

Del Piero set for Juve extension

AFP, Rome  
Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero is close to agreeing an extension to his existing contract that will keep him at the Italian club until 2008, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday.

Del Piero, whose current deal runs out next year, could earn himself 4 million euros a season should he agree new terms with the Turin giants, the papers said.

The 28-year-old Italy international scored his 100th Serie A goal on Sunday as title-holders Juventus closed in on a 27th Scudetto with a 2-1 home win over Brescia.

They could wrap up the championship on Saturday should they win at Lazio and closest challengers Inter Milan lose or draw away to Atalanta.

Juventus are also through to the last four of the Champions League where they will meet holders Real Madrid in the semi-finals.

Despite suffering a thigh injury this season that kept him sidelined for several weeks, Del Piero has scored 16 league goals for Juve this season and is second only to Inter Milan's Christian Vieri, who has netted eight more.



DEL PIERO



DAVID BECKHAM



VICTORIA BECKHAM

Spicing up the Becks rumour!

AFP, London

Victoria Beckham fuelled rumours Tuesday that her husband, England captain David Beckham, is to quit Manchester United this summer.

The former Spice Girls singer popularly known as Posh Spice, making a guest appearance at a fashion magazine launch in New York, was asked if she was intending to move to Italy or Spain.

"I can't possibly answer that," she said, then gave an emphatic nod of the head and smiled.

The brief interview, conducted on Monday, was shown Tuesday on Britain's GMTV breakfast television.

Beckham has reportedly been a target for Real Madrid, and the player

has never publicly ruled himself out of a move. Inter Milan have also been identified as a possible new home for the superstar.

Over the weekend Beckham's father Ted Beckham said he doubted his boy wanted to go anywhere.

"He loves it at United - that's where his heart is," he said.

Last Wednesday Beckham was furious to find himself starting on the substitutes' bench for a Champions League quarter-final against Real Madrid.

United won 4-3 on the night with two goals from Becks in his 30 minutes on the pitch, but Ronaldo's hat-trick meant Real qualified 6-5 on aggregate for the semi-finals.

Real were reported to see Beckham, as the man to turn them into a global

UEFA parting with golden goal

AFP, Nyon

European soccer's governing body UEFA is scrapping the golden goal rule in extra-time for next month's UEFA Cup and Champions League finals.

A 'silver goal' ruling will make its debut at the UEFA Cup final between Celtic and Porto at Seville, Spain, on May 21.

The system will also be used at the Champions League final in Manchester on May 28.

UEFA said Monday if the Champions League and UEFA Cup finals end in a draw after 90 minutes, a first 15 minutes of extra time will be played. If one team is in the lead at the end of the 15 minutes, that team will be declared the winners.

If the two teams are still level after 15 minutes of extra time, a second 15-minute period will be played. If the result remains deadlocked at the end of the second period of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the winners.

Liverpool also won the 2001 UEFA Cup with a golden goal against Deportivo Alaves - an own goal by Delfi

match deadlocked after 90 minutes ended immediately a goal was scored in extra-time.

UEFA consulted club managers who said the golden goal rule put too much pressure on the referee, did not allow the team conceding the goal a chance to recover and encouraged negative football.

"We believe that this will be good for clubs, players and fans," UEFA communications and public affairs director Mike Lee said on the UEFA website.

"We have addressed the problems created by the golden goal which many in the game have identified. The new system will encourage positive football in the extra-time period, and produce a sensible and fairer ending to a game."

The golden goal rule decided the 1996 and 2000 European Championship finals.

Germany won in sudden-death fashion during extra time in the 1996 final against the Czech Republic in England, and France triumphed in a similar manner against Italy in the Netherlands three years ago.

Under the 'golden goal' system a

Shoaib back in Pak side

Cricket

REUTERS, Karachi

Strike bowler Shoaib Akhtar has been surprisingly recalled to Pakistan's squad for a one-day triangular tournament next month, just days after being warned his international future was in doubt.

Shoaib, criticised by Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Lt General Tauqir Zia for his poor attitude and lack of discipline, was included in a 15-man squad to take on hosts Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

The strike bowler, who bowled the fastest delivery ever recorded during this year's World Cup at 100.2mph (161.3kph), has also failed to impress in domestic and trial matches.

But head of selectors and former Test batsman Amir Sohail said: "Shoaib is a genuine match-winner. And everyone, including the team management, has no doubt he has shown the required commitment and hard work to come back from his disappointing performance in the World Cup."

