



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates in style one of his quadruple against Racing Santander in their La Liga clash at the Bernabeu on Saturday.

## Ronaldo dazzles with four

AFP, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a sensational quadruple as Real Madrid knocked rivals Barcelona off the top of the Spanish first division with a thumping 6-1 home win over Racing Santander on Saturday.

Portuguese star Ronaldo made it eight goals in his last three league matches with a best ever four goals as Madrid made it 16 goals in those same three outings to climb a point above defending champions Barcelona at the top of La Liga. "I am really happy because I have never scored four goals before," said Ronaldo. "However, the most important thing is the team and it wouldn't have been possible to score without the help of my teammates. "Some of my teammates were better than me but like the coach says there is no reason to be euphoric. There is a long way

to go in the league although being top is important." Earlier, Barcelona had gone top with a 2-0 win at 10-man Real Zaragoza thanks to a brace from Lionel Messi as he made it four goals in as many days after scoring both goals in the midweek 2-0 Champions League win over Copenhagen.

"Leo is a goalscorer," said Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola. "Even though he doesn't play as a central striker he has the goal on his mind and that's why he scores the number of goals he does." However, Ronaldo topped Messi's feat, scoring a first-half brace at the Santiago Bernabeu before adding another two in the second half to take his league tally to nine this season.

Gonzalo Higuain and Mesut Ozil were also on target as Real followed up 6-1 and 4-1 wins over Deportivo La Coruna and Malaga with another rout, leaving Jose Mourinho's unbeaten side with a perfect four league wins at the Bernabeu.

Racing fell behind in the 10th minute as Higuain scored

his fifth goal of the season and the Argentine turned provider for the second with a low cross to give Ronaldo an easy tap-in on the quarter hour mark.

Ronaldo grabbed his second on 26 minutes with another easy finish although the former Manchester United man looked offside. It was more of the same in the second period with Ronaldo pouncing on an Angel Di Maria pass to complete his hat-trick two minutes after the break.

Argentine Di Maria then won a penalty on 55 minutes and Ronaldo converted for his first ever quadruple in the famous white jersey and the striker almost grabbed a fifth in the closing stages.

German international Ozil added a fifth as Real ran riot

### RESULTS

Real Zaragoza 0 Barcelona 2 (Messi 42, 66)  
Real Madrid 6 (Higuain 10, Ronaldo 15, 26, 47, 55-pen, Ozil 63) Racing Santander 1 (Dloip 73)  
Valencia 1 (Soldado 35-pen) Real

and sent a title warning to Barcelona, who had made it a perfect four away wins with a 2-0 triumph at Real Zaragoza.

Messi had put Barca ahead on 42 minutes and Zaragoza pressed the self-destruct button when Argentine midfielder Leonardo Ponzio was sent off two minutes after the break for an off-the-ball incident with Dani Alves.

Messi grabbed his second on 66 minutes with a fierce left-footed shot and Barcelona eased to a comfortable win.

Zaragoza sit bottom of the table without a win in eight games and coach Jose Aurelio Gay fearing for his job.

In other matches Valencia fell to their second successive league defeat losing 2-1 at home to Real Mallorca on Saturday. Chori Castro scored a brace (7 min, 27) to put Mallorca in command and Valencia could not salvage something from the game despite Roberto Soldado reducing arrears with a 35th minute penalty.

Valencia, who lost 2-1 to Barcelona last time out, now trail league leaders Real by four points.

## Rummenigge backs Van Gaal

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has given his backing to coach Louis van Gaal in the press here, despite the German giants' struggling in the Bundesliga.

"I am totally satisfied with the work of Louis van Gaal, there is nothing to criticise," Rummenigge told Sunday's edition of German daily Bild after Bayern were held to a goalless draw at Hamburg on Friday.

Having won the domestic double last season and reached the Champions League final, Bayern have struggled in the German league and won just three of their nine games so far and were 11th before Sunday's games.

