he has a "100 per cent chance" of playing for France at next summer's World Cup finals, despite having not represented his country since June

"As I'm an optimist, I'm going to say 100 per cent," he said in response to a question about his chances of playing in South Africa on the Canal Football Club television show on Sunday evening.

"The desire is there, it's my goal. In my head, I don't see myself missing the World

Vieira, who has yet to play for his new club, admitted that he had received "no guarantees" from France coach Raymond Domenech, who he met shortly before Christmas, and conceded that the situation "is not as simple as that".

"But he said that as soon as I'm playing, there's no reason why I shouldn't be selected,' said Vieira, whose last France appearance saw him captain Les Bleus to a 1-0 defeat against Nigeria in Saint-Etienne last June.

"You have to play, which is the important thing for me. I have five months."

Vieira, 33, was a member of the France team that won the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championship and has 107 caps.

He joined City from reigning Italian champions Inter Milan on January 8.

Algeria stun Ivory Coast Ghana dump hosts lead when Chelsea striker Jose, who died on Sunday AFP, Luanda



Algeria and Ghana are one step away from the Africa Cup of Nations final after stunning favourites **Ivory Coast and**

hosts Angola respectively on Sunday. Ivory Coast were sent

packing by a 3-2 extra time loss to fellow World Cup qualifiers Algeria in the evening's second quarterfinal up in the northern province of Cabinda. Algeria's reward could be a

date with bitter rivals Egypt, in what would be a repeat of their fractious World Cup play-off in November, if the defending champions see off Cameroon in Benguela on Monday. The Desert Foxes fell 2-1

behind on 89 minutes to a brilliant Abdulkader Keita goal only for Rangers defender Madjid Bougherra to level in stoppage time and unmarked substitute Hamer Bouazza headed a 92nd-minute farpost winner.

Drama continued to the end with television replays suggesting a late shot from Ivorian defender Kolo Toure that found the net was wrongly judged offside by an assistant referee.

Didier Drogba's Elephants had raced into a fourth minute

Leverkusen's 3-0 win over

Hoffenheim that knocked his

parent club Bayern Munich off

Kroos is on loan at

Leverkusen from Bayern and

the midfielder demonstrated

what his employers are missing

by creating two goals and then

scoring one of his own in the

second-half-his fifth in the last

The Germany Under-21

star, who only turned 20 earlier

this month, showcased the

class that has led Bayern chair-

man Karl-Heinz Rummenigge

to insist he will be returning to

Munich at the end of the sea-

After Bayern beat Werder

Bremen 3-2 on Saturday to

temporarily take over at the top

of the table, Leverkusen's win

puts them back on top of the

Bundesliga with a two-point

advantage, while Bayern drop

when Kroos curled in a free-

kick from the flanks and

defender Sami Hyypia slotted

home from three-metres out

past Hoffenheim goalkeeper

Timo Hildebrand after 11

from Swiss striker Eren

Derdiyok on 51 minutes before

providing the final pass for

Tranquillo Barnetta to slot

home on 71 minutes and seal a

win that leaves Hoffenheim

glers Cologne earned their

second win in three games

after inflicting a shock 3-2

Earlier, Bundesliga strug-

ninth in the table.

Kroos then turned in a cross

Leverkusen took the lead

to second.

minutes.

the top of the table.

four league games.

Rising star

Toni Kroos

was both

chief

playmaker

goalscorer

on Sunday

AFP, Berlin

Salomon Kalou scored after a goalmouth scramble with Germany-based Karim Matmour levelling on 40 minutes.