Zia last week warned Shoaib, who has a long record of clashing with Pakistan's management, that if he failed to "improve his behaviour and general discipline, he has no place in the team.

His cricket is finished".

The squad also featured two uncapped players, batsmen Yasir Hameed and Faisal Athar, while fast-medium bowler Shabbir Ahmed was also recalled.

The selectors made four changes from the squad which won a four-nation tournament in Sharjah earlier this



SHOAIB AKHTAR

month. "The idea is to give exposure to a maximum number of new players after the World Cup and we are persisting with that after the encouraging results in Sharjah," Sohail added.

The tournament in Sri Lanka begins on May 10.

The 27-year-old Shabbir Ahmed, like

Shoaib, has had problems with a suspect action. Reported for throwing in 1999, he has since modified his action. He played the last of five one-day internationals three years ago.

**SQUAD**  
Rashid Latif (captain), Taufeeq Umar, Mohammad Hafeez, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Yasir Hameed, Shabbir Ahmad, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Umar Gul, Abdul Razzaq, Faisal Athar, Faisal Iqbal, Danish Kaneria.

**SRI LANKA SCHEDULE**

REUTERS, Karachi

Fixtures for the triangular one-day cricket series in Sri Lanka next month:  
May 10: Pakistan v Sri Lanka, Dambull  
May 11: Pakistan v New Zealand, Dambull  
May 13: Sri Lanka v New Zealand, Dambull  
May 17: Pakistan v Sri Lanka, Colombo  
May 18: Sri Lanka v New Zealand, Colombo  
May 19: Pakistan v New Zealand, Colombo  
May 23: Final (day/night) R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL BRIEFS

Football

AFP

European football briefs on Tuesday:

EFFENBERG TO REVEAL ALL

Berlin  
Stefan Effenberg, one of German football's most controversial characters, is set to tell all in an autobiography including his life of alcohol, sex, drugs and extreme opinions.

The former Germany and Bayern Munich midfielder, sent home from the 1994 World Cup in Germany for a single finger gesture to the crowd, was



STEFAN EFFENBERG

quoted in Monday's Bild newspaper as saying: "Alcohol, drugs, sex, high salaries - I don't leave anything out in the book."

Effenberg retired earlier this month after continued bad feeling between him and VfL Wolfsburg coach Jurgen Rober.

He said he held nothing back in the book and hoped certain people would not get too upset at what was written. The book will be serialised in Bild starting Tuesday.

"I never was and am still not an angel. Many will be surprised at how I have lived my life," Effenberg said.

Effenberg has parallels with Manchester United's Roy Keane. Both are superb leaders whose mental strength is unquestioned yet their behaviour both on and off-pitch has often alienated admirers.

Effenberg had also clashed regularly with Bayern's hierarchy despite being one of the club's most important players but his book is set to show he has had absolutely no regrets any of his behaviour throughout his career.

ANTIC EXTENDS CONTRACT

Barcelona  
Barcelona's Serbian coach Radomir Antic has extended his contract with the club, the president of the Catalan giants Enric Reyna revealed on

Monday - while at the same time adding that a new president due for election in June could scrub the arrangement.

Extending by one year the deal of Antic, who replaced the fired Louis Van Gaal on January 31, will allow the former Luton Town player to deal with early summer transfers as the club bid to rebuild following a disastrous season.

Barca's Champions League quarter-final exit to Juventus last week means they have no chance of qualifying for next year's tournament and Antic's future would appear to be in major doubt as he faces a huge battle even to get the team into the UEFA Cup.



RADOMIR ANTIC

Cheating case against Akram

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistani police said on Monday they had registered a criminal case against leading cricketer Wasim Akram after he was accused of failing to pay for a Jeep he had purchased from a former friend.

Police registered a case against the fast bowler after a complaint from his estranged friend Saadat Hayat, police inspector Hanif Qadri told Reuters.

Qadri said Wasim had been accused of taking the jeep on the pretext of purchasing it, but had not paid for it.

Wasim's wife Huma denied the allegation and said the jeep was given as a gift.

"There is no cheating involved," she said by telephone from Lahore. "This happened three years ago. We wanted to return the vehicle a long time ago, but he refused to take it back and instead demanded an exorbitant sum against it."

Wasim, Pakistan's highest wicket-taker in Test matches and the world's highest wicket-taker in limited-overs cricket, is in England playing for Hampshire after being dropped from the national team because of their poor World Cup performance.

The vehicle is now in the possession of the police, Huma said.

Police said the case was registered under Section 406, which deals with misappropriation and breach of trust. Lawyers said anyone found guilty under this law can face up to three years in prison.

