## **Everything's going to change!**

Football

REUTERS, London

Soccer may shortly be putting up the sort of advertisements more familiar to movie fans: "Coming to a club near vou: more action, more danger -- it's Bosman II".

The alarming sequel to the December 1995 verdict which changed the face of European football has sneaked up almost unnoticed and it could change soccer in an even more dramatic way than the original Bosman ruling

The lack of impact so far has had two causes -- firstly, the ruling has affected only France up to now; secondly, it came about because of a woman basketball player.

But agents for footballers of many countries beyond the European Union, including eastern Europe and north Africa, are preparing to make Lilia Malaja as significant a personality in soccer history as Jean-Marc Bosman.

The European Court judgment prompted by the Belgian's move from FC Liege to Dunkerque swept away contract retention rules and restrictions on the movement of EU citizen players within the European community's 15 member nations.

Malaja's legal victory, ratified by the French Council of State in December and upholding her right as a Polish citizen to seek work in France, threatens to extend all the provisions and rights secured by Bosman to 24 countries initially and then almost 100 more.

That threatens a second flood of bargain-buy footballers through western Europe, seeking to share in the game's richest environment.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has warned that every aspect of the game, from youth level development to national teams, will be affected.

"Bosman to the power of 10." Blatter has called the Malaja ruling. No doubt, as with Bosman, the game's rulers will try to pull up the drawbridge. But, again as with Bosman, it appears inevitable that the demands of international law will force them into surrender

Malaja is always described as

David Beckham, idolised by soccer

fans and teenage girls across

England, has now stolen the hearts

of academics at a British University

who describe him as a global

phenomenon, a chosen-one and a

Beckham: Celebrity, Masculinity

claim the Manchester United

midfielder and England captain is

the most influential man in the

he appeals across such a wide

range of people." said one of the

of Warwick University's

male, it's female, it's from age five

to 60," Parker told Reuters. "He has

author Ellis Cashmore of

Staffordshire University describe

Beckham as "emerging master,

global phenomenon, chosen-one,

sporting messiah, corporate and

commercial standard bearer. Calm,

considered, slight yet strong,

**Toppmoller** 

In the study, Parker and co-

such an all-pervasive appeal."

"His audience is so wide -- it's

Department of Sociology.

"His image is a global issue and

In a study entitled "One David

Football

REUTERS, London

sporting messiah

but she was born in Kazakhstan on December 17 1967 and her basketball career has taken her to Belarus, Poland, Spain, France and Israel.

It was during her spell in France, in June 1998, that Malaja signed for Strasbourg.

French basketball clubs were permitted a maximum of two non-EU players and, having reached their limit, Strasbourg were refused permission by the domestic federation to register Malaja.

Lawyers for club and player appealed to a Strasbourg tribunal that Malaja had a non-restrictive right to work in France under the terms of a state treaty signed with Poland in 1991. It laid down that no labour discrimination could be applied to a Polish citizen seeking work in France.

In January 1999, the tribunal rejected Malaja's claim but it was then upheld by the Court of Appeal in Nancy in February 2000. The basketball authorities then took the matter to the highest court in France and, at the end of last year, lost.

The judgment applies directly, thus far, only to French sport. But the principle has been conceded by a superior national court within the EU. Sooner or later player agents will flex their muscles in pursuit of similar concessions throughout the

Indeed, they may short-cut the process by seeking a single European Commission order ratifying the concession for all countries ssessing similar labour agreements with the EU.

Blatter believes that the Malaja ruling, combined with the enlargement of the EU in 2004, will throw European football's doors wide open to players from more than 100

As he points out, in June 2000 in Cotonou, Benin, the European Union signed similar blanket agreements with 77 countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific

He says: "The mass immigration of players from countries with associate agreements will threaten the sort of investment in youth development which has brought us players such as Rafael Van der Vaart at Ajax in Holland and Wayne Rooney at Everton in England.

permit clubs to employ a maximum of five non-EU players. Philippe Piat, president of the French players' union, says: "The only certain consequence of removing this restriction is that more French players will be made redundant -especially in the second division."

