

City Wizards forward Eddie Johnson

set a U.S. record with goals in his first

four appearances with the national

team and finished qualifying with

seven. But he's been fighting injuries

making its second straight appear-

ance, reached the second round in

1990 with wins over Scotland and

Sweden. The Ticos lost only to

eventual champion Brazil in 2002,

but failed to advance because

Turkey had a better goal difference.

its own roster controversies. Coach

Alexandre Guimaraes left two star

forwards -- Lokomotiv Moscow's

Winston Parks and Alajuelense's

omission was "not because of a lack

of ability, but for other reasons." He

name, former Manchester United

forward Dwight Yorke, has passed

his prime and is now playing in

Australia. Still. the Soca Warriors

"The players have to believe victory is possible," Trinidad coach

Leo Beenhakker said. "Every week-

end, weaker teams all over the

world beat tougher ones. We're not

going to Germany to lose

Otherwise, why pack our bags?"

aren't conceding anything.

did not elaborate

Fonseca said at the time his

Trinidad and Tobago's biggest

Rolando Fonseca -- off his squad.

Like Mexico, Costa Rica has had

Three-time qualifier Costa Rica,

in the last year.

Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa (C) and teammates are seen upon arrival in Lyon on Sunday for their training session in Saint-Etienne as part of their preparation for the World Cup.

# **Expectations low for Concacaf**



AP, undated

For all of soccer's worldwide popularity, its biggest prize has long been the property of two continents.

No team from outside Europe or South America has hoisted the World Cup. It has been decades since a team from CONCACAF, which comprises North and Central America and the Caribbean, even

With the United States, ranked fifth in the world by FIFA, and Mexico ranked fourth and seeded heading into the tournament in Germany, it might seem to be CONCACAF's year to crash the

Perhaps, but its chances could be better on paper than on the field.

The region does have a record four teams at the World Cup after first-time qualifier Trinidad and Tobago won a playoff with Bahrain to join Mexico, the United States and Costa Rica.

The Americans, a World Cup participant since 1990, and Mexico, which leads the region with 13 appearances, hope to turn their top-10 rankings into deep runs in the tournament. In Mexico, it's more than a hope.

"Expectations are very high, and this makes things complicated," said FC Barcelona midfielder Rafael Marguez, who was ejected for banging his head into Cobi Jones when the United States eliminated

Milan-bound?

Gigi Buffon will leave Juventus for

Milan during the summer, insist

reports in Italy on Monday morning.

Buffon

**INTERNET**, undated

round. "I think we will have to work very hard to deal with that mentally .. sometimes we are our own worst

History is not on the confedera-

No CONCACAF team has made the semifinals since the United States in the inaugural World Cup in 1930. Since then, only three countries have reached the quarterfinals (or the second round of pool play, the mat from 1974-82). And in all but one case, they were

playing either at home or in a depleted tournament field.

The lone exception was the United States' quarterfinal run four years ago, when the Americans outplayed Germany but were stonewalled by goalkeeper Oliver Kahn in In 1930, participants were invited

rather than going through a qualifying tournament. Only 13 teams four from Europe, which now dominates the field -- showed up in Uruguay that year. Cuba reached the quarterfinals

1938, when war loomed and every South American team but Brazil boycotted because the tournament was held in Europe for a second straight time. Mexico made the quarterfinals as host in 1970 and

Of the top two teams this year, Mexico's "El Tri" would appear to have the best shot, even without creative -- and controversial -- forward Cuauhtemoc Blanco, snubbed by coach Ricardo Lavolne.

The Mexicans got a favorable draw, playing Iran and Angola before closing group play against

could struggle in a group that includes Italy, the Czech Republic and Ghana.

Even without Blanco, Mexico still has two proven scorers in Bolton's Jared Borgetti and Villarreal's Guillermo Franco, a native of Argentina who was naturalized last

Borgetti led the world with 14 goals in Cup qualifying and became the first Mexican to play in the English Premier League when he signed with Bolton in November. Franco helped his Spanish team reach the Champions League semifinals after transferring in January from Monterrey, where he scored 61 goals in five seasons.

The United States also has experience in Europe's top leagues. The list includes Borussia Moenchengladbach goalkeeper Kasey Keller, who has also played in England and Spain and is among the world's best at his position. He started two games in 1998, when the Americans finished last in the 32-team field, and backed up Brad Friedel in 2002.

