



PHOTO: AFP

England spinner Monty Panesar (R) jumps in the air after dismissing Pakistan's Imran Farhat on the third day of the second Test at Old Trafford on Saturday.

## Inter feel like champions

INTERNET, undated

Inter Milan's players will celebrate winning last season's Serie A title - even though they were only handed the honour after Juventus' and AC Milan's illicit behaviour.

The Nerazzurri were awarded the 2005/06 Scudetto on Wednesday evening by acting president of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) Guido Rossi, but the discussion of whether Inter can count themselves as true champions continues to flare.

While Juve players have insisted they will still class themselves as champions, Inter's Javier Zanetti believes his side did, in fact, deserve to win the title.

"I felt morally a champion even before the Federation's decision," he said.

"This title is deserved and everybody knows why. We won our points fair and square on the field."

Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba said: "Whoever plays dirty has to pay for it. If one of our management team had done the same, we would have been involved too."

"I want the three stripes (for winning the last season's title) on my shirt to show the whole world that Inter won for their own merits."

"We won all of our points in an honest way."

Zanetti confirmed that the whole squad would celebrate the title "when we are all here together".

Juve midfielder Pavel Nedved had claimed: "To win the title, you need to end the season in top spot on the final day of the season, something Inter never did."

## Donadoni's door always open

INTERNET, undated

Italy boss Roberto Donadoni has told players eligible to play for the Azzurri that they will all be considered for national service.

The new tactical already insisted at his official presentation that his doors would always be open and he's confirmed that after visiting the Udinese squad in pre-season training this week.

"Every player has the same possibility as everyone else of being selected," said the former Milan and Italy winger.

Donadoni was keen to use Vincenzo Iaquinta's success at Germany 2006 as an example to all of those playing for what some may deem as less fashionable clubs.

"Iaquinta has demonstrated that there is a chance for everyone to do well for Italy," continued the former Genoa and Livorno Coach. "There are no prejudices."

Donadoni spent the day with the Friuli outfit at Asiago on Thursday and he's admitted he'll continue his own mini-tour of Italy's clubs during the course of his reign.

"Part of my job is to introduce myself to the footballing community," he continued. "I think it will be very important to create a good spirit in collaboration with various clubs."

Donadoni will make his debut on the Italian bench in an August 16 friendly against Croatia in Livorno.

## Pakistan in Panesar spin



AFP, Manchester

Monty Panesar dismissed Pakistan's three leading batsmen as he bowled England to within sight of an innings victory in the second Test at Old Trafford here Saturday.

When rain forced an early tea on the third day, Pakistan in their second innings were 167 for five in reply to England's first innings 461 for nine declared - still 175 runs behind.

By then left-arm spinner Panesar had captured the prize wickets of Mohammad Yousuf, Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and Younis Khan on his way to a return of four for 48 in 19.1 overs. Panesar struck first ball after lunch removing the dangerous Yousuf for 15 after he drew the batsman forward and beat the outside edge before wicketkeeper Geraint Jones completed the stumping.

Pakistan were 101 for three at that stage and that became 117 for four when Panesar saw off Inzamam for an unlucky 13.

The Pakistan skipper played the ball onto his toe as he pushed

forward and Alastair Cook took the catch at silly point although it needed TV umpire Ian Gould to confirm the decision.

Panesar had taken two wickets for nine runs in 18 balls and, in a match coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Jim Laker's Test world record 19 for 90 at Old Trafford, another England spin bowler was playing an important, if not quite as dramatic, role at the Manchester venue.

Younis chanced his arm on a couple of occasions before completing a 91-ball fifty with six fours while new batsman Faisal Iqbal lofted Panesar for six.

But the 24-year-old Northamptonshire bowler, the first Sikh to play Test cricket for England, was unruffled and removed Younis for 62 when the batsman, propping forward but playing no stroke was lbw to leave Pakistan 161 for five. Pakistan resumed Saturday on 12 without loss.

Kamran Akmal was two not out and Imran Farhat, batting with a fracture in his right ring finger, four not out.

Before play started fast bowler Harmison, who took six for 19 in Pakistan's meagre first innings 119, was passed fit after leaving the field

late on Friday with a side strain.

Meanwhile Jones continued despite suffering a fracture in the tip of his right ring finger while batting Friday.

Harmison allayed fears regarding his fitness in his first over Saturday, all of his initial six deliveries clocked in excess of 81 mph.

And in the fourth over, Harmison and Jones combined to reduce Pakistan to 21 for one.

Akmal, promoted to open after Salman Butt was dropped from the team that drew the first Test at Lord's, was undone by a ball that lifted alarmingly off a good length and fended behind to Jones, the Pakistan wicket-keeper out for his second four of the match.

Harmison was now on his way to a fiery opening spell of 7-2-10-1.

Andrew Strauss, captaining England in the ongoing absence of Andrew Flintoff with an ankle injury, brought Panesar - who'd supported Harmison with three for 21 in the first innings - into the attack.

