

AIR HENRY: Arsenal striker Thierry Henry controls the ball as Inter Milan's Ivan Cordoba looks on during their Champions League match at Milan's San Siro

Liverpool owe Kewell one



Australian international Harry Kewell kent Liverpool's faltering season on track as the Merseysiders reached the third round of the UEFA Cup on Thursday but fellow Premiership giants Manchester City crashed out in a humble Polish backwater.

On a mixed night for British clubs, Newcastle also moved on but Hearts joined City on the sidelines when they lost at home to Bordeaux.

Kewell's 49th minute headed goal was enough to give Gerard Houllier's Liverpool a 1-0 win and 2-1 aggregate victory over Steaua Bucharest at

Houllier, whose team are struggling in the Premiership in ninth spot,

acknowledged his side had been given a tough workout. "We have beaten a good team. They

had some good chances at the beginning and the end but overall I think it was a deserved win," said the Frenchman.

Former Liverpool star and coach Kevin Keegan was left with just regrets after his Manchester City side were held to a 0-0 draw by little Groclan with the Polish side going through on the away goals rule following the 1-1 draw in England two weeks ago. City had two good chances to win but both Nicolas Anelka and Robbie Fowler missed the target while, at the other end, Sun Jihai, Fowler and Richard Dunne had to make crucial interceptions to keep the scoreline blank.

"We lost it in our stadium when perhaps we should have scored more goals," admitted Keegan

"From that point on Groclin have been the equal of us. We had chances, so did they. It was that sort of game."

Newcastle enjoyed a 1-0 second leg win over Swiss side Basel at St James Park for a 4-2 aggregate win.

A 14th minute own goal from Basel defender Boris Smiljanic helped Bobby Robson's men through to the third round on what proved to be an eventful night for skipper Alan

He was booked after just 17 seconds but was instrumental in the goal when he got a toe to a Laurent Robert corner only for Smiljanic to deflect the ball into his own net. Because of our elimination from

the Champions League we feel we have to go on and achieve something in this competition," said Shearer. Hearts saw their hopes of making

the third round shattered by Bordeaux who clinched a 2-0 win despite having lost the first leg 1-0. The French side stunned the

Tynecastle crowd with goals from Albert Riera after eight minutes and Pascal Feindouno in the 65th

"It's a big disappointment," admitted Hearts coach Craig Levein.

side with much more experience of Europe than us.

Gillespie, MacGill

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie and leg-

spinner Stuart MacGill were recalled

to the Australian team on Thursday for

next week's first Test against India at

The pair missed Australia's last

Test against Zimbabwe in October as

well as the triangular one-day series in

India because of injury but have been

passed fit to play in captain Steve

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (cap-

tain), Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden,

Ricky Ponting, Damien Martyn,

Simon Katich, Adam Gilchrist, Andy

Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill,

Brad Williams, Nathan Bracken (12th

England go into next week's opening

cricket Test against Sri Lanka with their

confidence high after gaining the upper

hand in a drawn tour match here on

Opener Mark Butcher slammed an

unbeaten 151 to help the tourists post

314-9 declared in their first innings in

reply to Sri Lanka Cricket President

team's total of 181 on the third and final

The hosts were 135-4 in their second

innings when rain washed out the last

session for the third successive day in

England's only practice game before

the first Test starting at Galle on

Sri Lankan Cricket President's team 181

and 135-4 (M. Vandort 42, C. Silva 31):

England 314-9 decl (M. Butcher 151 not

out, A. Flintoff 47, G. Thorpe 35, A. Giles

30, D. Fernando 3-79). Match drawn.

Zim lead series

Andy Blignaut completed career-best

figures to bowl Zimbabwe to victory

in the third one-day international

Fast bowler Blignaut delivered a

fiery second spell to take four for 43 as

Zimbabwe won by 21 runs and took a

losing the toss but dismissed West

West Indies opener Chris Gayle

top-scored with 61, including seven

fours, his dismissal in the 40th over

effectively ended the tourists' chal-

ZIMBABWE: 229 for five (Vermeulen

66, Streak 65 n. o, Taibu 37; Hinds

WEST INDIES: 208 all out in 47.2

overs (Gayle 61, Lara 34, Samuels 25;

Series: Zimbabwe lead five-match

Result: Zimbabwe won by 21 runs.

Man-of-the-match: H Streak.

Ponting handed

Wednesday he would be retiring after

the four-test series with India ends in

January, said Ponting would make a

outstanding leader," Waugh said.

"I've always regarded Ricky as an

"He's been a very good captain in

one-day cricket and an impressive

deputy at test level. His promotion to

Wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, at

one time Australia's vice-captain and

who has led the side in Waugh's

absence, also endorsed Ponting

 $test\,captain\,seems\,the\,logical\,move."$

2-1 lead in the five-match series. Zimbabwe made 229 for five after

Indies for 208 in the 48th over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Blignaut 4/43, Streak 3/45)

series 2-1

FROM PAGE 13

great captain.

against West Indies on Wednesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

REUTERS, Harare

Eng hit form

REUTERS, Melbourne

the Gabba in Brisbane.

