

**KLOPP TO THE KOP?**

Reports emanating from Bosnian agency Pravdabl, Brendan Rodgers' time at Liverpool FC seems to be coming to an end. The agency was absolutely spot on as Liverpool owners Fenway Sports Group fired Rodgers on Sunday night. Pravdabl is claiming that former Borussia Dortmund manager Jurgen Klopp and Bosnian coach Zeljko Brusic, have agreed to take over at Liverpool. The pair are rumoured to have agreed three year deals to join Anfield, but no further details regarding the contracts for Klopp and Brusic were



**Bayern go seven points clear**

Robert Lewandowski claimed his 12th goal in his last four games as Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich trounced second-placed Borussia Dortmund 5-1 to go seven points clear on Sunday.

The Polish hot-shot netted Bayern's third and fourth goals at Munich's Allianz Arena after Germany forward Thomas Mueller's double, including a first-half penalty.

Mario Goetze grabbed Bayern's fifth to compound his former club's misery.

Lewandowski sent Bundesliga records tumbling by scoring five in just nine minutes in the 5-1 thrashing of Wolfsburg less than a fortnight ago.

The 27-year-old has scored in all of Bayern's three games since, including a Champions League hat-trick in the 5-0 rout of Dinamo Zagreb.

Lewandowski is the Bundesliga's top scorer with 12 goals in just seven games, but Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang is just behind him with 10 in eight.

Dortmund suffered their first defeat in 15 games under new coach Thomas Tuchel and the gap between the chasing pack and Bayern already looks ominous, even at this early stage of the season, with Pep Guardiola's Bavarians hunting an unprecedented fourth straight league title.

Dortmund dominated the opening 20 minutes, but Bayern stepped up a gear when Mueller controlled Jerome Boateng's long ball and beat Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Burki on 26 minutes.

Dortmund conceded a penalty when Heinrich Mkhitarian fouled Thiago in the area and Muller drilled the penalty on 35 minutes to double the hosts' lead.

The visitors fought back on 36 minutes when Aubameyang swept home Gonzalo Castro's superb cross, but it was all Bayern from then on.

Lewandowski made it 3-1 on 46 minutes when he finished off his half-chance after another superb long ball from Boateng.

The floodgates opened when Lewandowski slotted home Goetze's great cross on 58 minutes, then Goetze then hit the back of the net from 12 metres out on 66 minutes.

Bayern have now beaten both last season's runners-up Wolfsburg and Dortmund, their nearest rivals in the league table.



Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski can't stop scoring. Here he celebrates one of his two goals against Borussia Dortmund in Munich yesterday. He has now scored 12 goals in his last four games.

RESULT	
Schalke 04	0 - 3 Cologne
<small>Modeste 45, Gerhardt 79, Zoller 84</small>	
Bayern	5 - 1 Dortmund
<small>(Mueller 26, 35-pen, Lewandowski 46, 58, Goetze 66)</small>	
Leverkusen	1 - 1 Augsburg



Arsenal's Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez is ecstatic after scoring his second and the Gunner's third in a 20-minute goal-rush against Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**Man Utd Gunned down**

AFP, London

Arsenal produced a scintillating start to overwhelm in-form Manchester United 3-0 in the Premier League on Sunday and give embattled manager Arsene Wenger something to smile about.

Wenger was pilloried in the British press after Tuesday's 3-2 home defeat by Olympiakos left his side struggling to avoid a group-stage exit in the Champions League, but five days on he presided over a win that equalled his best league result against United.

Alexis Sanchez was the hosts' inspiration, scoring with a neat back-heel and an 18-yard howitzer inside the first 19 minutes to take his tally to six goals in three games after last weekend's hat-trick at Leicester City and a midweek header against Olympiakos.

Mesut Ozil joined in the early onslaught, netting from Theo Walcott's seventh-minute cut-back, as Arsenal secured a win that took them up to second place, two points below leaders Manchester City.

United were seeking a fourth consecutive league win, which would have seen them return to the summit, but instead Louis van Gaal's met with

a defeat that saw them slip below Arsenal on goal difference.

It was United's first loss at the Emirates Stadium since May 2011 and the manner of defeat raised questions about the durability of their title credentials, just as Arsenal were strengthening theirs.

Michael Carrick was one of two changes made by Van Gaal, the other seeing Ashley Young come in at left-back, and the decision to pair Carrick with his fellow thirty-something Bastian Schweinsteiger was quickly made to look suspect as Arsenal ran riot almost from kick-off.

The first goal arrived in the sixth minute, with Aaron Ramsey sliding a pass down the inside-right channel for Ozil, whose cross was brilliantly and inventively back-heeled home at the near post by Sanchez.

Barely a minute later it was 2-0 as Walcott found space behind Matteo Darmian on the Arsenal left and pulled the ball back for Ozil to slot a first-time shot past a statuesque David de Gea.

