



Chelsea's latest signing Ashley Cole (L) poses with his new shirt alongside club manager Jose Mourinho at a press conference at the in Cobham on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

## Oddo slams Totti

INTERNET, undated

Francesco Totti is showing a lack of respect for the Azzurri by refusing to commit himself until 2007, snapped teammate Massimo Oddo.

The Roma captain caused controversy when he decided not to retire from international football, but warned he wouldn't wear the Italy shirt again this year so that he could recapture his best form.

"The way I see it, you have to make definitive choices with the Nazionale," said Oddo, who was part of the World Cup winning squad in Berlin.

"I have always appreciated those players who make themselves available for their country, both in official matches and friendlies. To say 'Not now, maybe later' is in my view a lack of respect for your teammates and the Coach."

Many suggested Totti's absence contributed to their disappointing recent games against Croatia, Lithuania and France, but the Lazio defender also took a step back in his criticism.

"I am talking about this in general, like a few years ago when Lilian Thuram retired and then returned. I'm certainly in no position to judge Francesco's choices."

Oddo was expected to join  
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## The end of the whole affair

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho and Arsene Wenger attempted Friday to draw a line under the acrimonious row that has erupted in the wake of William Gallas's move from Chelsea to Arsenal.

French defender Gallas, 28, joined Arsenal last week in part exchange for England full-back Ashley Cole but his arrival at the Emirates stadium was greeted by stinging criticism from his former employers.

Chelsea claimed that Gallas threatened to deliberately get himself sent off or score own goals if he was picked by Mourinho in retribution for allegedly being denied a move away from Stamford Bridge.

Gallas responded with a fierce attack of his own, accusing the Premiership champions of "lacking class", and although Mourinho was reluctant to escalate the slanging match on Friday, he could not resist a jibe at his former player.

"I don't want to speak about William Gallas," he said. "I don't want to speak about former players and William Gallas is now a former Chelsea player."

"For me, this deal was always about bringing Ashley to the club. Since the season started I never

had William Gallas so I cannot even say that this deal lost Chelsea a player. I never had him - he was never a player for us this year."

Wenger declined to get embroiled in the row, although he admitted he had been surprised by Chelsea's statement on the subject.

"Why did they do that? I don't know. Chelsea can answer that much better than I can," the Frenchman said, before underlining that he believed his compatriot's version of events.

"He came out with a statement where he was absolutely clear, he denied it. So you will not be surprised to hear that I believe my player."

Relations between Wenger and Mourinho have always been fraught and they plunged new depths last summer when Chelsea were found guilty of 'tapping-up' Cole by meeting him in a London restaurant to discuss a transfer, with hefty Football Association fines subsequently being meted out to Mourinho, Cole and the club.

But Mourinho believes that the clubs have finally settled their differences after successfully negotiating deals for Gallas and Cole, even if the Blues manager stopped short of wishing Wenger luck for the rest of the season.

"The good thing was how Chelsea and Arsenal behaved in

negotiating the deal in the last two months," he added. "Everything was very correct: Chelsea fought for the player and Arsenal fought for the best deal for a very important player. I am very happy with that."

"I have no problem with Arsenal. I cannot wish them good luck because we have the same objective as them, which is to win the Premiership. I want you to have all the luck so for that reason I cannot wish any for them. But as far as I am concerned the relationship is positive now."

Wenger was considerably more gracious, wishing Cole well and insisting that both clubs could be happy with a deal that suited all parties.

Cole, meanwhile, used his unveiling as a Chelsea player to defend himself from accusations his move had been motivated by the lure of the west London club's cash.

The 25-year-old penned a four-year contract with Arsenal last summer but he had been unhappy at the club's initial refusal to offer him a significantly more lucrative pay deal.

However, despite taking his wages to around 90,000 pounds (168,000 dollars) a week with his move, he insists that money was not his primary motivation.

"I can look myself in the mirror  
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## Beckenbauer to contest FIFA seat

AFP, Frankfurt

Former West Germany World Cup winning captain Franz Beckenbauer said Friday that he will stand for a seat on the FIFA executive committee.

