# SPORT



Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (C) holds the World Cup trophy as the other members of the team express their euphoria of World Cup victory at Circo Massimo in Rome on Monday night

Lahm catch the eye

### Winners take trophy to stricken Pessotto AFP, Turin

Italian captain Fabio Cannavaro and fullback Gianluca Zambrotta have shown off their newly acquired World Cup trophy to former team mate Gianluca Pessotto, hospital sources said Tuesday

The pair paid a visit to the Juventus team manager, who is being treated in a Turin hospital following a suicide attempt, after celebrating the Azzurri's victory at a huge party at Rome's Circus Maximus on Monday night.

official award for best young player but it must have been hard to come

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REUTERS, Berlin

handful of revelations.



The winger, despite finishing on the losing side, did not let his side down in the final against Italy, almost scoring in extra time before he was substituted

The most important thing is to have lots of fun," he had said with refreshing calm before the semifinal win over Portugal.

"I'm young, I've got a great job and I'm enjoying myself. I don't see why I should put myself under any kind of pressure. Ribery scored a fine goal in

France's 3-1 win over Spain in the second round and impressed every-

in their guarter-final defeat by Italy, whipping over a series of crosses from the right that had the Italy defence in real trouble.

Philipp Lahm, the 22-year-old German full-back, scored the first goal of the tournament and was excellent in defence and dangerous in attack throughout.

The man who made the most spectacular breakthrough was arguably Italy's left-back Fabio Grosso, a 28-year-old late developer who was playing fourth division football five years ago.

paign on the bench. Grosso played an impeccable He still managed to finish the role in the Italian defence that conon as United's top scorer with

## Lack of lasting memories



#### **REUTERS**, Berlin

Italy's victory over France in Sunday's World Cup final brought the curtain down on one of the best tournaments ever staged, despite some negative thinking from coaches and continual cheating from players.

The final itself will go into the record books as second only to the 1990 final as the worst ever played, Italy lifting the World Cup for the fourth time in their history after a shootout win.

Generally speaking when they were not trying to con referees, or searching for imaginary blood or bruising from injuries they never suffered, most of the 32 teams that started the competition a month ago produced some excellent football among some verv mundane fare.

Itav's 2-0 extra-time semi-final win over hosts Germany in Dortmund was probably the classic match of the tournament -- in stark contrast to their penalty shootout victory in the final -although Argentina's 2-1 second round win over Mexico in Leipzig which featured a spectacular extratime winning goal from Maxi Rodriguez, was another superb game

But there were fewer goals scored (147) in the finals than in either 1998 (171 goals) or 2002 (161 goals), the first two tournaments to comprise 64 matches and 32 teams and only 1990 had a lower goals per game ratio.

There were fewer shots on target and a record number of 28 red cards shown, the last to France captain Zinedine Zidane

Those statistics of course, do not

PHOTO: AFF

tell the whole story, but they do indicate a trend towards more defensive football, with more coaches using a safety first lineup of four defenders, five midfielders and a lone attacker.

The 4-5-1 system is not the most adventurous, and as a result too many matches had too few goal attempts and goals.

Despite the conservatism of the coaches and the implausibility of recreating the high-scoring days of the 1950s, the World Cup always produces surprises and this one was no exception.

There were also some incredible and dramatic stories which will also live long in the memory. After their failures at the 2002

World Cup and the European Championship in Portugal two years ago, no-one realistically expected France to meet Italy in the final.

But France, somehow rediscovering the self-belief if not the grandeur of their World Cup winning year of 1998, made it all the way to the end, largely on the astonishing reincarnation of Zidane as one of soccer's all-time greats.

Plaving the last match of his outstanding career and losing so poignantly on Sunday, makes his one of soccer's greatest comebacks, even if it ended on such a low

Italy's route there was no less absorbing in human terms, played out against the backdrop of the biggest scandal to hit Italian soccer in years

Eight Juventus club mates took part in the final, either from the start or as substitutes. World Cup finalists on Sunday, their futures are now far from certain with the authorities waiting to deliver their verdicts in the scandal later this week.

### **Deschamps pens Juventus deal**

### Football

AFP, Rome

Former French World Cup winner Didier Deschamps has been named new coach of Juventus, in the wake of Fabio Capello's departure to Real Madrid, the club announced Monday.

Deschamps, 37, captained France to victory in the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000. Deschamps joined Juventus as a

player in 1994 and won three Scudetti and one Champions League with the Turin club.

He later played for Chelsea in the



the Czech Republic and the United States, and Ivory Coast, unlucky to be placed in a tough first round group also impressed -- pointing the way forward to Africa's first World Cup in four years' time.

never really convinced, despite starting the competition with four straight wins to establish an all-time World Cup record of 11 successive victories Ronaldo also scored three times to set a record of 15 goals in three

World Cup so successful.

by a wave of emotion.

and although they failed, coach

Juergen Klinsmann won a nation

over by playing fast, attacking

exciting football with a team lifted up

tournament's top scorer with five goals

and although Germany had to settle

for third place they played an enor-

mously significant role in making the

Defending champions Brazil

Miroslav Klose finished as the

World Cups but their reign ended when France beat them 1-0 in the quarterfinals England, who had been widely

tipped to reach at least the last four, also went out at the same stage, a hapless campaign ended by another defeat in a penalty shootout to Portugal, who reached the semis for the first time since 1966.