Waugh's final series.

man to be named).

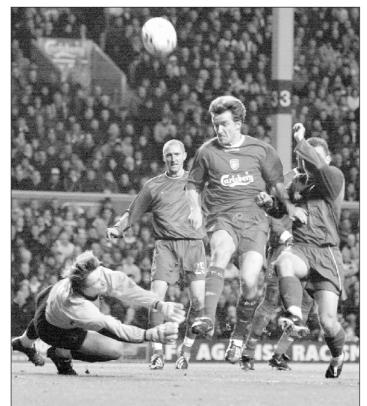
AFP, Colombo

German giants Borussia Dortmund also saw their European campaign halted for another year when they were unceremoniously dumped out by Sochaux, the French outsiders beating the former European champions 4-0 after a 2-2 first leg draw.

"It's true, what's happened to us is very negative," said Borussia coach Matthias Sammer.

"If we'd been making a film the director could only be Guy Lacombe (his Sochaux counterpart."

On a forgettable night for Germany, Schalke 04 were knocked out on penalties by Danish outfit



Liverpool's Vladamir Smicer tries to head his side's second goal against Steaua Bucharest in a UEFA Cup match on November 27.

CROSS	WORD .	By Eugene	e Sheffe
ACROSS	39 Boot	3 Exam	22 "Cheers
1 Gelati-	attach-	format	cast
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stuff	42 Shell-	looking	24 Oscar's
5 Coffee	game	weakling	buddy
9 Sphere	need	5 Robbins	25 Green-
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16 Lipinski's	51 Staff	seas	29 Long.
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17 Writer	53 Detail	9 Hodge-	30 Bat
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HKMKP

YVZCIUKZ, GEC CLKA OX YIUK

ZXYK GXX-GXXZ Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FUNNY BREAD BAKERY WORKERS ALL SEEM TO BE BLESSED

WITH A RYE SENSE OF HUMOR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals M 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.

MU, Chelsea join elite On Tuesday, Arsenal dramatically

CHAMPS LEAGUE

Manchester United and Chelsea clinched qualification for the knockout stages of the Champions League on Wednesday but Rangers failed miserably in their quest to reach the last 16 after defeat to VfB Stuttgart.

Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan hit a late goal to beat Panathinaikos 1-0 in Athens and secure United's passage, while Stuttgart took the other qualification spot from Group E when Timo Wenzel got the only goal of the game to end Rangers' hopes in Germany.

United and Stuttgart will fight it out at Old Trafford for the valuable group winner's spot in their final first phase

Chelsea saw the first tangible reward for the tens of millions spent on new players when they booked their place among Europe's top 16 clubs despite being held to a goalless draw by Sparta Prague at Stamford Bridge.

Claudio Ranieri, the Chelsea coach, said: "Maybe we were a little anxious to score a goal. We found some good space to score, but that little bit of luck was not with us.

"When the players show that sort of attitude and the movement is good everything is all right.'

Reigning champions AC Milan kept on track to defend their title when they qualified from Group H after a 1-0 victory over Aiax courtesy of an Andrei Shevchenko goal in the 52nd minute. South African striker Benni

McCarthy scored both FC Porto's goals as the Portuguese side beat Partizan Belgrade 2-1 to book their ticket for the knockout phase alongside Real Madrid. David Beckham curled in a brilliant

neat move with Real's 200th goal in the Champions League as they beat Marseille 2-1 at the Velodrome. The French side's only hope now is to avoid defeat in Belgrade and clinch

the UEFA Cup spot awarded to teams

finishing third in their group.

free kick and Ronaldo finished off a

Zinedine Zidane, greeted as a hero on his return to his native Marseille, said it was a bitter sweet night.

"Real have to be satisfied with our tournament so far. We produced the performance we needed and we deserved victory," said Zidane.

"I would have been delighted if Marseille had qualified too and no one is more sorry than I am for them."

In Athens, United had one eye on Sunday's big Premiership clash against Chelsea and rested Roy Keane while Gary Neville, Phil Neville and Ruud van Nistelrooy started on the bench.

In front of just 6,890 spectators, Forlan, who had wasted a host of chances throughout the match, finally netted in the 85th minute when he latched onto a fine through ball from substitute David Bellion.

"We improved in the second half in terms of penetration and we could have scored more goals," said United boss Alex Ferguson.

"But we won the game and have qualified and that's the important thing." Rangers went to Stuttgart's

Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium knowing

that only a win would keep them in the Fernando Ricksen looked certain to put the Scots ahead midway through the first half but Stuttgart keeper Timo

Rangers were pinned back from then on and Stuttgart grabbed the winner on the stroke of half time.

