

# Brazil-Argentina showdown next

Football

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Deposed World Cup holders Brazil will face bitter rivals Argentina in a friendly at last season's Champions League finalists Arsenal's new ground on September 2 the



PHOTO: AFP

HERE COMES DUNGA: Brazil's new coach Dunga answers questions during his first official press conference in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday.

Brazilian Football Confederation announced on Tuesday.

The clash will be the second friendly for newly-installed coach Dunga, the 1994 World Cup winning captain who replaced Carlos Alberto Parreira following their disappointing quarterfinal defeat to France last month.

The Brazilians take on Norway in Oslo on August 16 and will also play Kuwait on October 7 in Kuwait City.

Brazil coach Dunga has unveiled his first squad for the August 16 friendly with Norway omitting Ronaldinho, Ronaldo and Kaka from the line-up.

The 1994 World Cup winning captain -- who replaced Carlos Alberto Parreira following the disappointing World Cup quarterfinal exit at the hands of France last month -- explained that several of the World Cup squad were only now returning to training after the holidays.

Ronaldo in any case only resumed light training on Monday with Real Madrid two weeks after undergoing an operation on his left tibia.

"One has to take into account that a lot of players are just returning from holidays and resuming training with their clubs," said Dunga.

"Those who have been selected will have the chance to show the qualities they possess."

Among those who did play a part in the World Cup campaign that are retained are young Lyon striker Fred, who scored in the 2-0 win over Australia in their World Cup first round match, Real Madrid striker Robinho and Arsenal midfielder Gilberto Silva.

There is also a recall for Barcelona defensive midfielder Edmilson -- like Gilberto Silva a World Cup winner in 2002 -- who missed out on the World Cup finals because of injury.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Fabio (Cruzeiro/BRA), Gomes (PSV Eindhoven/NED)

**Defenders:** Cicinho (Real Madrid/ESP), Gilberto (Hertha Berlin/GER), Maicon (Inter Milan/ITA), Marcelo (Fluminense/BRA), Alex (PSV Eindhoven/NED).

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PHOTO: INTERNET

THIS IS FOR REAL: Real Madrid's Danish player Thomas Gravesen (L) and Brazilian teammate Robinho engage in a brawl during the team's training session in Irnding, Austria on Tuesday.

## Gravesen & Robinho fight in training

Football

AFP, undated

Real Madrid's Danish star Thomas Gravesen and Brazilian teammate Robinho came to blows on Tuesday during a training session in Austria and were promptly 'sent off' by coach Fabio Capello, Spain's Cadena Ser radio reported.

Robinho reacted furiously after former Hamburg and Everton hardman midfielder Gravesen went in hard with a trademark beefy tackle and the rest of the squad had to intervene after both men's tempers flared.

Reports in London suggest that Real Madrid want to sell Gravesen and he could be heading back to the English Premiership.

The 30-year-old ex-Everton player, who made only seven appearances for Real last season, is deemed surplus to requirements at the Spanish club, John Sivebaek said.

"He would like to stay, but the club want him to look elsewhere,"

the agent told BBC Sport.

"He loved England and he is only 30 so he could still play at the top level. So why not move back to England?"

However, Sivebaek played down a British report linking Gravesen with Newcastle.

"I think some teams have contacted Madrid, but I don't know anything about Newcastle," he explained.

"He's not looking to leave Madrid, but it seems that he's not going to play there."

"He's not keen on leaving but if he's not going to play, he will look at other options."

Gravesen was an integral part of the Everton midfield for five seasons, making more than 130 appearances before being sold to Real in January 2005 for 2.5 million pounds.

He has never appeared to be similarly valued by the Spanish club, his position made even more precarious after Real signed Brazilian Emerson from Juventus.

## Real confirm Carlos stay

REUTERS, Madrid

Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos has decided to stay at Spanish club Real Madrid until his contract finishes, ending speculation about his future.

The Brazilian has one season left on his deal at Real with the option of another depending on the number of games he plays next season.

"The left back, who is at the pre-season training camp in Austria, will complete his contract with the side," Real said in a statement on their Web site on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old met Real sports director Predrag Mijatovic on Tuesday after having been convinced he was wanted by new coach Fabio Capello.

