



(L) Arsenal striker Theo Walcott celebrates after completing his hattrick during their Premier League match against Blackpool at the Emirates Stadium in London on Saturday. (R) Tottenham Hotspur winger Gareth Bale jubilates after scoring an absolutely stunning goal in their Premier League match against Stoke City at the Britannia Stadium on Saturday.

Stewardess lays Boateng low

AFP, Berlin
Germany defender Jerome Boateng is out of next month's opening Euro 2012 qualifiers with a knee injury aggravated by a clumsy air stewardess, he revealed on Saturday.
With Germany facing Belgium in Brussels on September 3 and Azerbaijan in Cologne on September 7, Boateng has been sidelined for the next month, partly because of a bizarre accident on a flight from Copenhagen.
The Manchester City defender must wait at least another month for his debut in the English Premier League since his 12.5 million transfer from Hamburg - because of an accident with an airplane's drinks trolley.
He injured his knee in Germany's 2-2 draw against Denmark in a friendly on August 11 and then had the injury aggravated when a stewardess ran her drinks trolley into Boateng's knee by accident on the flight home.
"It's annoying, I imagined my start at Manchester City to be quite different, of course," said the 22-year-old on the website Sport1.
"Next Wednesday, I'm up travelling to see (the German team's doctor) Dr Muller-Wohlfahrt in Munich for treatment.
"Even in my first game with Manchester against Valencia (in a friendly), I had problems with the knee from the match in Copenhagen."

Kuyt flirts with Inter Milan

INTERNET
Liverpool have received an offer from European champions Inter Milan for Dirk Kuyt.
Kuyt's agent revealed earlier in the week that Inter were keen to sign the Dutchman and it seems the player has been informed of their interest by Liverpool.
"On Thursday night, during the Europa League game against Trabzonspor, the board of Liverpool informed me officially that they have received a fax from Inter," Kuyt is quoted as saying in the Mail on Sunday.
"You can call this a luxury situation for me now."
Former Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez is now in charge at the San Siro and is reported to have made £15 million bid for Kuyt, who he originally signed from Feyenoord.
But on Saturday, current Liverpool boss Roy Hodgson said, "I spoke to [Inter president] Massimo Moratti about the fact they are not going to buy Liverpool players."
"I believe they were only interested in two of our players and are not going to buy them. Moratti said they are not going to do that."

'Electric Walcott'

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger believes Arsenal are already beginning to benefit from Fabio Capello's decision to omit Theo Walcott from the England World Cup squad.
Walcott bagged a hattrick as the Gunners crushed Blackpool 6-0 at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday with an Andrey Arshavin penalty and goals from Abou Diaby and Marouane Chamakh - his first for the club - completing the scoring.
And Arsenal manager Wenger believes Walcott's impressive finishing and all-round play is further evidence that the 21-year-old is maturing as a player and is determined to put the disappointment of the World Cup snub behind him.
"He is more electric than he has been," said Wenger. "He was sharp. I like the way he

shrugged off the injuries that have hindered his development over the previous two campaigns.
"He looks better for the break," Wenger added. "He's had good preparation for the first time in a long, long time."
"Without being interrupted by an injury or coming back late. You can see that. For two or three weeks now he's been sharp because he's had a good preparation."
And Wenger insists Walcott has recovered from the shock of being overlooked by Capello and is now even more determined to prove the Italian wrong.
Wenger said: "He is a guy who keeps his feet on the ground. He takes life in a positive way. The glass is half full, not half empty. So he took that as another challenge. That's what's amazing about Theo."
"He is 21, he is now at an age when players normally start. He is not at the peak of his game. He has to keep his attitude right. And he has to avoid injury."

RESULTS
Arsenal 6 (Walcott 12, 39, 58, Arshavin 32-pen, Diaby 49, Chamakh 83) Blackpool 0
Birmingham 2 (Gardner 57, 71) Blackburn 1 (Nzonzi 54)
Everton 1 (Cahill 43) Wolves 1 (Ebanks-Blake 74)
Stoke 1 (Fuller 25)
Tottenham 2 (Bale 19, 30)
West Brom 1 (Odemwinguie 81) Sunderland 0
West Ham 1 (Noble 79-pen) Bolton 3 (Upson 48-og, Elmander 68, 84)
Wigan 0 Chelsea 6 (Malouda 34, Anelka 48, 52, Kalou 78, 90,



Inter Milan players celebrate their Italian Super Cup victory over Roma at the San Siro in Milan on Saturday.

