



Manchester United midfielder Park Ji-Sung (2nd from L) scores the late winner during their Premier League match against Wolves at Old Trafford on Saturday.

## Espanyol ride on Marquez

AFP, Madrid



An amazing 30-yard strike from Javier Marquez gave Espanyol a 1-0 win over struggling Malaga on Saturday and moved them into a Champions League place.

There was only a minute on the clock when Marquez let fly with his left-foot and the ball flew into the top corner.

It meant an uphill battle already for three from-bottom Malaga whose defence appeared to lose their nerve as Espanyol dominated the opening exchanges. Pablo Osvaldo should have doubled the lead but his tame shot was beaten away by the keeper Arnau Grabulosa.

Espanyol took their foot off the pedal and Malaga grew in confidence as the first half wore on and Eliseu Pereira and Nabil Baha were guilty of bad misses.

In a scrappy second half Malaga had chances on the break but came closest to scoring from a long-range effort from Quincy Owusu-Abeyie which came back of the crossbar.

Earlier Real Sociedad beat Racing Santander 1-0 thanks to a clinical strike from Joseba Llorente.

This was Real's fourth victory in five games and they went ahead after just six minutes when in-form Llorente latched onto a clever through-ball by Xabi Prieto and made no mistake with his finish. The visitors were guilty of giving the ball away cheaply and Antoine Griezmann went close to doubling the lead when his lob went over the crossbar.

## Park leaves it late

AFP, London



Manchester United left it late to close the gap on leaders Chelsea as Park Ji-Sung's stoppage-time strike clinched a dramatic 2-1 win over Wolves at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side moved within two points of Chelsea thanks to Park's heroics on a miserable day for United midfielder Owen Hargreaves, whose comeback from a long injury absence lasted less than six minutes.

South Korea midfielder Park gave United the lead just before the break when he latched onto Darren Fletcher's pass and fired home.

Former United trainee Sylvan Ebanks-Blake stunned Old Trafford when he equalised in the 66th minute with his first contribution after coming off the bench, pouncing on a poor shot from Nenad Milijasic and driving past Edwin van der Sar.

But Park stole the show with a fine individual effort in the last seconds.

While United were celebrating, there was despair for Hargreaves as the United midfielder limped off with a hamstring injury just six minutes into his first start for over two years following recurring knee problems.

"It was a long struggle," Ferguson told MUTV. "Given the changes I had to make, trying to get the continuity of performance was difficult."

"Some players played with touches of flu and others with diarrhoea, so we've done really well to get a result." Chelsea can reopen their

five-point advantage with a win at Liverpool on Sunday, while Arsenal would go back above United if they defeat Newcastle.

Bolton brought Tottenham back down to earth after their Champions League heroics as the hosts beat Harry Redknapp's team 4-2 at the Reebok Stadium.

Just four days ago, Spurs were the toast of Europe after their Gareth Bale-inspired victory against holders Inter Milan.

But Kevin Davies fired Bolton ahead from an offside position in the first half before Gretar Rafn Steinsson increased their lead after the interval.

Davies added a third from the penalty spot and, although Alan Hutton and Roman Pavlyuchenko struck for Tottenham to set up a nervous finish, Martin Petrov netted Bolton's fourth.

"The goals we shipped were poor goals but they weren't going to stand off us and let us play. They worked their socks off and made it difficult for us," Redknappsaid.

Birmingham piled on the misery for West Ham co-owner David Gold as Alex McLeish's side battled back for a 2-2 draw at St Andrew's.

Gold was barred from the directors' box after angering Birmingham supremo Carson Yeung with some controversial comments about the club he used to own with David Sullivan.

His bottom of the table team were cruising when Frederic Piquionne struck in the 48th minute before Valon Behrami netted 10 minutes later.

But Cameron Jerome got one back for Birmingham in the 64th minute and Liam

Ridgeway equalised in the 73rd minute after Rob Green parried Sebastian Larsson's free-kick.

Everton's Seamus Coleman returned to haunt Blackpool as he rescued a 2-2 draw at Bloomfield Road.

Ian Holloway's hosts went ahead as Neal Eardley marked his 22nd birthday with a superb 10th minute free-kick.