Panesar was soon getting sharp turn, as well as bounce, and his accuracy was rewarded in his fourth over when Farhat, on 34, lunged forward and gave a simple bat/pad catch to Ian Bell at short leg.

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## Parreira given S Africa helm



REUTERS, Johannesburg

Former Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has signed a four-year deal to take charge of 2010 World Cup hosts South Africa, officials said on Saturday.

The deal was concluded in Rio de Janeiro on Friday after talks between Parreira and a delegation from the South African Football Association.



CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA

South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant told Reuters on Saturday "everything is signed and sealed".

"This is an exciting time for South African football. The association has now delivered a world-class coach for the team. It's now up to him and the players to turn our side into a strong force," Oliphant said.

He was unsure when Parreira would start in his new job but the Brazilian has already stated a preference for the beginning of

2007. South Africa, however, begin their qualifying campaign for the 2008 African Nations Cup finals with a home match against Congo in Johannesburg on Sept. 2.

They will also meet Zambia away in a potentially key group match in October. There is also a friendly scheduled against Namibia in Windhoek on Aug. 16 but caretaker coach Pitso Mosimane has already been mandated to pick the squad for that game.

Parreira will become the 14th coach for South Africa since the country returned to international competition 14 years ago.

During that time they have twice qualified for the World Cup finals and won the 1996 African Nations Cup title but have won just three of their last 18 internationals played over the last 12 months in a slump that has seen them fall dramatically in the FIFA world rankings.

Last week Parreira released a statement in Rio de Janeiro, saying: "It is an honour to receive an invitation from the South African national team as the country will be the centre of attention as hosts of the next World Cup."

The 2010 tournament offers Parreira an opportunity to coach at a record-breaking sixth World Cup. The 63-year-old led Brazil to the 1994 title and also took charge of them at this year's tournament in Germany. In 1982 he was coach of Kuwait, took the United Arab Emirates to the 1990 finals and in 1998 was fired after Saudi Arabia's first two matches in France.

Parreira's previous African experience was on the coaching staff of Ghana when they reached the final of the African Nations Cup in 1968 - almost 40 years ago when he was in his mid-20s.

## Headhunted Zidane

AFP, Santiago

Zinedine Zidane has gone from headbutter to headhunted with a Chilean team believing he is the man to knock over their mountain of debt.

A group of businessmen said Friday they hoped to convince the French icon to play a few minutes in a friendly match with first-division side University of Chile, with takings aimed at settling the club's dues of 10 million dollars.

"Our idea is to invite him to Chile so that he can be honoured for all that he brought to football," spokesman Marcos Kaplun said on Friday. "He could play a few minutes for the 'U' during a friendly match."

The date and details of the event had not been finalised, Kaplun added.

In Zidane's last game before retirement, the World Cup final against Italy, he went from World Cup hero to tournament villain with his notorious headbutt on the chest of Marco Materazzi in reaction to some choice insults by the Italian defender.

The French captain was sent off ten minutes before the end of extra time and with the scores locked 1-1 France went on to lose the ensuring penalty shootout 5-3.

FIFA fined the 34-year-old 7,500 Swiss francs (4,700 euros, 6,000 dollars) over the incident and handed him a three-match ban even though his club and international career ceased on the night of the dramatic final in Germany.

## Carlos to Fenerbahce?

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid fullback Roberto Carlos is poised to sign for Turkish club Fenerbahce on a three-year deal, it was reported here Saturday.

Spanish sports daily Marca reported that the 33-year-old Brazilian international is ready to sign for the Istanbul outfit in a transfer deal worth 5 million euros, ending his eight year association with Real.

Long regarded as the world's best left-sided full-back, Roberto Carlos had been linked with a move to Chelsea earlier this year but the prospects of a move to the English Premiership appear to have receded.

If Roberto Carlos leaves, Real will seek to replace him with Lyon's French international Eric Abidal, Marca added.

## Ibra & Camo want exit

INTERNET, undated

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Mauro Camoranesi have told Juventus that they have no intention of playing in Serie B next season.

The Italian giants have again insisted on Saturday that there will be no more illustrious sales, but the duo have hit back by claiming they want a transfer.

"It seems evident that Zlatan doesn't want to play in Serie B," said the Swede's agent Mino Raiola.

"Juventus need to take that fact into consideration. We are looking for a way out."

Camoranesi was a little more direct in his views by maintaining he had no desire on continuing his career in the Second Division.

"One makes great sacrifices to play at certain levels," he told Argentine television during his vacation in South America. "The stadiums we play in, the Cups we play for..."

"Then, out of the blue, all that is taken away from you. With respect, now we have to play against teams like Albinoleffe in stadiums which hold 20,000. I honestly don't intend to do that."

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## Marcelinho poised for Trabzonspor

AFP, Ankara

Controversial Brazilian midfielder Marcelinho, who was forced to issue an apology to Hertha Berlin after returning from vacation 10 days late, will be off-loaded to Turkish side Trabzonspor.

