

PARREIRA FACTS

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Factbox on Carlos Alberto Parreira, named as Brazil coach for the third time on Wednesday. 1943 - Born February 27, 1968 - After completing studies in physical education, he travels to Ghana to take part in a football development programme as a coach. 1970 - Works as a physiotherapist on the Brazil team at the 1970 World Cup. Brazil win the tournament for the third time. 1975 - Takes over at Fluminense, coaching a professional team for the first time in his own right. Wins the Carioca championship. 1976 - Moves to Kuwait to coach in club football. Is appointed coach of the national team. 1982 - Leads Kuwait to their only appearance at a World Cup tournament. The team are knocked out in the first round but perform respectably against England, France and Czechoslovakia. 1983 - Appointed coach of Brazil. 1984 - Resigns as Brazil coach after indifferent results. Takes over at Fluminense and wins the Brazilian championship. 1985 - Returns to the Middle East. 1990 - Coaches the United Arab Emirates at the World Cup in Italy. Team are knocked out in the first round. 1991 - Returns to Brazil and leads modest provincial club Bragantino to the Brazilian championship final. Named Brazil coach for a second time, replacing Paulo Roberto Falcão. Brazil win their first two games under Parreira, friendlies against Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. 1992 - Brazil win friendlies against Finland, the United States, France, Mexico, Germany and Costa Rica, draw with England and lose home and away to Uruguay. Parreira axes gifted striker Romário for indiscipline before the game against Germany. 1993 - Brazil qualify for the World Cup after a stuttering campaign which begins with draws in Ecuador and Uruguay and a defeat in Bolivia. Parreira suffers fierce media criticism. Brazil make sure of their place by beating Uruguay 2-0 at home in their last game, with Romário -- after being reinstated by Parreira -- scoring both goals. 1994 - Brazil win the World Cup for the first time in 24 years, beating Italy on penalties after a goalless final. Nevertheless, Parreira is still criticised for the team's alleged lacklustre style. He resigns after the tournament and joins Spanish club Valencia. 1995 - Parreira leaves Valencia after one season and moves to Turkish club Fenerbahçe. 1996 - Wins the Turkish championship and moves back to Brazil to coach Sao Paulo. 1998 - Coaches the New York Metrostars. Appointed to lead Saudi Arabia at France '98, but is sacked during the tournament after his team lose their first two games to France and Denmark. 1999 - Returns to Fluminense, who have been relegated to the Third Division of the Brazilian championship. Leads them back into the Second Division. 2000 - Sacked by Fluminense after poor performances in a pre-season tournament. Subsequently coaches Atlético Mineiro. Rules himself out of the running for the Brazil job after Vanderlei Luxemburg is sacked. 2001 - Coaches Internacional in the Brazilian championship. His name is again connected with the Brazil post when Emerson Leao is fired after only eight months but the job goes to Luiz Felipe Scolari. 2002 - Moves to Corinthians. Despite inheriting a modest squad with little money for reinforcements, he leads his young team to the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament and Copa Brasil titles in the first half of the season and the Brazilian championship runners-up spot in the second. Brazil win the World Cup and Scolari resigns five weeks later. 2003 - Jan 8 - Reappointed Brazil coach.

Brazil back with champions



INTERNET, Rio de Janeiro

Carlos Alberto Parreira, who led Brazil to its fourth World Cup triumph in 1994, was named coach of the world champions for the third time on Wednesday. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) also named Parreira's former assistant Mario Zagallo - national team coach in his own right for three World Cups - as technical director. Further staff to be appointed were general manager Jairo Leal, fitness trainer Paulo Paixao, and squad doctor Moracy Sant'anna. The 59-year-old Parreira, who also coached Kuwait at the 1982 World Cup and Saudi Arabia at France 98, will leave club side Corinthians to replace Luiz Felipe Scolari, who steered Brazil to its fifth world title at the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea. Brazil had been without a long-term coach since the departure of 'Big Phil', who resigned in August and is now the coach of the Portuguese national side. Parreira, who coached the national team in 1984 and from 1991 to 1994, had repeatedly complained about the pressures involved in the job and made it clear he was unlikely to sit in one of sports' hottest seats for a third time. But he thought again after having lunch with Teixeira at a Rio de Janeiro golf club on Tuesday. 'I changed my mind and accepted the offer,' Parreira told a media conference at the CBF headquarters. 'I couldn't turn it down.' 'I have changed my plans and my life in the last 24 hours. It's a privilege to be chosen to coach the biggest team in the world, the only team to have won the World Cup five times.'