United had not had time to draw breath and soon Sanchez had added a third, gathering a pass from Walcott, stepping inside three defenders and slamming a thunderbolt into the top-right corner from 18 yards.

It was the first time United had conceded three goals in the first 20 minutes of a Premier League match.

With Wayne Rooney's first touch betraying him, Memphis Depay running down blind alleys and Anthony Martial non-existent, United were not threatening a response and Arsenal could have extended their lead before half-time.

Santi Cazorla and Walcott shot wide, while Sanchez picked out Ramsey stealing into the box with a fine lofted pass from the left, only for the Welshman to miscue his volley and send the ball looping wide.

A chance finally fell the visitors' way a minute before the interval, but after neatly gathering Darmian's cross, Martial could only drill his shot against the legs of recalled Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech.

Belatedly, they began to make inroads, Cech repelling long-range efforts from Young and Rooney and then bravely diving to save at the feet of Schweinsteiger.

But Arsenal squandered opportunities of their own, with Ozil and substitute Olivier Giroud spurning presentable chances by sweeping low shots straight at De Gea.

A chastening afternoon for United was summed up when

RESULT	
Everton	1 - 1 Liverpool
<small>Lukaku 45+1 Ings 41</small>	
Arsenal	3 - 0 Man Utd
<small>(Sanchez 6, 19, Ozil 7)</small>	
Swansea	2 - 2 Tottenham

Rooney ballooned a shot well clear of the bar in the closing stages, prompting howls of derision from Arsenal's gleeful fans.

Earlier, Everton and Liverpool shared the spoils after an occasionally ill-tempered 225th Merseyside derby finished 1-1 at Goodison Park -- the sixth draw in seven meetings between the teams.

Danny Ings put Liverpool ahead in the 41st minute when he was left unmarked inside the Everton six-yard box and nodded home James Milner's corner.

But untidy defending by Liverpool allowed Everton to level in first-half stoppage time, with Romelu Lukaku slamming home after Emre Can's attempted clearance had cannoned against his team-mate Martin Skrtel.

Meanwhile, Danish playmaker Christian Eriksen scored with a pair of fine 25-yard free-kicks as Tottenham Hotspur twice hit back to secure a 2-2 draw at Swansea City.

**Schumacher wants 2016 World C'ship**

AFP, Berlin

The family of seven-times Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher has applied to host the 2016 world championships in reining, a western-style riding competition.

According to German daily Die Welt, the Schumachers are well placed to host the world championships next August on the custom-built ranch at the family home in Givrins, Switzerland, which has hosted the junior European championships since 2014.

A decision will be made by the World Equestrian Federation (FEI) in October.

Corinna Schumacher, Michael's wife, was the 2010 European reining champion and their 18-year-old daughter Gina, the current junior European champion, took part in an exhibition event at this year's world championships in Aachen.

Michael Schumacher continues to recover at the family home from the serious head injury he suffered during a skiing accident in December 2013 which left him in a medically induced coma for four months last year.

**'Aguero was not completely fit'**

AFP, Manchester

Manuel Pellegrini has revealed Sergio Aguero required half-time treatment on a hamstring injury before his remarkable five-goal spree in Manchester City's 6-1 demolition of Newcastle.

After failing to score in five league games, since netting against Chelsea in mid-August, Argentina forward Aguero claimed five goals in 20 minutes and 27 seconds at Eastlands on Saturday, making him just the fifth player in Premier League history to score five times and the fastest ever to record that feat.

Yet, after Aguero joined Alan Shearer, Andrew Cole, Jermain Defoe and Dimitar Berbatov in that exclusive group, City manager Pellegrini said there had been injury concerns about his star at the interval, at which point City were drawing 1-1 after Aguero claimed an equaliser late in the first half.

Pellegrini's decision to send Aguero back out was rewarded in spectacular fashion before he came off after 66 minutes, denying him the chance to become the first player to score a double hat-trick in the Premier League era.

"We don't know he can score more goals but we know he has a serious kick from Wednesday in Germany so maybe he can score one or two more but we have to have a precaution about his kick because he can be injured. He needed treatment at half-time," Pellegrini said.

"Maybe it was very good treatment! He had a kick at the back of his hamstring and it was important just to relax him a little bit because he was not 100 per cent comfortable."

Aguero's astonishing spree came at a time when he had been hinting that his goal touch was returning, finding the net from the penalty spot in the League Cup at Sunderland and in the midweek victory at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"It was very important for him to keep calm," said Pellegrini of the recent drought.

"He was not nervous because he was not scoring. He knows that with the way we play and with his quality he will score.

"For me, also, it was very important once again to have the style of play we are going to continue having here.

"He is always calm. I think he was very happy after the game because I repeat he was calm but he wants to score.

