

Barcelona and Brazil superstar Ronaldinho (C) arrived in Porto Alegre, southern Brazil yesterday. He is due to travel next week with the national team to Weggis, Switzerland to begin the preparation for the World Cup.

Wenger delighted with Henry decision

Arsene Wenger hailed Thierry Henry's decision to stay at Arsenal as more significant for the club's future than winning the Champions League would have been.

Wenger went on to add that he regarded Henry as the best player in the Premiership.

"You can all have an opinion about that, but with great players you check two things -- one, do they make their team win and two, the numbers.

"We all know about Thierry's numbers for goalscoring. But for me what makes him great is the assists. Even if he does not score, you know he will still contribute to help his team to win. The real great players are there."

Wenger added that he expected to add two or three new players to his squad this summer, although he stressed that he would not deviate from the policy of concentrating on the development of young talent which has brought the Gunners such success in Europe this season.

"We are the only club in the world with three teenagers at the World Cup (Theo Walcott, Cesc Fabregas and Johan Djourou).

"For me that is like three new signings, because they come back under 20 and having been at the World Cup, as Thierry did (in 1998), but we will be trying hard to strengthen the side."

Carboni in new role

Valencia's former Italy defender Amedeo Carboni has brought his playing career to an end aged 41 to become the Primera Liga club's sports director.

"I am a novice in this role but there is a lot of work to do, we want to develop and are very ambitious," Carboni told a news conference on Friday.

The league's oldest player retired after nine years at Valencia in which time he won two league titles, the UEFA Cup in 2004 and the King's Cup in 1999.

Carboni also played in the 2000 and 2001 Champions League finals. The former AS Roma and Sampdoria player shrugged off suggestions his appointment would cause tensions in the side now that his former boss, coach Quique Sanchez Flores, would be working for him instead.

"We are both employees working for the club with specific jobs to do. It's a lie that we have a bad relationship," he added.

"Sanchez Flores will continue as coach because he has achieved his objectives."

Valencia finished third in the league in Sanchez Flores's first season at the helm and will enter next year's Champions League in the third qualifying round.

Juve outline 'ethical' future

Football

INTERNET, undated

Juventus will "not sit passively" during the investigation into Luciano Moggi's dealings, but will turn a new page, claims patron John Elkann.

"We have to turn a new page. The values that were so greatly expressed during the Turin Winter Olympics must and will be at the heart of our future actions," he told 'La Stampa' newspaper Saturday.

Elkann is the nephew of legend Gianni Agnelli and one of the heirs to the FIAT empire, but insists the Agnelli family will not be taking a more active role now that directors Luciano Moggi, Antonio Giraudo and Roberto Bettiga have resigned as a result of the scandal.

"The new Board of Directors will be made up of professionals and

great sportsmen. At this moment in time, it is important to reinforce Juventus by introducing people for duties they specialise in, but the family will always be close to the squad."

This week Carlo Sant'Albano was named temporary CEO until the full Board of Directors can be put in place on June 29.

There are already strong reports that ex-Roma director of sport Franco Baldini will be drafted in for the new era, but Fabio Capello has been confirmed on the bench.

"We asked Capello to stay with us and he accepted. He has immediately put himself to work in preparing for next season. We couldn't ask for anything more from him."

Nonetheless, the future is up in the air for Juventus, who could be docked points, stripped of titles or even relegated if they are found guilty of the alleged match-fixing

and collusion with referees.

The club has done everything possible to distance itself from Moggi, whose taped telephone conversations are at the centre of the investigation.

"It was impossible for us to spot what was happening," noted Elkann. "The knowledge of the shareholders is based only on official documents presented at the meetings. We are still trying to ascertain details as to the behaviour of individuals in this organisation, but Juventus will not sit passively while the storm rages."

In Friday's statement naming Sant'Albano CEO, there was also a reference to a new "code of ethics" that would be introduced with "specific criteria of behaviour and an adequate system of sanctions that will be the cornerstone for anyone working with this club."

CSKA retain Russian Cup

Football

REUTERS, Moscow

CSKA Moscow kept hold of the Russian Cup on Saturday after their Brazilian strikers Jo and Vagner Love swept them to a 3-0 victory over city rivals Spartak.