Some 20 of the 130 non-EU players registered with the French league could qualify for EU status under the Malaja ruling

Blatter, in general agreement with UEFA on this issue, wants the European Commission to grant football a six-plus-five exception This would force clubs to field at least six 'home nationals' per match.

"We need to bring some common sense back into the game after the economic bonanza of the last few years," says Blatter. "It's essential we maintain the delicate balance between national identity and the international diversity which enriches our sport.'

Blatter believes that the deregulation inspired by both Bosman and the television rights explosion is central to the game's present finan-On the opposite side, football

clubs such as Strasbourg say it is precisely because of the financial crisis that they need the right to reduce their costs by signing cheaper foreign players. Strasbourg's president, Patrick Proisy, says: "Players from these

associated countries have salaries six or seven times below the basic rate for a footballer in France." Unsurprisingly, he waited only a matter of days after the Malaja ruling before seeking to register Czechs David Kobylik and Vaclav Drobny

Proisy has warned: "We will go back to court if we have to."

for the second half of the French

Blatter and UEFA's president, Lennart Johansson, still hope the EU will grant sport certain exemptions from the Treaty of Rome. But the prospects are slim.

The European Union and its commission have more important issues to resolve. Most significant is the one Blatter fears the most -- next year's delicately-negotiated expansion by the power of 10.



New South Korean national football coach Humberto Coelho makes a point during a press conference in Seoul

## Coelho's cautious start

Football

AFP, Seoul

New national football coach Humberto Coelho warned South Korea Tuesday that their astonishing World Cup run last year had produced an unwanted side-effect.

"South Korea's World Cup results were extraordinary," said the 52-year-old former coach of Portugal.

"But from now on opposing teams are looking at Korea in a different light. They will be out to get them. And the players had better be mentally and physically ready for that," Coelho said following his arrival to prepare for his new job.

Coelho said he would seek to blend an elusive "Latin" touch of balls skills to the drive and enthusiasm that carried South Korea to the

The UEFA team of the year selected

by votes to the European governing

body's website up until January 31:-

Rustu (Tur/Fernerbahce)

Carlos Puyol (Spa/Barcelona),

Alessandro Nesta (Ita/Milan),

Cristian Chivu (Rom/Ajax), Roberto

Carlos (Bra/Real Madrid) - Clarence

Seedorf (Ned/Milan), Michael

Damien Duff (Irl/Blackburn) - Thierry

Henry (Fra/Arsenal), Ronaldo

Kleberson still

Newcastle United if talks go well

between directors of his club

(Bra/Real Madrid).

Ballack (Ger/Bayern Munich)

**UEFA** picks

team of the

vear

AFP. Geneva

semi-finals of the 2002 World Cup. He said he was looking to build a

compact side around a big defense -- the European standard these days -- with the emphasis on pace in every position. "I will be looking for a more Latin

touch from the players and more speed," he said. "A strong defense He said he was ready to shrug off the inevitable comparisons with

South Korea's World Cup coach Guus Hiddink, a Dutchman who became a national hero here. "There will be comparisons made betwen me and him, particularly at the beginning," he told a

press conference a day after arriving in South Korea. "But I am not going to change my style because he did this or that. I respect his work but I am going to do

it my way. Hiddink was made an honorary remains an advisor to the Korean Football Association despite his return to coaching duties in the "He did a great job here. But I am

going to do it my way, quietly and confidently," said Coelho. Here on a five-day preliminary

visit Coelho returns in early March

to prepare for his debut match against Colombia scheduled for He signed an 18-month contract

to coach South Korea until August 2004 with an option for renewal. Coelho, who made 64 appear-

ances for Portugal as a player, took charge of the country's national team in 1997 and guided the side to the semifinals of Euro 2000. More recently he coached

Morocco in the side's failed bid to qualify for the 2002 World Cup

## keyed up

Spanish Cup preview

**Deportivo all** 

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

As the only Spanish club still bidding for success in three major competitions. Cup holders Deportivo Coruna are keen to get their semifinal tie against Real Mallorca off to a flying start. The Galicians, who host the

islanders in the first leg at the Riazor on Wednesday (kickoff 2030 GMT), moved up into fourth in the league after their 2-0 win away to Real Betis on Sunday.