Among the debutants were four African nations: Ghana, Ivory Coast, Angola and Togo, whose World Cup descended into farce over a players bonus dispute, coaches coming and going and a threat not to play a match.

Other debutants like Trinidad & Tobago and Ukraine, who reached the quarter-finals also made their mark as did Australia who won their first ever matches in the finals and were a little unlucky to go out to eventual winners Italy in the second round.

Ghana, who scored wins over

### Germany were desperate to repeat their home triumph of 1974,



They were later mobbed by hundreds of supporters as they left Le Molinette hospital and had difficulty reaching their car.

Pessotto, 35, jumped from his office window on June 27 after complaining to his wife he was struggling to adapt to the team manager's role since retiring as a player in May

Doctors said his condition improved slightly on Sunday after ruling he should not watch the television broacast of the Italy-France final because it would be too tiring.

Zambrotta visited his friend who was capped 22 times for Italy, in intensive care just days before scoring the opening goal in Italy's 3-0 quarter-final win over Ukraine in the World Cup.

### Hasselbaink joins Charlton

#### AFP, London

English Premiership club Charlton signed former Middlesbrough striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink on a free transfer on Tuesday. Dutch internationa

Hasselbaink, 34, was out of contract after new Middlesbrough manager Gareth Southgate told him he could leave the Riverside Stadium.

Hasselbaink also had talks with Celtic but the Scottish champions could not agree a wage package to lure him to Parkhead.

The ex-Chelsea player becomes Charlton boss lain Dowie's second signing since he took charge at The Valley earlier this summer, following the capture of Leeds teenager Simon Walton.

Dowie told the club's website: "He brings leadership to the club. He is a leader generally around the place, in the dressing room and on the pitch

"He's played internationally for Holland and his goal record is outstanding.

"He brings goals to the club and also an infectious enthusiasm, he is a bubbly character and always has a smile on his face."

up with a shortlist. The award went to Lukas

Podolski, the 21-year-old German striker who scored three goals but missed too many clear chances. especially when it really mattered in the semi-final defeat against Italy, to be considered a real success.

In a tournament short on star quality,

a Frenchman who could dribble, an

Argentine who hit the shot of his life

and an Italian defender with a knack

for the spectacular were among the

The 2006 World Cup featured an

Other players tipped as contenders, including Wayne Roonev and Lionel Messi, had little impact but there were a few older newcomers. as it were, who did shine at these finals

FIFA WORLD CUP

2006

Algerian President Abdelaziz

Bouteflika hailed Zinedine Zidane

as a footballing hero Tuesday, as he

revealed in London that he had sent

a "consolation" letter to the French

side's captain after his humiliating

letter to Zidane in my name and in

the name of all the Algerian people,"

said Bouteflika at a Downing Street

press conference with British Prime

"It was a letter of solidarity, a

"I yesterday sent a personal

explusion from the World Cup final.

GERMAN

The 23-year-old Franck Ribery had not started a game for France before the World Cup and ended up playing a major part to their run to

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AFP, London

one with his skill on the ball While Messi and his fellow young

Argentine striker Carlos Tevez were limited to bit parts, the stand-out for the South Americans was Maxi Rodriguez, the 25-year-old who scored three doals.

The highlight was a breathtaking volley that gave Argentina their winner in extra-time against Mexico in the second round.

It was all the more remarkable for coming from his weaker left foot -"the one I use for getting on the bus," he said.

Maxim Kalinichenko, a 26-yearold battling back after injury, looked outstanding on the wing for Ukraine

Algerian leader hails Zidane

letter of friendship, a letter of conso-

lation." he said, adding that in his

opinion, Zidane remains "the best

Algerian immigrants, who was

playing in his last World Cup tourna-

ment, stunned fans when he was

given a red card during Sunday's

final after he head-butted Italian

Italy went on to beat France 5-3

Speculation on what might have

provoked Zidane has focused on

alleged racist remarks from

Materazzi, who according to lip

readers called him "the son of a

terrorist whore" on the pitch.

Materazzi denies uttering such a

Bouteflika, who arrived in

defender Marco Materazzi.

Zidane, the French-born son of

player in the world".

ceded just one goal on their way to the final.

He also won the late penalty that gave Italy their victory over Australia, and curled in the goal that put the Azzurri ahead late in extra time in the semi-final against Germany. Grosso sealed his hero status by sealing Italy's World Cup win by netting the decisive spot-kick in the shootout.

In a World Cup that was so low on goals, it seemed fitting that it was a defender who made the biggest impact of any previously unknown player.

