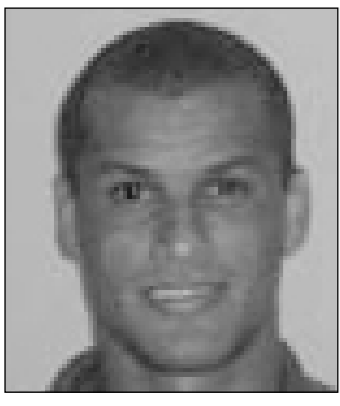


Planning with Cafu, Rivaldo

by the time the tournament starts. "Experience is important but Cafu today is 32 and Rivaldo is 30," Parreira told reporters.



RIVALDO

CAFU

South Korea, has already said he will think hard about whether to continue his international career. Fullback Cafu captained the team which won an unprecedented fifth World Cup in Japan and South Korea last year.

League One Marseille return to top

freekick. Thereafter Marseille were content to take their foot off the pedal and they handed a debut to new Russian signing Dimitry Sychev in the final six minutes as he came on for Cyril Chapuis.

Havre as he has an abdominal strain. The 22-year-old has been expected to return after being frozen out since he returned five days late from his winter holiday in Brazil.

Table with 6 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, GF, GA. Includes teams like Marseille, Nice, Lyon, Monaco, Guingamp, Sochaux.

Houllier hurt

the better." Houllier insisted that his young team were not as bad as the statistics showed despite the fact that Under-fire Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has hit back at "unfair criticism" after his team went 11 Premier ship matches without a win but insists he can resist the pressure.

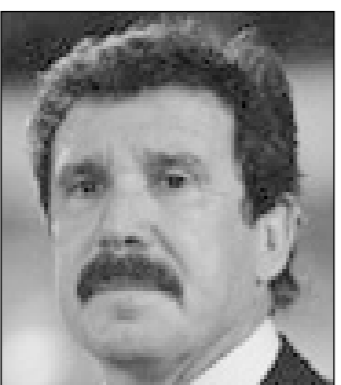


GERARD HOULLIER

seventh place. "There is a fine line between winning and losing. Imagine that we had taken just six more points during this run - even though we were capable of taking more - then we would be second. If we had got 15 points then we would be first.

Coelho appointment confirmed

have to be ready for these changes," he said. Coelho said his first priority would be to ensure South Korea qualifies for the Asian Cup in 2004.