Everton levelled when Australia midfielder Tim Cahill met Ayegebeni Yakubu's cross in the 13th minute to

## Tevez thrashes depression claims

AFP, London

Manchester City striker Carlos Tevez has rubbished reports he has been seeing a psychiatrist in an effort to overcome depression.

Tevez returned to England from Argentina this week after flying home for treatment on a dead leg which forced him to miss City's last two matches.

The former Manchester United star also took the time to see his two young daughters, who have returned to their homeland with their mother following the ending of their relationship.

Tevez's City teammate Roque Santa Cruz recently suggested his fellow South American was homesick, while reports emerged in Argentina suggesting the player was seeking professional help.

However, a spokesman for the player played down the stories on Saturday.

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RESULTS	
Birmingham 2 (Jerome 64, Ridgeway 73)	West Ham 2 (Piquionne 48, Behrami 58)
Blackburn 2 (Gamst Pedersen 58, Roberts 67)	Wigan 1 (N'Zogbia 74)
Blackpool 2 (Eardley 10, Vaughan 48)	Everton 2 (Cahill 13, Coleman 50)
Bolton 4 (Davies 31, 76-pen, Steinsson 56, Petrov 90)	Tottenham 2 (Hutton 79, Pavlyuchenko 87)
Fulham 1 (Hangeland 90)	Aston Villa 1 (Albrighton 41)
Manchester United 2 (Park 45, 90)	Wolverhampton 1 (Ebanks-Blake 66)

head home his 50th Premier League goal.

David Vaughan's deflected effort restored Blackpool's lead in the 48th minute.

But Coleman, who helped Blackpool win promotion during a loan spell last season, equalised two minutes later when Matt Gilks' allowed his shot to squirm into the net.

"We showed a lot of character but we started badly. We made the wrong decision too many times," Everton boss David Moyes said.

Fulham defender Brede Hangeland bagged a last-gasp equaliser as the Cottagers rescued a 1-1 draw against Aston Villa, who had taken the lead through Marc Albrighton.

Morten Gamst Pedersen and Jason Roberts scored as Blackburn climbed out of the relegation zone with a 2-1 win over Wigan that sent their opponents into the bottom three.

Sunderland striker Asamoah Gyan marked his first Premier League start with a double-strike as his side defeated 10-man Stoke 2-0 at the Stadium of Light after a Ryan Shawcross red card.

RESULTS	
Hamburg 2 (Westermann 45, Petric 83)	1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Salihovic 6-pen)
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Gekas 26, 55-pen, Schwiegl 38)	VfL Wolfsburg 1 (Dejagah 66)
Borussia M'gladbach 3 (Herrmann 5, Reus 56, de Camargo 60)	Bayern Munich 3 (Gomez 11, Schweinsteiger 40, Lahm 84)
Freiburg 1 (Cisse 64)	Mainz 05 0
Nuremberg 3 (Hegeler 11, Guendogan 43, Schieber 90)	

side of the penalty area and the right-back, who has committed to Munich until 2016, slammed his shot past 'Gladbach keeper Christofer Heimerth on 84 minutes.

"That was two points lost, rather than one-point gained," said Bayern coach Louis van Gaal.

"We can still catch up with the leaders, but we can't afford to give away more points."

Second-placed Mainz suffered a 1-0 defeat to Freiburg as striker Papiss Demba Cisse netted a late penalty and Dortmund can now open a four-point lead if they win Sunday.

Eintracht Frankfurt are up to third in the league after they beat Wolfsburg 3-1 with the league's top-scorer Theofanis Gekas netting twice to take his tally in the league to 11 goals for the season.

Hoffenheim are fourth despite losing 2-1 at Hamburg, who are now up to joint sixth in the table with Nuremberg who beat Cologne 3-1.

## Further woe for Hargreaves

AFP, Manchester

Owen Hargreaves lasted less than five minutes in his first Premier League start since September 2008 as the Manchester United midfielder limped off against Wolves at Old Trafford.

Hargreaves seemed to have been written out of United manager Sir Alex Ferguson's plans this season as he struggled to overcome long-term knee problems.

But the England star was surprisingly included in the United line-up on Saturday for his first senior appearance since coming on as a substitute for less than a minute at Sunderland last season.

Hargreaves' first touch was greeted by cheers from the home support, but less than five minutes had gone before the former Bayern Munich player, having just crossed from the right, came to the touchline holding his hamstring.

