

Liverpool take slim advantage



AFP, Glasgow

Swedish striker Henrik Larsson celebrated his return to the Celtic team with his 35th goal of the season less than two minutes into his 36th match.

But it was Liverpool who emerged the favourites to progress to the last four of the UEFA Cup after Emile Heskey's goal secured a 1-1 draw in Thursday's quarter-final first leg at Celtic Park.

In other ties a Simone Inzaghi goal ten minutes after the restart was enough to give Italy's Lazio a slender 1-0 success in Rome over Turkey's Besiktas while Panamanian striker Julio Dely Valdes scored the only goal for Spain's Malaga in a 1-0 home success over Portugal's Boavista.

What was, after a frenetic opening 20 minutes, a strangely subdued 'Battle of Britain' was marred near the end when Liverpool striker El Hadji Diouf spat at a Celtic fan after running into the crowd.

The Senegal World Cup star faces possible prosecution after an incident that was caught by the television cameras.

Both Larsson, playing his first match since suffering a double fracture of his jaw a month ago, and Michael Owen spurned gilt-edged second half chances to win the match.

But neither side could reasonably claim to have done enough to have deserved victory.

Liverpool coach Gerard Houllier said the away goal proved crucial.

"Scoring a goal away from home is important. But it's just half time. We didn't start the way we wanted to start but credit to the players - they came back with character," Houllier said.

Celtic also drew with Blackburn at home earlier in the tournament but then went down to England and won convincingly. "I know what they did to Blackburn," Houllier said. "There is no danger of us under-rating them."

Celtic counterpart Martin O'Neill insisted that his side could go to Anfield next week and win.

"We're still in the tie, without a doubt. We got off to a great start but Liverpool proved themselves to be a quality side and their equaliser knocked the stuffing out of us for 15/20 minutes."



- ESPN**
- Western Union World Football Repeat at 11:00 am
 - English Premier Football League** Man City vs Birmingham City Live at 8:00 pm & West Bromwich vs Chelsea Live at 10:00 pm
 - Primera Liga** Bilbao vs Valencia Live at 1:30 am (Monday)
 - STAR Sports** Gillette World Sports Special Int'l Sports News Repeat at 3:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 191

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm March 21, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Shahjalil Bank International Rating Chess title?

Lovtu	Rajib	Zia
-------	-------	-----
- New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match by:

102 runs	9 wkts	5 wkts
----------	--------	--------
- How many runs did Bangladesh score against South Africa in the World Cup Group B match?

120	108	110
-----	-----	-----
- Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match?

120	108	110
-----	-----	-----

Name: _____
 Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
 School Address: _____
 Phone: (if any) _____

"But we came back into it and we are still in it. We are capable of going down there and winning and we will give it a go. I don't want to go out of a UEFA Cup quarter-final without having had a go."

"Overall I was absolutely delighted with the commitment of the side. We're not out of this by a long shot. We're still in this tie," insisted the wily northern Irishman.

John Hartson had given Liverpool a warning of what was to come within 15 seconds of the start, pulling down Chris Sutton's flick-on, turning and then clipping a shot past keeper Jerzy Dudek and on to the crossbar.

The visiting defence failed to heed that wake-up call and it was Hartson's ability to find space in the box that led to Larsson's opener.



HOW DID THAT GET IN? Liverpool custodian Jerzy Dudek (R) and defenders can only watch as Celtic's Henrik Larsson's attempt enters the net at Celtic Park in Glasgow on March 14.

little over a minute later.

The big Welshman controlled a deep cross beyond the back post and hooked the ball back across the goalmouth to Alan Thompson, whose first-time pass was bundled through Dudek's legs off the Swede's knee.

Danny Murphy provided Liverpool's first positive contribution to the evening with a shot that Celtic keeper Robert Douglas gathered comfortably.

But it was Celtic who were dominating the early proceedings and Hartson sent another effort whistling over the bar after robbing Dietmar Hamann 40 yards out.

Liverpool had the attacking endeavour of John Arne Riise to thank for getting them back on level terms.

