



Italian football federation appeal court president Piero Sandulli (L) briefs the press after announcing the result on appeal of Serie A's match-fixing scandal in Rome on Tuesday.

Juve consider Milan partially fresh appeal satisfied

Football

INTERNET, undated

Juventus say they will fight on for justice after their Calciopoli appeal resulted in only a 13-point deduction from the first grade verdict.

The Bianconeri were this evening told that they would start the new season in Serie B with a 17-point deficit rather than the initial 30 handed out by the CAF court just over a week ago.

But Juventus, on the night when Lazio and Fiorentina were returned to the top flight, insist the matter doesn't end here, hinting that they would now seek to approach the civil courts.

"We simply can not accept this sentence," said new President Giovanni Cobolli Gigli. "Putting into light what has occurred, this verdict can not be considered as balanced."

The new club official, unhappy that his outfit were the only ones relegated, believes the Bianconeri

have been harshly treated.

"I find it serious and totally unfair the diversity of verdict that separates Juventus from the other clubs," he added.

"For this reason, we have decided to continue our appeals in every possible forum," he continued.

"I can assure everyone that we won't stop until justice is done, in the interest of our extraordinary fans, our shareholders, the club and the Italian championship."

Cobolli Gigli also found the decision to strip the Bianconeri of their last two titles difficult to comprehend.

"Juventus have paid a heavy price," added the President. "The 2004-05 title has been revoked, as well as the 2005-06 one, despite the fact that it wasn't a part of the inquiry, which denies us the chance to participate in European competition."

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Football

INTERNET, undated

Milan have reacted to Wednesday's Calciopoli appeal verdicts with partial satisfaction, even if the Italian giants have again protested their innocence.

The Rossoneri saw their points penalty for next season's Serie A reduced from 15 to eight and were also only relegated to third in last term's table which will allow them to compete in the 2006-07 Champions League preliminaries.

Vice-President Adriano Galliani, who was handed a nine-month ban, waited for the verdict in the club's headquarters in Via Turati.

Immediately after the sentence was read, Galliani did not speak directly to the Press, but invited the fans who had been waiting in the street to come inside.

"This is still an injustice, as during the only incriminating phone call regarding us, I never spoke a

word, but only listened, out of politeness," he stated.

"Anyhow, as we now have the Champions League, my next step will be to go to Milanello and speak to the players," added the former League President.

"We only want those who are sincerely motivated to stay."

Galliani is also convinced that his team will bridge the eight-point deficit in the League before Christmas.

The Rossoneri club's lawyer, Leandro Cantamessa, stated that he was partially satisfied by the verdict.

"It cannot be considered a victory, but after the July 14 decisions, it is a definite improvement," he stated.

Galliani will appeal against his nine-month ban, but nothing has yet been decided about Milan.

"I don't know if the club will decide to pursue the case in other forums, including civil courts," concluded Cantamessa.

Mazzone blasts Casiraghi role

INTERNET, undated

Carlo Mazzone, the grandfather of Italian Coaches, has blasted the Azzurri appointments of Roberto Donadoni and Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Donadoni was handed the Italy job following the resignation of Marcello Lippi, while Casiraghi has replaced the axed Claudio Gentile on the Under-21 bench.

"I don't know what they (the Italian Football Federation) are trying to achieve," noted Mazzone. "I would really like to know what strategy they are using."

The hiring of Donadoni did raise a few eyebrows, but the decision to not confirm a relatively successful Gentile at the helm of the Azzurrini and then replace him with the inexperienced Casiraghi makes no sense to the veteran.

"I hope that things have changed for the better, but I don't understand why Gentile wasn't kept on in the job," noted the Roman.

"The treatment he received was bad because he is a great professional. He should have been confirmed or at least told of the decision sooner."

Gentile did blast the FIGC for the way they handed his situation, arguing that their long deliberation process saw him miss out on numerous job offers.

"The image of a Coach is losing its importance, it's now as if the first one to stand up can now get a job," continued Mazzone, who replaced Donadoni at Livorno last term.

"I'm not talking about Casiraghi here. I hope he does well, but being a tactician is a very difficult job to do."

Casiraghi will be assisted by technical consultant Gianfranco Zola.

Cannavaro still ours, claim Juve

Football

INTERNET, undated

Fabio Cannavaro has spoken of his delight at joining Real Madrid, but Juventus have warned that he still belongs to them.

The defender joined the Spanish giants last week when they had a 14 million-pound offer for the stopper and teammate Emerson accepted by the club.

