

## Kalle calls for Juve ejection

INTERNET, undated

Bayern Munich president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge believes Juventus' membership of the G14 group of top European clubs should be reconsidered following their role in the Italian match-fixing scandal.

Of the four teams investigated - Juventus, AC Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio - only the Turin club suffered relegation from Serie A, with the others deducted points for next season.

Rummenigge, whose club are members of G14 along with Premiership trio Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool, said: "The way they have acted with the scandal has also damaged us in the group of big clubs."

"The [G14 membership] question will be posed and we will have to discuss it."

He claims the Italian clubs involved in this summer's trial have got off lightly after "ruining football's credibility".

Juve will start their Serie B campaign next season with a 17-point handicap, making their return to the top flight at the first attempt a difficult task. Milan will start Serie A eight points behind their rivals, with punishments of 11 and 19-point deductions handed down to Lazio and Fiorentina, respectively.

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## Canna calls Mexes, Chivu

INTERNET, undated

Fabio Cannavaro chose to join Fabio Capello at Real Madrid and now wants Roma's Cristian Chivu and Philippe Mexes to follow suit.

The two players have been heavily linked to the Spaniards this week, as it's claimed they are top of Capello's wish-list after the arrival of Cannavaro and his ex-Juventus teammate Emerson.

"I am a Real Madrid player and it is the Coach who decides these matters, but Mexes and Chivu are two excellent defenders. They proved their worth in Italy and would certainly do well in Madrid," he told newspaper 'As'.

Roma are resisting the offers from the Bernabeu, but Real scouts will be in the stands when they face Valencia in tonight's prestigious friendly match.

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# Young Bayern off to bright start

AFP, Munich



Reigning champions Bayern Munich got their title defence off to a winning start defeating Borussia Dortmund 2-0 here on Friday in the curtain raiser to the 2006/07 Bundesliga season.

Bayern, winners of back-to-back league and cup doubles, looked far from their best in pre-season warm-up matches but put that behind them to overrun Dortmund.

"Dortmund had too many chances and we owed a lot to goalkeeper Oliver Kahn," Bayern coach Felix Magath said.

"I said we would take some time to get going after the World Cup but we have three points on the board and that is all that matters."

Dutch international striker Roy Makaay opened the scoring after 24 minutes to go some way to putting his World Cup misery behind him.

The 31-year-old Makaay was heartbroken after manager Marco van Basten left him out of the Netherlands World Cup squad but a free summer has left him fit and sharp and he rattled the post after just 27 seconds.

In the 24th minute Makaay got his goal with a precise right-footed shot curling into the corner to delight the majority of the 69,000 fans at the Allianz Arena.

Dortmund had been pegged on the back foot for most of the first half but their new strike duo Alexander Frei and Nelson Valdez offered hope.

Swiss international Frei hit the crossbar in the 14th minute and Paraguayan international Valdez should have equalised on the half hour mark but Kahn pulled off a smart save.

"We had chances but did not take them and Bayern were just that bit too clever," admitted Dortmund defender Christoph Metzelder.

"They sat deep and we could not get through."

The 37-year-old Kahn was

making his 500th Bundesliga appearance and pulled off some good saves to keep a clean sheet.

"We put the poor pre-season results behind us and got off to a good start," said Kahn.

"It is great to reach 500 Bundesliga games. Now I will concentrate on playing many more."

German international Bastian Schweinsteiger gave Bayern the cushion they craved in the 55th minute drilling a low shot past Roman Weidenfeller.

It was a timely strike from Schweinsteiger with new Germany coach Joachim Low watching from the stands.

Bayern now sit top of the 18-strong Bundesliga and few would bet against them being there in May 2007.

On Saturday, SV Hamburg, one of Bayern's main title rivals, host Arminia Bielefeld hoping to get off to a good start.

Elsewhere last season's runners-up Werder Bremen - led by World Cup Golden Boot winner Miroslav Klose - travel to Hannover on Sunday.

## Azzurri minus champions

Football

INTERNET, undated

Massimo Ambrosini and Fabio Liverani are among those returning to the Azzurri squad for Roberto Donadoni's first match in charge, a friendly against Croatia.

