

Joaquin close to Valencia move

INTERNET, undated

Real Betis and Spanish international winger Joaquin is set to join Valencia, according to the Spanish daily Marca on Friday. The World Cup star revealed his desire to leave the Estadio Ruiz de Lopera earlier this week, and now a move away seems imminent.

"I have achieved everything that is possible at Betis," Joaquin said. "I have told (Betis coach Javier) Irureta that it is time for me to leave for another club."

And that other club is now likely to be Valencia, with an 18 million euro plus left-sided midfielder Mario Regueiro bid lined up.

Camoranesi heading for Juve exit

AFP, Rome

Italy international Mauro Camoranesi is set to become the next high-profile player to leave disgraced Italian club Juventus, who last month were demoted to Serie B for match-fixing. Despite continual claims by head coach Didier Deschamps that the right-sided midfielder is going nowhere, Camoranesi's agent says his client refuses to play in the second division and wants to leave the Turin club.

"Camoranesi does not want to stay at Juventus," Sergio Fortunato was quoted as saying by the Gazzetta dello Sport.

"Mauro has made his position clear. There is no room for negotiation. I don't understand why the coach and the board keep saying that he will stay. It's not true. Camoranesi will not play in Serie B."

"He is a World Cup winner, not just any player, and the directors should respect his wish." Fortunato added that Spanish side Valencia and French champions Lyon were two of the clubs interested in signing Camoranesi.

If Camoranesi does quit Juventus, he will be the ninth player to leave the club after the match-fixing scandal broke, a list which includes France captain Patrick Vieira, Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Brazilian midfielder Emerson and French defender Lilian Thuram.

India name WC hockey team

AFP, Chennai

India's selectors on Thursday recalled midfielders Ignace Tirkey and Nitin Kumar for next month's World Cup field hockey tournament in Germany.

The duo came in place of Ajmer Singh and Bimal Lakra, who were members of the squad that finished third in the Azlan Shah tournament in Malaysia in June.

Veteran defender Dilip Tirkey was retained as captain for the World Cup, starting in Germany from September 6.

SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Adrian D'Souza, Bharat Kumar Chetri.

**Defenders:** Dilip Tirkey (capt), Sandeep Singh, Kanwalpreet Singh.

**Midfielders:** V. S. Vinay, Vikram Pillay, Prabodh Tirkey, Viren Rasquinha, Nitin Kumar, Ignace Tirkey.

**Forwards:** Gagan Ajit Singh, Tejvir Singh, Rajpal Singh, Tushar Khandekar, Shivendra Singh, Arjun Halappa, Hari Prasad.

**Chief coach:** Vasudevan Baskaran



Nuremberg's Thomas Galasek (L) fights for the ball with Borussia Moenchengladbach's Michael Delura during their Bundesliga match in Nuremberg on Friday.

Two out of two for Nuremberg

REUTERS, Berlin

Nuremberg made it maximum points from two games in the Bundesliga as an early diving header from Markus Schroth proved enough to give them a 1-0 win at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday.

Schroth hurled himself in front of the covering defender to butt the ball past Kasey Keller in the fifth minute,

after Glauber had headed on a free-kick from Jan Kristiansen.

Nuremberg were joint league leaders after the opening weekend, when they won 3-0 away to VfB Stuttgart, and they looked in the mood for a similar result as they tore at the Gladbach defence in the opening period.

The visitors were struggling to get into the game but they almost grabbed an equaliser from nothing in the 14th minute, when Oliver Neuville controlled a long pass forward and lifted the ball past the keeper and just over the

bar. Gladbach had one more good chance, in the 50th minute, when Oliver Kirch smacked in a shot from the edge of the area.

Werder Bremen, last season's runners-up, were at home to Bayer Leverkusen in the pick of six games on Saturday.

Bayern Munich, double-winners again last season, will aim to join Nuremberg on six points by winning away to Bochum on Sunday.

Powell equals WR

Tennis

AFP, Zurich

Jamaican Asafa Powell set the Golden League meet here Friday alight by equalling the world record of 9.77sec for the men's 100m he holds jointly with doping-tainted American Justin Gatlin.

Powell led home a trio of Americans in sub-10sec times, Tyson Gay and Marcus Brunson setting personal bests of 9.84sec and 9.99sec, while third-placed Leonard Scott clocked a season's best of 9.97sec.

Newly-crowned European sprint king Francis Obikwelu of Portugal could only finish in eighth and final place in 10.26sec.

"I couldn't ask for better, I've got nothing to complain about," said Powell, whose run occurred in the fabled Letzigrund Stadium, where 23 world records and more than 300 national records have been set.

"Very fast, that's how the race felt," added the 23-year-old. "I'm the only one who has ever run 9.77sec three times. I ran a world record three times. Nobody has done that before."

