

Totti lifts
Roma

AFP, Rome

A double strike from Francesco Totti helped push AS Roma into the top four in Serie A on Saturday, proving instrumental in an entertaining 4-2 home win over Fiorentina, who missed the chance to leapfrog Inter Milan into third.

Brazilian defender Leandro Castan gave Roma a seventh-minute lead but it was the sterling efforts of 36-year-old skipper Totti which had the home fans singing his praises as Roma moved onto 29 points, the same tally as Saturday's opponents as well as city rivals Lazio.

Greek star Panagiotis Tachtsidis did the spadework for the opener in heading on a Totti freekick with Castan only having to walk the ball in.

Totti then provided the fireworks for the "Giallorossi," who have now netted a league-leading 38 goals in 16 games.

Fausto Roncaglia briefly levelled for the visitors from Florence in beating the offside trap on 14 minutes but five minutes after that Totti pounced following a superb interchange with Mattia Destro and then completed his brace in first half injury time with a shot from 20 metres for his 219th Serie A goal.

Mounir El Hamdaoui put the visitors back in the hunt a minute after the restart, the Moroccan substitute heading in a Borja Valero cross.

But Osvaldo made the points safe on 89 minutes -- Totti providing another assist -- as Fiorentina went down to their first league loss since the end of September.

Earlier, Atalanta thanked first-half goals from Denis and Peluso to edge out Parma 2-1.

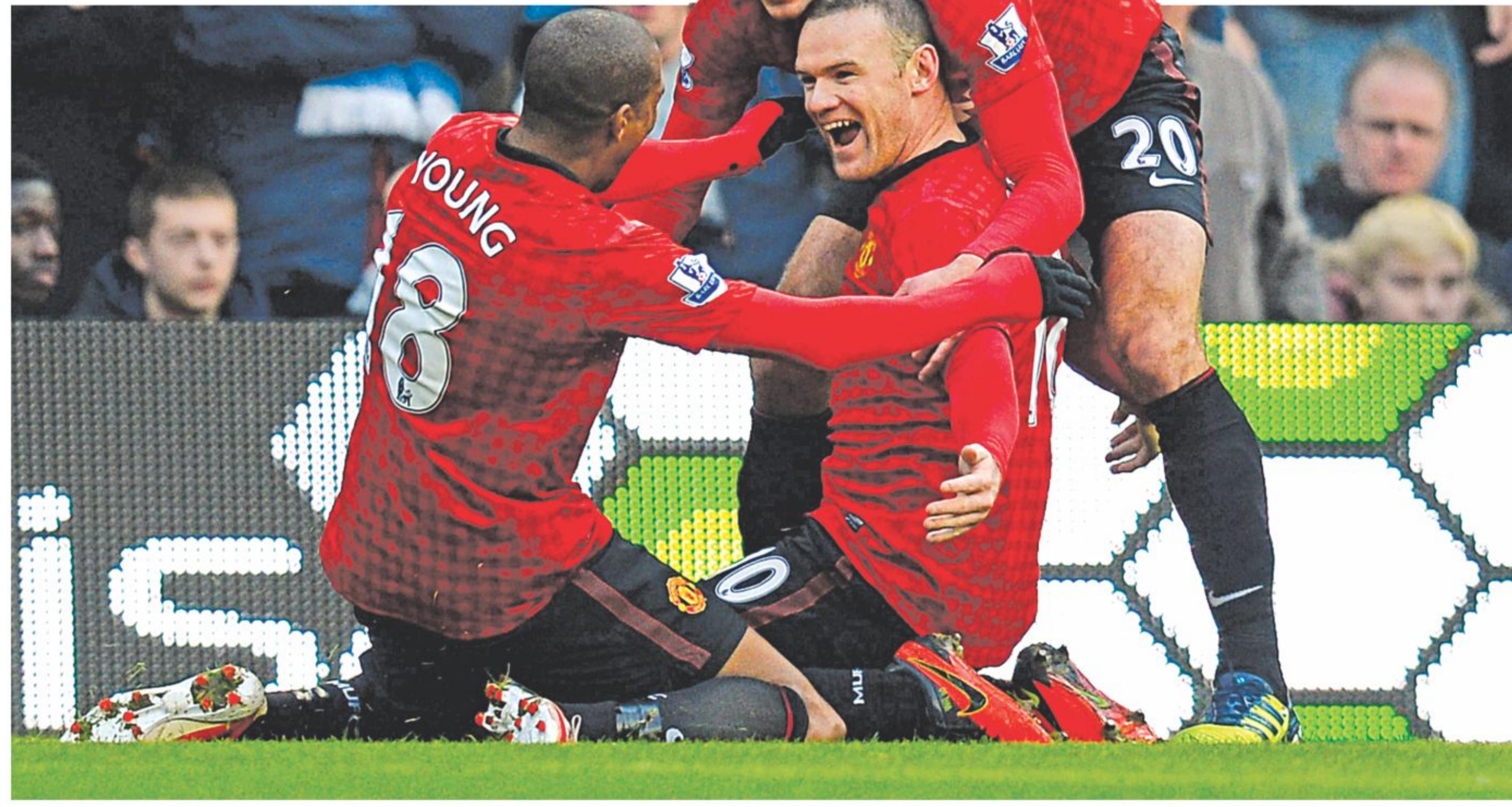


PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney (2nd R) is embraced ecstastically by teammates Ashley Young (L) and Robin Van Persie during their Premier League derby against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium yesterday. Rooney's brace and a stoppage-time freekick from Van Persie ensured United increased their lead at the top to six points.