Comforted by Wisden!

Cricket

AFP, London

Nasser Hussain and Shaun Pollock endured miserable World Cup campaigns but on Tuesday both gained some consolation as they were named in cricket bible Wisden's five players of 2002.

The former England and South Africa one-day captains joined Australian opening bat Matthew



NASSER HUSSAIN

Hayden, England's world leading batsman Michael Vaughan and Surrey's Australian-born skipper Adam Hoolioake.

Hussain stepped down as one day captain after England's traumatic campaign which was dominated by the debate over whether they should play Zimbabwe they didn't in the end and saw them fail to reach the Super Six stage.

He has stayed on as Test captain while Vaughan is widely believed set to be named as his successor in the one-day capacity.

Hussain blotted his copybook with Wisden when he revealed in a newspaper column on Sunday that he was one of the quintet.

The 33-year-old is also not going to the awards ceremony and sending his father instead because according to the Daily Mail he wants to reduce his public appearances.



SHAUN POLLOCK

Hussain has stated his aim is to play in 100 Tests, a milestone he is currently 19 short of achieving.

"As a captain, he is a major figure in cricket history, who has changed the

culture of his team," said Wisden editor Tim de Lisle.

"And if you just take his batting alone, it makes a hundred in the first Test of a series or on a bad wicket.

Pollock's World Cup was equally as dramatic and disappointing as the hosts crashed out in the first round when their match with Sri Lanka was abandoned because of rain and with South Africa just one run away on the Duckworth/Lewis method from victory which would have seen them go through.

The pace bowler led South Africa to the top of the world Test rankings in 2002, with series victories over Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh, but suffered defeat to Australia.

"I've restricted the choice to players who had done well against the present Australians, we wouldn't have many to choose from," de Lisle argued.

Vaughan earned his accolade for scoring 1,533 runs in 12 Tests against Sri Lanka, India and Australia, including seven centuries.

Hayden dominated England in a 4-1 Ashes series victory, scoring 197 in the first innings of the first Test in Brisbane.

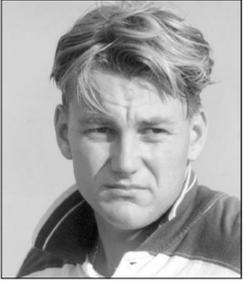
Hoolioake gets in after captaining Surrey in their third county championship in four years and de Lisle was at pains to rubbish notions it was a sentimental choice because of the death of Adam's brother Ben in a car crash last year.

Lee calls it quits

AFP, Sydney

All-rounder Shane Lee, a member of Australia's winning 1999 World Cup squad, on Tuesday announced his retirement from cricket.

The 29-year-old elder brother of Test



SHANE LEE

fast bowler Brett Lee said a knee injury had forced his retirement.

The injury kept him out of most of the last summer's domestic season, including his New South Wales team's Sheffield Shield win.

Lee played 45 one-day internationals and listed playing in the 1999 World Cup as being one of his career highlights.

"If I was going to play on I would have needed another operation," Lee said on Tuesday.

Victoria a whisker away

FROM PAGE 13

Nuruzzaman lbw b Razzak 0  
Suja lbw b Manzurul 1  
Alamgir not out 2  
Extras: (b-15, lb-2, w-1) 18  
Total: (All out in 78.1 overs) 295  
Fall of wickets: 1-129, 2-189, 3-215, 4-227, 5-243, 6-244, 7-244, 8-244, 9-251.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mushfiq	13	2	50	1
Manzurul	21	5	60	2
Razzak	27	5	85	3
Masudur	13.1	4	56	1
Sabbir	4	1	27	0

Result: Victoria SC won by 68 runs.  
City Club vs Brothers Union  
Venue: DCS

CITY CLUB: First innings all out in 99 overs 295 (Faruque 62, Jamal 55, Alamgir 40; Mosaddek 4-66, Morshed 2-60, Mustadir 2-50)

BROTHERS UNION: First innings 230 all out in 66.1 overs (Alam 44, Mahabub 37, Shahriar 33; Saifullah 4-54, Tareq 3-

50)

CITY CLUB: Second innings (overnight 336 for 6 in 84 overs)  
Faruque run out 93  
Moniruzzaman c  
Shamim b Mustadir 45  
Rajin c Shamim b Morshed 72  
Hasan c sub b Mahabub 45  
Mahzarul c Shamim b Morshed 11  
Jamal c Shamim b Morshed 0  
Kadir not out 51  
Alamgir batting 15  
Morshed b Tareq 8  
Extras: (b-5, lb-1, nb-1, w-1) 30  
Total: (For 6 wks in 85 overs) 840  
Fall of wickets: 1-119, 2-163, 3-233, 4-251, 5-251, 6-303