London earlier Tuesday for the first

official visit to Britain ever by an

Algerian head of state, said Zidane

was a footballing hero who had

"It is perfectly clear that he has

To underline the point, Bouteflika

who spoke in French -- then

our solidarity because he is of

Algerian heritage and because he is

the best (football) player in the

world," the president said

21 league goals. The 30-year-old striker scored

no grounds for haste."

REUTERS, Berlin

Bayern Munich are ready to speak to Manchester United about sign-

ing Dutch striker Ruud van

Nistelrooy, club chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has said.

"The player wants to come to us.

"Now we will approach the thing

We know that," Rummenigge said

in a newspaper interview carried on

with all calm. We have to speak

with the player and naturally with

Manchester United. But there are

the club after being omitted from

United's final Premier League

game last season having spent

most of the latter part of the cam-

Van Nistelrooy stormed out of

Bayern's website on Monday.

once at the World Cup.

Arsenal chase Ribery

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has launched a bid to sign France winger Franck Ribery from Marseille, according to reports on Tuesday. Wenger is keen to bring Ribery to

the English Premiership club after watching the 23-year-old play a starring role in his country's run to the World Cup final and has said to have made a 10 million pounds offer.

Real Madrid and French cham pions Lyon have also reportedly expressed interest in Ribery and the Spanish club are thought to have made a 26 million pounds bid. But the Guardian newspaper

never lost "his human dimension". claims Ribery, who is contracted to What happened to him during Marseille until 2010, may prefer a Sunday's final in Berlin "could have move to the Emirates Stadium in happened to any man," he said, London adding that "our duty is not to judge; our duty is to understand" what

Ribery believes Wenger can transform him into one of the world's top players in the same way he improved his France team-mate Thierry Henry and that may prove the decisive factor in any transfer, the paper said.

Cisse joins

Real chase Juve trio

never happen.

pupils with open arms.

Miiatovic told the AS newspaper.

thing

on penalties.

### Football

### **INTERNET**, undated

Minister Tony Blair.

Real Madrid have admitted that they are keen on signing the Juventus trio of Fabio Cannavaro, Emerson and Gianluca Zambrotta.

The threesome have been strongly linked with the Spanish giants as a result of the Calciopoli situation which may see their club demoted to Serie B or lower.

'We don't want anyone on loan As a result, a host of their top stars here," continued the man who once would inevitably leave and boss Fabio scored the only goal of a Champions Capello who quit Turin for Madrid last

week would welcome his former League Final for Real against Juventus. "All three have contracts with "We only want players who

happened.

world.

Juventus, but we have the advantotally belong to us as our history tage that all three want to come to has signified. "Cannavaro? His philosophy Real and that simplifies things."

Real sporting director Predrag winning attitude, and desire make him a unique defender. We've made Reports in the peninsula over the good headway in getting him here last few days have associated and we're going to continue trying numerous Juve players with loan hard. I'm sure there will be some moves to Madrid, but the former news in the next few days.

Yugoslavian striker insists that will Mijatovic's claims come just a week after Franco Baldini, a fellow director at the club, admitted that Real are keeping an eye on the Juve situation

repeated three times: "He is the best player in the world, the best player in Marseille the world, the best player in the **REUTERS**, Marseille

> joined Olympique Marseille from Liverpool on a season's loan, a source close to the Lique 1 club

The 24-year-old is to be officially introduced to the local media on Wednesday, the source said. Cisse missed the World Cup finals in Germany after he broke his leg during France's last warmup match against China on June 7. Cisse is not expected to be

back in action before October. The striker joined the Merseyside side from AJ Auxerre in 2004. Manager Rafael Benitez usually put him on the bench last season.

Cisse said he wanted to come back to France, Marseille being his first choice of club.

nalish Premiership, winning the FA Cup, before ending his career in Spain with Valencia

As a coach, he guided Monaco to a Champions League final in 2004.

Juventus said Deschamps had signed a two-year contract. However, there is no guarantee he will spend those two years in the

Italian top flight as Juventus are expected to be relegated early this week for their part in a match-fixing scandal

If Juve are dropped to the second, or even third division as has been asked for by prosecutors in the case at a Rome sports tribunal, they could lose most of their star players.

Internationals such as new Italian world champions Gianluigi Buffon, Fabio Cannavaro and Gianluca Zambrotta, Sweden forward Zlatan Ibrahimovich. France's David Trezeguet or even Czech Pavel Nedved are all likely to jump ship rather than spend a season in the lower divisions.

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CRYPTOQUIP AOZG CNCUO DZLDBZ UDZTI TMLYW T NZTBBV MZTYWCRYB BTXV, C ALGXZN WOZV WTBI L'MZBBZ CR Cryptoquip: Yesterday's DENTIST EMPLOYED BY AN ARMY BASE MIGHT BE SEEN

AS THE APPOINTED DRILL SERGEANT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

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.

French striker Djibril Cisse has said on Tuesday.