Sport

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 19, 2003



Arsenal's captain for the final David Seaman (L) lifts the FA Cup trophy with injured captain Patrick Viera after the final against Southampton at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on May 17.

Seaman all at seas?

Football

AFP, Cardiff

David Seaman agonised over whether to stay with Arsenal as a second choice goalkeeper or coach after spectacularly ensuring his side's victory in Saturday's FĂ Cup final

England international Seaman, who has spent 15 years with the Gunners, is no longer guaranteed a future as Arsenal's number one choice, manager Arsene Wenger reiterated after the 1-0 win here at the Millennium Stadium.

The veteran 'keeper pulled off a late save to stop Southampton scoring a late equaliser but that was never going to be enough to convince Wenger to keep faith with the keeper who will be 40 in September.

Although having declared Seaman "the best goalkeeper in England," the no-nonsense Frenchman is determined to freshen up his defence, including the man between the posts, ahead

of next season. Seaman, made captain for the season finale, left Cardiff without commenting on his future.

But according to Arsenal's goalkeeper coach, Bob Wilson, the

Serie A **RESULTS AND STANDINGS TOP SIX**

after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, pony-tailed veteran - who is being linked with Manchester City - will decide his future direction in the next 48 hours

"He will make his decision tomorrow and Monday. But he will only keep playing if it is in the Premiership," said Wilson, a for-mer Arsenal keeper.

"If there is no interest from anywhere then he will stay with Arsenal.

With his team leading by just ne goal, Seaman pulled off a stunning reflex save from a Brett Ormerod shot 10 minutes from the end, parrying the ball across the face of the goal.

"I was sure it was going in," declared Ormerod

When asked about the shot, Seaman remained modest: "I just got my hand to it and luckily it staved out.

However despite Wenger's pport, Seaman's celebrations will be short-lived.

Wenger has made it clear that if he stays, Seaman will have to accept that a younger goalkeeper will be arriving in the summer. "We have already spoken and I

Rooney out of

S Africa trip

don't know when everything will be decided," said the manager. "I may keep him as number one or two but it is sure that he can no longer play 60 matches a season.

According to the manager, the only thing that is sure is that Seaman will eventually become Arsenal's goalkeeping coach.

Seaman has been one of the longest serving goalkeepers in the England national team.

But the writing was on the wall when he misjudged a lob by Ronaldinho and England went out of the World Cup last year to Brazil in the quarter final.

He remains a respected professional, however, and Wilson led the tributes to Seaman, who said the FA Cup victory had probably been a fitting end to a distinguished career at Highbury.

"It was a great way to finish. It could have been his last game, certainly for Arsenal," Wilson told reporters, before conceding that Wenger's ambition to win the Champions League meant that a new goalkeeper had to come to Highbury.

"Arsene's standards are so high. He wants power, youth and style. He wants the Champions League.

Wilson conceded that Seaman's kicking had gone astray recently but that his experience and calmness made him an attractive option

"Even though he makes a few mistakes there are still fewer than the others. He was born to be a great goalkeeper.

The future starts here

Football

AFP, Cardiff

There was palpable relief rather than triumph in the Arsenal camp after their 1-0 FA Cup final victory over Southampton at the Millennium Stadium.

There will be no ticker tape parade for Arsene Wenger and his players in London as there was after their Premiership and Cup double last year.

Arsenal dominated the final but as in the Premiership failed to deliver the killer blow against their opponents, giving Southampton hope right up to the final seconds.

And Wenger must now get down to his promised hunt for a new goalkeeper and defender to meet the demands of star players who have reportedly threatened to quit unless Arsenal can put up a stronger challenge against Premiership champions Manchester United next season.

"Arsenal now have a few weeks to listen to the players and lay the basis for the future," said Robert Pires the goalscorer in the 1-0 victory before 73,725 people at the Millennium stadium in Cardiff on Saturday.

Wenger confirmed after the victory that Premiership player of the year Thierry Henry has signed a new contract and expressed confi-dence that fellow Frenchmen Pires and Patrick Vierra, the team captain, would sign within a couple of weeks.

But David Seaman, who pulled off a dramatic save from a Brett Ormerod shot 10 minutes from the end to keep Southampton at bay, has been left fighting for his future even though Wenger said Seaman is "still the best goalkeeper in England."

Seaman, who will be 40 in September, must decide whether to stay and possibly play a secondary role before joining the coaching staff or move to a new team if the right offer is made

Central defender Martin Keown, who will be 37 in July, may also struggle to feature in Wenger's plans from now on.

Dutch star Dennis Bergkamp, who was 34 on Sunday, hopes to renegotiate a new deal. "When you look around you don't see so many teams with this quality," he said.

But anticipating changes, he added: "It is always healthy for a club to get some new players, some fresh players.