Yet Juventus President Giovanni Cobolli Gigli has sensationally revealed that the transfer has yet to be completed.

"I am used to pressure and I know this was Zidane's shirt, but I chose this number because I wore the same one during the World Cup," explained Cannavaro. "It will be a responsibility

to wear it, but not a burden.

"I feel excited like an 18-year-old," he continued. "I love playing football and I am thankful at having the possibility of living a new experience, which allows me to maintain my enthusiasm for the game."

The Calciopoli scandal and its consequences was inevitably one of the questions addressed to Cannavaro.

"The situation we are now living in Italy is known to everybody. I enjoyed the years at Juventus very much, and I always gave my best, but it would have been very difficult to say no to an offer from Real Madrid," he said.

"I know that Juventus did not consider selling me an option, but the chance of playing next season in Serie B forced them to consider this possibility."

However, Cannavaro and Real clearly believe their marriage has been sealed after he was officially presented to the media.

"It's an honour for me to be here," said the Azzurri captain. "I'm enthusiastic about playing for Real Madrid, one of the most important clubs in Europe and the world."

"It is incredible to be here, considering that I am 33-years-old," continued the Naples-native. "I hope I will win many titles with Real Madrid."

Cannavaro will wear the No 5 shirt, which was Zinedine Zidane's until he retired after Germany 2006 came to an end.

"We haven't signed anything," he stated. "We are quoted on the stock market and we must therefore communicate all of our operations. The negotiations are still going on."



President of Trinidad & Tobago George Maxwell Richards (L) decorates former coach of the island's football team Leo Beenhakker with the Chaconia Gold Medal -- the second highest state honour -- in Port of Spain on Tuesday.

Boca want to keep Basile

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Boca Juniors want coach Alfio Basile, who is in line to take over Argentina's national side, to stay at the club until the end of the year.

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) offered the job to Basile last week after Jose Pekerman, who steered them to the quarterfinals at the World Cup, confirmed he was stepping down.

Basile, currently on tour with Boca in Mexico, has not yet replied to the AFA's offer.

"I still haven't had the chance to speak to the coach, who is Basile, to know what he wants to do," Boca president Mauricio Macri said in a radio interview.

"Boca have asked for some flexibility so that Basile continues to be our coach for the second half of the year."

If Basile were to leave immediately, Boca would have only until August 4 to find a replacement in time for the 2006/7 Argentine season.

Argentina, on the other hand, do not have any competitive internationals until the 2007 Copa America in Venezuela in June.

"It doesn't change anything for the national team if he doesn't go now," said Macri. "But it changes everything for us if we don't have a coach between now and December."

Boca have already offered Basile's job to Mexico's World Cup coach Ricardo La Volpe, but he turned them down on Monday saying he did not have enough time to prepare the team.

Basile has won two successive titles since joining Boca last year.

The gravel-voiced, chain-smoking coach led Argentina between 1990 and 1994, winning the Copa America twice.

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Toni to join Inter

INTERNET, undated

Fiorentina striker Luca Toni is just days away from completing his move to Inter, reports in Italy suggest.

The Nerazzurri have been chasing the Viola hitman since before the end of last season and a deal could, in theory, be completed by the end of this week once the match-fixing appeal verdicts have been handed out.

Whispers in the peninsula on Tuesday morning claimed that the Tuscan club are ready to let him go for a fee of around 15 million pounds.

Although Toni is their main goal threat after he netted an amazing 31 Serie A goals last term, the club are also aware that he is approaching his 30th birthday.

With that in mind, Fiorentina are ready to sacrifice the former Palermo ace and re-invest the money on a younger element.

Toni, a member of Italy's World Cup squad, is more than happy with the proposed switch and is reportedly ready to sign a four-year contract worth 2.8 million-pound a season.

Inter owner Massimo Moratti has already stated that he will sign one forward between Toni, plus the Juventus pair of David Trezeguet and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

However, it is understood that boss Roberto Mancini has greedily asked for two of the three players.

Mancini is keen on fielding a tandem of Toni and Ibrahimovic for the 2006-07 campaign as the club bid for Scudetto and Champions League glory.

Football Italia understands that Inter and Juve have already spoken about the former Ajax ace who has a valuation of around 11 million pounds.

Ibra is also said to have agreed personal terms with the Nerazzurri through the fine work of his agent.

Quinton in Bolton

AFP, London

Quinton Fortune looks set to join Premiership club Bolton and manager Sam Allardyce cannot wait to add the South African to his squad.