The tactician named his call-ups this afternoon and, as he had warned, the World Cup winners were left at home to ease their pre-season preparations so soon after the end of their summer holidays.

Milan midfielder Ambrosini hadn't worn the Azzurri jersey since a 1-0 win in Moldova on September 8, 2004. His career tally for his country is of 22 appearances.

Liverani has impressed over the last campaign at Lazio and his move to Fiorentina has coincided with a call-up to the Italy side. Tommaso Rocchi also earned his

spot after some fine performances at the Olimpico.

Cheivo winger Franco Semioli had two call-ups during Marcello

Lippi's reign and was an alternate for the World Cup party, but his international career effectively begins now.

As expected, Cristiano Lucarelli returns to the fold, having worked with Coach Donadoni during their time at Livorno. The 30-year-old scored one goal in two games under Lippi, but was never recalled after that 2005 summer tour of the US.

Other new faces include Sampdoria men Angelo Palombo, Gennaro Del Vecchio and

Donadoni's Italy debut will be at his old hunting ground, Livorno's Stadio Armando Picchi, for a friendly against Croatia on Wednesday evening.

The first official tests will be the Euro 2008 qualifiers with Lithuania at Napoli's Stadio San Paolo on September 2 and the crunch match in Paris with World Cup Finalists France on September 6.

## SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Marco Amelia (Livorno), Flavio Roma (Monaco)

Defenders: Daniele Bonera (Milan), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Giulio Falone (Sampdoria), Manuel Pasqual (Fiorentina), Christian Terlizzi (Sampdoria), Luciano Zauri (Lazio), Cristian Zenoni (Sampdoria)

Midfielders: Massimo Ambrosini (Milan), Gennaro Del Vecchio (Sampdoria), Massimo Gobbi (Fiorentina), Fabio Liverani (Fiorentina), Stefano Morrone (Livorno), Angelo Palombo (Sampdoria), Franco Semioli (Cievo)

Forwards: Andrea Caracciolo (Palermo), David Di Michele (Palermo), Antonio Di Natale (Udinese), Mauro Espósito (Cagliari), Cristiano Lucarelli (Livorno), Tommaso Rocchi (Lazio)



PHOTO: AFP

Bayern players (From L-R) Bastian Schweinsteiger, Hasan Salihamdzic, Roque Santa Cruz and Daniel van Buyten celebrate Schweinsteiger's goal during their match against Dortmund at the Allianz Arena on Friday

## We can match Chelsea: Bellamy

AFP, Cardiff

Liverpool can push champions Chelsea all the way this season, new Reds striker Craig Bellamy insisted on Saturday ahead of the club's clash in the Community Shield season opener.

The 27-year-old Welsh star, who signed for 6 million pounds (11.4 million dollars) from Blackburn this summer, is a lifelong Liverpool fan and desperate to return to the club to their glory days of the 1970s and 80s.

"I've grown up with the club I supported winning leagues year in and year out. Not just titles but doubles and all sorts, and that is where I envisage this club being," Bellamy said.

"Chelsea are the benchmark for the rest of the country, but I do believe we can match them this season."

"You associate Liverpool with going for the league. It is what this club is all about and that is what we will be starting this season aiming for."

The Community Shield, the traditional curtain raiser to the Premiership season, sees the reigning champions - this year Chelsea - take on the FA Cup holders.

Usually played at Wembley, with the London stadium still being redeveloped it will again take place on Sunday at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff - another bonus for the patriotic Bellamy.

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## Kehl blow for Germany

AFP, Munich

Germany's new coach Joachim Low received a bad piece of news on Saturday with Borussia Dortmund confirming their midfielder Sebastian Kehl would be out for up to a month with a knee injury.

Kehl will now miss Germany's friendly match with Sweden on Wednesday and more importantly the first two Euro 2008 qualifiers against Ireland and San Marino on September 2 and 6 respectively.

Kehl, part of the Germany team that finished third at the World Cup, sustained the injury in his side's 2-0 defeat to Bayern Munich on Friday in the opening game of the Bundesliga season.

The 25-year-old midfielder, capped 31 times for his country, collided with England international Owen Hargreaves in the 19th minute and had to be stretchered off the field.