"I spoke with Mijatovic and told him about the offers I had from Chelsea and Fenerbahce. We haven't changed anything with regard to my contract. I want to continue here," Roberto Carlos told the club's Web site.

"Knowing Capello and Mijatovic, who I played with at Real, was important, but it my family's decision that carried most weight."

He had hinted that it was time to move on at the end of last season, SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Mourinho stokes old fire

Football

THE GUARDIAN

Jose Mourinho has stoked his simmering feud with Liverpool's manager Rafael Benitez by dismissing Liverpool's title chances and style of play.

Chelsea's captain John Terry had this week described Liverpool as the champions' closest challengers but in the first salvo before the new season Mourinho wrote off Liverpool as a defensive team.

"I believe Manchester United and Arsenal will, in spite of the fact Arsenal finished fourth and Liverpool third, still be the better teams," said Mourinho. "(Because of) the quality of their football, the way they play, the high quality in their squads."

"Liverpool are different. They are very competitive, it's very difficult to beat them. If they score a goal before you score it's very difficult to change it because they defend really well with 11 players - very, very compact. They are

tactically very good. And they are potentially fighting for first place but I still fancy more the way Arsenal and Manchester United play football."

Mourinho's comments, made in Los Angeles, are the latest in a series of prickly exchanges between Benitez and Mourinho. After Chelsea's 2-1 FA Cup semi-final defeat by Liverpool, who went on to win last season's competition, Benitez sniped that his Chelsea counterpart had refused to shake hands at the end.

In the build-up the Spaniard belittled Mourinho's contribution to Chelsea's success of the past three seasons, claiming the credit lay instead with Roman Abramovich. This piqued Mourinho, who contrasted his disdain for Liverpool's approach with praise for the "always very good football" at Arsène Wenger's Arsenal, with whom he had also maintained frosty relations last season.

## Milan allowed into Europe

Football

REUTERS, London

UEFA gave AC Milan a reluctant go-ahead on Wednesday to play in this season's Champions League, but only after heavily criticising the club for its part in the Serie A match-fixing scandal.

Milan will face Cork City of Ireland or former champions Red Star Belgrade of Serbia in the first leg of the third qualifying round next week after UEFA's emergency panel decided they could 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.

But in a strongly-worded statement issued on UEFA's website on Wednesday, UEFA said it did not have enough legal grounds to refuse them entry -- but would change their regulations in future.

UEFA also severely criticised Milan in words rarely used by European soccer's governing body.

The statement said: "The UEFA Emergency Panel, being competent to decide on this matter, came to the conclusion that it had no choice but to admit AC Milan for the UEFA club competitions 2006/07 for formal reasons because of an insufficient legal basis in the regulations which would allow not admitting AC Milan under the specific circumstances."

"The UEFA Emergency Panel made a clear statement to the club that this admission is far from being given with the utmost conviction. AC Milan takes advantage of the fact that UEFA lacks legal grounds to refuse the club's admission."

"In this respect, AC Milan is herewith informed that the necessary adaptations will be made to the Regulations concerned."

"The UEFA Emergency Panel is deeply concerned that AC Milan has created the impression of being involved in the improper influencing of the regular course of matches in the Italian football championship."

UEFA added: "From the statement of AC Milan, the Panel concluded that the club has obviously not yet properly perceived the troubles it is in and the damage it already caused to European football."

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PHOTO: AFP

BACK TO WINNING WAYS: India's teenage sensation Sania Mirza makes a forehand return against Meghann Shaughnessy of the United States on Day 2 of the Acura Classic in Carlsbad on Tuesday. Mirza won 6-3, 6-1.

## Maria, Martina move on

Tennis

AFP, San Diego

Second seed Maria Sharapova and Swiss comeback queen Martina Hingis advanced in straight sets Tuesday, both reaching the third round of a 1.34-million-dollar WTA hard-court event.

Sharapova, playing her first match since Wimbledon, defeated fellow Russian Vasilisa Bardina 6-4, 6-1 while Hingis beat Meilen Tu 6-2, 6-3 in her first Southern California match since 2001.