"We have good size. We have good speed. We have good players on the ball," Keller said. "I think we're going to match up very well against most teams that we play against. The Czechs are big and they're strong and they have very good talented players on the ball and they're ranked No. 2 in the world for a reason.

"Is their ranking a bit false as well? Mavbe.'

The U.S. roster also includes three players with World Cup goals in 2002, but a newcomer could provide

### 'Henry made a mistake'

**INTERNET**, undated

The Barcelona and Holland legend Johan Cruyff says Arsenal's Thierry Henry will regret his decision not to leave London for the Nou Camp.

Henry opted to sign a new contract at Arsenal on Friday despite interest from Barca, who beat Henry's side in the Champions League final. "In the cold light of day, without looking inside his head, think that he has made a mistake, said Cruyff, who played for and managed Barcelona. "He has taken a decision in the heat of the moment. With his track record of what he has achieved in France and England it only lacked a spell in Spain to give him the rubber stamp. This spell could have been at

### I cried when MU sold me: **Becks**

INTERNET, undated

England skipper David Beckham has revealed he broke down in tears when he was first sold by Manchester United to Real Madrid.

He says he now wants to finish his career at the Bernabeu -- or United. But he admits he was reduced to tears when manager Sir Alex Ferguson showed him the door at Old Trafford in July 2003. Beckham said: 'It hurt a lot. Everyone knows I'm a Man United fan, Man U mad.

"I signed for Real Madrid and when I got home, I cried." Beckham, 31, joined United as a schoolboy and made 359 starts for

the club he supported as a lad. He told TV documentary presenter Tim Lovejoy: "I expected to stay there my whole career.

"People were saying I was already talking to Real Madrid. "I never talked to them until I got

the call to say the club wanted to sel Asked if he wanted to end his career at Madrid, he replied: "I think

so. I want to settle down here. My family is happy here and I'm still happy playing football here. I want to be known as a player

who has played at the top level for the best teams -- and they don't come better and bigger than United and Real Madrid. There are no other clubs I'd rather play for in England than United

"It's here or Manchester United that's the way I feel

## Campbell set **Fenerbahce**

REUTERS, London

England and Arsenal defender Sol Campbell is set to move to Turkish club Fenerbahce, British media reported on Monday.

The Daily Mirror and Daily Star both said Fenerbahce had made an eight million pound (15 million dollars) offer to lure Campbell with a three-year contract worth 70,000 pounds a week. Campbell scored Arsenal's goal

in the 2-1 Champions League final defeat by Barcelona last week but the 31-vear-old has had a troubled season.

He walked out after being substituted at halftime in a home game against West Ham in February and following his return suffered ankle and toe injuries and broke his nose.

The media reports said Campbell's agent Sky Andrew was understood to have met Fenerbahce officials last week.

Campbell, who joined Arsenal in 2001 from north London rivals Tottenham, was named earlier this month in England's 23-man World Cup squad.

Fenerbahce had the Turkish title snatched from their grasp on the final day of the season last weekend when they could only draw away to lowly Denizlispor when they had to win. Big rivals Galatasaray pipped them to the championship.

### Diarra snubs Man U for Real

AFP, Madrid

Lyon's Mali international Mahamadou Diarra has "angered" Manchester United bosses by claiming he favours a move to Real Madrid, according to Spanish newspaper As on Monday.

According to the Madrid daily, Diarra's agent Frederic Guerra had agreed a transfer fee with the English Premiership giants - 30 million euros (38 million dollars) and the duration of the contract and all that was required was the player's signature - but Diarra broke off negotiations with United.

The midfielder then told his agent that "he prefers to join Real Madrid and that he will not reply to Manchester, something that has angered the English club," added the newsapper.

