'Dortmund

German football legend

Franz Beckenbauer insisted

Saturday that Dortmund are a

bigger threat to Bayern

Munich's Bundesliga crown

this season than new league

bolted to the top of the

German league with six wins

from six games and were

aiming to equal the Bundes-

liga record of a magnificent

seven straight wins when

they play Hoffenheim on

Bayern face second-placed

Dortmund on Sunday and for

honourary Bayern president

Beckenbauer, Munich's big-

gest threat to their crown will

tional football right now, but

they may go the same way as

Hoffenheim, who led the table

for most of the year in 2008

before collapsing," Becken-

team of young players with

10th with eight points and take

on second-placed Dortmund

record, Mainz have 18 points

and take on fourth-placed

Hoffenheim on Saturday,

bidding to equal the record of

seven straight wins for the

Mainz last weekend, Bayern

have made their worst start to

the season since 1977-78, but

Beckenbauer backs his side to

come out on top when the

season finishes next May.

Having lost 2-1 at home to

"Dortmund is a strong

After six games, Bayern are

With an unblemished

bauer told German daily Bild.

international experience."

who have 15 points.

start of a season.

"Mainz are playing excep-

come from Dortmund.

Defending champions

Minnows Mainz have

are bigger

threat'

leaders Mainz.

Saturday.

AFP, Berlin

St. Pauli stun

Pauli continued their strong away form by beating host Hannover 1-0 Friday thanks to an early goal from Marius

remained in third on 13 points.

right post in the 45th.

"We didn't give away many Stanislawski said.

pressure in the second half, but were reduced to 10 men in the 80th after Karim Haggui was shown a straight red card for his foul against Matthias Lehmann just outside the

means offensively to beat them," Hannover captain and United States international Steven Cherundolo said. "They played one counter and that's all they had to do. They just played defense and that

Aguero out of Sevilla tie

AFP, Madrid

striker Sergio "Kun" Aguero will miss Sunday's league match at Sevilla after a training injury, the club said.

to the gluteus maximus muscle of his left buttock during a training session on Friday, Atletico said in a statement on its website on Saturday. It said he had undergone an

MRI and had begun treatment. meant Aguero would not join

record

Although City's turnover increased by 40 per cent to 125 million pounds, this has been swamped by salary costs of 133.3 million, a 50 million rise

on a year ago. That puts City - bankrolled

and Arsenal (110m).

deep and competitive squad.

League." Cook said the squad was "in ideal shape" under

Roberto Mancini's management.

since 2008.

Hannover AP, Frankfurt

Bundesliga newcomer St.

attack after just six minutes, heading home a cross from Bastian Oczipka via the right

did not allow many chances Pinto's free kick from the left side sailed just wide of the far

things difficult for our opponents," St. Pauli coach Holger Hannover increased the

was enough."

Atletico Madrid's Argentine

Aguero suffered an injury

The club said the injury the squad to play at Sevilla.

The sports newspaper Marca said on its website that the 22-year-old hopes to return for the club's next league match, against Getafe in two weeks.

City suffer losses

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City's spending spree on players and salaries have led to record losses of 121.3 million pounds (191.9 million dollars), the club's annual report revealed on Friday.

by Abu Dhabi-based owner Sheikh Mansour - behind Chelsea, whose wage bill is 142 million pounds, but ahead of Manchester United (123m)

City chief executive Garry Cook said the losses "should come as no surprise" but that the club would now scale back on new signings.

He said: "It is safe to say that player acquisitions on the scale we have seen in recent transfer windows will no longer be required in the years ahead now that we have such a

"In 2009-10, we narrowly fell short of our goals on the pitch, but still achieved nine club records including our best-ever result in the Premier

The annual report also shows that the club's net spending on transfers has totalled 403 million pounds

Ebbers. Ebbers netted on a counter

It was St. Pauli's third win on the road in four away games, while the club only have a draw and two losses at home. The promoted side provisionally moved to sixth place with 10 points ahead of the other weekend games. It was only Hannover's second loss of the season, and the club

"It was a goal of ours to get to second place, but St. Pauli just played really good defense today," Hannover coach Mirko Slomka said.

After the goal, the visitors pulled back defensively and for Hannover, although Sergio

balls at all and really made

"We never really found the

League leader Mainz play

Saturday at home against Hoffenheim, while secondplace Borussia Dortmund welcome Bayern Munich on Sunday.

Ancelotti will return to England shortly after the family funeral in Italy and join up with his players and staff in the team hotel the night before the game and assistant manager Ray Wilkins concedes the whole squad has been

AFP, London

this week.

affected by the manager's personal grief. "Carlo arrives back in the country on Saturday and will join us in the hotel on Saturday evening," said Wilkins. "He will be on the sidelines on Sunday. He might come back on Saturday night and not feel up to it but please God that's not the situation.

Carlo Ancelotti is expected to

lead his Chelsea side into their

meeting with Arsenal at

Stamford Bridge despite the

manager enduring the trauma

of losing his father, Guiseppe,

"He's football daft, it's his passion so he'll want to be on that touchline on Sunday."

Wilkins added: "The players were down yesterday to be perfectly honest. They have a fantastic rapport with Carlo and they were saddened by the news. So yesterday's session probably wasn't quite as bright as it might have been. But today they will be back focused on the

game on Sunday.' Should Ancelotti return to his club duties, his primary aim will be to ensure his side maintains the progress they made in the midweek Champions League victory after suffering back to back defeats against Newcastle United in the Carling Cup and Manchester City in last weekend's league fixture.

After that first league loss Chelsea will be boosted by the return of Didier Drogba, who was suspended for the visit of Marseille, and while the striker will start, Ancelotti will expect an improved performance from the Ivorian who disappointed at Eastlands.

Drogba has traditionally enjoyed his meetings with Arsenal and last season scored four of the five goals Chelsea scored against the Gunners.

"He scores against everybody because he is a

Hanover defender Christian Schulz (L) slide-tackles St. Pauli striker Deniz Naki during their Bundesliga encounter in Hanover on Friday.

Ancelotti grief-stricken

world class footballer," said Wilkins. "He always does extremely well in big games. I think he is a player that rises to the occasion and with the spotlight on us he will do that on Sunday."

Chelsea stand three points clear at the head of the table despite last weekend's defeat because of Arsenal and Manchester United's failure to take full advantage of the slip.

Arsenal unexpectedly fell 3-2 at home to West Bromwich Albion although, like Chelsea, they returned to form in the Champions League winning at Partizan in Belgrade.

A lengthy injury list will do nothing to help the Gunners chances of building on that result, with skipper Cesc Fabregas jut one of a number of key players expected to miss the game.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, however, believes his side can still pull off a win despite the loss of the Spain midfielder to a hamstring problem.

"I believe we have enough strength to win the game," said Wenger. "If we turn up with a great performance - and I am convinced we will - we will beat them.

"Football is down to the performance on the day. Have we the potential to beat Chelsea? I say yes. Are Chelsea a good team? I say yes, but we

can beat a good team." Keeper Manuel Almunia is still injured so Lucasz Fabianski will continue in goal follow-

ing his heroics in Belgrade. "He had a good game and can just add another good game to the first one," Wenger

"That's what I want him to do and I am convinced he can do that. Our job is about grabbing your chance when you have it. You must be ready the day you have your chance."

Grosskreutz called up

AFP, Berlin



coach Joachim Loew has resisted the temptation to call up

Germany

shooting stars Andre Schuerrle and Lewis Holtby for the Euro 2012 qualifiers against Turkey and Kazakhstan.

With five goals between them in six games for shock new Bundesliga leaders Mainz, Loew has already said Schuerrle, 19, and Holtby, 20, will play for Germany by the end of the year, probably in November's friendly with Sweden.

But the pair sit out this month's qualifiers against Turkey in Berlin on October 8 and Kazakhstan on Ocotber 12 in Astana and will play for Germany's Under-21 side instead.

Of the young talent earmarked by Loew, only Dortmund's Kevin Grosskreutz, 22, has been selected for the senior side as he looks to be groomed as a replacement for Lukas Podolski.

"Basically last several young players with excellent league performances have become the focus," said

"After talking with (Ger-

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Rene Adler (Bayer Leverkusen), Manuel Neuer (Schalke 04), Tim Wiese (Werder Bremen) Defenders: Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich), Jerome Boateng (Manchester City), Marcell Jansen (Hamburg), Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich), Per Mertesacker (Werder Bremen), Sascha

Riether (VfL Wolfsburg), Heiko Westermann (Hamburg) Midfielders: Kevin Grosskreutz (Borussia Dortmund), Sami Khedira (Real Madrid), Toni Kroos (Bayern Munich), Marko Marin (Werder Bremen), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid/ESP), Lukas Podolski (Cologne), Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich), Christian Traesch (VfB Stuttgart)

many Under-21 coach) Rainer Adrion, we decided that in the course of rebuilding the Under-21 side, those players should get as much game time as possible."

Forwards: Cacau (VfB Stuttgart), Mario

"The exception is Grosskreutz, because he is no longer eligible for the Under-21 "Due to his good perfor-

mances in recent months, he has earned the chance to impress with the senior side, so we can know a bit more about him.'

With captain Michael Ballack picking up a knee injury, Bayern Munich's Philipp Lahm skippers the side which has won two games from two at the top of Group A.

Loew has stuck with most of the side which served him well at the World Cup with Manchester City defender Jerome Boateng is back in the squad after a knee injury. Bremen's Per Mertesacker

has also been named despite

fracturing his eye socket in the 6-1 win over Azerbaijan in last month's qualifier. With only three strikers selected in Bayern Munich pair Mario Gomez and Miroslav Klose, plus Stutt-gart's Brazilborn Cacau, Loew looks set to continue playing with a lone

centre-forward and attacking

wingers.

Milan eye Leon

AFP, Madrid

AC Milan are hoping to buy Real Madrid midfielder Pedro Leon, who has failed to make an impact at the Bernabeu since his summer transfer, a sports newspaper said Saturday.

Real play Milan in the Champions League group stage in Madrid on October 19. Milan vice chairman Adriano

Galliani will use the occasion to meet with Real chief Florentino Perez to begin negotiations on the signing of Leon during the winter transfer window, the Marca daily said. The offensive midfielder,

who turns 24 in November, was signed in July from Real's neighbours Getafe, where he helped the club to their best-ever finish of sixth place in the Spanish league last season. But he has been out of favour

with new Real coach Jose Mourinho, who dropped him from the squad that faced Auxerre in the Champions League on Tuesday, reportedly for ignoring team instructions in a league match.

Mourinho is also expected to leave him out of the squad to face Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday, Marca said.

AC Milan were one of a number of clubs fighting to sign Leon last summer.

Ade open to **Juve switch**

SOCCERNET

Manchester City striker Emmanuel Adebayor has revealed he would be open to joining Juventus.

Adebayor, 26, has fallen

down the pecking order at Eastlands and has yet to score in his five appearances for the club this season, and it appears he is now resigned to moving on. "I'd like to play in Italy and I can see myself in black and white stripes," he told

Tuttosport. "I talked it over with

Patrick Vieira, who holds excellent memories of the season he spent in Turin. "Your football focuses a lot on technique and I like it. I had already been in talks for a move to Juve during Fabio Capello's time at the club, but nothing ever came of it. At the time I was

very young, but now I am fully

mature.

"I am going through a delicate moment in my career and something has to change. I am not annoyed with (Roberto) Mancini and we have an honest rapport, but we can't go on like this indefinitely. Therefore, if Juve want me...'

After his performance against Juve in the Europa League on Thursday, Mancini said: "I am happy with his perwill be back to its best. formance but what I would like "When you're not playing is for Emmanuel to score a goal. We need him to score goals. This | at your best, you need to just continue playing and doing is what we are working for."

Wigan climb up

AFP, Wigan

GT. SPENULL

EIN PLATZ



Wigan climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone with a 2-0 victory over 10man Wolves at the DW Stadium on Saturday. Roberto Martinez's side

the season and they were given a helping hand as Wolves captain Karl Henry was sent off early in the first half for a reckless challenge on Jordi Gomez. The hosts made Henry pay for that mistake as Gomez struck in the second half before Hugo

desperately needed a win after a poor start to

Rodallega added the clinching second goal late Mick McCarthy's team have now suffered four successive defeats, allowing Wigan to

climb out of the relegation zone at the expense of their opponents. Wigan had to play several minutes without their captain Antolin Alcaraz in the early stages as he left the pitch to receive stitches in a head

But it was Wolves who went down to 10 men permanently when referee Lee Mason showed Henry a red card for a foul on Gomez that

caught the Spaniard on his shin. Henry has been criticised for his aggressive tackling several times this season, but the midfielder has no intention of changing his

Although they had the numerical advantage, Wigan initially struggled to take advantage and the home fans began to show their frustration when Franco Di Santo was

Former Chelsea striker Di Santo then saw an effort deflected behind for a corner. Wolves were unable to clear the resulting set-piece and

the second half when a fine move between Rodallega and Di Santo left the Argentinian just

ball and Wolves were able to clear. Martinez's men finally broke the deadlock

in the 65th minute when Dave Edwards pulled back N'Zogbia on the edge of the area.

superb effort into the top-left corner. foot and past Hahnemann.

"My performances could

be better. I obviously missed

pre-season and I've only

played four or five games this

season but the more games

that you play, the better

your form will become, so

I'm hoping to get a run of

also highlighted a change of

position this season as a

factor in his recent struggles.

front every game, whether it

The former Everton man

"Last season, I played up

games.

Wayne Rooney admits he will need time to play his way back into form as the Manchester United striker deals with the aftermath of lurid allegations about his

Rooney has endured a dismal time this season as poor performances and newspaper allegations that he paid prostitutes for sex while his wife was pregnant have combined to leave him at a low ebb.

The England international has looked haunted by his problems as he reportedly struggles to save his marriage and United boss Sir Alex Ferguson responded by leaving him out of his team's recent matches against Everton and Valencia.

named in the England squad on Monday for the Euro 2012 qualifier with Montenegro on October 12, concedes he has been hurt by recent events, but is confident he will bounce back.

need to get through this and get back to playing football the way I can do. "I know I can play better,

so I'm hoping to get a consistent run of games in the team. If I do that, I'm sure my form

play every game.

style as his crude lunge on Gomez showed all too clearly.

PHOTO: AFP

unable to get on the end of Charles N'Zogbia's

N'Zogbia crossed back into the area for Gomez to head just wide. Wigan were close to taking the lead early in

six yards from goal. But Di Santo scuffed his shot just enough to

allow Marcus Hahnemann to get a hand to the

Gomez took the free-kick and curled a

That shattered Wolves' morale and in the 85th minute Rodallega put the result beyond doubt when Christophe Berra's attempt to cut out N'Zogbia's pass deflected off the striker's

Rooney needs time

Football

AFP, London

private life.

Rooney, who could be

"I'm only a human being," he said. "I hurt as well, but I

has the players to leave you out. All footballers get left out at some stage, but I want to

the simple things, then your

form will come good." Rooney has spent the majority of his career to date as a first-choice with club and country, so it is hardly surprising that he has found it hard to deal with losing his place during his current

slump. But he expects the fighting spirit that has always been such a key part of his game to see him through his rough

patch. "You always want to play



WAYNE ROONEY (Dimitar Berbatov). I was the

well and give the manager no excuses to leave you out, but there are top players here, so you have to be at your best to keep your place," he said. "If you're not, the manager

"That's my favourite position and, scoring wise, it's obviously a lot better because you get more chances to score rather than if you are playing in the hole and creating for others."

out-and-out striker and that

was the big difference.