

## Rooney scores on return

THE GUARDIAN

Wayne Rooney last night scored his first goal since April in his first appearance for Manchester United since being sent off for England in the World Cup quarter-final.

A capacity crowd of around 6,000 watched the striker score after 46 minutes of the 2-1 friendly victory at Macclesfield, his backheel from Paul McShane's attempt flying beyond Tommy Lee. Rooney was substituted after 61 minutes and his replacement Frazier Campbell secured the victory after Danny Swales had equalised.

"All the lads who were at the World Cup have looked good," said Sir Alex Ferguson, who also gave Rio Ferdinand a start. "There were some terrific moments from Wayne and a good goal from the lad."

## Senna keen to settle future

REUTERS, Madrid

Villarreal's Spain midfielder Marcos Senna has said he is keen to know where his future lies with Manchester United looking to lure him to Old Trafford.

"I know they are negotiating a transfer and I hope they sort things out as soon as possible so I know what my future will be," Senna told the Villarreal website on Tuesday.

The Brazilian-born 30-year-old was part of the Spain squad in the World Cup finals in Germany, and was a central figure in the Villarreal side that reached the semi-finals of the Champions League last season.

"Villarreal opened their doors for me and I am very happy here," he added.

"The club have signed some good new players and I have always said my ambition is to win a title with this club. This season is a great chance to do that."

Villarreal have brought in midfielders Robert Pires, Cani and Leandro Somoza during the close season, along with Turkish striker Nihat Kahveci.

United have just completed the signing of England midfielder Michael Carrick from Tottenham Hotspur for a fee of up to 18.6 million pounds (\$34.6 million).

## Valencia still hopeful of Simao

REUTERS, Madrid

Valencia are still hopeful of signing Benfica's Portuguese international Simao Sabrosa, despite failing to clinch a deal when the player visited the Mestalla on the weekend.

Spanish media had reported that relations between the two clubs were broken when the player arrived to sign a contract with the Primera Liga side on Saturday, only to fly home the next day after failing to reach an agreement.

"In reaction to reports published recently Valencia continue to maintain good relations with Benfica president Luis Felipe Vieira and the player's representative," Valencia said on their Web site on Monday.

"The club are continuing in their efforts to sign the player."

The 26-year-old winger, who has won 50 caps for Portugal, has been at Benfica since 2001. Before that he had an unsuccessful two-year spell with Barcelona.

## Vieira hints at United move

INTERNET, undated

Former Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira has hinted he could join old rivals Manchester United as he desperately attempts to escape Italy's Serie B.

Vieira has yet to leave Juventus in the wake of their demotion for match-fixing despite four of his team-mates jumping ship almost immediately.

The 30-year-old, whose move to Inter Milan last week appears to have stalled, said: "Every player wants to play for a club like Manchester United at the highest level."

"After nine years at Arsenal it might be difficult. But anything can happen in football."

"Now I'm not sure where I'm playing next season, I'm still looking for a new club."

"There might be some sort of conclusion in the next 48 hours and it's a very important decision for me."

"I will not be playing for Juventus since they are going to Serie B."

Emerson and Fabio Cannavaro wasted no time in leaving 'The Old Lady' last month and joined former Juve coach Fabio Capello at Real Madrid while Gianluca Zambrotta and Lilian Thuram headed for Barcelona.



Chelsea new recruits Andriy Shevchenko (L) and Michael Ballack (R) attend the "Hit The Ground Running Party" at the SkyBar in the Mondrian Hotel in West Hollywood, California on Monday.

## 'Money not motivation'

Football

AFP, Manchester

England midfielder Michael Carrick insisted Tuesday that his 18.6 million pound (27.2 million euro) transfer to Manchester United was about footballing ambition, not money.

The 25-year-old completed the move from Tottenham Hotspur late Monday after passing a medical and agreeing personal terms.

Carrick will earn a reported 50,000 pounds a week, a big boost to his Spurs wage, prompting some commentators to question his motivation for switching clubs again just two years after arriving at Tottenham.

Despite rejecting an improved

deal at Spurs, where his contract had two years left to run, the midfielder denied wages were a factor.

"This is a football decision, a decision not driven by money. It's an offer that has come at the right time for me both professionally and personally and I felt I couldn't turn it down," Carrick said.

He was at pains to praise Tottenham, especially manager Martin Jol.

"I've had a great time at Spurs and the club has been brilliant for me. There is an excellent squad full of top players and a number of younger lads coming through the ranks as well. I can only see successful times for the club in the future," Carrick said.

"Martin is a great manager and has done an enormous amount for

my career. Without any doubt he has helped develop me into a better player.

"He gave me a chance when I needed it, stood by me and I will always thank him for that."

Jol was similarly effusive about his former charge, saying Carrick: "He always gave his best and was a wonderful servant. I'm sure he will do well at Manchester United because he is very talented and we will miss having him around."

Carrick, who is due to be formally unveiled at a press conference later this week, is the fifth most expensive signing in Manchester United's history.