"One way or another there will come a time when I run under 9.77sec. A world record in the next Golden League meets in Brussels or Berlin? I don't know but anything is possible.

"I hope to go faster. We'll have to wait and see."

Powell has twice before

clocked 9.77sec, firstly in Athens in June 2005 and the second time in Gateshead, England last month.

He shares the world record with Gatlin, the Olympic and world champion matching Powell's time in Doha in June but the American stands to lose that record should he be banned from athletics after testing positive for testosterone in April.

The result also meant that Powell remained in contention for a share of the one-million-dollar jackpot for athletes who can win all six Golden League meetings.

He is joined by American 400m runners Jeremy Wariner and Sanya Richards, as well as Ethiopia's Tirunesh Dibaba (5000m), after all three also won their events.

Wariner took his unbeaten streak to eight, winning in 44.20sec ahead of compatriot Lashawn Merritt and Gary Kikaya of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The 22-year-old Olympic and world champion, who has racked up three sub-44sec performances this season -- a time which only seven others have breached -- eased up significantly towards the line for a comfortable win.

Saif Shaheen Saeed, the Kenyan-born Qatari, failed in his attempt on his own world record in the 3000m steeplechase, coming home almost three seconds off the pace in 7:56.54, and put the blame firmly on his pacemakers.

"The first one was good but the

second and third didn't do the job I needed to beat the world record," he grumbled.

Elsewhere on the track, Ethiopia's world and Olympic 10,000m champion Kenenisa Bekele put in a fierce final sprint to see off Kenyan Isaac Songok in a world lead of 12:48.25.

And Kenyan Augustine Choge, the Commonwealth 5000m champion, won the 1500m in a personal best of 3:32.72 ahead of two compatriots Alex Kipchirchir and Daniel Komen.

Allen Johnson rolled back all of his 35 years to win the men's 110m hurdles in a season's best of 13.14sec, the former Olympic and world champion beating off Cuba's Dairon Robles for his sixth win in Zurich since 1997.

Richards flagged badly in the home stretch of the 400m but did just enough to hold off Vanya Stambolova to win in 50.18sec.

"In the last 200m I really had to push myself. I want to stay undefeated and I want my share of the jackpot. I should win six out of six," Richards said.

Sherone Simpson made it a Jamaican sweep of the blue riband event of the 100m, easily winning in 11.09sec ahead of American duo Me'Lisa Barber and Stephanie Durst.

Following the Divine Ponytail

INTERNET, undated

Florentina goalkeeper Sebastian Frey believes his recovery from a serious injury was all thanks to Roberto Baggio's Buddhist teachings.

"My life has changed," commented the shot-stopper. "I am happy and relaxed. I owe all of that to Baggio."

Frey snapped ligaments in his left knee during a Coppa Italia game against Juventus in January and is only now starting to get back to fitness, but he hasn't let that get him down.

"I am stronger than I was before the injury," insisted the Frenchman. "My life is going through many changes. It's thanks to Baggio and his advice that I went to the Buddhist centre in Florence. It was an experience I intend to continue, as today I feel stronger because I am more relaxed and convinced of myself."

Baggio famously turned to Buddhism in Florence after a career-threatening knee injury when he was only 18 years old and he is one of 30,000 Italians practising the religion today.

"I was very tense after suffering that injury and had a real crisis in my life," continued former Parma and Inter goalkeeper Frey.

"That was when Roberto advised me to go to the centre a month ago. He said it had also happened to him and explained how much it helped him on the road to recovery."

Adriano, Martins on move

INTERNET, undated

Inter are ready to sell both Adriano and Obafemi Martins, insist reports in the Italian media, with Real Madrid and Manchester United awaiting developments.

It has become clear that the club has to start reducing its selection of strikers after bringing in both Hernan Crespo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic over the past few weeks.

At first it appeared that Martins would be the sacrificial lamb, as he has allegedly received several 10-million-pound offers from Premiership clubs including Portsmouth and Newcastle United.

The Nigerian has not made the journey for this week's friendly tests against Real Mallorca and Sporting Lisbon, officially due to a bout of flu. However, the latest reports suggest that Adriano is also in the Nerazzurri departure lounge following a dismal season.

The Brazilian netted just 19 goals in 2005-06 in all club competitions only four since Christmas and disappointed in the World Cup for the Selecao.

Manchester United and Real Madrid have maintained their interest in the former Parma and Fiorentina hitman, who could bring in as much as 30 million pounds.

Another option would be 10-million-pound cash from Real plus the return to San Siro of Ronaldo, who is also a target for Milan.

Agent Gilmar Rinaldi has flown to Spain with the Inter team and it's claimed this is so he can get the ball moving for a transfer.

"I spoke to the Inter directors. Everything is fine," he was quoted as saying in 'La Stampa'.