There was clearly a problem and, although Hargreaves tried to continue, he quickly turned towards the dug-out and signalled he had to come off.

## Schweinsteiger coy about extension

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich star Bastian Schweinsteiger said on Saturday that the decision of his teammate Philipp Lahm to extend his contract will not influence his own decision on whether he stays at the club.

Spanish giants Real Madrid are rumoured to be chasing Germany midfielder Schweinsteiger and Bayern are keen for their playmaker to sign an extension to his contract, which expires in 2012.

Last week, Germany defender Lahm signed a contract extension that will keep him at Bayern until 2016, but Schweinsteiger says he will not be swayed by his teammate's decision.

"The fact Philipp has decided to extend his contract plays no role in my decision," Schweinsteiger told German daily Bild.

"I will not allow myself to be put under pressure," Schweinsteiger hinted last week that he would be happy to extend his contract and Bayern president Uli Hoeness has said the German giants are set to offer him a deal.

"We will not be unfair, because we know precisely the importance he has for us," said Hoeness.

## Brescia angry at Eto'o

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan forward Samuel Eto'o was the focus of Brescia anger after he won and converted a penalty in the 1-1 draw at the San Siro.

The Cameroon captain slipped on the ball in the box under pressure from Gaetano Berardi only for the referee to point to the spot.

Eto'o dusted himself down to slot it into the corner 17 minutes from time and cancel out Andrea Caracciolo's 14th minute opener.

But according to Brescia forward Alessandro Diamanti, Eto'o admitted after the game that he knew it wasn't a spot-kick.

"Eto'o told me that he slipped on the ball," Diamanti told Sky Sport.

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## Allegri calls for nasty touch

AFP, Rome



AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri has told his team to get nastier if they want to win anything important this season.

Milan missed out on a vital Champions League victory in midweek by conceding a goal four minutes into injury time as Real Madrid snatched a 2-2 draw at the San Siro.

And ahead of Sunday's trip to Bari, Allegri has told his players to stop being so nice, although Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Oguchi Onyewu seemed to have already got the message on Friday.

The pair were involved in a furious training ground bust-up following a bad tackle by the Sweden forward on the United States defender.

Allegri said a mountain had been made out of a molehill and claimed the pair have kissed

and made up but he still wants something extra from his team.

"In the decisive moments in games we need a little more malice and calmness in managing the ball in the final third," he said at Saturday's pre-match press conference.

"We're coming off really tense matches but we have to improve these situations and also other things."

"It will be a difficult game, we're coming off a great physical and mental effort but we have to try to win tomorrow for the standings, we need to rediscover the victory that has been missing for two games."

"We're playing a team that plays well and if we don't show the right concentration, patience and countermeasures we'll have a lot of problems."

"They'll play the game of their lives against us but we need to be intelligent, they're fresh and have had more time to prepare for the game than us."



Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o (C) holds off the challenges of Brescia's Davide Zobolli (L) and Nicolas Andres Cordova during their Serie A clash at the San Siro in Milan on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Lahm rescues a thriller

AFP, Berlin



Germany defender Philipp Lahm saved Bayern Munich's blushes on Saturday

with a late equaliser to snatch a point from their 3-3 draw at home to bottom side Borussia Moenchengladbach.

With league leaders Borussia Dortmund playing Sunday against Hanover, defending champions Bayern are still off the pace in the league as they are ninth in the table and nine points behind top place.

"Gladbach were more passionate after the break and we were punished for it," said Lahm, who scored his seventh goal in 202 Bundesliga matches.

"We made too many simple mistakes and we should have played more long balls, plus we lost too much possession."

"We still believe in the title, we could have won as we were more passionate in the last 20 minutes."

Bayern got off to the worst possible start when Gladbach midfielder Patrick Herrmann caught Munich's defence napping with a wonderful long-range goal from the wing after only five minutes.

Germany striker Mario Gomez equalised after 11 minutes before midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger netted from a simple tap in after a pass

from Danijel Pranjić on 40 minutes to put the hosts 2-1 up.