They claim Guerra will meet with

## Moggi launches Berlu broadside

Football

Under-fire former Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi, the man at the centre of the Italian match-fixing scandal, has blamed all his problems on a meeting with former

Italian president Silvio Berlusconi. Moggi said he regretted ever meeting AC Milan's owner and claimed that Berlusconi and AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani were responsible for his name being dragged through the

"Cursed is the day I ever met Berlusconi," Moggi told the Quotidiano Nazionale internet site on Monday

"Last September I went to see Berlusconi and he asked me to come to AC Milan," revealed Moggi. "We all know how the AC Milan

owner is, it doesn't take much to get him excited. And like that, he related everything to Galliani." The vice-president of Milan, who doubles up as president of the

Italian Football League (FIGC), wields similar all-encompassing power at Milan as Moggi enjoyed at Juventus until his resignation on May 14. "Two weeks after my meeting

with Berlusconi, the Football Federation received the intercepted phone calls concerning me, as well as others, from the Turin prosecu-"Naturally, Galliani told Berlusconi to be prudent before

making any decisions and not to

insist on hiring me due to the Moggi is at the centre of the scandal after Italian papers published transcripts of phone calls intercepted in 2004 between him and Pierluigi Pairetto, head of the Italian referees association and a member of UEFA's

In the conversations, Moggi tells Pairetto which referees he wants assigned to certain Juventus matches in Serie A and the Champions League.

The scandal sparked the entire Juventus board of directors' mass resignation before an emergency administrator was appointed to take

control of the FIGC. Italian national team coach Marcelo Lippi is also implicated in the affair after featuring in several intercepted telephone calls in which he talks to Moggi about the national

Moggi is suspected of putting

"It wasn't me who invented this football, the system has always

television rights.

been like this "It wasn't me who created this world of football which exists with its ruthless logic. The real power is economic, with those who manage

"If the magistrates tried to listen in to their telephone conversations some very interesting things would



pressure on Lippi to leave certain Juventus players out of the team so that they weren't too tired for their club matches.

In another twist prosecutors started investigating the dealings of GEA, the largest company of football agents in Italy, who are run by Moggi's son Alessandro, and who count Lippi's son Davide as one of their employees

GEA are said to have 41 Serie A players, three Serie A presidents and several high-profile coaches on their books -- although Lippi denies ne is one of them. But Moggi, who claims he is

being put up as a scapegoat by higher powers, remained defiant despite the evidence against him and seemed to take on an 'if I go down, they are all coming with me'

come out.'

Moggi also offered up the following excuse for his conversations about referees. "Like my other colleagues,

simply wanted to ensure that we did not have enemies of Juventus on the field. I just wanted to have good, impartial, serious professionals," he

Moggi claimed that the former president of FIGC, Franco Carro, who also resigned over the phone conversations, was aware of all these practices in Italian football.

On May 18, police officers searched Juventus' offices and Moggi's house -- he is also suspected of false accounting and tax

## First Barca, now Brazil?

Football

**INTERNET**, undated

referees' commission.

If the Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung had ever compared and contrasted the chronologies of FIFA World Cup winners and European Champion Clubs' Cup winners he might have allowed himself a small smile and whispered to himself: "Synchronicity." This may sound daft, but if

Jung's right the fact that FC Barcelona have been crowned champions of Europe makes it more likely that the World Cup will be won by Brazil or, at the very minimum, a team that plays attractive football. There is no proof that Jung considered the beautiful game when he suggested that two or more events can sometimes not be a pure coincidence but reflect a dynamic change occurring, possibly beneath the surface. But the history of football's two greatest tournaments suggests he may have had a point.

When Brazil won the 1958 World Cup, their beautiful game was completely simpatico with the romantic, attacking play of the majestic Real Madrid CF side that won five European Cups in a row. Both teams didn't just win trophies, they created legends. In 1962, European champions SL Benfica defeated Madrid with a

36 Easy

44 Eastern

cultured football that, if anything, was slightly more fluid than Brazil's play as they retained the World Cup in Chile. The age of the star -- symbol-

ised by Alfredo di Stefano, Pele and Eusebio -- then gave way to the team ethic with Helenio Herrera's FC Internazionale Milano and Sir Alf Ramsey's Wingless Wonders in 1966 dominating the field, more through organisational efficiency than sheer talent. Brazil's glorious resurgence in 1970 seems, in retrospect, a prequel to the dazzling genius of the AFC Ajax side that monopolised the European Cup from 1971 to 1973. And then FC Bayern Munchen -- and West Germany -- won football's ultimate prizes in 1974.