Jo opened the scoring two minutes before the end of a fast and furious first half, driving a free-kick through the wall and out of reach of Spartak keeper Wojciech Kowalewski.

Spartak, who have not won a game against CSKA since 2001, tried hard to level but never looked dangerous and their misery was compounded when midfielder Santos Mozart was shown a red card for fouling fellow Brazilian Dudu two minutes from time.

Vagner Love made it 2-0 with a solo effort in the 90th minute when he picked the ball up in midfield and foxed the goalkeeper.

Jo, Russian league's top scorer with 11 goals in nine matches, then finished off Spartak with a clean strike from just outside the box in injury time.

Spartak's caretaker coach Vladimir Fedotov praised his opponents.

"We simply lost to a better team," said former CSKA striker Fedotov. CSKA coach Valery Gazzayev added: "It's not enough to play well, it was also important to show the team spirit and fight to the end."

In 2005 CSKA beat first division Khimki 1-0 in the Cup final less than two weeks after lifting the UEFA Cup, the first Russian club to win a major European trophy.

Saturday's victory was CSKA's eighth cup triumph, putting them ahead of city rivals Dynamo and Torpedo, both on seven. Spartak have won a record 13 finals since the competition began in the Soviet Union in 1936.

Mourinho sympathises with Wenger

INTERNET, undated

Jose Mourinho has admitted he felt sorry for Arsenal and their manager Arsene Wenger following Wednesday night's Champions League final defeat.

Mourinho and Wenger had a public falling out earlier this season but the Chelsea manager feels that the Frenchman deserves to be a European champion.

"Arsenal played very well. It is very difficult to do better than what they did," he said.

"With 10 men, when you concede your first goal, you feel it is over in your legs and brain because you are very tired. I think English football can be proud of what Arsenal did in Paris."

"They had a fantastic game under difficult circumstances. I never enjoy seeing the faces of losers on big occasions.

"I feel the career Wenger has behind him, he deserves to win the Champions League one day. I felt sorry."

German lesson for English fans



GUARDIANONLINE

England supporters are heading for Germany equipped to sprechen Fussball, after limbering up for the World Cup with lessons in key footballing phrases. They will be able to yell Tor (goal) and Elfmeter (penalty) after some gentle coaching by a team of tutors from Germany's Goethe Institute.

But the football vocabulary may prove a little too sanitised for some fans' tastes. There is no sign of the notorious terrace song Ten German Bombers (zehn deutsche Bomber) and the institute has stopped publicising the abusive chant, "the referee needs a guide dog" (der Schieler braucht 'nen Blindenhund) after complaints from the referees' union and blind charities.

The initiative was organised by englandfans, the official supporters' club, as part of its charm offensive, before next month's tourna-

ment. Organiser Mark Perryman, warning to the theme of Fanfreundschaft (fan friendship), said: "When we went to Japan in 2002 there was very positive feedback from the Japanese who were staggered we had bothered to learn a few phrases. Yes, we have a rivalry with Germany but that's just on the pitch."

Sixteen fans have spent the past eight Friday nights at the Goethe Institute in South Kensington, west London, learning the basics of conversational German. This week about 60 supporters took part in a crash course during one of the regular fans' World Cup forums at the Offside sports bar, in Islington, north London.

Nigel Braybrook, from Welling in Kent, a member of the winning team in the language contest, said: "I will remember some of the phrases, particularly ein Bier, bitte dog" (I would like a beer). We're getting very good vibes about the tournament. The good elements among the supporters will outweigh those that cause trouble."

Katja Wostradowski, head of language courses at the institute, who presided over the lessons with

the help of a referee's whistle, was impressed by the fans' efforts. "They were very good at learning the vocabulary, they memorised the words very quickly and hopefully they will remember some of them. I think they will create a good impression."

Willy Kosling, deputy chief of security for the World Cup, said German police were under orders to give fans a friendly welcome. "I am very happy the fans are learning a small amount of the German language."