Red Devils' boss Sir Alex Ferguson has assigned Carrick the number 16 shirt - unused since the abrupt departure of midfield legend Roy Keane in November.

## Reyes pines for Real

REUTERS, Madrid

Arsenal's Spain forward Jose Antonio Reyes has said if Real Madrid made an offer for him it would be difficult to say 'no', Spanish paper AS reported on Tuesday.

"I have always said to play for Real was one of my biggest objectives. It's something I can't hide and everyone knows that," Reyes was quoted as saying in an interview with the sports daily. "They are a club who are difficult to turn down."

After securing the services of Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro, Brazil midfielder Emerson and Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy last week, Spanish media report Real are now turning their interests towards the Arsenal forward.

Reyes's name was prominent with a number of the Real candidates during the club's recent presidential election, and his arrival would help add another Spanish face to a squad made up of players from around the world.

"I have read of their interest on the internet but my agent hasn't said anything. I have left it all in his hands," Reyes added.

"I am happy in the side here and am not looking for another team. The only way anyone can sign me, including Real, is by speaking to Arsenal. I wouldn't go unless Arsenal felt it was a good deal."

Last weekend, Reyes denied media reports that he wanted a move to Real, telling Arsenal's Web site he was happy at the club and excited by the prospect of the coming season at their new Emirates Stadium.

## Ribery to stay with Marseilles

INTERNET, undated

The 23-year-old Franck Ribery had headed the wish-lists of a number of top European clubs after his impressive displays for his country in this summer's World Cup, but the midfielder has decided to stay put and further his career with the team who catapulted him to stardom.

"I have a contract for another four years and for four years I will still be at Marseille," Ribery told the club's television channel.

"I love the club and the people and the fans here," he added.

French champions Lyon seemed close to capturing the exciting winger - Manchester United were also said to be in the running - but a meeting with Marseille chairman Pape Diouf on the player's return to training on Monday confirmed Ribery's intention to stay at the Stade Velodrome.

## Lebanon pulls out of Asian Cup

AFP, Lebanon

Lebanon withdrew from the Asian Cup Tuesday blaming Israel's "barbaric attack" on the country, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said.

Lebanon had been scheduled to play Australia, Bahrain and Kuwait in home-and-away qualifiers by mid-November but only managed to complete one game, a 1-1 draw in Beirut with Kuwait, before the latest crisis hit the country.

With the Israeli military continuing to pound Lebanon in a bid to destroy the Hezbollah militant group, the AFC said the Lebanese Football Association (LFA) had told it the country could not take part in the qualifiers.

"We are unable to proceed in our participation in the AFC Asian Cup 2007 qualifications due to the to the tragic circumstances (in) our country ... as a result of the barbaric attack imposed on Lebanon by the Israeli Army," LFA general secretary Rahif Alameh said in a letter posted on the AFC website.

He said that in the circumstances, "we had no other choice than informing you regretfully our decision to cease our participation in the AFC Asian Cup."

An AFC official told AFP it was not just that Lebanon could not play its games in Beirut, but that it could not get a team together with some players living in southern regions and displaced by the violence.

The AFC management board convened an emergency meeting Tuesday to discuss the situation, and referred it to the competitions committee which has 24 hours to decide whether to accept the withdrawal.

Lebanon says 750 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in the Israeli offensive, which has also displaced hundreds of thousands and laid waste to much of the country's infrastructure.

An AFP count has put the death toll at 530, while the United Nations has said around one-third of the casualties were children. A total of 51 Israelis have been killed, most of them soldiers.

# Plethora of talent at Basile's disposal

Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Alfio Basile, named Argentina's new coach, had only a few words to say after being appointed on Monday but one of his sentences summed up his decision to return for a second time.

"I'm looking forward to it greatly, especially seeing the quantity of great players we have," he said.

Few coaches in the world, possibly not even Brazil's Dunga, have the same attacking potential and talent at their disposal.

Furthermore, Basile, despite being a rugged central defender in his playing days, has impeccable attacking credentials as a coach.

The gravel-voiced 62-year-old seems perfectly suited to lead a team which only lost to hosts Germany at the World Cup after coach Jose Pekerman appeared to lose his nerve.

With Argentina leading 1-0 and the Germans all at sea, Pekerman hauled off his playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme and brought on

holding midfielder Esteban Cambiasso instead.

Meanwhile, teenager striker Lionel Messi was left on the bench when his pace would have probably demoralised the hosts even further. The Germans gratefully accepted the lifeline, equalised and won on penalties.

It was a huge shame as the World Cup could have done with Argentina in the closing stages.

The South Americans provided the best performance of the tournament when they thrashed Serbia & Montenegro 6-0 in the group stage and notched the best goal of the competition in the same match.

Their second-round clash with Mexico, which they won 2-1 in extra time, was regarded as another of the tournament's highlights.

Messi and fellow striker Carlos Tevez gave glimpses of their potential in Germany while 18-year-old Sergio Aguero, who joined Atletico Madrid from Independiente in the European close season, is another player of huge promise.

