

# 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,

## United stay close

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United ensured the race for the Premier League title will go to the final game of the season as they beat Swansea City 2-0 at Old Trafford here on Sunday.

But it proved to be a bitter-sweet day for the reigning champions, who will start as significant underdogs to clinch an unprecedented 20th title as rivals Manchester City close in on their first top-flight crown since 1968.

First-half goals from Paul Scholes and Ashley Young saw Sir Alex Ferguson's side draw level on points with City at the top of the table, but with a vastly inferior goal difference.

To end the campaign, Manchester United travel to Sunderland, who have not beaten them in the league for 15 years, spanning 19 attempts.

with Newcastle pressing for an equaliser, finished off a counter-attack a minute from full-time.

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)		

# Historic Drogba

AFP, London



Didier 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 Ivory Coast striker has now scored eight goals in eight appearances at the rebuilt English national stadium and the victory against Liverpool was his fourth FA Cup triumph with the west London club.

It is a remarkable record and former Marseille star Drogba, who could be set to leave Chelsea when his contract expires at the end of the season, was delighted to make a major impact on the

big occasion one more time.

"That's the reason why I came here, to win trophies and to make history with the club. It's a great feeling," Drogba said.

## Man with the Midas touch

REUTERS, London

Roberto Di Matteo once again proved he is the man with the Midas touch at Wembley when Chelsea's interim manager guided his side to a 2-1 victory over Liverpool in the FA Cup final 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."

RESULTS

Nuremberg 1 (Mak 58) **Bayer Leverkusen** 4 (Kießling 6, 32, 89, Schuster 77)

Mainz 05 0 **Borussia M'gladbach** 3 (Reus 31, 62, de Camargo 69)

Cologne 1 (Novakovic 63) **Bayern Munich** 4 (Müller 34, 85 Geromel 52-og, Robben 54)

Werder Bremen 2 (Pizarro 42-pen, 82) **Schalke 04** 3 (Draxler 30, Huntelaar 64, 74)

**Augsburg** 1 (Koo 34) Hamburg 0

**Borussia Dortmund** 4 (Blaszczykowski 5, 39, Lewandowski 20, 27) Freiburg 0

**Hanover 96** 2 (Bugera 38-og, Ya Konan 71) Kaiserslautern 1 (De Wit 7)

**Hertha Berlin** 3 (Ben-Hatira 14, 78, Raffael 90+2) Hoffenheim 1 (Compper 85)

**VfB Stuttgart** 3 (Cacau 73, Maza 77,

REUTERS, Berlin



Cologne tumbled into the German second division on Saturday as Hertha Berlin grabbed the lifeline of a relegation playoff and champions Borussia Dortmund thumped Freiburg 4-0 to set a Bundesliga season points record.

Dortmund, with two goals each from Jakub Blaszczykowski and Robert Lewandowski, finished on 81 points, eight ahead of Bayern Munich who crushed Cologne 4-1 before their German Cup and Champions League finals this month.

"My team showed character and did not allow any doubts to rise," a beaming Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp told reporters after his team's 28th successive game without defeat, another Bundesliga best.

"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.

# 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."



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

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Do you think BFF president Kazi Salahuddin can make a difference to Bangladesh football in his second term?

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Live at 8:30pm

English Premiership

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# Beckham heads Rich List



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.