The whole team was stunned by the way in which they gave up a handsome lead in the Premiership and gave up the title to United. "At Arsenal you always have to

win something and if you don't win it is a failure," added Pires. "It would have been really

difficult to finish without a trophy, said Henry, who was named player of the match even though referee Graham Barber booked him for diving in the Southampton pen-

"What a pleasure to win something. Not to have won would have been a massive disappointment." Wenger insisted he was

delighted at the way the team reacted to the blow of losing the Premiership title. "The last three weeks have been

difficult but the players have been tremendous," the French manager "It's a different competition to

the Premiership and we are of course disappointed to have not won the Premiership - we were very, very close to a double-double. "However, if you look at last two

seasons we have won two Cups and a title and finished runners-up in

the championship," he added Arsenal's goalkeeping coach Bob Wilson, a star of one of Arsenal's first double winning team, said it was Wenger's ambition to win the Champions League that had put Seaman's place at threat. "His standards are so high,'

> said Wilson. Southampton, who had goaleeper Antti Niemi stretchered off, left Cardiff disappointed at not pulling off a repeat of their famous win in the 1976 final against Manchester United. But manager Gordon Strachan is determined not to let it weaken their challenge in the Premiership or Europe next vear.

On top of Ormerod's bullet like strike from close in which Seaman somehow parried across the face of the goal, star Saints striker James Beattie also had chances

Arsenal defender Ashley Cole desperately block one Beattie header on the goal line with his knee in the final seconds ticked away

"We are all disappointed," said Beattie who like most other mem-bers of his team paid tribute to Southampton's travelling fans. "They were outsinging the Arsenal fans even though we lost he said.'

Beattie, the top scoring Englishman in the Premiership, as pledged his immediate future to Southampton but has admitted that he may soon be looking for a new club that can meet his ambitions to play in the Champions League.

"On a lucky day we could have won," declared Strachan who will spend the summer looking for less expensive additions to his squad than Wenger.

"I know from a player's point of view my players have done something great and it's a magnificient experience to be have qualified for the UEFA Cup.



ONE DOWN! Former France captain Didier Deschamps (L) and his Monaco charges celebrate with the French League Cup after beating Scheaux in the final at the Stade de France on May 17.

League Cup **Monaco's**

Football celebrating. The former France skipper,

AFP, Paris Monaco, was grinning wider as Sochaux steadily lost their compo-Former France captain Didier sure and handed Monaco an insur-Deschamps picked up his first mountable advantage in the space coaching silverware after his classy of 20 minutes. Monaco side outshone Sochaux in the French League Cup final at the golden chance to double the score Stade de France here Saturday. after a flurry of action on the edge

Deschamps, who helped guide France to the World Cup with a 3-0 victory over Brazil here in 1998, was beaming on the rain-drenched touchline as he watched his side destroy Sochaux 4-1 in a superb second half display.

"It's great for the club and the supporters," Deschamps, whose side are also chasing the league title, said after the match.

In the presence of Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who was watching from the stands, workmanlike Monaco forward Eric Giuly scored the first of his two goals for the Principality side shortly after the interval.

In the ensuing minutes underdogs Sochaux, who had held their own in a rather poor first 45 minutes, fell apart with a number of vital blunders allowing Deschamps' title-chasers some golden chances.

half, Giuly finally got on the scoresheet with a well-taken volley after being picked out on the edge of the box from deep by Mexican midfielder Rafael Marquez. The Frenchman's angled shot was precise enough to beat keeper Teddy Richert at his far post, and had Deschamps up out of his seat

Argentinian Pablo Aimar setting up Vicente after 13 minutes and his cross was headed in past keeper Juanmi Garcia by Aurelio.

when Donato headed past Canizares although there was doubt at first over whether or not

TOP SIX

Spanish football league table after Saturday's matches (played, won drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Iker Casillas. The big question is how will Real

Madrid respond to the disappointment of being outclassed in Turin. Will their heads go down, or will they, with five games left, bounce back to record a 29th Spanish

Canizares in goal from 30 metres. will give a fitness test to Ronaldo They levelled after 48 minutes after the Brazilian World Cup winner ended Wednesday's game with a right calf injury, in addition to a tender left calf which saw him

tional Claude Makelele, although none of the alternatives - Flavio Conceicao, Esteban Cambiasso

start on the substitutes' bench. Del Bosque will also have to choose who to play in the midfield in the absence of French interna-

league title.



on the rampage and in the 67th minute Croatian forward Dado

of goal to slip the ball home after a defensive mix-up. outdone and a sumptuous lob over Richert, after being provided by Marcelo Gallardo, handed the diminutive forward his second goal of the match.

Having threatened in the first

Football AFP, Madrid Deportivo La Coruna's Spanish title dream suffered a major setback on Saturday when they were

beaten 2-1 at home by reigning champions Valencia.