Van Gaal signed a contract extension last month which will keep him at Bayern until 2012.

Bayern went through something of a crisis earlier this month when they lost 2-0 at league leaders Dortmund, but Rummenigge says he is happy with the progress made having beaten Hanover 3-0 in the league and Cluj 3-2 in the Champions League.

"After the defeat in Dortmund, the situation was serious and concerned us, but since then we won our last two games and took a point against Hamburg, despite many absences," said Rummenigge.

Bayern are currently without chief playmakers Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery and Rummenigge says the best they can hope for is to be up to fifth or sixth place by the time of January's winter break.

## 'No return for McClaren'

INTERNET

Sir Trevor Brooking has ruled out the possibility of Steve McClaren returning as England manager to succeed Fabio Capello in two years' time.

The Italian is to step down after the European Championship finals in 2012, with the Football Association keen to appoint an English successor.

Brooking told the Independent on Sunday: "Steve had a really difficult time and in years to come might be looked on as the ideal age to do the job again but 2012 would be too early for him to come back. He himself wants to get more experience."

McClaren's spell with the national team ended with failure to qualify for Euro 2008 courtesy of Croatia's win at a rain-soaked Wembley which saw him labelled "the wally with the broly".

FA director of football development Brooking recently suggested that he could one day return to the role after rebuilding his reputation by guiding FC Twente to their first Dutch Eredivisie title before departing for Wolfsburg.

Brooking said: "Ideally we would still want an English coach, but it's all about availability. There is an argument that says if we can't appoint an English coach for our national team, why would big clubs appoint English coaches?"

## No respite for Roma

AFP, Rome



Roma missed the chance to climb up the Serie A table as they were held to a goalless draw in a drab match in Parma on Sunday.

Following their turbulent start to the season and their humiliating midweek Champions League loss at home to Basel, the giallorossi needed a win to kick-start their season.

But instead they looked lacking in ideas and conviction and the pressure on coach Claudio Ranieri is sure to increase.

The draw leaves Roma seven points off their city rivals Lazio, who lead the league, having played a game more.

Fernando Marques almost gave the hosts a dream start but Roma goalkeeper Bogdan Lobont tipped his rising effort from 20 yards over the bar after just three minutes.

Marco Borriello was next to threaten for the visitors as he turned in the area but his right-foot finish was weak and wide.

Roma captain Francesco Totti then sent a free-kick over the bar before the hosts came closest yet to taking the lead, again through Marques.

Alessandro Lucarelli bundled past Cicinho and teed up Massimo Gobbi who chipped to the back post to the unmarked Marques but on the slide the Spaniard finished wastefully high. If the first half was poor the second was

worse. The best chance came four minutes from time on a Roma counter-attack but Julio Baptista, having hesitated when left with only one defender to beat, then missed the chance to play Stefano Okaka in on goal and the chance went begging.

The point moved Parma off the bottom of the table, temporarily at least.

Eailer on Saturday, Fiorentina managed only their second win of the season in a 2-1 home success over Bari with Marco Donadel's superb lob and a clincher from Alberto Gilardino.

Donadel clipped home brilliantly on 36 minutes to spark the Viola as he left keeper Jean-Francois Gillet grasping at thin air and Gilardino was on hand to fire in after Adem Ljajic had a shot blocked.

Alessandro Parisi netted a consolation for Bari in injury-time but they slip into the bottom six as one of a clutch of sides on eight points.

Fiorentina top that mini grouping of sides by dint of a better goal difference than their immediate rivals.

Sunday sees leaders Lazio seek to consolidate their status with a win at home to struggling Cagliari.

Reigning champions Inter, who almost surrendered a four-goal lead against Tottenham in midweek, host seventh-placed Sampdoria while AC Milan -- beaten at Real Madrid in midweek -- have a Monday tussle with fourth-placed Napoli.

