

# Basile back for Argentina

Football

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Alfio Basile has been appointed coach of Argentina for the second time, he told reporters on Monday. "Obviously, I'm very proud to coach the Argentina national team again, like any Argentine would be," he said at a media conference held by his club Boca Juniors.



ALFIO BASILE

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

Basile will replace Jose Pekerman, who resigned after taking Argentina to the World Cup quarter-finals where they lost on penalties to hosts Germany.

The 62-year-old former defender, regarded as an exponent of attacking football, was also at the helm from 1991 to 1994.

He won the Copa America twice -

- in 1991 and 1993 -- and led Argentina to the second round of the 1994 World Cup.

Argentina had looked potential world champions in that tournament hosted by the United States but their campaign fell apart after Diego Maradona failed a doping test.

Basile's reign was also marred by a 5-0 home defeat against Colombia in a World Cup qualifier.

Basile will take up his post on Sept. 15 after an agreement between Boca and the Argentina Football Association (AFA).

He declined to discuss his plans for the job.

"We can talk about the details later," said the gruff, gravel-voiced coach. "This only happened ten minutes ago."

Boca president Mauricio Macri, who was the first to announce the news, wanted to keep Basile at the club until January before agreeing to release him in September.

The decision followed a lengthy meeting between Macri and AFA president Julio Grondona which lasted most of Monday.

Grondona offered Basile the job two weeks ago but Boca argued that they needed time to find a replacement for the 2006/7 Argentine season which starts at the weekend.

Basile took over at Boca one year ago with Argentina's most popular club at a low ebb. He quickly led them out of trouble, winning both the national championships played last season.

Ricardo La Volpe, who led Mexico at the World Cup in Germany, has already turned down an offer to coach Boca, while Maradona has repeatedly been named as a candidate for the job.



Two young fans of Dutch club PSV Eindhoven attend the club's traditional open-day on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

# We're hurt: Younis

Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan has admitted the tourists have been left feeling "hurt" and "angry" after their crushing second Test defeat against England here at Old Trafford.

England's victory, completed inside three days by the huge margin of an innings and 120 runs, saw the hosts go 1-0 up in the four-Test series, ahead of the third Test

## No chance of C'Ron exit

INTERNET, undated

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has told Cristiano Ronaldo there's no chance of him leaving Old Trafford this summer.

Valencia have been linked with a £25 million offer for the Portuguese ace, who has admitted to friends concerns for his safety after his World Cup blow-up last month.

However, the Daily Mail says Ferguson reiterated to Ronaldo yesterday that he will not be allowed to leave so soon after signing a contract that effectively binds him to United until 2010.

Ronaldo is not expected to play for United until this weekend at the earliest - against either Porto or Ajax in the Amsterdam tournament.

starting on Friday at Headingley.

Younis, one of the few Pakistan players to emerge with any credit from the team's Manchester mauling after top-scoring in both innings, said it was the manner of the defeat that rankled most.

"We are not just hurting as a team, we are angry," Younis told Bigstarcric.com. "We are angry at ourselves for losing in less than three days at Old Trafford."

"We all know we are much better than what we managed last week."

England, after losing the toss, saw fast bowler Stephen Harmison rewarded for some hostile work with six for 19 in Pakistan's meagre first innings 119.

Hundreds from Alastair Cook and Ian Bell then strengthened England's position before left-arm spinner Monty Panesar removed five of Pakistan's top six, including the big three of captain Inzamamul Haq, Mohammad Yousuf and Younis, as England wrapped up victory well before Saturday's third day close.

"Winning and losing happens. Thankfully we have won more than we've lost in recent months but it's losing in that manner that hurts the most," Younis explained. "We have all lost many matches but not in that way. We haven't felt like this since Australia when we lost our last Test series in 2004-05."

England's win was their best result in Test cricket since they recaptured the Ashes last year.

And Younis said Pakistan could draw on the example of their current opponents, who eventually

won their first Test campaign against Australia for 19 years despite losing the series opener at Lord's by a thumping 239 runs.

"The boys will come back, I know we will," Younis added. "There are two matches left and we are more than capable of putting in some performances between us."

"Remember how England lost heavily at Lord's in the first Test in the Ashes last year? They came back and won the series 2-1 and it could easily have been 3-1 if it wasn't for the (Australia) saving draw at Manchester."

Pakistan though are set to be without their leading trio of fast bowlers for the third time in three Tests at Headingley with Shoaib Akhtar (ankle), Mohammad Asif (elbow) and Navedul Hasan (out of the tour with a groin injury) all still sidelined.

Nevertheless No 3 Younis, whose classy scores of 44 and 62 gave Pakistan fans something to cheer at Old Trafford, insisted morale remained intact. "Nobody is blaming anyone," he insisted. It's not the batsmen or the bowlers' fault, we are all in this together and we will dig deep to get ourselves out of the position we are now in.

"We need to do every discipline right and put it all together for the last two matches at Headingley and The Oval."

"Most Test matches now have a good chance of a result so there is no reason why we still can't turn this series around."

# Carrick fits into Keane's shirt

Football

AFP, Manchester

England midfielder Michael Carrick completed his 18.6million pounds transfer from Spurs to Manchester United on Monday after passing his medical.

The 25-year-old has also been handed the onerous responsibility of wearing the number 16 shirt, formerly the preserve of United legend Roy Keane.

Carrick will be presented to the press on Wednesday as he becomes United's sixth most expensive signing, but club manager Sir Alex Ferguson said the former West Ham star was gagging to pull on Keane's shirt.

"Michael has completed his medical, we are going to be having a press conference on Wednesday I think," Ferguson told the club's television channel MUTV.