Villarreal to keep Senna

REUTERS, Madrid

Villarreal president Fernando Roig said midfielder Marcos Senna will remain at the club after Manchester United failed to follow through their interest in the Spain international.

"They've turned his head without bringing the matter to any conclusion," Roig told reporters on Friday. "It isn't good for the relations between the clubs because people should behave in a more correct manner."

"We waited until yesterday for them to finalise the conditions of the move. The player can wait longer but we can't and the case is now closed."

Villarreal has said that they would approve the move if United made a good offer for the 30-year-old central midfielder, whose contract expires at the end of the season.

Roig, however, added: "He will stay and we will have to see if he renews his contract or not."

Senna, who was born in Brazil, was part of Spain's World Cup squad and played an important role in Villarreal's run to the semifinals of the Champions League last season.

Fergie demands end to diving

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has demanded an end to the "disease" of diving to which is proving to be one of the controversial scars on the game.

In welcoming the new initiative which will see referees take responsibility for stopping the game when players get injured, Ferguson has called on the authorities to find a method of combating diving.

Manchester United have hardly been immune from the curse, with Cristiano Ronaldo and former striker Ruud van Nistelrooy both accused of diving in the past.

However, Ferguson, whose side face Fulham in their Premiership

opener at Old Trafford on Sunday, feels something must be done to combat the problem, which plagued the World Cup.

"We all agree the diving problem has started since foreign players came into our country but make no mistake about it, English players do it too," said the Scot.

"It has become a disease and we want to see it eradicated."

Ferguson did not describe exactly what measures should be put into place to defeat the cheats, although he is sure a decision to end the convention of players automatically kicking the ball out of play when opponents go down, apparently injured, is a positive step.

"It is a common sense decision because the situation had gone beyond being abused, it was actually being turned into a form of

cheating," said Ferguson.

"I saw a situation last week when a team was defending a free-kick, the ball was headed down, it went to the attacking team and immediately someone went down holding their head."

"The player in possession was 25 yards from goal and could have had a shot but the crowd started booing, so he knocked the ball out for a throw-in."

"We should leave it to the referee to decide whether the injury is genuine or not."

"If it is, you stop the game but we had got to the situation where players were going down so their team could recover their positions."

Chelsea swoop for Boulahrouz

AFP, London

English champions Chelsea bolstered their defence on the eve of the Premiership season on Friday when they bought Dutch international Khalid Boulahrouz from Hamburg.

Hambrouz, who can play centre-back or left-back, was known as "Khalid the Cannibal" by Hamburg fans in honour of his aggressive tackling style.

The 25-year-old, for whom coach Jose Mourinho has paid an undisclosed fee, will be in London this weekend to undergo a medical and discuss personal terms.

"Chelsea Football Club have agreed an undisclosed fee with Hamburg SV for the transfer of Khalid Boulahrouz," said a statement on the club website.

"The Dutch international defender will be travelling to London over the weekend to discuss personal terms and to have a medical."

Chelsea's assistant manager Steve Clarke told Chelsea TV: "He is a good competitive player and will be a good addition to our squad."

"He can play centre-back or full-back. I think he is right-footed and it is important to have one or two players around the squad who can play in a number of different positions."

Mourinho is short of defenders. Asier del Horno left for Valencia, Glen Johnson is out on loan, William

Gallas wants to quit Stamford Bridge while the pursuit of Arsenal's England defender Ashley Cole has ground to a halt.

Boulahrouz started his career in Holland with RKC Waalwijk and he moved to Hamburg two years ago and helped Hamburg finish third last season.

He was part of Marco van Basten's World Cup squad but his tournament ended on a low note when he was one of three players sent off in the stormy last-16 defeat by Portugal.

Boulahrouz is the second high-profile departure from Hamburg after Belgian international defender Daniel van Buyten left for German champions Bayern Munich for over ten million euros in the summer.

Totti extends Azzurri career

INTERNET, undated

Francesco Totti has reportedly confirmed he will return to the Azzurri squad after agreeing to delay his international retirement.

"I am ready to play for the Azzurri again. Let us meet and talk about it," he is said to have told new Coach Roberto Donadoni on Saturday.

The Roma star had said he was "90 per cent sure" he would retire from the Italy side after the 2006 World Cup victory.