Later this month they will be renewing their bid to make the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the third year running when they play back-to-back matches against Swiss side Basel.

Although coach Javier Irureta is anxious that his side goes all out for success in every competition, he is aware of the toll it could take on his team with the season now entering its most crucial phase.

"Of course we are aiming for success in everything," Irureta told reporters on Monday. "But it is a very the last four of the World Cup and tall order when you are fighting on three fronts at the same time.

With the return matches not taking place until the start of next month, Irureta is hoping that his side can resolve the tie against Mallorca

n the first leg. "It is going to be a very tough month for the players and we are going to have to do all we can to sort out the tie in the first leg."

Mallorca, who demolished an under-strength Real Madrid 4-0 in last weeks' quarter-final second leg, will be Deportivo's first top flight opponents in this season's competi-

Deportivo were lucky to scrape their way to an away goals victory over second division leaders Murcia in the last round and will be aware that although Mallorca have had a inconsistent season they are match for any team on their day.

The islanders' leading scorer Walter Pandiani returns from suspension and will team up with Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o and the in-form Argentine winger Ariel Ibagaza in an intriguing battle against Depor's deadly strike pairing of Roy Makaay and Diego

The other semi-final has matched two of the first division's most modest outfits. Bottom club Recreativo Huelva, who edged their way to a 1-0 aggregate victory over Atletico Madrid in the quarters, host Osasuna at the Nuevo Colombino on Thursday.

Osasuna, who are trained by former Mexican national team coach Javier Aguirre, claimed a nailbiting 4-3 aggregate win over Sevilla at a snowy El Sadar in a match which saw four extra time goals. Whichever side wins through it

will be their debut in a Cup final and a chance to gain the first piece of silverware in their history.

**FIXTURES** Spanish King's Cup semi-final, first leg fixtures (kickoffs 2030

Wednesday, February 5: Deportivo Coruna v Real Mallorca Thursday, February 6: Recreativo Huelva v Osasuna Second leg matches scheduled for week beginning March 3.

#### Italian Cup preview

## A cracker in store

Football

AFP, Rome

AS Roma's precarious league position has ensured Wednesday's Italian Cup semi-final, first leg clash against city rivals Lazio is likely to be as fierce as any Serie Ameeting.

Italy's knock-out competition, offering a place in next season's UEFA Cup for the winners, has rarely been taken seriously by its leading clubs, who often field second-string teams for ties played in near-empty stadiums.

And as those clubs normally book their European places via the league, the Cup is of little importance to the likes of Juventus and Inter who both went out of the competition in earlier rounds.

But this season Roma can ill afford to be so choosy. A disastrous dip in form has left them ninth in the table, 11 points outside of the top four and a possible place in the highly-lucrative Champions

If they were to finish where they are now even a UEFA Cup spot would be doubtful, so Fabio Capello's men have every reason to go all out for a win in this week's 'away' leg against the team with whom they share the Olympic

The game also happens to be a derby where there is plenty of pride at stake. While Roma look to put a purposeful run together to climb out of mid-table mediocrity, Lazio are very much in contention for the title, lying five points behind joint leaders Inter and AC Milan.

"There are certain games in which you can sense a special atmosphere and this is one of them," said Roma striker Marco

By Eugene Sheffer

23 Move like

25 Highland

26 "Born in

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Hammer

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29 Battleship.

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34 Just know

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Bugs

Bunny

10 Hawaiian

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11 Pinnacle

16 Plead

Solution time: 27 mins.

**9** HBO

actor

3 Drum

Delvecchio who scored a hat-trick in the quarter final, second leg victory over second division Vicenza. "We have a lot to prove and want

n Europe. Roma could do that if they were

who scored an 89th minute

"I am sure that it will be a special

"It will be the same as any Rome derby. The fans expect that.' In Thursday's semi-final

Perugia, who knocked Juventus out in the quarter-finals, host league leaders AC Milan. Perugia will be looking to their in

form-striker Fabrizio Miccoli to pierce Serie A's best defence, which has conceded just 13 goals in 19 league matches this season.

