

LATEST FROM THE CHINESE LEAGUE

By Graham Lister, Chief Football Correspondent,
China Monitor (UK) Sports Division

Shanghai inflict first defeat on Dalian to take over at the top

The eighth round of matches in the First Division of the C-League, played on Sunday 3rd June, saw the top two sides clash in Shanghai. A goal from Rankovic after 26 minutes was enough to give unbeaten Shanghai Shenhua a 1-0 victory over previously unbeaten Dalian Shide. As a result, Shanghai replaced Dalian at the top of the table.

In the ninth round on Sunday 10th June, Shanghai consolidated their position with an emphatic 6-0 away thrashing of bottom-placed Shenyang Jinde. Rankovic hit a hat-trick, including one from the penalty spot after just five minutes. Qu Shengqing found the target twice, and Shen Si completed the rout in the 78th minute.

Dalian got back to winning ways with a 2-1 home victory over Chongqing Lifan. Hao Haidong gave Dalian the lead after six minutes before Jiang Hui equalised for Chongqing on 20 minutes. Nine minutes from the end a Wang Peng strike secured the three points for Dalian.

Wins in successive weeks by Sichuan Shangwutong and Yunnan Hongta have improved their standings in the league; Sichuan have moved up to third while Yunnan are now 5th. A home win and an away draw have also taken Beijing from 12th place to a more respectable 6th.

Meanwhile, Shenyang Jinde and Shandong Luneng remain rooted to the bottom, with four point and six points, respectively, after nine matches.

Results of all matches in the eighth and ninth rounds were as follows:

Eighth Round 3rd June 2001

Shanghai Shenhua	1-0	Dalian Shide
Rankovic 26 mins		

Qingdao Piqui Du Bin 72 Liang Ming 90	2-1	Shanxi Guoli Alex 20 (pen)
Shandong Luneng Sergiy 19	1-2	Yunnan Hongta Li Zhi 46 Zhou Ting 70
Liaoning Fushui Liu Bin 38 Zhu Kai 82	2-1	Tianjin Taida Yu Genwei 75
Chongqing Lifan Li Guoxu 46	1-2	Sichuan Shangwutong Vukoja 22 (pen) Li Bin 63
Shenzhen Kejian Tiago 36 Fan Yuhong 23	2-1	Bayi Zhenbang Guo Hui 57 (pen)
Beijing Guo an Milen 31 Yang Pu 52 Wang Dao 75 (pen) Tian Ye 86	4-1	Shenyang Jinde Min Jin 59

Ninth Round 10th June 2001

Shanxi Guoli Marcos 12, 87 mins	2-0	Liaoning Fushui
Yunnan Hongta Li Zhi 46 Chang Wei 83 Qichekove 37, 52, 58	5-0	Qingdao Piqui
Tianjin Taida	0-0	Shenzhen Kejian

Dalian Shide Hao Haidong 6 Wang Peng 81	2-1	Chongqing Lifan Jiang Hui 20
Sichuan Shangwutong Vukoja 21 Ma Mingyu 42	2-1	Shandong Luneng Li Xiaopeng 1
Bayi Zhenbang Wei Yimin 52	1-1	Beijing Guo an Xue Shen 2
Shenyang Jinde	0-6	Shanghai Shenhua Rankovic 5 (pen), 25, 46 Qu Shengqing 10, 49 Shen Si 78

League standings after 9 rounds:

Pos.	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Shanghai Shenhua	9	7	2	0	20	7	23
2	Dalian Shide	9	7	1	1	17	10	22
3	Sichuan Shangwutong	9	4	4	1	14	8	16
4	Shenzhen Kejian	9	4	3	2	14	7	15
5	Yunnan Hongta	9	4	2	3	15	10	14
6	Beijing Guo an	9	2	5	2	13	13	11
7	Qingdao Piqui	9	3	2	4	8	11	11
8	Liaoning Fushui	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
9	Shanxi Guoli	9	3	2	4	12	16	11
10	Tianjin Taida	9	2	3	4	9	11	9
11	Chongqing Lifan	9	1	5	3	6	8	8
12	Bayi Zhenbang	9	1	5	3	6	9	8
13	Shandong Luneng	9	1	3	5	4	9	6
14	Shenyang Jinde	9	1	1	7	9	25	4