

United lesson for L'pool

Football

AFP, Manchester

Ruud Van Nistelrooy fired home a brace of identical penalties as Manchester United roared back to the top of the Premiership at the expense of ten-man Liverpool on Saturday.

Late strikes from Ryan Giggs and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer completed a 4-0 win as United swept to their first league double over their northwest rivals since 1969.

Liverpool had badly needed to take something from the match to keep their campaign for a return to the Champions League next season on track.

But they saw their hopes of following up their Worthington Cup final win over United crushed after only four minutes when their captain Sami Hyypia was sent off for pulling Van Nistelrooy down in the box right under the nose of referee Mike Riley.

Returning United skipper Roy Keane started the crucial move by feeding Paul Scholes 35 yards out. The England midfielder's threaded pass allowed Van Nistelrooy to turn away from Hyypia whose instinctive reaction was to pull at the Dutch striker's arm. Riley had no hesitation in pointing to the spot before sending the big Finn back to the dressing room.

Van Nistelrooy meanwhile had picked himself up and fired the penalty into Jerzy Dudek's right hand bottom corner.

The vast majority of the Dutch striker's penalties are aimed at exactly that spot but the pace he strikes them at makes them virtually unstoppable, a point he illustrated by producing a virtual carbon copy to beat Dudek again in the 65th minute.

This time, however, the penalty looked less of a sure thing. With Liverpool beginning to wilt in the midday sunshine at Old Trafford, Scholes beat Igor Biscan to the ball on the edge of the area but the Croatian's contact could have been deemed to be accidental obstruction rather than a foul.

Van Nistelrooy's clinical execution of the penalty took his United goal tally for the season to 34 and marked the end of Liverpool's resistance.

It was no surprise when Giggs raced on to the end of a David Beckham cross 12 minutes from the end to make it three with his first goal at Old Trafford in nearly two years.

Giggs then turned provider for United's fourth with a stoppage time pass to Solskjaer on the edge of the box. The Norwegian finished with a cheeky shot through Djimi Traore's legs that beat Dudek at his near post.

The win lifted United a point ahead of Arsenal, who were playing at Aston Villa later on Saturday.

United boss Alex Ferguson, who had started Beckham on the substitutes bench, will also have been pleased to see his side come through such a big match with a minimum of physical effort ahead of Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg against Real Madrid in Spain.



UNSTOPPABLE! Manchester United marksman Ruud van Nistelrooy takes a fall after being illegally tackled by Liverpool captain Sami Hyypia (on the ground) inside the box during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Fergie not interested

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has dismissed out of hand recent reports that David Beckham's days at Old Trafford could be numbered.

"Why would I want to sell my best players?" Ferguson told the Daily Mail on Saturday.

Last month the England captain was linked to a possible move to Real Madrid, with the Spanish giants' president Jorge Valdano saying he was the European champions' "next big project".

Aside from interest from Real speculation this week in Italy suggested Inter Milan were contemplating a \$2 million pound swap deal involving Beckham and Inter's own Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo.

Fuel was added to the fire with

Ferguson's much publicised dressing room run-in with Beckham when he kicked a boot at him after United's exit from the FA Cup.

Talking about the dressing room bust-up which left Beckham with a nasty cut above his eye Ferguson said: "They happen all the time. I never hold any grudges.

"The next day we make our peace and the whole thing is forgotten.

"If I had a pound for every time I had fallen out after a match..."

The United boss did however say that despite Beckham's stature as one of the greatest players in the game he was still subjected to the same treatment as his Old Trafford teammates.

"All the players, David Beckham included, are always under examination.

"There are times when I've had to leave Beckham out of the team, times I've rested him, times when he has been dropped when he has been having a bad spell. He has always come back with determination."

Batigol's point to prove

Football

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan striker Gabriel Batistuta comes up against the team that fulfilled his dream and then turned against him when the Serie A title contenders take on AS Roma at the San Siro on Sunday.

The Argentinian international won his first league winners medal in his first season at Roma before his relationship with the 2001 champions turned sour.