"He is a scoring player and wants to be top of the scoring players and was not scoring the amount of goals he usually does.

**Levente end Villarreal run**

AFP, Madrid

La Liga leaders Villarreal's unbeaten start to the season came to an end as Levante claimed their first win of the campaign with a 1-0 victory on Sunday.

Villarreal were reduced to 10 men on 35 minutes when Bojan Jokic saw a straight red card for a high challenge on Ivan Lopez.

The visitors held out until seven minutes from time when Brazilian striker Deyverson converted Nabil El Ghilas's cross to take Levante off the foot of the table.

Defeat for Villarreal means Real Madrid can move to the top of the table if they beat Atletico Madrid later on Sunday.

Elsewhere, the pressure on Valencia boss Nuno Espirito Santo was increased as his side blew a 1-0 lead to lose 3-1 at Athletic Bilbao.

Dani Parejo put the visitors in front at San Mames as they looked to build on 1-0 victories against Granada and Lyon in the past week.

However, Athletic came roaring back to secure just their second win of the season thanks to goals from Aymeric Laporte, Markel Susaeta and Aritz Aduriz.

Real Betis moved up to eighth as goals in either half from Heiko Westermann and Ruben Castro handed them a 2-0 win at Rayo Vallecano.



Samdoria's Colombian striker Luis Muriel celebrates scoring the opening goal of his side's match against Inter Milan at the Luigi Ferraris Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

**Roma pummel Palermo**

AFP, Milan

Ivan Perisic's maiden goal for Inter Milan in a 1-1 draw at Sampdoria sent the Nerazzurri back on top of Serie A on Sunday, as Roma continued their early season push with a convincing 4-2 win away to Palermo.

With five opening wins, Roberto Mancini's Inter side had been the early season pacesetters -- until a 4-1 humbling by Fiorentina last week sent La Viola on top thanks to superior goal difference.

In a hotly-contested encounter at the Luigi Ferraris stadium, Luis Muriel slid in at the back post to meet Pedro Pereira's inswinging cross and beat goalkeeper Samir Handanovic in the 51st minute.

went walkabout in the 75th minute and Perisic finished off a fine attacking move to level for the visitors.

The draw saw the Nerazzurri go top of the pile.

RESULTS	
Empoli	1 - 0 Sassuolo
<small>Maccarone 88</small>	
Udinese	1 - 1 Genoa
<small>Di Natale 47 Perrotti 76-pen</small>	
Sampdoria	1 - 1 Inter Milan
<small>Muriel 51 Perisic 75</small>	
Palermo	2 - 4 Roma
<small>Gilardino 58, Pjanic 2, Florenzi 14,</small>	

Fellow scudetto hopefuls Roma moved up to provisional third place at two points behind Inter with a comprehensive 4-2 win away to Palermo.

Roma travelled to Sicily without Edin Dzeko and Francesco Totti, who are both sidelined with injuries for the next three weeks.

Just two minutes into the game Miralem Pjanic put Roma ahead after latching on to Alessandro Florenzi's through ball to beat Stefano Sorrentino from close range.

Florenzi doubled Roma's lead 12 minutes later with a clinical strike after the ball fell kindly inside the area, and Gervinho confirmed his recent return to form with a superb strike on 28 minutes to put the match beyond reach.

Palermo reduced arrears twice, through Alberto Gilardino on the hour and Gonzalez on the stroke of full time, but Gervinho put the game beyond them with another strike.

**A very happy ending**

AGENCIES, Jerusalem

It's safe to say that Hapoel Beer Sheva midfielder John Ogu had himself a fairly good Saturday.

Not only did his side stick five goals past Maccabi Petach Tikva in the Israeli Premier League, but the Nigerian international also got himself engaged in the immediate aftermath of the game.

As the Hapoel players gathered around, Ogu brought his girlfriend Adaoalisa out onto the pitch shortly after the full-time whistle, dropped to one knee, pulled out and diamond ring and popped the question.

Fortunately for him, his girlfriend was near tears as she accepted the proposal. A rejection in front of his fans and teammates would surely be too embarrassing.

**L'pool sack Rodgers**

AFP, London

Liverpool sacked manager Brendan Rodgers on Sunday as the club bid to halt a poor run of form at the start of the season.

The announcement came just hours after Liverpool held Everton to a 1-1 draw in the Merseyside derby at Goodison Park with another unconvincing performance.

The Northern Irishman, 42, leaves with Liverpool 10th in the table with 12 points from eight games.

"We would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Brendan Rodgers for the significant contribution he has made to the club and express our gratitude for his hard work and commitment," said a joint-statement from principal owner John W Henry, chairman Tom Werner and president Mike Gordon.

"All of us have experienced some wonderful moments with Brendan as manager and we are confident he will enjoy a long career in the game."