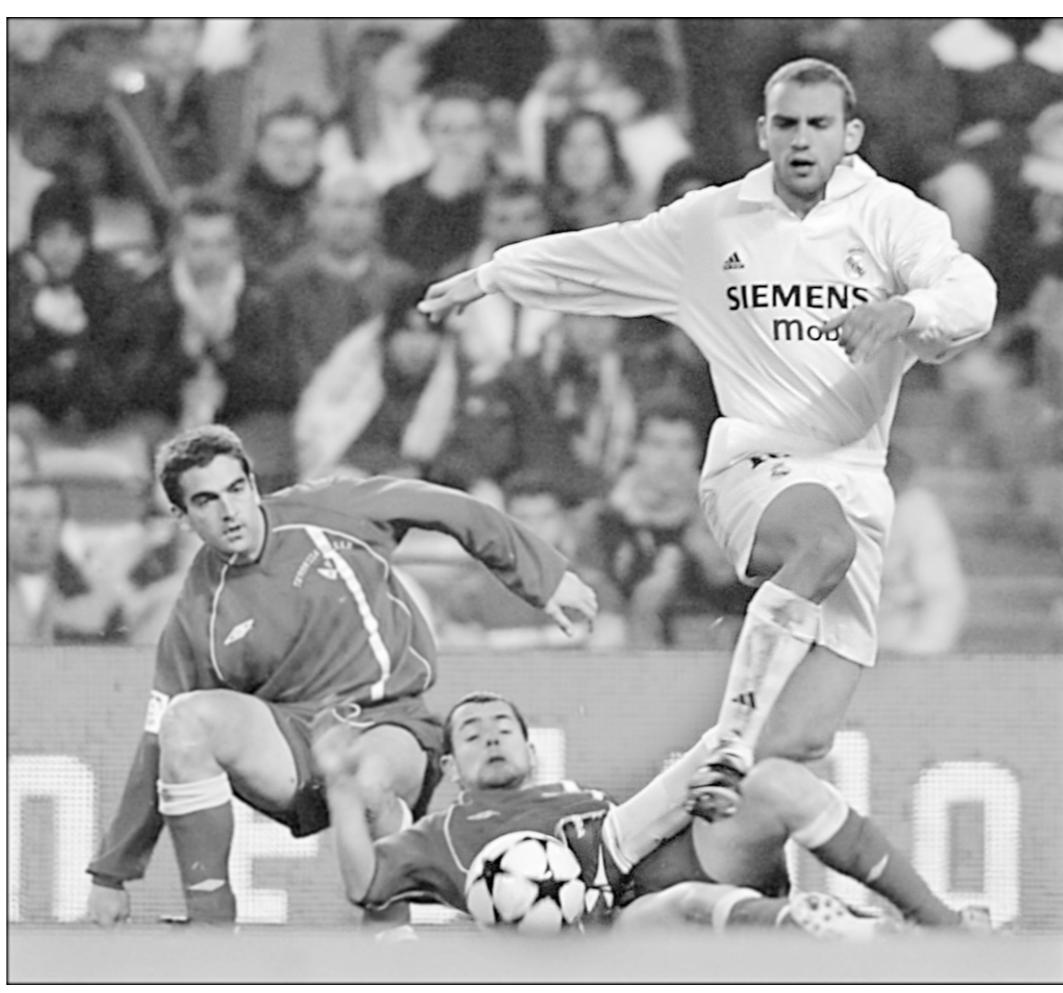
HUMBERTO COELHO

29. Coelho led Portugal to the semi-finals of Euro 2000 before being defeated by eventual winners France. He has also coached Morocco and played for Portuguese giants Benfica and French glamour club Paris St Germain.

German only!

Bulgaria, and Hungary. "From now on German is the official language," Stevens told Bild newspaper. "All my players are going to have to communicate with each other in German. I don't want a group to talk to each other in Portuguese any more and another group using Dutch."

ers, such as Iceland's Eyjolfur Sverrison, are fluent in German, others, such as Luizao, speak "practically no German", according to Bild. Stevens, who won back-to-back German Cup titles with Schalke before moving to Berlin this season, experienced a frustrating first half of the season with the team playing well below expectations.



Real Madrid youngster Raul Bravo (R) going past Terrasa's Cristian (C) and Besora (L) during their Spanish King Cup 3rd round 2nd leg match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on January 14. Real Madrid won 4-2 and qualified for the quarter-finals 7-5 on aggregate.

Gazza to try out in China

competitive match since a brief spell with First Division Burnley ended last year, admitted before flying to China on Tuesday that he knew little about the country. "I'm looking forward to it, I'm going into it with an open mind," he told Sky Sports News.

"I haven't a clue what's going to happen. I don't know what it's going to be like."

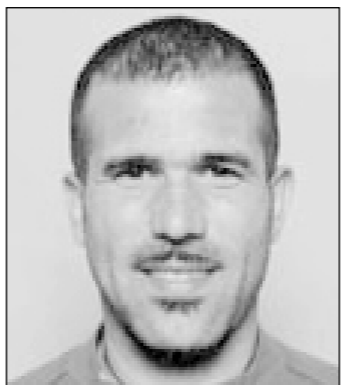


PAUL GASCOIGNE

Reminded that China was a football-crazy nation, Gascoigne responded: "I'm crazy as well so the two of us might go together well. "This is a nice challenge for me. A few things have gone wrong over the last few months."

Media irks Biagio

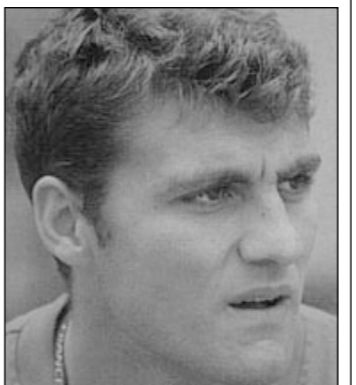
Inter Milan midfielder Luigi Di Biagio has hit back at the Italian journalists who reported he and Christian Vieri were dropped for Sunday's league match against Modena due to disciplinary reasons.



LUIGI DI BIAGIO

leaving the club's training complex on Saturday night. Di Biagio, 31, also took a swipe at the reporters who said the pair's absence forced Argentine striker Hernan Crespo, still not fully recovered from a thigh strain, to play.

Appiano Gentile (Inter's training ground), and it was particularly upsetting to be accused of playing a part in Crespo's injury," said Di Biagio at Tuesday evening's hastily-arranged press conference. "These allegations are very serious and I would like to know who spread these rumours."



CHRISTIAN VIERI

"On Saturday afternoon Vieri and myself had influenza and both of us had high temperatures. "The following morning we met with Cuper and agreed it was not worth taking the risk to play in such cold weather. We then went home."