The Norwegian defender's run from the left flank carried him past three unconvincing challenges to the edge of the Celtic box, from where a deft flick with the outside of the boot left Heskey with the task of firing low across Douglas from a tight angle.

The equaliser seemed to draw the sting from what had, until that point, been an exhilarating encounter and it was not until after the interval that the match regained its initial tempo.

Michael Owen finally displayed his menace by skipping round Joos Valgaeren inside the box only to be dispossessed by the daintiest of interceptions from the colossal Bobo Balde.

Almost immediately, El Hadji Diouf gifted possession to Hartson, who sent Larsson clear into the

Lucescu.

"We have to change something because we keep missing too many goals," groaned Lazio coach Roberto Mancini.

The Turks could have bagged a shock draw as striker Ilhan Manzis was denied only by a last-ditch block by Lazio's Dutch defender Jaap Stam.

Inzaghi secured the slenderest of first-leg leads when he turned smartly to crack home right-footed on 56 minutes after Dejan Stankovic's cross from the right.

In the remaining tie Nigerian-born Polish international striker Emmanuel Olisadebe gave Panathinaikos of Greece a 1-0 win at Portugal's fallen giants Porto, scoring 17 minutes from time.

Diouf in a soup

AFP, Glasgow

African player of the year El Hadji Diouf faces criminal and football charges for spitting at fans in Liverpool's UEFA Cup draw with Celtic in Glasgow on Thursday.

Scotland's Procurator Fiscal and European football's governing body UEFA will now decide his fate.

A spokesman for the Scottish prosecution service said charges might be brought within a week.

"Presumably they (the police) are going to report him for breach of the peace on the basis that if he did it, it could have led to some crowd trouble. So we will take it on its merits and look at it when it comes in," he added.

Two fans were arrested but later released.

UEFA also confirmed it will study the incident.

"UEFA has the power to impose a fine or a suspension on El Hadji Diouf but we look at all incidents case by case," a spokesman said.

Liverpool's Senegal World Cup star got tangled up with some of the Celtic fans while going to retrieve the ball late in the second half.

After being slapped on the back of the head by one of the fans, he appeared to retaliate by spitting.

The incident marred the match, which had started in lightning fashion with Henrik Larsson opening the scoring in the second minute before Liverpool fought back and levelled through Emile Heskey.

"There is no place for spitting in football," Celtic striker John Hartson said.

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier said the player had been fined two weeks wages and the money would go to charity.

"It was a shame that the incident cast a shadow over the performance of my team, whatever the provocation," Houllier said.

"He should not have responded the way he did. Liverpool do not condone this act in any way and will deal with it internally. I didn't like what he did, it is not acceptable in any way."

This is the second time Diouf has been involved in such an incident this season.

In November, Diouf was accused by West Ham fans at Anfield of spitting at them. Police investigated and took no action.

Portugal friendly Parreira calls up all Rs

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira on Friday called his four R's - Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho - into his squad for a prestige March 29 friendly against Portugal, coached by predecessor and World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

The Brazilians have called on all their big names despite the fact that the likes of Real Madrid pair Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos and AC Milan's Rivaldo will be still involved in the Champions League, as well as the closing stages of their respective domestic title campaigns.

EUROPE BASED PLAYERS

- Goalkeepers:** Dida (AC Milan)
- Defenders:** Cafu (AS Roma), Belletti (Villareal), Edmilson (Lyon), Juan, Cris (both Bayer Leverkusen), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Junior (Parma)
- Midfielders:** Gilberto Silva (Arsenal), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich), Flavio Conceicao (Real Madrid), Rivaldo (AC Milan)
- Forwards:** Ronaldo (Real Madrid), Ronaldinho (Paris St

Anwar makes

FROM PAGE 16

March 1. His availability will boost the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which is seeking a new national coach following Richard Pybus' resignation.

Anwar, with 4,052 Test runs and 8,823 one-day runs, is now expected to be part of Pakistan's squad for their triangular one-day series against Sri Lanka and South Africa in Sharjah over April 1-10.