Basile's first stint as coach lasted from 1991 to 1994 and was a breath of fresh air after his prede-

cessor Carlos Bilardo and his ruthless win-at-all-costs approach.

Argentina won the Copa America in 1991 and 1993, enjoyed a 33-match unbeaten run, and made a promising start to the 1994 World Cup as they romped to wins over Greece in Nigeria in their first two games.

Then came Diego Maradona's failed doping test, a trauma from which the team never recovered as they lost 3-2 to Romania in a memorable second-round tie.

Ironically, Basile had only recalled Maradona after the low point of his reign, a 5-0 home defeat by Colombia in a World Cup qualifier.

Despite his tough-guy image, Basile was criticised for losing control of his players during his last year and he was replaced by the iron-fisted Daniel Passarella, whose first measures were to ban ear-rings and long hair.

Basile has since longed for a second chance and football, increasingly suffocated by safety-first tactics, will be grateful if he can get it right this time.

# Magath shrugs off RVN snub

Football

REUTERS, Tokyo

Bayern Munich coach Felix Magath has brushed off the club's failure to sign Ruud van Nistelrooy, as well as the loss of Michael Ballack to Chelsea.

Manchester United striker Van Nistelrooy opted for Real Madrid instead of Bayern, who missed Ballack's presence in Monday's 1-0 pre-season defeat by Japan's Urawa Reds.

"I wasn't that disappointed not to sign Van Nistelrooy," Magath told Reuters. "We were interested if the terms were right for us but

signing another striker wasn't an absolute priority."

He added: "Other clubs came in and were prepared to invest more than us and we felt there was no point breaking the bank to sign him."

Magath acknowledged Ballack's contribution in helping the team win three Bundesliga titles during his four years with the club but backed Bayern to cope without the Germany captain.

"Obviously Michael was a big player and a big personality at Bayern," he said. "Most of our play went through him and the team was to some degree structured around him."

"We need to become more flexible but I also think we can become a more attractive side."

Ballack joined English champions Chelsea on a free transfer before the World Cup but Magath was still positive about Bayern's hopes of challenging for trophies at home and in Europe.

"I have no worries about that," he said. "I expect this team to be just as successful as we were before."

Signing Germany striker Lukas Podolski from Cologne has helped soften the blow of failing to lure Van Nistelrooy to the club, despite Monday's late defeat by Urawa.

Podolski, whose goals helped hosts Germany reach the World Cup semi-finals, looked sharp on his debut and twice came close to scoring for Bayern.

Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness was keen to draw a line under the Van Nistelrooy saga, declaring that the club were never prepared to pay over the odds for the Dutch striker.

"Had we offered what United wanted we would have had the player," said Hoeness. "But we would have had to do things that go against the philosophy of Bayern Munich."

"We didn't want to make the club successful for just one season but for the future too. I was upset for a day but then I told myself life goes on."



French international Franck Ribery kicks a ball during his first training session of the season with his club, Olympique Marseille in the Marseille training center on Tuesday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Sharpen	53 Witness's place	11 Remark to the house
1 Shroud city	40 Unruly bunch	54 Acts the robot	13 Autocrats
6 Mom of Jenna and Barbara	42 Ship's skeleton	43 Will	21 Bail VIP
11 Dawn	44 Cashew-family shrub	46 Confucian principle	23 Gee, I may surround this
12 Not all there?	47 Hits hard	47 Hits hard	5 Twangy
14 Library arrangements	49 Housing on	51 Computer geek	6 Caught a doggie
15 Trouser	50 URL part	52 Money of Ecuador	7 With skill
16 Charged bit	51 Computer geek	53 Witness's place	8 Home of the brave
17 Impertinent	52 Money of Ecuador	54 Acts the robot	9 Summarizes
19 Carte lead-in	53 Witness's place	55 Remark to the house	10 Short sock
20 Beat decisively	54 Acts the robot	56 Caught a doggie	33 Actually
22 The 7 Faces of Dr. —	55 Remark to the house	57 Treasure container	34 Uk. neighbor
23 Mimic	56 Caught a doggie	58 Treasure container	36 Veherent protest
24 Mississippi quartet	57 Treasure container	59 Treasure container	37 Chips
26 Stops	58 Treasure container	60 Treasure container	38 Dentist's directive
28 High-arc shot	59 Treasure container	61 Treasure container	41 Low range
30 URJ part	60 Treasure container	62 Treasure container	44 Epidermis
31 Typical Hitchcock movie	61 Treasure container	63 Treasure container	45 Fresh-water fish
35 Deride	62 Treasure container	64 Treasure container	48 Half a dance
	63 Treasure container	65 Treasure container	50 Expert

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CRYPTOQUIP

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DBUMF VBCQPE LO DUPPOE

"U JMEYO ACC XUJ."

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A TEACHER HAPPENED TO LOSE ALL HER STUDENTS, ONE COULD CALL HER DE-CLASS-IFIED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals O

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.



PATRICK VIEIRA