

## Palladino shines for Juve

INTERNET, undated

Raffaele Palladino grabbed a hat-trick as Juventus beat Alessandria 8-0 in their first friendly of the season on Saturday.

Without any internationals, boss Didier Deschamps fielded a youthful Bianconeri who went on the goal rampage after ending the first period with just a 1-0 advantage.

Palladino, who spent last season on loan at Livorno, impressed in front of goal by grabbing three for the Old Lady.

There were also strikes for Matteo Paro, Olivier Kapo, Tomas Guzman, as well as two Alessandria own goals.

"It was important to start playing again," stated defender Giorgio Chiellini. "Just to get an understanding with teammates."

"We are working well with the Coach and the fitness trainer, now we are just waiting for everyone to return to training."

Chiellini is one of the few recognisable players to have remained at the club after a mass exodus of talent followed their demotion to Serie B.

"Those who have opted to go down a different path should be understood, also because they gave their all while they were at this club," added the international defender.

"What do we need to perform in the Second Division? We need to be very hungry and have a winning desire."

## Park promises goals

AFP, Seoul

Manchester United midfielder Park Ji-Sung, back home in South Korea where he is a national idol, on Sunday promised to go for goals in the upcoming English Premier League season.

Park, 25, scored only one goal for his club last season despite turning in some fine performances, but in an interview with Yonhap news agency said he was prepared to be selfish to boost his tally.

Asked of his aim for the new season, Park said: "Of course, it is to win the league."

But he added: "Personally, my goals should be multiplying in number. Many fans want my goals and so do I."

"When the chances come, I think I should be greedy to make it for myself, rather than to perform an assist-oriented play," added Park, before he left for Britain following a four-week recess here following the World Cup tournament.

In South Korea, Park has been voted the country's most popular sports player in surveys, and there is a street and a museum named after him in Suwon, a city south of Seoul.

Transferred in 2005 from Dutch side PSV Eindhoven to Manchester United, he became the first South Korean player signed by an English premier league club when he signed a four-year deal.

## Pellegrini slams players

REUTERS, Madrid

Villarreal coach Manuel Pellegrini criticised his players' attitude and concentration after they were knocked out of the Intertoto Cup by Slovenian side NK Maribor 3-2 on aggregate.

Last season's Champions League semifinalists lost 2-1 at home and finished with 10 men in the first leg, then had another three sent off as they could only draw the return 1-1 on Saturday.

"We are out (of Europe) because we played with fewer players in both encounters and because our rivals were very motivated. They were deserved winners," Pellegrini said.

"You cannot afford to have four players sent off in two games. I am really annoyed."

Striker Diego Forlan, midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi and defender Gonzalo Rodriguez were all shown red cards near the end of Saturday's game. The side played 43 minutes of the first leg with 10 men following Josem's sending off.

Villarreal fell to Arsenal in last season's Champions League semifinal. They reached the UEFA Cup quarterfinals in 2005 and the semifinals in 2004.

Maribor progress into the second qualifying round for the UEFA Cup.



Steaua Bucharest players celebrate winning Romanian Supercup defeating Rapid Bucharest at the Lia Manoliu Stadium in Bucharest on Saturday night. Steaua won the match 1-0. PHOTO: INTERNET

## Rafa aims to keep Xabi

INTERNET, undated

Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez has dismissed suggestions that midfielder star Xabi Alonso is on his way to Real Madrid.

Speculation over the weekend suggested Spanish titans Real had trained their sights on Alonso as the man to pep up their midfield options.

Real are looking to revamp their squad and are reportedly attracted to the creative skills of Alonso.

Benitez has been extremely active in the transfer market this summer and is expecting more signings, but has no plans to sanction the sale of Alonso.

"I can read the Spanish press, but we have not had any official contact," Benitez told Sky Sports News. "He is staying here, for sure. We don't want to sell Xabi."

The Reds have pepped up their squad this summer with the captures of Craig Bellamy, Fabio Aurelio and Gabriel Paletta, while Mark Gonzalez finally sealed his move to Anfield after winning a work permit, and the quartet could well be joined by more fresh faces before the transfer window closes.

"We need to find other players who are stronger to make us stronger," he added. "We have some names."

"You can see them in the paper or watching the news and we are looking at some of them, but we cannot get all of them."

## Ujfalusi's purple passion

INTERNET, undated

Czech Republic international Tomas Ujfalusi has committed his future to scandal hit Italian club Fiorentina.

The Viola have been demoted to Serie B for their role in the Calciopoli scandal, but the stopper isn't looking for an exit.

"The player wants to stay in Florence at all costs," his agent Paska Pavel has been quoted as saying.

"He's happy in this city and at this club. There is nothing that can drive him away at this moment in time."

