

# El Tigre devours Chelsea

Football

AFP, Monaco

European champions Chelsea crashed to a 4-1 SuperCup defeat to Atletico Madrid here on Friday, with the Spanish side's Colombian hotshot Radamel Falcao the star of the show at the Stade Louis II stadium.

Falcao's first half hat-trick had Chelsea, featuring Atletico old boy Fernando Torres, reeling and Miranda's second half offering compounded the misery for Roberto di Matteo's men.

The tone of the encounter was set as early as the fourth minute when Falcao, known as El Tigre (the tiger), hit the crossbar in front of a crowd including Prince Albert of Monaco and England manager Roy Hodgson.

Three minutes later the red hot 26-year-old put the Europa League winners in front, latching onto Adrian Lopez's long ball to cheekily chip over Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech.

On 19 minutes he was at it again, this time curling the ball in from 15 yards with his left foot into the far corner, the ball out of reach of Cech's outstretched hand.

That was Falcao's 41st goal from 53 appearances since joining Atletico from Porto, with goal number 42 coming on the stroke of half time.

On the counter attack from a corner at the far end Falcao, bought by Atletico from Porto for 40 million euros last year, rushed onto Arda Turan's square pass across the penalty area to slot home clinically.

This was Falcao's second hat-trick in as many matches having fired three past Athletic Bilbao on Monday in the Spanish league in a rematch of last season's Europa League final.

Chelsea, outshone and outplayed by their Spanish rivals before the break, tried to assert control on the game in the second half, but despite greater possession they fell further behind on the hour mark, with Miranda getting on the



Atletico Madrid striker Radamel Falcao gestures with his fingers after scoring his third goal against Chelsea during their UEFA Super Cup encounter in Monaco on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rooney got carried away

AFP, New York

Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney got carried away by his support for British tennis player Laura Robson on Friday, by tweeting a good luck message to "Laura Robson."

"Laura Robson is playing brilliant good luck Laura," wrote Rooney as the British teenager took the first set of her US Open third round match against China's Li Na, the 2011 French Open winner.

But Rooney, currently sidelined from action to recover from a thigh injury, quickly tweeted a correction.

"Robson sorry on new phone Samsung predictive text taking overhaha," he wrote.

## Japan set Brazil date

REUTERS, Tokyo

Asian champions Japan will taken on Brazil in Europe in an October friendly as coach Alberto Zaccheroni continues his push to test his side against the world's best teams.

The Japan Football Association (JFA) said Japan will face the five-times World Cup winners in Wroclaw, Poland, on October 16, four days after a scheduled game with France in Paris.

## City splash the cash

AFP, London



Manchester City splashed out over £35 million on Inter Milan star Maicon, Benfica midfielder Javi Garcia, Swansea winger Scott Sinclair and Fiorentina defender Matija Nastasic as the Premier League champions embarked on a transfer deadline day spending spree.

City boss Roberto Mancini has endured a frustrating time in the transfer market since the end of last season, but there was a late flurry of activity at Eastlands before Friday's 22:00GMT deadline.

The Italian's £6 million move for Sinclair was followed by the capture of Brazil right-back Maicon for £3 million.

Next up was a £12 million deal for Serbia's Nastasic, which saw City defender Stefan Savic join Fiorentina in part exchange for the 19-year-old, as well as the arrival of former Arsenal goalkeeper Richard Wright on a free transfer.

Mancini wasn't finished there and he completed a £16 million move for Garcia in the final minutes before the transfer window shut until January.

To make room for his fresh recruits, Mancini sold Dutch midfielder Nigel de Jong to AC Milan, while Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz moved to Malaga on a season-long loan.

Tottenham were the other big movers, signing Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris and swooping for Fulham

forward Clint Dempsey.

United States international Dempsey made his surprise move after Liverpool and Aston Villa were unable to complete a deal for the £7 million-rated star.