Inter's trophy run on

AFP, Rome

gifting Inter a route back when leading 1-0.
"When we led 1-0 we gifted them the equaliser, until (Vucinic) did that things were going well, the 3-1 was not a fair reflection," he said.
"We're working hard but it's not easy adapting to new systems and players, I was expecting more from everyone."
Roma made a bright start and could have been a couple of goals to the good before they finally did take the lead.
Mirko Vucinic had the first opportunity when he took

got the goal their domination deserved.
Totti was again the architect as he took a pass from David Pizarro and then slipped a perfectly weighted ball in behind the defence for the marauding John-Arne Riise to hold off Javier Zanetti and finish first-time from the edge of the box.
Roma seemed to be cruising to a half-time lead until a shocking error from Vucinic handed Inter an equaliser four minutes before the break.
The Montenegro striker picked up the ball deep in the corner in Roma's half but played an inaccurate pass straight back into his own area.
Brazilian centre-back Juan could not reach it allowing Goran Pandev to pounce from eight yards out to beat Bogdan Lobont in the Roma goal.
Roma were back on top after the break as Menez, in inspired form, lashed a stunning volley from wide right just past the far post.
Cesar then had to be alert to beat out a vicious Riise free-kick.
Inter should have been in front on 64 minutes when Esteban Cambiasso played Eto'o in behind the defence and he crossed for Diego Milito to tap home from close range.

RESULT
Inter Milan 3 (Pandev 41, Eto'o 70, 80) AS Roma 1 (Riise 21)

advantage of a high Inter defensive line, running onto a sublime pass from Francesco Totti to home in on goalkeeper Julio Cesar.
Vucinic, however, shot straight at Cesar who stood up big to make the block on 11 minutes.
Four minutes later, Jeremy Menez scampered away down the right before cutting inside, beating Walter Samuel with consummate ease before curling the ball wide of the far post.
But on 21 minutes, Roma

former Arsenal captain William Gallas has completed his move to north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, the English Premiership club announced on Sunday.
"We are delighted to announce the signing of William Gallas on a one-year deal," said a statement on the Tottenham website.
The 33-year-old French central defender was out of contract with Arsenal where he spent four seasons. He had previously played for Chelsea, Caen and Marseille.
Gallas was left looking for new employers after Arsenal baulked at his high wage demands, reportedly 80,000 pounds a week, and opted to release the former Chelsea star.
But Spurs boss Harry Redknapp believes the chance to sign such an experienced international was too good to turn down.
With Jonathan Woodgate still out with a long-term groin injury and captain Ledley King plagued by knee problems that have the potential to limit his playing time, Redknapp has been keen to bolster his defensive resources.
"He's a no-brainer on a free transfer, Redknapp said on Friday. "He's never asked for big money here. The chairman's agreed a one-year contract with him and the wages are more than reasonable."

Van Gaal says Micho can leave

AFP, Munich

Rebel Argentine defender Martin Demichelis can leave Bayern Munich if he wants to, coach Louis van Gaal said Sunday.
The 29-year-old refused to attend Friday's 2-1 win over Wolfsburg, the opening game of the new Bundesliga season, after finding out he had lost his place in the centre of Bayern's defence.
Van Gaal opted to select Belgium's Daniel van Buyten and Germany's Holger Badstuber and the Argentinian Demichelis refused to take his place on the bench.
"He can go if he wants to, it would be no problem for me," said Dutchman van Gaal.
"We still have Maximilian Haas (the captain of Bayern's reserves)."
Demichelis trained with the reserves on Saturday, but after saying he wanted a transfer out of Munich on Friday, he seems to have calmed down.
"The situation was planned," he told Bild on Sunday.
"The coach and I had a good conversation."
But in Argentinian newspaper Ole, he was quoted as saying he "was in negotiations with another club", and could be transferred this week before the window closes on August 31.
"I am now trying to investigate everything because I will not stand there like a rebellious child," he was quoted as saying.
Demichelis' behaviour put a damper on Bayern's opening win of the season as Bastian Schweinsteiger's injury-time winner gave the defending champions three points.

Gallas seals Spurs deal

AFP, London

keeper stranded as it finished 4-1 at the break and stayed that way.
A late goal by ex-Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy gave Hamburg three points and sealed a 2-1 win over ten-man Schalke 04 on Saturday night after Royal Blues defender Benedikt Howedes was sent off after an hour.
Dutch striker van Nistelrooy scored either side of half-time, including a late winner after Schalke's Jefferson Farfan had equalised with a dream flick of the foot on 80 minutes.
"It turned out well, that was a super day," said van Nistelrooy with former Real Madrid teammate Raul making his league debut for Schalke.
"For me it was not a duel against Raul, he is a mate and friend."
"Today I scored the goals, but next time it could be him."
Earlier, Bundesliga history was made in Cologne as Lebanon defender Youssef Mohamad earned the fastest ever red card when he was sent off just 92 seconds into the new season in the 3-1 defeat against newly-promoted Kaiserslautern.