Beckenbauer, who was in charge of the organising committee for the World Cup in June and July, made his announcement during the German football federation's (DFB) extraordinary congress here.

"In January I will be a candidate for a seat on FIFA's executive committee," said Beckenbauer.

"I will be honoured to represent German and European football at the heart of FIFA and I should get elected," added the Kaiser, who also guided (then West) Germany to World Cup glory in 1990 as coach.

Beckenbauer, 60, will succeed UEFA's current representative Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, who also announced he was retiring from all his functions, including that of DFB joint president.

Also at the congress, the other joint president Theo Zwanziger was elected sole president.

## Inter retire No 3 shirt

INTERNET, undated

Inter Milan have officially retired their No 3 shirt from use on Friday to honour the memory of Giacinto Facchetti.

The Via Durini club was granted permission from the Italian Football Federation and UEFA to withdraw the shirt which was worn 634 times by the legendary defender.

Facchetti, who became the club's President in 2004, passed away on Monday at the age of 64 after serious illness.

Argentine Nicolas Burdisso, who had previously been assigned the No 3 for this term, will instead wear the No 16.

"I am proud to be the last Inter player to wear the No 3 shirt," Burdisso told the club's official website.

"I am honoured to change number today as a sign of respect for Giacinto Facchetti, not only a President, but a man who was very close to me when I went through a difficult time with my family."

## Mascherano set for debut

REUTERS, London

Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano could make his West Ham United debut against Aston Villa on Sunday but striker Carlos Tevez may have to wait, manager Alan Pardew was quoted as saying on Friday.

"We have taken a good look at both players and they are shaping up well," Pardew told the club's official Web site.

"Carlos has only had two light training sessions in the last three weeks and looks just short of full fitness," Pardew said as he prepared his team for the match at Upton Park, their third in the Premier League this season.

"However, Javier is a couple of weeks ahead and is looking in great shape," added the West Ham manager as he assessed the fitness of the two World Cup players the club signed from Brazilian champions Corinthians in a shock deal last week.

"My gut feeling is that Carlos won't be able to catch up in time for this weekend's game and therefore I won't risk him if he's not ready."

"But I have to say his attitude and desire are 100 percent so, as far as I'm concerned, both will be considered for selection against Aston Villa on Sunday."

## Benitez warns Crouch

REUTERS, Liverpool

Rafael Benitez has warned Liverpool striker Peter Crouch not to let international success go to his head.

Crouch has scored 11 goals in his last 10 games for England, including the winner in the 1-0 defeat of Macedonia on Wednesday.

"I had a chat with him and told him to be careful and that it was important to keep his feet on the ground," Benitez told reporters on Friday.

"He is clever and he knows how important it is to keep going and working hard right now."

Crouch appears to have come good after enduring a traumatic start to his Liverpool career following a 7 million pounds (\$13.1 million) move from Southampton in 2005.

He failed to score in his first 18 games for Liverpool.  
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## No tricks promises Tevez

INTERNET, undated



West Ham striker Carlos Tevez knows he will have to cut out the diving if he wants to make the right impression on the Premiership.

The 22-year-old could make his Hammers debut against Aston Villa on Sunday after completing a stunning deadline-day transfer to Upton Park along with Argentina team-mate Javier Mascherano.

Tevez has spoken to Manchester United's Argentina full-back Gabriel Heinze and former West Ham defender Lionel Scaloni to get a feel for what Premiership football is like.

"They told us that Premier League is a no-nonsense league, with plenty of tough tackling and challenges. I'm sure we can cope with it, we just need time to adjust to its high tempo," said Tevez.

"We know we have to learn many new things. We know that here we don't talk to the referee, don't dive and other tricks very common in

South American football but we will get better with the games."

"I sincerely hope I can repay everybody at the club with some good performances. I just hope I can adapt quickly and start doing so as soon as possible."

Tevez is a stocky, powerful striker whose game should suit English football, and he wants to do for West Ham what compatriots Ricky Villa and Ossie Ardiles did for Tottenham nearly 30 years ago.

Ardiles moved to Tottenham with Villa in 1978 and helped Spurs win two FA Cups, and the UEFA Cup in 1984.

