



Capello put Roma's disastrous

"We have played good football all

"All our problems occur in the last

five minutes," he added, referring to

the last two league defeats against

Chievo and Atalanta in which Roma

conceded late match-winning

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti said

seeing some of his second string

players play so well could give him

some selection headaches in the

said. "Some of these players have

not played much this season so it

was good to be able to see what

goalless draw at second division

Bari to win their quarter-final 2-1 on

rewarded with a place in next sea-

son's UEFA Cup.

"It's a nice problem to have," he

On Tuesday Lazio played out a

Winners of the trophy are

season down to lapses in concen-

season but in too many matches we

have thrown away points in the last

tration towards the end of games.

minutes, he said.

Francesco Totti of AS Roma captain executing an overhead kick during the Italian Cup quarter final against Vicenza at the Olympic stadium in Rome on January 22

Italian Cup

Roma on fire

Football

AS Roma will play city rivals Lazio in a mouth-watering last four derby clash after beating Vicenza in a thrilling nine-goal Italian Cup quarter-final at the Olympic Stadium here on Wednesday.

Struggling in midtable in Serie A and without a point in their second phase Champions League group, Roma finally gave themselves something to smile about with a 6-3 second leg victory over the second

Italy international Marco Delvecchio scored a first-half hattrick while Brazilian Emerson was also on target with two rare goals for Fabio Capello's men.

Emerson's compatriot Cafu netted Roma's sixth goal from the penalty spot three minutes from the

Jeda, Stefan Schwoch and Marco Veronese scored for

Roma's comfortable win ensured

League One

abject performances by invading

minute as he tapped home after

Sochaux keeper Teddy Richert had

palmed out a header by Brazilian

World Cup winning defender

when he headed home and

Luvindula wrapped up the three

points before the first-half was out

when his shot from the edge of the

penalty area bounced unkindly for

Richert after deflecting off the boot

miracle disappeared completely

when Juninho's freekick was turned

into his own net by Charvet, who has

recently returned to France after

undistinguished spells at Newcastle

Mickael Pagis got a consolation

Monaco lost ground on the

effort with a header 18 minutes from

leaders after being held 1-1 at home

by Lens, who scored their first goal

in the Principality since the 1997-98

season when they opened the

scoring through Charles Eduard

Any hopes Sochaux had of a

Juninho then doubled the lead

Edmilson.

of a defender.

and Manchester City.

Luyindula struck in the 28th

their training ground on Sunday.

Football

AFP, Paris

Saturday.

an emphatic 8-4 aggregate score

Lyon turn it on

following last week's 2-1 win in

There were plenty of goals too in the day's other match in Verona where league leaders AC Milan beat Chievo 5-2 to progress to a last four meeting against Juventus or Perugia who meet on Thursday.

The first leg at the San Siro nded goalless. Dutchman Clarence Seedorf

scored twice while Georgian Kakha Kaladze, Jon Dahl Tomassom and former Chelsea midfielder Sam Dalla Bona all chipped in with a goal Chievo substitue Luigi Beghetto

and Daniele Franceschini replied for the home side who are one of only two teams to have beaten Milan in the league this season. Roma coach Fabio Capello said

he hoped the cup win against Vicenza would help revive the club's fortunes at home and in Europe. "It's been a good, positive day

and we hope to carry on like this," said Capello who guided Roma to their third league title two years ago.

"We remain positive about all our objectives. We must play with passion in the championship and look to recover in the Champions

Cafu coming to J-League

Football

AFP, Yokohama

Brazil's World Cup winning skipper Cafu has reached an agreement to play for J-League club Yokohama Marinos from July 1, club officials said Thursday.

The contract with the 32-year-old defender, who has played for Italian Serie A side AS Roma since 1997, will last until January 1, 2006, the The Yokohama officials did not

reveal what Cafu would be paid or the transfer fee but Japan's Jiji Press estimated his total salary at 3.75 million dollars.

"I believe Cafu will also improve our players a lot mentally," said new Yokohama coach Takeshi Okada

Cup.
Cafu, whose real name is
Marcos, Maraes Evangelista de Marcos, became the first man to play in three World Cup finals when Brazil defeated Germany 2-0 in June last year at the Yokohama stadium, the home stadium for his new club.

Cafu made his international debut against Spain in 1990, and enjoyed a successful start to his club career with Sao Paulo winning two Copa Libertadores and two world club championships.u played virtually the whole match after replacing the injured Jorginho after

Having made the right wingback berth his own in the years afterwards, Cafu was back in the final in France in 1998, a match Brazil lost 3-0 to the hosts.

Full Brazil for Gulf show

Football

AFP, Doha

Brazil, including Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos will play the stars of the Arab Gulf monarchies in a testimonial in Bahrain on April 1, an official said Wednesday.

The South Americans will be paid 850,000 dollars for the one-off, said

Sheikh Fawwaz bin Mohamed al-Khalifa, head of Bahrain's equivalent of a sports ministry.

Foreign referees will be used for the testimonial to mark the retirement of Bahraini striker Khamis Aid, Sheikh Fawwaz told a press confer-

Each of the six nations that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- will put forward three players for the game.

Marcos in talks

Football

AFP, London

Brazilian World Cup goalkeeper Marcos was reported to be finalising personal terms with Arsenal Thursday over a reported 2.5 million pounds (3.8 million dollars) move. The 29-year-old could prove an

ideal long-term replacement for England keeper David Seaman, who will be 40 at the start of next season

And Arsenal appear to have snatched him from under the noses of Manchester United. Marcos was set to sign a four-

and-a-half year contract after he passed a medical "I heard that Manchester United.

Manchester City and Deportivo La Coruna wanted me, but the only offer to Palmeiras came from Arsenal," he told the London Evening Standard.

There had been speculation that Marcos wanted to delay his career in England until the summer because of family commitments but it now looks as if he will be at Highbury this season. "It is possible I will be here by the

end of the month. There are many formalities to be sorted out first but ves. I could be an Arsenal player this season." he said. "I will need time to adapt. I am

hopeful the transfer will be sorted out before I go back to Brazil tonight. "This will be a very exciting challenge for me. I was not expect-

ing to be transferred in my career." Marcos could solve Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger's goalkeeping dilemma. Swedish-Egyptian Rami

Shaaban, brought in as cover for Seaman in the summer, is out for the rest of the season after breaking his leg in training while Stuart Taylor is of action after breaking a finger.

That leaves only 18-year-old Craig Holloway as cover for Seaman.

And Seaman, 39, capped 75 times by England, may be on his way out after 16 years at Arsenal.

FIFA to hear out S America

Football

REUTERS, Montevieded

American protests over the reduction in the continent's places at the 2006 World Cup finals and may reconsider the decision, a soccer official said on Wednesday. "We asked for them to reconsider

FIFA have agreed to listen to South

and they have put the item of the agenda," South American Football Confederation (CSF) vice-president Eugenio Figueredo told Reuters. "It doesn't mean to say they will

alter the decision. They will reconsider but I don't know if they will change their minds. It's a complicated matter."

He said that FIFA's executive committee were due to meet in

have won nine of the 17 World Cups, were awarded only four places in the 2006 finals in Germany by a FIFA meeting in Madrid in December.

four-and-a-half places, meaning that four teams qualified directly and a fifth earned a playoff against the winners of the Oceania region which has now been given a direct place. The move caused an outcry in

South America. CSF president Nicolas Leoz described it as "a punishment and an enormous iniustice for our association" and questioned whether Africa -- which has never managed to get a team beyond the quarter-finals -deserved five places.

The CSF feel doubly wronged as Brazil will be among the teams fighting for one of the four places, even though they are the defending champions. FIFA decided before the last World Cup that the titleholders would no longer gain an automatic place at the following tournament.

Advantage for Deportive, Recreativo

King's Cup holders Deportivo Coruna needed a late Aldo Duscher strike to beat Murcia 1-0 on Wednesday and earn a slim advantage to take into next week's quarter-final second leg away to the

first half chances as Murcia showed why they are strongly tipped for promotion with some neat passing and a disciplined defensive display.

Javier Irureta's side began to increasingly trouble the visitors as the second half wore on, though, with Albert Luque forcing a good save on 75 minutes and then just missing with a stylish backheel from a Manuel Pablo cross.

the right and this time his efforts brought success, as the Murcia defence could only clear his cross as far as Duscher, who squeezed in a shot at the near post. Recreativo Huelva were the

other victorious side on Wednesday, a spectacular freekick from Emilio Viqueira giving them a 1-0 win at home to Atletico Madrid. The match between Sevilla and Osasuna

last year's final, host Real Mallorca in the first leg of their quarter-final on **English League Cup**

Scholes buries Blackburn

Football

AFP, Blackburn

Paul Scholes struck twice to extend his scoring run to seven in six games as Manchester United sunk Blackburn 3-1 - 4-2 on aggregate to move into a dream League Cup

this season he has really focussed and the results are there to be

Ferguson admitted that at 2-1 he was still nervous but could not hide his excitement at meeting Liverpool

"It's the sort of final you dream about and it is part of football's fabric a Liverpool-United final." the Scot



Ruud Van Nistelrooy(R) of Manchester United tackling Blackburn Rovers' Martin Taylor during their Worthington Cup (English League Cup) semi-final second leg match at Ewood Park in Blackburn on January 22

final showdown with arch-rivals Liverpool.

Scholes' first half double and a second-half penalty won and converted by Ruud van Nistelrooy sent Alex Ferguson's men into their first League Cup final in nine years at the expense of the defending champi-

Ferguson was understandably delighted at making the final but poured praise all over Scholes. "He is magnificent at the

"Last season he was listening

Rovers boss Graeme Souness

"I've no complaints about the result. "We knew it would be a very

admitted his side had been out-

difficult game and in many ways it's easier to play them at Old Trafford," Souness said

"Paul Scholes caused us all sorts of problems in the first half, but in saying that Andy (Cole) had a great chance at 2-1.

"They are a super team, and

so many options going forward they've got great technicians throughout the team."

Souness, who revealed Ireland winger Damien Duff would be out for 'weeks" with a hamstring problem that forced him off in the first half. added: "We gave it a go, and we're better than we were last year and as long as that keeps happening and we can say that in a year's time then we will be delighted.

After coming away from Old Trafford with a 1-1 draw. Blackburn's hopes of retaining their crown were lifted when Cole scored against his former club after just 12 minutes. But Scholes grabbed two in the

space of 12 minutes to put United in command and van Nistelrooy ensured there would be no suspense at the end by rounding Brad Friedel 13 minutes from time. The Dutch striker was pulled

down - Friedel earned a yellow card - and he got up to convert the spotkick to send United on their way to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. That was not the most likely

outcome when Cole put Blackburn ahead against his former club, moving on to a chip from Turkey midfielder Tugay to clip the ball over Fabien Barthez and into the net. United looked less than convinc-

ing in the early stages but they stepped up a gear just before the half-hour mark and their pressure paid off when Scholes was able to fire home an equaliser at the second attempt. The England midfielder then

made it seven goals from six games after David Beckham sent Garv Neville overlapping down the right, exposing young defender James McEveley who was left trailing. Neville's cross was pulled back

from the by-line and Scholes drilled home his 14th goal of the season. Blackburn briefly looked like

making a fight of things at the start of the second period but United's superiority paid off when van Nistelrooy secured his first visit to Cardiff.

Premiership

Jenas delivers

Football

AFP, London

Jermaine Jenas lived up to the star billing given him by Newcastle team-mate Kieron Dyer on Wednesday as he scored the only goal to see off relegationthreatened Bolton 1-0 and register their 11th consecutive home victory.

The 19-year-old midfielder's second goal in the Premiership this season pushed Newcastle to within two points of second-placed

Manchester United and seven of leaders Arsenal. Jenas, who was hailed as the

best teenage prospect in British football when Bobby Robson signed him from Nottingham Forest last season, struck in the 18th minute after being set up by Welsh international Craig Bellamy, who said on Saturday he didn't believe the Magpies were good enough to win

Bolton had their chances to at least get a draw but their best effort saw Frenchman Bernard Mendy shoot inches wide from long distance and the need for Sam

had a chance to leave on a better note but his header went over the bar after the one cap England wonder had come on as a substitute while Newcastle's former England captain Alan Shearer saw a header

Allardyce to sign a striker before the

transfer window closes became

The wantaway Michael Ricketts

ncreasingly apparent.

crash against the bar. The only bright spot for fourth from bottom Bolton was Charton's 4-2 humbling of West Ham which left the losers still bottom and four points adrift of safety.

West Ham had taken the lead through a looping shot by Frenchman Edouard Cisse but two goals in the last three minutes of the first-half saw Charlton take charge.

Danish international Claus Jensen levelled with a fierce shot and then Scott Parker added a second with a well worked move. Parker added a third seven

minutes into the second-half but in a see saw match England international Trevor Sinclair reduced the arrears in the 62nd minute. However the three points went to

Charlton as Radostin Kishishev netted in the final minute.

TOP SIX English Premiership table after

Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against,

Arsenal 24 14 5 5 40 24 47 Man Utd Newcastle 24 14 3 7 40 31 45 Chelsea 24 11 8 5 41 23 41

Liverpool 24 10 8 6 32 23 38 Jermaine Jenas starts celebrating after scoring for Newcastle against

WHJTAXN JEXSX'Y

COULD BE CALLED A "THUGBOAT." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals S

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Sochaux Nisa Saveljic (R) and Sylvain Monsoreau on January 22. However the hosts extended

when Sebastien Squillaci equalised in the 54th minute. Bordeaux moved to within six points of the leaders with a game in

their unbeaten run at home to 10

hand as they thrashed Guingamp. Portuguese international Pauleta bagged two to take his total to 13 for the season, while Brazilian star Savio netted his fourth for the club since joining from Real Madrid.

Guingamp put up more of a fight in the final 20 minutes as Stephane Carnot bagged a brace but with Pauleta netting his second in between the two they were more of a consolation as the losers slipped further from title contention. Nantes, too, caught the scoring bug and are just eight points adrift of

Lvon with two games in hand after their thrashing of Sedan which was rounded off by Romanian international Viorel Moldovan in the 86th minute. Rennes goalkeeper Petr Cech was watched by scouts fr Premiership leaders Arsenal a

Bastia.

Ajaccio grabbed three points in their relegation sixpointer with Troyes as former French international Bernard Diomede celebrated his debut after ending a nightmare two-year stay at Liverpool with a well taken goal in the 27th minute.

The Corsican side were reduced to 10 men 18 minutes from the end when Bruno Rodriguez was sent off but they had enough to hold on and extend Troyes' away win drought to 21 matches and leave the club from the Champagne region feeling distinctly flat in last place.

TOP SIX French league table after

Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): Lyon 23 11 6 6 41 28 39

Zurich on March 6 and 7. South America, whose teams

The continent previously had

South American countries, led by

eams from Asia, CONCACAF and

Peru and Ecuador, have suggested

that the fifth-placed team in the

continent's qualifying competition

goes into a four-way playoff with

Spanish Cup

REUTERS, Madrid

second division side Depor were limited to a couple of

With five minutes to go Manuel Pablo set off on another run down

Real Madrid, beaten by Depor in

43 Old type 4 Miff, and 24 Greek 1 Easy vowel 25 Postal 47 Chewy mark 5 Summa-5 "Flying treats Creed Down to 49 Hardy 6 Dr. Seuss' 26 Demure "If - the cabbage 8 Tower city 50 Cafeteria 27 Recipe 12 PC sym-7 Hockey measure 51 Longing bol legend ment 13 Blow it 52 Ms. Bobby 28 Heighten 14 State with Fitzgerald 8 Yellow

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Bolton on January 22.

54 Small 9 Lendl of salatennis 10 Denom 18 Wagon 55 Requisite nation 11 Vicinity DOWN 17— patriae 1 Frisbee or 19 Cistern DOWN maybe 22 Stan fioppy 21 Hiatus 2 USC Getz's 22 Sauce instrument

and dogs

53 Terrier

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23 Doctrine

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Lance

31 Sly one

32 Actress

Thurman

33 Rye seed

36 Joyful

38 Kippur

39 Chop

down

shade

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30 Jurist

la's capital

20 Ray

Solution time: 27 mins

symbol

fruit of the

tropics

3 Rain cats 23 Muscle movement 40 Deeds card 42 Talk like an ass leader?

volume

29 Opinion

guide

assent

intruder

31 Cable

34 Tar's

35 Apple

37 Blow

44 Crooner 45 "Vogue" competito 46 Pencil **48 CBS**

CRYPTOQUIP

CSXXAX YDHJ HW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A SHIP THAT BELONGS TO A BAND OF PLUNDERING PIRATES

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the