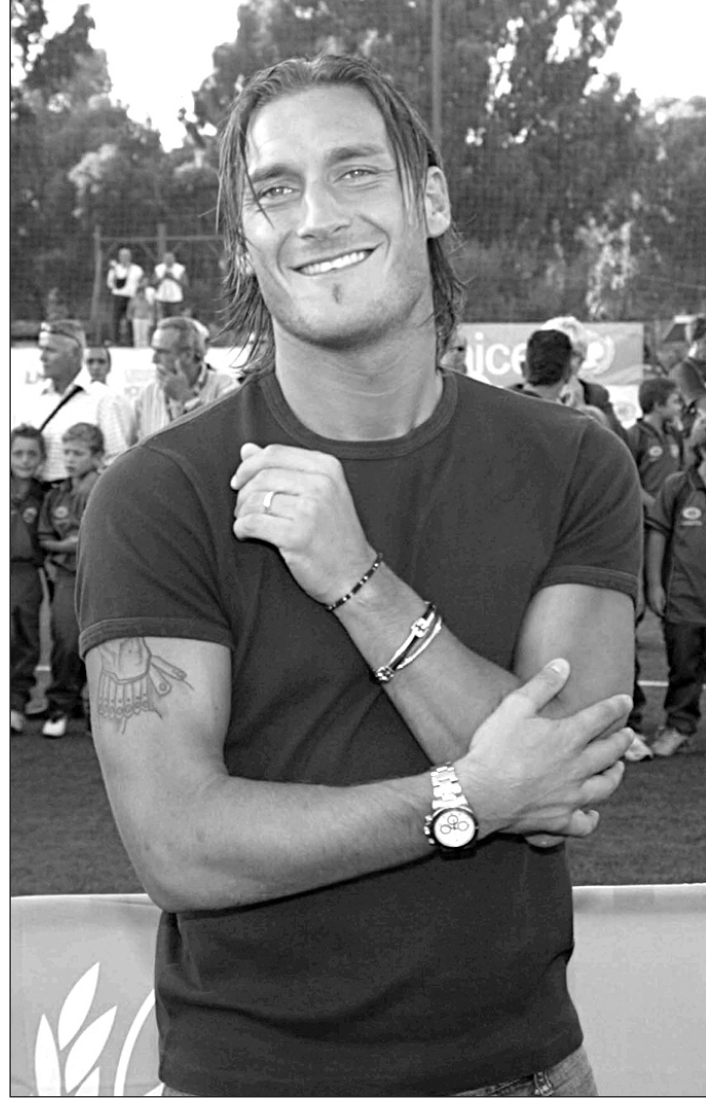
However, Donadoni tried to convince him that at the age of 30 he was still able to give a great deal to his country.

"I thought long and hard after the World Cup and I am ready to come back, but first I want to recover completely from the injury I suffered in February."

His performances in Germany were hampered by a fractured ankle that had kept him out of action for three months.

Totti made his senior Italy debut in the 2-0 win over Switzerland on October 10, 1998 and has until now notched up 10 goals in 58 caps.

He is expected to feature in Donadoni's first official tests, the Euro 2008 qualifiers against Lithuania on September 2 and France in Paris on September 5.



FRANCESCO TOTTI

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 President member pro —

4 Movie-goer's souvenir

8 Disposition

12 Darya precursor

13 Toll road

14 Between assignments

15 Supreme Court members

17 Cleo's river

18 Yank

19 A learning experience?

21 Electric warning signal

24 Lid for a lad

25 Toper's interruption

26 Allen or Conway

28 Control-tower device

32 Liniment target

**DOWN**

1 — Mahal

2 Ostrich's kin

3 Fu

4 Bro or sis

41 Existed e.g.

44 Good-looking

46 Nightwear

50 Sphere

51 Addict

52 Reflective

56 Dweeb

57 Oriental nurse-maid

58 New Deal agency (abbr.)

59 Tibetan herd

60 Feet, slangily

61 Remiss

20 Scratch

21 "Star Trek" villain

22 Parasites

23 Pinch

27 Slander

29 "Grapes of Wrath" territory

30 Settled down

31 July birthstone

6 Guitars' relatives

7 Harass

8 Negligible

9 Valkyries' lord

10 Earthen-ware pot

11 Highway crosser, maybe

16 Formal wear

48 Tug

49 Wrestling style

53 Succumb to gravity

54 "— lazy river, ..."

55 Clinton's instrument

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

ASK RICO ORES  
BAA IRON FATE  
ERR BALLOFWAX  
TILAC YES  
TABU REBEL  
BALLGAME TOME  
ARLIERIES LITE  
SCAR BALLPARK  
SHRUG KYAT  
NAB NASTY  
BALLPOINT ERA  
OBOE TREE LOW  
WATT HEED ADS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
		18			19	20				
21	22			23		24				
25			26		27		28	29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
			42		43		44		45	
46	47	48			49		50			
51					52		53		54	55
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

CRYPTOQUIP

LT QNO BKS MPKORU JQ  
MNES ELTTSW PNKPNLMSM,  
L MOAANMS PYNMS FNOXW  
JS POKPXS FYBRUM

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NEW DRAMA SERIES CONCERNING SANTA MONICA RESIDENTS' GRASSY YARDS: "L.A. LAWN"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals Y

The Cryptoquip 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.



Jamaican star sprinter Asafa Powell (L) goes ahead of American Tyson Gay to win the 100 meters race at the IAAF Golden League in Zurich on Friday.