"He has settled down fine, I spoke to him today (Monday). I said to him 'I'm giving you the number 16 jersey' so he was delighted at that."

"I think that showed great courage because sometimes players are a bit superstitious about things like that but he was keen, and said he would gladly take number 16," added Ferguson, who fell out so badly with Keane that the former Republic of Ireland captain left the club last season.

Carrick, who was part of the England World Cup squad but only started the 1-0 win over Ecuador in

the second round, had two years left on his Spurs contract but rejected a new contract offer because of United's persistent interest.

"This is a move that Michael wants to make," Spurs manager Martin Jol told the club's official website.

"We have given him every reason to stay but he has asked to be allowed to leave."

The sale of the seven times-capped Carrick represents a massive profit for Spurs, who signed him from West Ham for 2.75million pounds two years ago - the Hammers will also get some of the money as there was a sell on clause in the initial transfer deal.

The transfer fee for Carrick - who was part of an immensely gifted West Ham midfield with fellow England internationals Frank Lampard and Joe Cole - is expected to comprise an initial down payment and a series of add-ons.

When Wayne Rooney joined United from Everton in August 2004 for 27million pounds the deal's additional payments were dependent on the club's success, the player's international appearances and the number of years he remained at Old Trafford.

## Jorginho named assistant coach

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Former Brazil right back Jorginho was named assistant coach of the national team on Monday.

Jorginho, who played in the 1994 World Cup, will work with former team mate Dunga, who was appointed Brazil coach last week.

"I feel like I'm being picked for the first time," Jorginho told the Brazilian Football Confederation's (CBF) official Web site. "The Brazil team is the dream of every professional."

Jorginho, full name Jorge SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Ronaldo delighted with return

AFP, Madrid

Brazil's World Cup finals goalscoring record holder Ronaldo on Monday came through his first training session since undergoing an operation on his left tibia and declared himself delighted at how he felt.

The 29-year-old Real Madrid striker trained for an hour primarily to see how his tibia reacted to the effort, just over two weeks since he went under the surgeon's knife.

"I feel really good," said Ronaldo, who broke Gerd Muller's mark of 14 World Cup finals goals when he scored in the 3-0 second round win over Ghana.

"Everything is coming along really well."

Ronaldo, who scored three goals at the World Cup finals as Brazil surrendered their title bowing out in the quarter-finals to France, had been suffering from the problem for the past eight months.

# McClaren pledges revolution

Football

AFP, London

England manager Steve McClaren arrived for the start of his new job on Tuesday promising a "totally different" approach to that of heavily-criticised predecessor Sven-Goran Eriksson.

"It's going to be totally different, I'm going to do it my way," McClaren told reporters as he arrived at the Football Association's headquarters in London.

"It's going to be different from Sven, I'm looking forward to the big challenge."

"It's very exciting, I can't wait to actually get started. It will be a great challenge and a great adventure."

Former Middlesbrough boss McClaren faces a significant task in winning over the affections of a thus-far somewhat sceptical England fanbase.

While Eriksson took the brunt of the blame for England's abject performances en route to a quarter-final exit at the World Cup in Germany, then-assistant manager McClaren did not escape unscathed.

A series of polls indicated most England fans did not see McClaren's mixed record with Middlesbrough as qualifying him for the job, while the FA's fruitless pursuit of Luiz Felipe Scolari -- whose Portugal side knocked England out of the World Cup a month ago -- showed McClaren was by no means their first choice.

FA chief executive Brian Barwick was at pains on Tuesday to publicly back McClaren as a fresh start

## Milan's European future decided today

REUTERS, London

UEFA will announce on Wednesday at 1200 GMT whether to allow AC Milan to participate in this season's Champions League, it said on Monday.

Milan will face Cork City of Ireland or former champions Red Star Belgrade in the third qualifying round if UEFA decides they can play in Europe's premier club competition.

The six-times European champions were found guilty in the Serie A match-fixing probe but an Italian soccer appeals court adjudicating in the scandal reduced their initial punishment.

Milan, initially deducted 15 points, had the deficit cut to eight which enabled them to be included in last Friday's Champions League draw.

However, UEFA reserved the right to decide whether they could take up their place in the competition.

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following the Eriksson years.

"It's a new chapter in the life of the England national team and the FA," Barwick told Sky Sports News.

"Steve will be in this morning and I'm looking forward to welcoming him and helping him settle in."

"I am excited. I am always excited about football."

McClaren, 45, flew to London early Tuesday and was scheduled to meet his new FA colleagues before a series of meetings with the senior management, including Barwick.

One of his most pressing decisions is that of the England captaincy after David Beckham's decision to stand down from the position after the World Cup, with Chelsea's John Terry and Steven Gerrard of Liverpool seen as the front runners.

McClaren refused to comment on the captaincy, saying only: "Individuals and smaller details we'll get to later on."

The new England boss, who signed a four-year deal in May, will then have to prepare his team for a friendly against Greece on August 16, ahead of Euro 2007 qualifiers against Andorra and Macedonia.

Early duties will see McClaren cast an eye over Manchester United's England players on Friday when they take on Porto in Amsterdam for a pre-season game, followed by a trip to Germany to see Tottenham take on Borussia Dortmund on Saturday.

McClaren also has to finalise his backroom team.

Former England boss Terry Venables is expected to play a part but Alan Shearer has turned down a coaching role, one which would reportedly also have seen the ex-England captain act as a conduit between the management and players.



STEVE MCCLAREN



PHOTO: AFP

Manchester United's Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo leaves his club's Carrington training ground in Manchester on Monday. It was Ronaldo's first appearance for the Reds since the World Cup finals.