JUST LIKE OLD TIMES! Carlos Alberto Parreira (L) and Mario Zagallo.

Parreira's first match in charge will be a friendly away to China on February 12. His main target will be to make sure Brazil qualifies for the 2006 tournament in Germany and keep up its proud record as the only country to have played at every World Cup. Under new rules, the reigning champions no longer gain automatic qualification to the next competition and so they must negotiate the South American qualifying competition, which is due to start in August. Brazil has often found the qualifying tournament more difficult than the finals themselves. Parreira, who never played football professionally, first coached

Brazil in 1984 but resigned after a disappointing run of results. He was reappointed in 1991 and, despite much criticism about his team's allegedly lacklustre style of play, led his side to victory at the World Cup in the United States three years later. 'The situation in 1991 was different,' he said. 'Brazil had not been champions for over 20 years and the pressure was unbearable for everyone. It was 24 hours-a-day suffering. 'The situation now is lighter, more easygoing.' Parreira said there was no point looking back at previous Brazilian teams. 'I don't want to look back to the past and I think it is futile to compare the current squad with the

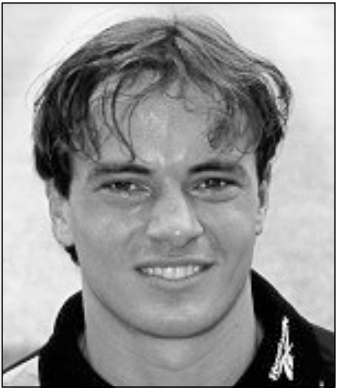
one which won the 1994 World Cup. 'We need to look forward to the South American World Cup qualifiers for the 2006 finals.' Parreira dismissed talk of 1994 World Cup star Romário being recalled, saying he would be 40 in 2006. 'We will look at other alternatives,' Parreira said. One possible new striker for the Brazilian squad would be 18-year-old Robinho of Brazilian champions Santos. 'Robinho is an exceptional player,' Parreira said. 'I think he could be called up straight into the senior squad.' Parreira, who said the team would play in a 4-4-2 formation, paid tribute to his predecessor Scolari, adding: 'Our work is made a great deal easier by taking on a squad

which won Brazil's fifth world title. Scolari was a great coach." Parreira once again showed his credentials last year as he led a modest Corinthians team to the brink of a domestic treble. His side won the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament and Copa Brasil in the first half of the year and was beaten by Santos in the final of the Brazilian championship in December. Parreira's departure is a blow for Corinthians, who in February begin its attempt to win the South American Libertadores Cup for the first time. Brazil has played two games since the last World Cup. The team lost 1-0 at home to Paraguay in August, with Scolari still at the helm, and beat South Korea 3-2 in Seoul on November, when Zagallo was called out of retirement as a 'tribute'. Zagallo was ecstatic on Wednesday after being brought back as technical director at the age of 71, describing the decision as divinely inspired and promising the 'Hexacampeonato' - sixth world title in 2006. 'Life doesn't belong to us, God guides us,' said Zagallo after the appointments were announced by CBF president Ricardo Teixeira. 'The president was spiritually enlightened in 1994 when he chose Parreira and myself to take charge of Brazilian football.'

Bolton want disgraced Bosnich

AFP, Sydney

English Premiership side Bolton has offered to sign Australia international goalkeeper Mark Bosnich after his sacking from Chelsea for testing positive for cocaine. The Australian newspaper reported Thursday. One of Bosnich's British agents, Jeff Weston, told The Australian they had been contacted by Bolton manager Sam Allardyce to sign the goalkeeper. "We can't act on it until the drug hearing has been finalised," Weston was quoted as saying. But Allardyce denied on the Wanderers official website being interested in signing Bosnich. Bosnich, who was receiving treatment for depression at a west London clinic, has until Friday to prepare a written reply to Football Association charges of misconduct brought about by his positive drugs test. The Australian said he was



MARK BOSNICH

expected to contest the charge. Chelsea confirmed on Tuesday that they had begun the process of sacking Bosnich, who unless he can mount a successful legal challenge will be out of Stamford Bridge in two weeks as his notice period is 14 days.

Bosnich, 31, was indefinitely suspended by Chelsea since testing positive in November. He has been one of the world's best-paid goalkeepers, earning some two million pounds (3.2 million US dollars) a year. He was once rated as one of the top keepers in the Premiership, making his name at Aston Villa before joining Manchester United on a lucrative Bosman free transfer in June 1999. But his career at Old Trafford, where he once played as a youngster, was blighted by injury and a high-profile bust-up with boss Alex Ferguson which contributed to him ending up as fourth-choice keeper at the club. He was allowed to leave Old Trafford on a free transfer at the start of 2001 and landed the lucrative deal with Chelsea.