### RESULTS

Parma 0 Roma 0  
Fiorentina 2 (Donadel 34, Gilardino 82) Bari 1 (Parisi 90+1)

## Chicharito stands up for Fergie

AFP, Stoke-on-trent



Manchester United forward Javier Hernandez, commonly known as Chicharito (The Little Pea), ensured a memorable end to a remarkable week at Old Trafford as Wayne Rooney's understudy scored

twice to seal a 2-1 win at Stoke on Sunday. Just two days after Rooney's spectacular u-turn in signing a five-year contract, Hernandez proved the future at Old Trafford may not be as bleak as the England striker had feared with two goals to move United within five points of league leaders Chelsea.

Hernandez produced a moment of magic in the 27th minute with an impudent headed finish, only for Tuncay Sanli to hit a stunning leveller nine minutes from time -- Stoke's first Premier League goal against United in five attempts.

But Mexican forward Hernandez gave United a potentially pivotal victory four minutes from the end to set the seal on a whirlwind few days for the club.

One minute all the talk is of a crisis at Old Trafford and a crumbling empire, the next it is all about their ability to challenge for trophies again after their star player signs on for another five years.

But United were in buoyant mood after putting an end to the Rooney crisis, and fully focused on simply getting back into the title race with their first away win of the season in the Premier League.

Stoke had spent the week preparing themselves to face a United team rocking from the turmoil of Rooney's announcement that he wanted to bring an end to his six-year spell with the club -- but the visitors were now wounded

animal now their star player's future had been resolved.

United were deservedly ahead after 27 minutes. Nani's deep cross from the right was headed back into the area by Rio Ferdinand and Hernandez cleverly directed the ball past the flailing Thomas Sorensen.

That Hernandez managed to use the back of his head to find the corner was further proof of his predatory instincts.

Stoke have bloodied many noses in their Britannia Stadium bearpit but were strangely subdued in their attempts to retrieve the game. The gargantuan throws of Rory Delap were, as usual, their most potent weapon but United, marshalled superbly by Nemanja Vidic, dealt with them admirably.

Gary Neville made his 600th appearance but any hopes of marking that record quietly were over after he was fortunate to escape a sending off before half-time.

A crude lunge on Matthew Etherington resulted in a caution from referee Andre Marriner but he somehow avoided picking up a second shortly afterwards for another rash challenge on the Stoke winger.

Bizarrely, the former England international emerged for the second half but then suffered the ignominy of being substituted before the first whistle.

United were cursing referee Andre Marriner in the 55th minute when no penalty was awarded after Patrice Evra was bundled over the in the area by Rory Delap.

Stoke battled valiantly to retrieve the game and Tuncay, who has recently not even made the 18-man squad, rewarded their pressure with an exquisite curling equaliser.

But Hernandez had the last laugh to, as Ferguson said, finally "get the show on the road".

### RESULTS

Stoke 1 (Sanli 81) Man Utd 2 (Hernandez 27, 86)  
Birmingham 2 (Ridgewell 36, Zigi 56) Blackpool 0  
Chelsea 2 (Malouda 23, Kalou 81) Wolves 0  
Sunderland 1 (Dunne 25-og) Aston Villa 0  
Tottenham 1 (Van der Vaart 20) Everton 1 (Baines 17)  
West Brom 2 (Mulumba 17, Fortune 40) Fulham 1 (Carson 9-og)  
West Ham 1 (Cole 12) Newcastle 2 (Nolan 23, Carroll 69)  
Wigan 1 (Rodallega 59) Bolton 1

## 7 killed in Kenyan soccer stampede

AFP, Nairobi

Seven Kenyan football fans were killed Saturday when crowds jostled to enter a stadium in the capital Nairobi where historical rival teams clashed in a premier league fixture, police and Red Cross officials said.

Crowds were pushing their way to get into Nairobi's Nyayo National Stadium where two separate gates were open for the rival supporters on a rainy Saturday evening, trampling on the victims.