Miccoli is being widely tipped for

Semi-finals, first-legs:

Thursday: Perugia v AC Milan

## Big boys for a 'superleague' in hot waters

Sport reported on Tuesday. Gazzetta said the leading clubs

who make up the G-14 group are unhappy that UEFA have opted to cut the second phase of the Champions League from next season -- a move that reduces the number of potential European matches by four.

reported to be considering is for a European superleague to begin in the season 2006-07, when the latest television deal for the Champions League ends.

The paper, which did not give the source of their information, said that teams from the strongest soccer nations such as Italy, England, Spain and Germany would make up the first division of a new league with teams from lower-ranked nations playing in a second division.

Gazzetta said the idea was for relegation and promotion between the two divisions and said selection for the initial competition would be

men's attitudes to fashion, fatherhood and homosexuality while remaining faithful to his traditional masculine, working-class roots.

Beckham's complex and contradictory identity suggests that there is room for more than one version of masculine construction within the



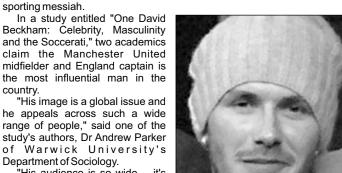
**DAVID BECKHAM** 

context of English professional

Beckham, husband of Posh Spice Victoria Beckham, is part "new man", part "new lad", part "dad lad"

tial sporting icon" They say he has transformed celebrity appeal

'We would argue that



soccer ... ," the study says. Parker and Cashmore say

Becks an academic hit!

They say no player in the long history of English football has come close to matching Beckham's

"It would be a poor comparison but one might venture that Bobby Moore was the last sportsman to have a similar appeal, but Beckham has emerged at a point in time when consumer society, consumer culture and image is everything,

"That wasn't happening when Booby Moore was playing," he eferring to E World Cup captain.

Beckham became a scapegoat for the frustrations of millions of English soccer fans in 1998 when he was sent off in an epic World Cup clash between England and arch-rivals Argentina.

Many fans blamed his petulant kick on Argentina's Diego Simeone

for England's defeat. But since then he has undergone a resurrection both on and off

He booked England's berth to the 2002 World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan with a brilliant injury time goal against Greece and has become a fashion icon and devoted father to sons Brooklyn and Romeo.

based on UEFA's ranking system.

The G-14 group, which now

contains 18 clubs including Real Madrid, AC Milan, Bayern Munich

and Manchester United, are meet-

There has long been talk of a 'superleague' for European soccer

and in 1998 Italian company Media

Partners planned a breakaway league but UEFA headed off the

threat by expanding the Champions

December when a group of Spanish

The idea re-emerged in

ing in Madrid on Tuesday.

League from 16 to 32 clubs.

#### a possibility AFP, Newcastle Brazil's World Cup winning midfielder Kleberson could still win a move to Prmeiership highflyers

Atletico Paranaense and the English side's board go well on Tuesday. According to the Evening Chronicle Atletico's directors are to fly to Newcastle on Tuesday and hold a further round of talks with Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd with a view to agreeing a

Shepherd held talks in Brazil two weeks ago but was unable to conclude the deal for the 22-year-old, who was also high on cashstrapped Leeds Uunited's target list. Atletico are desperate to get a deal sealed for their star performer

as they are in deep financial trouble

5million pound (7.5million dollar)

transfer once the season ends.

## on Gerrard



Liverpool midfielder Steven

The 22-year-old was not fined but will miss Wednesday's FA Cup replay with Crystal Palace and the Premiership matches with Middlesbrough and Birmingham.

There is also a possiblity Liverpool will refuse to release him for the friendly with Australia on February 12 as manager Gerard Houllier was furious at the treatment meted out to his player, who has stormed back to form of late and scored a fine goal in the 3-0

"I'm disappointed." Houllier said

"I stand by what I said before that it was a mis-timed tackle and not malicious even Everton man-

have come to the hearing," added the Frenchman. Gerrard was convicted on video evidence as referee Graham Poll neither sent off Gerrard nor booked the player because he did not see

that it was malicious I would not

Gerrard formally denied a

the incident



NEWCOMERS: Barcelona's new recruit Argentinean Juan Pablo Sorin (L) being introduced by the club's newly appointed coach Serbian Radomir at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on February 3.