Woodgate to be charged

AFP, Leeds

A civil action for damages against Leeds United star Jonathan Woodgate will be formally launched at the end of this week by an Asian student who was allegedly assaulted by the player, the Yorkshire Post reported on Wednesday. Almost three years ago Sarfraz Najeib was viciously assaulted in Leeds city centre, leading to two trials in which Woodgate, and a number of team-mates fell under the spotlight. Although Woodgate was charged with affray following a second trial - the first being deemed a mistrial because the victim's father had spoken to a Sunday newspaper while the jury was still considering its verdict - Najeib and his family are pressing ahead with what they believe is a claim against racism. Suresh Grover, the family's spokesman and chairman of the National Civil Rights Movement, said: "All the papers will be served by this Friday. They are being served for assault and battery, which in our view was motivated by race. "The Najeib family remain committed to ensuring there is justice for Sarfraz and Shahzad in the civil courts." Each claim against the players will refer to one of the group of people the footballers were with allegedly saying "Do you want some, Paki?" before the assault took place. Woodgate's soon-to-be former team-mate Lee Bowyer, will, along with two of the original defendants in the first of the two criminal trials, also be served with a civil claim. Bowyer was subsequently cleared after the second trial and Woodgate was found guilty of affray. Woodgate's solicitor has declined to comment but a solicitor for one of his friends, Neale Cavenny, who is also being sued, declared the action would be "fought to the bitter end."

Bowyer's solicitor, Mohammed Khanzada, said a formal defence against the action had been served and an initial court hearing was now awaited. In the attack Najeib was beaten unconscious and left with a fractured nose, cheekbone and leg. His brother Shahzad was also injured but less severely.

Spanish King's Cup Real reserves tested



REUTERS, Madrid

Second Division Terrasa scored twice in the last nine minutes to claim a 3-3 draw at home to a second string Real Madrid side on Wednesday and stay in with a chance of making the quarter-finals of the King's Cup. Real coach Vicente del Bosque chose to rest the entire starting line-up from the weekend's 4-1 win over Valencia in the Spanish league but the visitors were still able to take the lead with a Javier Portillo penalty midway through the first half. Haruna Babangida, on loan from Barcelona, had the satisfaction of equalising on 63 minutes but Real pulled clear with a double from Guti, the first a neat finish to a sweeping move on 68 minutes, the second a low free kick three minutes later. Real looked set to take a comfortable lead back to the Bernabeu for the third round second leg next

week but the late intervention of Monty changed the game. Monty managed to get in front of the Real defence to convert a Pedro Riesco cross on 81 minutes and the Catalan midfielder levelled the scores three minutes later with a header at the far post from Hector Besora's swinging centre. Osasuna made virtually certain of a place in the quarter-finals with a 4-0 stroll away to Real Union de Irun. Sevilla are well placed after beating Numancia 3-1 away, while Atletico Madrid's 1-0 win at Xerez should be enough to see them through in the second leg at the Calderon. The two all-First Division ties finished with honours even after the first leg, with Real Mallorca drawing 2-2 at home to Valladolid and Recreativo Huelva claiming a goalless draw away to Real Betis. Cup holders Deportivo Coruna claimed a 1-1 draw away to Third Division Alicante in a game played on Tuesday.

Green signal for Farnborough



AFP, London

Non-league outfit Farnborough Town, who beat Darlington in the FA Cup to book an enticing fourth-round tie against holders Arsenal, have been told to play the fixture at Highbury because of concerns over safety. Worries over the safety of fans led to a review of conditions at the club's 4,100-capacity ground by club officials and the local council, as well as police, fire and ambulance representatives and an Football Association (FA) crowd adviser. FA head of communications Paul Newman said: "The recommendation was that the ground is not suitable to stage a major cup tie of this nature. "There were concerns about the facilities needed for such a game and the administration of the tie. Both clubs have been informed of the decision." It means that Farnborough, now due to play against Arsenal Wenger's side in the 38,500-capacity arena of Highbury on

January 25, have probably lost their only realistic chance of causing an upset against the Gunners. In financial terms the Conference league club will also miss out on 265,000 (400,000 dollars) TV income from the FA as Sky Sports have now switched their live coverage to Gillingham's game against Leeds. Farnborough's players are likely to be looking forward to the tie, but in safety terms the club manager and chairman Graham Westley put things into a bigger perspective. He told Sky Sports News: "Arsenal put it to me very nicely. They said 'we have 38,000 fans, are your stands up to it? Are ticketing arrangements up to it? Is there the potential for mass disaster on the day and can you give assurances there won't be?' "In the end I think it was the only decision to make. "As the manager and someone in close contact with the players on a day-to-day basis, there are all those footballing reasons to play the game at home, but they cannot be allowed to cloud a decision of this type. "We have to be sure people come to our ground and are safe and we couldn't give that guarantee. We have to hold our hands up."