"I'm excited going into a tournament feeling healthy and playing pretty well," Sharapova said. "It's a matter of getting into the matches again. I'm happy to win the first round, but there's a long way to go." Beating Bardina was just the first step Sharapova expected.

"I felt good. We had some long rallies at the start," she said. "But after she broke me in the first set, I made her play a bit and put pressure on her. I felt really good out there."

Five-time Grand Slam winner Hingis, who came back to the sport after a three-year absence, advanced after a first-round bye in 66 minutes over the 91st-ranked American.

Hingis turned back the clock and improved to 15-3 at the tournament. She staved off six break points while breaking three times in the comfortable victory.

In their junior days, Tu beat Hingis in the final of the 2004 US Open juniors, a match which Hingis certainly recalls. But her game has

moved on in the past dozen years.

"When they were reading my accomplishments in the (pre-match) warm-up, it sounded like a fairytale," said 13th-ranked Hingis. "That was a part of my life."

"When I left tennis and did something else, that was another part. But now, I feel more like a rookie again rather than a comeback."

Hingis next plays either Italy's Flavia Pennetta or American Jamea Jackson.

The eighth-seeded Swiss won the tournament on her debut as a teenager during the magical 1997 season in which she lifted three of the four majors. Her last appearance was a semi-final run five years ago against Monica Seles.

"The fun is back -- but only when you win," said Hingis. "I've worked hard for the last two weeks."

"But your recovery time is not the same as when you are 17. I used to get back onto the court after an hour or two hours of rest. Now, I take three or four."

"I wasn't that tired today but my game will come around even more after a few more matches. I have to work more on conditioning, train in a different way now."

Hingis, 25, cemented her return to the game with the Rome title in May, but is starting afresh in San Diego in hopes of erasing memories of a third-round Wimbledon upset loss to Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Sugiyama, last year's finalist here, suffered a surprise loss earlier as she went out in the first round to Russian Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 7-5.

A pair of Croatians crashed out, with Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine

ousting Ivana Lisjak 6-2, 7-6 and Russian Anna Chakvetadze defeating Jelena Kostanic 6-4, 6-3.

The US Open tune-up's field is headed by Belgian Kim Clijsters, who began her summer with a hard-court title at the weekend at Stanford.

## Landis knows his fate on Saturday

AFP, Paris

Tour de France winner Floyd Landis will know on Saturday whether he will be stripped of his title, the International Cycling Union said.

The 30-year-old American is facing the loss of his title and a two-year ban after he returned a positive test for abnormal levels of testosterone following his win in the 17th stage of the Tour earlier this month.

The UCI said Tuesday that it had pushed the Chateaux-Malabry laboratory in France to go ahead and test the B sample -- as they believe a quick solution to the affair would be better for the sport.

"We have done everything to ensure that all goes quickly and the laboratory has agreed to extend its opening hours until Saturday," UCI spokesman Enrico Carpani told AFP.

Landis has said that he expects the second sample to return a similar result to the first but insists that he is innocent.

If Landis is stripped of his title he would be the first ever champion to suffer that fate.

## Steve pushes for bounce

BBC ONLINE, undated

England paceman Steve Harmison has urged Headingley groundsman Andy Fogarty to provide a bouncy surface for this week's third Test with Pakistan.

Harmison had the tourists hopping around as he took 11-76 at Old Trafford to help England win by an innings.

"We showed if you produce wickets for England's fast bowlers we'll deliver."

"Hopefully we'll get cloud cover and the groundsman saw how the country got behind us because we prepared a pitch that suited us," he told BBC Sport.

"We haven't been doing that in my opinion for the early part of the season and if that comes I'm sure our bowlers can get among the Pakistani batsmen like we did at Old Trafford."

Headingley has traditionally produced results -- only two of the last 22 Tests there have been drawn -- with the weather often playing a major role.

New Zealand made 409 and England 526 in 2004 before Harmison completed a match haul of seven wickets as the Kiwis were skittled for 161, paving the way for a nine-wicket home victory.

"Overhead conditions, more than anywhere else in the country, deem what the pitch is going to be like," the Durham seamer explained.

"If it's overcast and cloudy it's one of the best places to bowl in the country but if there's sunshine it becomes one of the easiest places to bat."

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