Gunners run riot Chelsea roll over Wigan

INTERNET, Undated

Theo Walcott scored a hattrick as Arsenal hammered Blackpool 6-0 on Saturday, while Chelsea beat Wigan Athletic 6-0 to go two points clear at the top.
Arsenal, playing magnificent, flowing football, were ahead inside 12 minutes, Tomas Rosicky and Andrei Arshavin working the ball along the top of the box for Walcott to sidefoot past Matt Gilks.
A difficult job became impossible for Blackpool after 31 minutes as Ian Evatt was sent off for a professional foul on Marouane Chamakh.
Initial contact was just outside the box, but referee Michael Jones gave a penalty and Arshavin converted.
Walcott added a third after a neat turn inside the box on 39 minutes, and Abou Diaby smashed a brilliant fourth from a Bacary Sagna cross four minutes after half-time.
The pair then combined for Walcott to shape in his hattrick goal after 58 minutes.
Chamakh headed his first Arsenal goal from a Robin van Persie corner with seven minutes to go.
Chelsea were made to work at Wigan, but having gone ahead six minutes before half-time as Florent Malouda followed in after Chris Kirkland had saved Frank Lampard's effort, they were comfortable 6-0 victors for the second week running.
Nicolas Anelka added a second from a narrow angle three minutes into the second half,

Bremen capitulate

AFP, Berlin

in six minutes.
The rout started when teenager Peniel Mlapa slotted coolly past Bremen's Germany goalkeeper Tim Wiese on 37 minutes.
Striker Vedad Ibisevic then made it 3-1 when Frings was robbed of possession by Brazilian midfielder Luiz Gustavo, sprinted downfield and put in a superb pass for his Bosnian teammate to convert on 41 minutes.
Bremen's misery was compounded just two minutes later when Sejad Salihovic curled in a free-kick which left the Werder goal-keeper stranded as it finished 4-1 at the break and stayed that way.
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and headed another from an offside position as Didier Drogba returned the ball across goal two minutes later.
Salomon Kalou then rolled in a fourth after more unselfish play from Drogba and headed a fifth from a Drogba cross in injury-time.
Yossi Benayoun scored the late sixth.
Gareth Bale scored twice, the second a brilliant volley, as Tottenham won 2-1 at Stoke City.
Stoke debutant Jon Walters seemed to have levelled in the final minute, but referee Chris Foy ruled his effort had not crossed the line before being cleared by Peter Crouch.
Bolton Wanderers won their first game of the season, beating West Ham United 3-1 at Upton Park.
West Ham had much the better of a first half in which Carlton Cole missed a penalty, but fell behind after 49 minutes as Matthew Upson headed into his own net under pressure from Kevin Davies.
Two second-half goals from Johan Elmander either side of a Mark Noble penalty sealed the win.
Craig Gardner also scored twice as Birmingham City came from behind to beat Blackburn Rovers 2-1, Ben Foster saving a Morten Gamst Pedersen penalty.
West Bromwich Albion won their first game of the season, Peter Odemwinguie getting the only goal on his debut.
Everton's poor start continued as they could only draw 1-1 with Wolverhampton Wanderers.
Tim Cahill fired Everton ahead on 43 minutes after a Mikel Arteta free-kick had been blocked, but Sylvain Ebanks-Blake levelled 18 minutes from time.

Magath backs Raul to shine

SOCERNET

Schalke coach Felix Magath believes Raul will be a hit in the Bundesliga this season even though he failed to convince on his debut for the club on Saturday.
The former Real Madrid striker lasted just over an hour in the 2-1 defeat at Hamburg but Magath insists the opposition did not provide the ideal situation for the Spaniard.
"He is not a player who thrives on counter-attacks," said Magath. "He is not really able to prove himself. You cannot really evaluate his performance today."
Magath had to sacrifice Raul after Benedikt Howedes was shown a red card for a foul on Jonathan Pitroipa which the Schalke coach said was "exaggerated" and had "influenced the game in a big way".
"Referees need to be more careful in future in situations like that," added Magath, who nevertheless praised his side for equalising with only 10 men.
"Our morale was good," he said. "Not every team manages to score an equaliser against a strong opponent like HSV with just 10 men."

LATEST
Newcastle 6 (Barton 12, Nolan 31, 87,

RESULTS
Hoffenheim 4 (Demba Ba 20, Peniel Mlapa 37, Ibisevic 41, Simunic 43)
Werder Bremen 1 (Frings 3-pen)
Borussia M'gladbach 1 (Mohamadou Idrissou 31) Nuremberg 1 (Jens Hegeler 15)
Cologne 1 (Novakovic 8)
Kaiserslautern 3 (Lalick 70, 84, Ilievic 88)
Freiburg 1 (Cisse 78) St. Pauli 3 (Boll 83, Sukuta-Pasu 89, Fin Bartels 90+1)
Hambourg 2 (van Nistelrooy 46, 83)

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