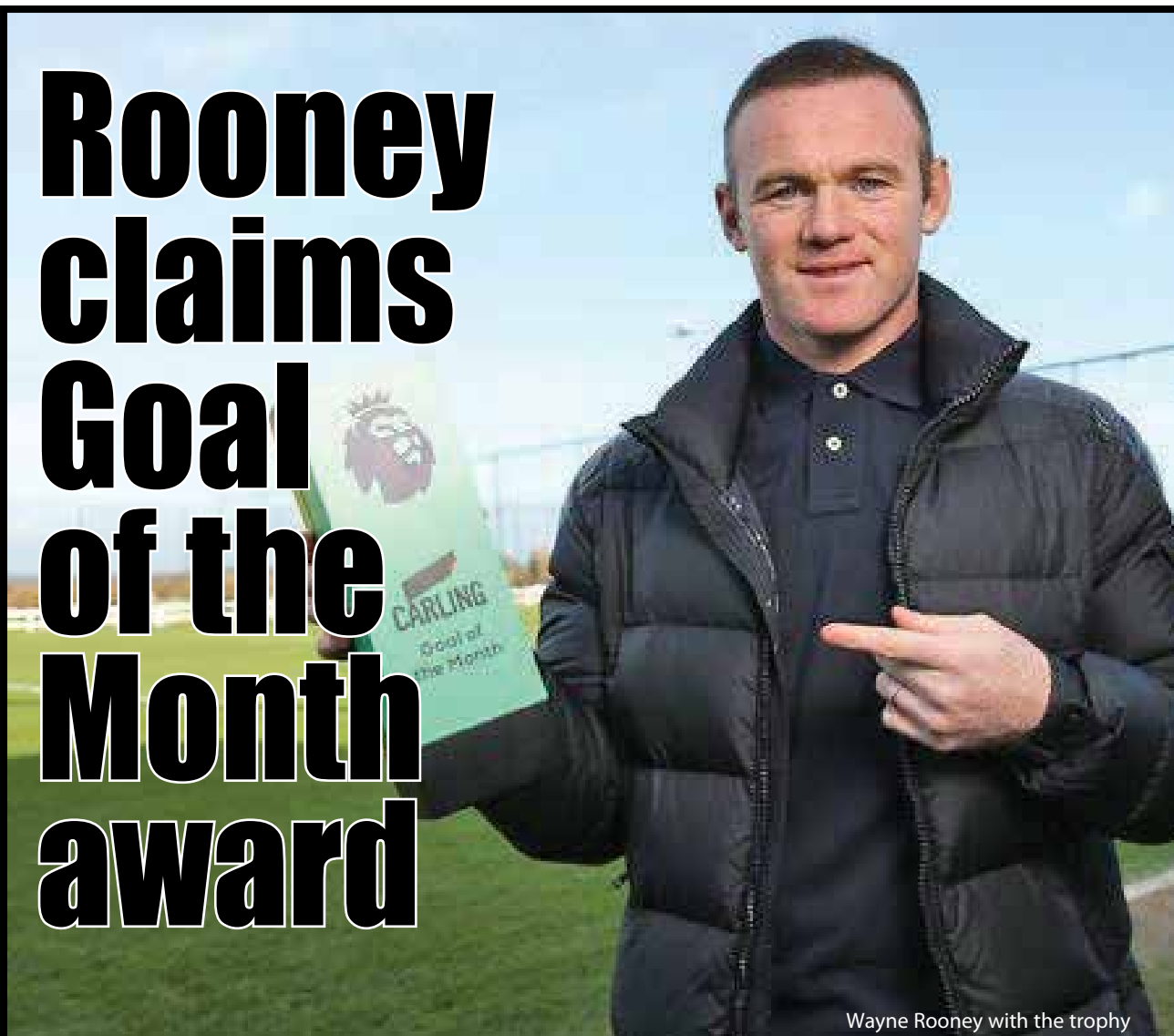


Rooney claims Goal of the Month award



Wayne Rooney with the trophy

Manchester

Wayne Rooney has won November's Premier League Goal of the Month award for his strike from his own half in Everton's win over West Ham United.