The former Manchester United midfielder played his second game for the club in the 1-1 draw against Rangers behind closed doors.

Allardyce said: "Quinton is looking very useful and I will be delighted to finally get him on board."

"His commitment to training over the past few weeks has been first class and I can't wait to start working with him on a full-time basis. He will add diversity to the left-hand side and will strengthen this area for us."

Fortune has been training with the club for the past few weeks after being released by Manchester United.

He had been tipped to sign for Celtic, only for the Glasgow giants to go cold on the deal.

Fortune's agent Francis Martin said: "Everything has been agreed in principle with Bolton. Quinton has been training hard with Bolton and his fitness is not an issue."

'Get ahead get a haircut'

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Jose Mourinho has long sought to inculcate his ferocious will to win in his squad but now he is setting out to be a style icon for his players with his dramatic No1 crop hairstyle.

"How many people change their haircut for the weather?" the Chelsea manager said before setting off with his squad today on a training trip to the United States.

"I also cut my hair for a different reason, because I want to push my kid to do the same," Mourinho explained to the New York Times yesterday. "And it was hot. Training two times a day, I have no time to spend with long hair. I also want to push the young players on my team to have a proper haircut, not the Rastafarians they have."

"For me, I changed the look, maybe my face is more aggressive, to prepare myself for football, to be ready for war."

Mourinho admits it is "impossible" to keep all of his stars happy with Damien Duff saying the driving force behind his 5 million-pound move to Newcastle was the lack of first-team opportunities at Stamford Bridge. Mourinho has trimmed his squad to 20 in order to keep everybody satisfied. But the Chelsea manager, who has signed Michael Ballack and Andriy Shevchenko this summer, admits he is fighting a losing battle.

"It is not easy coaching so many top players. I can't say that every player is happy because at the end of the season we have players who want to leave," he said. "They don't want to leave to go to a better club, they want to leave because they want to be more happy in football and that means playing more."

"It is impossible to keep everyone happy. This year we will have 20 players on the squad and with a smaller squad I think everyone feels useful."

Chelsea will face a Major

League Soccer All-Star team on August 5 following a week of training at UCLA in California. It will be Chelsea's third summer in succession in America with Mourinho viewing the tours as crucial for team bonding. "I like coming to the States because of the freedom the players have," he said.

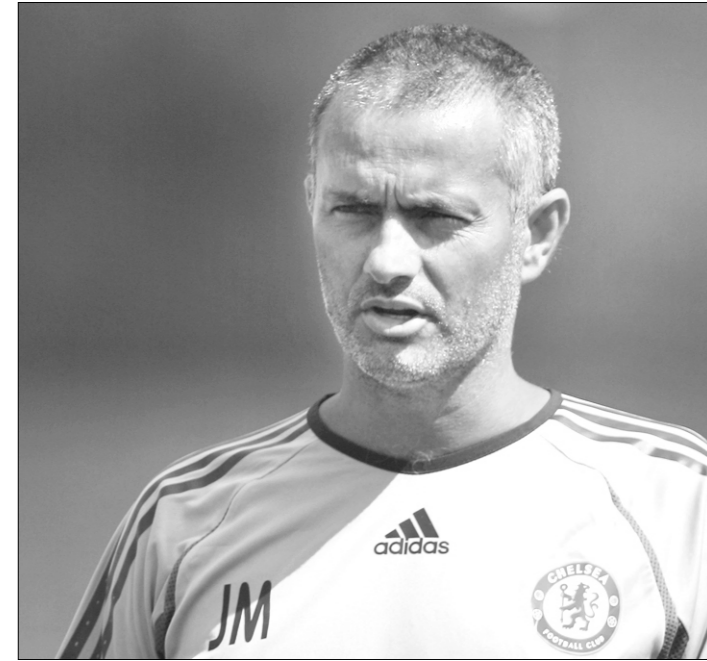
"It's the beginning of the season and the players need some space, to be able to go for a walk after dinner. These are the crucial moments where, as a group, they build relationships, not just go back to their hotel rooms and then see the same players the next day. They need to develop communication and the States is a good place for that."

Mourinho may still have to exercise his communication skills in keeping Didier Drogba at the club. The Ivory Coast striker was yesterday quoted as saying he was still receptive to a move away from Stamford Bridge. "I'm not a greedy

person but if the price is right and I still feel giddy about Chelsea then I'll go," the 28-year-old was reported as saying.