### Football

Gerrard received his expected three match ban from the Football Association (FA) on Monday for his wo-footed lunge Gary Naysmith in December's Mersevside derby.

win over West Ham on Sunday.

after the hearing in Bolton.

ager David Moyes accepted that. "If I had had the slightest hint



35 Larry's 36 Long

#### charge of violent conduct against the Scottish international. The upside to his ban is he will

be eligible for the two legs of the UEFA Cup tie against French side Auxerre as well as the League Cup Final against

Manchester United on March 2.

Gerrard has apologised to Naysmith as well as Moyes, and insisted he would "never go out to deliberately hurt an opponent". Liverpool, who requested a

personal hearing, had hoped

Gerrard's rash moment will not be viewed in isolation and that a generally decent disciplinary record works in the player's favour. Since making his debut against Blackburn in November 1998. Gerrard has been sent off three

times and has averaged a yellow

card every eight games in his 178

For a player with such high energy and a dramatic, competitive tackling style in the midfield battleground he operates in, the 23 bookings he has incurred are not

His first dismissal came on September 27, 1999 in his first Merseyside derby after a collision with Kevin Campbell.

37 — St.

38 Church

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**ACROSS** 

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to win the Cup to guarantee a place to win this season's Champions

League, but with no points from their two second phase matches, their chances of making it through to the quarter-finals look highly remote. Lazio midfielder Diego Simeone

equaliser in his side's 1-1 draw at Chievo on Sunday, said neither team would be taking the derby

occasion. It's an important tie for us and for them," said the veteran Argentina international

a call-up to the Italian squad for this month's friendly international against Portugal after a string of mpressive performances for the

Milan, who also visit Perugia in the league on Sunday, are expected to continue with Kakha Kaladze in the left-wing back position, as Brazilian Serginho is still recovering from an ankle iniurv.

**FIXTURES** 

Wednesday: Lazio v AS Roma

# CRYPTOOUIF

UIJQHFJ MHIQTJAKA

XKJSTKIA

X V I S T K Q V H C S ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE IS
ALWAYS A PESSIMIST, ONE MIGHT SAY HE'S

POSITIVELY NEGATIVE Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

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

#### no means out of the question The minnows from the Munich suburbs have home advantage and history on their side.

Bayer Leverkusen's manager Klaus Toppmoller received a blunt message from his ailing club's board on Monday - start producing results or

AFP, Leverkusen

weeks now as the level of form that lifted Leverkusen to second in the German first division last season has deserted them. "A coach must bring success and results," Leverkusen's manager

Reiner Calmund told Toppmoller.

"If that's not the case then obvi-

Toppmoller's future with the

Champions League runners-up has

looked decidedly shaky for some

ously you have to talk about it, openly.' Leverkusen, one point above the relegation zone, suffered a hugely humiliating 3-0 home defeat to relegation strugglers Energie Cottbus and a 2-0 loss to champions Borussia Dortmund in their last two Bundesliga games

change of fortune in Wednesday's German Cup quarter-final against third division rivals Unterhaching. Defeat will surely mean his days at Leverkusen are over, and it's by

Toppmoller will be praying for a

## Football

European soccer's elite clubs are considering making a push to turn the continent's premier club competition, the Champions League, into a two-division 'superleague', the Italian newspaper Gazzetta dello

The proposal that G14 are

businessmen, headed by entrepreneur Carlos Garcia Pardo, said that they are aiming to establish a 16team competition called the "Euro-pean Golden Cup" as a rival to UEFA's Champions League. The G-14 have said they do not support any possible breakaway from UEFA and have insisted they

auspices of the federation.

deal with the concerns of the major teams, is due to meet in Nyon on February 11 with reform of club competitions possibly on the UEFA are considering changes to the second tier UEFA Cup with the

possible introduction of a group

are committed to working under the

UEFA's club forum, set-up to

# Three match ban