FIFA world rankings No catching Brazil

- Leading FIFA world soccer rankings issued on Wednesday (December's position in brackets): 1. (1) Brazil 856 points 2. (2) France 787 3. (3) Spain 780 4. (4) Germany 765 5. (5) Argentina 750 6. (6) Netherlands 746 7. (9) Turkey 736 8. (7) England 734 9. (8) Mexico 732 10. (10) United States 723 11. (11) Portugal 710 12. (12) Denmark 707 13. (13) Italy 705 14. (14) Ireland 697 15. (15) Czech Republic 687 16. (17) Belgium 686 17. (16) Cameroon 684 18. (18) Paraguay 679 19. (19) Yugoslavia 677 20. (20) South Korea 669

Joaquin interests Roma

Struggling Serie A club AS Roma are interested in signing Real Betis' 21-year-old winger Joaquin Sanchez Rodriguez, according to an Italian press report on Wednesday. The Corriere dello Sport said Roma coach Fabio Capello is a big admirer of the Spain international, believed to be worth around 50 million euros (dollars).

Italian Cup Chievo hold Milan

Serie A league leaders AC Milan were held to a 0-0 draw by a Chievo in their Italian Cup quarter-final, first leg tie at an icy San Siro stadium here on Tuesday. Both coaches selected second-string teams but it was Chievo who had the better of the chances against a Milan side still boasting such talents as Alessandro Nesta, Manuel Rui Costa and Filippo Inzaghi.

Ruud reveals!

"Honestly, what we earn is not just a whacking amount of money by Dutch standards, it's obscene when you compare it to what is earned in the rest of Europe. "As a player you choose a club and you pick the ideal country where you want to play, but I admit that the size of your wage packet plays a major part."



RUUD VAN NISTELROOY

United, your wages are astronomical," the striker told Dutch magazine Voetbal International in an interview reproduced on Man United's official website.

Romario staying

Veteran Brazilian striker Romario, who turns 37 at the end of the month, said on Tuesday that he would stay at Fluminense for another year. Romario, controversially left out of Brazil's World Cup squad last year, joined the club in July and scored 15 goals as the "Tricolor" surprised expecta-

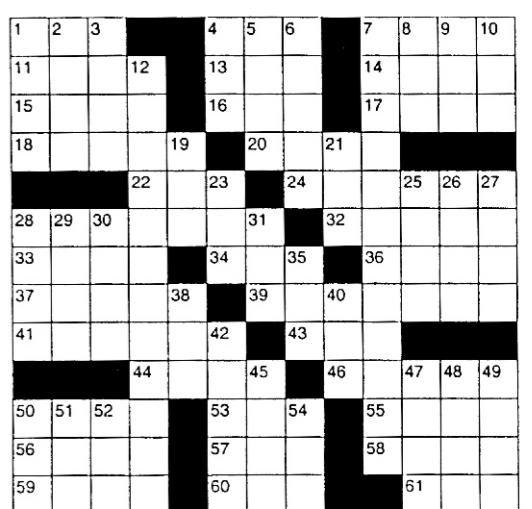


ROMARIO

tions by reaching the semi-finals of the Brazilian championship. He had also been considering an offer to return for a third stint at Fluminense's local rivals Flamengo until they pulled out of negotiations at the weekend. "To be honest, I still think I owe Fluminense something," he told reporters. "I thought we could win the title last year but it didn't work out. Maybe we'll have better luck this year."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Most undergrad degrees (Abb.) 4 TV revenue source 7 Hand warmer 11 Right angles 13 Furrow 14 Sutherland solo 15 Unadorned 16 Scratch 17 Benevolent "sans" 18 "Horse in striped pajamas" 20 Gas-station job 22 Under the weather 24 Hoboes 28 Might they tie up loose ends? 32 Ongoing 33 Reed instrument 34 Computer acronym 36 — podrida 37 Dutch bloom 39 With frugality (Abb.) 41 Puts into words 43 Illustrations 44 En-grossed 46 Acclaim 50 Singer Mitchell 53 Prior to 55 Tolenburg 56 Opposite of "sans" 57 Wet wiggler 58 Chows down 59 Dog owner's hassle 10 Craze Solution time: 24 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP CR DINHDS QR CMYU XIMYY KOHUY UJM VINHS VOR D OAADXMHUOPPR XM K P M O U M X U J M Q Saturday's Cryptiquip: I WONDER IF TOP-NOTCH BAKERS TRADE FINE BREAD RECIPES ON A KNEAD-TO-KNOW BASIS. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: X equals D The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.