Figo a 2004 ambassador

AFP, Lisbon

Real Madrid's star midfielder Luis Figo will be an ambassador for the 2004 European championship which Portugal will host, along with legendary striker Eusebio and 19-year-old Newcastle United midfielder Hugo Viana, organizers said Wednesday. The president of the Euro2004 tournament organizers, Gilberto Madail, said all three Portuguese football stars had accepted the invitation to represent the championship. "We would like to publicly recognize their gesture and thank them for their availability," he told a news conference. As ambassadors the three will take part in events to promote the tournament, which will be played from June 12 to July 4, including the launch of ticket sales and the final draw for the composition of teams. Portugal is spending nearly 600 million euros (625 million dollars) to build seven new stadiums and renovate three others in several cities across the country in order to host the championship. It is the first major sports event to be held in the country.

Close call for Voellers

AFP, Nuremberg

Germany coach Rudi Voeller and his two children escaped unhurt after a road accident in icy conditions near Nuremberg in the south of the country, police said on Wednesday. Voeller, who collided with a truck from the Czech Republic, said: "It was slippery and I lost concentration for a moment." Voeller and his children Laura, 14, and 12-year-old Marco were unhurt though the total damage was estimated at 10,000 euros (10,000 dollars). "This has been my most serious road accident so far," added Voeller who was 1990 World Cup winner as a player and finalist as a coach last year.

Ajax Winter ending

AFP, Amsterdam

Dutch giants Ajax are to terminate the contract of Holland's most capped player Aron Winter by mutual consent it was revealed on Wednesday. The 35-year-old, the only member of the 1988 European championship winning side to still be playing, has made just one appearance this season when he came on as a substitute. Winter, capped 82 times, did not say whether he would be retiring totally. Winter played 417 times for Ajax in two spells at the club and also played for Italian giants Lazio and Inter Milan.

English League Cup Liverpool Tongued!



AFP, London

Teenager Michael Tonge scored two goals in five minutes to give First Division Sheffield United a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Liverpool in their League Cup semi-final first leg clash here Wednesday. The 19-year-old, who has been linked with Liverpool this season, struck in the 76th and 81st minutes for his first goals in 18 matches to wipe out Neil Mellor's first senior goal for the six-time League Cup winners and leave the visitors well here in their last five trips. Both managers engaged in a war of words after the match with Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier claiming United had overstepped the mark in their physical approach while his counterpart Neil Warnock thought Liverpool should have had more yellow cards than the four they received. "I expected a physical challenge but it was a little bit more than that," Houllier said. He was particularly angry about Michael Brown's lunge in the second-half with his studs showing on goalkeeper Chris Kirkland that left the Liverpool player writhing in agony clutching his knee and led to the offender joining two other team-mates in the referee's book. "He's lucky he didn't break his leg," a fuming Houllier said. Houllier did concede he wasn't happy with his team either. "There were some good things I saw from Liverpool and there were some things I didn't like. Still it's only half-time and there's 90 minutes to go." Warnock praised his team and said it was normal the match should have been a physical contest. "Semi-finals aren't for fairies. "If I'm being really serious I would say I thought Liverpool deserved a few more yellow cards. "Still you've got to understand that this is a semi-final and obviously they are going to fight for

every ball. "It's a marvellous achievement by my players to withstand such pressure from a great side like Liverpool," added Warnock, who was celebrating his first win in three career meetings with the visitors. Mellor, 20, opened the scoring as he showed the predatory instincts that brought him 46 goals in the reserves and youth team last sea-

son, latching onto Sami Hyypia's header to head home past Patrick Kenny in the 36th minute. Tonge, though, grabbed a deserved equaliser for the home side after they had stepped up their performance in the second-half as