Now Batistuta wants to settle a few old scores by beating his former club and helping second-placed Inter keep the pressure on league leaders Juventus.

"At Roma I was appreciated as a player but not as a man," he said bitterly.

"The biggest issue I had was that

nobody understood me as a person. "I came to Inter to win another Scudetto and Roma will regret me leaving."



GABRIEL BATISTUTA

Asked what it would mean to score against his old team-mates, Batistuta replied: "It's important Inter win, not

that I score."

Batistuta, who only won an Italian Cup winners medal in his nine seasons at the now defunct Fiorentina, played a pivotal role in bringing Roma their first league championship crown for 18 years, scoring 20 goals in 28 games.

However his form dipped dramatically the following season, resulting in a paltry six goals in 23 matches, and a lack of firepower up front was a major factor in Roma's failure to retain their title.

Their unhappy fans went looking for a scapegoat and vented their frustration towards their inconsistent striker, who they had worshipped 12 months earlier.

Often jeered by the club's fickle supporters, Batistuta was unable to recapture his goalscoring touch at the start of the current season and struggled to hold down a regular place under coach Fabio Capello.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Western Union World Football Repeat at 12:00 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Real Sociedad Same Day Delay at 2:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Everton vs Newcastle United Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Deportivo vs Real Sociedad Live at 12:30 am (Monday)
STAR Sports
Formula One World Championship Brazilian Grand Prix Live at 10:45 pm

Three more elite umpires

FROM PAGE 8 original panel was unveiled. However, in January, Hair stood while Muralitharan was bowling in a one-day match in Sydney against Australia and the fixture passed off without incident.

Now Hair, together with Bowden and Taufel, joins the eight umpires already on the panel as the only officials allowed to stand in Test matches.

Hair, 50, has already stood in 44 Tests but Bowden (three) and Taufel (two) are both inexperienced in officiating in five-day encounters.

Bowden has attracted particular publicity for the extravagant way he signals his decisions. Taufel is a more

orthodox, under-stated umpire.

At the World Cup, South Africa's Dave Orchard and Zimbabwe's Russell Tiffin, both members of the elite panel, were dropped after the first round of matches for sub-standard performances following close scrutiny by the ICC.

However, both African officials have retained their places on the panel and although there is provision for demoting officials none of the original eight have been axed.

The appointments were recommended by ICC management and approved by Speed and former India opening batsman Sunil Gavaskar, chairman of the ICC's cricket commit-

tee-playing.

Hair and Taufel's elevation means there are now three Australians on the panel while Bowden is the lone New Zealand representative. All panel members are currently on a three-day training and development course in Dubai.

ELITE UMPIRE PANEL
Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka), Daryl Harper (Australia), Rudi Koertzen (South Africa), Dave Orchard (South Africa), David Shepherd (England), Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe), Srinivasaraghavan Venkataraghavan (India), Darrell Hair (Australia), Simon Taufel (Australia), Billy Bowden (New Zealand).

On the road

FROM PAGE 8 automatic place, the only organisational qualities he has shown to date have been as the bloke who had the Rizlas.

Neil McKenzie is the other option, but, as ever, he has been asked to prove that he is worth a regular place in the team.

All of which leaves Smith with only coach Eric Simons to turn to for advice and support.

Saurav still

FROM PAGE 5 Kalyan Mukherjee's treatment. He said that the only cure for Ganguly was rest and that he had advised him not to play in the tri-nation tournament.

If Ganguly does not play in the tournament, then the Dhaka crowd will be deprived of yet another Indian star since the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Javagal Srinath and Ashis Nehra have already decided to skip the meet.

Kenya make

FROM PAGE 8 Craig Wishart, Dion Ebrahim, Douglas Hondo, Tatenda Taibu, Grant Flower, Gavin Rennie, Raymond Price, Douglas Marillier, Sean Ervine, Andy Blythe. **Umpires:** Billy Doctrove (West Indies) and Avi Jayaprakash (India) **Toss:** Kenya

Canada's WC wish

FROM PAGE 8 The WICB may favour Canada's involvement because the stadium holds about 50,000 people, four times as many as the average Caribbean ground. More ticket sales would boost the WICB's revenue.