## Senna, Sorin on way out

REUTERS, Madrid

Villarreal hope to sell Argentina captain Juan Pablo Sorin and Spain midfielder Marcos Senna but are prepared to keep both players if they do not receive big enough offers.

Club president Fernando Roig said a deal to sell Sorin to Bolton Wanderers appeared to have fallen through but added that they expected Manchester United to make a concrete offer for Senna.

"We had reached an agreement with Bolton for Sorin but the player wasn't convinced by the deal that was on offer and he has come back to our club," Roig was quoted as saying on the club's Web site on Saturday.

"If we get another offer that interests both us and the player then we will accept it, if not then we will honour the two years that he has left on his contract."

"Manchester United have asked about Senna, but there is nothing settled yet."

"The English club will probably make contact with us again next week, but at the moment he remains a Villarreal player and if he isn't sold he will see out the remainder of his contract (until June 2007)."

Roig said Villarreal were interested in signing Argentina centre back Roberto Ayala although Valencia were not willing to negotiate over the player.

Ayala launched a scathing attack on Valencia on Friday, saying that he wanted to leave the club after he complained they had backed out of promised two-year extension to his contract which concludes at the end of the forthcoming season.

"I spoke to the president of Valencia (Juan Bautista Soler) on the phone, but he told me the club had no intention of negotiating with Villarreal and I respect his wishes," said Roig.

## Rivals clash gets season underway

Football

AFP, Cardiff

Old enemies Jose Mourinho and Rafael Benitez lock horns yet again this weekend as Chelsea and Liverpool compete for the Community Shield, the traditional opener to the English Premiership season.

On the field, the teams will be led out by England's new captain and vice-captain, respectively John Terry of Chelsea and Liverpool's

Sunday's game at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff offers a chance to show that his Liverpool side are still able to get the better of Chelsea on big occasions, despite the Londoners' current dominance in the English game.

The teams have 10 met times in the past two seasons thanks to a series of cup and European clashes, with Liverpool famously knocking the Blues out of the Champions League en route to winning the trophy in 2005.

Nonetheless, Benitez can only look enviously at Chelsea's consecutive titles given that Liverpool won the last of their record 18 championships way back in 1990.

The managers' frosty relations were not helped by comments Mourinho made during a pre-season US tour in which he seemed to dismiss the Reds' Premiership hopes this year.

But speaking on Friday ahead of the Community Shield, Mourinho insisted there was no animosity.

"Maybe he has a problem with me -- but I do not have a problem, not between me and Rafael."

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PHOTO: AFP

NEW ENGLISH ORDER: England's new football manager Steve McClaren (C) at a press conference to present his England's new captain John Terry (R) and new assistant manager Terry Venables (L) on Friday in London.

## McClaren firm over axe

Football

AFP, London

New England boss Steve McClaren insists he will not be afraid to make more tough decisions after he swung the axe on David Beckham's international career.

Former skipper Beckham, along with fellow veterans David James and Sol Campbell, were the high-profile names missing from McClaren's plans as he named his first squad to face European champions Greece in a friendly on Wednesday.

McClaren, who succeeded Sven Goran Eriksson after England's disappointing World Cup campaign, says the Beckham bombshell is part of a long-term plan aimed at Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup finals.

He also said there was no pressure

from the Football Association's commercial department to keep Beckham in the squad.

"I've got the job and I want to approach it my way and make my decisions and live or die by them," said McClaren.

"There was certainly no commercial pressure to keep David Beckham in the squad. It is a football decision and I think everybody around the country and in the FA respected the decision I made."

Beckham was told of the decision on Monday before he flew to the USA for Real Madrid's pre-season tour.

He took it on the chin, said he understood and told McClaren he would do everything he can to win back his place.

"Having spoken to Steve McClaren this week I can fully understand that a new manager should want to make his mark on the team and build towards the

next World Cup," Beckham said in a statement.

"I'm proud to have played for England for 10 years and my passion for representing my country remains as strong as ever."

"I'd like to wish the best of luck to (new skipper) John Terry and will offer him my complete support in the future."

McClaren told Beckham, Campbell and James the door will never be closed but admitted he had started to think about a new direction for the team as soon he landed the job in April.