"Not even the risk of Second Division football is a problem for him. I'm sure that he will stay in Florence."

The 28-year-old, sent off in the World Cup Finals against Ghana, joined the Viola in 2004 after a fine showing for his country at the European Championships.

Ujfalusi started his career at Sigma Olomouc in his homeland before spending almost four seasons in Germany with Hamburg.

## Football of presidents

AFP, La Paz

Bolivia's President Evo Morales is training to get in shape for a football match with his presidential peers, he said Saturday.

Presidents Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, Nestor Kirchner of Argentina, Nicolas Duarte of Paraguay and Tabare Vazquez of Uruguay have confirmed that they will play, according to Bolivia's foreign ministry.

The match is to be held in the football stadium in Sucre, Bolivia's constitutional capital 579 kilometers (360 miles) southeast of La Paz, on August 6, the opening day of a special assembly elected to draft a new constitution.

The players may well be gasping for air, since Sucre -- a UNESCO World Heritage site for its 16th century Spanish colonial buildings -- lies at an altitude of 2,900 meters (9,500 feet) in the Bolivian Andes.

"Yesterday it was confirmed that President Lula will play on my team in Sucre," Morales said Saturday after returning from a summit of the South American trade bloc Mercosur in Argentina.

Morales, who marked six months in office in his native town of Orinca Saturday, said he was "in training" for the match.

Morales hopes the Constitutional Assembly will rewrite Bolivia's charter to strengthen his nationalist policies aimed at easing poverty for the impoverished country's indigenous majority.

But with 138 out of 255 seats, his Movement Toward Socialism party is far shy of the two-thirds majority needed to control the assembly.

Bolivia's first indigenous president has left investors and foreign governments, especially the United States, worried that he is following in the confrontational path of Venezuela's Chavez and Cuba's Fidel Castro.

In May, he ordered foreign producers of Bolivian oil and natural gas to negotiate new contracts, and demanded new terms from the foreign buyers of Bolivia's gas, the second-largest reserves in South America, after Venezuela's.

In the wake of moves to redistribute land holdings to benefit the country's poor, as well, Bolivia's business community has also expressed fears about the Morales agenda.

## Sol seeking foreign challenge

INTERNET, undated

Portsmouth look likely to miss out on the capture of Sol Campbell, with the defender insisting that he wants to head for a new challenge on foreign soil.

The England international cancelled his contract with Arsenal by mutual consent after the World Cup finals, with his decision alerting a number of clubs.

Pompey chief Harry Redknapp has been the most active Premier manager, with the Fratton Park chief convinced Campbell can get his career back on track on the South Coast.

It would appear, though, as if the

31-year-old will not be pitching up in Portsmouth as he favours a change of scenery.

"It all comes down to timing," Campbell told the News of the World. "At the end of last season I felt I needed a fresh start and I told Arsenal that. I told Arsene Wenger and David Dein and it's just gone from there."

"We spoke about it and the more we spoke the more we all realised that the situation was actually good for both parties."

Campbell has heaped praise on the Arsenal hierarchy for ensuring the process went smoothly.

"They realised it was best for me to move on - so they were happy about it and I was happy too," he added. "There was no wrangling. It was all amicable. It was nicely done but that's Arsenal. They do things in a

proper, gentlemanly manner."

Campbell claims he is unsure of his next destination, but is likely to leave England.

"I have walked away with absolutely nothing in place," he declared. "All I know is that I want to play, in fact I need to play."

"Not for the money - I'm lucky I don't need the money - but I do need this fresh challenge and I'm going all out to get it."

"I want to kick-start my career again and take my football into a new realm and playing abroad will do that."

"It's something I have dreamt about since I was a boy. I have nothing left to prove in England but it would be special if I could now go to the continent and make a major statement in a foreign league too."

## Gentile reveals Azzurri anger

INTERNET, undated

Claudio Gentile has spoken of the shock and disappointment at being relieved of his Italy Under-21 duties.

Despite having an enviable record at the helm of the Azzurri starlets, Gentile was informed on Friday by the Italian Federation that he was surplus to requirements.

Italian Federation commissioner Guido Rossi was the man charged with the task of informing Gentile of his decision and it is not one that has sat pretty with the tactician.

Gentile believes he has been treated without respect by his paymasters as he will now struggle to find alternative employment, as the vast majority of clubs in Italy's domestic

game will already be fixed up for the forthcoming campaign.

"He told me I wasn't in the Federation plans and so that I could consider myself free," he told Gazzetta dello Sport.

"I replied to him I was losing all the possibilities I had to find a new job. I advised them and they told me to be tranquil, that after the World Cup we would find an agreement."

"I feel myself betrayed because now I haven't the opportunity to find a new job, because teams are already okay and so I'm without a job due to persons that before said one thing and then did another."

"I'd like to know the reasons of this decision, this bitters me more. I want to continue coaching."

Gentile accepts that he was not considered for a role with the full national side but believes his record

with the Under-21s more than justifies an extension to his time at the helm.

"I can accept the 'no' to the national team," he added.

"Sure, they didn't prefer me, a coach like Capello, but a young one like Roberto Donadoni, but he's a good coach and this choice is possible."

"But sacking me from Under-21 duties is incredible. It can't be a problem with results because I won the European Championship in 2004, an Olympic medal and I've helped grow many players who have just become world champions."

"The likes of Amelia, Barzagli, De Rossi, Gilardino, Iaquineta, Pirlo and Zaccardo."

"The truth is that for them it has been easy putting me out because I'm not a part of a clan."



Villarreal's Javier Rodriguez (C) battles for the ball with Maribor goalkeeper Marko Ranilovic (L) and Fabijan Cipot during their Intertoto Cup match in Maribor, Slovenia on Saturday. PHOTO: INTERNET

# Juventus plead for penalty reduction

Football

REUTERS, Rome

The lawyer representing Juventus at the appeals trial in Italy's match-fixing scandal pleaded for leniency on Sunday, saying that last week's decision by a sports tribunal to relegate the club to the second division with a 30-point penalty would have "devastating consequences".

"Just to survive in Serie B next season we estimate that Juventus will have to earn about 80 points -- equivalent to winning 27 of their 40 matches," Cesare Zaccone told the appeal court's panel of five judges.

Juventus were one of four clubs from Italy's top Serie A division found guilty by the tribunal of conspiring with referees and linesmen to rig games during the 2004/05 season.

As well as being sent down to Serie B, the Turin giants were also stripped of their last two Serie A titles.

Zaccone told the court the effects of the sentence were

already being felt in the exodus of the club's leading players.

"The career for a footballer is short and some of our best players are world champions," he said.

"None of them wants to risk two years in Serie B or, worse still, relegation to Serie C1 (Italy's third division)."

Italy's World Cup-winning captain Fabio Cannavaro, defenders Gianluca Zambrotta and Lilian Thuram, and Brazilian midfielder Emerson have left since the tribunal announced its guilty verdict last Friday.

Zaccone also asked the court to consider the effects of a heavy sanction on Juventus's income from sponsorship and TV rights, and the effect on investors, who had bought shares in the club.

Juventus have been at the centre of the scandal since it broke in early May with the publication of intercepted telephone conversations between their then general manager Luciano Moggi and senior Italian Football Federation (FIGC) officials, discussing refereeing appointments during the 2004/05 sea-

son. Moggi's conduct, Zaccone argued, did not constitute "sporting fraud" but a violation of the lesser crime of "unfair conduct", which gave the court "greater freedom to choose an appropriate sanction".

The other three clubs found guilty by the tribunal -- AC Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio -- are also appealing against the verdicts.

Like Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio were sent down to Serie B with points penalties. Milan avoided relegation, but were thrown out of next season's Champions League and ordered to start their next Serie A campaign on minus 15 points.

The president of the appeals court, Piero Sandulli, said he hoped to finish proceedings on Sunday before retiring to consider the verdicts, which would be released early next week.

The court is working against the clock to meet the July 25 deadline UEFA has set the FIGC to submit its list of teams to compete in next season's Champions League and UEFA Cup competitions.

# 'Kaka staying at Milan'

Football

INTERNET, undated

Kaka will not be leaving Milan for Real Madrid this summer, his agent-father has confirmed on Sunday.

The Spanish giants have been heavily associated with a bid for the Rossoneri sensation, but Bosco Leite maintains the speculation has nothing in common with the reality.

"I have not spoken to Real Madrid. I've not been in contact with (Real directors Franco) Baldini or (Predrag) Mijatovic," Leite stated. "I've also not suggested that my son could be sold."

"If Real are interested in the player then they will have to turn to Milan. We have a contract with

the Italian side, one which we only recently signed (until 2011)."

The youngster's father also dismissed the rumours emanating from Spain which suggest that Kaka is keen on the move.

"The Spanish say that Ricky wants to leave? I don't think that is the case, not at the minute anyway. I think he will stay at Milan," he stated.

Kaka was used as an election tool by Ramon Calderon who had promised fans that he would sign the former Sao Paulo player if he was elected to the hot-seat.

That has led to reports that Real have had a 40-million-pound offer rejected by Milan, as well as offering Kaka a seven-year contract worth 5-million-pound a season.

Yet Leite also dismissed suggestions that he and his son had

received such an enticing deal from the Liga giants.

"I don't know anything about such an offer," he maintained.

Milan fans will certainly be hoping that the Brazilian international does stay after the loss of Andriy Shevchenko to Chelsea already this summer.

Meanwhile, reports yesterday suggested that the London club were also keen on Kaka with an alleged 70-million-pound offer already said to have been tabled.

Real have already fished in the peninsula recently after signing Fabio Cannavaro and Emerson from Juventus last week.

The duo left the Stadio Delle Alpi in a 16-million-pound deal and will be bossed by former Bianconeri Coach Fabio Capello in the new campaign.



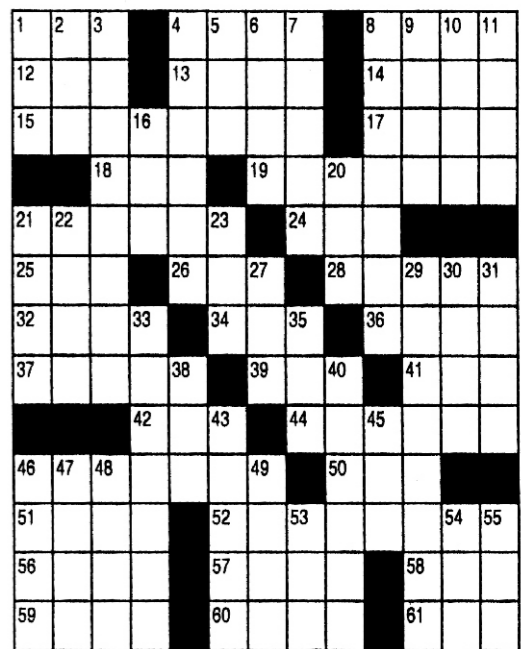
KAKA

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- |                          |                        |                         |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>            | <b>DOWN</b>            | <b>DOWN</b>             | <b>DOWN</b>                  |
| 1 Pendulum's place       | 42 Sermon subject      | 1 Favorite              | 20 Siesta                    |
| 4 Arizona city           | 44 August Wilson play  | 2 A                     | 21 Cruise the Web            |
| 8 Shawl                  | 46 Diana's counterpart | Gershwin brother        | 22 Birthright barterer       |
| 12 Mound stat            | 50 Com-pete            | 3 Wrestling duos        | 23 Made a trench             |
| 13 PC picture            | 51 Marge's son         | 4 "Death of a Salesman" | 27 Fiddler's need            |
| 14 Crosby's longtime pal | 52 Heidelberg hello    | 5 Karaoke offering      | 29 Sale item?                |
| 15 Pesky follower        | 56 Neighborhood        | 6 Sweet-heart           | 30 Unaltered                 |
| 17 Otherwise             | 57 Get wind of         | 8 Sharp-ened            | 31 "As -- going to St. Ives" |
| 18 Up to                 | 58 Docs' to be         | 9 Portrayal org.        | 33 Spanish pre-euro money    |
| 19 Polite                | 59 Fairway crosser     | 10 Basilica section     | 35 Clod                      |
| 21 Appeared              | 60 Jog nation          | 11 Rld of rind          | 38 Poorly lit                |
| 24 Long                  | 61 P.E. venue          | 16 Intention            | 40 Change back               |
| 25 N.A. freeway          |                        |                         | 43 Dracula's shift           |
| 28 Coke rival            |                        |                         | 45 Diarist                   |
| 32 Freeway               |                        |                         | Anais                        |
| 34 Slick stuff           |                        |                         | 46 Blind as --               |
| 36 Sketch                |                        |                         | 47 Exceptional               |
| 37 Welded together       |                        |                         | 48 Genealogy chart           |
| 39 Series of skirmishes  |                        |                         | 49 Litigant                  |
| 41 "Little Teapot"       |                        |                         | 53 "The -- of Pooh"          |
|                          |                        |                         | 54 Irving or Grant           |
|                          |                        |                         | 55 Whale group               |

Solution time: 25 mins.

EGG TIER SOPH  
RUG OILS HARE  
ALL SILVERFOX  
SPECIOS PEA  
LEADPIPE KIDOP  
AUK STEPS TOE  
TRIS TROWHAND  
DOMES ASE A  
LOB ENWALL  
GOLDBWATER PSI  
OHIO SHOE ELF  
POEM SEND SEE



## CRYPTOQUIP

Y B M PODSKOFMD LOZO  
SG LOT M PKOQBQK FU.  
VGVVYDU, Y PMSWOZ WO  
LGQKT FMZZN FOZZN FMZN.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE NEW FLICK THAT FEATURED A COURT JESTER CLAD IN ARMOR WAS NAMED "FOOL METAL JACKET."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals E

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.