Star gala at Int'l

FROM PAGE 8 to the award for the Top Caribbean Wicketkeeper; and Andy Roberts, whose name is affixed to the Most Promising Fast Bowler prize, will be in attendance from Friday.

They along with Connie Marshall, widow of the late West Indies fast bowling great Malcolm Marshall, whose name has been tagged to Top Caribbean All-rounder award, will present the respective awards to the winners when the final is completed, dollars and the Roberts Trophy.

Pakistan in final

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Pakistan's revamped cricket team virtually ensured their place in the Sharjah Cup final with a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka here on Friday.

Having restricted Sri Lanka to a modest 223 to 6 despite a maiden one-day century from Kumar Sangakkara, Pakistan's young batsmen flourished under lights to cruise home with 16 deliveries to spare.

Mohammad Hafeez scored 50 in only his second match and Faisal Iqbal, nephew of current coach Javed Miandad, hit 32 in a second-wicket stand of 76.

After both batsmen were run out in the space of four deliveries to reduce Pakistan to 101-3, seniors Yousuf Youhana and Younis Khan took over to add 124 off 110 balls for the unbroken fourth wicket.

Youhana returned unbeaten on 64, while Younis made 57 not out.

It was Pakistan's second win in two days after crushing Zimbabwe by 68 runs on Thursday, and even a tied result in their last match against Kenya will see them through to next week's final.

Pakistan could not have hoped for a better start to their rebuilding process under new captain Rashid Latif after eight top stars, including Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Inzamamul Haq, were sacked following the first round exit from the World Cup last month.

Sri Lanka must now defeat fellow World Cup semi-finalists Kenya, and Zimbabwe, in their remaining matches to stay in contention for the final.

The Sri Lankans were left to rue a costly error by fielder Jehan Mubarak, who missed a simple catch at long-on off

the bowling of captain Sanath Jayasuriya when Youhana was on 10.

The defeat overshadowed Sangakkara's first three-figure knock in his 86th one-day that allowed Sri Lanka to recover from a shaky start and post a challenging total.

The left-hander overcame his modest form at the World Cup to make an unbeaten 100 off 111 balls and beat back a spirited display in the field by the fired-up Pakistanis.

Sri Lanka, electing to bat first on the slow wicket, slumped to 166-6 before Sangakkara and recalled veteran Kumar Dharmasena put on 57 for the undefeated seventh wicket.

Sangakkara reached his century off the penultimate ball of the innings while Dharmasena remained unbeaten on 23.

Pakistan's latest new ball attack of Mohammad Sami and Umar Gul removed the dangerous Sri Lankan opening pair of Marvan Atapattu and Jayasuriya cheaply.

Gul, who claimed two wickets on his debut on Thursday, bowled Atapattu for 13 with a ball that swung in sharply.

Jayasuriya made 27 when he drove Sami upshilly to cover where Hafeez took a waist-high catch and reduced Sri Lanka to 44-2.

Sri Lanka moved to a promising 166-4 in the 42nd over when Rana Hasan swung the game around with two wickets off successive balls.

Both Hashan Tillekeratne and Prasanna Jayawardena failed to negotiate the reverse swing which Hasan generated and were yorked, but Dharmasena denied the bowler a hat-trick.

Kenya make their first appearance in the four-nation tournament on Saturday when they take on Zimbabwe.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Sharjah Cup one-day international between Pakistan and Sri

Lanka on Friday:

SRI LANKA: 223 for six (Sangakkara 100, Jayasuriya 27, Dharmasena 23, Mubarak 20; Hasan 2-55)

PAKISTAN

Hafeez run out 50
Umer b Fernando 6
Iqbal run out 32
Youhana not out 64
Younis not out 57
Extras: (lb-9, w-5, nb-2) 16
Total: (For 3 wkts in 47.2 overs) 225

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-97, 3-101

Bowler O M R W

Buddhika 10 1 41 0
Fernando 8 1 34 1
Dharmasena 9.2 0 51 0
Muralitharan 10 0 33 0
Jayasuriya 10 0 57 0

Result: Pakistan won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

So far so good

INTERNET, Sharjah

Pakistan captain Rashid Latif celebrated a job well done after his side continued their unbeaten run at the Sharjah Cup with victory over Sri Lanka.

