Alex Richards

Dnipro midfielder Jaba Kankava saves the life of unconscious Dynamo Kiev captain Oleg Gusev

The Ukraine international was knocked out in a challenge but quick-thinking Kankava was on hand to ensure things didn't get worse

Dynamo Kiev captain Oleg Gusev had his life saved at the weekend by quick-thinking rival Jaba Kankava during his side's Ukrainian Premier League defeat against Dnipro.

Gusev, 30, who has 90 caps for his country and has been with the 13-time Ukrainian champions since 2003, was smashed in the face by Dnipro keeper Denys Boko and collapsed to the floor unconscious.

Georgian international Kankava saw the incident and reacted instantly, sticking his hand down Gusev's throat and clearing his airways. After a few minutes of treatment from medical officials, Gusev came around and stood up.

The crowd at the Dnipro-Arena, silent during the incident, burst into applause upon Gusev standing, before he was carried off on a stretcher.

"He sustained medium concussion, several bruises and a bruised jaw," the Dynamo team doctor Leonid Myronov said. "He is lucky to have such light injuries. His spine, skull and bones are all intact – no breaks or fractures.

"He lost consciousness for a short period, had seizures and swallowed his tongue but our colleagues from Dnipro had provided him emergency professional assistance and everything was settled."

The match ended in a 2-0 win for the home side, managed by Juande Ramos, who moved second in the Ukrainian table, leapfrogging Oleg Blohkin's Dynamo.