Algeria looked to be heading home early after opening their Cup campaign with a poor 3-0 loss to Malawi, but a win over Mali and a goalless draw against Angola put them into the last eight, and now they have the final in their "This victory is for Algeria,

some people won't be able to speak now, we've silenced our critics and proved that we are worthy World Cup finalists, said 27-year-old Bougherra. Earlier, in Sunday's first quarterfinal, Angola crashed

out, losing 1-0 to another World Cup-bound team Ghana, to end their dreams of winning the title on home soil. Four-time winners Ghana, seeking their fifth continental crown after a yawning 28-year

Lubango between surprise packets Zambia and Nigeria. Both semifinals are scheduled for Thursday as the 2010 Africa Cup of Nations reaches

drought, will face the winner

of Monday's quarterfinal in

its climax. A minute's silence preceded Angola's game, held in memory of the victims of the Haiti earthquake and for the father of Angola coach Manuel

defeat on defending champi-

ons Wolfsburg, who have now

gone seven league games

missing with a back injury,

Cologne showed they can do

without their Germany star

and managed to defend for all

they were worth to hold on at

Robinho ready

Brazilian winger Robinho

revealed on Sunday English

Premiership side Manchester

City are ready to agree to a loan

move to Santos, where he

began his career in his home-

the best thing for now was to

loan me out. Club officials

have already told me that,"

Robinho told a local Brazilian

impress since joining a sea-

son-and-a-half ago from Real

Madrid for a British record

32.5 million pounds, having

been in earlier negotiations

style has seen him fall out with

City bosses and new manager

Roberto Mancini earlier this

month hauled him off in a

defeat by Everton - having

earlier sent him on from the

that Robinho would play some

games and not others - but in a

World Cup year the player is

hoping to show his value to his

return to play for Santos. This

would help me in terms of the

"Santos is my home -

World Cup," said Robinho.

know everyone there."

"It would be exceptional to

Mancini also recently said

The 25-year-old's laconic

Robinho has struggled to

"The club (City) considered

to leave City

With striker Lukas Podolski

Kroos fires Bayer

without a win.

AFP, Brasilia

land.

radio station.

with Chelsea.

bench.

country.

morning in Portugal.

Angola welcomed back their three-goal hero Flavio but it was Ghana, missing a raft of top players, who shot into a 16th minute lead thanks to Asamoah Gyan.

Hard as Angola tried they were unable to cancel that out, although former Manchester United and Hull striker Manucho certainly had his chances. Ghana's Serbian coach

Milovan Rajevic said: "Of course we are missing players like (Michael) Essien, (Stephen) Appiah and Anthony Annan. We have had to call up a lot of new players but what I have here is a team with a very competitive spirit and a com-

petitive style of play. "There is an excellent atmosphere in our team which is very important."

"I have to leave for Portugal now to attend the funeral of my father," Jose told a hushed post-match press conference.

"But I am leaving proud to

be coach of this team. They

finish in this competition with their heads held high. "Ghana took their first chance to score and we did everything we could to get a

goal ourselves.

We had a couple of chances but we didn't have the luck, they (Ghana) did."

claim the three points.

immense pressure and it

remains to be seen whether he

will be in charge for their next

midfielder Kevin Pezzoni

slipped his marker after seven

minutes to head home, but

Wolfsburg fought back when

Christian Gentner levelled

Freis then managed to hold off

the challenge of two defenders

and the goalkeeper to slot his

shot into the back of the net on

The home side responded

immediately through Portugal

defender Ricardo Costa, but

Cologne were not to be denied

only their fifth win of the sea-

son and on 74 minutes Fries

played Adil Chihi into space

and he drilled his shot past

Wolfsburg goalkeeper Andre

10th and Cologne 13th, but

shouts of "Veh out!" will not have

been ignored by the Wolves

coach, who is now looking in

Slovakia striker Stanislav

Sestak robbed Schalke of the

chance to go top as the Royal

Blues were held 2-2 by

The result left Felix Magath-

coached Schalke third in the

table and Borussia Dortmund

are up to fourth after a 1-0 win

at home to Hamburg on

Having picked up only their

second win of the season last

weekend, bottom side Hertha

Berlin were held 0-0 at home by

Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Slomka got off to a losing start

when his side were beaten 1-0

at mid-table Mainz - their

eighth game without a win -

which leaves them 16th.