Although Deportivo stay top with 66 points from 34 matches, they could be overtaken on Sunday when second-placed Real

Sociedad, also on 66 points, are at home to third from bottom Recreativo Huelva while Real Madrid, in third place on 65 points,

Brazilian defender Fabio

Primera Liga Valencia spoil Depor plans

Deportivo struggled to break down a well-organised Valencia defence and were reduced to longrange efforts on the visitors' goal with Victor testing Santiago

points): Champions: Juventus Relegated: Torino, Como, Piacenza

Juventus33	20	9	4	60	26	69		
Inter	33	19	7	7	62	36	64	
Milan	33	18	7	8	53	26	61	
Lazio	33	15	15	3	56	30	60	
Chievo	33	16	7	10	48	35	55	

RESULTS

talian football league results on Saturday:

C Milan 3 (Pirlo 23-pen, Seedorf 1, F. Inzaghi 67) Bologna 1 Meghni 68) Atalanta 2 (Doni 63-pen, 81) Como1(Caccia17)

Chievo 0 AS Roma 0

Lazio 3 (Mihajlovic 40-pen, Cesar 45, Lopez 81) Brescia 1 (R. Baggio

Modena 0 Inter Milan 2 (Pavan-og 28, Kallon 35)

Parma 3 (Gilardino 67, Adriano 69, Mutu 44) Piacenza 2 (Maresca 33, Hubner 40)

Perugia 0 Udinese 2 (Jankulovski 75, Jorgensen 87)

Reggina 2 (Di Michele 19, Bonazzoli 51) Juventus 1 Zalayeta24) Torino 1 (Donati 86) Empoli 1 (Di Natale 67)

Everton's teenage sensation Wayne Rooney was on Sunday forced to withdraw from England's squad for Thursday's friendly against South Africa in Durban putting an end to a row which had erupted between the club manager David Moves and England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

AFP, London

The England medical staff together with Everton's physio assessed the 17-year-old striker's knee injury in London and agreed the player should return to his club for treatment.

"It was agreed that Wayne will remain with Everton for the remainder of the week with a view to joining the England squad with a trip to La Manga," said a statement by the Football Association (FA). Eriksson and Moyes were also

present at the examination. Meanwhile Liverpool's Danny Murphy has had to withdraw from all three of England's summer

games His neck injury was also assessed on Sunday and it was decided that he too should return to his club for treatment. Rooney picked up the knee

Football

WAYNE ROONEY

injury during the 2-1 defeat by Manchester United at Goodison Park last Sunday and Moyes con-firmed he was withdrawing him from England's squad for the May 22 game.

However, the FA insisted on verifying Rooney's fitness following the club v country row that broke out between Moves and Eriksson about the striker's availability.

Moyes has repeatedly called for Rooney to be given as much rest as possible.

"This was a genuine injury and we have the scans to prove it," said Moyes - an interpretation that did not go down well with Eriksson who was reportedly not convinced by the problem.

Aurelio grabbed both goals for Valencia in the 13th and 63rd minutes with Donato replying for Deportivo three minutes after the interval.

entertain Malaga.

The defeat came at the end of a miserable week for the league leaders in which the Spanish first division's leading scorer Roy Makaav has been agitating for a pay rise in the wake of his 27 league goals.

Rumours also persist that coach Javier Irureta will be leaving at the end of the season with Atletico Madrid and, ironically, Valencia cited as possible destinations.

In Saturday's only other match, Atletico Madrid beat Racing Santander 2-0 with Javier Moreno scoring both goals in the second half.

Valencia took the game to Deportivo from the start with

Deportivo 34 20 6 8 60 38 66 Sociedad 33 19 9 5 62 41 66 33 18 11 4 71 38 65 Real Valencia 34 16 8 10 50 29 56 33 15 9 9 38 26 54 Celta Bilbao 33 12 9 12 52 52 45

the ball had crossed the line.

But Valencia had the final say when Aurelio robbed Manuel Pablo to score past Juanmi 15

On Sunday, Real Madrid will look to put behind them Wednesday's Champions League exit at the hands of Juventus when they entertain Malaga.

Spanish title and this would still be a worthwhile prize and make it a good season, even if we are not now going to be in the Champions League final," said Real goalkeeper

nor Steve McManaman - have impressed in recent outings.

Malaga will be missing their suspended Uruguayan midfielder Clever Romero but welcome back his compatriot Dario Silva, after the club succeeded in its appeal to his a two-match ban halved.

Real coach Vicente Del Bosque

Sochaux finally got on the scoresheet when they were awarded a penalty in the 88th minute, former Yugoslavia international Nisa Saveljic blasting the ball past Monaco keeper Flavio Roma who nonetheless got a hand to the high ball.

having suffered a terrible first

season last year at the helm of

His side initially missed a

of the box following a run down the

His square ball was finally

picked up by Giuly whose pass to

Nonda saw the talented striker hit

Giuly ran on to the rebound and

As Sochaux soaked up the

disappointmnent, Monaco went

Prso was left unmarked on the left

Giuly, however, was not to be

when Richert came out to block,

Giuly's swan dive proved too dra-

wing by Jerome Rothen.

the defence with his shot.

Double.



Enrique Fernandez Romero (L) of Deportivo la Coruna puts pressure on Valencia's Vicente Rodriguez at the Riazor stadium in La Coruna on May 17.

minutes later.

"We are still in the fight for the