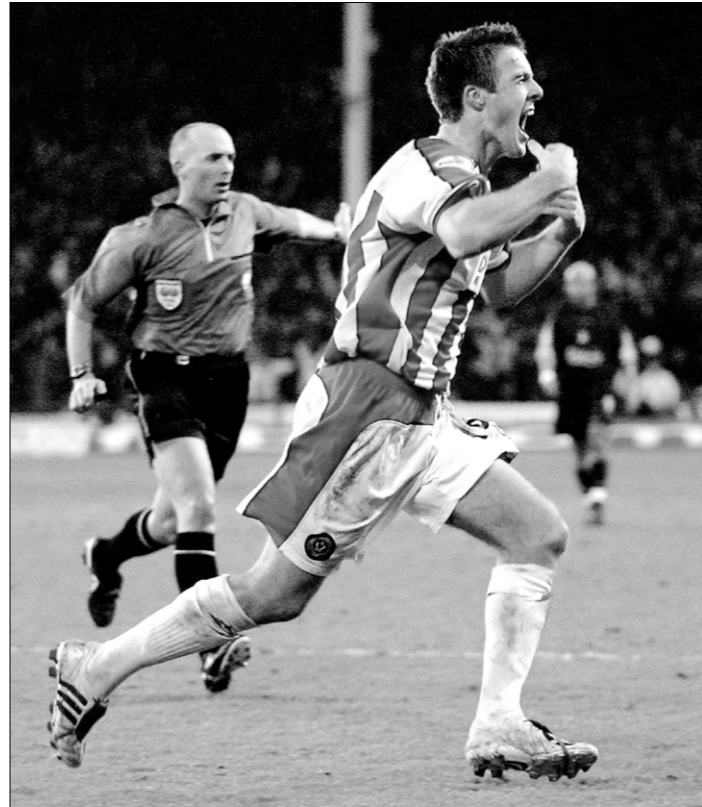


PHOTO: AFP

Michael Tonge of Sheffield United is over the moon after his first goal against Liverpool, during their Worthington Cup semi-final first leg Match at Bramall Lane, Sheffield on January 8.

He seized on veteran Stuart McCall's pass and calmly slotted the ball underneath Chris Kirkland in the 76th minute. Tonge struck again to the disbelief of the Liverpool bench five minutes later when he coolly rounded a defender and blasted the ball into the net after Stephane Henchoz's weak clearance fell to him.

"It's great to have finally scored after such a long time. I was getting a bit of stick from the other players," said Tonge, who was released by Manchester United as a schoolboy. "I was a little bit conscious of Liverpool's interest in me but I tried

Hammer Bowyer's mixed day



AFP, London

London-born Lee Bowyer joined up with his childhood club when he signed for West Ham from Leeds United on Wednesday, the same day he was hit with a European ban for stamping. The 26-year-old midfielder, who has attracted more than his fair share of controversy while at the English Premiership side, then declared he would let 'my football do the talking' once he gets to Upton Park. "I will let my football do the talking - I just want to get on with working hard," Bowyer told West Ham's website only hours after receiving word of his six-match ban by UEFA for stamping on Malaga's Gerardo during their UEFA Cup clash in

December. "I have got good experience with Leeds but I am not a world beater - I am going to try as hard as I can." The number six was prominent throughout the day. West Ham, who Bowyer says he supported as a kid, managed to seal his signature on a six-month deal following his rejection of a new contract at Leeds. A potential loan move last week to Birmingham also came to nothing before the Upton Park outfit stepped in for a fee believed to be about 300,000 pounds (450,000 dollars). "It has dragged on a bit but I am here now and I can't wait to get going," said Bowyer, who won his only cap for England to date against Portugal last September. "There were a few clubs that came in but West Ham were the most appealing to me. They are the team I support and that is why I have come here. "I said when I was to leave Leeds

it was going to take something special - and there is nothing more special than to come to the team you



LEE BOWYER

have supported as a kid. "I can't be any happier than I am at the moment - I am back with family and friends to play with the club I supported as a kid."

Bowyer's talent on the field has certainly blossomed since he joined Leeds from Charlton in 1996, and he is expected to use that to help hoist the Hammers out of the relegation zone. Glenn Roeder's strugglers airtight bottom of the table and kick off the second half of what is now a salvage operation against Newcastle at home on Saturday - a game Bowyer hopes to play in. He continued: "I think it is a good challenge and I wouldn't like to see the club go down so if I have got the chance to come here and help in any way I can I am going to do it - I am following my heart." While Bowyer's six-month ban is unlikely to affect him this season, as it is only applicable in European fixtures, he along with former Leeds team-mate Jonathan Woodgate, faces a civil court claim for damages.