

JAPAN V NEW ZEALAND

Time to bury 98's ghost



Frenchman who guided Japan to the second round of last year's World Cup for the first time in their history.

"I like Japan from the bottom of my heart and that's why I took up the offer to coach them because I thought I could do something for them."



A DIFFICULT CHOICE! French ball boys and girls turn their heads to look at Japan's star playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata (L) while they prepare for a group photo with the team's Brazilian coach and legendary player Zico (black suit) after a training session at Stade Marcel Coene in Montataire on June 16.

What's the Real story?

Manchester United are preparing to sell England captain David Beckham to Real Madrid, it was widely reported Tuesday.

The most marketable name in world football at a bargain price. One United insider said: "There's no doubt we're going to have to compromise with Real Madrid and drop our asking price if we are to raise the funds we need."

Serving up a minefield



Lleyton Hewitt will have to navigate his way through a minefield of big servers if he is to retain his Wimbledon crown.

service and deft volleys looks set to make an impact on grass. If Henman can survive to the second week he is likely to come up against France's Sebastien Grosjean, who beat the British number one at Queen's, in the last eight.

Also in the top half of the draw is Justine Henin-Hardenne, who beat Serena in an ill-tempered French Open final earlier this month.

Kingstown tie drawn



Sri Lanka played out a draw with West Indies President's XI on Monday after dismissing the home team for a first innings total of 296 in the third and final day of a rain-affected match.

Mirando set out to prove his own batting ability, hitting two sixes clean out of the ground and three further boundaries in an unbeaten 34.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Fernando, Mirando, Gamage, S'weera, L'chchi, Jaysuriya, Tilakarathne, Dilshan, Bravo, Mohammed, and Extras.

Hewitt, Serena

Roddick, the fifth seed, established himself as one of the pre-tournament favourites by beating Agassi on his way to winning at the biggest pre-Wimbledon tournament at Queen's Club on Sunday.

The women's draw threw up the possibility of another all-Williams final after Serena and Venus were drawn in different halves.

- THE SEEDINGS
FROM PAGE 13
MEN'S SINGLES
1. Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)
2. Andre Agassi (USA)
3. Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPA)
4. Roger Federer (SWI)
5. Andy Roddick (USA)
6. David Nalbandian (ARG)
7. Guillermo Coria (ARG)
8. Sjeng Schalken (NED)
9. Rainer Schuettler (GER)
10. Tim Henman (GBR)
11. Jiri Novak (CZE)
12. Paradorn Srichaphan (THA)
13. Sebastien Grosjean (FRA)
14. Xavier Malisse (BEL)
15. Arnaud Clement (FRA)
16. Mikhail Youzhny (RUS)
17. Gustavo Kuerten (BRA)
18. Marat Safin (RUS)
19. Fernando Gonzalez (CHI)
20. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS)
21. Martin Verkerk (NED)
22. Felix Mantilla (SPA)
23. Agustín Calleri (ARG)
24. Albert Costa (SPA)
25. Tommy Robredo (SPA)
26. James Blake (USA)
27. Younes El Aynaoui (MAR)
28. Wayne Ferreira (RSA)
29. Gaston Gaudio (ARG)
30. Jarkko Nieminen (FIN)
31. Vincent Spadea (USA)
32. Juan Ignacio Chela (ARG)

Asia set for Becks storm



David Beckham descends on Asia Wednesday for a publicity extravaganza that analysts believe will highlight the superstar's unrivalled ability to open up the Asian market for any club he chooses.

Officials at Kansai International Airport in Osaka described the mob reaction to Beckham's arrival for the World Cup finals in Japan last year as an event usually reserved for movie stars.

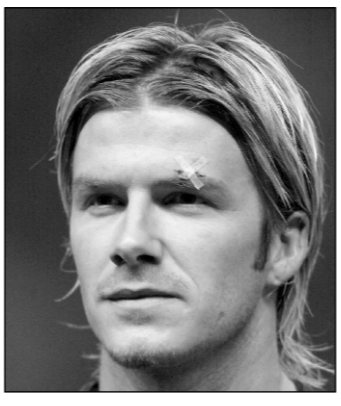
bled that month compared with the same time a year earlier," Meiji Seika spokesman Nariaki Hishiyama said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Shaffer

ACROSS
1 Seafood selection
5 Enthusiast
9 Network
12 Vagrant
13 Swallow
14 Lotion
15 Lamented
17 Where heroes are made
18 Gold, silver or bronze
19 Tyke
21 Caboose's position
24 "I - camera"
25 Keats or Shelley
28 Signet
30 Earl Grey, for one
33 Field mouse's predator
34 Postpone
35 One in a row?
36 Teensy
37 Piece of work
38 Verifiable
39 Snoop
41 Ex-trosh

Cryptogram puzzle grid and text: T S I F B D L P H Z C P V J F F B V H D Z D E I F E Q X E X J P H I D L Z D T P Z Q H E Z T A P C S Z D D C Z I D E A P Yesterday's Cryptogram: DURING A PERFORMANCE, THE MAGICIAN GOT SO FRUSTRATED THAT HE PULLED OUT HIS HARE.

His iconic status translates to big bucks, as Manchester United's dominance of the increasingly lucrative football marketing industry in Asia illustrates.



"The peak was the World Cup period but now that Beckham is coming to Japan, we have started to receive more orders."

Freeman may quit



Olympic 400 metres champion Cathy Freeman of Australia is considering retirement after she was thrashed by Mexico's Ana Guevara last month.



behind the top-ranked Guevara. "Cathy's well, she's just going through some challenging times at the moment. Like a lot of come-backs, there's ups and downs," IMG's Giannopoulos said.

Forget World Cup

Freeman took a long break after the pressure of competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. She returned in 2002 battling injury, weight and personal problems to win relay gold in the 400 metres at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

France needed a 'Golden Goal' to see off Paraguay at the 1998 World Cup and could only draw 0-0 with Uruguay four years later - having lost a friendly to Chile in between.

Chucking process

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Freeman was also beaten over 400 metres by Commonwealth hurdles champion Jana Pittman of Australia during the Grand Prix summer series in her home country.