Alexander Hlleb deftly chipped over the defensive wall, allowing Wenzel to steal in and poke the ball home past Rangers keeper Stefan Klos.

GROUPA

Celtic Anderlecht

GROUP B

Arsenal

Inter Milan

Dynamo Kiev

GROUP C

D La Coruna

AFK Athens

GROUP D

PSV Eindhover

Monaco qualify for second stage

STANDINGS

Galatasaray

GROUPE

VfB Stuttgart

GROUP F

Real Madrid FC Porto

Besiktas

Sparta Pragu

Juventus qualify for second stage

Real Madrid, FC Porto qualify

Standings (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

5 2 2 1 7

5 2 1 2

5 2 0 3 7

5 2 1 2 5

4 3 1 0 8

injected new life into their hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout phase with a 5-1 demolition of Inter Milan.

Thierry Henry set Arsenal on their way midway through the first half but Christian Vieri equalised. Freddie Ljungberg put the visitors

back in front and Henry added his second goal before Robert Pires and Edu completed the rout Having started the day bottom of

Group B, Arsenal know that a victory over Lokomotiv Moscow at Highbury in their final game will see them through to the second stage.

Henry was in buoyant mood after defying the critics who had predicted another European flop for the English Premiership leaders.

"People speculated about our

commitment and desire but before tonight we didn't have all the luck," said Henry. "We didn't show the true face of $Hildebrand\,somehow\,got\,his\,legs\,in\,the$

Arsenal in the Champions League until tonight. Everyone was waiting for us to do something in Europe and tonight we did."

Celtic endured a frustrating night in Glasgow where Bayern Munich held them to a scoreless draw which, combined with Anderlecht's 1-0 defeat of Lyon, means that any of the four teams

5 1 1 3 6 6

4 1 0 3 3 7 3

in Group A can qualify.

Bayern revived their own chances of avoiding another humiliating first round exit with solid defending backed up by the authority of goalkeeper Oliver Kahn against a Celtic side that failed to show a genuine attacking

Celtic top the group with seven points, the same number as both second-placed Anderlecht and Lyon in third while Bayern only have six.

A point for Martin O'Neill's Celtic in Lyon's Gerland stadium on December 10 will be enough to see them through providing Bayern beat Anderlecht in

"It's really, really tight," acknowledged O'Neill.

"I suppose at the start of the group we all thought that Bayern would go away and we would be battling for

"But that has not happened and it shows how far we have come that they were happy to come here and go away with a draw.

"Maybe we didn't create enough clear cut chances but it is still there for us and we will travel to Lyon with confidence."

Monaco were the only team to secure qualification on the night after a 1-1 home draw with Guus Hiddink's PSV Eindhoven in Group C. Fernando Morientes, on-loan

from Real Madrid, headed Monaco ahead after 34 minutes but Dutch forward Ian Vennegoor levelled towards the end of a bad-tempered second half which saw three players sent off. Even if Monaco slip up at AEK

Athens in their final match they are already qualified by virtue of their head-to-head record against Deportivo La Coruna and PSV. Deportivo are virtually certain to join Monaco in the next phase after

recovering from their 8-3 defeat by the Principality side to overcome AEK Athens 3-0. Like Monaco, the Spaniards have ten points and play PSV at home next. In Group D, ten-man Real

Sociedad battled to a 2-2 draw with Olympiakos but face an agonising wait to see whether they will join Juventus in the knockout stages. Galatasaray, whose match against

Juventus was postponed because of the suicide bomb attacks in Istanbul this month, could still snatch the second spot if they win their two

Premiership preview

Battle at the Bridge



Chelsea flunked the first examination of their Premiership title ambitions when a rare blunder by goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini gifted Arsenal victory at Highbury last month.

But since then Claudio Ranieri's expensively assembled squad have been assiduously doing their homework and they get their chance of a resit when champions Manchester United visit Stamford Bridge on Sunday for the biggest game of the season so far.

There may be only three points at stake with a little over a third of the campaign gone. But if Ranieri's men are to stay the distance in this season's three-way title race, they know they can ill afford the blow to their selfbelief that a home defeat by United would inflict.

England midfielder Joe Cole

come through their latest test with like the stunning form they displayed flying colours.

"It will be a real test of how far we've come as a team," Cole acknowl-

"That is how people are going to look at it.

"But there is no reason why we should be afraid. We think we have got enough to trouble them and we will be looking to give them a real game."

Cole was Chelsea's most inspired performer in Wednesday's drab goalless draw with Sparta Prague in the Champions League and could retain his place in the starting line-up even if Juan Sebastian Veron recovers from a back strain in time to face his former club.

