

Pictures: TONY FISHER



A WILD TIME:
Gerro with Thomas and sister Rebecca and Stewart with Joel

ARE YOU HAVING A GERRAFFE

Stars on safari with brave lads

TWO boys fighting cancer had a dream day with their football heroes.

Liverpool stars Steven Gerrard and Stewart Downing went to a safari park with leukaemia sufferers Thomas McManaman, five, and Joel Hemans, nine.

Both brave boys have had gruelling chemotherapy treatment.

Hero

And the day was especially poignant for Stewart, 27, whose sister Vicky died of the same disease in 1993 at the age of four.

Both Three Lions heroes gave up their time as part of their work with the England Footballers Foun-

■ by MARC WALKER

ation, which is supporting Cancer Research UK.

Gerro, 31, said the visit to Knowsley Safari Park on Merseyside put his disappointment over his side's 1-1 draw with Norwich on Saturday "in perspective".

He said: "I think it's a fantastic cause."

Joel, from Bootle, said he "couldn't believe" he was really meeting his Anfield idols, adding: "Steven Gerrard is my hero."

Thomas, from Walton, was diagnosed in 2006 when he was just 15 months old.

● For further details visit the englandfootballersfoundation.com website.

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DROPPING IN:
Gerro and Thomas meet a safari park giraffe