Waugh wants

Pressure on Waugh to reveal his hand has been intense with an often unsympathetic Australian public calling for him to step down ahead of his superb display at the fifth Test.

"People have got short memories, I'm still not a bad player," Waugh admitted.

Patil will quit

FROM PAGE 16

"From a players' point of view we will miss him."

Tikolo added he expected another overseas coach to be appointed.



CAN I TOUCH YOUR FEET MAESTRO! A worker measures Real Madrid superstar Zinedine Zidane's feet to a custom made pair of football boots during his visit to Soccer Fair in Madrid on March 13.

India speeding up

FROM PAGE 16

the same as Zaheer and two more than Nehra, who claimed one for 24 off 10 excellent, lively overs.

It's rare to see two left-arm seamers in the same side. In recent years, indeed, there have been a dearth of quality left-armers at international level.

Batsmen may have forgotten how to play them.

Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas set the left-arm trend by leading the wicket-taking in the World Cup, including an unprecedented hat-trick of the first three balls of the match against Bangladesh. He took six for 25 that day and has 18 in all. Pakistan's Wasim Akram is also near the top of the tournament bowling list.

South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs was one batsman to open up his stance to combat Vaas, but New Zealand's batsman looked at sea as they played straight down the pitch to deliveries angled across them or cutting back off the pitch.

India captain Saurav Ganguly's coup in cajoling Srinath back into the team just in time for the World Cup has been vital to India's cause.

Coach John Wright's faith in his two left-armers, however, has been equally valuable. "The seam attack

is exciting and well balanced," he said. "Having two left-armers in the team is fairly unique."

Nehra, regarded as a bit of an eccentric by his teammates, was overlooked for two seasons after making his debut in the 1998-99 season. None of India's fast bowlers, however all of whom feature in the top dozen wicket-takers at the World Cup, have suffered from that in South Africa.

Playing

FROM PAGE 16

Even the coach John Buchanan hasn't escaped the name game.

The players call him Ned since it was decided he looked like cartoon character Homer Simpson's next-door neighbour Ned Flanders.

However, the Australian team is most proud of fast bowler Brett Lee.

Although usually called Bing, since he is considered to be the best-looking player in the squad, the paceman has also picked-up the name of Oswald.

Apparently at the start of one game, the batting order was being read aloud, comprising Brett Lee behind brother Shane and all-rounder Ian Harvey.

Test skipper Steve Waugh announced the names Lee, Harvey, and Oswald came out of the dressing room.

Matthew Hayden, with his dedication to physical fitness, is known as Hulk while fast bowler Jason Gillespie, who was forced out of the squad here through injury, is Dizzy.

In a team where being manly is everything, it's just as well that Michael Slater wasn't selected for the tour his name is Sybil.

"Being a reserved sort of bloke I'll take it pretty easy in the evenings and just have a few drinks," Slater once said.

"Then about 11 o'clock Sybil will come out."

Sybil refers to a film about a woman with multiple personalities an apt movie for an Australian team with multiple talents.

Kenya keen to get Test status in '05

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Kenya announced on Friday they would press for Test status from 2005 after their team reached the semifinals of the Cricket World Cup.

Sharad Ghai, a senior Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) official, told reporters: "We will be asking that we be admitted to Test status from 2005. We do not want to rush, and we will use the time to put together the required infrastructure."

Ghai said KCA officials would make their case at an International Cricket Council (ICC) executive board meeting in Johannesburg coinciding with the end of the World Cup.

Ghai said the sport in Kenya was crying out for funding but that would not be possible without test status. Kenya's team did not even have an official sponsor at the World Cup.

Bangladesh were the last team to be awarded Test status three years ago. They have not won a single Test match and not won a one-day since 1999.

Kenya beat Bangladesh in the first round of the World Cup, as well as beating test sides Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe to become the first non-test nation to reach the last four of the tournament.

Test status, however, is not just based on results but on good venues and competitive domestic competitions.