As well as gate-crashing the Dempsey chase, Tottenham boss Andre Villas-Boas pushed through an £8 million swoop for French international Lloris, who signed a four-year contract.

On a frantic day at White Hart Lane, Villas-Boas also sold Holland midfielder Rafael van der Vaart to his former club Hamburg and off-loaded Mexico forward Giovanni Dos Santos to Spanish club Real Mallorca.

Fulham boss Martin Jol sealed a significant coup for his club as he signed Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov from Manchester United for £5 million.

Berbatov rejected interest from Juventus, Fiorentina and Tottenham to be reunited with Jol, who worked with the forward at Spurs.

Jol also brought in Wolfsburg winger Ashkan Dejagah and former England left-back Kieran Richardson from Sunderland, who then landed Tottenham defender Danny Rose on loan as a replacement.

Chelsea allowed Ghana midfielder Michael Essien to make a season-long loan switch to Real Madrid, where he will work under his former Blues boss Jose Mourinho.

Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers continued his Anfield clear-out as Scotland international Charlie Adam

was sold to Stoke for £4 million, while fellow midfielder Jay Sparring joined Bolton on a season-long loan and striker Nathan Eccleston moved to Blackpool.

Across Merseyside, Everton signed Bryan Oviedo from FC Copenhagen after agreeing a £5 million fee for the Costa Rica defender and then secured midfielder Matthew Kennedy from Kilmarnock on a three-year deal.

Southampton finally signed Gaston Ramirez from Bologna for around £12 million after chasing the 21-year-old Uruguay playmaker for several weeks, and also landed USA Under-20 international goalkeeper Cody Cropper from Ipswich.

Swansea, needing a replacement for Sinclair, signed Spain winger Pablo Hernandez from Valencia for a club record £5.55 million.

Arsenal allowed South Korea striker Park Chu-young to go out on loan to Celta Vigo with a view to a permanent switch, while Denmark striker Nicklas Bendtner agreed a season-long loan with Italian champions Juventus.

QPR midfielder Joey Barton joined French club Marseille on a season-long loan, with defender Stephane Mbia moving in the other direction on a two-year contract.

Aston Villa boss Paul Lambert bolstered his squad with the signings of Belgium striker Christian Benteke, who cost £7 million from Genk, £2 million Crewe midfielder Ashley Westwood and young striker Jordan Bowery, a £500,000 capture from Chesterfield.

## Napoli tie up Cavani

AFP, Rome

Serie A side Napoli have tied Edinson Cavani to an improved deal that will not expire until 2017 but used the occasion to take a cheeky swipe at English champions Manchester City.

Cavani had been tipped for a possible move to England, with Chelsea and Manchester City said to be previously preparing bids for the Uruguayan striker who has scored 49 goals over two seasons for the Partenopei.

In a press conference on the cusp of Friday's transfer deadline club president Aurelio De Laurentiis quipped: "Cavani has made a life decision and wants to go to Manchester, he has a plane waiting for him."

As Cavani sat beside him giggling, the 25-year-old striker replied: "I'm not going, I'm staying in Naples and I thank the president, who has made a significant effort."

An extra year has been added to Cavani's existing contract meaning it will now not expire until 2017. It also includes a buy-out clause of 60 million euros, according to the club.

Cavani's decision to stay with Napoli comes despite his wife being mugged in

## Hammers nail Fulham

AFP, London



Andy Carroll made an immediate impact at West Ham as the Liverpool reject inspired his new club to a 3-0 win over Fulham at Upton Park on Saturday, but the England striker's debut was marred by a hamstring injury.

The 23-year-old took less than 60 seconds to show why his aerial power makes him such a threat with a crucial flick in the build-up to Kevin Nolan's opener and, after Winston Reid increased West Ham's lead, he caused panic in the Fulham defence before Matt Taylor's goal.