There, it must be said, the parallels begin to falter but, adopting the principle that if the facts don't fit the theory, ignore the facts, let's hit the fast forward button. It's not too fanciful to see a correlation between France's first World Cup triumph in 1998 with the beginning of the galacticos era as Madrid were crowned champions of Europe for the first time in 32 years. And, though we're switching tournaments here, the FC Porto and Greece teams that won the biggest prizes on offer in 2004 were utilitarian marvels, built on the same no-stars philosophy that had inspired Herrera and

There's no great mystery to this. In football, as in any other business, nothing succeeds like success. There is, as Jung might say, a dynamic process at work -winning teams and formulas have a magnetic effect on players, coaches, fans, sponsors and

This process is one reason Ramsey was blamed for destroying wingers. He didn't destroy them, he just picked his best XI which, on the talent he had, didn't usually include wingers. Many other coaches, seeing how efficient that made his team, especially in midfield, dropped wingers. Imitation may be flattering but it is, ultimately, selfdefeating. The gulf in quality between, say, Herrera's 'catenaccio' at Inter in 1964/65 and the same system employed by more technically limited coaches in Serie A was as vast as the chasm between the first Godfather movie and the third.

So the real significance of this UEFA Champions League final had nothing to do with the Ali/Frazier-style contest between Thierry Henry and Ronaldinho that the media was hyping. No, the truly important news -- and it's glad tidings for everyone who loves football -- is that attractive football is back in vogue. The bad news, as Jung and football history will tell you, is there will probably be a counter-reaction in

#### The Italian international 'keeper has been linked with the Rossoneri for a few months now and a transfer seems on the cards. Although any possible Juventus demotion would lead to his sale

alleged match-fixing scandal broke. Buffon was supposedly looking for a fresh challenge, especially as whispers allege that he doesn't share a great feeling with boss

anyway, stories suggest that he had

already decided to leave before the

Milan would certainly seem to be a perfect fit for the shot-stopper given their problems in between the sticks this term.

Fabio Capello.

Brazilian Nelson Dida hasn't impressed and there do seem to be problems in negotiations regarding the renewal of his contract which runs out in 2007.

It's unclear how much Juventus would want for Buffon who they signed from Parma in 2001 for a goalkeeping record of 32million pounds

## Forlan set for **Barcelona**

AFP, Madrid

Villarreal's Uruguay striker Diego Forlan is poised to sign for European and Spanish champions Barcelona according to a report here Monday.

Barcelona are said by Spanish sports daily Marca to be prepared to pay Villarreal 15 million euros to secure the services of the former Manchester United player.

Forlan joined Villarreal from United in 2004.

## Klose Germany's best



German international striker Miroslav Klose has been voted German Player of the Year by his fellow professionals following a survey by Kicker magazine.

Werder Bremen forward Klose, 27, scored 25 league goals to top the Bundesliga scoring charts and was a clear winner polling 46.8 percent of the vote from the 233 profession-

als questioned. Dutch international Rafael van der Vaart of SV Hamburg was next best with 9.9 percent after helping the club reach third

### place in his debut season.

Bulgarian international forward Dimitar Berbatov of Bayer Leverkusen was third with 7.7 percent after scoring 21 league

for English Premiership side Tottenham Hotspur in a 16 million euro (10.9 million pounds) deal SV Hamburg manager

Berbatov has already signed

Thomas Doll was voted top coach polling 33.1 percent after guiding the club into third and the qualifying round of the Champions League.

Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath was only fourth with 6.5 percent despite guiding the club to a league and cup double.

## Laudrup to leave Brondby

AFP, Copenhagen

Former Danish international striker Michael Laudrup is quitting Danish first division side Brondy after turning down the offer of a one-year extension to his

Laudrup, who joined the club in 2002, told the Berlingske Tidende newspaper on Monday: "It wasn't ideal, neither for me nor the club nor the players.'

contract which runs out in June.

The former Barcelona and Real Madrid striker said he and his assistant John Faxe Jensen planned to take a vear out, but were open to offers.

"If something exciting came up from

an interesting club then we'd come back

immediately." he told the paper."



A colourful procession was brought out in Rangpur town yesterday on the eve of today's draw ceremony of The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 1.

Real's chiefs to express the 25-yearold player's desire to join them.

#### Ramsey. By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD **ACROSS** 34 Snub 55 Catch 11 Cubicle

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> CRYPTOQUIP MJYV QMT OHH NVSRW OJH

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shaped CNV DMWC-WVOWMJ DVSFMH? pasta Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A FOOD STRAINER 41 Last bio IS MADE IN THE NETHERLANDS, ONE MIGHT 43 Grate CALL IT A HOLLANDER COLANDER.

ZFKK QMT RV

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals D

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.