## Tevez at the double

AFP, Manchester



Carlos Tevez scored twice as Manchester City overpowered Liverpool 3-0 at Eastlands side. here on Monday.

James Milner, on his City debut, set up his former Aston Villa team-mate Gareth Barry to side-foot in the first goal in the 13th minute.

And the Argentina striker got on the end of Micah Richards's header seven minutes into the second half.

Liverpool -- without Javier Mascherano amid reports the Argentina international was on his way to Barcelona -- saw captain Steven Gerrard hit the post with a powerful shot.

And in the ensuing scramble City goalkeeper Joe Hart made a fine double save to deny both David Ngog and Fernando Torres.

Tevez made the game safe from the penalty spot after Adam Johnson was brought down by Martin Skrtel.

City manager Roberto Mancini said it was too soon to call his expensively-assembled side title contenders.

"I don't know this," the Italian said. "I think it's important to improve game after game, we need to gel. We need the time to become a strong squad."

Defeat left Liverpool with just one point from two games after their initial draw with Arsenal but manager Roy Hodgson pleaded for a sense of perspective about the results.

"We are only two matches into the season," he said. "We had Arsenal in the first game which we had to play with 10 men (after Joe Cole's sendingoff) and then a strong Manchester City side.

"It's a bit premature to start discussing how big the match is," former Fulham manager Hodgson added.

"Hopefully in the next 36 games we can take some points."

City's win came as their billionaire owner Sheikh Mansour visited the ground for the first time since buying the club two years ago and he was treated to a stunning performance from his

It would have been much worse for Liverpool had City, with Adam Johnson in sensational form, taken half the chances they created.

City fans hoping for a glimpse of 25-millionpound striker Mario Balotelli were left disappointed as he looked on from the sidelines as he recovered from a knee-cartilage injury that forced him to miss training on Sunday.

Johnson started the move that led to City's opener with a delightful pass to Milner. He squared to an unmarked Barry, who moved from Villa to Eastlands last year for 12 million pounds, to score from 10 yards, the England midfielder's third Premier League goal for City.

Liverpool were subdued and clearly missed Mascherano's influence in midfield as Tevez burst into the danger area before firing into the side netting.

They were no better after the break and two goals in the space of 16 minutes from Tevez sealed the worst night of Hodgson's spell in charge so far.

Liverpool's defence was again all at sea as Tevez scrambled the ball over the line from close range after a powerful header by Richards.

The visitors were clearly shell-shocked. Gerrard tried to rally his side but even the Liverpool captain could not ride to the rescue on this occasion.

City's battling qualities were highlighted in the 58th minute when, after Gerrard had been denied by the woodwork, Ngog had a shot saved by Hart before Torres had a follow up effort charged down.

Liverpool's wretched night was complete when Skrtel brought down man-of-the-match Johnson in the box and Tevez beat Pepe Reina from the spot.



Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez (C) scores the first of his two goals against Liverpool during their Premier League encounter at the City of Manchester Stadium on Monday.

## Moratti defends selection policy

**Football** 

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti defended his club's selection policy that includes no Italians in the first XI by aiming a swipe at their major rivals AC Milan and

Inter Milan, who rarely fielded an Italian in their starting line-up last season, were once again completely foreign when they took to the field on Saturday for the Italian Supercup against AS Roma, a game they won 3-1.

Since selling young Italy striking talent Mario Balotelli to Manchester City, they have even fewer options to select a home grown player this season.

But Moratti took to his soap box in an interview with TG1 on Tuesday to remind the country that it was not they but Inter's main rivals Milan and Juventus who were punished in the infamous 2006 Calciopoli match-fixing scandal.

Asked if Inter were partly to blame for the crisis in Italian football -- the national team was bundled out of the World Cup in the group stages -- was due to the best team in the country not fielding Italians, the president was unequivocal.

"Not at all. It has nothing to do with that at all. I would be more proud of the fact that Inter have given this country the possibility to be first

Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho has

accepted Manchester City are "dominant in the

market" after outbidding the Spanish giants to

Kolarov joined City last month for 16 million

pounds as part of the breathtaking spending

spree which has seen Sheikh Mansour, the

Premier League club's wealthy owner, spend

more than 100 million pounds on the north-

Former Chelsea boss Mourinho, who joined

Madrid after leading Inter Milan to a domestic

and European treble last season, said even a

club the size of Real could not compete with

compete with them for a player it is very diffi-

cult, they are dominant in the market,"

they get," the Portuguese added. I was inter-

ested in Kolarov when I came here but I could-

n't compete with them as they went to values

"I understand that if someone wants to

"The player they say they want is the player

sign Serbia full-back Aleksander Kolarov.

**Football** 

AFP, London

west English side.

City's cheque book.

Mourinho told Sky Sports.

in everything," he said referring to the club's treble last season.

"People always try to find a fault in those who win but it's better to be multi-ethnic than buying matches."

Moratti also claimed that it was normal for Inter to be unpopular in the rest of Italy, much as Manchester United have long been in England, because others are always jealous of those that win.

"If it was normal (that Inter are hated) it's justified by the fact that if I was the other team that had tried to win but hadn't managed it, of course I wouldn't like the one that had won. That's natural." Inter have won four trophies this season,

adding the Italian Supercup to the Champions League, league and Cup from last season.

They still have two more cups to go for this calendar year with the European Supercup on Friday against Atletico Madrid followed by the Club World Cup in December. But Moratti insists he is happy with what

they've already achieved.

"For now we've won four (trophies) and I'm happy with four. It was important for us to start the season with a win.

"With a new coach (Rafael Benitez), psychologically it was very important for the whole team, also to show that they hadn't come to the end of something but that this positive cycle was ongoing."

"If they have the money they can do it, if they

Mourinho also ruled out the possibility of

have the ambition to win the Premier League

#### Napoli fans show how to fake ID

AFP, Rome

A website for a group of hardcore Napoli fans has published ways to fake a controversial fan's identity card aimed at tackling hooliganism.

The card is a programme introduced by the Ministry of the Interior across Italy to allow authorities to keep tabs on problematic fans and ultimately ban them from stadiums.

But on Tuesday Il Mattino newspaper published the instructions from the fan website, prompting the public prosecutor in Naples to open an investigation.

The card is deeply unpopular among many fans who describe it as an infringement of personal liberty.

All season-ticket holders and fans wishing to travel to away games are obliged to carry the card, which contains personal information about the fan.

Around 10,000 fans in Napoli have been issued with a card but hardcore supporters' groups have launched a campaign against the card saying: "no season ticket, no ID card".

### Lyon agree Gourcuff deal

AFP, Lyon

Yoann Gourcuff.

details, Lyon said.

The Brittany-born play-

maker has played 22 times for

Fulham sign

Fulham announced Tuesday

they'd signed Algeria defender

Rafik Halliche on a three-year

deal from Portuguese side

to the English Premier League

side for an undisclosed fee.

Fulham has been finalised.

dreamed of doing."

Moussa Dembele.

last two seasons on loan to

Nacional, is Fulham's third

signing this transfer window

The 23-year-old has moved

France, scoring one goal.

Halliche

AFP, London

Benfica.

Real signing either Chelsea striker Didier Lyon have reached agreement Drogba or City's Emmanuel Adebayor. with French first division Asked about luring Adebayor to the rivals Bordeaux for France Bernabeu, he said: "I think no chance. international midfielder "The historical dimension of Real Madrid

and Manchester City you can't compare. But The 24-year-old Gourcuff, the economical dimension you can compare. who has so far failed to live up "And maybe they will win (the Premier to his one-time billing as his country's natural heir to "So I think at the minute Man City is the club Zinedine Zidane, will sign a to keep their best players and to buy the players long-term deal after finalising

that nobody expects them to buy. "I don't think, just one year after buying Emmanuel from Arsenal, he's the player to

As for Drogba rejoining his former boss, Mourinho said: "Again, no chance."

Mourinho believes this season's Premier League title race is between City, Manchester

United and defending champions Chelsea. "I believe Chelsea, Man United and Man

City, that's it," he said, making it clear Liverpool were out of title contention."



'City bossing transfers'

that I couldn't.

they can do it."

League).

after Philippe Senderos, Jonathan Greening and

# Spurs must win

AFP, Paris



Their proud domestic traditions notwithstanding, Tottenham Hotspur need

no reminding that the club merits barely a footnote to date in the history of European football's premier club competition as they target the Champions league group stage.

Spurs, who expect to overturn a 3-2 deficit against Young Boys of Switzerland on Wednesday in their qualifier return leg at White Hart Lane, were the first English side to taste European glory with a 1963 Cup Winers Cup triumph.

They followed up with a win in the inaugural UEFA Cup in 1972, which they won again 12 years later.

But until they broke into the "top four" of the English had failed to qualify for the Champions League while their only foray into the old format European Cup ended in a narrow 1962 semifinal loss

to Benfica after having three goals ruled out. Four years ago, Spurs

should have made it into the competition but a mass bout of gastroenteritis contributed to a loss at West Ham which denied the club a berth. A week ago, the Londoners

appeared to have thrown away a place in the lucrative group phase as they saw unheralded Young Boys race into a 3-0 lead in the opening leg. But goals from Sebastien Bassong and Roman Pavly-

uchenko brought Spurs back into the contest and they should now be expected to go on and put their names in the hat for the group draw. "Hopefully, we can get a few early goals like they did," said Spurs' Michael Dawson, look-

ing back at a whirlwind start to the first game which almost saw the Premier League side heading for a premature and humiliating exit. Manager Harry Redknapp Premier League last May at the says he expects his side to expense of Liverpool, Spurs progress despite the likely absence of Pavlyuchenko with

an ankle problem and playmaker Luka Modric with groin trouble.

Striker Jermain Defoe

hopes to be fit despite also having a groin strain. Assuming he makes it,

Robbie Keane, who missed the weekend win at Stoke with a knee injury, is likely to miss out again amid reports he could be on his way to Aston Villa or West Ham. In Redknapp's view, "we

have got a big chance as we have come back from the dead" in the first game. Ledley King is scheduled to

return in defence after he was rested against Stoke. While Spurs seek to make it

through to the moneyspinning group action, there are two "local" derbies Wednesday as Norway's Rosenborg travel to Denmark's FC Copenhagen protecting a 2-1 lead while Slovakian outfit Zilina should progress having already won 2-0 at Czech

#### **FIXTURES** (all kick-offs 1845 GMT):

FC Copenhagen (DEN) v Rosenborg (NOR), Zilina (SVK) v Sparta Prague (CZE), Tottenham (ENG) v Young Boys (SUI), Auxerre (FRA) v Zenit St Petersburg (RUS), Ajax (NED) v Dynamo neighbours Sparta Prague.

The two remaining encounters are tightly poised with French side Auxerre - a surprise third in Ligue 1 last season - looking to overturn a 1-0 deficit against Russia's 2008 UEFA Cup winners Zenit St Petersburg, while Ajax start slight favourites armed with a 1-1 draw from the away leg at Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev.

Zenit sit atop the Russian league and had a weekend off after their match with secondplaced CSKA Moscow was rescheduled.

"We are going to France without any fears," Zenit manager Luciano Spalletti insists.

"We missed several chances in the first match but managed to win it and keep a clean sheet Such a result after the first leg is

quite acceptable." "Auxerre are a very good team but I believe we are

capable of earning a place in the main draw." The five winners will join

the five qualifiers from Tuesday's encounters, those ten teams going through to join 22 heavyweights who automatically made it to the group stage.

Remy given

Marseille's newly-signed

France international Loic

Remy has been given the all

clear to continue his top level

career after a heart scare had

put his transfer from Nice and

announced last week that

Remy had passed his medical

and signed a five-year contract

in a move worth 15.5 million

to the press never took place

amid the news that an MRI

scan had revealed a possible

Baudot said tests had revealed

an 'anomaly' in the player's

heart and further tests would

be carried out "to remove any

Marseille had called upon a

committee of medical experts

to examine additional tests

and these had shown that

Remy could "continue his

Deschamps said he was "over-

for the club," said Deschamps,

adding that the player would

be in the group travelling to

Bordeaux for Saturday's

return to training with his new

teammates after watching last

weekend's victory over

"It motivates you. Given

Lorient at the Velodrome.

Remy said he was eager to

Marseille coach Didier

"Obviously it's great news

high level career."

joyed" for Remy.

league game.

Baudot said Tuesday that

Team doctor Christophe

problem with Remy's heart.

But last Friday's unveiling

The French champions

all-clear

AFP, Marseille

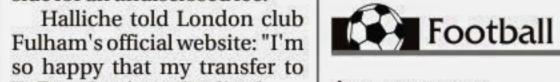
future in doubt.

euros from Nice.

doubt".

Tottenham Hotspur striker Peter Crouch (L) leads his teammates while jogging during a training session in London yesterday on the eve of their Champions League play-off against Young Boys.

# 'Barca can get Masche for 25m pounds'



AFP, Manchester

"For me, the Premier League Liverpool manager Roy Hodgson insists Javier is the best league in the world Mascherano will not move to Barcelona unless and to be able to play alongside some wonderful players and to the Spanish giants offer the fee the Merseyside club feel he is worth. be given an opportunity to

Argentina captain Mascherano was left out compete against some fantastic of Liverpool's 3-0 Premier League loss away to teams for a team like Fulham is Manchester City on Monday because, Hodgson something that I've always said, "his head was not right". Halliche, who joined

Mascherano is desperate to leave Liverpool because his family have failed to settle on Benfica in 2008 but spent the Merseyside and he is understood to be keen to fellow Portuguese outfit move to Spain.

But Hodgson said the player, who is rated in the 25 million pounds bracket by his club, would have to serve the remaining two years on his contract unless a club came up with the right money.

about Mascherano, who is one game short of making his 100th career Premier League appearance. But Hodgson said: "His head has been

Barcelona have opened talks with Liverpool

turned by the offer from Barcelona. Discussions between Barcelona and ourselves are being held at a high level. This matter has developed in the last couple of days.

"There's plenty of interest in him but our position remains the same - until we get an offer that matches our valuation we won't sell.

"I'm sure it'll be sorted one way or another soon. If Barcelona don't match our valuation he

will stay with us. "Hopefully matters will be resolved by the end of the transfer window and I might be able to pick him again. We are very, very far apart and unless that can be resolved he may be unhappy

for a long time to come. "Did we miss Mascherano (against City)? I

thought Lucas played very well."

the number of opportunities there are a lot of very good matches to play. At Nice there

were less opportunities," said the 23-year-old striker, who has been capped twice by France.

#### PHOTO: AFP Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema (L) practices with clubmates during training in Madrid on Monday.