Pakistan restricted Sri Lanka to 223-6 from 50 overs and cruised to a seven-wicket win with half-centuries from Mohammad Hafeez, Yousuf Youhana and Younis Khan.

They are now guaranteed a place in the final of the four-nation tournament next Friday.

"Everything went according to our plans and that's quite pleasing," said Latif.

"We knew Sri Lanka were a strong side, hence we did the homework."

Kumar Sangakkara hit 100 off 111 balls for Sri Lanka after pacemen Umar Gul and Mohammed Sami removed openers Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya cheaply.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Delivery co. | DOWN | 21 Felonious flight |
| 1 Calvary sword | 44 Competent | 1 Moment | 22 Eventual aces |
| 6 Former first daughter | 45 In a line | 2 Part of a Latin 101 trio | 24 South of France? |
| 9 Spongy terrain | 47 Corn-based beverage | 3 Florist's near-last words | 26 Eraser, e.g. |
| 12 Overact | 49 Melancholy | 4 Caesar's near-last words | 28 "Superman" star |
| 13 Privy | 52 Diamond club | 5 Clinic goings-on | 30 Shaft of light |
| 14 Brouhaha | 53 Make up your mind | 6 Einstein | 32 Private bedroom |
| 15 Civilized | 54 Skip a phoneme | 7 Othello, for one | 33 Back talk |
| 16 Colorado city | 55 "Monty Python" opener | 8 Not me | 34 Em halves |
| 18 Trill | 56 Oohs' mates | 9 Star of Westem's | 36 Jibes |
| 20 Awe-struck | 57 Less common-place | 10 Music hall | 38 Synagogue figure |
| 21 Gehrig or Gossett | | 11 Flavine | 39 WWII sub |
| 23 Tavern | | 12 Milk | 40 Overfills tool |
| 24 Where the action is | | 13 Nousegay holders | 42 Boring letter |
| 25 State with certainty | | | 45 Hebrew letter |
| 27 Walk proudly | | | 46 Big name in scat |
| 29 Ripe | | | 48 Wringing reptile |
| 31 Fit to consume | | | 50 Praiseful piece |
| 35 Sew temporarily | | | 51 Mal de |
| 37 Invent | | | |
| 38 Footbal ancestor | | | |
| 41 Ms. Gardner | | | |

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | | 13 | | | 14 | |
| 15 | | | | | | 16 | | 17 | | |
| | 18 | | | | | 19 | | 20 | | |
| 21 | 22 | | 23 | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | | 26 | | 27 | | 28 | | | | |
| 29 | | | 30 | | | 31 | | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| | | | 35 | | | 36 | | 37 | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | 41 | 42 | | 43 | | |
| 44 | | | | 45 | | 46 | | | | |
| 47 | | | | 48 | | 49 | | 50 | 51 | |
| 52 | | | | 53 | | 54 | | | | |
| 55 | | | | 56 | | 57 | | | | |

CRYPTOQUIP

A Z C E M Z N T F C B M J .
Y R P M N H M C G F N M G
M B P H Q M Y C M Z N M C Y .
R C F Q A Z H G H B E : " A F Y M
J Z H P T Z Y P !"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I RECENTLY DEVELOPED A NEW WAY TO MAKE VEHICLES STOP. MIGHT THAT BE BRAKING NEWS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R

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.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 192

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

Competition closes at 8 pm April 11, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who was the man-of-the-tournament in the Cricket World Cup?
Tendulkar Ganguly Lee
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the World Cup final?
Ponting Bichel McGrath
- What was the lowest score in the World Cup?
36 40 43
- What was the highest score in the World Cup?
359 345 394

Name
Class **Roll No.**
School Address

Phone: (If any)