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Morshed	19	3	76	3
Rana	18	2	87	0
Mosaddek	13	1	70	0
Halim	1	1	0	0
Mustadir	19	3	58	1
Mostakim	15	1	43	1

BROTHERS UNION

Salauddin c Moniruzzaman b Tareq 7  
Shahriar b Alamgir 5  
Mosaddek lbw b Tareq 19  
Mustadir c Jamaluddin b Tareq 45  
Halim b Tareq 0  
Mahubub c Jamaluddin b Tareq 22  
Alam lbw b Tareq 12  
Shamimul c Moniruzzaman b Saifullah 0  
Imon c Rajin b Saifullah 30  
Sohail not out 11  
Morshed b Tareq 8  
Extras: (b-15, nb-4) 17  
Total: (All out in 45.2 overs) 178  
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-19, 3-55, 4-55, 5-103, 6-123, 7-124, 8-128, 9-165.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alamgir	12	3	39	1
Tareq	15.2	3	65	7
Jamaluddin	5	0	13	0
Saifullah	12	4	39	2
Faruque	1	0	7	0

Result: City Club won by 227 runs.

AFC's mission Iraq

Football

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A delegation from football's world governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) plan to visit Iraq to study ways of rebuilding the sport in the war-torn country, officials said Tuesday.

AFC secretary-general Peter Velappan said the taskforce would look at the financial and human resources, and hoped to usher in a new era for Iraqi football - previously controlled by deposed leader Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

Iraq's National Olympic Committee

building - which houses the Iraq Football Association - was bombed during the war and ransacked by looters. Uday Hussein was also Iraq's Olympic chief.

"We are anxiously watching the (political) developments in the country," Velappan told AFP.

Almost nothing is left of the former Olympic Committee office, although looters are still coming to strip it bare of its last pieces of wood and metal.

The Olympic headquarters, meanwhile, is ready to collapse at any moment.

Velappan said Hussein Saeed, a vice-president of the Iraq FA, had survived the bombing and had contacted the AFC recently.

"AFC has asked him to locate football players and other members of the

committee," Velappan said.

Commenting on allegations that Uday had been responsible for torturing Iraqi international footballers for poor performances, Velappan said simply: "We want to reopen a new chapter and get on with football and not politics."

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 515-7 declared (S Fleming 274 not out, M Richardson 85, S Styris 63; K Dharmasena 3-132)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 424-6)  
Atapattu lbw b Tuffey 0  
Jayasuriya b Bond 50  
Vaas c Fleming b Bond 4  
Sangakkara c Oram b Wiseman 67  
Jayawardena c Hart b Oram 58  
Tillakaratne b Bond 144  
K'tharana c Sinclair b Wiseman 76  
Dharmasena lbw b Vettori 31  
Lokuarachchi not out 28  
Nissanka lbw b Vettori 0  
Muralitharan lbw b Vettori 0  
Extras: (lb-21, nb-4) 25  
Total: (All out in 152 overs) 483  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-114, 4-134, 5-267, 6-374, 7-444, 8-483, 9-483

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tuffey	17	5	54	1
Bond	28	6	97	3
Oram	30	13	62	1
Vettori	33	8	94	3
Wiseman	41	13	127	2
Styris	3	0	28	0

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings  
Home lbw b Lokuarachchi 42  
Fleming not out 69  
Holland 122/110 in 30.2 overs  
Australia won by 75 runs

As far as I am concerned I don't understand head or tail of the above explanation. Does anybody understand the Duckworth-Lewis Method? If so, I would be pleased to receive the meaning of the above mentioned hieroglyphics.

Case 13/03 W Cup 03 (47)  
Australia v Holland, Potchefstroom Match reduced to 47 due to rain  
Australia 109/2 in 25 overs, rain, 3 lost/side  
Australia 123/2 in 28 overs, rain, 8 lost/side  
Australia 170/2 in 36 overs  
R1=72.6%, R2=84.1%; Target = 170 + 235x (R2-R1)/100 = 197.02 = 198 in 36  
Holland 122/110 in 30.2 overs  
Australia won by 75 runs

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Only Fleming

FROM PAGE 13

New Zealand lost Scott Styris and Jacob Oram on either side of tea and Robbie Hart soon after as Muralitharan finally hit form, but it