City painted red

AFP, Manchester



Robin van Persie scored a stoppage-time winner as Manchester United clinched a dramatic 3-2 away victory over Manchester City to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League to six points on Sunday.

United looked to have squandered a chance to claim the Manchester derby bragging rights when Pablo Zabaleta's equaliser with four minutes remaining completed a brave comeback from City, who had been given a lifeline by Yaya Toure's second-half goal after trailing to a first half brace from Wayne Rooney.

But Sir Alex Ferguson's side underlined their determination to wrestle the title back from City with a sensational response though van Persie, whose deflected freekick

handed the champions their first Premier League defeat of the season and their first home league loss since Everton won at Eastlands in December 2010.

Rooney landmark

Wayne Rooney's first-half brace made him the youngest player to score 150 goals in the Premier League era.

Only five players have previously attained the 150-goal milestone since the Premier League was launched in 1992 -- Thierry Henry, Alan Shearer, Robbie Fowler, Andy Cole and Frank Lampard.

United only had three attempts on target in the entire match, but they made them all count, starting in the 16th minute.

Ashley Young picked out Rooney and the United striker scuffed a low shot past wrong-footed City goalkeeper Joe Hart into the corner of the net.

City were rocked by that setback and Rooney netted again in the 29th minute, this time meeting Rafa da Silva's cross with a fine, first-time finish that gave Hart no chance.

Young had a goal harshly ruled out for a offside in the second half when he fired home after van Persie's shot hit the bar.

Then Ivorian midfielder Toure slotted home from Carlos Tevez's pass in the 60th minute and City thought they had escaped when Argentine defender Zabaleta smashed in a low shot after United failed to clear a corner.

But there was a sting in the tale as United won a free-kick deep into stoppage-time and van Persie curled in a shot that deflected off Samir Nasri and flashed past Hart.

Bayern unstoppable

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich moved a step closer to the Bundesliga title on Saturday as they beat Augsburg 2-0 and extended their lead over two-time reigning champions Borussia

Dortmund to 14 points.

Thomas Mueller and Mario Gomez scored in Bayern's victory while 10-man Dortmund lost 3-2 at home against Wolfsburg.

Munich jumped to 41 points while Dortmund remained on 27 points, one game day before the winter break.

Second-placed Bayer Leverkusen have 30 points.

Bayern dominated the proceedings in Augsburg and grabbed the lead in the 40th minute from the spot through Mueller after Gibril Sankoh had handled Toni Kroos' pass.

Gomez doubled the advantage in the 62nd minute, just two minutes after coming into the game to decide the contest.

In Dortmund, Juergen Klopp's hosts went ahead on a free kick goal by Marco Reus in the sixth minute.

Wolfsburg equalised in the 36th minute from the spot through Diego one minute after Marcel Schmelzer was red-carded for stopping Bas Dost's shot at the line with his hand although replays showed the defender blocked the ball with his knee.

Wolfsburg took the lead in the 41st minute as Naldo volleyed home Diego's freekick.

Jakub Blaszczykowski converted a penalty in the 61st minute as Dortmund pulled even at 2-2 but Dost re-established Wolfsburg's lead in the 73rd minute.

Eintracht Frankfurt scored twice within a minute to snap a three-game winless streak with a 4-1 victory at home against Werder Bremen to improve to 27 points.

Ozil Real's saviour

AFP, Madrid



Mesut Ozil grabbed two goals as Real Madrid twice came from behind to defeat Valladolid 3-2 on Saturday to close to within eight points of Barcelona at the top of La Liga.

The German international's brace included an exquisitely-curved, left-footed winner from a freekick on 71 minutes to keep Madrid on the tails of Barca and second-placed Atletico Madrid.

Former Manchester United striker Manucho twice gave Valladolid first-half leads that Karim Benzema and Ozil cancelled out.

Madrid began well with Cristiano Ronaldo hitting a dipping drive just over the bar before Callejon tested Dani Hernandez in the home goal.

But on seven minutes Valladolid went ahead through Manucho in their first real attack.

When Pepe cleared a dangerous cross into the area, the resulting corner was not dealt with by the Madrid defence and the big Angolan striker was the quickest to react to hit

his first of the evening.

Within five minutes Benzema had equalised, Callejon took advantage of a Mikel Balenziaga slip to advance to the by-line and pull back a pass that gave the Frenchman an easy finish.