Supporters are organising a series of events across Germany, backed by the Football Association's Alltogethernow campaign. An It's a Knockout contest against Eintracht Frankfurt fans will take place on the eve of England's first match against Paraguay, and a triangular cricket tournament against German and Trinidad and Tobago supporters is planned for Nuremberg. The supporters of the two countries seem united by one thought: Fussball kommt nach Hause (football's coming home).

Angola greeted by Nazi storm

AFP, Hanover

Angola have arrived in Hanover airport in Germany on Saturday ahead of the World Cup finals with threats by neo-Nazis of holding a march on the day of one of their matches at the finals.

As the debutant west Africans became the third participating nation, after Togo and Costa Rica, to set up camp ahead of the June 9-July 9 football showpiece, weekly magazine Der Spiegel broke the news about a planned anti-semitic neo-Nazi rally.

They are apparently planning on holding a protest in Leipzig, in the former East Germany, on June 21 where Angola will be playing Iran.

"The neo-Nazis want to use the World Cup to attract the eyes of the world on themselves," wrote the magazine.

"On the internet they are calling to descend on Leipzig on June 21 where they intend on demonstrating their support for the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who has denied the Holocaust and refuses to accept the right of Israel to exist."

Controversial hardline president Ahmadinejad has often caused outrage throughout the world for making allusions and claims that the Holocaust is a myth and that Israel should be "wiped from the map".

He also claimed in December that Israel was a cancerous tumour and should be located in the territories of Germany and Austria.

President of the German police Konrad Freiberg told Der Spiegel that such a protest in Leipzig could cause a "state of emergency for the police," as they "would not be able to ensure the safety of such protests during the World Cup."

Meanwhile, the Black Antelopes of Angola will set up camp in Celle, in the north of Germany, before attending a welcoming reception on Saturday evening in the old town.

Aside from Iran Angola are pitted alongside Mexico and Portugal in Group D.

Salzburg sign legend duo

AFP, Vienna

Austrian league runners-up FC Salzburg have signed footballing legends Giovanni Trapattoni and Lothar Matthaus as their new management team, the club announced Friday.

Italian Trapattoni, the former Italy national coach, takes the post of sporting director for the club owned by drink manufacturer Red Bull and German World Cup winning captain Matthaus will be the first team coach.

"I am coming to Salzburg to achieve great things," declared a triumphant Trapattoni in a statement, although his last managerial role, at VfB Stuttgart in Germany, ended in an ignominious sacking midway through his first season.

However, it is only a year since "Trapp" secured his 19th managerial title, winning the Portuguese league with Benfica.

Matthaus' last coaching role was an initial success in Brazil at Atletico Paranaense before he did a disappointing act and refused to return to the club.

Matthaus, who has also coached Rapid Vienna, Partizan Belgrade and the Hungarian national team, will rejoin a man he played under at Bayern Munich.

"I am particularly delighted to be working with Giovanni, who was one of the best coaches I ever had," said the German.

Salzburg already has another footballing great, and another German World Cup winning captain, Franz Beckenbauer at the club as a sporting consultant.

Salzburg will play in the Champions League next season from the second qualifying round.

Micoud set for Bremen exit

AFP, Berlin

French midfielder Johan Micoud is set to leave Werder Bremen after nearly four years at the Bundesliga side, he said in an interview Saturday.

"I don't know which club I'll be going to but Bremen's sports director Klaus Allofs is currently in talks with several clubs," Micoud told Die Welt newspaper.

The 32-year-old Micoud, a former France international, indicated recently he could return to his native country although he has admitted to being tempted by a spell in the English Premiership.

According to Die Welt, Werder Bremen, who qualified for next season's Champions League after finishing second in the Bundesliga, have already found a replacement for Micoud in FC Porto's Brazilian forward Diego.

Sheva sets Chelsea deadline

Football

INTERNET, undated

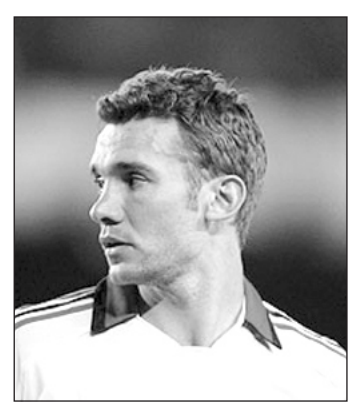
Andriy Shevchenko has warned he'll decide by Thursday whether to extend his Milan deal or move to Chelsea.

