



# We want all three points – Ronaldo

**C**RISTIANO RONALDO has vowed to pour more misery on Arsenal tomorrow — by finally killing off their dying title hopes.

The Manchester United star says his side must go for the jugular following the Gunners' week from hell.

Arsenal have not won in three games and another defeat this weekend would surely end their faint chances of winning the Premier League.

And sensing blood, both Ronaldo and United pal Ryan Giggs believe their side has what it takes to earn their first win at the Emirates.

Portuguese star Ronaldo said: "We want to win the title so we have to get three points there."

"I don't know if it is tough for them at the moment but they will still have 11 players, the same as us, and I know it will be difficult because it always is."

"But we have a great spirit and we are a great team, so our aim is to pick up three points."

## Imploded

Arsene Wenger's injury-plagued side drew a blank against Fenerbahce in the Champions League on Wednesday, having also imploded by losing 2-1 at Stoke and drawing 4-4 at home to Spurs.

To make matters worse, the Gunners go into this weekend's clash without crooked hitman Emmanuel Adebayor and Robin van Persie, who is suspended, while Theo Walcott is also a doubt with a shoulder problem.

United, on the other hand, arrive at full strength and full of goals, boosted by Wednesday's late comeback to grab a Champions League point at Celtic.

Ronaldo added: "It is a new stadium and maybe it is because of that our record at the Emirates is not as good as it was at Highbury."

"But do not forget also Arsenal have great talent. We respect them and it is

going to be difficult to win there.

"Last season Arsenal started very well and dropped points at the end of the season."

"Maybe this season is going to be different. Maybe they will lose points at the start and then win them in the last bit of the season."

"But we can't worry about that, we have to think about ourselves." Arsenal could fall nine points off the pace at the top of the table if they lose tomorrow and veteran star Giggs insists United will be flying at the Emirates thanks to their late rally at Parkhead.

The Welshman said: "Our second-half performance at Celtic was really good."

"The tempo, passing and movement was all there, and it sets us up nicely for Saturday."

"We have not won at the Emirates yet and that is what we will be aiming to do."

"We know we have to as well because no matter what position Arsenal are in we're also behind Chelsea and Liverpool so we really can't afford any more mistakes."

We will go there and try and win." Giggs is 35 later this month but proved in Wednesday's Champions League encounter that he is still an important part of Alex Ferguson's squad.

He was alert to the opportunity when Ronaldo's long-range effort was parried and scored in his 107th game in the competition.

Giggs added: "I've played more than 100 games in the Champions League but I still get the same buzz when I score like that."

## Difficult

"Especially as it was so late in the game and at a stadium like Parkhead where it is notoriously difficult to get a result and the intensity of the support and atmosphere cannot be beaten."

Giggs and his boss Fergie have reluctantly had to accept that his days as a rampaging winger are now behind him.

But his footballing skills are still being used now to open up opponents from a

more central area.

Giggs said: "I'm playing a different role now after all those years on the wing and I'm enjoying it."

"I'm not an out and out winger any more and I accept that. I just tuck in and try and use my experience really."

"I can still play out on the left and do a job but the players we have got to play wide now — Ji-Sung Park, Nani and Cristiano — have got real pace and they carry a counter-attacking threat."

"It is my job these days to feed them."

"It is all about adapting. It helps when you have got good players around you and that is what I have got."

The latest of those players to join United is, of course, Dimitar Berbatov who came on at half-time at Celtic to add some poise to United's play.

Giggs added: "He's a class player. When the ball goes up to him it sticks and it gives other players the chance to run off him and he usually finds you."

"He has given us that extra dimension this season."

United's Scottish midfielder Darren Fletcher said: "We will look to recover from the efforts in Glasgow as quickly as we can and target a win against Arsenal."

"They are a top-quality side. I am quite sure with Manchester United coming to town they will be right up for it."

"They have maybe had a couple of indifferent results of late but you don't often see Arsenal going on a poor run."

"They will present a big challenge for us on Saturday — but we'll be trying our best."

"There is great history attached to an Arsenal fixture. I remember playing at Highbury and that was one of my favourite away grounds."

"Now we are heading to the Emirates and it has all changed down there."

"It really is quite different in many ways from Highbury."

"The old ground was something special in my opinion and maybe the move has taken something away — we'll see."

## Robinho back in Chelsea's sights

*Failure to land Brazilian in the summer has left Scolari short of attacking options*

**C**helsea are considering whether to renew their interest in Robinho despite the Brazilian's record £32.5m move to Manchester City at the end of August. The club are examining the attacking options available to manager Luiz Felipe Scolari, with a realisation that it is an area of the squad that is vulnerable, and are still smarting over their failure to sign the 24-year-old striker during the summer.

The collapse of the move led to an acrimonious fall-out between the club's owner Roman Abramovich — who was furious having been led to believe the move would go through — and various agents and representatives involved in the deal. It also contributed to Robinho's decision to part with his agent, Wagner Ribeiro, who represented him for six years, and who, The Independent revealed in September, received £4.2m in commission for the transfer.

Robinho is now being looked after by his father, Gilvan de Souza, although there is no shortage of other agents wanting to involve themselves in the player's future and affairs.

There are major stumbling blocks to any potential deal, not least whether City, and their new owners Abu Dhabi United Group, would contemplate selling a player who is, at present, their star asset. Also any move for Robinho may have to wait until next summer, rather than the January transfer window, because of Article 5.2 of the Fifa rules on player registration which limits a player to one transfer per season.

There are various means to contest or appeal against this rule — as happened with Javier Mascherano's move from West Ham United to Liverpool — but they usually involve a player who has moved between continents, when seasons run at different time periods, or who is being prevented from playing. These factors do not apply in

the case of Robinho.

Scolari, however, remains a strong admirer of the player who he regarded as vital to his plans this season. He was frustrated by the failure to sign Robinho although the blame has been pinned on agents rather than the player. Chelsea believed they had struck a deal for Robinho to arrive for £30m from Real Madrid — with the Spanish club resigned to selling — before City's dramatic intervention. Crucially, it is felt, the agent's cut of the transfer was significantly higher, more than £1m more, under the City deal.

Chelsea, and Scolari in particular, have continued to monitor Robinho's progress at City where he has scored six goals in eight League games, including a hat-trick against Stoke, although away from home he has been a less influential performer as his team has stuttered and supporters remain to be convinced. It is also felt by some of those close to Robinho that he is still a little shell-shocked by the astonishing

collapse of his move to Chelsea and then his whirlwind transfer to City. He has been a restless player in the past, of course, and was regarded, while at Real Madrid, as being something of a prima donna.

If Chelsea receive any encouragement, from Robinho or from City, they may well pursue a deal and part of the discussions will be whether to include a player, such as Nicolas Anelka, a former City striker. Anelka has been Chelsea's main striker this season, with Didier Drogba injured and still returning to fitness, although he has failed to convince.

There are doubts whether Drogba, who is 31 in March, and who has been suffering from knee problems, will ever return to be the force he has been since his arrival in 2004. With Franco Di Santo, the 19-year-old Argentine, Chelsea's only other recognised striker, following the departures of Andrei Shevchenko and Claudio Pizarro, then Scolari's options are limited.