"Hopefully we can achieve something similar to them, they are legends," said Tevez, who has already won 25 caps for Argentina.

"We shouldn't get carried away, this is a different story, but we feel the support of everybody at the club starting with the manager."

"All we can say is that we are desperate to succeed in the Premier League and we are extremely proud to have signed for such a big club."

"I would love to win the Premier League with the club and repay all the trust and care that everybody has been giving us from minute one."

"It seems to us that West Ham is like a big family and we would love to repay their confidence in us with success and by winning something."

Tevez and Mascherano face a major language barrier at Upton Park. Yossi Benayoun speaks Spanish from his time at Racing Santander and will at times have to act as a translator.

But Tevez said: "We are not allowed to make silly excuses because we have everything at our disposal to do our job well and that's what I'm here to do that."

"I know everything is new for me and that it's not going to be easy but I'm sure I can cope with it and I can write a successful chapter of my life here."

"It's a new country for me, miles away from home, with a language that I don't speak, but I'm confident I will learn and succeed on and off the pitch."

## Cole forgives but doesn't forget

THE GUARDIAN



Jose Mourinho posed beside Ashley Cole with a Chelsea shirt and smiled. "Since the last time I saw him he's taller," the manager said. It provided an instant reminder of the messy saga that ended with the England player moving to Stamford Bridge.

Little over a year after Mourinho tried to brush off an illegal meeting with Cole by claiming the left-back was too small to interest him, he could grin and joke having landed his man.

That infamous gathering in a London hotel epitomised the collapse of Cole's relationship with Arsenal and yesterday the defender delicately reflected on the troubled end to his time at the club. "I will

forgive them," he said, referring to his belief that he was treated badly by the board, but it was clear he will not so easily forget.

"I don't think I got the respect, or was held in high regard, as much as I thought I did at Arsenal," Cole said. Did that hurt? "Of course it hurt. It was a club I loved when I was there since I was a boy. That's hurt me now but I've moved on, it's made me stronger and hopefully here I can have the same love for the club and from the fans as I did at Arsenal."

The notion that Arsenal need Cole's forgiveness will cause amusement in many quarters when he went behind the club's back to talk to Chelsea. With Chelsea deeming it inappropriate for Cole to answer a question about that meeting, his thoughts on the episode remained private. Yet it is well known the full-back felt angry with

Arsenal's vice-chairman, David Dein, for reporting his dalliance to the Premier League. He met Chelsea after Arsenal went back on a verbal contract agreement.

"Probably some of you think I'm a greedy pig, and it's nothing like that," Cole said. "I am genuine, want to win things, play for the club I am at and it's never been about money. For me it's about respect. That's what it comes down to."

"What happened with me and David Dein has happened now," he added. "I wrote about it in my book. I have said things that I meant at the time and things I do mean, but I don't want to keep going back on old stuff."

He knows, though, strong criticism will come his way, particularly from Arsenal fans. The two clubs meet at Stamford Bridge in  
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## Everton paint Merseyside blue

AFP, Liverpool



Andrew Johnson struck twice to send Liverpool crashing to their first defeat of the season as Everton claimed an emphatic 3-0 victory against their bitter rivals at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Liverpool, tipped by many to emerge as Chelsea's strongest rivals for the Premiership title this season, produced one of their worst performances under manager Rafa Benitez as they were outplayed by David Moyes' team.

Australian Tim Cahill's first-half opener, followed by Johnson's double, sealed a thoroughly deserved victory for the home side to leave their fans chanting 'easy, easy' at the final whistle.

Everton manager Moyes had urged his players to keep their cool and take the emotion out of the game in the build-up to the clash, but within seconds of the kick-off it was clear that his plea had gone unheard.

Every loose ball and 50-50 challenge was won by an Everton player as the home side delivered a clear signal of their intentions and Phil Neville's bone-crunching tackle on Robbie Fowler in the second minute summed up the desire within the Everton team. Emotion was seeping out of every blue shirt and Liverpool struggled to match that passion.

Benitez's team did send a couple of sighters on Tim Howard's goal in the early stages, but not enough to worry the American and when Cahill opened the scoring on 24 minutes, it was the least Everton deserved.