Carroll's premature exit from Anfield, just 18 months after Liverpool paid a club record £35 million to sign him from Newcastle, doesn't seem to have damaged his morale judging by this influential display and Hammers boss Sam Allardyce will hope the tight hamstring that forced his new signing off after 68 minutes isn't serious.

While Allardyce had thrown his new signing straight into the starting line-up, Fulham manager Martin Jol waited until half-time to bring on his high-profile new recruit and by then it was too late for Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov, signed from Manchester United on Friday, to have any significant impact on the result.

It was a dream debut for Carroll, who showcased his strength in the air in the first minute as he rose to direct a header towards Ricardo Vaz Te. When Vaz Te moved the ball onto Nolan, the midfielder's strike gave Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer no chance.

Fulham, who included debutant Kieran Richardson on the left of midfield after his move from Sunderland, never recovered from that setback and New Zealand defender Reid doubled West Ham's lead with a powerful header from Taylor's corner in the 29th minute. Carroll made his presence felt again four minutes before half-time when three Fulham defenders were drawn towards the striker at a set-piece. Carroll didn't make contact with the ball, but Fulham couldn't clear either and Taylor took advantage as he drilled his shot past Schwarzer.



PHOTO: AFP

Hamburg's latest signing Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart holds his new jersey after arriving at the Imtech Arena Stadium on Friday.

## Milan now ready

AFP, Rome



Seven-time European champions AC Milan believe their recent transfer signings have left coach Massimiliano Allegri with a team equipped to win back the scudetto.

AC Milan shocked fans in the summer by selling Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Brazilian defender Thiago Silva, both to Paris Saint Germain.

Last week striker Antonio Cassano also moved, to city rivals Inter.

Fans of the Rossoneri will welcome the notable signings of Dutch midfielder Nigel De Jong (Manchester City) and Spain forward Bojan Krkic (loan, Roma) for a fee of 250,000 euros.

After veterans like Filippo Inzaghi, Alessandro Nesta and Clarence Seedorf quit at the end of last season, Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani believes Allegri's side, runners-up last season to Juventus, is now title worthy.

Fellow San Siro tenants Inter sold coveted Brazilian defender Maicon to Manchester City, but the Nerazzurri now have Cassano and also managed to retain Dutch winger Wesley Sneijder, who several big clubs had been scouting.

Inter also welcomed back Brazilian attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho, once tipped by former coach Rafael Benitez as "the future of Inter", who had been on loan at Espanyol.

Champions Juventus have been riled by off-field affairs with head coach Antonio Conte handed a 10-month ban by federation bosses after he failed to report suspicions of match-fixing at his former club Siena.

On the pitch, however, Juve had welcomed back World Cup-winning frontman Vincenzo Iaquinta from a short loan spell at Cesena, as well as re-signing Sebastian Giovinco for 11 million euros from Parma.

Arguably their best bargain was Udinese pair, Ghanaian midfielder Kwadwo Asamoah and Chilean midfielder Mauricio Isla, for a total of 18 million euros. On Friday Arsenal forward Nicklas Bendtner became a Juve player on a one-year loan deal.

Fiorentina are not considered title challengers but many believe La Viola can keep their heads high in spite of Dimitar Berbatov's last-minute snub after they had reportedly agreed terms with the Manchester United striker.

Fiorentina have notably signed Italy playmaker Alberto Aquilani from AC Milan, Moroccan striker Mounir El Hamdaoui from Ajax and midfielder Giulio Migliaccio (on



### STAR Cricket

India v New Zealand

Second Test, Day 3

Live from 10:00am

South Africa v England

Fourth ODI

Live from 5:30pm

### TEN Sports

US Open

Men's & Women's 3rd Rd

Live from 5:00am

### ESPN

English Premiership

Liverpool v Arsenal

Live from 6:25pm

Southampton v Man United

Live from 8:55pm

### La Liga

Barcelona v Valencia

Live from 1:25am (Monday)

### STAR Sports

English Premiership

Newcastle United v Aston Villa

Live from 8:55pm

### La Liga