"As soon as I got the job and as soon as we were out of the World Cup and David relinquished the captaincy, my mind was focused on the job in hand," said the manager.

"That was getting together my backroom staff, picking a new captain and getting together a squad for the future."

"So it has never really been out

of my thoughts since I actually got the job."

McClaren was on Eriksson's coaching team for the World Cup where England were knocked out in the quarter-finals.

It provided him with a close-up of the players at his disposal but he refused to criticise the displays of Beckham or anyone else in Germany.

The England boss said: "I'm not going to enter into a debate about the World Cup and people's performances there, about whether it was disappointing or whatever."

"There were lots of lessons to be learned and lots of things I took on board during that time which I hope will take me forward into this job."

"All I will say is that it goes without saying that David Beckham is a great player, he's been a fantastic player for England and he's been a great captain."

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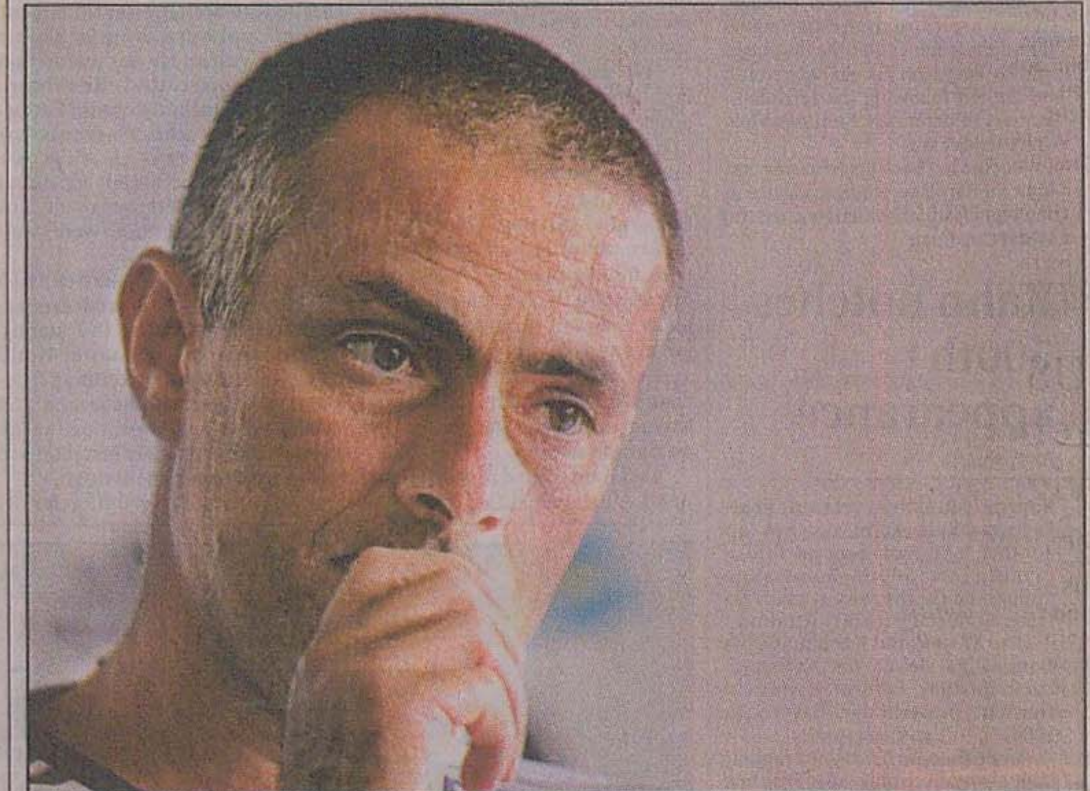


PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho speaks to the media during a press conference at Chelsea's training ground in Cobham, Surrey on Friday.

Steven Gerrard, named by national coach Steve McClaren this week.

While the Community Shield itself is a prize of minimal prestige, the game - which pits the previous season's Premiership title holders against the FA Cup winners - can have great significance as a pointer for the season to come.

This is especially true this year with both teams unveiling some major signings, among them Michael Ballack and Andriy Shevchenko for Chelsea and Liverpool's Craig Bellamy and Jermaine Pennant.

For Liverpool manager Benitez,

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