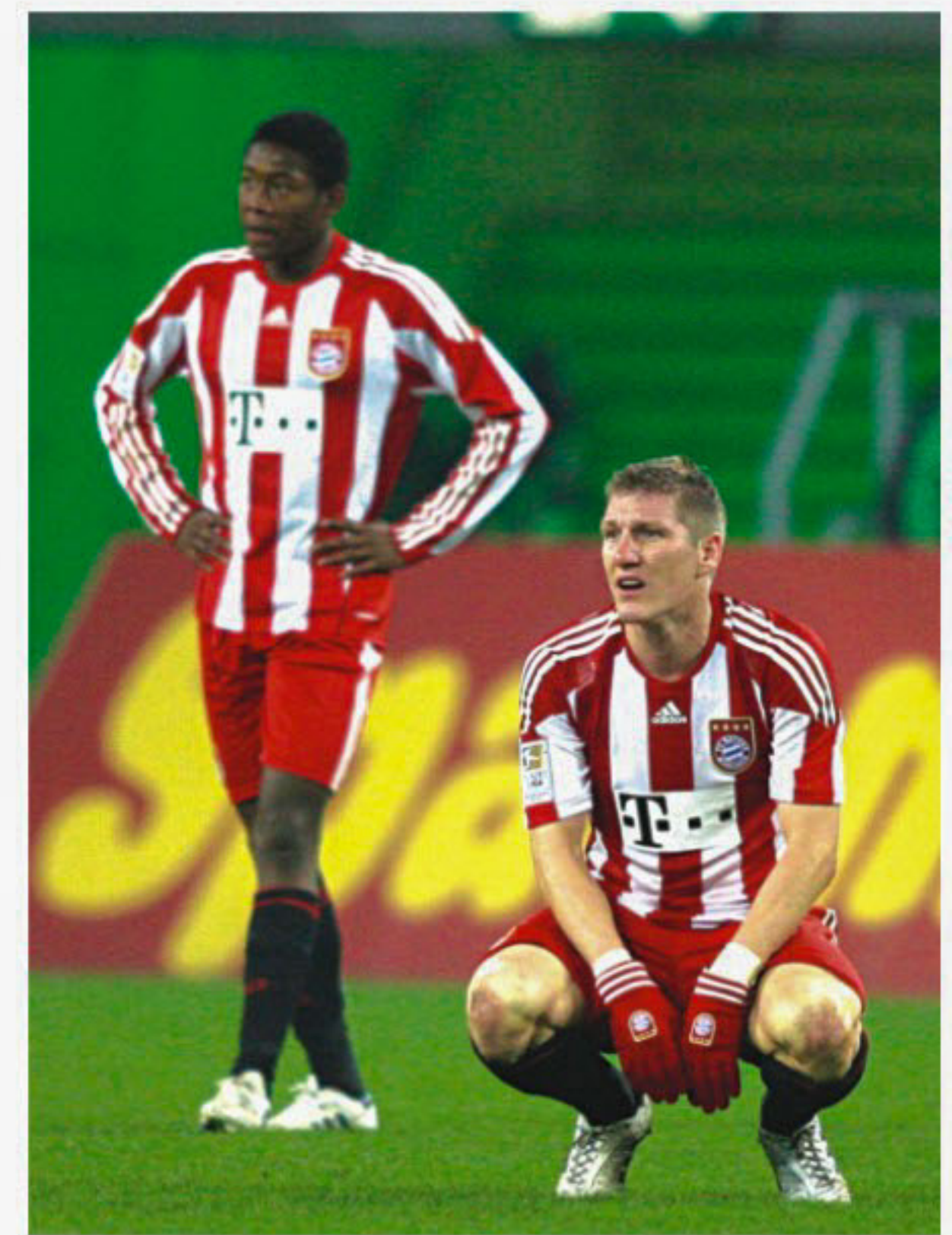
But Schweinsteiger then missed a penalty just three minutes later when he fired his shot against the post and his failure so nearly cost Bayern dear.

Gladbach equalised when midfielder Marco Reus netted in the 56th minute when he

sent Bayern goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt the wrong way.

The visitors sent their fans into raptures and took the lead when Belgium striker Igor de Camargo netted on the hour mark to make it 3-2 despite Bayern having 70 per cent of the possession.

Bayern hit back when the ball fell to Lahm on the right



Bayern Munich midfielders Bastian Schweinsteiger (R) and David Alaba are distraught after their thrilling 3-3 draw in their Bundesliga clash against Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP