



PHOTO: AFP

Coach Louis van Gaal attends a normal training session of Barcelona club on January 27. Hours later Van Gaal resigned from his position.

Van Gaal leaves

Football
REUTERS, Barcelona

Dutch coach Louis van Gaal agreed to leave Barcelona on Tuesday, just eight months into his second spell in charge at the Nou Camp.

Van Gaal, who resigned as Barcelona coach in 2000 after three fraught seasons, said he had decided to move on again because of his side's poor results in the Spanish league.

European competition. Both those records are in clear danger this season. Van Gaal steered Barcelona to league titles in the first two seasons of his original three-year spell from 1997 to 2000 and also landed one King's Cup and a European Super Cup.

as a huge surprise, particularly as in the interim his Netherlands team had failed to qualify for the 2002 World Cup finals. One of his first decisions on returning to Barcelona was to let Rivaldo go on a free transfer to AC Milan, thus avoiding a repeat of the damaging spat between the pair during his first spell in charge.

VAN GAAL FACTS
AFP, Barcelona

Louis van Gaal factfile after it was announced on Monday he was set to leave his post as Barcelona manager pending a negotiated settlement for his departure:

Position: Striker
Clubs: De Meer (amateur side, till 1971), Ajax (1971-73), AZ Alkmaar (1973-75), FC Antwerp (Bel/1973-February 1978), Telstar Beverwijk (Feb - June 1978), Sparta Rotterdam (1978-86), AZ 67 Alkmaar (August - November 1986)

COACHING CAREER
Clubs: AZ 67 Alkmaar (November 1986 - November 1987), Ajax (1988-91, youth coach then and then assistant coach), Ajax (1991-97), Barcelona (1997-2000), Dutch national coach (2000-2002), Barcelona (Since 2002)

HONOURS AS COACH
Champions League Winner (1995), finalist (1996)
UEFA Cup Winner (1992)
Intercontinental Cup Winner (1995), finalist (1996)
European Super Cup Winner (1995)
Dutch championships Winner (1994, 1995, 1996)
Dutch Super Cups Winner (1993, 1994, 1995)
Spanish championships (1998, 1999)
Spanish Cup Winner (1998)
Coach of the year Dutch coach of the year (1996)

Emirates makes history

AFP, Dubai

Dubai's Emirates airline signed up Tuesday to pay about 30 million dollars to become an official partner for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Premiership preview Wenger eyes gap extension

Football
AFP, London

Arsene Wenger is urging his Arsenal team to make the most of Manchester United's midweek 'rest' and extend their lead at the top of the table when they travel to Liverpool on Wednesday.

Highbury on Saturday. Traditionally, all FA Cup ties were played on Saturday. But the desire of broadcasters to space matches out over the weekend has angered Wenger.

have only scored eight goals in their last ten matches, and two were from penalties. "I would like more composure in front of the box," said Houllier.

Gazza gets a club!

AFP, Beijing

Former England star Paul Gascoigne has joined the team bottom of China's Second Division, saying the chance to become a player-coach was too good to pass up.

FA Cup As good as it gets

Football
AFP, London

Premiership rivals Manchester United and Arsenal will clash at Old Trafford in an FA Cup fifth round blockbuster next month.

Refs on the backfoot

AFP, Rome

Italian referee Fionzeno Treossi is to be suspended for his performance in last weekend's Serie A match between bottom club Como and AS Roma, according to media reports here Tuesday.

Football wins the war

Football
AFP, Arbil, Iraq

Despite the terrible suffering the Baghdad regime has inflicted on Iraqi Kurds, whose northern enclave has been off limits to it since 1991, the two sides still come together amicably for a favorite pastime: football.

heard from the stands of the Francois Hariri stadium, named after an assassinated Iraqi Kurdish leader, where the crowd followed the match excitedly.

lover in the crowd. But football in Iraq was not always this friendly. In the late 1980s, when the Baghdad regime launched a violent anti-Kurdish campaign, games in Iraqi Kurdistan led to clashes when the Kurds accused referees of favoring Iraqi Arab teams.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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51									52		53

CRYPTOQUIP
Y M H L F H F L A N Y E - L N B M
A D N B X H R F X Y R E T A M J
F M O E R A T B M F Z N Y V : " D R O
Z D M O D H J Z O N J O R F ."
Yesterday's Cryptquip: SUPPOSE YOU'RE IN A CAR, BUT THE DRIVER KICKS YOU OUT. HAVE YOU BEEN DE-RIDED?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals W
The Cryptquip 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.

FIXTURES (1945GMT unless stated)
Wednesday: Liverpool v Arsenal (2000GMT), Manchester City v Fulham, Tottenham v Newcastle, West Brom v Charlton, West Ham v Blackburn