Whoever starts, Chelsea will have to produce a more clinical edge in front of goal than was on display on Wednesday night. "It shows we want to become a

dominant force."

Regardless of the outcome at Stamford Bridge, Arsenal will stay top

in their 5-1 massacre of Inter Milan in the San Siro on Tuesday night. The experience of recent season's

suggests that Arsenal's best matches tend to come in clusters and Fulham could be excused a few nerves en route for Highbury.

Manchester United at Old Trafford this season, manager Chris Coleman insists his side, currently lying in a pundit-defying fifth place in the table, will not be overawed. Arsenal will again be without

But having already beaten

as they serve the second match of three and four-match bans respec-But the assured performances of Pascal Cygan and Kolo Toure in Milan have eased concerns about

defenders Lauren and Martin Keown

the impact of the bans on the Gunners' defence.

Skipper Patrick Vieira is back in training but after a month on the

however is confident that Chelsea can of the table if they reproduce anything sidelines is not expected to have attained sufficient match fitness to start on Sunday.

> With the top three all in action on Sunday, as well as Liverpool, the highlight of Saturday's programme is Wolves' lunchtime appointment with Newcastle.

Cash-strapped bottom side Leeds will move another step closer to administration if they fail to get anything out of their trip to high-

FIXTURES

(1500 GMT unless stated)

Saturday: Wolves v Newcastle (1230 GMT), Aston Villa v Southampton, Blackburn v Tottenham, Bolton v Everton, Charlton v Leeds, Portsmouth v Leicester

Sunday: Arsenal v Fulham (1400 GMT), Liverpool v Birmingham, Man City v Middlesbrough, Chelsea v Man Utd (1605 GMT)

Mission impossible

minutes with only 10 men when Azmol

Hossain Biddyut was sent off after the

Bangladesh coach Tipu expressed his

satisfaction over his side's perfor-

"They were very strong opponents.

We were unprepared that's why I'm

happy in a way because my injury-hit

team could play for full ninety min-

On the other hand, Tajikistan coach

"We missed lot of easy chances but I

Nazarov Sharif said that he was very

am happy with the overall perfor-

mance. The team will do even better in

Red card: Biddyut (Bangladesh)

(Tajikistan), Saiful (Bangladesh).

Yellow cards: Denis and Sukhrob

FROM PAGE 13

satisfied.

Paying tribute

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia Prime Minister John Howard led the tributes to retiring cricket captain Steve Waugh, who announced on Wednesday he was pulling up stumps in Howard said Waugh was a great

player who had made a wonderful contribution to cricket. "He's been a wonderful captain, a

wonderful batsman, a gritty, determined competitor," Howard told reporters in Canberra. "His colleagues and his opponents

respect his great determination and tenacity and I think he's made a wonderful contribution and I salute him and I know all cricket lovers feel the same." Former Australia captain Kim

Hughes said Waugh was more than just a cricketer. "As far as Australia is concerned he is

grit and determination. a great Australian," Hughes told reporters. "I think he's taken cricket to another way cricket should be played and in level, he's not just a cricketer but a

tough conditions he would produce some tremendous performances, Former Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy,

a long-time team mate of Waugh, praised Waugh for his involvement in helping establish a players' union. "He was one of five or six senior

line to stand up to the Australian Cricket Board in 1997," Healy said. "We all had things written about us and our wages published and he was one of them.

players that put their reputations on the

"All those senior players at the time played a very big role in just improving slightly the conditions for our first-class cricketers. Australia's current wicketkeeper and

one-day vice-captain Adam Gilchrist said Waugh had been instrumental in restoring pride to the baggy green cap. "I'm not saying players before him

didn't play with pride and value it but he's the main driver behind that passion and the aura of the baggy green," Gilchrist said. Indian master batsman Sachin

Tendulkar told Australian radio Waugh that was admired the world over for his "I think he set great examples in the

who were supposed to fly to the Pakistani port city tonight, have returned to the capital after enjoying

their Eid vacation.

midfielder committed his second Tendulkar said. reckless challenge within a minute. "Anyone would want to play like him Although his team lost the match,

- he was completely at a different level as far as mental toughness is concerned. "I think he's someone I've really admired, he's shown over the years that he's very gutsy and when the time

demands it he's there to deliver."

charity work in India "I admire the work he does off the

Waugh has long been involved in

field as well especially in Calcutta and I'm sure people back home would be wishing well for him," Tendulkar.

A team's departure FROM PAGE 13

Mahbubul Anan said that Bangladesh would play their first match from November 14 in Karachi. However, he could not say when the team would fly to Karachi.

"We will take a decision immediately," said Anam talking from Meanwhile, the A team players,

However, it was clear the end was drawing closer when he lost his place in the Australian one-day team in February 2002, despite playing 325 limited-overs internationals for

ventually succeeded Mark Taylor as Test captain in 1999.

Right time

the next match," he said.