Hernandez then had to punch clear a swerving freekick from Ronaldo before Valladolid won another corner at the other end.

Taken on the left, the same as the

more capable of holding onto their lead the second time around.

It was going to take something special to get Madrid back in the game and it came right on half-time.

Ozil, who had been quiet until that moment, headed towards the area on a mazy run and exchanged passes with Benzema, who returned a neat back flick, before the German stabbed past Hernandez for the leveller.

Mourinho cut short Nacho's return at half-time, replacing him with Angel Di Maria, as a more attack-minded formation went in search of victory.

His side were quick out of the blocks, Sergio Ramos headed wide a Xabi Alonso freekick before Benzema had another shot stopped by Hernandez, who later made the save of the game from a Ramos header.

However, Ozil's class was again the difference and his perfectly hit winner ensured the points went back to Madrid.

Valencia won 1-0 at Osasuna to kick-off new coach Ernesto Valverde's reign with a victory. Malaga thrashed Granada 4-0 to move into fourth.

opener, German winger Patrick Ebert again whipped in a vicious inswinging that was met by Manucho's head without a challenge.

The impressive Ebert then smashed a freekick just wide from distance before limping off with a muscle injury, a big loss for the home team.

Hernandez had to be sharp to tip wide a Ronaldo drive but Valladolid were looking better organised and

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Bassong abused!

AFP, London



A Swansea City supporter has been arrested on suspicion of racially abusing Norwich City defender Sebastien Bassong during Saturday's Premier League game between the sides, the Welsh club announced.

Bassong scored the second goal in a 4-3 win for Norwich at the Liberty Stadium but the incident is alleged to have occurred after Robert Snodgrass claimed the visitors' fourth goal in the 77th minute.

The Cameroon international indicated to referee Howard Webb that he had been the victim of a racist gesture as he celebrated Snodgrass' goal with his teammates.

Webb subsequently relayed Bassong's complaint to the fourth official and a male fan was then arrested.



Bangladesh v West Indies
Only T20 (D/N)
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
National Cricket League
(Four-Day Match; Day 4)
Sylhet v Dhaka Metro
Venue: Rangpur Cricket Garden
Chittagong v Rangpur
Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium
Barisal v Dhaka
Venue: Shaheed Kamruzzaman

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর

ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র সম্পদ করে আহরণ গড়ে তুলি সঞ্চয়ের নব জাগরণ

সঞ্চয়পত্রে বিনিয়োগ করুন নিরাপদ ও বুকিমুক্ত থাকুন

পরিবার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী): মুনাফার হার ১৩.৪৫%,
এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি মাসে নীট মুনাফা ১,০৭০/- (এক হাজার
সত্তর) টাকা।

◇ ১৮ (আঠার) ও তদুর্ধ বয়সের যে কোন বাংলাদেশী মহিলা
◇ যে কোন বাংলাদেশী শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী (পুরুষ ও মহিলা)
এবং
◇ ৬৫ (পঁয়ষ্ঠি) ও তদুর্ধ বয়সের বয়োজ্যেষ্ঠ যে কোন
বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক (পুরুষ ও মহিলা) নির্ধারিত ফরমে এই
সঞ্চয়পত্র ক্রয়ের আবেদন করতে পারবে।

◇ **পেনশনার সঞ্চয়পত্র (৫-বছর মেয়াদী):** মুনাফার হার ১৩.১৯%,
এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা ৩,১৪৫/- (তিন
হাজার একশত পঁয়তাল্লিশ) টাকা।

◇ **৫-বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র:** মুনাফার হার ১৩.১৯%,
এক লক্ষ টাকায় মেয়াদান্তে (৫-বছর) নীট মুনাফা ৬২,৯০০/-
(বাষ্পি হাজার নয়শত) টাকা।

◇ **৩-মাস অন্তর মুনাফাভিত্তিক সঞ্চয়পত্র (৩-বছর মেয়াদী):** মুনাফার
হার ১২.৫৯%, এক লক্ষ টাকায় প্রতি তিন মাসে নীট মুনাফা
৩,০০০/- (তিন হাজার) টাকা।



৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, এন.এস.সি টাওয়ার (১৮ তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০।

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Ref admits Dortmund blunder

AFP, Berlin

The referee who gave a red card and penalty which may have cost Borussia Dortmund the chance of successfully defending their Bundesliga title admitted afterwards that his call was a mistake.

"We analysed the scene after the match with observers. For me it was obvious on the pitch that there was a handball at the goal line and that results in a penalty and red card," referee Wolfgang Stark told LIGAtotal.

"But with the television replays, you can naturally see that there was no handball -- so it was a mistake. A clear error on my part. Of course I am sorry."

Stark ruled that Dortmund defender Marcel Schmelzer had handled a shot by Wolfsburg's Bas Dost in the 35th minute and awarded a penalty as well as red-carding Schmelzer.

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