New Hanover boss Mirko

Saturday evening.

An injury-time goal from

danger of losing his job.

The result leaves Wolfsburg

Cologne striker Sebastian

after only 21 minutes.

57 minutes.

Lenz.

Bochum.

Cologne took the lead when

game at Hamburg on Friday.

South Africa in June. Fan dies during

Milan derby AFP, Rome

A51-year-old man died during Sunday night's Milan derby between Inter and AC at the San Siro after suffering a suspected cardiac arrest.

The man was from Cesano Maderno in the Milanese outskirts and was in a section of the stadium containing sets of fans from both teams. The man was treated in the

stadium by the emergency the Volkswagen Arena and services but died during transport to hospital. The defeat leaves Wolfsburg coach Armin Veh under

Inter won the match 2-0 to go nine points clear of their arch-rivals at the top of Serie A despite finishing the game with nine men.

Cantona to debut in Paris stage

AFP, Paris

Manchester United legend Eric Cantona takes his artistic postfootball career in new directions this week when he appears on the Paris stage in what is touted as one of France's theatrical events of the year.

Čantona will play a dying man half-buried in the rubble of a collapsed building in a new play directed by his actress wife Rachida Brakni at the Theatre Marigny just off the Champs Elysees.

The 43-year-old, who thrilled crowds of tens of thousands during his stint in the 1990s at Manchester United, will act before an audience of just 400 in this latest stage of his acting career. He has already had roles in

several cinema and television movies, making the jump from green pitch to silver screen as effortlessly as his notorious 1995 leap over the crowd barrier to deliver a kung-fu kick to a heckling fan. The pinnacle of his film

career came last year when he played himself in Ken Loach's critically acclaimed comedy "Looking for Eric," appearing like a vision to mentor a Manchester postman whose life is spiralling out of control.

But, while he has produced a couple of plays, he has never performed live to a theatre audience. So Tuesday's preseconds. miere of the two-hander "Face au Paradis" (Faced with Paradise) by Nathalie Saugeon, is a gamble for him.

C'Ron scores, sees red AFP, Madrid for the first half of the season ended on 70 minutes when he



Cristiano Ronaldo spoilt a stellar twogoal display by getting sent off for a stray elbow

as Real Madrid closed to within five points of league leaders Barcelona with a 2-0 win over Malaga at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday. It was all going swimmingly

for Ronaldo who had ended a run of three games without a goal with a quick-fire brace (35th and 39th minutes) to take his season's tally to nine but his volatile temperament surfaced again on 70 minutes. Ronaldo elbowed defender

no hesitation in reaching for the red card. It was a second dismissal of the season for Ronaldo who

was sent off in a 4-2 win over Almeria on December 5 for kicking out at an opponent. While Ronaldo's sending off put a dampener on the win, Real will be relieved to bounce

home win to close to within five points of Barcelona. Barcelona beat Valladolid 3-0 on Saturday to go unbeaten

although no Spanish team has gone a whole 38-game season Guti, 33, made his first

with coach Manuel Pellegrini and even had the captain's armband with Raul on the With eight minutes gone

and looped onto the bar. Iker Casillas had a hairy moment near the half hour mark with the goalkeeper

Ronaldo then took centre stage with two goals in four destructive minutes.

Kaka all combined quickly to put the ball on a plate for Ronaldo to roll home the 35th minute opener. Malaga then witnessed

Ronaldo in full flow as he cola fierce shot into the corner.

10 games unbeaten in league, although eight of them were draws, but they knew there was no comeback this time around.

In the second half Ronaldo was gunning for his first ever Real hattrick but instead the red mist descended again and his night

elbowed Mtiliga in the face. Getafe came out on top in the local derby with Atletico

move four points off the Since winning promotion in 2004, Getafe had never beaten local rivals Atletico in the league at their Coliseum

victories and they are now ten

points off the top six. Both Atletico and Getafe are

Earlier Valencia missed the chance to keep pace with the

ahead of Real Mallorca, who reclaimed fourth spot with a 1-1 draw at Espanyol on Sunday.

got back to winning ways with a 4-2 victory over struggling Real Zaragoza at El Madrigal.