The 31-year-old, whose real name is Marcelo dos Santos, is scheduled to fly to the Black Sea city of Trabzon later Saturday to officially sign a contract, the club said in a brief statement on its website.

The statement did not give details of the contract.

Apart from Trabzonspor, Russia's CSKA Moscow, Spain's Barcelona and Olympiakos in Greece were all believed to be tracking the midfielder whose five-year spell in Germany has been dogged by controversy.

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## Nistelrooy's dream comes Real



AFP, Madrid

Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy was officially presented Friday as a Real Madrid player following his arrival from Manchester United, saying the move meant he had fulfilled a dream.

Van Nistelrooy, 30, signed a three-year contract after passing a medical earlier on Friday and was then presented to the media at the Spanish club's Bernabeu stadium.

The Holland international, who cost Real around 15 million euros, had asked to leave Old Trafford after a series of disagreements with United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

Van Nistelrooy said: "It's a great honour to stand here in the Bernabeu and it is a dream come true."

"Real Madrid is a great club. It's got history, the greatest players ever have played here, so it's a great honour on my side."

"When Real come looking for you, you don't have to think about it

because you know they are number one.

"I will try to learn Spanish as quickly as I can because this move means everything for me."

"I want to thank everybody for the confidence and the belief they have shown in me. I will do everything in my ability to play well."

Real club doctor Alfonso Del Corral said the striker was in fine condition.

"We performed all the tests and verified that he's perfectly fit after the World Cup. He has a knee operation six years ago in the United States, but has recovered perfectly from that."

"We think that he's in perfect condition to sign for Real Madrid and have therefore given the player and the operation our okay," said Del Corral.

Van Nistelrooy had earlier admitted he couldn't wait to be reunited with former Manchester United team-mate David Beckham, who supplied the crosses for many of the Dutchman's goals during his time with the English Premiership club.

He told Real's website: "When Beckham left Manchester United I was very sad both on a personal level and because of the way we connected on the pitch."

"They were wonderful times that I hope will now be repeated in Madrid."

Van Nistelrooy also said he was confident of creating an effective partnership with Real's Brazilian striker Ronaldo and added: "I am dying to play with Ronaldo. He's fantastic. His scoring numbers speak a thousand words."

Real finally landed van Nistelrooy at the third attempt after having two previous bids turned down and manager Fabio Capello has been able to make a big impact in the transfer market since his arrival from Juventus earlier this month and had already splashed out on Juve duo Fabio Cannavaro and Emerson.

A statement on United's website thanked van Nistelrooy and said: "Manchester United would like to wish Ruud all the best at his new club and thank him for the great service he provided."

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PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid's new signing Ruud van Nistelrooy waves to the supporters during his presentation at the Santiago Bernabeu on Friday.

## United agree Carrick deal



THE GUARDIAN

Michael Carrick's 25th birthday celebrations will have been particularly joyful on Friday night. With Manchester United and Tottenham confirming they have agreed a fee for his transfer, the England international received a perfect present. Only personal terms and Monday's medical can prevent Carrick becoming the latest central midfielder to move to Old Trafford in recent seasons. He will trust his stay proves longer and more successful than several of his predecessors.

In the five years since Juan Sebastian Veron came for a spell that failed to justify his 28.1million-pound fee, Sir Alex Ferguson has been searching for an ideal midfield solution. Kleberson, Liam Miller - not exclusively central players - and Eric Djemba-Djemba have arrived and fallen below expectations. Carrick brings something none of those had in proven Premiership ability and United will hope their first major signing this summer helps to spark a big improvement in the pursuit of Chelsea and European honours.

By trying to buy Milan's Gennaro Gattuso, Ferguson has shown he would like a ball-winner to complement the deep-lying but less destructive Carrick, so to regard the new man as a replacement for Roy Keane would be unfair. Ferguson on Friday all but conceded it will be impossible to lure Gattuso but ought to get fluency, quick distribution and vision from Carrick. The fee has not been disclosed but is believed to be about 15 million pounds with possible add-ons. Tottenham stressed Carrick "asked to be allowed to leave".

Injuries dictated that United ended last season with John O'Shea and Ryan Giggs in central midfield but, with Paul Scholes back and Carrick joining, a more natural look is returning, even if the balance does not yet look perfect. Glenn Roeder, the Newcastle manager

who coached Carrick at West Ham, believes his former charge will thrive. "He'll be a star in the Manchester United team," he said.

It was after Roeder's West Ham were relegated that Carrick moved to Tottenham for just 2.75 million pounds. "He's wonderfully balanced," Roeder said. "He was never going to be a Championship player; he's a Premiership and international player who has his

best years ahead of him."

Nigel Winterburn had three seasons alongside Carrick at Upton Park and recommended him to his former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger when it seemed Patrick Vieira would leave in 2004. He holds Carrick in high regard but believes the midfielder will need to take his game to an "even higher level".

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MICHAEL CARRICK