Four Everton players were involved in the move before Cahill stroked the ball past Jose Reina from 12 yards, but the crucial intervention came from Leon Osman, who held off the challenge of Steve Finnan inside the penalty area to tee up the Socceroos midfielder.

Liverpool players complained to Graham Poll about the challenge, but the referee ignored their appeals and rightly awarded the goal.

Luis Garcia came close to equalising seven minutes later when his left-footed curler from 20 yards was brilliantly saved by Howard, but Everton remained in control and they doubled their lead on 35 minutes when Johnson capitalised on slack defending.

Lee Carsley's pass picked out Johnson on the right flank and he brushed past the tame challenge of Sami Hyypia to break into the penalty area.

Johnson's shot was deflected into the net by Howard, but Cahill's second goal was a simple matter of timing and accuracy. He struck from the edge of the box into the top corner of the goal.

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PHOTO: INTERNET

ally area. Jamie Carragher had the chance to clear, but his miskick gifted Johnson a free strike on goal and the 8.6 million pounds England forward slotted past Reina at the near post.

Liverpool had no answer to Everton's hunger and desire, but Benitez attempted to shake things up by throwing Dirk Kuyt, John-Arne Riise and Jermaine Pennant into the action in the second-half.

And the visitors upped their game as they went in search of a lifeline, but the home side stood firm and rode their luck, especially when Steven Gerrard rattled the post and

referee Poll missed a clear handball in the penalty area by Everton full-back Tony Hibbert.

Riise then compounded Liverpool's misery when a late challenge on Mikel Arteta resulted in the Norwegian being stretchered off with a suspected ankle injury. To make matters worse, he was also booked for the foul.

Worse was to come for Liverpool, though, when Reina's failure to deal with an injury-time shot allowed Johnson to head home from close range to seal a 3-0 win.



Football legend Pele kisses a 'golden boot' trophy during its presentation at the Athens' resort of Vouliagmeni on Thursday. Pele arrived at Athens to launch the 'Golden Boot' trophy, which will be awarded to the Greek top scorers in the local leagues. PHOTO: AFP

## Rooney floors Gray! Barca to help children with AIDS

Football

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United and England striker Wayne Rooney floored Blackburn star Michael Gray with a single punch in an altercation at a restaurant here on the weekend.

Rooney, 20, was with fiancée Coleen McLoughlin and three other couples, all long-standing close friends of the pair, at a plush restaurant on Saturday night, when Gray, himself capped three times by England in 1999, wandered over, apparently under the influence of alcohol.

The footballers exchanged words before it is alleged Rooney, while still seated, punched Gray, giving the player a black eye.

"Wayne and Coleen were enjoying a night out with three other couples and were having a quiet dinner when Michael came up to their table uninvited," said a spokesman for the striker.

"Michael then began making a number of remarks which were offensive to Coleen and Wayne's other female guests."

"Several times, Wayne asked Michael to leave. It was a brief incident and as far as Wayne is concerned, he bears no ill-feeling towards Michael."

The incident comes at a time when Rooney is currently suspended from club duty and has only just completed an international ban for his dismissal during England's World Cup quarter-final defeat to Portugal.

The negative headlines are the last thing Rooney needed, given he has worked hard to try to curb the excesses of temper he has admitted in the past have caused him problems.

Yet given the provocation involved Saturday's incident, Rooney is unlikely to face any internal action from his club, while it is understood Gray has offered a full version of events to Blackburn boss Mark Hughes.

Barca to help children with AIDS

REUTERS, United Nations

The Barcelona soccer club and the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, announced a deal on Thursday in which the team will donate \$1.9 million (1.5 million euros) a year over the next five years to help poor children with AIDS in developing countries.

The first installment of the club's money will pay for AIDS programs in Swaziland, a tiny, impoverished country in southern Africa where some 40 percent of adults are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The money will fund efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission and infection among adolescents and to support and care for children orphaned by the disease.

As part of the deal, the Spanish and European champion's scarlet and blue jersey will have UNICEF's logo on its front, the first time in the club's 107-year history it has allowed such an arrangement.