

# Manchester City put champagne on ice

AFP, London



Manchester City moved to within touching distance of a first English league title in 44 years after Yaya Toure scored twice in a 2-0 win at Newcastle on Sunday.

Victory left leaders City three points ahead of Manchester United and put the pressure on the reigning champions ahead of their home match against Swansea later in the day, with just one round of fixtures left after Sunday's matches.

It also meant, importantly, they had a goal difference advantage of plus 10 over their cross-town rivals.

Ivory Coast midfielder Toure opened the scoring in the 70th minute when he struck a curling shot from the edge of the box that had too much on it for Newcastle keeper Tim Krul.

City, last crowned cham-

pions of England in 1968, wasted several more chances to put the result beyond doubt before Toure,

Roberto Mancini's men are at home to struggling Queens Park Rangers a week on Sunday when United travel to Sunderland.

Defeat left Newcastle in fifth place -- just outside the top four spot they need to have a chance of Champions League qualification.

Tottenham were looking to capitalise on Arsenal's slip-up in a 3-3 draw with Norwich on Saturday and leapfrog their north London rivals into third place and a guaranteed spot in the first round of next season's Champions League with victory at Aston Villa.

At the bottom of the table Bolton were looking to climb out of the relegation zone against West Bromwich Albion in what will be Baggies' boss Roy Hodgson's penultimate game in charge before he takes up the post of England manager.



Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure celebrated after scoring his second goal to see off Newcastle United in their crunch Premier League tie at the Sports Direct Arena on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Dortmund create record

## Cologne relegated



| POINTS TABLE              |    |    |    |    |    |    |               |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|
| TEAM                      | P  | W  | D  | L  | GF | GA | Pts           |
| Borussia Dortmund         | 34 | 25 | 6  | 3  | 80 | 25 | 81(champs)    |
| Bayern Munich             | 34 | 23 | 4  | 7  | 77 | 22 | 73(UCL)       |
| Schalke 04                | 34 | 20 | 4  | 10 | 74 | 44 | 64(UCL)       |
| Borussia Moenchengladbach | 34 | 17 | 9  | 8  | 49 | 24 | 60(UCL)       |
| Bayer Leverkusen          | 34 | 15 | 9  | 10 | 52 | 44 | 54            |
| VfB Stuttgart             | 34 | 15 | 8  | 11 | 63 | 46 | 53            |
| Hanover 96                | 34 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 41 | 45 | 48            |
| VfL Wolfsburg             | 34 | 13 | 5  | 16 | 47 | 60 | 44            |
| Werder Bremen             | 34 | 11 | 9  | 14 | 49 | 58 | 42            |
| Nuremberg                 | 34 | 12 | 6  | 16 | 38 | 49 | 42            |
| Hoffenheim                | 34 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 41 | 47 | 41            |
| Freiburg                  | 34 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 45 | 61 | 40            |
| Mainz 05                  | 34 | 9  | 12 | 13 | 47 | 51 | 39            |
| Augsburg                  | 34 | 8  | 14 | 12 | 36 | 49 | 38            |
| Hamburg                   | 34 | 8  | 12 | 14 | 35 | 57 | 36            |
| Hertha Berlin             | 34 | 7  | 10 | 17 | 38 | 64 | 31            |
| Cologne                   | 34 | 8  | 6  | 20 | 39 | 75 | 30(relegated) |

"Something extraordinary happened today and that is that we got 81 points, something that is unlikely to be equalled by another team any time soon," said Klopp.

Apart from the sold-out stadium another 12,000 fans had watched the game in a public viewing area nearby.

## TOP SCORERS

|   |
|---|
| 29 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke 04)       |
| 26 Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich)            |
| 22 Robert Lewandowski (Borussia Dortmund) |
| 18 Lukas Podolski (Cologne)               |
| Marco Reus (Borussia Moenchengladbach)    |
| Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen)           |

It was a completely different atmosphere in Cologne with the team's fifth relegation coming in the last game for the club's favourite striker Lukas Podolski who is joining Arsenal.

Angry fans lit fires in the stands and briefly stormed the pitch after the final whistle before police pushed them back.