"Our emergency rescue teams are on the ground and they have been able to confirm the deaths of six people whose bodies have been found outside the stadium. They are five male and a female," said Titus Mung'ou, the Kenya Red Cross spokesman.

"We are also confirming that another person has succumbed to injuries at the Kenyatta National Hospital," he added.

The match between perennial rivals Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards ended in a one-goal defeat for the Leopards.

Nairobi deputy police chief Moses Nyakwama said: "Twelve people have been rushed to hospital with critical injuries."

In 2005, at least one person was trampled to death during a World Cup qualifier between Kenya and Morocco at the 35,000-capacity Nyayo National Stadium, leading to a two-year FIFA ban.

The stadium was eventually limited to 25,000 people.

## Pizarro sets record

AFP, Berlin



Werder Bremen's Claudio Pizarro set the record for the most amount of goals by a foreigner in the Bundesliga -- and celebrated at home Sunday by watching a DVD of each of his 134 goals with his children.

Pizarro's 75th-minute strike at Moenchengladbach in Saturday's 4-1 win gave him the record for the most goals scored by a foreigner and saw the Peruvian pass Bayern Munich's Brazilian Giovane Elber's previous mark of 133.

The former Chelsea striker spent Sunday morning watching each of his Bundesliga goals at home with his children.

"They cheered for each goal again," said the 32-year-old who has won 55 caps for Peru.

The joy extended much further than just the Pizarro household and stretched back to

South America.

"Even my friends in Peru had been waiting for this moment," he said with a grin.

His goal against Gladbach was his first league goal of the season and he had already celebrated hitting the 133 mark on May 8 last season before injury limited his amount of league appearances until now.

"He is an outstanding player with fantastic skills. It was only a matter of time before he scored again," said Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf.

"I hope he plays for a long time here."

The ex-Bayern Munich player is in his second spell at Werder Bremen and cost the Hanseatic club two million euros from Chelsea in August 2009, but Bremen manager Klaus Alffs has said Werder are stronger when he is in the side.

He scored 16 goals last season in the Bundesliga and nine in the Europa League as Bremen finished third in the league and eventually qualified for the Champions League.

## Player power a cocktail for disaster'

Football

AFP, London

Sunderland manager Steve Bruce believes the Wayne Rooney contract saga proves that Premier League players have too much power over their clubs.

Rooney stunned Manchester United by ending contract talks and then publicly criticising the club's lack of ambition in the transfer market.

The England striker appeared certain to force a move away from Old Trafford but eventually performed a dramatic u-turn on Friday and signed a new five-year contract with the club.

The vastly improved deal makes Rooney the highest-paid player in United's history on around 150,000 pounds (235,250 dollars) per week, and has been seen as a victory for the forward over a club that was so desperate to keep their star that they caved in to his huge contract demands.

Bruce, a former Manchester United

defender, admits the finance present in football combined with players' sense of self-worth is "a cocktail for disaster".

"The hardest part of managing in the Premier League is dealing with egos," Bruce said.