He added: "I'm a Chelsea player at the moment and I am planning to do my best this season. But at one time, yes, I really did want to leave. The accusations of diving, the playing pattern and some other personal issues were all part of it. Sometimes when you have so much pressure on you there is a need to change scene so that your game does not suffer. I'm young and I still want to give my best to the fans."

Drogba says the summer arrival of the strikers Shevchenko and Salomon Kalou have not affected his future at Chelsea. "It's scandalous to think I want to leave because other players are coming in," he said. "More quality players will be good for the team and Jose Mourinho needs such a team to remain champions. Leading the attack will always appeal to me."



JOSE MOURINHO

Wenger hints at Cole disposal

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has implied for the first time that England left back Ashley Cole could be sold this summer.

Arsenal insist they have yet to receive a bid from Chelsea but the Gunners would, according to reports, seek a fee of up to 25 million pounds (36.6 million euros) if the Blues did make an approach for the 25-year-old player.

Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has stated his intention to sign a new left-sided defender, following Asier del Horno's return to Spain after a difficult year at Stamford Bridge.

With Del Horno moving to Valencia, Chelsea have England international Wayne Bridge as their only recognised senior left-back, however central defender William Gallis is also capable of performing the role.

Wenger accepted Cole could leave before Arsenal begin their first league campaign at the Emirates Stadium, but stressed

there had been no movement yet on Chelsea's part.

"There is nothing going on with Ashley at the moment," said Wenger, after Arsenal's 2-1 friendly win at SV Mattersberg in Austria last night. "There is no offer and we are not talking to anybody about him."

"I am always confident of holding on to a player, but if you want me to sit here and guarantee he will be an Arsenal player next season I cannot do it."

"He only has two years left on his contract and we have not made any movement in that regard and when you have a player in that situation you cannot say much."

Chelsea have also offloaded Damien Duff, another left-sided player to Newcastle, but they have so far refused to comment on speculation linking them with Cole.

Boss Jose Mourinho stated last week: "Ashley Cole is an Arsenal player. It's not correct to say anything about him."

But he stressed that, with Del Horno leaving: "The transfer window is open and for sure we'll have two left-backs."

Cassano hails Don Fabio

INTERNET, undated

Antonio Cassano is convinced that he can finally live up to his potential following the appointment of Fabio Capello as Real Madrid boss.

Cassano has struggled to perform since Capello left Roma in 2004, but he's now under his leadership again following their separate moves to Spain over the last six months.

"I'm the happiest person in the world," said the former Bari starlet who joined Real in January for just 3.5 million pounds.

"Of course I'm not expecting to play all of the time, but Capello is someone who has great consideration and faith in me. That has been lacking for the last two years."

Capello himself is also confident that the talented forward can get his career back on the right track under his guidance.

"Cassano is returning to being an athlete again and when that happens he will again be a player," the tactician stated of his slightly rotund attacker. "He's doing well so far, like the rest of the squad."

Meanwhile, Cassano will be flanked by some former colleagues in the shape of ex-Roma teammate Emerson and Azzurri buddy Fabio Cannavaro.

"We've signed two great players," noted Cassano. "Emerson is a friend and a strong midfielder with great personality. We needed someone like him."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 --- out a living 59 Stick with a kick 11 Taj Mahal city 16 Have a bug 20 Manage somehow 21 Whippa's waggon 22 Assistant 23 It may be continental 27 Remuneration 29 Sneaker brand 30 Coaster 32 --- Karelnina 34 Tweak further 37 Gloomy 39 Puts on the line 42 "Mr. Television"

DOWN 1 Exemplar of patience 2 Blunder 3 Shirt shape 4 Short sock 5 Continuously 6 Resident (Suffix) 7 Center of activity 8 Igloo denizen 9 Neither profit nor loss 10 Peruse

Solution time: 24 mins.

SEW GAFF PHAT
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ALL AVER OMEN
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GAL PIG
ATLAS GEL NEW
LOAD BUD LAMA
FEW PLY AUBURN
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CRYPTOQUIP
R N Z I B D Q O L K X B E X L Z S L Y
G R Q R Y L E O R O F T R O G Z
N L Z O G L K D B Z, T B M S Y F B M
X Z S S G R I Q X Z K N - N Z X L ?
Saturday's Cryptquip: REALITY SHOW ABOUT SOMEBODY WHO SITS AROUND DOING NOTHING ALL DAY: "AMERICAN IDLE"
Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals Y
The Cryptquip 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.