European places.



BAD BOY C'RON! Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo (R) hits Malaga defender Patrick Mtiliga with his

AFP, London



ber of the Premier League's elite to suffer an early exit from the FA Cup as Ricardo Fuller's double

Arsenal

became the

latest mem-

strike inspired Stoke's 3-1 win over the Gunners in the fourth

bled by League One Leeds, and Liverpool, shocked by Reading, both perished in the third round and Arsene Wenger's much-changed side were condemned to an equally chastening defeat at the Britannia Stadium.

remain vulnerable to physical opponents, Fuller underlined his pre-match jibe by heading the hosts into the lead after 70 The Gunners defence,

including debutant Sol Campbell, failed to deal with Rory Delap's trademark long-

undefeated. league start for Real since September after healing his rift

> Malaga rattled the crossbar when Sergio Duda's cross came off Xabi Alonso's head

bizarrely using his head to block a chipped shot as he was outside of the area. Patrick Mtiliga as he tugged the

former Manchester United Guti, Karim Benzema and man's shirt and the referee had

> lected Guti's pass before firing Malaga had previously gone

back from their Athletic Bilbao defeat with a 10th successive Madrid defeating their 10-man neighbours 1-0 on Sunday to Champions League spots.

Alfonso Perez home but Manu del Moral's 38th minute goal ended that sequence. For Atletico, who had midfielder Paulo Assuncao sent off, it brought an end to a run of three successive league

in Kings Cup action on Thursday as they bid to reach the semi-finals of the competi-

top two following a frustrating 0-0 draw at promoted Tenerife on Sunday. Valencia sit five points

In other matches, Villarreal

Despite the win Villarreal are still down in ninth, seven points off the desired

right arm during their Primera Liga clash at Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday. Ronaldo was sent off for the violent foul.

Fuller sinks Gunners

from close-range.

throw and Fuller nipped in

the 42nd minute when

Denilson's shot trickled past

Thomas Sorensen after deflect-

twice against Arsenal last

season, proved a thorn in their

side yet again in the 78th min-

international Fuller escaped

Campbell's attentions to head

Dean Whitehead ensured

Wenger insisted he had no

Mamady Sidibe crossed

But Fuller, who had scored

ing off two Stoke defenders.

round on Sunday. Manchester United, hum-

Arsenal would suffer their first defeat in 10 matches when he turned in Matthew Etherington's cross with four minutes to play. After claiming that Arsenal regrets about his team selec-

tion as Arsenal have so many key league games coming soon. "I wanted to win this game and I don't regret the team I picked, I did not have much choice," he said. In the day's other game,

past Fabianski.

Manchester City eased into the

front of hesitant goalkeeper Championship strugglers Scunthorpe at Glanford Park. Lukasz Fabianski to head home City's under-strength side took the lead in the third min-Wenger's team drew level in

ute when Bulgaria midfielder Martin Petrov smashed a blistering strike past Joe Murphy. The underdogs hit back in the 29th minute when Paul

last 16 with a 4-2 win over

Hayes took advantage of a debatable offside decision to volley home. Nedem Onouha restored City's lead in first half stoppage

Stephen Ireland's delicate chipped pass opened up the Scunthorpe defence. Brazilian defender Sylvinho seemed to have put City in complete control when he launched a fabulous long-

from the right and Jamaican time with a low strike after

57th minute. Scunthorpe refused to go quietly and City's young defender Dedryck Boyata gave them hope in the 69th minute when he deflected Cliff Byrne's shot into his own net.

range effort past Murphy in the

Any hopes of a replay were extinguished in the 84th minute when Robinho ran onto Petrov's pass and shot into the roof of the net.