Ghai, reflecting on Bangladesh's problems at the top level, said Kenya were prepared to be patient.

Benjamin goes on offensive

INTERNET, Barbados

Former West Indies fast bowler Kenny Benjamin on Friday lashed out at the one-day set-up in the West Indies after their first-round exit from the World Cup. He believes that Carl Hooper's troops have not grasped the ODI game.

"I believe we have as good a Test team as any, but when it comes to one-day cricket, I don't believe we are among the top six teams in the world," Benjamin told the official website of West Indies cricket.

Benjamin feels that the men from the Caribbean have yet to grasp the finer points of shorter version of the game.

"I don't think we've actually grabbed the fine points of one-day cricket as yet, fielding is the major part, and the thing about it is that we don't have specialist one-day players," he said.

West Indies crashed out of the World Cup after making a terrific start to the tournament, beating the hosts South Africa in a tight affair. They then lost to New Zealand, had their match against Bangladesh washed out, thrashed Canada, lost another close game to Sri Lanka before beating Kenya in their final pool game.

The cheerleader

FROM PAGE 16

Kapil is in South Africa as a brand ambassador for the television channel beaming the World Cup live to millions of fans back home.

Ranatunga

FROM PAGE 16

ger teams like West Indies and Australia and they failed," Ranatunga told the BBC Tamil service.

Ponting pleased

FROM PAGE 16

have seen what good touch he is in back at home with some big scores for New South Wales.

"I think the whole player-group will be thrilled with his decision."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

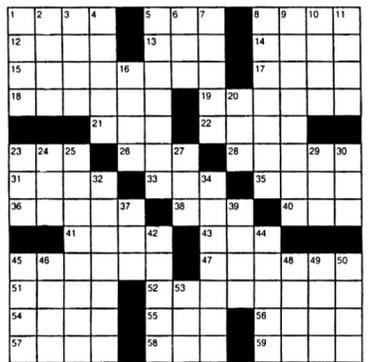
- Wido-open spaces
- Moreover
- Fiddler on the reef
- Touch
- Promptly
- Crazy
- Thirst
- Thirst quencher
- Top-notch agent
- Hang around idly
- Daisy-perch
- Insult (sl.)
- Help
- Parasite
- Sully
- Wrong (Pref.)
- Lunch-time stop
- Make like 28-Across
- Cribbage scorer
- Trench
- Butler's associate

DOWN

- 4-cl. units
- Help a hood
- Cougar
- Hurricane, e.g.
- Disney-land city
- Affirmative action?
- Reside
- Asserted
- Thirst quencher
- Teen's woe
- Warrior of 1900s
- Assorted org.
- Grease
- Calendar abbr.
- Unsat. factory
- Party bowlful
- Actor Gulager
- Punch
- Makes things easy
- Navy construction crew
- Hodges of baseball
- Radiate
- Pantheon member
- Baby carriages
- "-lief"
- Hertz competitor
- Particular
- "20,000 SOFT DRINKS, HE MAY LAND AND SHOUT 'TAKE ME TO YOUR LITER!'"
- Skipper
- Rum recipe
- Miler Sebastiar

Solution time: 21 mins.

ARCH NAPS SLOE
 LUAVA ONE YIPS
 SEMESTER LEAN
 ODE KREW OVULE
 BEBOP WHISTLE
 ALLEG POI TAIL
 SKYHOOK BEZEL
 EWE JAR
 VERSIE JEB TWP
 ALLOT OLE STEIN
 ISLE NAT ACME
 LEIER ANY WHOP



CRYPTOQUIP

Z F G G Y Z M E U E C I M X X
 D C A Y E C F G N Y X Z A M P H
 U E O N D C M . D V M X D M W M N M ' K
 V M L F X X H P M - O Y W M P M K .
 Yesterday's Cryptopuz: IF AN ALIEN LIKES
 SOFT DRINKS, HE MAY LAND AND SHOUT
 "TAKE ME TO YOUR LITER!"

Today's Cryptopuz Clue: G equals P

The Cryptopuz 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.