Rooney, 32, scored a hat trick in the 4-0 win over the Hammers in the final game

before caretaker manager David Unsworth handed over the reins to incoming full-time boss Sam Allardyce, who was watching from the stands at Goodison Park.

Captaining his boyhood club on the night, Rooney produced the long-range effort to complete his treble in the

66th minute. Goalkeeper Joe Hart's long clearance landed in front of Rooney, who struck the ball back over his former England colleague's head and into the unguarded net.

The goal was reminiscent of his famous goal at Upton Park for Manchester United in 2014, when he beat Adrian

Lopez from just inside the West Ham half for the first of his brace in a 2-0 win.

Since returning the Everton in the summer after 13 years at Old Trafford, Rooney has scored nine goals in 15 Premier League appearances, including five in his last four games. (*espn.in*)



Diego Maradona (file pic)

Mbappe should replace Bale, says Maradona

London

Diego Maradona has told Real Madrid they should offload Gareth Bale and replace him with Kylian Mbappe.

The Wales international cost Madrid a then world-record fee of £85.3m when he signed from Tottenham in 2013, but has missed the majority of this season through injury.

Meanwhile, following his move from Monaco, Mbappe has caught the eye in Paris Saint-Germain's attack which includes Neymar and Edinson Cavani.

Maradona made his feelings clear in an interview with Spanish newspaper AS when he said: "I told Florentino

[Perez, Real president] to sign Mbappe but he told me had Cristiano Ronaldo."

Asked where signing Mbappe would leave Bale, Maradona said: "They should sell Bale, they should give him away. I expect Florentino wouldn't, but maybe he can do a deal, and let Bale go to AC Milan or Inter."

"They have to sign Mbappe, for me he's the next big thing, he could overtake many players."

Bale has a chance to win over the Argentina legend when Real Madrid take on Gremio in the FIFA Club World Cup final in Abu Dhabi today. (*Reuters*)

Morata back for Southampton clash



Alvaro Morata (file pic)

London

Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata has recovered from a back problem and is in contention for today's Premier League game against Southampton, manager Antonio Conte said on Friday.

Spain international Morata has made 15 league appearances for Chelsea this season, scoring nine goals but missed the 3-1 win over Huddersfield Town on Tuesday.

Morata has returned to training and Conte expects his first-choice striker to shake off the lingering back pain to be ready for Saturday's clash against 11th-placed Southampton.

"He trained with us two days ago and today. He has this pain in his back but he is in contention for tomorrow's game," Conte told a news conference on Friday.

"I think he (Drogba) is more powerful but don't forget Alvaro has a lot of space for improvement. He is strong physically, he is a technical player and I see a great future for him."

Conte said defender David Luiz's knee injury is "serious" and added that the player would be assessed on a day-to-day basis with no definite timeline for a return to action. (*Reuters*)

Sanchez, Ozil will not be sold in January

London

Arsenal will not sell Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil during the January transfer window, manager Arsene Wenger has said.

Both players are out of contract at the end of the season and are yet to agree new deals, and there has been speculation that Arsenal could sell the influential pair in January to avoid seeing them leave for free in the summer. But when asked in a news conference on Friday if Sanchez and Ozil would see out the season at Arsenal, Wenger said: "I can tell you a global answer -- yes. They will all stay."

"I will analyse every case individually and separately, but overall I would say my wish and my desire is that everybody stays."

Jack Wilshere is another player whose Arsenal contract



Arsene Wenger (file pic)

expires at the end of the season and Wenger revealed he will begin talks with the 25-year-old midfielder later this month about the possibility of a new deal. Wilshere spent last season on loan at Bournemouth and has made only eight starts so far this campaign, all but one in cup competitions, with his only Premier League start in the 0-0 draw against West Ham United on Wednesday. (*Reuters*)