"This is a bitter and dark day for us," said Cologne coach Frank Schaefer, who took over on an interim basis only weeks ago after the sacking of Stale Solbakken.

"It was a brutally unnecessary relegation. Not having been able to avoid the drop despite this strength, these fans, this power is bitter," said Schaefer, who said he would not remain head coach next season.

Third-placed Schalke 04 will join the top two in Europe's premier competition next season after their 3-2 win at Werder Bremen with the league's top scorer Klaas-Jan Huntelaar striking twice to take his tally to 29 goals.

# Historic Drogba

AFP, London



Dider Drogba

admits his historic strike in Chelsea's 2-1 FA Cup final win over Liverpool was exactly the kind of memorable moment that makes life with the Blues so special.

Drogba became the first player to score in four FA Cup finals when he drove a fine low strike past Liverpool goalkeeper Jose Reina early in the second half at Wembley on Saturday.

The Italian scored the opening goal inside the first minute when the Londoners beat Middlesbrough in the 1997 final and he returned to the famous stadium three years later to grab the winner in Chelsea's 2000 final victory over Aston Villa.

"I don't think many people have had the opportunity I have had," Di Matteo told reporters after Champions League finalists Chelsea lifted the FA Cup for the fourth time in six years.

"I'm always surprised to score here. As I always said, my last goal is the most beautiful one and this one is the most beautiful because the feeling is... I don't know how to explain. I just appreciate the cup and cheering with the fans."

While Drogba has proved adept at stealing the spotlight on the game's grandest stages, he was quick to give plenty of credit to his teammates, especially Frank Lampard, who not for the first time provided a perfect pass for the goal.

"I'm very proud. I'm very proud of it, but I have to give credit to all my teammates," Drogba said.

"During the last six years, I've been playing here all the finals, I'm really happy and I really want to thank them because they always put me in the best conditions to score goals."

"We made history, not only me. The result is great for us, for the fans, for the club."

"Our fourth FA Cup final, fourth win, fourth trophy, so I'm happy. That's why we play football, to play finals."



Chelsea stalwarts John Terry (L) and Frank Lampard celebrate with the FA Cup after winning the final against Liverpool at Wembley on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Beckham heads Rich List

## Football

REUTERS, London

Former England soccer captain David Beckham's success on the field and appeal to sponsors have made him an estimated fortune of 160 million pounds (\$259 million) to put him top of the Sunday Times Sport Rich List published this weekend.

Beckham, now 37 and playing for LA Galaxy, is one of 48 soccer players past and present in the list of the 100 richest current and former sportsmen in Britain and Ireland.

London-born Beckham hopes to make the Team GB squad to play in the Olympics in his home city this summer.

The Sunday Times also ranked Beckham 10th in its list of the world's richest sports figures, a group led by golfer Tiger Woods with an estimated 538 million pounds.

Woods was followed by German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher and former basketball player Michael Jordan.

Russian Maria Sharapova was the world's richest sportswoman, worth 55 million pounds. Sharapova, like Beckham, has augmented her earnings from sport with lucrative fashion and other endorsements.

No current British or Irish swimmer, cyclist or track and field athlete made the top 100, something that might change over the course of this Olympic year. There were no past or present sportswomen among the top 100 on the British and Irish list.

Not all the figures on the list are household names.

Behind Beckham in second spot was former rugby union player Paul Caddick, who now runs a property and construction company and is chairman of rugby league club Leeds Rhinos.

## Higuain staying

REUTERS, Madrid

Spanish champions Real Madrid have no intention of letting striker Gonzalo Higuain leave but may need to buy a back-up goalkeeper if Antonio Adan cannot be persuaded to stay, coach Jose Mourinho said.

"He has an excellent contract for many years," said Mourinho, whose side wrapped up the club's first La Liga title in four years on Wednesday.

"He is not one of those players who arrived a year ago and earns little, he earns at the same level as others," he added.

"An offer of 40, 50, 60 million euros could be made, whatever, but Madrid will not want to sell. I don't have a problem. My two centre forwards for next season will be Higuain and Benzema."

## SPORTS POLL

### WEEKLY QUESTION

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