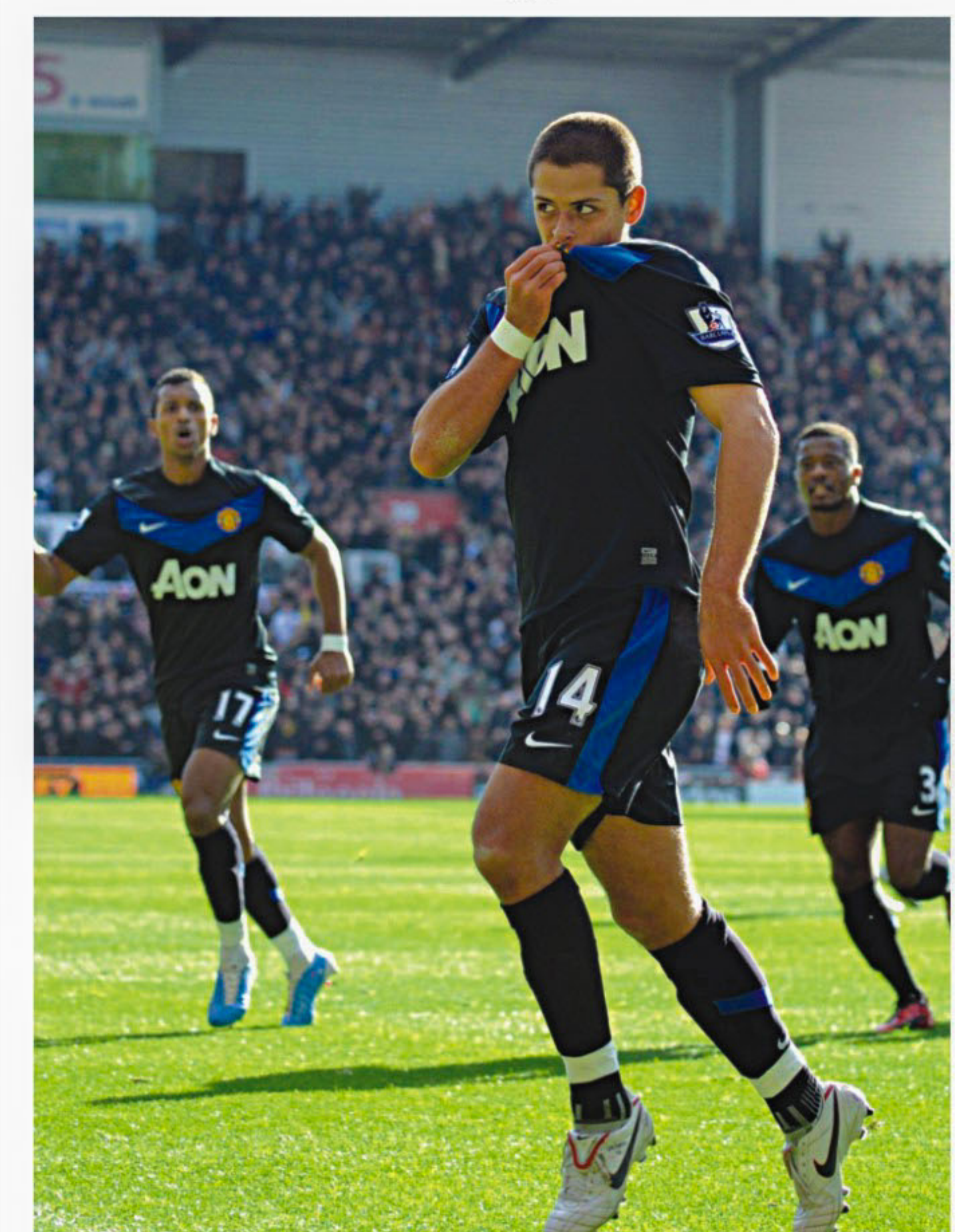
"It's the man-management, the advice and looking after players. The one thing you don't want is your football club ending up on the front pages repeatedly."

"The difference between my time playing and now is the player power that's come since the Bosman ruling."

"You are dealing with young footballers who have become millionaires at a very young age and it can be difficult to handle. When even a club of Manchester United's stature are struggling with it, it shows how difficult it is."

"All you can do is try and gain their respect. Sometimes that's difficult. The vast majority of players are of a similar ilk and background, and I don't mean that disrespectfully."

"Then you add to that the power that money gives. It's a cocktail for disaster. You just have to hope the player gets good advice."



Mexican magic boy Javier Hernandez Chicharito kisses the badge on his Manchester United shirt after scoring a back-of-the-head goal against Stoke City in their Premiership tie at The Britannia Stadium yesterday.