"I am evaluating the situation," he was quoted as saying in Saturday's 'Gazzetta dello Sport.' "I'm on holiday now and will return to Italy between May 24 and 25, at which point we'll immediately get to grips with the issue."

The Ukrainian's future is hanging in the balance after he admitted that talks had taken place with the Rossoneri on the possibility of moving to London.

Although he has not handed in an official transfer request, the club has stepped up its work to keep him at San Siro by offering a contract

extension until 2011 worth around 4 million pounds per season. "I never said I had decided to join



ANDRIY SHEVCHENKO

Chelsea," added Shevchenko. "I only told everyone that I was considering this possibility for my family

Maniche leaves Chelsea

Football

AFP, London

Portuguese international mid-fielder Maniche has ended his loan spell at Premiership champions Chelsea with the club not wishing to pay 5 million pounds to make him a permanent signing.

The 28-year-old, a member of the Portuguese side that reached the Euro 2004 final, signed on loan from Russian outfit Dynamo Moscow in January but found it almost impossible to establish himself in the first team.

It was the third time that the elegant Maniche, who is in Portugal's World Cup squad, had played under Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, having already been with him at Benfica and Porto, with whom he won the 2004 Champions League.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon paid tribute to Maniche, capped 28 times by his country and whose goal against The Netherlands in the Euro 2004 semi-final was voted goal of the championships.

"He certainly contributed to the team. We make a big thank you for that and wish him all the best."

Maniche played just 11 times for Chelsea and perhaps his most noteworthy contribution was being sent off against West Ham.

It is unlikely that Maniche will wish to stay at Dynamo Moscow as just four months after he joined them last year -- he was part of a three player package from Porto that cost Dynamo 30 million euros -- he said he wanted to leave.

"I am not happy and neither is my family. I don't like the country, I don't like the league and I don't like the weather," he told reporters.

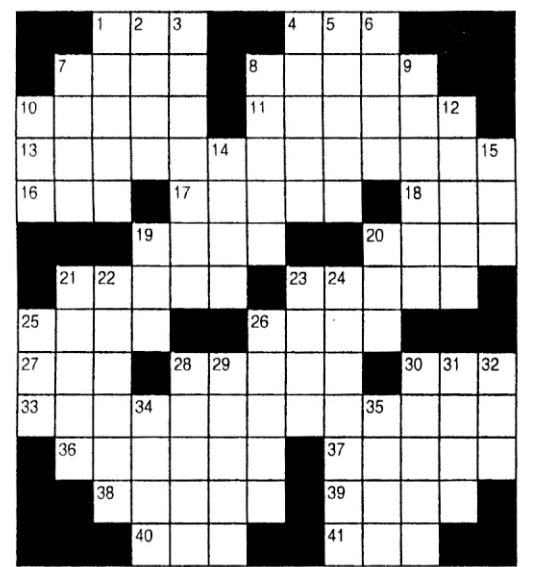


PHOTO: INTERNET

Japan's Brazilian coach Zico (C) watches his team's practice in Naraha, northern Japan on Saturday, where the team are preparing for the upcoming World Cup in Germany.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 25 Barak of Israel 1 Messy place 27 Yen on a domino 7 Modern-day money 8 1996 Reform Party candidate 10 Farewell 11 Sites for fights 13 Phrase re some inventions 16 Type squares 17 Barely hit 18 Reed or Rawls 19 Floral neckwear 20 Trumpet 21 Illinois port city 23 Act the coquette



CRYPTOQUIP

ABYU V SNHZNF ZNOS V UTFWY ABVZ JVHLLUVZLNW ZN KLJY, L KTYWW BY AVW HVOOLUK ZBY WBNZW. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE WILY CON ARTIST USED TO OWN A DOUBLE-DECKER BED, BUT HE WAS RECENTLY DE-BUNKED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals T